



London Curling Club

ROCK TALK

March 2004

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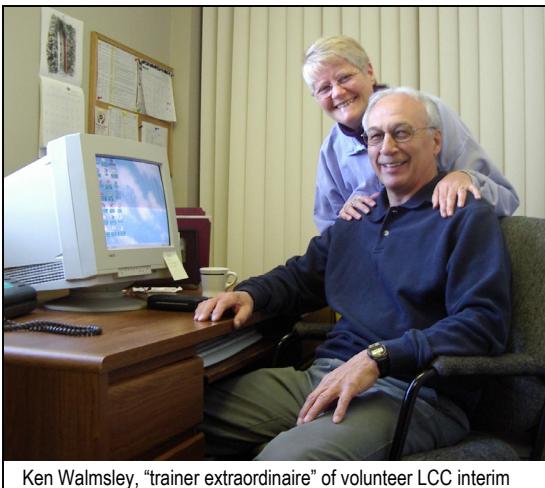
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LET'S RAISE OUR BROOMS!

by Marg Sirna



Ken Walmsley, "trainer extraordinaire" of volunteer LCC interim managers, is pictured here with his wife Jean (no doubt his favourite trainee!). Jean is among the dozens of LCC members who have taken a turn as Interim Manager over the last two years.

"A DAY IN THE LIFE"

of an Interim Manager

Picture this scenario: the newly trained Interim Manager, keys in hand and feeling excited and enthusiastic but a little apprehensive, arrives at the club.

8:00 a.m. There's my name on the office door. This really IS important! I've never been at the curling club this early in the morning! Glad I picked up that Tim's coffee because at least THAT feels familiar. I think I'm going to need it because I feel a bit anxious about this whole thing. Why did I volunteer to DO this job anyway? I'm not sure I can do it! Where do I start? Oh, I smell coffee HERE. Housekeeper Lil must make coffee for the early staff. Good to know -- I think I'm going to need lots of it!

Office Manager Barb greets me with a big smile, "Glad you can be with us this week. Look, if you need any help to get going this

continued on page 4

When the Board of Directors of LCC decided that the Club should operate without a Manager, many of us were skeptical. But the dedicated and hard-working Board members, on the other hand, were sure they could make it work, and they have done just that. They put the job in the capable hands of Ken Walmsley, who prepared a very detailed manual which outlines step by step the duties of the Interim Manager. We are now in our second year of 'volunteerism' and the program has been a great success. It is working so well because our staff at LCC is supportive and helpful to the volunteers who come in to act as office manager, and because Ken recruits, schedules and trains each volunteer in such a way that each one should be following the same plan.

As volunteers, we agree to be present in the office for a one-week period, answering the telephone and running interference for issues that arise. During the first few days of my 'term', every time the phone rang, I hoped that the question would not be too difficult. But I soon learned that offering to obtain information and get back to the caller is appropriate and acceptable. It can also prevent a lot of incorrect information being circulated. Putting up signs, receiving fax messages, looking for lost articles are all tasks that we can do. Rentals are very important to the financial well-being of the club. Following up, attending to all the details and ensuring that the paperwork is complete are time-consuming but very necessary steps, and completing these rental arrangements is an enjoyable and rewarding part of the volunteer interim manager portfolio.

It was a privilege to be present in the club during the week that I was there. It gave me a much greater awareness of the scope of the jobs carried out by the staff and a small peek at the ongoing activity of the club. At the end of the week I felt that I was just starting to be useful and to be able to complete some of the tasks, which is perhaps one of the drawbacks to the plan. Another week of volunteering, somewhere down the road, would not be nearly as daunting, and might even be more productive!

continued on page 4

SUMMER HOLIDAY READING!

page 6
page 9
page 10



London's Curling History
Curling Psychology
Sporting Comparisons



ADVERTISE at
the LCC! page 3

NEWS from LCC'S O.C.A. REPS

page 12



O.C.A. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS page 5

SPIRIT of CURLING AWARD

For nomination information, see page 3

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONSTRUCTION UP-DATE

Final inspections have been completed and all new construction has been approved by the City of London. There were some additional costs incurred due to City of London requirements, along with some changes requested by London Curling Club. The construction costs have been extensively reviewed by Bill Easton (LCC Construction Supervisor) and Jack Phillips (Finance Committee Representative). On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board approved final payment to Barry Wade Design (Construction Management).

FALL OPEN HOUSE and MEMBERSHIP NIGHTS

The Open House and Membership Night has been extended to two evenings this year and will held on Tuesday, September 7 and Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. These will also be the nights that members can come and pay their dues.

NEW CURLING SEASON

Next year's curling season starts OCTOBER 12, 2004, with ice ready on October 4th.

Both Membership dues and League fees will be payable by September 15, 2004. League entries will not be processed unless payment is made in full. Team entries will be accepted in order received, until leagues are filled.

Payment can be made by mail, at the Open House and Membership Night (September 7 & 8, 2004) or at the Office, which will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting September 1, 2004.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND SEE YOU BACK FOR SOME GOOD CURLING IN OCTOBER!!

LONDON CURLING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joanne Laws

Thanks to the staff for working together so well with Ken and the acting managers -- you did a superb job throughout the year. Your personal commitment and dedication to making the year run smoothly is very much appreciated by the London Curling Club. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

I'd like to extend a huge "thank you" to Andrea Child and her committee for organizing the upcoming "Pepsi Junior and Bantam Mixed Championships" to be held from March 31 to April 3 at the club (see details on page 5 of this issue). Andrea volunteers countless hours to the Club ... her dedication and continuing support are much appreciated.

