



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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'It has been quite a ride.'

RKCC on healthy footing as President ends two-year term

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

It was only two years, but at times it must have felt like 20. However, as Deb Wilkin wrapped up her two-year term as RKCC president at the May 26 AGM meeting, she looked back with no regrets on her challenging term and with a feeling of accomplishment which she characteristically shared with others.

"In spite of COVID-19 my two-year presidency saw many accomplishments by our club members and staff," she wrote in her final report. "From successful grant applications, the hosting of a U-18 provincial championship, developing a two-year strategic business plan and completing our Queen's PhD Community project, we also managed to keep our members safe from getting seriously

ill while attending at the club, with a comprehensive Return to Play plan. Most clubs in Ontario did not even open in the first year of the pandemic; we were open for both."

Deb started her term in May 2020, two months into a pandemic that changed the world.

She steered RKCC through the health crisis with a steady hand and inspired confidence in the board and general membership that we could weather this and come out the other side a little more resilient and maybe even a little more tolerant of each other. Through closures, restrictions, and constantly-changing health regulations, Deb remained calm and confident. At that time, she was also chairing the Governance Committee when no one stepped up to replace her. She established a Return to Play committee to guide the club through the pandemic and was always in command of the latest health regulations, facts and stats. It helped that she's a policy wonk, but she was also driven by a clear-headed concern and compassion for the health of the club and its members. And on top of all this, she was dealing with the behind-the-scenes tasks and occasional crises that most members are happily unaware of.



Deb Wilkin has completed her two-year term as president, but remains active as past president and one of the club's busiest volunteers.

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President, continued from page 1.

When the Ontario Curling Association (CurlION) asked RKCC to host the U18 provincial championships, Deb added this to her already heaping plate with relish. With her co-organizers Joanne Miller, Jan Ray and Murray Matheson, she literally camped out at the club except to sleep, unruffled by the myriad details, cheerful throughout, focused on providing an unforgettable experience for participants and officials alike. And it worked. The event was an unqualified success and CurlION has already expressed an interest in having RKCC host future events.

“As I leave my position as president, I would like to sincerely thank all the Board members, various committee volunteers, staff and club members that have been on this two-year journey with me,” she said. “We could not have accomplished this without everyone’s support.

“As you know, it has been quite a ride with the implementation of all the COVID-19 Return to Play protocols, and then the steady stream of changes we needed to consider over the past two years, including government-sanctioned closures. I’m hopeful the incoming president and Board members can put COVID-19 aside and continue with the positive work already begun on behalf of the club’s membership.

“My involvement over the years with other clubs has clearly shown me that we are a dynamic organization with a resilient membership and many volunteers ready to lend a hand at a moment’s notice. Please continue your commitment; we have already embarked on the road to recovery.”

Incoming president Murray Matheson spoke for the board and membership when he congratulated Deb for ending her presidency on such a positive note, with the club on firm financial ground and with a plan for continued growth and recovery.

“Your perseverance, your leadership and your work ethic have helped put us where we are today. Well done.”

Board of Directors 2022 - 2023

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Linda Lott

Bruce Jeffery

Michael Flowers

Martha Tanner

Deb Emerton



Murray Matheson

AGM 2022

Season of ups & downs ends on an up

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

The 202nd year of the RKCC wrapped up on a positive note with a virtual AGM May 26, 2022.

It was a time to say “so long” and “thanks” to those whose terms had ended and to welcome new staff and board members.

Chief among the former was club manager Steve Hulton, who has retired after five years in the manager’s office. Steve did not want any fanfare when he left, but board members were unanimous in their gratitude for his service. Outgoing president Deb Wilkin, who worked most closely with Steve, said, “I have always found him to be trustworthy, reliable, humorous, and always there when I needed him. He was a good sounding board for ideas, especially during the pandemic.”

New manager Deb Hill was unable to attend the AGM but was introduced by Deb Wilkin as having an extensive background in all aspects of club operations and facility management.

