



London Curling Club

ROCK TALK

January 2004

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



The New PL's "New Day" Comes to the LCC

At 5:45 am Tuesday, January 6, 2004 the club became a beehive of activity. The arrival of The New PL remote transmission truck (1) was the beginning of some great exposure for our club. Cheryl Weedmark of The New PL's "New Day" staff did four segments of 3 minutes each. During the first segment she interviewed President Joanne Laws (2) with the focus being the etiquette of the game of curling. Joanne also announced a phone-in promotion in which 3 memberships for the remainder of the year would be awarded to callers who correctly identified the year in which the club was established (1847) (NOTE: the winners have been contacted by Interim Manager Harry Steele). During the second segment Cheryl interviewed Bruce Cooper (3), focusing on the function of the various team positions and with concentration on the activities of the Skip and sweepers. The third and fourth segments dealt with the delivery of the rock and the activity of sweeping. Alec Curtis (4) demonstrated the delivery to Cheryl and she did a remarkably fine job on two deliveries due in large part to her previous curling experience. Colin Darling delivered a rock for the sweeping demonstration. Although she had some difficulty keeping up with the rock, Cheryl got the job done in fine style. Special thanks to event convenor Bruce Cooper, and to Ken Walmsley, Bruce Cooper, Marg Sirna, Alec Curtis and all of the volunteers who came out to create the curling ambiance in the rink during the interviews. Special thanks, too, to Lil Findlay and Dan Currie for service 'above and beyond the call of duty'! To date we have had several calls enquiring about membership as a result of the exposure on The New PL's "New Day".

Details of our new **Advertising Campaign**

Page 2

Take the **"FUN SHOTS"** Challenge

Page 3



In this "season of champions", read all about the **CURLING HEROES** of the LCC

Page 5

The fascinating **History of the LCC** and **Curling in London ...**

Page 6

THE BEST OF THE NET Curling Sites

Page 11

Advertising at the LONDON CURLING CLUB

Over the next few months, you will see some additional advertising at the London Curling Club. At the start of the season, a committee was formed to develop an advertising strategy and a plan to increase the club's advertising revenue. The committee members are Bruce Cooper, Dennis O'Connor, Wink DuBrule, Harry Steele and Doug Weir. Nick Sauter had to resign from the committee due to other commitments. We thank him for his contribution.

Since we began work on this, we have accomplished the following:

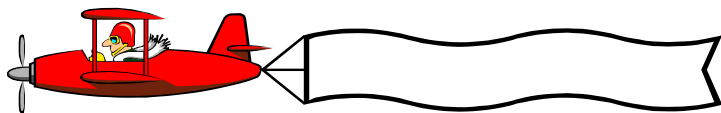
- Decided on where the advertising should go: on the walls (home and away ends, sides); in the ice; in Rock Talk; in the Member Directory; and on bulletin boards.
- Decided on what sizes of signs should be available.
- Decided on pricing for the advertisement.
- Put together a "flyer" and an introductory letter for advertisers.
- Signed up advertisers for the Member Directory

This is not meant to be a one-time event, but an ongoing program to generate advertising revenue for many years to come. We have had strong support from many businesses in London and area in the past, and we now want to expand our focus and convince other companies of the potential benefits of advertising at the London Curling Club.

The next steps are to prepare a list of potential advertisers and approach them with a proposal. Club members who advertise their businesses and companies that sponsor club events will get sizeable discounts, as well as those who choose to run multiple advertisements. We will also be developing strategies to allow us to get the Member Directory out much earlier in the future.

If you have any suggestions of possible advertisers or would like to help out in any way, please contact one of the committee members.

Doug Weir



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

from December 3, 2003 to present:

Bud Boyd
 Bruce and Mary Lois Cooper
 Eleanor Fair
 Tom Fejes
 Gord Rodgers
 Dick Wakefield

Special Fundraising Events

Fun Spiel (Peter McKinley)
 Santa Raffle
 Pampered Chef

Donations to date total \$79,230.75

THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS ...

Please seek out the businesses, shops and restaurants that have supported our club through their advertising in the membership roster this year:

Nationwide Gourmets
 Used Appliance Gallery
 Barry Wade Design/Construction/Management
 McDonalds
 Country Bulk
 Escape Travel
 Melody Restaurant & Tavern Ltd.
 u-need-a-cab
 Abco Copy Cat Printing
 Econo Lodge
 Mocha Centre
 Classic Realty (London) Ltd.
 Bernies Bar & Grill
 Lowry Signs (1981) Ltd.
 Victor Aziz Photography
 Sun Holidays
 Anthony's Men's & Boys' Wear
 Orr Cleaners
 Murray's Automatic Transmission Centre Inc.
 May-McConville Insurance Brokers Limited
 Drennan Refrieration
 Brown Beattie O'Donovan
 Ford Keast
 Skinnners
 Adult Superstore
 Steam Canada

Interim Managers

For the past five weeks, the Interim Managers were Wink DuBrule, Marg Sirna, Don McKay, Ken Walmsley and Harry Steele. Thanks to these special volunteers for making time to perform the manager's function and contribute the ongoing savings for the LCC. There is still a need to cover two additional weeks prior to spring closing.

Please contact Ken Walmsley @ 660-4299 or leave a message at the office. Thanks in advance to those who have already volunteered for 2004. (NOTE: Watch for "A Day in the Life" ... a special feature on our Interim Managers in February Rock Talk).

