



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 20, Issue 3

February 2019

Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel gives participants the 'Royale' treatment



'Royale Flush'
Team Emerton, from left, Deb Emerton, John Emerton, Jean Vannest, Shelley Sterling and K.C. Bell, won the costume contest hands down at the 61st Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel, held February 2 at RKCC.

Photo by Andrew Van Overbeke

By Dale Marecak, Convenor

"Life, Empire Life".

On February 2, spy teams from Garrison, Richmond, and RKCC filled 24 slots in the annual Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel, themed "Casino Royale". Now in its 61st year, it challenged players in a three-game, four-event, partial-points spiel.

Licensed to kill were three agents who stole the trophy: skip Trevor Kirby, with Kaitlyn and Dylan Welch. The main event runner-ups were Scott Eaton, Anthony Hale, and Tammy Scott-Zelt. Second, third and fourth events were won by Teresa Gibson, Garry Dupuis, and Pennie Robert, respectively.

Just the night-before, a secret mission mishap claimed two players, and we had to fly in replacement spies from another country, Judy Russell and Rick Pim. Many thanks to them for refilling the 24, plus thanks to Mary and Garry Dupuis for pushing on despite the loss of their original comrades.

Choosing the costume contest winners was no gamble, as the the Emerton team played their hand well-dressed head-to-toe as a "Royale" Flush.

Continued on page 2.



Above: Courtney Barnhill encourages sweepers Scott Eaton, left, and Steve Orme.

Top right: Edward Gibson, RKCC president and Senior VP, CFO and Chief Actuary at Empire Life, presents the Empire Life Trophy to skip Trevor Kirby and Dylan Welch. Missing from photo is Kaitlyn Welch. Right: The real deal, Kathy Moore, Gary Osborne and skip Wayne Rice.

Photos by Andrew Van Overbeke.

Continued from the front

Over 40 prizes were on the table to be won, many of which were graciously donated by Empire Life, the Lynches of WindDrift, the Cannons, and Laurie Alton of Expedia CruiseShipCenters (thanks, Pam and Roger Taylor).

Serving kitchen justice, and a delicious lunch of soup, chili and sandwiches, was volunteer villain Katherine Banko, with help from Tensia Cannon, Marilyn Bellringer, and Gord and Mary Smith. A fancy spread of wine, cheese, fruit, crackers, veggies and dips was delivered by volunteers Teresa Gibson, Peter and Janet Waugh, and Tensia. These were double agents, as they also gathered prizes from sponsors and local retailers. A great dinner featuring Portuguese chicken and ribs was catered by Ramekins, (thanks, Joe, Tony and Kim).

Draw-master sleuthing was the target of sharp-shooter Edward Gibson, with a great printed draw diagram by Gord Abson. And speaking of shooting, thanks to our photographer Andrew Van Overbeke, with additional coverage from Kimberly Barker.

The program was coded to perfection by Celia Russell, and signing in of arriving agents was done by Mary Kelly. The day's playing field was prepared flawlessly by Paul Moorby and Terry Barker. The drinks were served with smiles and only the occasional Mickey Finn, by Gerry Buist. Last, but not least, thanks to the club manager Steve Hulton for putting up with all the questions a rookie convenor can muster.

The day was a non-stop battle for the spies as they thunderballed through many games with few breaks. Overall it seemed many were pleased to allow the new format to die another day. Thanks to all!



Above, Noah and Helen with Team Howard at the HDT provincial championship. Left, Logan, Helen and Noah celebrate back at RKCC.

Big results for RKCC Little Rocks at provincial HDT Championship

By Kimberly Barker

While many Ontarians were watching Scott McDonald compete in the Men's Ontario Tankard, many Royal Kingston Curling Club members were anxiously awaiting the results of CurlON's 4th Annual Hit Draw Tap Championship.

Three curlers from RKCC qualified for the provincial youth skills competition, held in Elmira as part of the Ontario Men's and Women's Curling Championships. Over 850 young curlers from 51 clubs participated in qualifying rounds at their home clubs, with the top 10 from each earning the right to compete in Elmira. In the 6-8 age group, Helen Young finished with the top score overall, followed closely by club mate Noah Bedard in fourth. In the 9-10 age group, RKCC's Logan Bedard, last year's provincial winner in the 6-8 age group, placed second in the qualifying round.

