



ENNISMORE CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER
NO 3: DEC 2015

The first task for this edition of the ECC Newsletter is, on behalf of the Board, to wish all of the Club members the very best of the holiday season and to say thanks for making the autumn curling term an enjoyable one. If the popular Christmas song is right, this is the “most wonderful time” of the year. But, please pardon me for being a Grinch as I start this newsletter with a bit of less wonderful news before I move to the happier side of things. Rumours are afloat of problems in several Ontario curling clubs. Even the large Peterborough Curling Club is currently facing serious issues, but with its large member base, it will be able to rise above the problems. Rumours are rumours and often wildly exaggerated. No doubt you have heard the one about our friend and neighbour, the Omemee Curling Club. A much older club than our own, it began in 1957 on the local skating rink and then moved to a new two-sheeter built in 1962. After that was destroyed by fire, the intrepid curlers erected the current four-sheeter which opened in 1980. Now, Omemee’s numbers are down. But the Club has loyal and resilient members who, as has happened in the past, have been taking steps to preserve the Club’s Charter and continue operation. Nonetheless, these rumours, exaggerated or not, have roots in current circumstances that see many clubs, particularly small rural ones without an urban population to draw on, suffering from decreasing numbers and increasing costs. The rumours are a kind of canary in the mine, so to speak.

The situation should give ECC members pause for thought – and action. Our membership is currently at a number which provides enough money for the Club to operate on a break-even basis. There is no surplus, no fat to be trimmed. Some of the details: You will remember that in August the Club had to look after unexpected TSSA changes to the newly installed ventilation system for the ice plant room. That cost approximately \$6500, which meant the overall outlay for the system was in the neighbourhood of \$20,000.00. Very recently, the Club received word on the cost of required annual maintenance for the elevator: approximately \$2300.00 per year. The elevator is a mandated addition to our public building and it is useful but obviously it has a cost that cannot be avoided. In years gone by the Club had as many as ten to twelve summer rental events that greatly increased the operating funds; this-coming summer there are only two events booked so far. Fortunately, we were spared the cost of fixing the leaky roofs when Selwyn Township generously looked after that problem. But we can’t live on the Selwyn Township coattails, so to speak. In short, we need to be active in recruiting new members and imaginative in finding ways to increase the Club’s financial resources. And, in fact, that’s what members of the board and various other Club members are

doing. Because recent expenses have virtually wiped out what was remaining in the Club's capital reserve, the board is developing plans for a campaign to rebuild that crucial fund. Through hard work, we have increased our advertising revenue and our sponsorships and we have brought some new curlers into the Club. As well, those bonspiels that make even a small profit are providing some additional funds. On Saturdays, 12 and 19 Dec, KIM RAY and PETER GARDNER spent several hours meeting people shopping at the Bridgenorth Valu-Mart and handed out clever bookmarks with a little candy cane that KATHY REID had fashioned. The message was an invitation to try curling at our "Open Curling" session on 10 January. Kim and Peter reported good results from their "meet and greet" adventure. We are fortunate and grateful for GARY and VAL BOWLES willingness to allow Kim and Peter access to their customers. In another initiative inspired by Peter Gardner, the board had a presentation from ROB LOCKHART, a career specialist in marketing and facilitating projects that may provide some further lines of development. Rob lives in Ennismore and has generously offered to prepare a survey for us that will gather information on the nature of our Club make-up and the Ennismore area. But everyone in the Club needs to become an ambassador for our sport and active in recruiting new members as well as helping generate ideas for fund-raising.

RECOVERIES

So, as you see, all is not gloom and doom. Although our Club has had a spate of injuries and medical problems this autumn, it's great to see NELSON PICKETT, JACK TOMS and BILL INGRAM back on the ice. RON HAWTHORN'S invaluable presence is still greatly missed but he is recovering surely, if slowly. SCOTT BOON is recovering from a broken leg and STEVE GUERIN, ROGER BEAUSOLIEL and JIM MCINTOSH from surgeries. Oddly, that list is all men and might suggest that the women in our Club are less inclined to injury or medical problems. (No doubt, they are more sensible in how they live.) However, they are not immune to mishap, and it is also good to see GWENNE LEWIS curling again.

OUT IN THE COMPETITIVE WORLD

Our Club has been well represented lately in competitions. We hosted the Senior Zones for men and women over the weekend of 11 to 13 Dec – and there was highly skilled curling. But before I get to that, I need to draw attention to the very successful kitchen that (once again) PAT MCCLEAN, MARILYN SMITH and LAURA TOMS ran. Lots of praise came from the visitors and our own members about the food they served.