FIRE INSPECTION

The deficiencies that were noted during an inspection by the City of London Fire Department in November/December have been corrected. Our requirements were:

- 1) to repair the **damaged fire separations** in the basement ceiling (this has been completed);
- 2) to provide **proof of annual testing** of portable fire extinguishers, emergency lighting systems and fire alarm systems (a log book is being prepared) and to service this equipment when necessary;
- 3) to ensure that all **fire separation doors** be identified (signs have been posted) and kept closed at all times and that fire escape routes (stairways and hallways leading to exit doors) remain free of all obstacles.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED ... please do not wedge any of the fire separations doors open or use the adjoining stairways or hallways as temporary 'storage spaces' for tables, boxes, etc. Your cooperation is required to ensure that we comply with the fire code and, more importantly, to provide a safe environment for our curlers, staff and guests.

OCA BANTAM/JUNIOR MIXED PROVINCIALS

Andrea Child and her volunteers are hard at work preparing for this OCA Provincial event which takes place at the LCC during the week of March 31 to April 4, 2004. Watch for details in February Rock Talk and posted at the club. If you'd like to get involved, please give Andrea a call at 680-7308.



"FUN SHOTS"

LCC's Skills-testing Fund Raiser



LCC's new "**FUN**" competition begins January 19th and continues well into February, with opportunities almost daily to try the six shots that constitute "**FUN SHOTS**". The goal is to try the six shots included in "**FUN SHOTS**" and see how YOU do compared to the others in your group. The five groups are Day Women, Business Women, Tuesday Night Social, Men and Senior Men. Each shot has a scorecard attached with scores ranging from 5 points to 0 points depending on how well you execute the shot. For example, the first shot is "Draw the Button". If your stone touches any part of the button, you score 5 points; any part of the four foot circle, 4 points; any part of the eight foot circle, 3 points, any part of the twelve foot circle, 2 points, and in the free guard zone, 1 point. A stone that goes through the house or hogs gets 0 points. Got the idea? So a perfect score is 30 points (six shots times the maximum 5 points per shot = 30 points).

Each player plays all six shots with sweepers and someone holding the broom. A judge will set up the shots and determine the score for each player. After everyone has participated, we will announce the four top scorers in each of the five groups listed above and those members will play down for the five club "**FUN SHOTS**" championships and \$100 prizes for each winner in a bonanza event late in the season.

Most members will take the "**FUN SHOTS**" challenge after playing in a regularly scheduled game in a league or event. Teams will be provided with a schedule of their dates and times. For example, for the men who play in the Miller on Monday night, eight teams (32 players) on the 7:00 draw will take the "Fun Shots" challenge at 9:00 when there are four sheets available, and over the next four or five weeks we should enable every Miller player to try the "**FUN SHOTS**" challenge. Shots will be set up and players on two teams will play them with sweepers from your own team and a teammate holding the broom. Women in the competitive league on Friday morning will try "**FUN SHOTS**" right after their match on five available sheets. Other leagues and events also have designated times that will be communicated to the convenors and players.

The "**FUN SHOTS**" Challenge is a fund raiser for the club. The fee to take this skills test with the possibility of a \$100 payoff is \$5. In addition to "**FUN SHOTS**" itself, in March after the top four players in each of the five group are decided, a "**super sweepstakes**" will challenge you to pick the five winners for a very big payoff. More details on that in the February edition. Meanwhile get ready – "**FUN SHOTS**" is the name of the game!

CAN/US "FRIENDSHIP TOUR"

by Dot MacRae

In November, Linda Karl and I, along with 14 other senior women curlers from Southern Ontario, were privileged to be part of a Canadian Friendship Tour to the U.S. Those ten days have become another treasured memory in many special curling memories. I'd like to share some of our experiences.

We arrived in pouring rain. But from the minute we saw the smiles and the wee Canadian flags being waved by the welcoming committee, we knew nothing but warm, friendly and sunny days, no matter the weather.

Our tour started in Nashua, N.H. where we met our couriers, Emily and Jan, who continued with us. We met the first of our billeting hostesses, all of whom opened their homes to us and treated us like royalty. We had our opening dinner and played our first games, and practiced for the entertainment we performed in each club we curled at.

From there we travelled through the beautiful colours of a New England autumn, curling at the Broomstones C.C. in Wayland, MA, The Country Club in Boston and the Cape Cod C.C.. We visited the Boston Museum of Art, toured downtown Boston and the Harbour, and some of us managed a side trip to Longfellow's Wayside Inn. We dipped our toes in the waters of Cape Cod Bay and visited Woods Hole, home of the world-renowned oceanographic research centre. Up to this point, we had been driven from club to club by car, but in Cape Cod we boarded the huge bus which became our home away from home for the rest of the tour.

"On the road" became a favourite place for us, as we shared our experiences, told stories, sang songs and had so much fun getting to know one another. Emily had stocked the bus with enough snacks and drinks for a world tour. Our next stop was the Ardsley, N.Y. C.C., where we were greeted by a formal honour guard. We were on the historic Hudson, in Sleepy Hollow country, and at night could see the lights of the George Washington bridge in Manhattan. Next morning we headed into the Big Apple. It was November 11 and the Veterans Parade was moving down Fifth Avenue. We passed Yankee Stadium, gawked around Times Square, spent some reflective moments at Ground Zero and spent the day touring this most wonderful of cities. In the evening, we hit Broadway, taking in "Thoroughly Modern Millie".

