

ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the
London Curling Club

November 2016



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Use an intermediate target to make more shots

Navigating around 'rocks' obscured by cloud brings stress that dwarfs curling pressure

Don't expect London Curling Club member Dave Weber to be intimidated when he has to draw through a maze of rocks in front of the rings. As a pilot, he's navigated around much larger "rocks," where the pressure would make skipping in the Brier final seem like a walk in the park. At least you can see the rocks on the ice and if you wreck it's only a game.



It's no game when you're flying an airliner to or from an airport surrounded by mountains, such as in Castlegar, B.C. Sometimes there's thick clouds obscuring the mountains. A pilot can't see outside the cockpit until the plane breaks out on top of the clouds on departure or breaks out under them when landing. The solution is flying under instrument flight rules (IFR), as opposed to visual flight rules (VFR) that's used when visibility is sufficient. Airline pilots fly IFR regularly but they usually don't face the added complications of mountains. Weber says this requires flying specific headings and distances on instruments until the plane is above the mountains or out of the cloud deck and visibility is available again.

...CONT'D ON PAGE 2

Curling nicknames indicate notoriety and affection

Most Canadian hockey fans of a certain age know who "Boom Boom", "The Rocket" or "The Pocket Rocket" are. Curling is similar, where nicknames indicate the notoriety and affection with which certain players are held.

Those same fans who were once familiar with Bernie Geoffrion and Maurice and Henri Richard might also have heard of other early champions on ice like "The Friendly Giant" Hector Gervais, and "The King", Ernie Richardson of Regina who skipped his Saskatchewan team to four world curling championships.

Bob Weeks in his book *Curling Etcetera, A Whole Bunch of Stuff About the Roaring Game*, lists nicknames earned by Canadian curling champions of yore. I doubt there are many curlers who have been involved in the sport for a few years who wouldn't at least been aware of double Brier champion skip "the Wrench", fireman Ed Werenich. Joining Werenich on that championship foursome, throwing third rocks, was Paul Savage, nicknamed "the round mound of come around".

Also known for his skill and Brier championships was Al Hackner of Northern Ontario, dubbed "The Iceman". Following in his footsteps is the current Northern Ontario rink fronted by Brad Jacobs. His third, Ryan Fry, according to teammates, has the nickname "Shmedium", a reference to his size being between small and medium.



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Navigating safely in these conditions requires skill, focus and a cool head.

Flying wasn't on Dave's radar until he finished high school and began working for an electrical contractor in Kitchener. "While I was there I met another guy who was about my age. His dad had an airplane. One day we went out to Waterloo-Wellington airport. There was a flying school that had a promotion of a sight-seeing flight for \$5."

Dave earned his private pilot licence two years later, flying whenever he could afford it. He added a commercial licence and a float rating, earning an interview with Max Ward, an enterprising pilot who established his own airline, called Wardair. When he told Ward his qualifications, Ward replied "You need experience."

That didn't stop Weber. He went out and got experience – more than 27,500 flying hours – before he retired in 2012 at the age of 65. His first flying job was in 1972 in White River, Ontario, northwest of Wawa, mainly flying fishermen into fishing camps. In his second year in White River, he was sent to Kapuskasing flying a Cessna 185 and a Beaver.


He was supposed to go back for a third year but a

house on the base he was promised wasn't available until the end of June. Dave's wife was pregnant at the time so he quit. Another flying job came up when Weber went home to Kitchener. His mother told him that Willard Meister, a friend of his father's and a pilot for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, said there was a job with Air Dale in Blind River. Dave got the job, flying both a Beaver and a Norseman. He loved the Beaver but not the Norseman, an old float-plane workhorse that was noisy and vibrated badly.



Dave Weber (far right) and other pilots who had each logged 1,000 or more hours piloting a Twin Otter, are honoured in front of the aircraft in 1977.

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Most of the float-plane operations Weber flew for involved seasonal work. An exception was Air Dale Ltd., based in Sault Ste. Marie but also flying out of Wawa and Blind River, Air Dale kept him on in the winter working in the hangar.

In the spring of 1975 Air Dale was awarded a NorOntair contract, using the Twin Otter. In 1976 Weber was checked out as captain on the Twin Otter. NorOntair was a provincial government project to serve communities in the north, including some smaller ones that were not profitable. NorOntair was shut down by the Mike Harris government in 1996. The routes were taken over by a private-sector air service that soon dropped the small centres. That thwarted the province's goal to serve as many centres as possible. Weber puts it this way: "It's a lot like a bus operation. There are places that are profitable and others that aren't profitable. The profitable ones make the non-profits possible."

