



# *The Sweep*

## Royal Kingston Curling Club

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## Honouring past, embracing the future

By Martha Tanner

Just when it seemed the curling season would never end, suddenly it was over. Championship Weekend began with the skirl of bagpipes as the teams were piped onto the ice and ended when the last Rusty Nail was glugged from the men's club trophy to cheers and backslapping all around. It ended, as all Championship Nights do, with much laughter and a little sadness that this great camaraderie of curling was coming to an end.

There was sadness too that our great friend and icemaker, Rod Leeder, was no longer there to share in the celebration and to lift the rocks off the ice for the very last time. Roddy passed away on March 14, just two days after his sixty-second birthday, and his absence was keenly felt.

"We all miss him," said outgoing president John Ryce, adding that he was proud of the way the RKCC family had pulled together to support Rod and his family throughout his illness.

In Rod's honour, the Evening Men's Flight League renamed its Grand Aggregate Trophy the Rod Leeder Grand Aggregate Trophy.

In his last address to the membership before the Annual General Meeting, John congratulated everyone who participated in Championship Weekend and reminded everyone that the club would be celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 and hoped to bring the Brier to Kingston that year, urging everyone to support the bid with a ticket pledge.



**Incoming president Edward Gibson, left, and his wife Theresa toast outgoing president John Ryce.**

"John loves this club; he'll do anything for this club, and has generated so much excitement for this club," said incoming president Edward Gibson, calling for a toast. "He always asks, 'What's the *right* thing to do?'"

"Hopefully we'll continue to do this in the future." On this most traditional of nights, on the eve of a groundbreaking partnership with the Kingston Sport & Social Club and another new venture in the form of a farmers' market to open in the spring, Edward paid tribute to the club's pioneering spirit. "Honour the traditions of the past is important to a healthy club, as is embracing the opportunities of the future. This club is great at doing both."

# And the champions are . . .

The Royal Kingston Curling Club ended its season with two days of championship games, April 20 and 21.

## **Women's Championships**

On Saturday Carole Rivington's evening flight team of Gail Irving, Deb King and Courtney Barnhill (sparing for April Welsh) defeated the day ladies flight champions skipped by Christy Gilmour, with Judy Sly, Sandy Edwards and Martha Tanner (fifth Joan Doucet), to take the overall women's trophy. The Carrie Cole club championship, which pits the day ladies champs against the evening ladies champs, was won by Christy Gilmour's evening team with Celia Russell sparing for Christy, Tensia Cannon, Pam Power and Michelle Penney. They defeated the team of Linda O'Sullivan, Val Malmsten, Lois MacArthur and Wendy Curtis.

## **Men's Championships**

In the evening men's A flight championship, Phil Tomsett's team of Joe Waller, Mario Fabbro and John MacMillan defeated Tim Aldridge, Nick Karsin, Patrick Tessier and Scott Fraser.

In the Day Men's A flight final, it was Bob Daley's team of Brian Ward, Brian Dowling and Michael Charette over Ken McMillan's team of Greg Ruse, Dave Bracken and Regan Reshke.

The men's club championship trophy was won by Larry Waller, Ken Hutchings, Steve Orme (sparing for Anthony Hale) and Michael Berry. Runners-up were Bill Cannon, Sean Kerry, Michael Flowers and Kevin Pereira.

## **Mixed**

The overall mixed A champions were Tammy Scott Zelt, Anthony Hale, Denise Mulville and Benny Gordon, sparing for David Zelt. They defeated Joe Murphy, Cyndy Jones, and Keith and Vicky Mitchell.

## **Juniors**

The junior championship was won by Joel De Groote with brother Nate at vice, Zach Griffin at second and lead Ewan Jones. Runners-up were Logan Bedard, Luca Menard, Ryan Cooper and Leah DaCosta.

## **U4 League**

Earlier that day, Jean Vannest, sparing for Bill Hay, skipped her U4 team of Steve Fox, John Emerton and Kimberley Leach to a win over Nancy Marshall, Dan Marshall, Lyn MacInnes and Janet McCreath.

## **Stick Leagues**

Jim Rayner's team of Tony Bush, Doug Baker, Bob Fugler (fifth Mary Chilton) won the 4-Person Stick League final over Brian Wilson, Teresa Wilson, Pat Young and Zak Siemens. In the 2-Person Stick League final, Mary and Grant Paterson edged out Brian and Teresa Wilson.

## **Doubles**

In the new Doubles League, Denise Mulville and Anthony Hale defeated Janet Fowlow (sparing for Laura Brown) and Steve Orme.

For photos, please visit the RKCC website.

# Top Teams

## Women's Club

In club competition, day ladies compete against evening ladies for the coveted Carrie Cole trophy. The winners were the team of, from left, Tensia Cannon, Michelle Penny, skip Christy Gilmour, Celia Russell (who spared for Christy) and Pam Power.

Photo by Martha Tanner



## Women's Flight

In the championship match pitting Day Ladies against Evening Ladies, the extra-end winners were the Evening Flight team of, from left, skip Carole Rivington, third Gail Irving, second Deb King, lead April Welsh and Courtney Barnhill, who spared for April.