Schenectady followed, then Albany, where I curled from '67 - '69. A few of the women whom I remembered were still curling - Imagine! We hit snow as we were headed to Utica, a lot of snow and cold! But, again, the warmth of our welcome made it irrelevant. This was our last curling day. The best ice we played on and another wonderful houseparty made it a memorable one. As we were leaving for our last billet, a couple of our stalwarts made beautiful snow angels out on the lawn..

A six-hour ride back to Nashua from Utica just flew by. We had our last "morning class", an awards ceremony, a "roast" of our couriers and many, many shared laughs and tears as we remembered all the friends we had made, the wonderful meals we had eaten, the homes we had visited, the gifts we had received, the sights we had seen. AND, the games we had played. Remember, it was a CURLING Tour. We played 36 games in 9 clubs. Four games we don't count because the teams were made up of two tour players and two host club players. The final tally was 28 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie.

Our last night in Nashua was an emotional one. There were speeches and presentations, a final performance of our Musical Ride and a last appearance of our aging Fairies. It was goodbye to our generous and gracious couriers and hostesses and goodbye, as well, to some of our tour mates as we left for home on different flights. We had become such good friends. We have a historian and thousands of photographs from which she is compiling a journal and scrapbook, and we think that if we get together at least once a year to review them, we can keep this Friendship Tour going forever.



NEWS FROM OUR OCA REPS

Linda Karl and Dave Heinrichs

The OCA Silver Tankard zone playdowns are at the Forest Curling Club March 20-21. This is a two-team, combined score event. Please see the OCA sign-up sheet in the men's locker room for further details. Sign up sheets are up in the ladies locker room for the Intermediate Women, Tim Horton's Trophy and Women's Tankard and anyone interested should check the sheets for closing entry dates (or contact Linda at 672-0707 or llkarl@porchlight.ca.)

On behalf of the London Curling Club, thanks to Jackie McCormick and her rink for representing us so well at the Zone and Region competitions for the Scotts Tournament of Hearts. They took the B side of Zones and competed in Regions January 2-4 in Elmira. The eventual winners of the West Regional playdowns were JoAnn Rizzo and Sherry Middaugh. Ontario Heart playdowns are scheduled for January 27 to February 1 in Copper Cliff, Ontario. The winner of this event will compete in the Canadian Scott Tournament of Hearts February 21-29 in Red Deer, Alberta.

TV RAFFLE

Here's your chance to win a **27-inch JVC Flat Screen television**, donated by **Direct Buy of London** and **Rob McGrath**, LCC Member since 2000. Tickets are available at the bar, and the winner's name will be drawn at the end of the curling season.

members only showroom
DirectBuySM
 The #1 way to buy direct for your home



LCC HEROES

by Marg Sirna

Where have all the heroes gone? Look around the walls of the club, peruse the plaques, trophies and banners, and you will recognize the names of many fellow curlers at LCC. Webster's dictionary defines a hero/heroine as "one admired for their exploits". I would propose to you that a "curling hero" is a person who is admired for curling talent and the courage to pursue the competitive route with that talent. Curling heroes love the game, enjoy the strategy and are prepared to practice, practice and practice. They are also excellent role models for those of us who aspire to the field of competition or just enjoy watching from our comfortable chairs.

Three of the Silver Tankard winners of 1972 (32 years ago) continue to curl at LCC. They are Ron Carr, Ken Walmsley and Ken Buchan. They are all fine curlers, dedicated members of our club and always interested in furthering the sport. It was quite fitting that Ken Walmsley was the male recipient of the Spirit of Curling Award for 2002-03.

In 1975, Deanne Buchan (and three women who are no longer members of LCC) played in the Lassie (predecessor of the Tournament of Hearts) in Moncton, N.B. She shared with me the memory of the excitement, still remembered, that they felt in getting that far and playing at that level of competition. She also shared how she came to realize over the years the importance of goal-setting, practice and team-building. Goal-setting is important for any team and certainly for a team that has its sights set on competition. They need to be able to get along well as they spend a great amount of time together, and they need to be able to agree to the extent of their commitment and the amount of personal time they will give up. It is a lot to consider for people with other commitments, family and career.

Deanne and Ken Buchan were members of the 1981 Mixed Canadian Championship team in Winnipeg, Manitoba. That was a very exciting time for the team and for LCC. In 1982 in St Thomas and again in 1983 in Kingston, Deanne remembers the excitement of being on a team that made it to the Ontario finals.

In 1985 the team of Deanne Buchan, Isobel Campbell, Lil Richardson and Mary Shorten scored as the Ontario Intermediate Runner-Up Team. In 1987, the LCC team with Skip Bev Field, and teammates Deanne Buchan, Sue Hilton and Ginete DeMarchi won the Intermediate Finals. It was wonderful encouragement for the Club members and it was incredibly exciting for the members of the team. The mixed curling team of Bill Dunlop, Anne Shaw, Dave Shaw and Barb Dunlop were the champions at the Ottawa Curling Club in 1989 when they won the Senior Mixed Trophy. Again, it was very exciting for the team, for the club and for all of us who live vicariously through the success of others. In 1997, a women's team from LCC won the Ontario Diamond Seniors in Unionville. The members of that team, Mary Lou Dickinson, Marilyn Hart, Joan Cuthbert and Joan Bidinosti, are all active members of the Women's Daytime Section of the club. It was such a fine accomplishment for the team and one that we hope our members will emulate.

