

# ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the  
London Curling Club

December 2019



## PAGE 2

Lindsay team wins 36th  
Sifton Classic

## PAGE 3

MacDougall team wins  
Jeanette's Early Bird

## PAGE 4

Wednesday Open league  
scoring system explained

## London Curling Club submits grant application to help fund new facility

Over the past few months, members on both the London Curling Club new facilities committee, and the newly formed fundraising committee, worked very hard to prepare the London Curling Club's grant application submission for the federal/provincial government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Our application was successfully submitted in time for the Nov. 12, 2019 deadline. If approved, it will cover 73.33% of the cost of our new curling facility.

However, before our application can be approved, it must undergo a two-phase governmental review process. First the provincial government reviews all applications it receives. If it successfully passes this phase, it then

gets elevated to the federal government for final review. Approved applications will receive final notification sometime during summer 2020.

The members on both the London Curling Club new facilities and fundraising committees are: Rod White, Greg Lewis, Dan Schinkelshoek, Dave Beckett, Ron Swartz, Peter Askey, Derek Shadlock, Karen Tellier, Bruce Thom, Marilyn Evans, Rick Evans, Paul Pergau, Michael Leisinger and Kevin MacDonald.

The London Curling Club needs to replace our aging 100+ year old building with a new one. Let's hope the provincial and federal governments agree.

## London Curling Club helps with toy drive

The London Curling Club has registered with the Toy Angels Toy Drive in support of the Salvation Army. Share the magic of Christmas by donating a new unwrapped toy.

A list of gift ideas can be found on the main bulletin board. Simply bring in your toy by Monday, Dec. 16 and place it under one of the two Christmas trees in our club. Elves from Start.ca will pick up the toys and deliver them to the Salvation Army who will distribute the toys to help local families. Let's show off our London Curling Club spirit! Your support would certainly be appreciated.



## Tim Lindsay team claims 2019 Sifton bonspiel title

The 36th Annual Harry Sifton Classic Bonspiel was held on Nov. 26 and 27 at London Curling Club. Two draws featured 18 teams from London Curling Club, Highland Curling Club, Tillsonburg and Sarnia.

After three draws, the winners from “B” flight with 47.25 points, shown at left, left to right, were skip Tim Lindsay, vice Bob Bourdeau, second Jack Nichol, and lead Brian Arnold from London Curling Club. Runners-up in “B” flight were John Wilson, Brian Procnier, Rick Johnson and Doug Woods from Sarnia Curling Club.

In “A” flight, the team of Bob Kerwin, Ken Teasdale, Terry Crawford and Bob Wakefield came out on top with 46.25 points, just one point back of the winners. The “A” flight runners up were Dave Rush, Michel Pepin, John Rudell and Shane Peters. Both teams are from London Curling Club.

Thanks to Gord Sellery, who has just completed his sixth year as chairman of the Sifton Classic Bonspiel committee, and to drawmaster Doug Petch, plus committee members Al Starratt, Don Lowry and Murray Turner.

The Sifton Classic is played in honour of Harry Sifton who curled for over five decades and was London Curling Club president in 1951.

## Boxing Day family curling to continue this year

A tradition at London Curling Club is FREE Boxing Day curling for members and their families. Book a sheet for your family or sign up individually to curl with another group. The sign-up sheet is posted next to the bar.

Ice is available for 90 minutes starting at 9:30, 11:15, 1:00 and 2:45. The bar will be open as well.

Please note that children age 12 and under must wear a helmet and anyone age 25 or under must review the Rowan’s Law materials regarding concussion awareness.



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## Candis MacDougall team wins Jeanette's Early Bird

Six out-of-club teams from Aylmer, Highland, Ilderton and Tillsonburg and six London Curling Club teams participated in the Jeanette's Early Bird Bonsel on Nov. 6, enjoying the theme of "Getting the Kinks Out"!

First place winners, shown at right receiving their trophy from Pam Harrison (far left) and Joyce Hetherington (far right) were Candis MacDougall, Linda Bailey, Karen Jacobsen and Barb Leisinger from London Curling Club. In second place from Ilderton were Linda McKnight, Lynn Baker, Alison Muirhead and Linda Clark. The London Curling Club team of Joanne Laws, Sherry Chambers, Pam Browne and Pat Boothe placed third. And in fourth from Highland were Ruth Alexander, Sue Aubin, Gayle George and Miolyka Steele.

