



ENNISMORE CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER
NO 2: NOVEMBER 2016

Curling is well underway. Be happy, despite aching muscles and shots that don't go where they are supposed to.

All things considered, this newsletter carries mostly good news, so I'll get the less good item – the delay in Club opening—out of the way. It may be too much information for some readers, but a sketch of the ice-making this year should help explain. First, it's worth mentioning that our late start was not only bad news but also good news. The PETERBOROUGH FLYBALL DOG group was so happy with our facility over the summer that they arranged to stay longer than originally booked. As a result, we gained several weeks' extra rental income – which is good news. We also had an additional wedding rental late in September – likewise good news. The bad news was that those rentals meant that after the event equipment was cleared, after the floor was scrubbed and cooled enough to allow JOHN NORTON, REG SINCLAIR, NELSON PICKETT and others to start spraying, we were behind schedule. As the ice built up, we installed the temperature probes and wiring for the computer that will run our new ICE PLANT CONTROL SYSTEM. This took time because the wire was difficult to freeze into the ice and because a protective conduit had to be made to lead the wires out of the ice surface. But even this is good news, which I'll return to shortly. We also had to fit into the busy schedule of the ice-painters who provide the white undercover that is then flooded over many times before the circles and lines can be painted. It is a time-consuming process, slowed somewhat this year by the warm weather and, alas, by the failure of the water delivery pump. But, John was finally able to have practice ice and league ice by Wednesday, 22 October, actually only a few days later than scheduled.

NEW ICE-PLANT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

That issue aside, I now can tell you more about the new ICE-PLANT CONTROLLER. Several of us learned about these new programs that are already at work in a few other clubs. The controller uses a computer program to shut down the ice plant, the dehumidifier and the on-ice heaters when they are not needed, essentially overnight. Then, at a given time before play is to start, the program brings the equipment back on, taking the ice down to curling temperature and proper humidity level again. Among its many features, this new controller and program will also identify any problem or warn of a potential problem in the system, which will make maintenance easier and probably less costly.

In early summer, after researching what grants might be available, WAYNE STAFFORD prepared our application -- which was successful – but, the funds were not available until almost

mid- October. That was another delay for our ice-making because we couldn't purchase the system until the grant was awarded. We are fortunate to have master-electrician KEITH HOWSON in the Club – he has provided advice and other assistance about the project throughout the entire process. More good news is that our plant is already compatible with the Berg Mechanical system being installed, which made this an even more cost-effective purchase. Berg technicians will be at the Club the week of Nov 16th but there should be no significant interruption of curling while they do the installation. We expect to recover the cost of the new system in less than two years, saving approximately \$6,000.00 (estimates by outside assessors and Wayne's calculations, as well) on our annual electrical and gas costs. That represents a major change for the Club because electricity alone is currently our largest expense, despite our previous cost-cutting initiatives, such as the more efficient lighting fixtures.

A final note on the start-up delay: The Board has already taken steps to ensure that we don't experience a delay from the causes that plagued us this year. We have established that no events will be scheduled in the arena beyond the third Saturday of September and we have established a new date for the start-up of the ice plant, which will give John the necessary three weeks he needs for good ice preparation.

BRUSHES AND CONTROVERSY

First, brushes: The ever resourceful ANNETTE THOMSON told board members about "Project – Service to Others", a fund established by the RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO that "supports local, national and international programs that often involve children and/or disadvantaged groups". At Annette's initiative, KIM RAY, TOM ANTONOPOLUS and WAYNE STAFFORD prepared an application that has resulted in a grant to purchase new Club brushes to be used especially in the SCHOOL, AFTER-SCHOOL and new curler programs. The brushes have recently arrived and will soon be in service. Watch for coverage of the cheque presentation day, Tuesday, 8 November, where representatives of the RTO and media, as well as kids in the After School Program using the brushes, will be in attendance.