When the question was posed as to how one got to the Provincial or Canadian level of competition, there were no complicated answers. The same response came up again and again. To be a successful team, the four needed to work together, set their goals, practice and then be willing to commit to the time required to enter competitions.

Where have all the heroes gone? Well, some of them are still here as active club members and by their example they are paving the way for the new heroes of our club. We have the team of Debbie McCormick, Tara McAninch (non LCC), Pam McDermid, and Mackenzie Klages, a group of fine curlers, making their way in competition. We are proud of them and wish them well as they advance to the next round. Perhaps some of the outstanding young Junior curlers from our club who are learning the fine art of the game, practicing their skills and taking part in competition may decide to make the same commitment to the game some day.

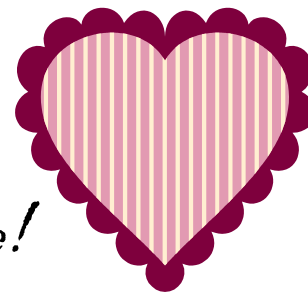
All those curlers who put their mind to being the best that they can be within the scope of their ability and available time, who are competitive and also keenly interested in playing the game with good sportsmanship, are surely heroes. We remember and applaud the heroes of the past, we also encourage and praise all those who aspire to do their best, to work hard, and to be good sports. They may be the heroes of tomorrow.

THIS SEASON'S COMPETITIVE EVENTS SCHEDULE

Check your local listings for coverage of these events:

Canadian Mixed	Timmins, Ont.	January 10-18
Canadian Seniors	Vernon, B.C.	January 24-Feb 1
Provincial Women's	Copper Cliff, Ont.	January 27-Feb 1
Provincial Men's	Owen Sound, Ontario	February 2-8
Karcher Juniors	Victoria, B.C.	February 7-15
Tournament of Hearts	Red Deer, Alta.	February 21-29
Brier	Saskatoon, Sask.	March 6-14
World Juniors	Trois Rivieres, Que.	March 20-28
Ontario Junior/Bantam		
Mixed	London, Ont.	March 31-April 4
Ford Worlds	Gavle, Sweden	April 17-25

Bring
Your
Valentine!



LCC is hosting a "Valentine Dinner" on Saturday, February 14, 2004. Cocktails at 6:30 pm, followed by Dinner at 7:00 pm. Members are welcome to bring friends and relatives. Cost is \$25.00 per person with all the proceeds going to the Capital Fund. Tickets, which are limited, are available from Joan Cuthbert (433-1684) or Sharon Sivak (660-0139).

Third segment in a series of articles about the history of curling in London and the London Curling Club.

THE SIXTIES: BOOMTIMES FOR LONDON CURLERS

by Connie Weir

“Curling hits the Jackpot!” (headline of an article in the LFP, Dec. 2, 1961)

The sports writer who penned that headline, was simply acknowledging what can only be described as the phenomenal growth in the sport of curling, that was occurring, not only in London, but also throughout most of Ontario, in the early 1960's. LCC, which had enjoyed an unprecedented surge in membership in the 50's, could no longer accommodate all the Londoners who were clamouring to take up the game. With the demand so strong, it didn't take long before there were several other groups wanting a piece of the action.

The second “player on the scene”, was the Highland Country Club, which expanded its facilities in 1959 to include a six-sheet curling rink. Meanwhile, down at city hall, PUC director, Bill Farquharson, was pushing for the establishment of a municipal curling rink. While opponents argued that the provision of a curling rink was “outside the sphere of municipal government”, Farquharson argued it was “a logical and practical extension” of facilities provided by the city's recreation department. Dr. A. B. Lucas, the director of Education at the time, strongly supported the building of a municipal curling rink, because the popularity of curling among teenagers was growing rapidly, and there was a need for additional, reasonably priced facilities for high school use. *“Curling has become an important outdoor activity for high school boys across Ontario ... Many who cannot take part in football, hockey or basketball could benefit tremendously from the opportunity to participate in a wholesome, healthful sport such as curling.”* (While I would certainly take issue with his failure to include high school girls, Dr. Lucas's remarks do reflect a positive growth of respect for the game of curling.)

City council voted in favour of building a municipal curling rink (the proposed location was at Grosvenor and Elliot Streets), but unfortunately, (and as is too often the case today), bureaucratic/legal roadblocks prevented the city from following through with its plans. When an ex-alderman launched a court action to stop the proposed rink (because city council had failed to submit the issue to a taxpayers' vote), the OMB was forced to adjourn a hearing on the rink. Then, when the city applied to have the issue put on the ballot in Dec. 1960, the OMB refused, saying the timing was inappropriate (1960, you may remember, was the big annexation vote). Denied a vote on the issue, the Recreation Department conducted a survey in the spring of 1961, which proved there was “a high degree of interest” in a proposed municipal curling rink. When the proposal went back to the new council, however, the Board of Control turned it down because they were reluctant to increase the city's debt load, given all the expenses involved with the annexation process. (And how must Bill Farquharson have been feeling at this point?)