Photo by Martha Tanner



## Junior Flight

The Junior A champions were, from left, Zachary Griffin, skip Joel Degroote, Ewan Jones and Nate Degroote.

Photo by Kimberly Barker



# Stick League signs off on great season

By Pat Simms and Virginia Flynn

Another year has come to an end - time to get the golf clubs out.

The two- and four-person stick leagues had a great year. The semi-finals were well-played and fun to watch, with evenly matched teams. Grant and Mary Paterson won the two-person stick championship on Friday of Championship Weekend. Runners-up were Brian and Teresa Wilson.

The winners of the four-person stick championship, played on Saturday, were Jim Rayner, Tony Bush, Doug Baker and Bob Fugler (fifth was Mary Chilton). Runners-up were Brian Wilson, Teresa Wilson, Pat Young and Zak Siemens.

We were all treated to wonderful shots and excitement.

Congratulation to all the stick league curlers and to all curlers in the club.

This club has heart ♥

To the ice makers and bar staff, manager Steve Hulton for his patience, thank you so much.

Thank you to our sponsor, the Landings.

Also, thank you to all the people who helped Virginia and myself this year: Jim Rayner, April Welsh and Teresa Wilson.



The winners of the Two-Person Stick League Championship are Mary and Grant Paterson.

Photos by Martha Tanner



The Four-Person Stick champions are, from left, Doug Baker, Jim Rayner (skip), Tony Bush, and Bob Fugler. Missing from photo is fifth, Marty Chilton.

# Mixed curling moving forward

By Lorne Carmichael

There are four ways to enjoy mixed curling at RKCC. Throughout the year, Friday flight curling had 15 or 16 teams, Friday recreational curling had six or seven more, and Friday mixed club curling had another five to seven. Thirteen teams enjoyed mixed curling on Sundays. The overall numbers were slightly up from last year. Ten new curlers joined the club through Sunday curling and they all stuck it out through the year.

The winners this year included the Higginson team (again) on Sundays, the Vella team on Friday recreational, and the Tessier team won the Mixed B division title. Denise Mulville's team with Tammy Scott-Zelt, Anthony Hale and David Zelt won the A flight championship.

Mixed curling also raises money for jujubes and after game snacks. This is very expertly handled by Mary Kelly and Dale Marecak. Thank you both very much.

I am thrilled (pleased, ecstatic) to announce that Mixed curling will have a new coordinator next year - Keith Mitchell. I think the league is in good hands.

Looking forward, I think the first thing on Keith's agenda (I'll help) are to assess the mixed Club experience this year. I think it is clear this initiative was a success, but that's not to say we can't improve things, in particular with the scheduling and perhaps the division of labour. On a related issue, in previous years we had a few mixed club bonspiels on Saturdays throughout the year. These were very popular, but any return will depend on what the club wants to schedule on Saturdays.

Overall, I think that Mixed Curling at RKCC remains in good shape and I look forward to participating in the years to come.



The winners of the A-flight mixed championship were, from left, Benny Gordon (sparing for David Zelt), skip Tammy Scott Zelt, Anthony Hale and Denise Mulville.



The B-flight winners were, from left, Gillian Turnbull, Andrew Van Overbeke and Amy Didrikson. Missing from photo is skip Patrick Tessier.

Keith Mitchell  
has accepted the  
role of Mixed  
Leagues  
coordinator for  
the 2018-19  
season.



# Former Rover hangs up her stabilizer

*At the Ladies Closing dinner, the following tribute was paid to Lois Logan, who is retiring from curling.*

**By Mary Smith and Joan Doucet**

We would like to honour Lois for all she has done for curling over her many years as a member of our club. There are many aspects of Lois that some of us might not know or remember, so we will mention a few here.

One of her biggest and most appreciated contributions was as the Ladies Rover Captain – a position we would like to have back. What was a Rover Captain? Well, if you needed a spare, you called Lois and she would find one for you. No one ever said no to Lois! What a job! She did this for a number of years. Thank you, Lois.

Lois was one of the first women in the club to use a stabilizer - a homemade jobbie that she uses it to this day.

When things were getting testy, she would say, “Don’t get your knickers in a knot” – a slogan we could all live by.

Curling is not her only love. In the early 60s, Lois bought a little car in Montreal. She drove it for many years until it became an antique. She now shows it in the annual Antique Car Show at City Park. You can still spot her buzzing around town or out in the country on her way to the cottage north of Highway 7 with her hat or kerchief flying in the breeze. Scottish dancing keeps her limber and young. Here she gets to hold many handsome men in their kilts as they whirl her around the dance floor.

She also has a special connection with her “Lois” friends.



**Mary Smith, left, and Joan Doucet, right, present Lois Logan with tulips on her retirement.**

She has had Lois Bonspiels in Smiths Falls, where the ladies came dressed in their plaids. She also entertains them and the would-be Loises at her annual luncheon at the Yacht Club.

What adventures will Lois embark on after curling? We understand that she is interested in genealogy. Perhaps she will discover that she is related to someone famous. This may lead her to England to find long-lost relatives.