Now to CONTROVERSY

Curling brushes have been very much in the news since the controversies last year over brushhead fabrics and directional sweeping among the professional world. There have been several changes in rules as a result. As the team skipped by GAYLE WHITE discovered in the TRAVELERS PLAYDOWNS at Peterborough Curling Club on 22 and 23 October, not even all the officials have been clear on the rules. However, while the rule changes affect teams entering OCA competitions that lead to National or World competitions, club curling remains unaffected. A recent very helpful set of common sense guidelines was prepared as a club service by DOUG FLOWERS of GOLDLINE and is available on the Goldline site. The detailed official policy is on the OCA site. Incidentally, GAYLE'S team (SUSAN PLANT, SHARON STAFFORD and KATHY REID) played very well indeed, but lost their first game on the last shot of the final end and their second game in a similar situation in an extra end. The team that beat them went on to win the Provincial Travelers competition this past weekend.

BOB REEVE MEMORIAL DONATION

Club members who knew him will remember BOB REEVE very fondly. He was not only a good curler and great person but an advocate for the development of stick curling -- and the

annual BOB REEVE STICK SPIEL, being run this year by NANCY HERR and KATHY REID, is part of his legacy at our Club. To further honour his memory, each of the four Reeve children (not children any more) has donated a curling stick to our Club and the four sticks will hang on a commemorative plaque out in the ice arena. Uniquely and appropriately, the sticks will get their initial play in the hands of the REEVE FAMILY TEAM entered in the spiel on 3 December. Anyone wanting to enter the spiel can contact Kathy Reid [kjreid@live.ca].

NEW MEMBERS

We have more good news. The Club has more than forty new members, some of whom have curled before but others who are new to the sport and are enrolled in the instructional and novice program being run again by KATHY REID and TARA WELBOURN. Everyone is urged to provide a warm, friendly welcome to our new members. Help them fit into our ENNISMORE curling community.

CLUB COACH CLINIC

Another new initiative headed by KIM RAY, has resulted in the ECC hosting an OCA sanctioned COACHING CLINIC on the weekend of 22 and 23 October. The clinic drew participants from Whitby, Cobourg, Mississauga, Campbellford and Peterborough, as well as our own members, MARSHALL FERGUSON, DIANNE HARIS, BILL INGRAM and KIM herself. All are now registered officially as “Club Coach Trained”, a level that will enhance instruction particularly in the School, After-School, New Curler and Novice programs but also means we have more qualified instructors to draw on throughout all ECC curling. Feedback was very positive from all participants. Kim reported that “The Workshop exceeded my expectations and I now feel I have the resources and enhanced skills to deliver good curling instruction to new curlers.” Marshall pointed out that “The workshop training provided me with the knowledge to break the delivery of a rock into bite sized pieces and therefore allow me to teach a new curler bit by bit the complex and often frustrating process of getting a rock to the other end of the ice.” Bill has already had an opportunity to try his training out: “One other result of the Workshop happened last week when I was asked by a ‘mature’ curler to help with their delivery. I suggested one change. Shortly thereafter, I received a very positive response. I observed that curler through the game and wow, a little bit of coaching really does work.”

We also need to acknowledge the contribution by PAT MCCLEAN, who organizes all our volunteer assignments including looking after the kitchen for events, and by ALVA WAKEFORD, LAURA TOMS, SYRIE GARDNER and STEVE THOMSON for preparing lunches for the Coaching Clinic participants. We received very positive feedback; one of the instructors commented that “it was one of the best lunches he'd ever had at one of these clinics”. Another comment revealed that “Pat’s mushroom soup is to die for.” In addition we realized a small profit from the lunch proceeds.

Everyone knows that the future of curling, not just at ECC but elsewhere, is in developing curlers. With that in mind, we hope to host or participate in future workshops. Watch for announcements about opportunities to take part. (More information and photos from the clinic will soon be posted on the ECC website.)

ECC PROSHOP and SPECIAL SALE

Observant members will have seen the new display case, built by WAYNE STAFFORD (no, he’s not just a numbers guy), where the old lift-up door to the downstairs kitchen used to be.