Since it appeared unlikely at this point that the city would ever get its act together to approve the construction of a municipal rink, private interests quickly stepped in to take advantage of the situation. In October 1961 a contract was awarded for the construction of an eight-sheet curling rink (The Ivanhoe) at Brookside and Edna Streets. In November, the Toten Construction Co. filed an application for rezoning to allow them to build another curling rink on a 9.5 acre piece of land at the southeast corner of Springbank and Wonderland. The city's planning board rejected the initial application, but gave their approval when the plans were revised. The plans then went to city council who rejected these revised plans in December, then approved them in January when better drawings were submitted. (Ah, the joys of the bureaucratic process...)

In the end, however, nothing came of these plans, but the Ivanhoe did open its doors in 1962, as London's first pay-as-you-play curling venture. Also in 1962, five more sheets became available when curling commenced in the Ontario Arena at the Western Fairgrounds. In the space of just two years, the number of curling sheets in London had gone from LCC's original six to twenty-five. It would certainly seem that the sport of curling had indeed “hit the jackpot.”

Across the country curling was also growing, with an estimated half a million curlers playing on 5,000 sheets of ice. In southwestern Ontario alone, there were 71 registered curling clubs in 1961, seven of which were only a year old. And this was by no means the end of the expansionary period. When an arena was built at the Treasure Island Shopping Centre (later renamed the Ice House), facilities for curling were initially included. Plus the Ivanhoe's pay-as-you-play venture proved so successful that another eight sheets were added, and the owners boasted their facility was being used by an estimated 3,000 people a week.

And what was happening at the London Curling Club during all of this? Were we hurt by the expansion of other facilities? On the contrary, curlers being the loyal folks they are, membership remained at capacity levels throughout the sixties. Mixed curling, in particular, increased in popularity, and bonspiels filled many couples' winter weekends. One female LCC member told a Free Press reporter at the time that she had “never met more sociable people” in her life, and that the only disadvantage was the tendency to get so involved that other social activities were neglected: “I guess those who don't curl get pretty disgusted with our absorption” (LFP, Mar. 1, 1969).

By 1969, with more than a million Canadians playing the game, it's not surprising that a Free Press reporter would describe it as “the nation's biggest participating sport for the whole family” (LFP, Mar. 1, 1969). Boom Times indeed...

HARRY SIFTON CLASSIC BONSPIEL

December 2-3, 2003



This bonspiel began many years ago when Harry Sifton sent a group of invitations to area clubs to start friendly senior curling. From this early beginning, the organizers developed the pattern we use today. Each day brings four draws of curling. At the end of the first day, a banquet is held at the Mocha Shrine to celebrate the previous year's overall winner, who sits at the head table together with the presenters.

This year Richard Sifton presented his grandfather's plaque to the 2002 winners, the Joe Moroz rink from Highland. Our LCC President, Joanne Laws, presented the rink with the silver trays. One hundred and third five curlers and guests sat down to a delicious dinner with wine, thanks to the Mocha Shrine Center. The head table was piped in by our piper, Eileen Robertson. Earlier that day, she also led our president, Joanne Laws (who threw the first rock of the event) and the curlers onto the ice. Sponsors are Sifton Properties (Richard Sifton) and Executive Travel (Jack Judd). Richard recalled the love his grandfather had for the game, and Jack closed the evening with a humorous story.

This was the 20th Bonspiel, and we look forward to many years to come. It was attended by 24 outside rinks, from Windsor to Kitchener and Wasaga Beach to Kingsville. The LCC had 8 rinks chosen by playoff. This year's overall winners and Sifton Champions, with 55 points, are Jim Fitzpatrick and his teammates Ken Walmsley, Al McLeod and Chuck Townsend (and they also had a perfect game with 21 points). This rink will be the guests at the head table in 2004.

The success of this spiel is due to the hard work of my committee (Jack Phillips, Bob Hart, Bill McFarlane and drawmaster Graham Guild) and to our staff (Barb, Lil, our ice markers and bar staff).

Thank you!

Ian Schofield, Chairman



EASY \$\$\$\$

Here's an EASY way to earn dollars for the LCC Capital Fund. Scott Paper will pay us 10 cents for every UPC Bar Code we collect from Scott Paper Products.



For an added bonus, purchase Scotties in the 15-box pack (available at Loblaws and Costco). You'll get 15 bar codes from the boxes themselves, and an extra bar code on the plastic wrap.

LCC collection boxes are located downstairs and upstairs at the club. LET'S FILL THEM!

Joan Bidinosti (433-0807)

CHRISTMAS "THANK YOU'S"

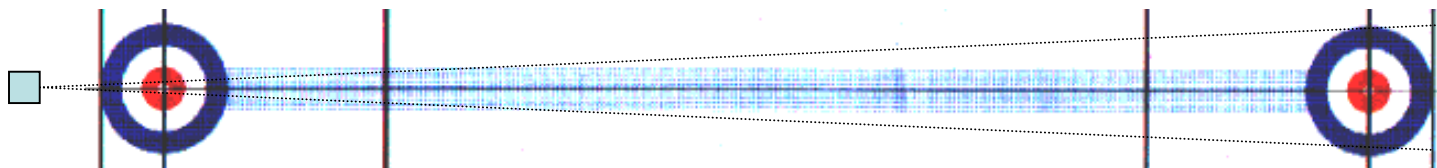
Lil Findlay and LCC's "party lady" Sheila Novlan are to be congratulated for the magnificent job they did decorating the club for Christmas. We all enjoyed the results of their efforts. Thanks, too, to the anonymous donor ("...") of the artificial Christmas tree.