In true competitiveness, Helen and Noah competed against each other for the title with a final draw to the button to determine this year's provincial Hit Draw Tap champion. How exciting is that! Noah brought home the trophy and Helen swept the RKCC statistics, being the first new curler ever to make it to the event, thus making our program even brighter for having achieved such fantastic results. We couldn't be happier for her fans, friends and family.

Continuing on in the spirit of competition was Logan Bedard; last year's Hit Draw Tap provincial winner in the 6-8 age group. While having to make a leap forward from the short competition format to the full sheet of ice in the 9-10 age group, Logan placed a very gifted fourth in the finals. Logan continues to impress us in curling and we would like to congratulate him and his family for continuing the tradition of athleticism and sport development in Kingston. Well done!

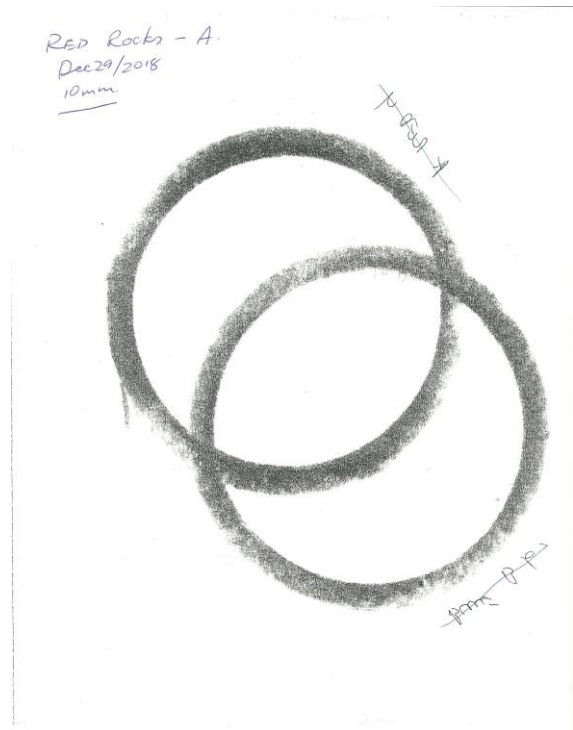
From the Ice

By Terry Barker, Head Ice Technician

Change has been the essence of our mandate since the last Sweep was published. With the first half behind us and its lessons learned, we have adapted to conditions and made corrections where needed in an effort to enhance the curling experience.

After the November flood and the conditions forced upon us from an inconsistent water quality, it was decided that we reinstall the Jet Ice filtration system to provide a cleaner and more dependable source. Possibly some of you have fond memories of trying to play on ice that was beyond slippery, more than a few have painful memories. Either way, the filtration system has been installed and provides us with more consistent quality and cleanliness.

We made an imprint of the rocks over the holidays to determine their state. It was found, and later confirmed in conversation with our source that has supplied and maintained our rocks, that the running surface had become wider than normal. This is evident when rocks seem to fall at higher weights and can be straight and very fast in normal deliveries. We outlined a six-part agenda to try and bring the rocks back to an acceptable condition. The first two parts were carried out the second week in January and the second two January 19. It is a slow procedure, with part one narrowing the running surface to hold the rock's path, and part two to provide some curl before we undertook the second stage on the 19th. We have witnessed minor improvements in the performance of the rocks, but it is frustrating when you know it is temporary; the running surface wears as fast as we can narrow it. We have other options which we will implement with an ultimate goal of addressing the issue fully after the season is over. Watch for additional news as available.



I have been asked to mention (for the last time) hands and knees on the ice. No matter how many times it is mentioned, it persists. This can only lead to the conclusion that the curlers don't care. (If they didn't want the holes in the ice, they wouldn't put them there!) My final word on the subject comes at it from a different perspective, one of time and money. We estimate that we spend between six and 10 hours each week repairing damage left by careless curlers. That has a direct cost, one that affects all curlers. I'm sure that each member would rather see their hard-earned dollars going to a better cause.

Since Christmas, the most prevalent complaint we have received is concerned with the cleanliness of the ice. I can assure the curlers that all efforts are taken by the ice staff to ensure the ice is clean before your game starts.

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From the Ice, continued from page 4.

