



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 20, Issue 1

September 2018

Welcome to a new season

By Martha Tanner

Welcome back to another season of curling - our 199th year! You'll be hearing lots about our 200th anniversary celebrations, beginning with an article on page. The 200th Anniversary Committee has been meeting for months in preparation for the celebration, which begins in September 2019. We've got a new logo for the bicentennial, and you can show your pride in this country's second-oldest club by sporting a 200th anniversary pin or button, available for purchase at the bar.

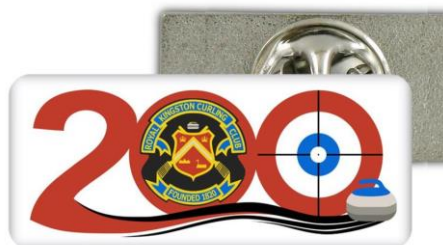
Since our last season ended in April, the Human Resources Committee has been interviewing candidates for the position of head ice technician and is delighted to announce that the position has been filled by our very own Terry Barker, who has worked alongside the late Rod Leeder for 13 years. Terry is a man of few words, but he has a few words about how we curlers can help the ice crew do its job in his debut article on page 3.

As you might expect, there have been a few changes to the ice calendar, including a new cash league and a new mixed league. Learn more about these changes in David Townsend's article on page 4.

It's hard to come back to curling when September is still hot and humid, and even harder for Terry and his co-workers, Kevan Welch and Gene Miller, who have to battle these conditions to bring us peak ice conditions for the start of our new season. September is jam-packed with activities, starting with our open house clinics and practices September 24 to 26, men's flight on September 27 and a potluck and curling on Friday, September 28.

Hopefully you noticed the new-look gardens on your way in. Thanks to Dave Batsford of David Batsford Landscaping Services for coming to the rescue, and to the club's board of directors for approving the plan. More on that on page 10.

Ready or not to leave summer behind, it is great to reunite with old friends and new at the curling club.



Pin it!

RKCC celebrates its 200th anniversary in the year 2020. Commemorative buttons (far left) and pins are available at the bar for \$5 and \$10 respectively.

Plans for bicentennial take shape

The 2019-2020 season will mark the 200th anniversary of The Royal Kingston Curling Club, the second-oldest curling club in North America, after the Royal Montreal Curling Club, which was founded in 1807. It is widely believed that the club was first formed in 1820 by officers of a Scottish garrison serving in Kingston. We continue to research the roots of the club. It is possible that records pertaining to the club's origins were destroyed in a fire that razed the club in 1922.

The 200th Anniversary Committee consists of Murray Cotton (chair), Philippa Fugler, Edward Gibson, Linda Lott, Dale Marecak, Joanne Miller, Jan Ray, John Ryce, Martha Tanner, Brian Ward and Deb Wilkin. When we held our first brainstorming session for the anniversary in June 2016, it was Murray's idea to have a Royal Kingston Curling Club postage stamp and a commemorative coin and he has spearheaded both of those applications with Canada Post and the Royal Canadian Mint respectively. He has also applied for royal patronage. His daughter Cynthia has designed the 200th anniversary logos and the buttons and pins that are now available for purchase.

We are grateful for the many offers of sponsorship that we have received, from within our own membership and in the larger community. One of the first on board was World Financial Group, long known for its support of curling in Canada.

We are planning a gala dinner on September 27, 2019 that will feature guest speakers Russ Howard and Cheryl Bernard. The dinner will be held at the Ambassador Hotel, which has become a sponsor of the 200th anniversary celebrations. Attendees will receive a commemorative booklet outlining the club's history and including letters of congratulations from VIPs. Russ and Cheryl will also lead clinics at RKCC on Saturday, September 28.

The Empire Life Bonspiel will feature prominently in the club calendar in 2020, with members of the Montreal club invited to join us. Of course, we all hope that the Kingston bid to host the 2020 Brier will be approved, since a major consideration for this bid is that it coincides with the 200th anniversary of the club.

We will also be planting a Vimy oak, purchased in 2017 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The oak will be dedicated to our club's historical and ongoing connection with the military community in Kingston.



