



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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A season to remember & build on

By Martha Tanner

The 2019-2020 curling season will be remembered for many reasons, not the least of which was its abrupt ending due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the 2019-2020 season at RKCC was historic in its own right and the events that made it so will forever be celebrated in the annals of the club's history.

Foremost of these was the 200th anniversary of RKCC, Canada's second-oldest curling club. The months-long party began with a Gala Dinner in September with special guest Russ Howard. Highlights included the debut performance of The Royal Kingston Bagpipe March, the unveiling of a commemorative quilt designed and made by Linda Miller and Fran Cooney, the first pouring of the RKCC ale bottled by the Riverhead Brewery, the production of a commemorative booklet, and a special cry by town crier Chris Whyman.

In October, a moving ceremony was held at the club in which a Vimy oak tree was planted to honour the historical association that the club has had with Kingston's military, starting with the formation of the early curling club by Scottish garrisons.

Another signature event of the anniversary season was the wildly successful Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel in February (more on that on page 2).

And throughout the season, club members and convenors pitched in to support and celebrate this momentous anniversary. There was the Prior to Brier funspiel by the always creative Day Ladies. A fundraising quilt with a 200th theme designed and made by Gay Chamberlain, Sharon Windsor, Deb Emerton, Francine Korczynski, and Sheila McHenry. A sold-out cookbook featuring club members' favourite recipes. A collectible Christmas pewter ornament featuring the club's crest.

And then there was the Tim Hortons Brier, one of the greatest ever according to players and organizers. Held February 29 to March 8 at the Leon's Centre in Kingston, the Brier drew over 96,000 fans. In the final game, Team Gushue won its third Canadian men's championship, defeating Alberta's Team Bottcher. Nine days later the Ontario government declared a State of Emergency and the closures began.

What the 2020-2021 season will bring is uncertain. What we do know is that the 200th anniversary season has given us a strong foundation on which to build. Thanks to the work of the 200th anniversary committee and, in particular, of its chair Murray Cotton, the anniversary generated over \$20,000 in sponsorships and donated goods and services for the club, far surpassing its goal of merely paying for itself. It has left a legacy of pride in our club and its storied history, made visible through a custom-created logo featured on stationery, pins and buttons, and other merchandise, as well as through ongoing displays of archival materials.

And it has strengthened our resolve, in the face of this great uncertainty, to work together so that we can continue to celebrate the great tradition of curling in Canada and many more anniversaries at RKCC.



Skip Scott Eaton introduces his team hoisting the Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel Trophy, while club president Ed Gibson looks on. From left are Steve Orme, Amanda McKenzie and Courtney Barnhill.

2020 Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel one for the record books

By Martha Tanner

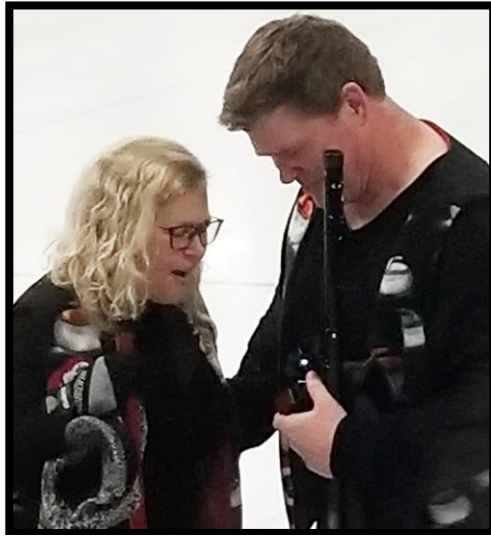
If we had known that the Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel was to be the last of the season, we would have wanted it to create memories that would sustain us until the next great bonspiel. We would have wanted it to be more fun than we could remember having in a long time. We would have wanted moments of hilarity, jaw-dropping surprises, dream-come-true prizes, and a celebrity appearance or two. We would have wanted to celebrate our 200 years of history, to make new friends in curling and to show our sponsor just how much we appreciate its decades of support.