Many AGM attendees both on and off the Board took the opportunity to thank Donna Poirier, who stepped down as bookkeeper earlier this year after handling the club’s accounts for 15 years.

Deb Wilkin completed her two-year term as president, but will remain on the board as past president.

Murray Matheson has accepted the position of president. Keith Mitchell has agreed to chair the Governance Committee and assume the role of vice-president.

Stepping down as Member at Large is Sylvia Myers. She will be replaced by Drew Phillips.

And Kathleen Poole, after six (!) years as chair of the Social Committee, is happy to hand over the reins to Deb Emerton.

All of the directors’ reports from the AGM are available on the website, under ‘What’s New’ on your Member’s Home link.

Highlights include the fact that the club has emerged from the two years of pandemic ups and downs on solid financial footing, thanks in part to grants received, and with a COVID recovery plan in place.

“We have received over \$100,000 in grant money, which has allowed us to operate for the year and basically break even,” report Rob Campbell, chair of the Finance Committee. “As we all know it was a different kind of year for sure. We have done very well with grant money and I want everyone to realize how successful we’ve been in spite of the year we had with COVID.”

The Board has approved a minimal membership increase of three per cent for the 2022-2023 season.

Starting in September, registration will include a Capital Cost Recovery Fund fee of \$60 fee for full time members and a \$25 for one- night members, juniors and social members.

As Deb Wilkin explains in her report, “The club has been operating at this site since 2006 and we have many assets that will begin to fail in the next 5-15 years. We can no longer think of this as a new club, with new equipment. We need to reserve funds now specifically for these repair/replacement requirements.”

In her remarks, Linda Lott, chair of the Curling Committee, thanked outgoing members Pat Simms, April Welsh, Pat Thompson and Kathleen Poole, and reserved special praise for league convenors and event organizers, noting that in spite of closures, we had had two championship days and bonspiels. “That says a lot about the flexibility of the people who run our leagues and they definitely did a very, very good job.”

Championship Day

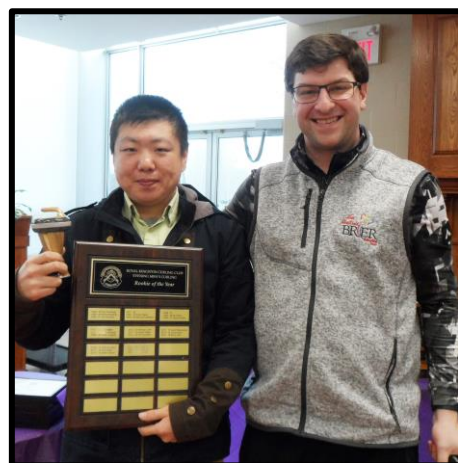


Evening Men's Results

Photo left: Men's evening club winners, from left, Frank Pinder (lead) Jeremy Heil (vice), Bill Cannon (skip) and Keith Mitchell (sparing for second Drew Phillips).

The Royal Kingston Curling Club ended its season on April 23 with the second of two championship days, the first having been held last November after COVID forced an abrupt end to the 2020-21 season.

"The club was well attended by spectators and the curling was excellent," wrote Curling Committee chair Linda Lott in her AGM report. "We were pleased to be able to run these events in order to bring closure to our seasons and to keep alive the traditions of the club."



Hans Goo, left, accepts the Men's Rookie of the Year plaque from Anthony Hale.



EM's Flight Champs

From left, Todd Johnson (skip), Michael Berry (vice), Curtis Friesen (second) and Anthony Hale (lead).

Photos by Celia Russell



Senior Men's A Final Champions
 From left: skip Garth Mitchell, vice Ken McMillan,
 second Dave Barr and lead Dave Bracken.



2-Person Stick Champions
 Bill Coulter (left, sparing for Ron
 Cameron) and Bob Helliar.

Photo by Jim Rayner

Not pictured are the Mixed B Flight winners of
 Dave and Donna Poirier and Andrew and Colleen
 Emmerson. The Mixed A Flight game has been
 postponed and will feature Team Michael Berry
 vs Team Todd Johnson.