Hope you like it

You'll be seeing a lot of this logo in the coming months. It was designed by Cynthia Cotmen, daughter of Murray Cotton, with input from the 200th Anniversary Committee and approved by the Board earlier this year.

From the Ice

By Terry Barker, Head Ice Technician

On behalf of myself, Gene Miller and Kevan Welch, we welcome you back from a very warm summer. We have kept the crew together in an effort to produce and maintain a venue which provides the best possible experience for curlers of all levels and hope that you share our enthusiasm for the coming season.



RKCC welcomes Terry Barker as its new head ice technician. Terry has been making ice at RKCC for 13 years.

We have worked closely over the summer with the Operations Committee to make key changes, with the focus of continuing to provide game-ready ice conditions throughout the coming season. We are grateful for the commitment of these members who willingly give their time to the club and hope that the curlers are as well.

I just have a few comments which I would like to pass along before the season begins:

Brooms:

- The club provides brooms for use by all who visit our rink. These are stored in racks along the window side of the rink and provide the tools necessary for those who don't own equipment. As such, we would ask that you do not remove these brooms from the ice area. The pro-shop staff will be glad to help you pick out your own broom should you choose to keep one in your locker or take one home.
- We have provided brushes to assist with the cleaning of brooms. These are placed conveniently close to the trash bins in the hope that cleaning would occur over the bin. Brushing the dirt onto the carpet only intensifies the likelihood of it finding its way onto the ice.
- I have never found a satisfactory reason to use the carpet as a broom cleaner. Although the surface is somewhat abrasive, the only place the dirt can end up is on the ice! Rather counter-productive.

Grippers:

- A gripper does not last a lifetime. Friction from carpets and regular flooring promotes a rather quick break-down of the material. Once the breakdown has started, material is left both on the ice and carpet. Please check your gripper before heading on to the ice. If it is frayed along the edges or on the bottom, it is time to replace it.

Taking the gripper off while on the ice will inadvertently transfer the dirt and material which is loose inside the gripper to the ice. Try to remove grippers as far from the ice as possible.

Continued on page 4.



Gary Cound (back), from the Peterborough Curling Club and Richard Haliburton assist with the ice painting at RKCC earlier this month. Not pictured is Philip Bellissimo, who was at the other end of the ice.

From the Ice, continued from page 3

As always, we ask curlers to refrain from placing any part of the body on the ice. We maintain a fairly constant ice temperature of 23 to 24 degrees to promote both speed and curl. As such, ice cannot stand up to the heat difference of the body. Wherever you touch the ice, it begins to melt immediately. This creates an adverse condition which affects not only your game, but all games that follow before we can make the necessary repairs. Please refrain from scowling if your ice technician asks you to stop kneeling or touching the ice in any way. It is your interests we are trying to protect.

I will end with a quick reminder that our club is extremely busy with as many as six games each day. There is only 15 minutes allotted between games and we need the ice technicians and curlers to work together to optimize this small amount of time. If your game is over; please leave the ice as quickly as possible. This allows us to get onto your sheet on a timely basis in order to clean and pebble. The buzzer rule is always in effect; please be familiar with the rule and its applications.

Once the sheet is ready for game play, the numbers will be removed from the board. Should you wish to wait at the end of your sheet, I remind you that the ice technician's final pebble stroke must go into the air behind the hack. This prevents a matting buildup in the play area. Again I ask that you refrain from scowling; if you are in the area, there's a good chance someone will get wet.

We welcome your comments at any time, whether positive in nature or not. Though the ice is watched closely for irregularities, an experienced curler may spot them before we do and we can work to eliminate problems before they become unmanageable. I prefer that we work proactively to make your curling experience more rewarding.

Thank you for your attention and good curling.

Curling Committee introduces two new leagues, slightly new times

By David Townsend, Curling Committee Chair

Welcome back to another fun-filled year of curling.

All of our regular leagues and events are returning again. That is great news. What is even better is, once again, there are some new opportunities for new and returning members.

Doubles

First up is Doubles. Once again, Doubles will be offered on Wednesday nights. In addition, there will now be Saturday opportunities as well and I will be coordinating that league for this year. We will ensure we have instructors on hand to share the rules while you are learning the ropes and different strategies for this two-person game. A team can be made up of two women, mixed or two men and all games will be six ends.

