

ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the
London Curling Club

March 2021



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Let's celebrate and remember 2011, the last time London hosted the Brier

It was 10 years ago this month that London, Ontario hosted its last Brier at what was then called the John Labatt Centre. The event came on the heels of two other successful curling events in the region; the 2002 Canadian Seniors Championships in St. Thomas, and the 2006 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, also held at the John Labatt Centre.

It was only the second time London had hosted the national men's curling championship. London hosted the 1974 Brier at the London Gardens won by curling legend Hec Gervais from Alberta. Attendance for the week at that event was 48,170.



In 2011, from March 5 to 13, 113,626 fans went to see Canada's best male curlers, with the Jeff Stoughton rink from Manitoba winning over Ontario's Glenn Howard in the final.

When fans weren't watching the action, they were heading over to the Keith's Patch at the London Convention Centre for food, beverages and



entertainment. Free buses shuttled fans from the arena to the convention centre throughout the event.

On the first day of the event, the curlers battled difficult ice conditions. Rain and warm temperatures caused humidity levels to soar inside the John Labatt Centre, and the teams had to contend with frost build-up on the playing surface.

Volunteers from area curling clubs were instrumental in making the event a huge success. They were involved in transportation, ceremonies, and much more.

Tickets on a 50/50 draw were sold at the event and the profits were directed to junior curling. The Thames Valley Junior Curling Association, made up of members of London, Highland, Ilderton and St. Thomas curling clubs, organized a committee and directed that a \$500 scholarship, to be called the Bob Gallagher Memorial Scholarship, be given to junior curlers who exemplify the spirit of curling. Bob Gallagher was an Ilderton senior curler who was involved in a car accident and died on his way home after selling tickets at the Brier.

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More 2011 Brier memories

Clockwise from right: Jack Cox, from Haliburton, carried a flag around the arena whenever Team Ontario scored. Fans from Manitoba went to hilarious lengths to dress in the colours of their province. And pin collecting was all the rage. London Brier pins featured logos from prominent local businesses.



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Junior member starts curling podcast

Hailey Brittain is 16-years-old and has curled for eight years, the last five at London Curling Club. She's currently vice on U18 competitive Team Smith.

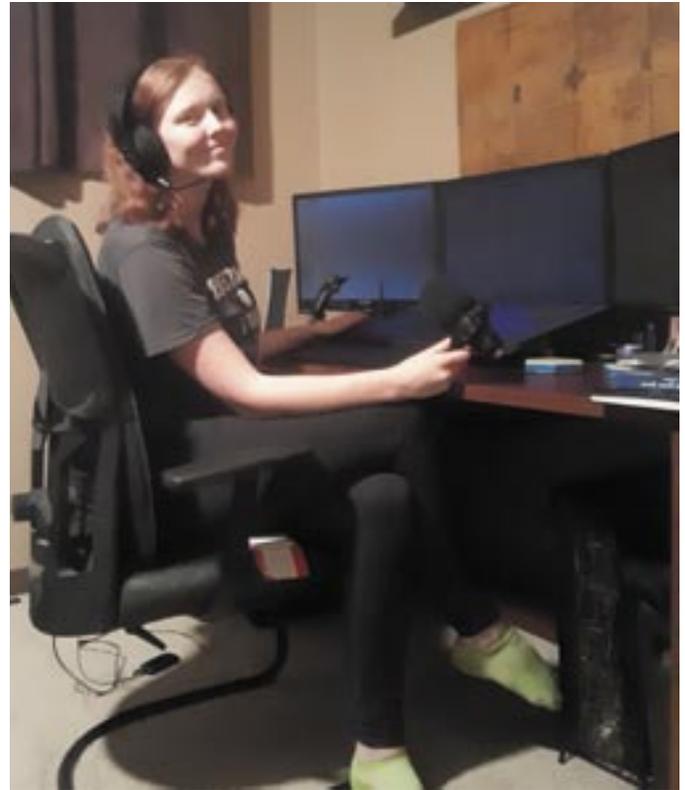
During the pandemic, she decided to step out of her comfort zone and start her own podcast about curling called Brooms and Hacks. Her first episode, she interviewed her skip. The second episode, she talked with two juniors from Alberta. Her third episode was with Team Mike McEwen's lead, Colin Hodgson, and her fourth was with the developmental coach for Curling Canada and Wilfred Laurier University Curling, Glenn Paulley.

Hailey says curling runs in her blood. She played in a league with her mom and dad, and her grandfather used to play while he was in the air force in Trenton. Also elite Manitoba curler, Cathy Overton-Clapham, happens to be her third cousin!

She started the podcast just to have fun and get people talking about curling. She wants to let people share their knowledge of the sport and let others learn from them. She hopes people who don't know what curling is hear it and that it grows the curling community! If you or anyone you know may be

interested on doing an interview, you can contact Hailey with the Brooms and Hacks or Team Smith Instagram or by email to Hb.brittain11@gmail.com.

If you want to listen to her podcast, just search for Brooms and Hacks on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you listen to podcasts.



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We're in Curl Ontario's new 50/50 draw program

Beginning immediately, London Curling Club has signed up to participate in Curl Ontario's new province-wide 50/50 program.

Tickets can be purchased directly from the London Curling Club website. Simply go to londoncurling.ca and click on the BUY NOW button. Tickets can also be purchased by going to <http://www.curl-on.ca/5050-information/>, and clicking on the BUY TICKETS button. Be sure to select London Curling Club and then complete your purchase. It's as easy as that!

You can buy as many tickets as you want, as often as you want. Tickets may be purchased by any Ontario resident age 18 or older so please encourage your non-curling friends to participate as well. London Curling Club will get 40% of the revenue from tickets purchased by and designated for our club.

London Curling Club will use our proceeds to ensure we have the facilities and other items that support our successful junior curling program. This money also allows us to offer subsidized membership fees to all our youth curlers.

There will be three weekly province-wide early bird prizes of \$500 every month, and one grand prize worth 50% of province-wide ticket sales (to be drawn on the 15th of the month).

There is no cost to the club for us to participate and we'll be covered by CurlON's Lottery license. Prize money will exceed that of our in-house draw, and we hope to raise more revenue than in the past.

Please give this draw a try, and play as often as you wish. This program will run all year long, even during the summer months.

Ask the icemaker

With Mark Flynn, Head Ice Technician, London Curling Club

Q: How does only having two or three sheets in play at one time affect the speed of the ice? Does this change if you're the only game on the ice at the end of a draw?



A: It really shouldn't change that much but it seems like it does affect it. I believe it's due to less body heat and the air currents aren't being moved around as much at the ice surface. Unfortunately it's hard to prove.

Got a story for Rock Talk?

Please send any story ideas or club happenings for the next issue to Brian Arnold (barnold439@gmail.com). Deadline for the April 2021 issue is March 28.

The Nemeth Group



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