Joyce Hetherington has sponsored this event for the past 17 years in honour of her family of "Jeanettes", their strength, courage, love of fair play and commitment to family and community. We thank Joyce for sponsoring this event and honour you for sharing the focus on your family, continuity and connection with your curling family.

Thanks also to Fay Weiler and Lynda Reesor (drawmaster and assistant), volunteers Mary Lois Cooper, Janice Elloway, Stacey Farley, Jeanette Walker and Connie Weir, photographer and volunteer Leslie Smith and London Curling Club staff. A very special thank you to co-convenors Pam Harrison and Heather Greenfield.

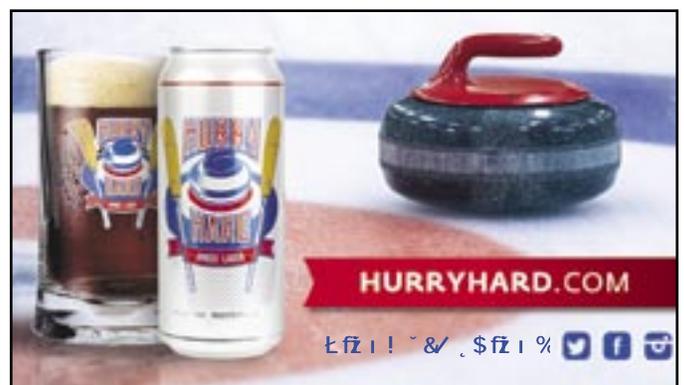


## Womens Daytime Section Event 2 winners

Event 2 of the Women's Daytime Section ran from Oct. 10 to Nov. 21, convened by Nancy Balcarras and Sandy Ronson.

In first place was the team of Joyce Hetherington, Nancy Balcarras, Lise Tranmer and Sherry Chambers. Earning second place were Jinx Findlay, Doris Montgomery, Candis MacDougall and Valerie Clark who shared her lead position with Mary Blasl.

Thanks to all for a fun and challenging event!



# Wednesday Open league convenor adopts new ranking system this season

Last season in the Wednesday Open League, convenor Stan Smith instituted a point system for win/ties/losses that is used to rank the 27 teams after pool play. Most other leagues use a traditional system which, after each round of pool play, moves an arbitrary number of teams up and down to adjust the pools. Here's why he instituted the system.

On Wednesday, there are three pools of nine teams. In the A pool, teams earn six points for a win, four points for a tie and two for a loss. In B pool, teams earn five points for a win, three points for a tie and one point for a loss while C pool earns four points for a win, two for a tie and no points for a loss.

After the first round of play in all three pools, all teams are ordered from top to bottom based on the points they've accumulated. The resulting top nine teams start the next round in pool A, the next nine teams in pool B, and the last nine teams in pool C.

Stan believes there are several advantages to this system. First, since pools are adjusted several times during the season every game is important, not just the penultimate round. In the traditional system, the first few rounds don't matter as long as you end up in your preferred pool for the final round. With this numeric system, points are accumulated over the season so too many early losses will result in you not making it into the top pool for the final round. The more rounds you have, the better this system rewards consistent teams.

Secondly, it takes away the arbitrary number of how many teams move up and down. Why two? Why not one or three? The numeric system moves teams based

purely on their play; in the same round some pools might see only one team change with other pools seeing three or four. This helps teams find a pool with more equal competitiveness quicker.

Thirdly, it can also help teams move further each round. In the traditional system there is no way to jump from say C pool to A pool. This system allows it and it happened in the Wednesday Open league last season as a new team started in the bottom pool, won all their games in the first round and started the second round in A pool (where they stayed).

The key to this system is different point values in each pool. If each pool had the same point values for wins/ties/losses, a team that loses all their games in A pool has the lowest possible points and drops to the bottom of the entire stack, when in fact they probably just belong in the next lower pool. The varying point system reflects that the higher pools are tougher games. Stan tested several point systems before finding one that reflected this fact while still allowing plenty of movement after each round.

The most common system in our six-sheet club is four pools of six teams. This system can be applied to these leagues by assigning A pool seven points for a win, five for a tie and three for a loss. Assuming convenors have kept a complete record of the play for past seasons, you can apply this system and see how it would have moved the teams around. This is what Stan did before instituting it. He tested it on paper with several seasons of four pools of six but then had to adjust to three pools of nine because the Wednesday Open league grew to 27 teams.



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