Andrea Child extends her thanks to the Pro Shop "sales team" (Don Dudley, Pat Bell, Bud Boyd, Lil Richardson and Marilyn Wearing) who worked so hard to make the December sale such a success ... AND to all of YOU who supported the Pro Shop by doing your Christmas shopping at the LCC!

We are grateful to Bruce Cooper for his generous donation of ten hand-crafted wooden Santa's to the club (see December Rock Talk). Nine of these were sold in early December at \$100 each! Thanks to Sharon Sivak for arranging to raffle the one remaining Santa during the Friday Mixed Curling event just before Christmas. Kelly Smith was the lucky winner, and the raffle raised an additional \$208. Bruce and Mary Lois donated to the Building Fund all of the profits from the sales of the ten "Santa's" and Bruce's carved wooden Christmas-ornaments. Thanks to you both!

Curling "Foe Paws"

by "Mr. Completely" and "Ms. Takes"



There are two vital things to learn and remember about your delivery in the game of curling.

First, approach the hack from the back and point your back toe at the skip's broom. This will align your hips and shoulders perpendicular to the broom. If you maintain this stance during delivery, both stone throwers and stick throwers will stay in a comfortable and controlled 'box' while throwing. You'll have the opportunity to watch the 'pros' do this during all the upcoming competitive events on TV.

Secondly, even if your skip's broom is placed at the edge of the 12-foot circle, the path of your rock should never go beyond the intersection point of the near hog line and the 4-foot line on either side of the centre line (see diagram).

Follow these two steps and you'll have a huge advantage over your opponents! Good curling in 2004!

ICE PICKS

Kevin Breivik

If you walk around the club wearing your curling shoes and your slider is uncovered, take a look at the debris that collects on the slider.

Let's all "FIGHT DIRTY"! Cover your slider with a rubber gripper or 'sock' when you're not playing to help keep dirt off the ice.

THURSDAY NIGHT BUSINESS WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Dot MacRae and Cindy Thom are pleased to report a fun-filled year of competitive curling. Many thanks go out to those of you who helped make the November "Pampered Chef" fund raiser a success.

Sandra Williams was the winner of the Turkey Shoot at the Christmas Party on December 18. Thanks to all of you for your generous donations to Women's Community House and the London Food Bank.

The closing dinner and awards presentations for this event will be held on the 8th of April.

"SURVEY SAYS"

... that less than 25% of people entering the LCC building use the ELECTRIC BOOT CLEANER in the front foyer.

Please do your part to keep dirt from entering the building on the soles of your footwear. Please use the boot cleaner every time you come in to the club.

Thank you!

I'm feeling neglected !!



TRIVIA QUESTIONS

answers on page 12

1. Which province will host the Canadian Senior Men's and Women's Curling Championships from Jan. 24 to Feb. 1, 2004?
2. Where and when was the first curling club formed in Ontario?
3. Which province has the most HOT SHOTS winners at the Scott Tournament of Hearts since 1995?
4. When do the Juniors curl at the LCC?
5. Sherry Middaugh's team set a JVC-TSN Women's Skins Game record at the St. Thomas Curling Club in December 2003. How many skins did she take and what were her total earnings for the weekend?

Daytime Women's In-House Happenings

by Pat Bell

B.Y.O.P in curling lingo is "bring your own prize". This two day event (December 9 and 16) brought 32 curlers together for great sharing, party food (liver pate, cocktail sausage, and cheese dreams) and fun curling. Convenor Joan Cuthbert reports that scores were shared, in good Christmas spirit, and prizes were drawn from the elf's hat.

Daytime *LEADS AND SECONDS* had their own day December 10. Convenor Joyce Hetherington states that everyone was given the OPPORTUNITY to play every position. Teams were rotated every two ends, giving many their first time at the head calling the shots and strategy. Advice was available when asked for ... many thanks to Kay Carr for attending and sharing her expertise. This is another sure event for next season.



December 17 was *THE CHRISTMAS PARTY*. Sheila Novlan was the master of the day, with crew of Jean Walmsley, Deanne Fitzpatrick, Pat Steele and Pat Bell. There was Christmas in every moment, decor, servers, and angels in shopping bags. Note the picture of created angels ... Mo Cloghesy, Marnie Sherritt, Linda Karl, Heather Roch, Holly Cox, Audrey Robertson, and Lois Wright. Entry included paper products for the Women's Community House, a Christmas gift and five dollars. What a bargain and a chance to enjoy the fun, frolics and fabulous food. Entertainment included a special guest appearance of little "Mary" ... Joan Cuthbert with her version of "Away in a Manger". She will be in demand so get her signed up soon! Sandy Ronson won the BIRD raffle!

The new year started with LCC visiting Highland and Ingersoll in the *SISTER CITY 'SPIEL*.

Check out the Daytime Women's *CARD PARTY* January 19 convened by Lynda Reesor. Watch the bulletin board and sign up for draws starting in January: *WOMEN'S SOCIAL* on Wednesdays, the "*NO NAME*" on Thursdays, and the *FLIP FLOP FUN DAY* on January 28. The Tuesday afternoon draw sponsored by *BERNIE'S* Restaurant continues into February. Good curling will be on view Wednesday, January 14, when the *GRANDMOTHERS* take to the ice, entertaining out-of-club teams. Jean Walmsley and team have a big day planned and a good time is guaranteed.