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Tuesday, June 8th at the LCC. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. A notice will be mailed to the membership in the coming weeks. The Board of Directors and I look forward to seeing you there!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Jack Phillips

Total donations to the Capital Campaign as of March 1, 2004 are \$80,308.51. Our thanks to the following individuals and fundraisers who have contributed since our last report in the January issue of Rock Talk:

Greg and Dawn Lewis
Doreen Carrothers
Football Pool - John Spelman
Spring Thaw
Grand Theatre Ticket Draw

Apologies to Drennan Refrigeration

In our follow-up article on the City of London Bonspiel which appeared in the February issue of Rock Talk, the organizing committed neglected to include Drennan Refrigeration as a sponsor. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Drennans for their ongoing support of this historic event and to apologize for our oversight.

Doug Crosbie,
Organizing Committee

Spirit of Curling Award

The Spirit of Curling Award affords members of the LCC the opportunity to nominate their peers to be recognized for exemplifying the spirit of the game. This prestigious award will be presented to one man and one woman at the Annual General Meeting, and the winners will be honoured at a reception where they can celebrate with their friends, family and fellow curlers.

Nomination forms are available in both lounges, at the bar or from the office. All active members, except members of the Board and previous recipients, are eligible nominees. Deadline for nominations is March 27th.

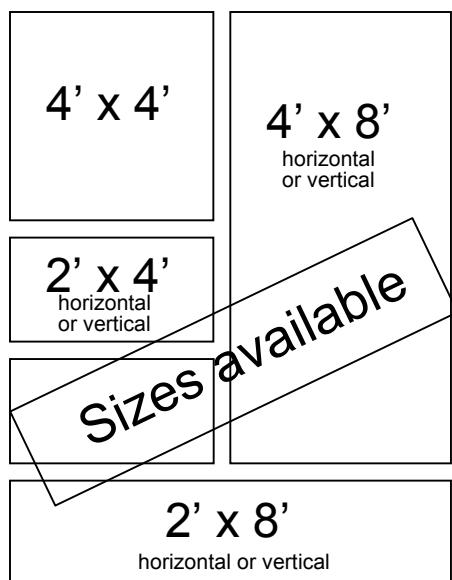
The Spirit of Curling Award Book, in the main floor trophy case, provides background information about the Award, a list of previous winners and their photographs.

Pam Liston

FIRE PLAN

In an on-going effort to ensure that the LCC facility complies with the Fire Department regulations, floor plans designating emergency exit routes have been posted in various locations throughout the club. Please note that the main entry on Lyle Street is not considered an emergency exit because these doors are not equipped with "panic" hardware. It is in the best interests of all members to be aware of the locations of the building's emergency exits.

Picture YOUR "Ad"



- your message will reach thousands of prospective customers
- \$25 per square foot per season
- 10% discount for club members
- sizes available: 2'x 4' and multiples up to 4'x 8'
- for further information and to book YOUR advertising space, contact a member of the LCC Advertising Committee:

Doug Weir, Chair	438-0906
Bruce Cooper	433-3385
Wink DuBrule	434-4410
Dennis O'Connor	657-0237
Harry Steele	660-0428

.... on the arena walls at the LCC!

LET'S RAISE OUR BROOMS! continued from page 1 Talk to any of the volunteers who worked in the office this year and they will tell you that it was fun. They will also tell you that it goes so well because of the exceptional staff we have at London Curling Club! They are all cooperative and helpful and wonderful to work with. Thanks to each and every one, with a special "Thank You" to Barb Colbourn, who so graciously shares the office with a rotating list of Interim Managers. We raise our brooms!

Interim Managers will be needed for next year. It is an excellent opportunity to become more familiar with the daily operation of the Club and to assist in funding the renovations to our club. To paraphrase a familiar quote: *Think not what London Curling Club can do for you, but what can you do for London Curling Club?*

"A DAY IN THE LIFE" continued from page 1

morning please don't be afraid to ask. I know your first day can be stressful but don't let it get to you, your second day will be better." How does she know that? I hope she's right! Let's get started! Now where did I put my notes from Ken's training session yesterday?

8:15 a.m. Oh yes, listen to phone messages before accessing the email. Refer to manual. Yes, it does work and there are eight messages. Wow. Message one (I can't write that fast -- I'll have to come back to that one) ... Message five -- someone wants to rent ice for an evening in late November, give me a call at ... Message eight, need some information about membership, please call back after 3 pm or email me at ... Whew, following up on those will take a while.

9:00 a.m. Talking about email, how do I access those? Better save the messages. Refer to manual. Man! While I've been on the internet, there are 4 more phone messages. One from the OCA, another from the convenor of the mixed program, one from a man wanting to know the cost of membership and information about curling during the day one thing at a time -- I'll answer these later.

9:30 a.m. A fellow member peeks his head in the door. "What can we do for you?" "Somebody is using YOUR locker?" The normal procedure is ... hmmmm.... let's see if we can get him a locker nearby if that's an option that he might be willing to consider. "OK." Whew, glad he agreed to that. That's the third problem I've resolved with a member and I just got here!

10:00 a.m. Dan, our Ice Technician, stops in to say hi. "How are things going with you?" In reply to his teasing, I respond, "Yes, you're right. I AM the flavour of the week!" He continues, "Somebody dislodged a hack during the weekend and I'm having trouble getting it set properly. Oh, by the way, the ice was pretty dirty from the first Saturday night rental." He wants confirmation that renters know their responsibilities for keeping the ice clean and wants to know if we are confirming this in the ice rental agreements they sign with us. "I don't know," I say, "but I will check and get back to you."