Dave soon had interviews with Halifax-based Air Nova and London-based Air Ontario. Both involved

a simulator test based on a Boeing 727, a jet airliner he'd never flown before. He got the job with Air Ontario, which meant a move to London.

"In 2000, Air Canada acquired AirNova, Air Alliance, Air BC and Air Ontario to form Air Canada Regional. When Canadian Airlines was purchased by Air Canada, Canadian Regional was added to Air Canada Regional. The name changed to Jazz and Air Canada sold it to Corus Aviation Inc.," says Weber. "Corus has a contract with Air Canada to provide connections to Air Canada from smaller communities. By then, Weber was flying larger planes with more passengers. He flew all three series of the Dash 8 aircraft, each of them progressively bigger, faster and better. The 100 series carried 37 passengers, the 300 flew 50 and Q400 carried 75.

After 40 years as a commercial pilot, Dave retired when he turned 65. "I finished up my career flying the Q400. It was fast (360 knots), quiet and got up to altitude quickly. It was a nice airplane to fly." It was fitting reward after piloting the noisy, rough-flying Norseman and the rugged but slow DC-3 in which he took Wayne Gretzky and the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds to away games.

Dave doesn't rule out flying recreationally, but now he is busy with another passion, curling. He serves on the London Curling Club's board of directors and is an active curler. He took up the sport while based in Sault Ste. Marie after that city was host of the 1990 Brier.

He joined the Sault Curling Association and played on a rink skipped by Tom Coulterman, the coach of the Brad Jacobs' rink that won the curling gold medal at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Dave says, "I really liked the strategy of the game. Tom was my first skip. I played with him one year and then I put in my own team, with a number of pilots I worked with. They were athletic so they did well."

Like Dave Weber, they'd also learned how to handle real pressure in the cockpit, where mistakes can mean loss of lives, not games.

BY BURT DOWSETT

This is the first of a series of stories on London Curling Club members with interesting jobs.

CURLING NICKNAMES...CONT'D FROM FRONT COVER

His father Barry Fry went by the moniker "The Snake" when he won curling championships out of Manitoba.

Other current championship curlers also have nicknames from their teams or fans. John Morris responds to "Johnny Mo". Glen Howard was named "Cliffie" by Wayne Middaugh, because of his knowledge, a reference to the know-it-all postman on the TV show *Cheers*. The lead on Team Howard, Scott Howard, bears the nickname "Gomer".

Speaking of bears, 'The Old Bear' was the nickname assigned to Kevin Martin who has turned from calling the shots on the ice to calling the game in the broadcast booth. A championship player who preceded Kevin Martin in the broadcast booth was Manitoba's Ray Turnbull, whose nickname on the ice was "Moosie".

Earlier this year, an article in the Ottawa Sun revealed that this year's world champion skip Kevin Koe of Alberta has been named "The Totem Pole" as a way to describe just how quiet he is. Teammate Ben Hebert offered another nickname for Koe, "The Ninja" because he is so "sneaky good and dangerous".

BY GEORGE CLARK

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Women's daytime league launch new season

The women's daytime section (WDS) launched their 2016-17 curling season with 80 members, including 74 full-time and six spares). There are five new members and eight social members.

A social hour preceded the opening general meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 5. The WDS executive committee (shown left to right below) is Katie Ungar (photographer/historian), Sherry Chambers (assistant games co-ordinator), Sylvia Leuszler (vice chair), Pam Harrison (chair), Marnie Dickout (past chair), and Jeanette Walker (secretary). Not shown are Jinx Findlay (games co-ordinator), Sandra Fox (assistant photographer/historian), Linda Peeling, Dianne McKenna and Lise Tranmer (games committee), Joan Dickie, Lynda Reesor and Shirley Vaile (advisory committee) and Karen Shearer (trophy co-ordinator).



President Dave Rush welcomed WDS members, thanked them for their contribution to the successful operation of the club and thanked the four WDS members who serve on the London Curling Club board.

On Oct. 28, the WDS acknowledged and celebrated Jinx Findlay, receiving the Spirit of Curling Award by presenting flowers to Jinx, followed by refreshments.