Whatever you do, Lois, we are sure you will give it your all. Thank you for being our friend.

## ***Life Members***

*Life memberships were presented this year to Lee Thompson, Henry Treier, and Sharon Windsor, all having been members of RKCC for 30 years.*

*Congrats to all three members.*



**Sharon Windsor, left, accepts her Life Membership from Judy Russell.**



## Day Ladies wrap up successful season

By Marilyn Wilson

Congratulations to all the curlers in the Day Ladies League who played on into the play-off season and the championship games.

Before the big Championship weekend could begin, the Day Ladies had to decide on a Flight and Club winner. There were some very exciting games played. The Day Ladies Flight was won by Christy Gilmour, Judy Sly, Sandy Edwards and Martha Tanner (Joan Doucet was their fifth) over the team of Tammy Scott-Zelt, Celia Russell, Kimberly Barker and Kathleen Poole.

The winner of the Carrie Cole Playdowns for Day Ladies was the team of Linda O'Sullivan, Val Malmsten, Wendy Curtis and Lois MacArthur. They defeated Jan Ray, Nancy Gray, Trish Beckett and Claudia Stevenson.

On Championship Weekend, Christy's team lost to the Evening Ladies Flight team of Carole Rivington, Gail Irving, Deb King and April Welsh (Courtney Barnhill sparing) in a close game that went an extra end. The Day Ladies B Flight team of Kathy Brown, Mary Skeggs, Liz Baer and Lil Rynbend defeated the Lin Jenkins team of Pat Simms, Deb Kennedy, Claire Dubac Rayner and Pat Butler.

In the Carrie Cole event, Linda O'Sullivan's team (with Mary Smith sparing for Val Malmsten) lost to the Evening Ladies team of Christy Gilmour (Celia Russell sparing), Tensia Cannon, Pam Power, and Michelle Penney. There were some close games and some spectacular shots! Thanks to all the members of the Executive who made this happen.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Grandmothers and Great Aunts Bonspiel, was held on March 28, with 20 teams participating and some very creative costumes (see photo above left). For the first time, we used an online registration system and that method was very successful. One of the teams combined Carrol Knowles' two daughters, Lynda and Carlea, with two of Carrol's friends from RKCC. The overall winner with the highest point total was Mary Skeggs' team of Lil Rynbend, Joanne Manion and Sharon Windsor, pictured above right. Anyone interested in convening this bonspiel next year should get in touch with Kathy Jackson.

The curling season ended with a closing dinner on April 11 catered by Joe DeSousa with the theme of "Pretty in Pink". Sharon Windsor and Lee Thompson were honoured for their 30 years of curling at RKCC. Lois Logan, on announcing her retirement from curling, was given a rousing send-off from her fellow curlers and friends.

At the Day Ladies spring general meeting on April 4, a task force was struck to develop options for changes to Club curling which will be piloted in 2018-2019—Members were asked to respond to an online survey to determine their preferences. All Day Ladies curlers are asked to provide their input so that we can ensure the changes to Club curling reflect the feelings of the majority.

On June 27 ladies are invited to a morning of golf at The Landings followed by a lunch. The format is best ball and teams are assembled by the convenor. If you are interested, please get in touch with Diane Labrie.



The Day Men's A Flight Team display the trophy earned on Championship Weekend. From left are lead Mike Charette, second Brian Dowling, third Brian Ward and skip Bob Daley.

## Day Men's season better than ever

By Dave Leeson and John Pratt, Co-chairs, RKCC Day Men's Curling

Day Men's has had a highly successful year. We increased from 30 teams to 32. This has had a positive impact on our Monday lunch profits (which go to the club), and, no doubt, bar revenue.

We greatly appreciate the change in the ice maintenance schedule that opened up two more Mondays for Senior Men's Flight. This created a great opportunity for Sr. Men's Flight as well as increased revenue for the club. Let us explain.

By having extra Mondays, we were able to change our playoff format from first-loss-and-you're-out to a four-team round robin format. This format was extremely well received by the membership and greatly increased the interest in participating in playoffs. From the club's perspective, it created two extra Mondays where everyone was curling, thus creating additional Monday lunch profits and increased bar revenue. Under the old system, with the exception of the first event, many – if not most – games were cancelled due to lack of interest.

In the end, Monday lunches brought in a total profit to the club of over \$2,600 compared to last year's profit of \$2,162.

As with last year, co-chairs John Pratt and Dave Leeson had a great deal of support from Vice-chair Ken Burns (also lunch coordinator) and chief schedule-maker Roger Chown. Thanks, gentlemen, for your valued contributions! After many years of service in leadership roles, Ken has decided to step down. Roger is also reassessing his ability to continue after his own multi-year contributions. To both gentlemen, thank you! Next year, John will chair and Dave will assume the vice-chair position.

The change in the buzzer rule to "95 minutes after game start" was well received by Sr. Men's Flight. There was a significant increase in the number of games going a full eight ends.

Day Men's Club Curling on Tuesday and Thursday morning also had a good year, with average participation around 35 curlers.