Mixed

Next is Mixed Curling. There is now an opportunity for daytime Mixed curling on Friday mornings. Donna Jeffery has agreed to kick-start this new league and is hoping to find someone to take it over once it is up and running. This is a first for this Club in a very long time (if ever) to run daytime Mixed curling.

Open League

Tammy Scott-Zelt has agreed to coordinate a more competitive Open League on Saturday afternoons for curlers 18 and over. Called 'The Champions League', this cash league will likely be open to other Greater Kingston Curling Clubs as well and will run two Saturdays a month at 12:30 p.m. An Open league team can be made up of any four players and this will be a great league in which to fine-tune your competitive skills. Entry is \$500 per team, plus \$100 in sponsorship.

Learn to Curl

Learn-to-Curl is moving once more. It will be offered on Saturday afternoons at 3 p.m. and we hope to bring in some Curl ON clinics this year to supplement all levels of curler development.

Sunday Mixed

Sunday Mixed Recreational is starting earlier than previous years (4 p.m.) to allow us to include more curlers from the Kingston Sport and Social Club, who will be using our Club every Sunday evening.

Rules

Not much in the way of rule changes. The buzzer rule is still in effect and will help us get all games in within time restraints. Please remind your leads that there are five other players able to clear the house of the previous end's rocks and the lead's job is to be ready to throw the first stone when their Skip calls for it. RKCC will also maintain the four-rock rule this year, even though many competitions are moving to a five-rock rule. Our Curling Committee felt that, for most of us, the four rocks was sufficient guard protection to still have entertaining games with plenty of opportunity for comebacks.

Join us

The Curling Committee still meets the second Wednesday of every month. We meet at 5:30 p.m. and all meetings are open to all RKCC members. Should you ever have an issue or new concept that you wish to share, please come and join us.

See everyone on the ice this fall and winter.

Mixed Bag

By Keith Mitchell, Mixed Curling Convenor

Well, another curling season is upon us now that the endless summer (i.e., uncurling season) has finally expired. I want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to mixed curling and send out a special welcome to the new members planning to join us this year. We have a great season planned with a variety of options that make it accessible for everyone. For those who don't know me, my name is Keith Mitchell and I am the new convenor for mixed curling. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at keithmitchell1959@gmail.com. I will do my best to address your concerns. If you have suggestions for improvements or would like to volunteer in organizing, your help would be appreciated.

This year we have four divisions from which to choose. Friday night we have a competitive flight division, a "less" competitive recreational division, and a club-style division. In the flight division you enter as a team and stay together throughout the year. In the club division you can enter as a single or couple and teams are chosen for each of the three draws. Games in club are six ends with the focus on meeting other club members and having fun. We also run a very popular Sunday recreational division. It fills up quickly, so sign up early and we will do our best to accommodate everyone.

This year we are planning a couple of special events that you should put into your calendars. We will be reintroducing the very popular "day" spiel with the Christmas Turkey Spiel scheduled for December 15. This is open to all members of the club and will be a club-style bonspiel limited to 48 players. Be sure to sign up early. Also this year we will be hosting the 60th annual Empire Life Bonspiel. This will be a two-day event with Dale Marecak and Mary Kelly as convenors. The Empire Life is scheduled for February 8 and 9 and more information will be available later in the year.

Speaking of Dale and Mary, mixed curling would not be the same if we didn't have our game time jujubes and post-game snacks. Dale and Mary have been handling this for many years and my thanks go out to them for all their hard work. When you see them at the club make sure to give them a pat on the back! Well, that's all for now, folks. Good curling to all and have fun!

Royal Kingston Curling Club- Open House Clinics

The RKCC open house curling clinics are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 24, 25 and 26 from 6-8 p.m. Take a moment and ask a friend, a neighbour, a co-worker, a family member or a teammate from another sport out to try curling. No experience necessary!

2020 Brier Bid Update

One of the key adjudicators for the Brier 2020 bid was in Kingston recently to tour sites, meet key proponents and clarify issues. He didn't provide any hint, however, he was a strong supporter of our previous Scotties' bid. Fingers crossed we receive positive news in the next few weeks.