Luckily, the 62nd edition of the Empire Mixed Bonspiel, held February 7 – 8, 2020, was all that and more. It started out like a regular mixed bonspiel with 30 teams gathered to celebrate 200 years of curling at RKCC. To mark its bicentennial, Canada's second-oldest curling club invited special guests from Canada's oldest curling club, the Royal Montreal. Two teams made the trip from Montreal on a snowy weekend and were given a "royal" welcome, both on and off the ice. Games were six ends, with the first draw starting at noon on Friday and the last at 8:30 p.m., after a great dinner. Throughout the weekend, curlers and guests had the chance to bid on items in a silent auction, with proceeds to Pathways to Education, a charity supported by Empire Life.

The action heated up on Saturday with the trophy on the line. Games were close and the six ends flew by. The bidding intensified on the silent auction items. Costumes in the spirit of the event were a light-hearted reminder of the historical theme.

And then the magic began. As the playoff games wound down, the CAA, a brand new sponsor of the 200th anniversary of RKCC and an official partner of the Tim Hortons Brier, brought its program of Winter Joy to the club. A team led by Erin Roux, Brand Manager for South Central Ontario, and including special guests Lori Eddy and Mary Chilvers, hosts of the podcast 2 Girls and a Game, swept into the lobby and plunked down the storied Brier Tankard. The real Brier trophy, polished to within an inch of its life, in preparation for the moment, one month later, when it would be hoisted in victory at the Leon's Centre!

Continued on page 3



LOVE

“Mary, will you marry me?”

Dale Marecak surprised Mary Kelly (and everyone else on the ice) when he dropped to one knee and pulled out an engagement ring.

Empire Life, continued.

With them were videographers hoping to capture some Winter Joy Moments. Well, no sooner had they set up their cameras, when the game ended on Sheet 6 and Dale Marecak dropped to one knee, pulled out a velvet box and proposed to Mary Kelly, whom he had met eight years earlier at the club. (She said, “Yes”!) You can see this Winter Joy Moment (and others) on YouTube. (A marriage proposal is the only excuse for putting a knee on the ice, by the way.)

It was the first day of the CAA’s Winter Joy road trip dedicated to building community spirit and spreading joy, and Roux announced that she was proud to make a donation of \$5,000 to the Royal Kingston Curling Club. She also drew the names of three bonspiel participants for a VIP Curling Experience at the 2020 Brier. Steve Tanner, Philippa Fugler and Dylan Welch won the chance to play a two-end game with skip Lisa Weagle on the final Saturday of the Brier, in addition to a slew of other Brier VIP experiences.

But the Empire Life curlers also spread some joy of their own. Through the silent auction, over \$5,000 was raised for Pathways to Education, a program which provides at-risk youth with the supports they need to graduate from high school. And with true generosity, Brian Kelly, brother of bride-to-be Mary Kelly, won the 50/50 draw and promptly donated his winnings of \$205 to Pathways to Education.

Nor did the Montreal curlers return home empty-handed. The team of Scott Hill, Lyne Laganiere, Dave Kyba and Yvonne Kyba was presented with the Silver Shoe Trophy, which was first presented in 1994 during RKCC’s 175th anniversary bonspiel in which five teams from the Royal Montreal Club participated. The winners of the Empire Life Mixed Trophy were Scott Eaton, Courtney Barnhill, Steve Orme and Amanda McKenzie from RKCC.

Deb Wilkin’s team of Dale Marecak, Mary Kelly and Brian Kelly won the draw for best costumes.

And the hard-working 62nd Empire Life Bonspiel Committee – Teresa Gibson, April Welsh, Tensia Cannon, Janet and Peter Waugh, Keith Mitchell, Bruce Jeffery and Murray Cotton – won the heartfelt appreciation of all who participated for one of the best mixed bonspiels in recent memory.



Prior to the Brier Day Ladies Bonspiel



On Tuesday January 28, we had 40 day ladies curling in the Prior to the Brier Funspiel, all vying to become the next Team Canada for RKCC. At the end of the day, holding the Canadian flag, was the winning team of, above from left, Linda O'Sullivan, Margo McLaren, Lois McArthur and France Kelly. There were lots of great costumes and wonderful spirit. All winners received a special coffee mug with the club's 200th logo. Thank you to all the volunteers who decorated with provincial and territorial flags and to the wonderful kitchen team who prepared a delicious lunch. A special thank you goes to Candace McConomy for graciously making our delicious desserts.