The in-house bonspiels had mixed success. The participation at the fall bonspiel was a bit disappointing at 40 curlers (full contingent is 48), but the spring bonspiel was full. Last year we held a Friday Mixed Bonspiel. Attendance had been disappointing, so it was decided not to do it again this year. Nonetheless, these two bonspiels brought in a profit of \$960 to the club.

Finally, the Limestone Sr. Men's Bonspiel held in October was very successful and posted a profit to the club of over \$2,400.





The Evening Men's A Flight champions, from left, vice Joe Waller, second Mario Fabbro, skip Phil Tomsett and lead John Macmillan. The team won the newly rededicated Rod Leeder Grand Aggregate Trophy.



The Evening Men's Club winners, from left, Larry Waller, Ken Hutchings, Anthony Hale and Michael Berry.

Photo by Martha Tanner

# The good, the bad, & the sad

By Mario Fabbro, Evening Men's Convenor

## *The Good*

The Evening Men's section had another successful curling season. The flight section was back up to 41 teams – just one short of the maximum for the current format. Recruitment efforts will take place between now and the beginning of next season to return to our standard of 42 teams. The Evening Men's section was successful in recruiting new volunteers to take over the scheduling and posting of results for the club curling activities, thereby reducing the load on the current convenor, who now focusses on Flight curling. The men's section appreciated the efforts of club management to use the website tool to help with scheduling, but it does not fully meet the needs of the scheduling complexities we currently live with. As always, the committee in its ongoing role will address the member concerns around the rules of flight curling, and a general skips' meeting will be held at the beginning of the season to review the rules on playoff seeding.

## *The Bad*

The Club curling section had a good year despite the drop in the number of teams able to play. The decrease in teams is directly attributable to the loss of Monday nights as a curling opportunity for evening men. The 5 and 7 o'clock draws only managed to attract enough curlers to fill 10 teams in each time slot. This does not allow us to easily maintain the traditional six events in EM Club curling. We feel the loss of Mondays also had a negative impact in attracting new members to the evening men's section.

## *The Sad*

Along with the rest of the Club and the greater Kingston Curling community, we wish to note our extreme sadness at the loss of our long-time ice maker, Rod. The Evening men have chosen to memorialize Rod by renaming the Evening Men's Flight Grand Aggregate trophy in his honour.

# Evening Ladies celebrate achievements, ratify new executive

By April Welsh

It has been a busy couple of months since the last *Sweep* came out! Our "Bring-a-friend" night on March 14 was a huge success with 22 members hosting 44 guests. What a turnout! Thanks to Laura Brown and all the members who came out to instruct the very enthusiastic crowd. We will be contacting the guests this summer when the registration info is ready.

Our fourth club draw was won by the team of Celia Russell, Marilyn Wilson, Peggy Cuthbert and Leslie Comfort (Kathy Moore sparing). The runners-up were Sharon Windsor, Pam Power, Beth Giberson, Karen Francis.

Second Event: Christy Gilmour, Ann Covert, Liz Borges (Laurie Winter sparing), Andrea Berry.

Third Event: Donna Smith, Debby King (Monica Kirk sparing), Linda Shanks, Jean Vannest.

The Day Ladies hosted our Ladies' Dinner on April 11. Sharon Windsor and Lee Thompson are our newest Life Members, and were recognized at the dinner.

The playoffs to determine our Club winners for the Carrie Cole championship were exciting to watch, with the eventual winners being the team of Christy Gilmour, Tensia Cannon, Pam Power and Michelle Penney. Flight teams were divided into A, B and C divisions with the winners in each division being determined Championship weekend. Winners of "A" flight: Carole Rivington, Gail Irving, April Welsh (spare Courtney Barnhill), Debby King. Winners of "B" flight: Linda Lott, Gwen Mitchell, Karen Matheson, Rene Marchen. Winners of "C" flight: Judy Russell, Sharon Windsor, Liz Borges (spare Laurie Winter), Michelle Penney.

Congratulations to the Carrie Cole winners, the Christy Gilmour team, with Celia Russell sparing for Christy who was playing in the EL vs DL "A" flight game. The Carole Rivington team listed above won the EL vs DL flight game.



**The winners of the fourth draw were, from left, skip Celia Russell, Marilyn Wilson, Peggy Cuthbert and Kathy Moore (sparing for Leslie Comfort).**

Our Spring Annual Meeting was held April 9. The meeting started with a tribute to our Ladies' OCA Tankard (double team) entry of Tammy Scott-Zelt, Celia Russell, Kimberly Barker, Kathleen Poole and Donna Jeffery, Nancy Gray/Courtney Barnhill, Mary Dupuis and Carol Fitzpatrick. The ladies won the Bronze Medal at the Provincials. Congratulations!

Our Executive for 2018-19 was ratified at the meeting:

Chair – April Welsh  
Vice-Chair – Gail Irving  
Past Chair – Deb Wilkin  
Club – Liz Baer and Carol Fitzpatrick  
Flight – Deb Wilkin  
Social – Laura Brown  
Ladies' OCA – Karen Peters  
Secretary – Mary Buchanan

I would like to thank retiring executive members Denise Mulville and Susan Hara for their years as flight convenors, and Linda O'Sullivan for her term as Ontario Curling Association (OCA) rep.