We scrape the ice twice a day and sweep sheets after every game. The carpets are vacuumed each day, some days twice, and we provide sticky mats in an effort to keep outside dirt from the ice shed. If we eliminate the ice maker as the source of said dirt, we are left with only one conclusion. As always we ask the curlers to check their grippers for wear. This is the single largest source of crap on the ice and is easily curable with a trip to the pro shop. Other sources include certain types of clothing as well as pulling items from pockets during a game. Grabbing a tissue or gloves from your pocket can leave lots of interesting things on the ice.

During the Whig Standard bonspiel in January, I managed to overhear one of our members relating our terrible ice conditions to a table full of visiting curlers. It was refreshing to hear the visitors mention that their experience at the event was highly satisfactory, nothing but positive. I did not linger to hear final results but did find it disheartening. We remain available for comments regarding the ice. Not hearing one does not lead us to the conclusion all is perfect but we don't assume conditions are bad. We prefer that members become part of the solution to a problem rather than part of the problem.

I will close with a reminder that only clear fluids may be taken into the ice shed. There is a growing tendency to take coffee or pop with you into the rink. This is not satisfactory. Accidents happen even to the most careful souls, most of which are out of your control. It has been a rule at the club forever, so long that we took it off the doors because it was obvious. Please don't make us hunt you down in an effort to protect the ice.

We thank you for your patience with the issues we have discussed. As always we try to keep the curlers interests in mind, everything we have done is to make our club the best place to curl in the city: a place members can be proud to belong. Enjoy your games and good curling

Excitement builds for 200th Anniversary Gala Dinner

The 200th Anniversary Committee would like to sincerely thank our club members for the incredible response for ticket purchases for the Gala Dinner on September 27, 2019. As of January 31, 319 tickets have been sold, leaving us with only 81 tickets to reach the maximum of 400 for the dinner. We are certain it will be a memorable event for all attending. In addition to our special presenters, Russ Howard and Cheryl Bernard, there will be a silent auction event, which promises some very interesting items for auction. Please stay tuned in the months ahead for further details on these unique items.

We have now expanded the ticket offer to the other four Greater Kingston Curling club members for the month of February. Beginning in March the sales will be further expanded to the general public.

There is still time to get a ticket, but it may not take long for the balance to be sold. We cannot go beyond 400.

RKCC 200th Anniversary Committee



Russ Howard and Cheryl Bernard are the featured guest speakers at the 200th Anniversary Gala Dinner on September 27, 2019.

Photo by Kevin Tanner

Mixed Bag

By Keith Mitchell, Mixed Curling Convenor

Here it is more than halfway through the season and it looks like we have a very competitive league this year in Mixed Flight. Teams are positioning for an interesting finish to the year and heading to the playoffs it is a wide-open field.

Our mixed club curlers are having a lot of fun again this year, but we can always add more people. This is a great way to meet other members in a relaxed atmosphere, so if you are considering mixed for next year, keep this in mind.

Our Sunday mixed recreational league has again been a huge success and we are looking to finish the year with a completely filled draw. The second draw is just getting underway with the addition of one new team. I am told there was a great potluck supper prior to Christmas and the food was fantastic. For those who want to get into Sunday mixed for next year, be sure to get your requests in early. Returning teams get priority and it is first-come, first-served for any open spots.

The mixed section hosted a Christmas Turkey Spiel this year and it was great fun and a huge success.

The Turkey Spiel ended up being the “Reindeer Games”, as each team was assigned one of Santa’s reindeers. The spiel was run as a Skins spiel and was won by team Conner (Michael Flowers, Cyndy Jones, Doug Boyd, and Odette Haas). In an exciting finish Odette Haas (lead) drew to the eight-foot to win the skin that gave Conner the victory. Other winners were Brian Nolan (Turkey Raffle), Debbie Mansell (Prediction Pool), Bill Grant and Sylvia Myers for corner-to-corner draw.

The Turkey Spielers were very generous in their support of Martha’s Table. A big Thank-You to Nick from Gilmour’s on 38, who supplied the sandwiches and turkeys at cost. Also a big shout-out to Sylvia Myers and Kathleen Poole for their help in organizing and running the spiel.

Finally, the Mixed Committee has been tasked to come up with ideas for celebrating our 200th anniversary next year. If you have some thoughts, be sure to speak with Benny Gordon (flight), Dave Lollar (Friday Rec), Richard Robichaud (Sunday Rec), or Keith Mitchell (convener).