GKC 101

Greater Kingston Curling is hosting a "Curling 101" event at Royal Kingston Curling Club on Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29. Saturday's program, with sessions starting at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., are for new curlers of all ages. They will be provided an opportunity to try curling with some introductory instruction. The 9 a.m. Skills Clinic on Sunday is targeted to more advanced curlers with instruction from the World Curling Tour's Team McDonald: Scott McDonald, Jon Beuk, Wes Forget and Scott Chadwick from Cataraqui.

Day Ladies introduces new divisions for 2018-19 season

By Kathy Jackson, Chair, 2018-19 Day Ladies Section

Welcome to another season of Day Ladies curling. We look forward to seeing you at the Club.

Registration for Day Ladies curling has shown an increase in the number of flight teams from 14 last year to 16 for 2018-19. Club curling registrations remain at similar levels to the past couple of years.

New for 2018-2019

Day Ladies Club curling will look a little different for the coming year. At the annual spring meeting last April, the decision was made to offer two divisions in Club curling. We will therefore offer, on a one-year trial basis, two divisions called 'Recreational Club' and 'Competitive Club'. We believe this option provides the greatest amount of flexibility for curlers and will allow individuals to curl in the division they feel best matches their interests. The two divisions will be offered concurrently on both Tuesday and Thursday. We will continue to have four draws over the year on each day and new teams will be organized for each draw so that curlers will play for different skips and with different team members in each of the four draws.

The **Competitive** division of Club Curling will be organized in the same manner as past years, with all teams in the running to emerge as the draw winner and advance to the Carrie Cole play-offs. This requires tracking wins and losses, maintaining standings, and determining a winner of each draw to compete in the Carrie Cole playdowns at year end. Teams will be selected via Skips' meetings and for the most part, curlers will play in their rated position. This tends to add a competitive element to club curling that does not appeal to all curlers so the Recreational division provides another option for curlers.

The **Recreational** division of Club Curling will have no standings and teams will *not* be competing for a spot in the Carrie Cole play-offs. We will keep score in the games played and if interest exists, a Win/Loss record will be posted for information only. Teams will be selected via a random draw (conducted by the convenor) and there will be opportunities for flexibility in the position curlers may play.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming, early-season events and the starting dates for flight and club curling.

Tuesday, September 25 – Day Ladies 'Bring a Friend' from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, September 27 – Day Ladies Fall General Meeting at 1 p.m.

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Day Ladies, continued from page 7

Tuesday, October 2 and Thursday, October 4 – Day Ladies Club Curling ‘Meet and Greet/Practice’ Sessions 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. *** NEW SESSIONS ***

- Club Curlers (both Rec & Comp divisions) are encouraged to attend. We will play some mini-games to get comfortable being back on the ice, followed by social time to meet and greet new and returning curlers.

The Day Ladies enjoyed a Golf Tournament at The Landings on June 27, 2018. The rain held off just long enough for the last group to come in! Trophy winners were Teresa Wilson, Pat Butler, Marilyn Chilton and Helen Noble. A special thank-you to Diane Labrie and Linda O’Sullivan for helping to organize the day. Mark your calendars for next year ... Wednesday June 26, 2019.



Hot Shots

RKCC was well represented at the Hot Shots Curling Camp in Oakville, August 24 – 26. Back row, from left, are Benny Gordon, Keith Mitchell, and Rick Pim. Front, from left, are Beth Giberson, Kathleen Poole, Carol Fitzpatrick, Kimberly Barker, Judy Russell, Tammy Scott-Zelt (attending for the fifth time!), and Liz Baer.

Photo submitted by Kathleen Poole

Great season ahead for EL section

By April Welsh, Chair, Evening Ladies Section

Welcome to the 2018-2019 season! Your convenors have been hard at work, organizing leagues and bonspiels. It promises to be a great season.

Potluck

First up is the ladies' potluck on Thursday, October 4. The Day Ladies are hosting the event this year and it promises to be the usual delicious buffet. If you are a new member to RKCC you have nothing to bring but yourself. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6.

Flight League

Deb Wilkin is organizing our flight league, which will start Monday, October 1. Monday will be our flight night, with games being played at 5 or 5:15 p.m., depending on whether the 9:20 ice time is being used. We will have six sheets at 5 p.m., and up to three sheets at 7:15/7:30.