Photos above left and below by Celia Russell



Doubles A Champions
 Anthony Hale and Denise Mulville



Doubles B Champions
 Mark Fajertag and Sabrina Bishop



Clockwise from top left: EL and Overall Women's Flight Champs from left, Denise Mulville (S), Monica Kirk (V), Susan Hara (2) and Melissa Wong (L). Above: DL Club champs and Carrie Cole runners-up: Mary Kelly (2), Kathy Jackson (spare for Mirelle Ringuette), Joan Doucet (S). Missing is Anna Voskamp (L). Below: Carrie Cole winners, the EL Club team of, from left, Teresa Gibson (spare for Denise Mulville), Denise Mulville (S), Lisa Mulville (V), Taylor Dziver (2) and Carol Wallace (L). Left: DL flight champs, from left, Donna Jeffery (S), Joanne Manion (V), Liz Baer (spare), Susan Hara (2), Sheila McHenry (L).

Photos by Celia Russell





L-R: skip Alex Splinter, vice Noah Bedard, second Reid Giffin, and lead Koen Blasko.



L-R: Vice Grace Berry (sparing for Logan Bedard), second Ewan Jones, lead Medha Charan. Missing from photo is skip Abigail Vander Plas and her spare Tim Vankoughnett.



Photo left, the 4-Person Stick Champions. From left: skip Tony Bush, vice Rick Thorburn and second Reg Gore (sparing for Rich Waller). Missing from photo is lead Larry Langdon (spare Bob Helliar).

Photos left and above by Celia Russell

Photo right: Glenda Bauder (far left) presented a plaque in memory of her late husband and longtime club member Ed Bauder, to the runners-up of the 2-Person Stick Championship, Marilyn Bellringer and Murray Cotton. With them, far right, is Stick League Convenor Pat Simms.



Photo by Jim Rayner

Wall of Recognition

The following Outstanding Volunteers, who have 10 years or more in the club, were named to the Wall of Recognition for their outstanding volunteerism.

Kimberly Barker
Erwin Batalla
Fran Cooney
Murray Cotton
Gord Greer
Joanne Miller
Bob Moore
Grant Paterson (posthumous)
Kathleen Poole
Carole Rivington
Brian Ward

Thank you, RKCC members, for taking the time to nominate these individuals.

Life Members

The following new Life Members were recognized at Championship Day. Life members have curled at RKCC 30 years.

Linda Bell
Claire Dominik Malette
John Futtit
Teresa Gibson
Carolyn Green
Doug Hogeboom
Tish LaVallee
Doug Mason
Edna-May McKay
Celia Russell
Mary Skeggs
Donna Smith
Wayne Smith

RKCC member new CurlION director



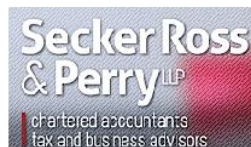
RKCC member Kevin Tanner has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Curling Association (CurlION).

In his application to the Board, Kevin wrote that he wanted to “give back to the community that first made me feel like there was a place for me in sport. I want to be able to share that same incredible feeling with more Ontarians and be a leader in an organization that believes that in curling everyone can play. I believe wholeheartedly in CurlION’s mission and believe that our sport is uniquely accessible for growth amongst a broader and more diverse subset of the Ontario population.”

Kevin, 32, started curling as a bantam at the Russell Curling Club and, before moving back to Kingston last year, curled at the Banff and Canmore curling clubs. In Banff he worked as the Managing Director of Production at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. A graduate of Queen’s University, he holds a Masters in Arts Leadership and is a founding director of Event Safety Alliance Canada, which he serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Governance Committee. He is currently a student of laws in the University of London’s international distance program.

“Working in the arts has given me the opportunity to participate in the development of programs that create pathways for new participants and support the principles of diversity and inclusion,” he continued. “While all of CurlION’s values align with my own, ‘Everyone Plays’ resonates with particular strength and I look forward to the opportunity to share what I’ve learned removing barriers of access and building programs on a foundation of authentic relevance for new communities.”

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