But back to the curling: The Zones' semi-final match that saw DAVE NIGH'S team from Lindsay eke out a win over AB DOYLE'S rink from Peterborough was a highlight with shots like you see on television. Both Ab and Dave's teams go on to the Regionals in Oshawa. Our senior ladies, SUSAN PLANT, SHARON STAFFORD, KATHY REID, skip GAYLE WHITE and alternate ANNETTE THOMSON who have been led by coach TARA WELBOURN to wins in local spiels, were also in action at the Zones. After they lost their first match by less than an inch on a measure of the 8th end's last shot, they ran up a big score winning their second game. Alas, they were close but lost in their third. Tara maps their shots and keeps stats much as is done on television and reported that their individual and team percentages were high (even higher than their opponents) – but a few key shots by the opposing team in two games proved crucial. The

“jackettes” as Chris Loughry wittily named them on account of their spiffy outfits, will be in action again in the Best Western Intermediates on 9 Jan in Haliburton.

The bantam boys team – ZACHARY HATTON, COLE COTTER, LIAM COLE and skip HAYDEN TEKAUC -- that has been picking off their older counterparts on Monday evenings and came second in the “Welcome Back” bonspiel, will be playing in the OCA Zone Bantam Boys playdowns at Peterborough Curling Club on Jan 2 and 3, 2016.

On the men’s side: A team of PAUL FIOL, DAVE HEVENOR and DAN DESCHENES skipped by TOM MCARTHUR, played well but lost in very close games in the Master’s Zones at Lindsay in November. Even some of the “old farts” were out there competing. DICK PLANT, BLAIR MILLS, WAYNE STAFFORD and quiet REG SINCLAIR did well in two local bonspiels before entering the Grandmasters (over 70’s) in Lindsay. They won enough games to play over three days in the competition that started on Wed, 9 Dec. But it ended for them on Friday when they lost to a very good team from Fenelon Falls.

Our Club is busy even in the Mixed category. TOM MCARTHUR is skipping a team of GAYLE WHITE, KATHY REID and PAUL FIOL that is entered in the Senior Mixed competition being held in Lindsay on 30 January. You might want to make the short trip to cheer them on.

OUR OWN BONSPIELS

The ECC spiel season started with a new event: the WELCOME BACK “RUSTY SHOTS” bonspiel, sponsored by RUSSELLE TOYOTA. The draws were full, fun was rampant, and after all the rocks were thrown, a team skipped by TOM MCARTHUR with GAYLE WHITE, PAUL FIOL and KATHY REID were in first and DAN DESCHENES’ team of BETTY DESCHENES, SUSAN and DICK PLANT finished second. In an original fashion, the spiel was organized by our ladies competitive team (GAYLE WHITE, KATHY REID, SHARON STAFFORD, SUSAN PLANT, ANNETTE THOMSON and TARA WELBOURN) who clearly run spiels as well as they curl.

WINNIE’S WINTER WARM-UP, the annual women’s bonspiel had a highly successful day on 11 November. The spiel was especially well organized by LAURA TOMS and ANNETTE THOMSON, and was sponsored (once again) by WINNIE NORMAN, Broker with REMAX. It featured a fashion show by STYLE BOUTIQUE, a delicious lunch catered by FLANNIGAN’S (from Lakefield) and prizes galore. DORIS NICKSON’S team from Peterborough was the eventual winner. Be sure to watch for the ROBERT YOUNG LADIES BONSPIEL scheduled for 2 March for another enjoyable ladies competition.

Our club is home to the BOB REEVE MEMORIAL STICKSPIEL held on 28 Nov this year and once again organized by the indomitable GILBERT SPERRY, with help from REG SINCLAIR and NANCY HERR. Nancy even did triple duty when she combined the organizational work with curling in both draws. The winner was MORRIS ANDERSON’S team from Bobcaygeon. By the bye: Bob Reeve was a long-time, dedicated member of the Ennismore Club and was a strong advocate for stick curling ahead of the times in the sport’s early years. He was much beloved by everyone.

The annual GLENFIDDICH spiel on 5 Dec was not only a huge amount of enjoyment, but fully achieved its goal of introducing newer curlers to the world of bonspiels. As much as possible, teams are made up of at least two new-ish curlers and two more experienced ones. Fun and camaraderie are the themes of the day – along with the Scottish heritage of curling and, of course, Glenfiddich, that golden liquor of the divine powers. Final draw teams are piped

onto the ice, select teams are favoured with a dram of Glenfiddich (sipped from 4 shot glasses attached to a curling broom) and the celebration includes haggis and Peter Gardner's rendition of Robbie Burns' "Address to a Haggis". The less said of Peter's jokes the better. The Club owes much thanks to sponsors Jay-Lough and Grant Hayes-- Peterborough Realty and Guardian Property Management, respectively. The winners were the team of PETER GARDNER, DAVE MINTY and his sons GORDON and ANDREW. The team coming second did indeed feature new curlers: skip COLIN DAUB and his brother KEVIN (3rd year curling), with HAYLEY JOHNSON and ROBIN WALL, both in their first year. Kevin and Hayley came all the way from Deep River to join the festivities.