Members of the Cookbook Committee, from left: Carole Rivington, Deb Emerton, Fran Cooney, Gill Turnbull, Mirelle Ringuette, Karen Matheson, Claire duBac Rayner, Candace McConomy, Claudia Stevenson and Judy Hay.

From Our House to Your House: **200th Anniversary Cookbook sells out**

By Deb Emerton

In October the Day Ladies ad hoc 200th Anniversary group met and agreed unanimously to recommend we produce a cookbook for the fall of 2020. The 200th Committee agreed with the project but wanted it ready in time for the Brier. We accepted the challenge, set deadlines and, thanks to the overwhelming response from club members, had more than sufficient recipes by January 15.

Other members of the club volunteered to type the recipes online both to save time and to save the club money. The team consisted of Carole Rivington, Karen Matheson, Mirelle Ringuette, Gill Turnbull, Judy Hay, Cally Warwick, Claudia Stevenson and Deb Emerton. Over 390 recipes were collected and entered for the book.

Gateway Rasmussen of Winnipeg printed the book and we received the books in early February, well ahead of the Brier.

A publicized book launch was held on Tuesday, February 25 where members were asked to bring samples of their recipes. The response was gratifying and yummy. There was sufficient left over for the evening men to enjoy samples. Volunteers staffed the book sales and in just over 48 hours the books sold out.

Although the book was not intended as a fundraiser, sales raised over \$2,000 for the club.

The success of this project was tied to the support of our members from across the club. The book is a wonderful souvenir of this very special year in our history.



Mulima builds on success

Kibo Mulima, RKCC junior member, continued to build on his success. In November, he and his doubles partner, Daniela Aucoin won the Nordic Junior Curling Tour pre-qualifier at the Quinte Curling Club, earning them a berth at the U21 Junior Slam Series Qualifier in January. Meanwhile in December, Kibo's men's team made the quarterfinals at the Stu Sells U18 Tankard and won the U21 Toronto Curling Association Goldline Youth Championship Men's 'B' event. With a field including world junior silver medalists, they finished with a record of 5-1, including a win against last year's U18 National Champions. In early January, Kibo's Team Mulima also won the 'A' Provincial Qualifier at the Quinte Curling Club and went on to compete at the Ontario Winter Games in February in Orillia.

Photo provided

Reflections on another wonderful season

By Kimberly Barker

The end of the season is a time to show our appreciation for our club and its rejuvenation by reflecting on the accomplishments of the 2020 curling season: Our Hit Draw & Tap competition sponsored by the Ontario Curling Association; recreational curling with other clubs in the Greater Kingston Curling association; competitive team-building with Ernestown Secondary High School; Brier hosting and the contributions made by our four-year-old participants. We are respectful of all our youth curlers and Rowan's Law. Recognizing and being respectful is at the very heart of this sport. It is also a balancing act from time to time. Being respectful does not mean obedience nor does it mean being law-abiding. We, as coaches, make up a community, a forum for discussing how to comply with a growing sport with a complex set of requests by all our leagues' participants. That being stated, you are all amazing! Yet as everyone involved with RKCC knows, every member in every league is also considered VIPs in this sport.

In our organization of coaching, the art of the game of curling is chronicled as well by our many sponsors which bring beauty and colour to our RKCC facility. And as an artist, I am trained to see not just the business models, but the atmosphere created by the wider audience. I am proud of our Youth League and their youthful endeavors. Please take some time to look at your archival celebration photos, trophies and titles gained over the year. Look at the games and friendships made; to have your names displayed at RKCC and GKC this year. It is an honour to your participation and indeed a contribution to the very history of Kingston itself. This city holds so many youthful memories that I am now sitting down reflecting on my many memories and trophies with my name as we are collecting even more curling friends and families across this country. It is just a little different this year. Nonetheless I am still celebrating as we stay safe in the kindness of our homes. I cannot fully describe how wonderful an experience it is for me to coach in this league. Please take some time to celebrate your stories from our 2020 Kingston Brier, our club at 130 Days Road and the mosaic of curlers and fans across this collective sport. Innumerable cheers for every individual youth curler. See you in September.