I think I'm doing okay. No really tough questions yet ... but then it's only 10:45 am. And I still haven't done anything important! Let's see ... what shall I do first? Phone messages or emails or ... oh yes, here's a list of things left for me by the last week's interim manager. Rats! Just when I thought I had things under control!

Ring ... there goes the phone again. "Hello! London Curling Club, Interim Manager Speaking. What can I do for you?" I'm told that our trophies and eight new name tags are ready, and I confirm that I'll pick them up. But I can't remember where. "Hey Barb ... where do I pick up the trophies?" "Nothers". Of course, I knew that. It will be a good break to get away for a few moments.

12:15 p.m. What do you mean, it's lunch time? I feel like I just got here! Oh well, I'm hungry. I discover that I've forgotten to bring my lunch! The staff generously shares ... I'll no doubt get teased about this for the rest of the week! (I don't let them know that I'm glad to have a break, and grateful that the portable phone doesn't ring!)

2:00 p.m. Lil's 8-hour day is over. "Bye Lil, I'll see you tomorrow!" I think I'm finally catching on. I've already completed my first "IRA" (ice rental agreement) and my first "ROA" (request for office assistance), both of which are critical forms of communication between the office and the staff regarding facilities usage. And I've also got a another potential new member on the line. Not bad!

Barb interrupts my train of thought. "Excuse me, but I need you to inventory the liquor, if you have time." Oh yes, Ken DID mention that I might be asked to do that. Where are my notes? Refer to manual. Where are the keys? Red scale for liquor, green scale for liqueurs ... this isn't so bad! And I found the bottle of rum that had somehow missed the previous count. "Good work," she says. "Thanks for your effort."

3:45 p.m. I'm bushed! But you know what? I've learned a lot of new things about the LCC, met a lot of new people, and I must admit, I've had fun doing it!

4:00 p.m. Bartender John arrives for the evening. "Hey, don't you know that you can't leave until 5 o'clock?" he asks. "Just kidding! Hope your first day wasn't too busy. Your second day will be easier."

Barb is on her way. "Bye Barb ... I'll see you tomorrow, and I'll TRY to remember to bring my lunch! Thanks for sharing yours, and for all your help today."

4:30 p.m. Where did the day go? The important thing is that I survived, and do you know what? I think I did well! I'll do even better tomorrow. I can do this! I can make a difference! I already feel good about doing my share. I've got tomorrow's "To Do" list all ready: all the things I didn't do today, and that "two-day" file that the last interim manager said needed some work. (What is a "two-day" file anyway? Does that mean two days of work? I have no idea! All I know is that I couldn't find ANYTHING labeled "two day" file. I'll call the last week's volunteer manager tomorrow and ask where it is. For now though, I'm heading home!)

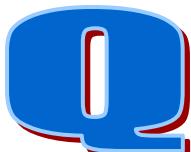
Oh, I forgot to go to Nothers! Guess I'll have to add that errand to tomorrow's list. I remind myself to turn off the computers and the photocopy machine and switch off the lights. Don't forget to lock the door. Good Night London Curling Club!



London Curling Club
hosts the
ONTARIO CURLING ASSOCIATION
BANTAM and JUNIOR MIXED
PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
March 31 to April 3, 2004



- Eight bantam and eight junior teams from all across Ontario will be competing in this Provincial Championship event!
- Opening Ceremonies take place on Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. with the first game starting at 8:00 p.m. Four games daily on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- Viewing stands will be in place ... come on out, watch some great curling and support your favourite team!
- LCC will be supplying hearty food and beverages at great prices throughout the event.
- A 40-page event-program booklet is being published ... there's still time to advertise your product or service, or to include a message of welcome to these wonderful curlers, their coaches and families!
- All proceeds from food and advertising sales are returned to the club ... a great opportunity to raise funds for the LCC.
- LET'S SHOW ONTARIO THAT LCC IS AN AWARD-WINNING "HOST" CLUB!



TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Answers on page 11

1. What was the name used by early pioneers for the game of curling?
2. Who qualifies to play Junior at the LCC? Bantam? Little Rocks?
3. Which team filled the 2001 Brier First All-Star team with 3 players?
4. Who won the Scott Tournament of Hearts this year in Red Deer Alberta and what was the final score?
5. Can you name the LCC Past President from 1849 to 1854?

MCLAREN BONSPIEL

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the second annual McLaren Bonspiel on February 21st and to express our appreciation for all the donations. Doug Ball was the big winner of the Bud Lite golf bag. We raised \$1651.00 for Brian and Madison's Education Fund this year. Thank you again!

John, Dan and Jay

LCC Beneficiary of 19th Century Art



The family of the late Dr. Archie Grace, who was President of LCC in 1960-61 and passed away in September of 1964 at the age of 59 years, has very generously donated to the LCC a piece of engraved art that belonged to Dr. Grace. Artist Charles Lees created the original painting in 1853, and it depicts an historical curling scene from Scotland ... a "Grand Match of the Caledonian Curling Club at Winlithgom" (Between the North & South sides of the Forth). The framed engraving, which measures 37 1/4" by 22 1/2", was done by John Le Conte in 1858. A photograph of a small portion of the painting appears with this article. Where the painting will be displayed at the club has not been decided.