## ***Annual General Meeting***

# **Report from the Manager**

**By Steve Hulton, Club Manager**

It's been the best of times and the worst of times here at RKCC this past season, but the progress we have made on our projects and the effort that was put into making these things happen was outstanding.

I am hoping that everyone has seen the start of the new beach volleyball courts in the northeast corner of our property, but it doesn't come close to representing the vast amount of energy that has gone into this project. Thanks to John Ryce, Jim Barton, Wayne Smith and Reg Gore for taking on the lion's share of this work and getting us to where we are.

We have made lots of progress with our club's Information System that lets us register as a member, pay our memberships, schedule our games and build a calendar that everyone can use. I want to single out Teresa Wilson for taking the time and making the effort to test these new initiatives and we are progressing with those everyday. More work to come this summer on making it more all-inclusive.

On the subject of payments, we are going to offer partial payments again next year with a few twists. You can still make four equal payments dated September 15, October 15, November 15 and December 15 but if you choose that option we will require either four post-dated cheques or leave your credit card information with us and we will debit your accounts and supply you with receipts for those same four dates.

We anticipate a modest price increase for membership next year and as an incentive we are allowing our members to register from May 15 to June 15 2018, pay in full and receive this past season's prices (except for those who are changing their membership types.)

Pickleball is returning this summer with our club sessions and the sessions that are part of the Seniors Association program.

We have advertised for a Head Icemaker and have received several resumes. We have a selection committee consisting of John Ryce, Edward Gibson, Linda Lott, Wayne Smith and myself to look at these and decide a path forward. This is something we want to resolve soon so the successful candidate will be ready to learn our club and be well prepared for 2018-19.

Look for a Summer Sale in the Proshop from May 14 to June 22. It will be *in stock merchandise only* before re-ordering for next season. Sale items will be mostly clothing and high end shoes. Savings will be significant.

We are working on plans to use our southeast doorway as a primary entrance for summer beach volleyball use AND winter curling use. This will hopefully keep a great deal of 'the outside coming inside' and allow us to leave all our outside footwear in the locker rooms.

I think that everyone will agree that the worst part of our season was when we lost our Head Icemaker and good friend, Rod Leeder. We have all been blessed with some of the best curling ice that we have ever played on and when it wasn't exceptional we had a Rod and his team working fiercely to get it to where we all wanted it. It was truly appreciated.

This season has truly been one of the most challenging from that perspective and I can't say enough praise for the rest of our crew, Terry Barker, Gene Miller and Kevan Welch for stepping up and giving us a product that we can be proud to say is our home.

# Feast Catering

By Ruthie Cummings



## ***Hello to Everyone at the Royal Kingston Curling Club***

*I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the members of RKCC. Your support and encouragement has been personally uplifting and has made me exceptionally excited about our years to come. Cooker Girl Catering has now rebranded to Feast Catering to reflect the many layers of feasting we all plan to do in the coming seasons. The CSA (Culinary Supported Association) program has been a huge success. Production during the regularly scheduled season has been streamlined and we will continue to introduce new and interesting foods from all the farmers around Kingston. You are supporting many people within each meal you enjoy. These ingredients are also used in everyday meals offered at RKCC and it's exciting to know that Feast Catering is farm-to-table in every aspect.*

*A special thank-you to the Board, the staff and especially Steve Hulton - who has become something of a mentor. John Ryce who has been a champion of my little business. All of these individuals have done so much to help the little caterer who could. The inclusion of my work has extended to a summer time BBQ (Monday through Thursday) for the Beach Volleyball association and to allowing me to set up a Farmers Market from May 5 to Thanksgiving every Saturday in the parking lot. All of you have created a happiness and excitement to arrive at work every day.*

*Developing relationships with each member is a personal touch I truly enjoy. I look forward to feeding you and miss you when I don't. I can honestly say I will miss you during the summer months, so I sincerely hope you will find the time to visit with me at either the BBQ or Market until next September.*

***You have all inspired me ☺***

*I have watched your games with interest and am now inspired to become a member myself. Starting next fall I will enroll in the Sunday night league and look forward to many years of membership, fun and shenanigans.*

*Thank you, THANK YOU, thank you so much. You're all so wonderful.*

# Reports from the AGM

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Dave Fraser

The Marketing Committee is made up of Bruce Jeffery, Roger Taylor, Linda Lott, Tom Bryant, Garry Dupuis and myself Dave Fraser.

Our main function is to generate advertising revenue through ice sheet sponsorship, wall sponsors, bar sponsor and the clock in the ice shed. We generate a little over \$20,000 annually, which helps us keep our fees down or offset some of the other costs associated with running our facility.

This year we had all six sheets sponsored which is great and hopefully they will all return next year.

We were able to gain a couple of new wall sponsors this year as well. This is a never-ending process as we lose a few each year and it is becoming more and more difficult to find new ones.

Please take a moment to see who our sponsors are and please support them when you can.

If anyone knows of any potential sponsors please let one of our committee members or Steve in the office know.