The case now has a selection of merchandise available through our Club PROSHOP. As this newsletter is being written, plans are being made to establish times that someone will be available to take orders or show merchandise that is kept in the office behind the display case. The Club has a range of equipment available or which can be ordered from Goldline and other suppliers on a surprisingly quick delivery time. Merchandise is sold at a Club discount below ordinary retail prices. Occasionally, we are able to offer sale items as is the case currently: the PROSHOP STOCK OF CURLING SHOES IS ON SALE AT GREATLY REDUCED COST (plus tax) prices. Hurry in to get your new shoes before all are gone.

KAWARTHA EMBROIDERY APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Through a partnership with Kawartha Embroidery (run by Margaret Black – her brother Bill was a curler in early years at ECC), our Proshop is able to offer apparel and accessories with Club logos from the large range of products available through KAWARTHA EMBROIDERY.

Purchases can be made several ways. You can buy through our Proshop. Although we don't carry stock, you will find order forms and apparel information in holders below the new display case. The brochure lists only the most popular items and colours but a much larger range is available. OR you can go to the ECC website and click on CLUB APPAREL. That will take you to Kawartha Embroidery where you can pull up a catalogue and order form. OR you can visit Margaret at her KAWARTHA EMBROIDERY LOCATION, 2325 Miller Road, Lakefield. OR you can meet Margaret and see examples of her products at one of the displays she will be setting up at our Club. The first will be on 5 NOV at the RUSTY SHOTS bonspiel.

All prices are inclusive of tax and APPLICATION OF CLUB LOGO. For an additional \$5.00, you can have a name added. Purchased items will be delivered to the Club for pick up.

This is a special opportunity for the Club, not only because 10% of the proceeds come back to the ECC, but because Margaret has over 25 years experience in the apparel and embroidery business and her embroidery skills are exceptional.

SOME GUIDELINES ABOUT PURCHASING: Application of the Club logo is limited to items purchased through Kawartha Embroidery with the following exceptions: Goldline apparel (must be ordered and purchased through the Club Proshop) and GuardWear protective hats. For these items, adding a logo will cost \$10.00, a name \$5.00. Goldline no longer supplies a printed catalogue, selection would need to be made from their on-line catalogue and the appropriate information brought to Club Manager, John Norton, to place the order. The Club also realizes a small profit from Goldline products purchased through the Pro-shop. No refund on any item once it has been embroidered.

The Club liaison for Kawartha Embroidery is PAT MCCLEAN, feel free to contact her for more information --705-292-6145.

USING THE ECC WEBSITE

The ECC website has a large amount of information on it, including league schedules and rosters, links to our sponsors and advertisers, calendars of events and activities, club documents and links to information from the curling world. You can check your own profile, look for spares when you need them and many other things. "Curling Manager", the program that runs the ECC website – actually, DAN DESCHENES runs the web site and spends many hours doing so – has many facilities beyond what most of us are using. If you would like more information on how to

get the most out of the website or would like to participate in supporting the website, contact DAN DESCHENES.

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT LISTS FOR BONSPIELS

The lists will be posted very shortly. Look at the bright green sheets on the bulletin boards in the downstairs lobby.

ONE MORE NOTE BEFORE THE END

As you all know, the ECC, like many other small clubs and some big ones, has been running close to the financial wire over the past few years. It is a relief to be able to report that we are in a somewhat more optimistic situation now than three years ago. Your Board has been working hard to deal with any issues that have arisen and has instituted a number of new initiatives. This has resulted in an increase in members, a number of cost-saving steps, and other work to make our Club facilities function more efficiently as well as cleaner. We are also planning on doing more in regard to strategic planning, budgeting and a capital reserve. But one of the major issues our Club faces, which was evident from the results of the Survey last spring and remains evident in daily operations, is that a relatively small core of people repeatedly volunteer beyond the basic four hours and do the largest share of work to run the Club. The Board urges all members to become more involved in the running of the ECC -- a VOLUNTEER operation.

HURRY HARD – THE END