THE 1980'S: CHEERS AND CHALLENGES

by Connie Weir

1980... Although the decade began on a negative note, with the closing of the arena at the Western Fairgrounds (home of the Forest City Curling Club), there were still 32 active sheets of ice in the city in 1980. Ron Carr's rink was successful in winning the **Ontario Legion** title that year, and here at the club we spruced up the kitchen and bathroom for \$400, bought a new condenser for \$5500 and charged \$.15 for coffee.

1981... **Air Canada Silver Broom** – “*the biggest thing to hit town since pizza*” (Del Bell, LFP, Sept. 27/80). After more than three years of lobbying, London was chosen as the site for the 1981 “Broom” – held at UWO’s Thompson Arena. LCC was one of the five host clubs and many of our current members were actively involved in both the planning and running of this event. Pat Steele and Dot MacRae were both members of the Silver Broom Planning Committee, and Ken and Jean Walmsley were LCC’s hospitality chairs. Every evening, during the weeklong event, food and entertainment were provided at the club. Each night had a different theme, but the highlight, as Jean remembers, was the “New Year’s Eve in March” party: “The place was absolutely hopping.” A DJ provided musical entertainment and the small dance floor that used to be at the south end of the lounge was packed all night. As a lasting souvenir of London’s first and only Silver Broom, the club purchased the flags that still adorn the walls of our curling rink.

But 1981 was much more than just the year of the broom. Ken Buchan won yet another title, as he skipped his rink (with wife Deanne and Tom & Penny Brown) to victory in the **Ontario Seagram Mixed** and went on to compete in the Canadian Mixed Championship in Winnipeg. Rex Bishop compiled the club’s history and Dot MacRae was chosen to serve as president of both SOLCA and OLCA.

1982... With a change of sponsorship, the former “Lassie” championship became the Scott Tournament of Hearts. After winning the SOLCA final, Deanne Buchan, Jane Chalmers, Penny Brown and Marlene Travis advanced to the provincial “Hearts” competition, where they were runners-up.

1983... Once again, Deanne Buchan’s rink advanced to the SOLCA provincial playdowns, where they placed 3rd. Meanwhile, back at the club, LCC hired its first bartender, a babysitting service was introduced by the ladies’ daytime section, and the business “girls” renamed themselves business “women.”

1984... LCC hosted the SOLCA Provincial Playdowns, Paul Purves won his 3rd consecutive City of London Spiel, Dot MacRae became VP of the CLCA and the price of club coffee rose to \$.25

1985... Deanne Buchan, Isobel Campbell, Lil Richardson, Mary Shorten and Penny Brown were runners-up in the SOLCA Intermediate finals, and a rink skipped by Fred Hackel (with Scott Arnold, Cam Stevenson & Darryl Nodwell) competed in the Pepsi Junior Men’s Canadian Championships. A huge garage sale at the Ivanhoe raised over \$17,000 for next year’s Tournament of Hearts.

1986... **Scott Tournament of Hearts** – another big first for the city, LCC members once again played a very important role in organizing this event. Pat Steele served as General Chair of the Planning Committee, Joan Cuthbert was the Vice-Chair of Transportation, Marilyn Wearing was the Site Chair, and Dot MacRae was the CLCA Rep. Many others, too numerous to mention, also put in countless hours to ensure the success of London’s first “Hearts.” That year’s event was special for other reasons as well – the first time TSN provided weeklong coverage, the first time each team was allowed a “fifth” player, and the first time there was a “Team Canada” (Linda Moore’s BC rink). It also turned out to be the first time an Ontario rink -- Marilyn (Bodogh) Darte -- won the CLCA national championship.

(Author’s Note: Now, twenty years later, London looks forward to hosting its second “Hearts”, the 25th Scott Tournament of Hearts, in 2006. And once again, we will count on the energy and enthusiasm of our members to make it a success...) On a less serious note, the “inspired” theme of the ladies’ 2-day that year was the “Tournament of Tarts” ... You’ve got to love that!

1987... LCC published its first issue of *Rock Talk*, hired its first secretary and started stocking curling items for sale to its members. Bev Field, who had been listed as one of the top 10 women’s curlers in Ontario in 1986, skipped her rink to victory in the Intermediates.

1988... LCC hosted the **Ontario Pepsi Junior Championships**, co-chaired by Harry Steele and Sheila Betkus. The biggest non-curling event of that year was no doubt the change in LCC’s constitution that finally made women full voting members of the club. Up until that time, female members had voting rights in the Women’s Section, but could not vote for the Board of Directors. While female participation in all areas of the club’s operation is now taken for granted (and their organizational skills hopefully appreciated), I understand that there were a few pretty “heated debates” on the issue at the time.

In recognition of the changing times, the Roster book included, for the first time, business phone numbers for female members. 50/50 draws were started as a fundraiser for the Capital Building Fund.

DAYTIME WOMEN: FEBRUARY NEWS

The winning team of the six week **Bernie's Restaurant** event was Joanne Laws, with Ruth Prentice, Liz Nuttall and Dorothy Cousins. Second place team was Marlene Benny, Linda Peeling, Donna Wakefield, Fay Weiler, and third was the team of Mary Lou Dickinson, Lois Wright, Gail Agnew, and Kay Wicks. Eleanor Fair and Jean Cameron convened this draw and set up a fun "chicken wings" snack after the last game. Thanks to the sponsor for providing this "hot" and "tasty" treat, and the gift certificates given as prizes.

Holly Cox and Barb Vitkauskas have led the **WOMEN'S SOCIAL "Wednesday's at 10"** for five fun days from January 21 to March 10.