As with any committee, we are always looking for new members, so please come and help us. New ideas and opinions are welcome.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Kathleen Poole

The Social Committee had another busy year, starting in November with our first ever **Vendors' Fair**.

In December our fourth annual **Christmas Craft, Dessert & Tea sale** raised over \$800 through the table rentals to 27 crafters and proceeds from the bake sale

Our annual **St. Patrick's Day dance** with Steve Cheeseman & the Heeters was another great sold-out success and lots of fun! After cost we made approximately \$1,855, not including bar profits. This is such a popular event, we have booked them to return next year, which will be on Saturday March 16, 2019!

For **Championship Weekend**:

- The Social Committee worked with a subcommittee of the Curling Committee to plan Championship Weekend. Participants included John Pratt, David Leeson, Donna Jeffery, Pat Simms, Mario Fabbro, April Welsh, Kathleen Poole and Linda Lott (chair).
- Together we partnered to encourage more people to come and celebrate the games of Championship Weekend on April 20 – 21, and to determine the format for the games, dinner, celebrations and awards.
- There was a celebratory dinner and awards for the Friday curlers, and also another dinner with awards for the Saturday curlers.
- Wayne Smith's Band – The Porch Pilots – rocked the hall for the dance from 8-11pm on Saturday.

The **mandate for the social committee** is to plan events at the club for members and the community to enjoy. I believe our social committee was successful for the 2017-2018 season. We are sorry to see two of our committee members – Trish Beckett and Sandy Edwards - leave after this season, and heartily thank them for their contributions. We look forward to inviting new members with their ideas for the upcoming season, so if you are interested please contact one of us!

Watch for details for **upcoming events**:

- Paint Night in late May or early June.
- Back in the Hack/ Swing & Sweep format in early October

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members – Linda Lott, Trish Beckett, Sandy Edwards, Janet Fowlow and Pennie Robert - and all of those who volunteered to help us at our events this past year.

## 85<sup>th</sup> Whig Standard Men's Bonspiel

# Beuk wins 4<sup>th</sup> title

By Phil Tomsett and Roy Vasey, Bonspiel Co-Chairs

The 85th annual Whig Standard Men's Bonspiel was held January 26 to 28, with most games at the Royal Kingston Curling Club. It was necessary to also have games at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. Again the bonspiel started earlier on Thursday afternoon to ensure more games at the host club and avoid teams having to play three games on Friday and three games on Saturday.

This year, there were 54 teams competing for \$6,000 in prizes. We had numerous teams playing in their first *Whig*, which was great to see. We made further changes to the draw which gave more time to prepare the ice and we managed to finish the bonspiel on time.

In the main event final Jonathan Beuk from Cataraqui defeated Joe Waller from RKCC. This was Beuk's fourth title in the last six years. The semi-finalists in the main event were David Staples from Cataraqui and Sean Meleschuk from RKCC. Other event winners were: second event Mark McDonald from Cataraqui over Rick McGrath from Smiths Falls; third event Dave Allen from Cataraqui over Darren Helmer from Carleton Heights; fourth event Dan Acton from Navy over Daryl Crane from Picton; fifth event Ted Paradis from Tam Heather over Charlie Buss from Mississauga, sixth event Mike Braun from RKCC over Larry Paradis from RKCC. The seventh event winners were Kevin Pickell from City View and Rick Ward from RKCC, eighth event winners were Pat Beauchamp from Garrison and Malcolm James from Deep River

Special thanks to our sponsors: the *Whig Standard* newspaper, Bob the Butcher, Amey's Taxi and Riverhead Brewery. To have a successful large bonspiel requires the efforts of many volunteers and once again I was so impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of many RKCC members. I must signal out the various committee heads: Dave Kerr (Scoring), Linda Lott (Thursday night dinner), John Berry (Friday lunch and Saturday night dinner), Murray Cotton (Friday dinner), Wayne Gilmour (Saturday breakfast), Garry Dupuis (Saturday lunch). Special thanks to Dave Kerr for his help with the complex draw. There was excellent work done by our manager Steve Hulton, and Gerry Buist and his bartending staff. Again the bar was very busy this year and the food was exceptional.

The Whig is a very large bonspiel with many draws which require extensive ice preparation and maintenance. With the illness of our ice maker Rod Leeder, his crew stepped up and did an outstanding job. All members of RKCC should thank the efforts of **Kevan Welch, Gene Miller and Terry Barker** for their work in the Whig and throughout the curling season.

With the passing of Rod Leeder, RKCC has lost a devoted ice maker who always made sure the ice for the Whig was at its best. The Whig Committee is announcing that the second event will be named in Rod's honour.

# RKCC Bonspiel Report

By April Welsh, Bonspiel Chair

RKCC held six invitational and six in-house spiels this year.

I would like to give a big “THANK YOU” to all the convenors and their committees!