Good curling to all and keep your brooms on the ice!!



Team Cannon was impressive on and off the ice in the Empire Mixed Bonspiel. From left, Bill Cannon, Kimberly Barker and Tensia Cannon. Missing from photo is Benny Gordon.

Tim Hortons 2020 Brier Update

In a little over a year, Kingston will be hosting the biggest curling event in the world. We need to make sure that it is one of the most successful Briers ever and by doing this Kingston will be able to host many other big name curling events in the future.

What can you do as avid supporters of the great game of curling? Do not procrastinate...convert your \$50 ticket deposit into a full event package a.s.a.p. By now you have received an email from the Leon's Centre Box Office with your special deposit code. Click on the link in the email <https://www.ticketmaster.ca/event/10005586972B2A4A?did=depositholders> or if you require assistance, or have any questions, please contact the Leon's Centre Box Office at boxoffice@leonscentre.com or 613-650-5078.

If you do this before the tickets go on sale to the general public on March 1 you will have a much better chance of getting good seats. You should also encourage your family and friends to buy a full event package.

RKCC will be receiving lots of attention during the Brier, as it is our 200th year in operation and this is one of the reasons our bid was successful.

The Brier will generate between \$11- and \$15-million to our local economy. What a great economic benefit as well as the opportunity to watch world class curling.

Many of you will also be volunteering, but you will still need tickets to watch any of the games. If you haven't done so already, you should sign up with Curling Canada to receive the alert when the call goes out for volunteers in March. You can sign up at: <https://www.curling.ca/volunteer>.

Thanks for your support.

Linda Lott
Vice Chair Hosting
Tim Hortons 2020 Brier

John Ryce
Vice Chair Special Events
Tim Hortons 2020 Brier

 **St Paddy's Dance**

**Royal Kingston
Curling Club**
Days Road & Front St
Kingston, ON

Sat March 16, 2019
8pm—12pm

**Steve
Cheeseman and
the Heeters**

Tickets: \$15 at RKCC bar
Tickets available for non-club members
AFTER February 25 2019
Event organized by RKCC Social Committee

EL season winding up

By April Welsh, Evening Ladies Chair

The Evening Ladies' Christmas turkey dinner on December 6 was a huge success. We invited all ladies of the club and had a good turnout. Many, many thanks to Denise Mulville and her kitchen crew of Monica Kirk, Cyndy Jones, Laura Brown, Liz Baer and Anthony Hale for a fantastic meal.

The Evening Ladies' spiel had to be cancelled due to a poor response. We are looking at changing the date for next year to avoid conflicts with other spiels in the area. Thanks to Laura Brown and her committee for their planning and efforts.



Event 1 champs, from left, Michelle Penny, Deb Wilkin and Lisa Mulville. Absent: Allison Braithwaite.

Photo by Liz Baer

Club curling continues to attract more new members and we have a very enthusiastic group. Third draw playoffs were held February 6.

Evening Ladies' Draw 2 Results:

Event 1 Champions: Michelle Penney (Lead), Deb Wilkin (Skip), Lisa Mulville (Vice), Allison Braithwaite (Second) over Kimberly Barker (sparing for Tensia Cannon, Vice), Judy Russell (Skip), Beth Giberson (Second), Lisa Thorburn (Lead).

Event 2 Winners were Nancy Evans (Second), Jennifer Cook (Skip), Kathleen Poole (sparing for Marilyn Wilson, Vice), and Judy Walker (Lead).

Event 3 Winners were Jane Ward (Lead), Peggy Cuthbert (Vice), Lynn Witheridge (Skip), Laurie Winter (Second)

Our **Spring General Meeting has been moved to March 18 at 7 p.m.** All flight games will be six ends and the meeting will be held between the two draws so that all teams can attend. I am pleased to say that most of the executive is staying on for another year. We are looking for a vice chair, as Gail will be moving into the chair position. We also need to elect a rating committee. The committee consists of the Club Chair (Liz) plus four skips who have played in at least 3 club draws in the immediate past. If you are interested, please notify me or Liz Baer. An agenda for the meeting will be posted in a few weeks. If you would like to discuss anything at the meeting, please contact me this month so I can include your item on the agenda.

The Evening Ladies are hosting the RKCC Ladies' Closing Dinner on Wednesday, April 10. Tickets will be available in early March. Please watch for details.