Opening Jitneys were held on Oct. 6 and 11. The Friday League began on Oct. 14 convened by Jan Murray and Sandra Fox. The first event which began on Oct. 18 is convened by Lynda Reesor and Liz Oehm. The second event 2 starts on Nov. 13 and is convened by Joan Crosby and Gwen Steffler. The third event will begin on Dec. 6 and the fourth event will commence on Dec. 8.

The October card party, convened by Sue Ferguson and Judi Sofalvi was held on Oct. 26 and \$690 was raised by 69 women playing a variety of card games. Several

former members attended as well as many out of club women who continue to support this event. Many thanks to members who donated food, prizes and helping hands.

The Jeanettes' Early Bird Bonspiel, sponsored by Joyce Hetherington will be held on Nov. 9 convened by Liz Oehm and Lynda Reesor.

Joan Crosby will convene an open bonspiel on Nov. 17.

Get spare lists, draw info and more on our website

You can use the secured section of londoncurling.ca to view spare lists and maintain personal information. To sign in, simply click on "Member Login" and provide three pieces of information: your email address, first name and password. If you don't know your password, select "Forgot my password" and enter your email address and first name. We'll email you your password.

Once you've signed in you have more options. Just below your name you can select "Profile" to change your password and view and update your name, email address, phone numbers and home address. If your information changes, you can change it yourself online rather than calling the office. You can also choose whether or not to show other members your email address and phone numbers in the online and printed directory.

Selecting "Leagues" along the top of the page takes you to a list of all leagues. Selecting a specific league lets you see draw schedules, teams and the up-to-date spare list. You're encouraged to find a spare if you're unable to curl in a scheduled game. Teams should only curl with fewer than four players if they've been unable to find a spare. Even if you don't recognize a spare's name you should give that member an opportunity to take your spot on the ice.

The "Directory" link along the top of the page, lets you see a list of all members or limit the list to only the members and spares of a selected league.

If you've never signed in to londoncurling.ca, please do so! You'll find it very useful.

2016-2017 membership expected to top 600

A message from Dave Rush, president, London Curling Club

Great news! Our membership is now up to 594 members of which 93 are new. This is expected to grow to about 610, not counting juniors and elementary curlers and up from 588 last season.



Part of this increase, I believe, is a result of the endeavors of these committees: promotions led by Marj Dudley, members services led by Joyce Hetherington, and skills and development led by Pat Boothe.

A welcome meet and greet, hosted by member services, is planned after the Nov. 15 board meeting. This will give the new members and board members an opportunity to meet. I hope this will be an annual event.

Mar. 29 to Apr. 2, 2017, The Ontario Mixed and Senior Mixed Championships will be held at our club. The committee, chaired by Jennifer Cuddie and Bruce Thom, will be looking for volunteers. Watch for more to details.

You may have noticed the new London Curling Club sign on the south side of the ice plant portion of our building. It will help identify our building to folks passing by on King St. Thanks to Don Agnew.

Did I mention the new look of ROCKtalk? Thanks and congratulations to editor Brian Arnold on a great first issue.

Traveler's zone playdowns

In Ingersoll on Oct. 23, our women's club champions Sue Lawrence (skip), Jamie Keltz, Deanna Dougan and Roxy Petten went 0 and 2 losing to Ilderton's Heinrichs rink and Highland's Alexander rink. Due to team personnel changes and injury, our men's champions Tim Lindsay (skip), David Ross, Bob McKinley and Bob Bourdeau chose not to compete.

Teasdale league report

The Teasdale League (named for former club member Butch Teasdale) began play on Oct. 6 with 12 teams. After two round robins, the team with the most points will be declared winner. We'll also have our annual skins game on Dec. 15.

Teams are encouraged go use the spares on the list and when needed. Starting on Nov. 3, league play will begin at 12:45 rather than 1 p.m.

Congratulations to the 2015/2016 champs shown below receiving their trophy from (left to right) Ken and Pat Teasdale (Butch's son and wife) are skip Dave Mann, David Ross, David Beckett, Bruce Thom, Gord Browne. Don Rawlings was absent.



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What's wrong with this picture?

During a recent game in the Tuesday evening mixed league, a curler took her best shot to lie shot stone. Not only did her rock loose its handle and curl back, but the stone also had a passenger. We affectionately called this shot “putting a different spin on losing the hand(le)”.

Tim Hortons

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New in your pro shop

Hardline curling brooms and accessories

The Hardline icePad is built to last and maximizes sweeping speed through an ultralite carbon fibre handle and a head made from unbreakable plastic with stainless steel parts. The icePad Pro cover lasts 25 times longer than any competitor's pad and costs less to replace. This is simply the most efficient brush on the market. The icePad head can also fit most competitor's handles. Ask to see one today!