We are all excited to hear the news that Jill Day's team won the Ilderton Two-Day event at the beginning of January. Jill, Linda Karl (Vice), Mary Reeder and Jane Copp (who shared the job of Lead) were joined for this event by former LCC member Nancy Grogan who now curls out of the Sarnia Curling Club. Congratulations on winning all four games and the trophy on the 25th anniversary of this event at the ICC!

Good Curling everyone!

"REALTOR" FUNDING INITIATIVE

Three LCC realtor members, led by Brian Simpson, are continuing the fundraising initiative that began in March 2003. This member group donates to LCC a referral fee of 20% of the commissions earned on a successful sale. This applies to any referral by an LCC member, friend or associate.

The following realtor members are involved. Anyone who calls a member of this group to initiate a real-estate transaction should remember to mention their 'association' with the London Curling Club.

Ken Harper	Classic Realty	645-1300
Bob Lauckner	Lauchner Realty	473-4121
Brian Simpson	Oliver & Associates	657-2020

FUNDRAISING FUNSPIEL

Forty-eight curlers of all shapes, sizes and age categories had a WONDERFUL time at this funspiel held on Saturday, December 6th. Between the morning and afternoon games, they were treated to a sumptuous buffet lunch provided by Jean Walmsley and her kitchen helpers, Holly Cox, Mary Reeder and Barb Vitkauskas. Prizes, which were presented to each competitor, were donated by Event Sponsor Masonville Shell, by Kelloggs/Dan Crandles, by Wavell Variety/Mark Chandler, by 3M/Ken Walmsley, by Jesse's Journey Golf Tournament, and by our own bartender John Spetman, who secured some prizes from club suppliers.

Convenor Peter McKinley wishes to acknowledge the generosity of Tom Zavitz of Masonville Shell, in sponsoring this event. At the end of the day, Peter expects that in excess of \$1,500 will be contributed to the Capital Fund. Watch for another great FUNspiel at the club in the spring

KIDS' CORNER



Brent Duplessis is pleased to report that the LITTLE ROCKS are having fun, learning lots, and happy to be back to curling now that the holidays are over. Dave Dreher is doing a great job organizing their participation in bonspiels, starting with Highland in January, followed by Ilderton, and then our own spiel at the LCC in March.

The BANTAMS ended 2003 with a great Christmas Party. The kids played a game of dartboard curling (you will have to ask them what that was!) and enjoyed some Christmas games and pizza. A special thanks to Jean Davis for all her work in planning and doing all the running around for the party. **Rick Battson** reports that they got an early start to the new year with curling on January 4 and have three special events planned for this winter. On January 18, the curlers are invited to bring a friend to the club to introduce them to curling. This is a great way for new kids to find out how great this game is. On February 22, they will have a "family fun day". The kids love to get their parents on the ice to show them a thing or two! The season ends with curling and a party on March 28. Rick would like to thank the many parents who help out on the ice each week. This helps make the games safe, fun and a learning experience for the curlers.

The JUNIORS ended the first part of the season with our annual Christmas Party including fun games and a potluck supper. Parents joined in and everyone had a good time. The Junior Bantam Bonspiel was a great success and LCC were even hosts to two teams from Rochester, New York. The kids have been invited back and look forward to the trip. **Jayne Broughton** is proud of Thomas Beckett, Pierre LeDreff-Kerwin, Tom Pickles and Cory Downing for their participation in Bantam Zones in Wallaceburg the first part of December, but they unfortunately were not successful in the competition and headed home for fun curling at our home club. Luke Gratsby and Mike Battson, also junior members, joined their bantam teammates to compete in zones. Teams are being formed for the Bantam/Junior Mixed zone Competition the end of February and the juniors look forward to hosting the Bantam/Junior Mixed Provincials at LCC the end of March. Again this year, the juniors are going to hold another overnight Curl-a-Thon. Watch for further details!

MILLER STANDINGS

Moving up to the A flight are Don Rawlings and Jack McLaren; to the B flight, Dan Currie and Doug Crosbie; to the C flight, Wayne Nickerson and Stan Smith; and to the D flight, Bev Liston and Bill Rockwood. Both Wayne Nickerson and Bev Liston had the highest point totals with 23 points apiece.

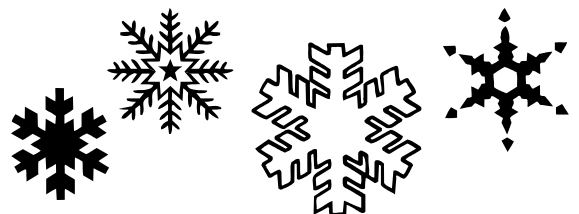
Tom Fejes

SPIRIT OF CURLING AWARD

by Marg Sirna

This award is presented annually to one man and one woman. It is a prestigious award, which can only be received once, and it is presented at the Annual General Meeting in the spring. Recipients are determined by consideration of the spirit of the game, which demands one be a good sport and act in a kind and honourable manner. Club members are nominated by their peers who observe their daily interactions with others, and by that judge them to exemplify the spirit of the game.

It's time to think about the individuals whom you think might be deserving of the Spirit of Curling Award this year. All active members, except members of the Board of Directors, are eligible nominees. Application forms will be available in the lounge.