Still lots of bonspiel action left in season

By April Welsh, Bonspiel Chair

RKCC's bonspiel convenors have been hard at work, running four in-house and three invitational spiels to date. Many thanks to you and your committees!

The season is winding down, but we still have the following events to look forward to: the Day Ladies' and Day Men's in-house spiels on Tuesday, February 19 and Friday, March 8 respectively, the Super Seniors Invitational on Friday, March 22, the Grandmothers and Great Aunts on Wednesday, March 20, and the 66th Annual Famous Fisherman's Bonspiel April 4 - 6.

Please support these spiels (and RKCC!) by playing in them and /or volunteering.



Team joins prestigious 8-ENDER club!

Congratulations to (from left): Deb Kennedy (lead), Darlene Naugler (second), Liz Baer (vice), and Joan Doucet (skip) for scoring an 8-ENDER in the Tuesday Ladies Club on December 11, 2018. Joan has never had an 8-ENDER in her curling career, so this was a very special moment for her.

EL Flight wraps up round robin play

By Deb Wilkin, Convenor

The league wrapped up its full round robin on February 11. We will now break into three divisions: A with six teams; B with six teams; and C with five teams. A divisional round robin will then be completed, leading to our play-offs beginning April 1. For the play-offs the top two teams from B division will move up to A, giving eight teams to this division. The top team from C division will move up to B, giving five teams to this division. The remaining four teams will represent C division for the play-offs.

At our spring AGM we will be reviewing and voting on the full round robin approach as some concern has been expressed regarding this format. We encourage all members to attend the meeting to hear and/or participate in the discussion before the vote.

If anyone is interested in being involved in the flight convenor role after next year, please let me know, as I would encourage you to join me for the 2019-2020 season as the co-convenor to learn the process.



Winners of the Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel, from left, Deb Kennedy, Cathy King, skip Mary Buchanan, and Linda Shanks accept the trophy from Tony Bush.

Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel

A Day at the Beach warms cold November

By Linda Lott

The third annual Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel ‘A day at the beach’ was held on a very cold November day. We had eight teams competing for the honour of having their names engraved on the trophy. It was a point ‘spiel based on the outcome of an eight- and a six-end game. Teams also accumulated points for the beach-bean bag toss, disc throw and wuzzle puzzles.

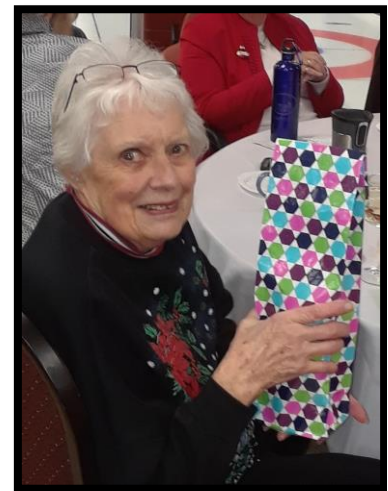
The curlers were treated to a continental breakfast, a hot lunch repast of chicken pot pie and salad. After their last game they indulged in awesome cheesecake desserts. Tish Lavalee in her bikini shirt won the prize for best costume in a field of strong contenders and Kaitlyn Welch’s brainiacs team won the word puzzles and brain teaser quizzes.

Mr. Tony Bush with his son Tom and daughter-in-law Courtney were on hand to present the trophy to the winning team of Mary Buchanan, Linda Shanks, Cathy King and Deb Kennedy.

Members compete in OCA events

The team of Linda Lott, Donna Smith, Karen Peters and Janet Waugh competed in the Masters’ Qualifier at Catarauqui on December 15. The team did well, but failed to advance.

The team of Laura Brown, Kaitlyn Welch, Courtney Barnhill and Erica Simpson played in the Scotties Qualifier in Niagara Falls, January 11 and 12. Although they did not advance, the Scotties competition was a great experience for the ladies, as they competed with some pretty well-known Ontario curlers. RKCC junior curlers Josh Degroote, Luke Degroote and Arash Kamali with coach Mark Strachan from Loyalist Collegiate and Vocational Institute won the Gore Schoolboy zones at Garrison CC on December 8, while their skip Kaamraan Islam and usual coach Sabena Islam were at another event. The team competed in regional play at the Brighton Curling Club February 2, but did not advance.