Olson introduces two new shoe lines

NeoSport curling shoes are the ultimate in comfort and performance. Made with light weight mesh and neoprene with a Velcro heel-fit strap to ensure a perfect fit. Men's orange/grey or blue/black. Women's pink/grey or aqua/black. Available in a range of slider thickness. The ReVive shoe for men and women has a black leather upper and is available for left handed curlers too. Variable slider thicknesses or it can be ordered with no slider for curlers who use a stick delivery.



Who's who in your curling club

Board of directors executive committee

President: Dave Rush
Vice president: Kevin MacDonald
Past president: Paul Pergau
Treasurer: Bruce Turner
Secretary: Fay Weiler
Executive member: Dave Weber

Portfolio directors

Advertising: Don Agnew
Leagues and OCA: Bruce Thom
Promotion: Marjorie Dudley
Member services: Joyce Hetherington
Skills and development: Pat Boothe

Club staff

Club manager: Greg Lewis
Office manager: Barb Colbourn
Head ice technician: Kevin Breivik
Ice assistants: Mark Phillips, Stan Smith, Bruce Thom, Sara Westman, Tony Verberne
Bar coordinator: Les Sonier
Bar staff: Jeff Lewis, Leslie Murphy
Housekeeper: Kristen Venner
Night housekeeper: Nilah Woodcock

Website

Peter Fewster

ROCKtalk newsletter

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League convenors 2016-2017

Contact information available on londoncurling.ca

Miller: Derek McClary
Winexpert: Stan Smith
Thompson Social: Kerry Traynor, Randy Coleman
Learn to Curl: Dan Neeb, Melissa Neeb
Tuesday Evening Mixed: Peter Fewster
Wednesday Open: Stan Smith
Wednesday Mixed Social: Darlene ten Haaf
Rolling Stones: Kirk George
Sweeney: Don Whitred
Teasdale: Ron McLennan, Bob Kerwin
Business Women's: Marylu Fulkerson
Friday Mixed: Dawn Lewis
Women's Daytime Competitive: Pat Bell
Women's Daytime Social: Jan Murray
Men's Daytime Social: Michael Leisinger
Thames Valley: Mike Ernewein, Mike Ramsay
Sunday Mixed Social: Nancy King
Bantam/Juniors: Jennifer Cuddie, Tony Francolini
Little Rocks: Heather Bugler, Scott Bugler
Western Mixed: David Ferguson



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Hit the broom more often and make more shots with an intermediate target

Curling is an easy game if you hit the broom and throw the correct weight. However, for many novice, intermediate and experienced curlers, consistently getting the rock on target is easier said than done.

Keeping your eyes on the skip's broom throughout your delivery is important. However, choosing a target between the broom and the hack can also help.

To practice this, our club has placed intermediate target lines on the home end of sheet six for right-handed curlers, from the hack to the near hog line. The lines correspond to the skip's broom being held at the edge of the button, four foot, eight foot and 12-foot rings for both turns.

By playing or practicing regularly using this visual aid, you should eventually ingrain a more consistent line of delivery, hit your skip's broom more often and make more shots.

And if you want more help improving your line of delivery, ask one of our club coaches for assistance.



Mark your calendar for 2017 Curl for Prostate Cancer Bonspiels

- Two open curling events planned for Saturday, Jan. 21 and Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017
- Fun day, non-competitive Bonspiels, open to all London Curling Club males and female members, curling guests and area curlers
- Two draws, two six-end games
- Single or team entries welcome
- Entry fee \$50 per person includes lunch and silent auction
- All event proceeds support minimally invasive prostate cancer therapies through London Health Sciences Foundation
- The 2015 and 2016 bonspiels raised \$47,762.18 for London's Regional Cancer Centre
- For information, visit londoncurling.ca or contact event convenor and London Curling Club member Ken Walmsley at 519-660-4299 or kwalmsley@odyssey.on.ca

Londoner appointed Curling Canada board of governors chair

This month, Londoner Peter Inch will take over as the chair of Curling Canada's board of governors. He was elected to the board in 2013.

Inch was the host committee chair for the 2006 Scott Tournament of Heart and the 2011

Tim Hortons Brier (both held in London), and the 2002 Canadian Senior Men's and Women's Curling Championships in St. Thomas.