Evening Ladies Club Event Champions



Congratulations to the Evening Ladies Club Event 3 Champions, skipped by Judy Russell; Event 1 Runners-Up skipped by Jan Ray; Event 2 skipped by Deb Wilkin; and, Event 3 skipped by Joanne Manion.

Left: Event 1 Champions: Karen Francis (Lead), Judy Russell (Skip), Lisa Thorburn (Second) and Renee LeClair (Vice)



Event 1 Runners-Up:

Jennifer Robertson for Giselle Cross (Second), Jan Ray (Skip), Sally Stewart (Lead) and Pam Power (Vice)



Event 2 Winners:
Rebecca McEwen
(Second), Deb Wilkin
(Skip), Nancy Evans
(Vice) and Tanya
Ledford (Lead)



Event 3 Winners:
Elisabeth Dillman-
Weinacker (Lead), Kim
Eves (Second), Lisa
Mulville (Vice) and
Joanne Manion (Skip)

Photos and text
by Pat Thompson

Right, Lin Jenkins and her Tuesday club team of Pat Thompson, Sylvia Myers and Sue Ellen Coleman won the Tri-Heat Trophy in the battle of Tuesday club versus Thursday club.

Runners-up were the Tuesday First Event winners, bottom photo from left, Judy Hay, Darlene Naugler, Philippa Fugler and skip April Welsh.



Day Ladies Draw 3 results



Day Ladies have completed Draw #3 club curling and the winners of the final event play are as follows: In Tuesday Draw #3 first event, the team of April Welsh (skip), Philippa Fugler (vice), Darlene Naugler (second) and Judy Hay (lead) faced off against the team of Lin Jenkins (skip), Tensia Cannon (vice), Claire DuBac-Rayner (second) and Bev Boyd (lead) sparing for Cally Warwick. Team Welsh won the game and moved on to play Thursday Draw #3 event 1 winners in the Draw # 3 play-off game. Winners of Tuesday Draw #3, second event was the Doucet Team skipped by Judy Russell sparing for Joan Doucet, Maria McGibbon (vice), Claudia Stevenson (second) and Sue Ellen Coleman (lead). Congratulations to all of Tuesday Draw #3 winners. In Thursday, Draw #3 first event, the team of Lin Jenkins (skip), Pat Thompson (vice), Sylvia Myers (second) and Deb Emerton (lead) sparing for Sue Ellen Coleman scored a victory against the team of Jane Kelly (skip), Renee LaClair (vice), Mary Kelly (second) and Lisa DaCosta (lead). Winners of second event Thursday, Draw #3 was the team of Marilyn Bellringer (skip), Betty Bryant (vice), Deb Kennedy (second) and Claudia Stevenson (lead). Once again, congratulations to all the winners. Draw #3 play-off game between the Tuesday club winner and Thursday club winner was held on Feb. 14. The Jenkins team scored a victory over the Welsh rink winning the Tri - Heat Trophy.



Above: Thursday Draw 3 runners-up, from left; Mary Kelly (second), Renee LeClair (vice) Jane Kelly (skip). Missing from photo is Lisa DaCosta (lead).

Above: Draw #3 Tuesday Club Second Event Winners, from left: Sue Ellen Coleman (lead), Judy Russell (skip sparing for Joan Doucet), Maria McGibbon (vice), Claudia Stevenson (second)



Right: Thursday Day Ladies Club Second Event Winners Draw #3, from left: Marilyn Bellringer (skip), Betty Bryant (vice), Deb Kennedy (second), and Claudia Stevenson (lead)



Photo left: Tuesday First Event Runners-up Draw #3, from left: Bev Boyd (lead sparing for Cally Warwick), Tensia Cannon (vice), Claire DuBac Rayner (second), Lin Jenkins (skip)

Photos and text Pat Thompson