Club League

Liz Baer and Carol Fitzpatrick are organizing club curling, which starts on Wednesday, October 3 **at 5:30 p.m.** Please note the change in time for this league. We also have one other change. The season is a week shorter this year due to the timing of Easter. Reluctantly we have decided to forego our Bring-a-Friend night during March break rather than shorten a draw. We hope to run a BAF clinic some Saturday in conjunction with Learn to Curl.

Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel

The Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel will be held on Saturday, November 3. This fun spiel is open to all ladies of RKCC, and is a great way for new curlers to experience a bonspiel.

Invitational Bonspiel, 'Canadian Eh?'

Our Social Convenor, Laura Brown, is convening our Evening Ladies' Invitational Bonspiel on Saturday, November 17. "Canadian, EH?" is the theme. Get those thinking caps (toques) on for costumes! We are trying a different format this year. It is still a two-game points spiel, but will feature a continental breakfast, lunch, and dessert after the final game rather than a full supper in the evening. The flyer will be out shortly.

Fall General Meeting

I am happy to announce that, for the first time in several years, we have a full executive. Our fall General Meeting will be held on Monday, October 22 after the 5:15 flight game. All EL ladies are welcome, and encouraged to attend.

Here's to a great year of curling and comradery!



New garden beds improve entrance to RKCC

By Martha Tanner

Thanks to everyone who responded to our call for help with revitalizing the garden beds at the front of the club. Judy, a Master Gardener in Training, and I decided last spring to tackle the beds, which were overrun with weeds. We researched hardy drought-resistant plants and Judy drew up a garden plan. Then we tried to pull the weeds. The ground was like cement, and Judy actually broke a hoe trying to break the surface of the soil. Dave Batsford of David Batsford Landscaping Services, who does the club's landscaping, including grass-cutting, shrub trimming and snow removal, took pity on us. It seems he too had been dismayed by the sight of the beds and had ideas of his own. He offered to design a plan for both beds, excavate the old, hard-baked soil and replace it with new garden soil, plant sturdy plants from his wholesale nursery provider and top it all up with mulch. Plus, he donated a cement bench. The board approved the plan in July and the beds were redone for the start of the new season. Dave was able to keep some of the existing plants and added a Japanese maple, two burning bushes, six Japanese yews and two Rose of Sharon shrubs. The gardens will eventually fill out and are already a much-improved introduction to the club. Now if only we could keep people from tossing their cigarette butts and gum in there!

Thanks to Steve Hulton, who has been watering the beds in the evening. We will continue to care for the beds on a volunteer basis and welcome any assistance.

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



Denis Faubert mops the courts with the help of his grandson Parker.

Growing sport of pickleball extends season at RKCC

We have just completed another great pickleball season at our club, renewing acquaintances from last summer and introducing new players to the fastest-growing sport in North America.

For those of you who are not familiar with the sport, pickleball combines elements of tennis, ping pong (table tennis) and badminton. It's somewhat like tennis, however, the pickleball (like a wiffle ball) travels about one-third as fast as a tennis ball and the court is approximately one-third the area of a tennis court.

Building on last year's successful inaugural program, we expanded from five indoor courts to six and provided a drop-in service Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9-11 a.m., as well as evening availability Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. On average, the morning sessions were attended by about 20 enthusiastic players facilitated by Tammy Scott-Zelt, Deb Wilkin and Denis Faubert, (special thanks to Kimberly Barker for filling in the occasional gaps)

Although we have not yet built a strong fan base, we did have four mechanical fans strategically placed to offset the higher temperatures and humidity, notably in July and August.



The facility was also made available to the Seniors Centre, the Kingston Pickleball Club, United Way, as well as a few third-party rentals. Combined total revenues (and this would be a low estimate) were approximately \$10,500. We appreciate the support of the RKCC Board as well as Steve Hulton, club manager, for making this yet another outstanding value-added component to our sports facility.

RKCC Pickleball Committee:
Tammy Scott-Zelt, Chairperson, Co-Facilitator
Deb Wilkin, Treasurer, Co-Facilitator
Denis Faubert, Secretary, Co-Facilitator