To complete the **WOMEN'S DAYTIME CURLING** commitment to the cost of the club's new awning, we have a new **fund-raiser**. We have been invited to participate in a special preview performance of the play *IF WE ARE WOMEN* by Joanna McClelland Glass, at the Place Theatre, May 12, 8 pm. The London Community Players offers tickets at \$5 each which club members can sell for



\$10. Forty tickets are available and the \$200 we garner from the sale of all 40 tickets will cover the balance of the expense of the awning. To make this a fun night we hope to meet at Bernie's (on Adelaide north of Central) after 5:30 for their "special" advertised in our club membership directory. The special is two-for-the-price-of-one hamburger or a pound of chicken wings. Let's go back to Bernie's after the play!!! Tickets are popular so call Pat Bell and be sure to get in on the fun night!

Twelve games were completed in the **DAYTIME WOMEN'S COMPETITIVE LEAGUE** round robin. The team of Marlene Benny, Isobel Campbell, Mary Lynne Patterson and Mary Lois Cooper were the winners. The 14 teams have been divided into A and B flights, and the current standings are: in A Flight, Marlene Benny's team is in first place with a record of 5 & 0, and Lil Richardson's team is second with a record of 4 & 0; and in B Flight, Sharon McLaren's team is leading with a 5 & 0 record, followed by Janet Stenson's team with a record of 4 & 1. The playoffs will finish on Friday, March 26. A potluck luncheon and prize presentation will follow the games that day.

Be sure to attend the WOMEN'S DAYTIME CURLING CLOSING MEETING AND LUNCHEON on Tuesday April 6 at 12:30. Penny Brown, Past President, has organized the menu and has distributed tickets for the executive to sell (Marg Sirna, Pat Bell, Mary Lois Cooper, Linda Karl, Joyce Hetherington). The cost is \$13. **Be sure to participate -- get your tickets NOW!**

CHEERS AND CHALLENGES from page 6

1989... One of the most successful competitive years in LCC's history, it saw three different teams reach provincial or national championships. Tara Stevenson, Christy Buchan, Melanie Leatham & Robyn Lowry won the **Ontario Junior Women's** title and advanced to the Canadian Junior Finals in Winnipeg. They also won the TCA Bonspiel in Toronto and travelled to Switzerland. That same year, Bill Dunlop's rink won the **Provincial Senior Mixed** title (Bill & Barb Dunlop and Dave & Anne Shaw). A senior women's team (Anne Shaw, Ginet DeMarchi, Shirley Vaile & Barb Dunlop) also made it to the provincial championships that year.

The decade draws to a close... Without question, the decade was a successful one in many aspects... a period during which both LCC and the sport of curling achieved some high profile exposure in London. There were, however, some negative signs on the horizon. The popularity of curling had clearly leveled off after the boom times of the 60's and 70's, and clubs were beginning to have more difficulty attracting new members. After more than 25 years of operation, the Ivanhoe closed its door to curlers and became a hockey only facility (The Brookside, gone now too...). Of course, the folding of the Ivanhoe meant that many of its members found a new curling home at LCC. A silver lining to every cloud, I guess you could say. On the other hand, when the popularity of a sport goes down, it does not bode well for anyone involved.

And the future holds... Fortunately, there have been many encouraging developments in the last few years as well. The recognition of curling as a sport in the Winter Olympic Games was certainly one of the most important. Improved TV coverage and new competitions – cash spiels and skins games – have also had a very positive impact in raising the public profile of the game. Curling remains one of the largest amateur sports in Canada, boasting over a million active players. On the other hand, it is estimated over 11 million Canadians will have watched it on TV this winter (that's slightly more than one of every three in the country!). All we have to do, it seems to me, is to convince just a few more of those TV viewers to pick up a broom...

That's why an event like the **2006 Scott Tournament of Hearts** is so important. It's an opportunity to show Londoners what a great sport curling is, and to show the country that London is still a great curling town.

Pat Bell

KIDS PAGE

JUNIOR NEWS

by Jayne Broughton

The Sinners group, headed by Gary Thompson, has approached the youth curling programs about making a financial donation to be used for the benefit of Little Rock, Bantam and Junior curlers. The coordinators felt that the training of our volunteers would greatly benefit the kids and the program itself. So it has been set up with Curl Ontario to run the Community Coach Phase 1 Program at the club before the start of the next season and the money will be used to pay the registration fees for the growing number of volunteers who help our young curlers. The class will be held on Sunday, October 17th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In other news, the Junior mixed team of Skip Robert Broughton, Vice Sarah Gray, Second Jordan Sutherland and Lead Chelsea Hicks represented the club in Chatham at Zones. They played well but did not make it to regions this year. We are active in planning and welcoming the Bantams and Juniors Mixed Provincial Championships to the London Curling Club at the end of March.

Our year end party will be on March 28, and we will be saying goodbye to some of our juniors who will be heading off to college and university -- Robert Broughton, Jordan Sutherland and possibly Chelsea Hicks who is yet undecided.

BANTAM NEWS

by Rick Battson

The bantam curling program this year was a great success. We had 33 bantam curlers (grades 6 to 8). Over the season, the kids learned the basics of curling and developed their skills. Most important, they learned sportsmanship and team work.

On February 29, we held a family fun day and the young curlers had a chance to show their parents, brothers and sisters what they learned. I think the parents had quite an eye opener when they tried delivering rocks. Many had no idea how difficult a curling delivery can be to master.