THE BEST OF THE NET: Curling Sites

The Internet can be a great resource of information. Many of us get our daily news at work via the net, and it provides a quick and easy way to access information -- from dictionaries to phone numbers. Now that technology (from graphite brooms to stop-watches) is part of the game, so too are curling websites. Below you will find a sample of the best the net has to offer



<http://www.allsports.com/olympics/curling>

Curling 101. This is a U.S. site developed by Timothy D. Jacques which covers everything a beginner needs to know about the game. Jacques takes the reader through a concise history of the game's origins, and covers team structure, types of shots, and delivery techniques. As with most good internet sites, further links to other curling resources are also provided.

<http://www.purecurling.com>

Pure Curling. A Canadian site written by Rob Krepps, of the Lakeshore Curling Club in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, featuring tips on strategy, delivery and general curling know-how. Topics include "The Secret of the Curling Delivery" and "The Dual Importance of Strategy and Tactics." This site is well presented, easy to navigate and has some great insights into the most common errors curlers can make. Rob's writing style is conversational and friendly without being condescending. The material on this website is the groundwork for the author's upcoming, "Strategy and Tactics Resource" for the Canadian Curling Association.

<http://www.curling.ca>

Canadian Curling Association. This is THE site for Canadian curling, and covers everything about the professional ranks. It also features information for beginners and curlers of all levels. Sections featuring merchandise, photography and the official CCA rule book are here. It is a very professional site which uses animated graphics (Flash) in its "learn and play" section to demonstrate the various shots, and also covers topics like the history of the game, the business of curling, contact lists and a searchable database of clubs (yes, we're in there).

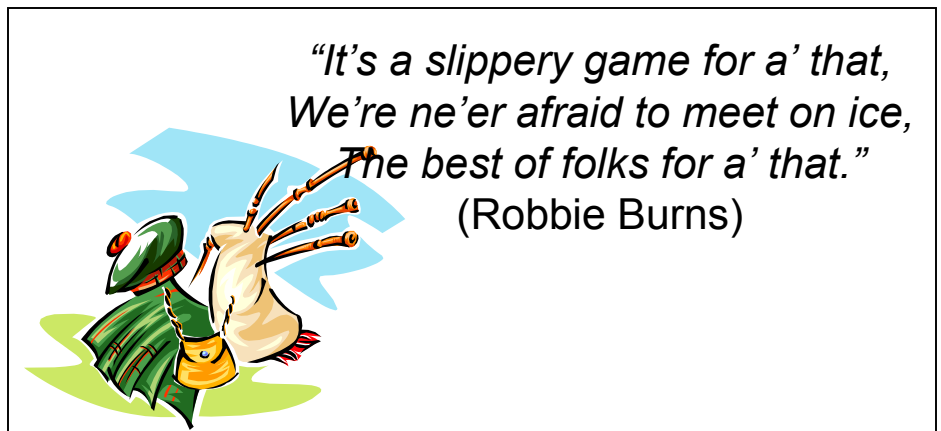
<http://www.curling.com/london>

London Curling Club. Yes, we have our OWN nook on the net too. Our site, maintained by Doug Weir, has schedules, Rock Talk, as well as information pertaining to membership, rentals, etc.

Chris Henderson

ON THE ROCKS

John, Paul and Alana invite you to celebrate **Robbie Burns Day** with a shot of single malt **Glenlivet Scotch**, available at the bar.



FOUR-ROCK RULE SEMINAR

Here's a great opportunity to get better acquainted with the four-rock rule, to learn about the new strategies required and how to use this newly implemented 'rule' to its full potential.

This seminar is being held in the upstairs lounge at the LCC on Friday, January 30th at 11:30, and is open to all our women members.

Dot MacRae will lead the session.

POINT TO PONDER ...



People who can't swim
don't blame the water!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

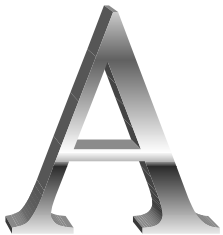
JANUARY

13	Novice Clinic
14	Grandmother's Bonspiel
15,16,17	City of London
19	Women's Card Party
24	Spring Thaw
30	Seminar, 4-Rock Rule

FEBRUARY

11	Sweetheart Spiel
14	Valentine's Dinner
25	Closed for Maintenance all day
26	Closed for Maintenance 10 - 5

Rental ice is still available ... make your booking at the office!



TRIVIA ANSWERS

from page 8

1. British Columbia
2. Kingston, 1820
3. British Columbia – 2002 (Kristy Lewis), 2000 (Kelley Law), and 1997 (Sherry Fraser)
4. Sundays at 1:30 p.m
5. Six skins; total weekend earnings \$65,500 out of the \$100,000 purse (\$31,000 in the final, \$15,000 winner's bonus & Saturday's \$19,500 in the semifinal)

RULES, RULES, RULES ...

As you are debating the newly instituted "four-rock free guard" rule, enjoy a few chuckles over some of these rules and regulations from the past ...

Whiskey punch (should) be the usual drink of the club in order to encourage the growth of barley.

Any member visibly weaving and lolling from the effects of liquor shall be obliged to leave immediately for the day and present himself in a sober state to begin the next day.

Every member shall be able to prove himself the lawful owner of at least one stone.

When a member falls and is hurt, the rest shall not laugh, but render him every assistance to enable him to regain his former erect position.

No politics of the state or church are to be discussed.

(provided by Connie Weir, from an article by Miriam Wolfe, in LFP, Nov. 30/68)



ROCK TALK

is the "voice" of the
London Curling Club

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ROCK TALK is available
on the World Wide Web at

www.curling.com/london

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