## **Invitational spiels:**

Limestone (Sr. Men’s) - David Leeson

The Whig Standard – Phil Tomsett and Roy Vasey

Empire Life Mixed – The Erwin Batalla mixed team

Grandmothers and Great Aunts – Kathy Jackson, Sylvia Myers

Super Seniors – Steve Quinn

Famous Fisherman’s – Grant Paterson, Bob Moore

## **In-House:**

Betty Bush Memorial – Linda Lott, Joanne Miller, Lil Rynbend

Day Men’s In-House (x2) – John Pratt, David Leeson and their many helpers

Stick Christmas Mini-Spiel – Pat Simms

Day Ladies’ Christmas – Pat Thompson, Deb Emerton

Day Ladies’ Rated – Pat Thompson, Deb Emerton

Bonspiels can’t be run without the scores of volunteers who invest their time and energy.

Again, many thanks to all who made this such a successful year!

I am stepping down as Bonspiel Chair so this position on the Communications Committee is vacant. Please contact me if you are interested.

# 65<sup>th</sup> Fisherman’s honours Rod Leeder

By Bob Moore, Mike Schneider, Grant Paterson

The annual Famous Fisherman's Bonspiel was held April 5 – 7, with a full complement of 48 teams, including seven entries from the state of New York.

At the banquet Friday night, held at Four Points Sheraton, Rod Leeder, our long time ice maker, was honoured as the Fisherman of the Year, 2018. The award was accepted by his brother Glen Leeder and Rod's good friend Mark Potter.

Winner of the first event was the Dan McHold team from Schenectady, N.Y. over team Joe Waller of RKCC. This is the first time an American team has won the Fisherman's Bonspiel.

Second event winner was team Darrell Wood from Smith Falls C.C., over Todd Johnson's team from RKCC.

Third event was won by team Dave Cassell, Prescott, playing against Mike Stefanik's team from Schenectady, N.Y.

Winner of the fourth event was Mike Schneider and his team from RKCC over Bill Vince's RKCC team.

Fifth event was won by Ryan Schenk's team from RKCC over the Dan Worth team from Cataraqui C.C.

Winner of the sixth event was team Ron Barker, Nepean, playing against Keith Sinclair from Ottawa.

This was the 65th Famous Fisherman's bonspiel and great food, curling and camaraderie was shared by all.

We would like to sincerely thank all the volunteers who helped in the kitchen, the oyster pit, the draw masters, the bar tenders and ice makers. A terrific job was done by all. A special thanks to our manager, Steve Hulton, for all his help.



# High School Report

By Linda Lott

The high school league had approximately 40 curlers this year representing five area schools. We had 12 teams competing at the Kingston Area Secondary Schools Athletic Association with six teams advancing to the Eastern Ontario championships. The Loyalist Collegiate and Vocational Institute (LCVI) boys team, which includes brothers Nate and Joel De Groote from the RKCC junior program, won the “A” side and travelled to provincial championships in Fort Francis. They played very well but didn’t make it past the semi-finals.

On behalf of the high school curlers, at huge “Thank you” to the Kingston Curling Club members and Board for supporting the league and to the following members who helped out every Wednesday during the season: Jan Ray, Sylvia Myers, Deb Wilkin, Rene Macartney and Ron Cameron.

Brothers Joel and Nate DeGroote competed at the provincial high school curling championships as part of the LCVI team.



Their brother Luke, far right, competed at the Elementary School competition, along with from left, Morgyn Knetsch and Emma Hoover. The trio teamed up with Abigail Vander Plas in the Junior B finals on Championship Weekend.

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## Lounge Committee oversees improvements

By Jan Ray, Lounge Committee Chair

I would like to thank Wayne Smith, Mike Braun and Reg Gore for refurbishing the benches in the Ladies locker room. Wayne also supplied both the materials and his time to make us a much needed new coat rack. Kudos to Laurie Winter, who volunteered to supply the paint and her time to paint the coat racks in both the Ladies and Men’s locker rooms.

We have purchased 10 new white table cloths for all the round tables. We also purchased 10 black topper cloths which can be used over these cloths as well as the burgundy table cloths. Our burgundy cloths have many stains so they can be salvaged using these topper cloths and still look nice. If you plan to use any of these cloths we would ask you to please spot wash them first before laundering them, in an effort to keep them looking like new.

Two new card tables were purchased for the members and social members who gather to play cards on Monday afternoons.

I would ask you to please check the shelf and the lost and found container, in the coat rack area across from the manager’s office, and take anything belonging to you. As well, we would appreciate you making a conscious effort to use the electric shoe cleaner, at the entrance of the club, to clean your shoes on entering.



# **RKCC Board of Directors for 2018-2019**

*The following members were elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting:*

President: Edward Gibson  
Governance/Vice-President: Deb Wilkin  
Finance Chair: Paul Cridland  
Social Chair: Kathleen Poole  
Curling Chair: David Townsend  
Marketing Chair: Dave Fraser

Past President: John Ryce  
Secretary: Vacant  
Operations Chair: Cam Gruer  
Member at Large: Joanne Miller  
Membership Chair: Michael Flowers  
Communications Chair: Martha Tanner

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## **Pickleball returns, \$6 drop-in fee**

**By Tammy Scott-Zelt, Pickleball Coordinator**

RKCC is once again offering drop-in pickleball on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Denis Faubert, Deb Wilkin and I will be at the club to help with clinics and organizing leagues. The fee to drop in and play will be \$6.