Our youth program would not be possible without the many volunteers who help out. My sincere thanks to parents who assist on the ice, those who help with parties, organizing bonspiels, taking attendance . . . the list goes on. I would also like to thank the club and its staff for their help and for making the kids feel so welcome. Parents or others who may have suggestions on how to improve our program are encouraged to contact me at 439-7105 or by e-mail at rbattson@execulink.com

Have a great summer and I hope to see all the kids back next fall.

LITTLE ROCKS

by Brent DuPlessis

As another year "draws" to a close I want to thank all the participants in the Little Rocks program for "delivering" their best effort to make the season a success. Hopefully all this year's curlers and a "house" full of new curlers will be set to start another successful season in the fall when Dave Dreher will be co-ordinating the program. I trust Dave will receive as much help as I did this year. Have a great summer!

LITTLE ROCKS SPECIAL EVENTS

by Dave Dreher

By the end of this year, our Little Rockers will have participated in four bonspiels: Highland, Dundas, Ilderton and our own LCC spiel. Sunday, February 22 was the date of the annual spiel in Ilderton, and the LCC had four teams participating. A great time was had by all. Here are the standings: First place in the regular rock division with 34 1/2 points went to Skip Jordan Baldwin and his team of Nathan Cowderoy, Connor MacLeod and Josh Baldwin; Second place in the Little Rock division with 29 3/4 points went to Skip Steven Pettigrew and his team of Emily Morgan, Charlotte Galloway and Madison Galloway; and tied for Fourth place with 15 3/4 points in the regular rock division were the teams skipped by Clarrisa Morgan (playing with Dillon Phoenix, Andrea Holstein and Sean Kearney) and Michael Dreher (whose team consisted of Julia Mackey, Taylor Lamb and Paul Galbraith).

I would like to thank all of our volunteers for making this season a big success for all of our children. A special thank you goes out to Brent DuPlessis who was our convenor this year, and to Mark Zettler, Mike Williams, Glenda Baldwin, Brian Kearney and Brian Cowderoy who did a great job as on-ice volunteers.

Thanks in advance to the many parents who will be helping with the closing party and our annual "Optimist Club Bonspiel" which takes place on Saturday, March 20th, and we especially appreciate all the hard work of Andrea Child and company! Without our sponsors, this spiel wouldn't happen ... so our sincere thanks go out to the Optimist Club of Middlesex-London, Tower Electric, North Pole Trim and Supplies, and Why Designs. And we are grateful to the Sunday morning Sinners Breakfast group – Gary Thompson and friends – for their generous donation to our programs.

Thanks for a very successful season, and I look forward to working with you all again next year

WE NEED YOUR OLD TROPHIES!!

If you have any old trophies that are collecting dust in the your basement, why not put them to good use and donate them to our youth curling programs?



We'll clean-up and recycle those mementos of the "old days" and give them a new home. Please drop off at the bar or office any time. Thanks!

The Psychological Curler: The Wave

One of the more universal phenomena in curling is the wave. It is used by the amateur as adroitly as by the professional, and respectfully holds its place across all age groups and genders. It seems to have maintained its usefulness through all the changing times of our sport.

The wave is that seemingly inconsequential gesture that follows almost every shot. It occurs just before, or directly after, your shot has reached the end of the ice. Your fellows sometimes turn and face you, or may simply offer it with their backs turned to you...

It was one of my curling friends who first asked the question, "Why do we always wave to the shooter from the other end of the ice when the shot is finished?" I have not ceased since then to try to understand it. It's not like the shooter is unaware that the shot is over, as they can see it too, nor does it signal the beginning of the next shot. Often, the wave is higher and more emphatic when your shot does as intended and more subdued when you've missed, so it may be a gesture of success or failure.

Is it an attempt to be inclusive of the shooter when his/her whole team is at the far end of the sheet? If so, then why don't we all wave to the skip before each shot? Despite its mystery we continue to do it, and the shooter responds in kind. Somehow, it just makes sense, as if we are saying with the wave of a hand, "that was a shot, and we congratulate you on taking it."

Chris Henderson

VALENTINES DINNER PARTY

by Convenors Sharon Sivak and Joan Cuthbert



Seventy guests enjoyed an evening of dining and entertainment at the L.C.C. Valentine Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, February 14th. Joan Cuthbert catered the delicious meal ... Linda Cuthbert played the piano and was MC for the evening ... entertainment was provided by "London Idol", singer Sam Taylor!

Special thanks go to our Junior curlers -- Keith McDonald, Mitch Sutherland, Pierre LeDreff/Kerwin and Juan David/Rojas -- who set tables and served. Other helpers and volunteers were Jane Twynham, Paula Twynham, Jane Copp, Fay Weiler, Andy Markes, Sharon Sivak, Bob Sivak, Willie Weiler, Bill Cuthbert, Marg Fliss, Joan Dickie, Pat Chater, Janet Stenson, Karen Lowry, and Joanne Laws. What a wonderful evening! And the bonus? The event raised over \$1360 for the Capital Fund!

Women's Two Day

Spring weather matched the theme we chose for the Women's Two-Day Bonspiel ... "Paris au Printemps". The curling club came alive with 96 enthusiastic curlers from 10 Ontario curling clubs amid tulip, crocus and daffodil blooms.

