

ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the
London Curling Club

March 2020



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Vision impaired curlers amaze sighted curlers at recent bonspiel

At the Shrine bonspiel in early February at London Curling Club, two unique teams inspired the other 10 teams at the event. They were made up of curlers from the Vision Impaired Curling program which takes place every Friday morning at Highland Curling Club.

The program currently has 13 curlers with varying degrees of visual impairment. Coaches and guides use variety of techniques to teach players the game depending on their level of blindness.

At the Shrine bonspiel, the two teams had only two players with even limited vision, so volunteer sweepers helped them make their shots.

The curlers are also assisted by coaches and guides who help them decide strategy and line them up for their shots.

The curlers who have no vision use sticks to deliver their rocks. Guides set them up in the hack on the line of delivery to the broom and tell the curler the turn and weight for the shot (top 12, button, back line, hack, etc.). Then guides move back along the line of delivery to about the near T-line. They then say "Yes" to release or "No" to reset. Their voice is also used as a target, so if they're on the correct line of delivery, when the rock is released, it should go between their legs.

Curlers who have some vision use a bright light to line-up. The light is held by a guide and placed somewhere from the near T-line to the near hog line, along the line of delivery (see photo). These players slide to the light and once the player releases the stone, the guide just lifts the light out of the way.




Two of the curlers with the London Vision Impaired Curling program, Tim Prohaszka and Rosemary Bonner, played for Team Ontario at the recent Canadian Championships in Ottawa, won by Team Alberta. Rosemary was named second team all-star second.

Although neither of the vision impaired teams won a game at the Shrine bonspiel, they made several remarkable shots which were applauded by their opponents. The vision impaired players really enjoyed the opportunity to play in a bonspiel and we hope to see them again at our club.

New facility grant decision delayed

The provincial government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant approval committee has informed us that they're behind in reviewing all the applications they received. This first step in our grant application approval process was suppose to have been completed by winter 2020. However, it's now delayed until sometime in the spring.


Members are urged to attend London Curling Club's Annual General Meeting meeting in June, for an update on our ICIP grant application and plans for a new curling facility.



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Nominate someone for Spirit of Curling award

Each year, you have an opportunity to nominate someone to receive our club's most prestigious award, to be presented to one female and one male at the London Curling Club June Annual General Meeting.

Nominees are friendly, respectful and supportive members who regularly demonstrate their enjoyment of the game. They possess a positive attitude, honourable conduct and exemplary sportsmanship. They'll have contributed their time and talent to the many and varied aspects of our organization.

Nomination forms are available at the bar for completion and submission by March 31. Please help us to honour two well-deserving London Curling Club members to receive these awards.

Fourth annual Can You Hack It? event successful

The 4th annual "Can You Hack It?" bonspiel was held on Feb. 29, 2020, featuring two six-end games. Individual registrants listed their preferred position and teams were created placing curlers from different leagues together. Teams were mixed up after the first game, resulting in participants curling, with or against, up to 14 different people during the day.

Organizers Dan and Melissa Neeb thank Michael and Barb Leisinger, Hugh Moran, bartender Les Sonier, icekeeper Jim Russell, plus Greg Lewis and the London Curling Club Pro Shop for donating a broom that was raffled off during lunch.

All net bonspiel proceeds will be used to enhance the Learn to Curl program at the London Curling Club. Proceeds from the 2019 bonspiel were used to purchase 14 of the 24 the new fluorescent green London Curling Clubs brooms!

The purpose of this "funspiel" is to help club members, and specifically Learn to Curl members, meet other club members. Organizers hope to expand to two draws, so all club members are encourage to participate next year!

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WE NEED YOU

To continue effectively operating the London Curling Club, we need a full complement of volunteers. For next curling season, we need a few people to join the board of directors to replace members whose term is over at the end of this season. We also need volunteers to help with two committees: Sponsorship/Advertising and Communication/Promotion. These two committees already have chairpersons but need help getting the necessary work done and determining future direction.

If you're interested in helping out, please contact Paul Pergau (ppergau@gmail.com, 519-434-2490) or any other member of your board of directors. We'll be pleased to review these opportunities with you and sign you up.



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WDS event 3 & 4 winners

The Womens Daytime Section event three draw concluded on Feb. 4, 2020. Thirteen teams played on seven Tuesday afternoons beginning on Dec. 10, 2019.

The winning team, shown below, was (left to right) Gwen Steffler, Pam Browne, Sandra Martone and Marj Dudley (missing).



Event four for the Women's Daytime League was a seven-week long event ending on Jan. 30, 2020. Nine teams competed and the winning team (shown below) was skipped by Jan Murray with vice Sherry Chambers, second Liz Oehm and lead Mary Stokley.



Jane's excellent Brazilian curling adventure

Jane DiCarlo is a new member of London Curling Club this season. She moved here last September to live with her sister and take a year away from competitive curling, representing the University of PEI. There she also worked for Rocks and Rings, introducing curling to elementary school students. Since moving here, she's also working for Rocks and Rings at London area schools. She's also been volunteering with the London Curling Club Learn to Curl program.

A few days before Christmas, she got an email from her Rocks and Rings boss with the subject "Brazil". Thinking it was spam, she ignored it at first. When she finally opened it, she discovered she was being offered the chance to go to Brazil to helping teach curling instructors the basics for the soft opening of Ice Brasil's new facility.

You might be surprised to learn that Brazilian's love curling. The love story began during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. It turns out that Olympic curling was broadcast right after a very popular Brazilian TV show and since then, they've been hooked. Believe it or not, Brazil had the fifth largest viewership of Olympic curling.

After 2010, the country formed a team. You may remember they played a qualification game against team Glenn Howard during the first Continental Cup in London. The team was made up of Brazilians who lived elsewhere in the world where they could play and practice.

Jane says, "Everyone involved in the project was so keen and excited to see this dream come true. It is quite remarkable that in a short period of time since learning about the sport, they were able to envision this project and bring it to life. I learned a lot about the history of the sport and felt fortunate to experience it through this international lens."

She has no doubt that in Sao Paulo, a city of 13 million people, a club with three sheets of curling ice (and a great bar) will be successful, and she hopes she'll have the chance to visit Brazil again soon.



Jane (far right) with Isis from the Brazilian women's team and Sergio from the men's team



Jane helps instructors get comfortable on ice



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