The club will have eight pickleball racquets for newbies to use until they decide whether they want to purchase their own racquet. For the safety of our members, we strongly suggest purchasing a pair of court shoes to prevent slipping on the flat surface of the floor. The club will have five courts, but court #1 will only be used for skills and drills, leaving four courts to play on.

For those players wanting a little extra knowledge of the different shots and strategy, the club will be organizing a beginners clinic in May.

On Tuesday evenings, I will be organizing a drop in and play, plus a little more competitive format of a ladder system for those players looking for a challenge.

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## **RKCC, KSSC team up for beach volleyball**

Kingston–The Kingston Sport & Social Club (KSSC) and the Royal Kingston Curling Club (RKCC) are proud to announce a multi-year partnership which involves the construction of six premier Beach Volleyball courts at the Royal Kingston Curling Club.

KSSC & RKCC share a commitment to building a healthy community through sport and recreation. With six court running four nights per week as well as Sunday afternoons, 150 players daily and 600 players weekly will be able to participate, get active and enjoy playing volleyball.

“We are thrilled to be partnering with RKCC to bring a premier facility to our teams further enhancing their playing experience. RKCC will be a premier destination for our weekly volleyball league games, skill clinics, drop-in nights and weekend tournaments. We will also be introducing new sports on-site such as beach dodgeball and beach soccer,” says Matt Linton, Sport Manager, KSSC.

“The Royal Kingston Curling club is excited to add a new chapter to our history. The building of the beach volleyball courts is a legacy project that our club is proud of. When construction is completed, this will be the highest quality beach volleyball destination in the area and will allow our club to become a year-around recreation facility. The Kingston Sport & Social Club are the leading providers of sport leagues for adults in the Kingston community, and our partnership is a perfect fit,” says John Ryce, President, RKCC

The facility will be completed by Friday, May 11, with leagues running from May 14 to August 31

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# *Lessons from Fenton's Curling Rink*

*RKCC member Roy Vasey and his spouse Brenda McLeod visited their friend Deborah in England in March of this year. Roy and Brenda first met Deborah when she was in Kingston on a teaching exchange program in 1989.*

## **By Brenda McLeod**

Being on vacation usually means getting away 'from it all', that is until a friend asks, "What do you do all winter since you are now retired?" This is when Roy's passion for curling really radiates. It is like a switch is turned on and he merely glows.

We were not 10 minutes away from the airport hurtling through the Kent countryside when Deborah asked, "So what do you do all winter...?" Roy's answer, "I curl." You need to understand that the comment is not delivered in a mundane manner, but with great enthusiasm and pride. Deborah was thrilled, excited and surprised to hear that Roy curled! Her enthusiasm was explained as she shared an amazing story about curling in England.

There is only one curling rink in England and it is located in Tunbridge Wells, which is very close to Deborah's home. Students from Beacon Academy, where she teaches, are avid and accomplished curlers. They achieved a high level of success recently in the World Junior B competition, which was held in Finland. Proudly she shared the achievements of her students and their Canadian teaching coach, Mr. Rees, who has championed the growth of curling at the school and in the community. The following evening, we were off to see Fenton's Rink at Dundale Farm. The ice shed is housed in a converted, extended barn. The facility has three sheets of ice, a comfortable viewing lounge with refreshment bar and a small trophy case, which will need to be expanded to accommodate additional hardware in the very near future. There is a flat screen TV located in one corner of the lounge with stackable chairs arranged in a semicircle for viewing. It is common for a TV to be at a curling rink, but we were to find out that the TV wasn't for watching curling events.

All the sheets were in play when we arrived. Each of the novice curlers was enthusiastic and appeared to be having a great time, if the smiles and laughter were any indication. No one was wearing curling shoes, so no sliding out of the hack for this group. The brushers were having some challenges too. Keeping up with takeout weight stones and deciding if facing forward or backward to brush was best – YIKES! The lack of skill and experience did not diminish their enthusiasm or comradery. All 24 players finished their game and an additional 24 eagerly prepared to take their place on the ice. This is when we found out the true role of the TV in the lounge. Before the new arrivals went to the ice, they sat in front of the TV for a curling demo video that reviewed the rules and provided basic technical instruction.

New friends were getting acquainted with a new sport in a relatively new facility. This was my 'aha' moment. The sport of curling really does join people in a very special bond. Maybe it was because I have only been in long-established rinks that I hadn't noticed the 'birth' of curling friendships. Not many team sports can boast that competitors consistently cheer on, support and congratulate their opponents. A well-delivered stone, an accurate takeout or a buried come-around to the button earn compliments and kudos. Our brief visit to Fenton's Rink was a portal to the embracing of a new sporting adventure for novice curlers. It is not difficult to see why Roy is so passionate about the sport of curling. The team sport where encouragement and praise are commonplace. The team sport where lifelong friendships are created because it is a sport that can indeed last a lifetime.

We wish the curlers at Fenton's Rink great success and many years of friendly competition; where many new curling stories will be created and shared for many years to come.