Mike Milhouse, our MC for Monday evening's entertainment, performed his guillotine duties on curlers who did not conform to the conduct expected at LCC! Winners of the entertainment prize went to the **Parisienne Idol** and her trio consisting of Marg Fliss, Joan Dickie, Sharon Sivak and Holly Cox. For their entertainment efforts, they received a lemon – they were good, but not THAT good!! Exciting games continued into the finals with an enthusiastic audience that cheered for the local favourites. Our congratulations go to **Jill Day** and her team of Linda Karl, Sue Lundy and Penny Brown for winning the first event. Event winners were:

Scotia McLeod	Jill Day	LCC
Sawmill Creek	Carolyn Shepherd	Ilderton
Cameron Glass	Lois Taylor	Sarnia
Can-Am RV	Gayle Annett	Windsor
Drennan Refrigeration	Cathy Moncur	Beachgrove
Gregory's Optical	Janet Blair	Sarnia

We thank all our sponsors for their continued support of this bonspiel. We also appreciate the dedicated staff at the LCC ... thanks Barb, Lil, John, Paul, Dan and Kevin for all your support. Thank you Bruce Cooper for the continuous support you give to the LCC -- the handcrafted French wall clock, guillotine and cheese boards you made and donated to the spiel were popular items.

To the many, many women curlers who contributed in so many ways to making this a successful event again this year, we give our heartfelt thanks.



*Marlene Benny, Isabel Campbell, Mary Lynne Patterson, Mary Lois Cooper
2004 Women's Two-Day Bonspiel Committee*

SPORTING COMPARISONS: How Rational are your Decisions?

by Dave Shaw

Did you ever wonder about the decisions you make and how rational they are? Well in a fit of academic rigour, I accepted the challenge of determining how rational my (our) decisions are with respect to selecting recreational sports to pursue. I concluded that I needed a rational choice model that would serve as a base for my statistical measures. I concluded that as Canadians we have two natural rational choice models:

1. The market model. Choose the sports that offer the greatest return on your investment – so the return is the excess of pleasure achieved over the cost of participating and the investment is what you have to put into learning the sport and the cost of getting started.

2. The socialist model. Ask the governments at all levels which sports are best for you and participate in the “best” ones.

Being inclined somewhat towards the first model, I decided to pursue it first.

Now the measurement begins – let’s start with the measure of pleasure (satisfaction) we get from playing the sport. Let’s take curling, for example. What pleasure do you get from the game? Is it playing? Or winning? Or making shots? Or sweeping? Does it vary according to whom you are playing? How many pleasure units (PU’s) do you achieve per game? The first key measure in our rational decision model is the number of PU’s achieved.

The next key measure is the measure of the pain associated with playing the game. Now this pain comes in several forms. First, there is the cost pain. So the greater the cost of playing the sport, the greater the cost pain. So we will measure the dollar pain in units that we will call cost units (CU’s). In addition, there may be physical pain either anticipated from playing the game or realized after the game, so we may decide not to play because of the potential physical health problems. Let’s call these health units (HU’s). And then there is the emotional pain (need I say more!) that goes with playing a sport, so the emotional units (EU’s).

So, return for each sport = PU’s - (CU’s + HU’s + EU’s) and we choose those sports which have the greatest positive differences. How are we doing so far? Feel you’ve got it right?

What about the investment? The learning of the game, possibly with lessons, takes an investment of time and money. The equipment necessary to play the game is a factor. And if you have to pay an initiation fee just to be able to play the game, then that is part of the investment too. Note that these are all cost factors although we may discover health and emotional issues we did not know we had as we proceed.

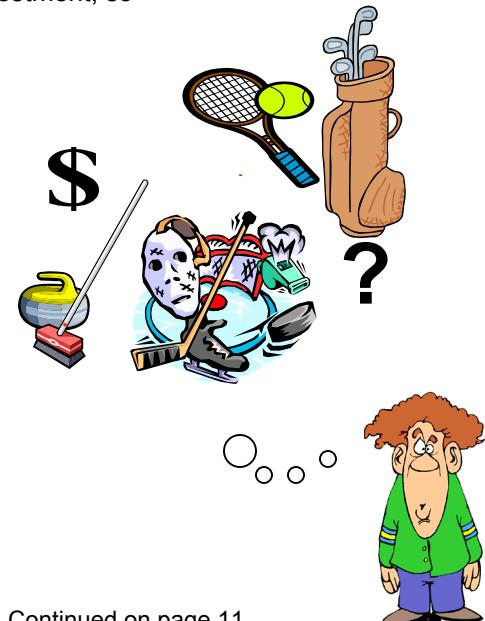
So, Investment = CU (learning) + CU (equipment) + CU (initiation) + EU (frustration). And if we believe our model, we choose the sports that give us the greatest rate of return on investment, so

$$\text{Rate of return} = \frac{\text{Return}}{\text{Investment}} \times 100.$$

Now we get to the measurement of these variables. Quickly I concluded that I did not have the slightest idea how to measure my PU’s, or HU’s or EU’s. But I have some costs of different recreational sports. Perhaps you can use them for your own model and conclude for yourself whether your decisions are rational or not.

I chose four sports: Curling, Golf, Tennis and Hockey. I organized the costs into three categories; Investment, Operating and Social. The operating costs include costs for playing, supplies needed, and costs to maintain, replace and repair equipment. Social costs are the expected social amenities that the sport demands.

I assumed for each sport that the participant played twice a week for the normal season. I calculated an operating cost per hour and an operating cost per game. I also calculated a social cost per game and added it to the operating cost to get an overall cost per game. Certain assumptions drive some of the numbers, so for example, I assumed that the social cost of a curling game was for the evening game and the price of two beers. The results are presented in Table 1.