Clockwise from top: Grinch Spiel winners, from left, Sue Ellen Coleman, Claire Dubac Rayner, Sue McConnell, and Joan Doucet. Lin Jenkins won the ‘Oops prize”, Betty Bryant, winner of the Great Shot. Above, spiel runners-up, from left: Bev Pitts, Sylvia Myers and Donna Jeffery.

Curling brings out the Grinches

The Grinch welcomed the ladies to Whoville for the annual Christmas Spiel held December 4. Many of the ladies dressed as Who’s, which added a special touch to the day. They played two four-end games with a delicious Who lunch sandwiched in between. Roast Beast, Who Pudding and Who Hash were on the menu. After lunch there was a draw to the button for a turkey, won by Joan Doucet, and a Who Quiz. The spiel winner was Joan Doucet’s team of Sue McConnell, Claire DuBac Rayner and Sue Ellen Coleman. The runner-up was Donna Jeffery, Silvia Myers and Bev Pitts. The Oops prize was won by Lin Jenkins and Great Shot was Betty Bryant. Many thanks to all the Who workers who helped out in the true spirit of Christmas. We look forward to the February funspiel, Cirque de Royal on February 19.

**COMING AGAIN THIS SPRING
AND SUMMER**
Beginning the week of April 29

PICKLEBALL AT RKCC

SIX COURTS

STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DETAILS

- 2-hour refresher clinic on Day 1
- 4-hour novice clinic later that week
- Both facilitated by Denis Faubert

Buttons and pins support 200th anniversary celebrations



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. Proceeds will be used to fund a variety of special events in the 2019-2020

Join us for the 14th annual RKCC Golf Event on Thursday, June 20, 2019

Sign up now for popular RKCC golf tournament

LIMITED ATTENDANCE - ONLY 144 SPOTS FOR GOLF (ADDITIONAL SPOTS FOR DINNER)

By Steve Hulton and John Ryce, Co-convenors

This event is an important and fun fund-raising event for our curling club. The event will feature 18 holes of golf (scramble format) with plenty of prizes and the ever popular steak and salmon BBQ supper at RKCC after golf. New this year, we will be playing a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start at Amherstview Golf Club (thank you for your ice sponsorship) and lunch will be included. The cost will be \$85 for lunch (hamburger, fries and Caesar salad), golf with cart and dinner. Current Amherstview members' cost will be discounted based on your type of membership.

We are looking to fill the event so please make early plans and sign up at RKCC (lobby sign up sheet in place). Also, a couple of years ago the prize distribution process was changed to enable an earlier conclusion to the day and this was very successful in speeding up the process.

There will be a change to the payment process this year. There were a number of late cancellations two years ago which resulted in a cost to RKCC for green fee payments, as well as food costs due to non-attendees. We are instituting a pre-payment plan this year to mitigate this kind of loss. Full payment of \$85 will be expected to be made at RKCC **no later than June 13th**. You may sign up any time during the curling season and make the payment at the bar at the time of sign up or anytime prior to the end of curling season. Or, you can sign up after the curling season and pay at the manager's office at RKCC, but either way payment must be received prior to June 13th to confirm your place.

In the event of a rain-out (hasn't happened yet), the golf/lunch portion of the fee (\$50) will be refunded, but the dinner will still be held. If this happens there will be social/fun day events held at RKCC during the day.

Also, if a late cancellation is necessary (i.e., illness, unexpected situation) a request for a refund can be made to Steve Hulton, Manager, RKCC.

This year Steve Hulton and John Ryce will once again co-chair the event, so any questions, concerns, suggestions can be made to them. We are also looking for two additional volunteers to assist with the organization of the event. We could also use some help with prize donations. We would welcome your assistance in this regard.



*Royal
Kingston
Curling Club:
Annual
Mixed Golf
Tournament*



Thurs June 20, 2019
Lunch
Shotgun Tee: 12:30pm
Amherstview Golf Club

TICKETS: \$85pp
**Purchase tickets at
the Bar by June 10!**

Includes:

- ⇒ **Golf** (18 holes & Cart)
- ⇒ **Lunch** (Burger, Fries & Caesar Salad)
- ⇒ **Dinner** (Steak and Salmon) at RKCC
- ⇒ Dinner only \$35
- ⇒ **Prizes**

(No Tickets Sales at
Amherstview)