SPIELS IN THE NEW YEAR

Right after the holiday break, on Wed, 6 January we will host the SENIOR MEN'S INTERCLUB BONSPIEL. That will be followed quickly by the 29TH ANNUAL MIXED INVITATIONAL CHICKEN SPIEL on Saturday, 9 January. It's one of the few mixed spiels in the area and is highly popular with full draws and lots of chicken on the menu and in awards. The next weekend, 16 January, is the annual ROBEL BONSPIEL. Like its Chicken counterpart, it is a long-standing and popular spiel that in the past has been a men's event. But conveners KEITH HOWSON and LARRY RIDPATH have decided to run it as an OPEN BONSPIEL this year. So, if you are looking for a day of fun and good curling, sign up. For more information, contact either KEITH (705-292-7639) or LARRY (705-292-7260)

"FUNSPIEL: HURRY HARD TO END MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS"

On Sat, 30 Jan, the 1st Annual FUNSPIEL: HURRY HARD TO END MS is being held at our Club. The event is proving to be very popular already and the organizers, AUDREY DAVIES and ANNE DRISCOLL have had no problem filling the draws. This is the first time curling has been used as a fund-raiser for the Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton chapter of the MS Society of Canada. We wish them the best of times and success in their venture.

CURL FOR A CAUSE: 20 FEB 2016

And don't forget to get ready for our annual CURL FOR A CAUSE spiel that raises money for local worthy endeavours that can benefit from funds. This year the target is the Bridgenorth Beautification Committee and the Ennismore Horticultural Society.

THE MAGIC CURLING BROOM

Remember to get your tickets (\$5.00 each) for a chance to win a special Goldline broom – the winner will be drawn at the Curl for a Cause. The secret is that the broom is from the Olympics and is signed by the members of Team Jacobs and Team Jones. With that pedigree, it has to possess magic properties that are sure to improve your shot-making and sweeping.

OPEN CURLING

Another new initiative, this one inspired and organized by KIM RAY, is a series of OPEN CURLING sessions on 10 Jan, 14 Feb and 6 Mar. The idea is to set aside an ice time to allow families, extended families and others to try curling. The first session was a trial run restricted to ECC members on Sunday, 6 Dec, where Club members instructed family members. There was

a good turnout, and all reported they had a enjoyable time. However, the new sessions are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. If you know of people who might be interested, please encourage them to sieze these informal opportunities in the new year. For information about taking part, contact KIM RAY (705-292-6827).

SCHOOL PROGRAM: 14 JANUARY – 10 MARCH

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to noon, students from Chemong and St Martins come to ECC for curling sessions as part of their curriculum. It's a program that has been operating for many years and one of the reasons ECC is well regarded. In fact, curlers like Ryan Antonopulos and Cole Cotter took part in this program. KIM RAY runs our program and needs six to eight volunteers to make the program function. (Perhaps some of our alumni curlers who have retired may be interested.) A sign-up sheet is posted along with KIM's contact information.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Thirteen students participated in the six-week program through October and into December, and expressed interest in returning for a second six-weeks in January and February. With support from five main volunteers and occasional others, skill development proceeded quickly and the last session ended with a two-end game including strategy evolved by the students from their instruction. The expectation is that those who continue in the second series would become skilled enough to enter a junior program. Congratulations and thanks to Kim Ray and her team for a job well done. REMEMBER: VOLUNTEERS make this type of project successful – join the team. For information call KIM RAY: (705-292-6827).

DOUBLE YOUR FUN: TWO EXCITING NEW CURLING OPPORTUNITIES COMING IN JANUARY.

Rumours are that KATHY REID never stops to sleep. Among the many things the super dynamo is doing for our Club is the creation and organizing of a pair of curling options for Tuesday evenings in the new year. As this Newsletter is being written, the plans are being finalized, but they may look something like the following:

DOUBLES CURLING – a new twist on our favourite game. Teams of two going head-to-head. A fast-paced game where you are skip, thrower and sweeper all in one.

AND

NOVICE LEAGUE - our new curlers from Tuesday night are looking to extend their curling experience in the new year. We would welcome any 'seasoned curlers' who would like to join this fun social league. A great opportunity to share your love of the game and perhaps play a position you don't have the opportunity to play in other leagues.

Please indicate interest asap to Kathy Reid - kjreid@live.ca.
Details to follow based on response.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK OF THE ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

The 2015 version of the annual garage sale, organized by MARILYN SMITH and DIANE HARRIS, was a rousing success that with the bake sale, organized by SYRIE GARDNER and CYNTHIA GUERIN, raised approximately \$4800.00. The 2016 sale is scheduled for 8 and 9 JULY. Gather those valued treasures that may have fallen out of favour with your decor, and prepare your baking recipes so you can contribute to this summer's success. VOLUNTEERS as well as MERCHANDISE will be needed.

SMART SERVE COURSE

There will be a Smart Serve course scheduled in the new year. See John Norton for more information.

MAY YOU HAVE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND HEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN 2016. Curling will begin again the week of 4 January, with a practice session on Sunday, 3 January.