Continued on page 11



PRO SHOP

by Andrea Child

The London Curling Club Pro Shop has had a phenomenal year! A huge “thank you” to all those participated in that success ... Alec Curtis, Don Dudley, Pat Bell, Marilyn Wearing, Lil Richardson, Bud Boyd, Greg Lewis and the interim office managers volunteered so much of their time to assist our customers. Bartenders John, Paul and Alana also deserve a round of applause for assisting with Pro Shop sales whenever they could. And THANK YOU to the all the members and guests of the London Curling Club for “buying local” and supporting our club! REMEMBER -- it's not too late to buy that new gripper for next season ... our sale prices will continue until the end of the season!

SPORTING COMPARISONS continued from page 10

TABLE 1
COSTS OF RECREATIONAL SPORTS PER HOUR AND PER GAME
LONDON ONTARIO 2004

FACILITY	CURLING	TENNIS	GOLF	HOCKEY		
			Private	PUC	Huff/Puff	PUC
INVESTMENT						
Dollars	\$150	\$300	\$11,600	\$1,100	\$800	\$800
Learning Cost	Low	Mid	High	High	Mid	Mid
OPERATING COST (assuming two games per week)						
Operating Cost per hour	\$3.80	\$17.66	\$15.62	\$5.18	\$4.29	\$7.98
Operating Cost per game	\$7.60	\$17.66	\$62.48	\$20.72	\$6.44	\$11.97
SOCIAL COST PER GAME	\$7.50	\$	\$12.50	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$
TOTAL COST PER GAME	\$15.10	\$17.66	\$74.98	\$23.72	\$8.44	\$11.97

If we measure operating cost on a consistent basis (per hour of participation), curling is the least expensive game among those evaluated and with the options chosen at \$3.80 per hour. If a person played more than twice a week the costs would fall accordingly since the operating costs are virtually all fixed. Surprisingly, tennis is more expensive per hour than any of the other sports from an operating position.

The investment in curling is low compared to the cost of other sports. Shoes and a broom and low cost-of-learning make this sport a very low entry cost sport compared to the others. Initiation fees make private golf clubs very expensive investment decisions.

The social cost of curling is a significant cost relative to the operating costs. Other sports do not have the social requirement although private golf courses have a minimum bar and restaurant tab. With this social cost added, the cost of a curling game rises above hockey but still below golf and tennis. Remember too, that a curling game takes two hours while tennis is only one and hockey one-and-a-half.

So what have we learned? Golf is expensive especially if you play at a private club. Curling is inexpensive but the social cost bumps it up somewhat -- but isn't the social side of curling what we all cherish?

Maybe we should just ask the government what sports to play. It would be so much easier!

THE FINAL RESULTS ARE IN!

The first week in February saw second halves of our "home and home" with both Highland Curling Club and St. Thomas Curling Club. The London Curling Club Senior Men are to be congratulated for their fine efforts by winning the Highland Friendly AND the Medcalf Trophy Spiels in 2004! The final score for the Highland Friendly Spiel held on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, was London Curling Club - 129 and Highland Curling Club - 105. The final score for the Medcalf Trophy Spiel held on Friday, February 6, was London Curling Club - 152, and St. Thomas Curling Club - 112.

To everyone who participated, thank you and congratulations on a job well done!

Don McKay, President
Senior Men

A TRIVIA ANSWERS from page 5

1. Channel-stane
2. JUNIOR Grades 9 – 12, BANTAM Grades 6 – 8, LITTLE ROCKS Grades 3 – 5
3. ONTARIO – Skip Wayne Middaugh, Vice Graeme McCarrel, Second Ian Tetley (all from Ontario), and Lead Dale Ness (from Quebec).
4. Team Canada, 7 – 4
5. James Hamilton

TV RAFFLE CANCELLED

Apologies from the organizers of the proposed TV raffle ... they were unable to put all the pieces in place to run the draw in time for the end of the season.

BAR SHOTS



Thank you for your patronage of the bar this year, and for taking such good care of your bartending staff!!

Alana, Paul and John

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**NEWS FROM YOUR OCA REPS****From Dave Heinrichs**

Two OCA events are still running that involve London Curling Club teams. Jim Champagne and his team of third Grant Doty, second Jeff Parsons and lead Bob Bourdeau have gone through Colts zone and regional playdowns undefeated and will be playing in the Colts provincial playdowns at the Wingham Golf and Curling Club March 24th-27th. LCC wishes them Good Luck!

In one of the last OCA events of the year, the David Heinrichs and Paul Purves teams are joining forces to play in the Silver Tankard (a two team combined-score event) zone playdowns which will be held at the Forest Curling and Social Club March 20-21.

It's been an interesting year in the OCA, to say the least. Thank you to all members who participated in OCA events. You represented our membership extremely well. The LCC sincerely hopes that members will continue to participate in OCA events in the coming years.

From Linda Karl

As this year's curling season quickly draws to a close I would like to thank the McCormick and Rochefort rinks who represented us in OCA playdowns at the Hearts and Intermediate levels respectively.

All entry sheets are now down for this year but will reappear in the Fall. Please give some thought over the summer months to entering a rink in one of the many levels of competition offered. The London Curling Club has such curling depth - let's tap these strengths and make our presence felt even more in 2004/2005 !!!!!!!

I would like to thank my fellow representatives for their valued input this year, and Sylvia Leuszler for her assistance.

Have a GREAT summer - look forward to seeing everyone back on the ice in October.

MARCH

11,12,13	Ontario Winter Games
17	Curl for Cancer
20	Little Rocks Bonspiel
23	Business Women's Party
24	Tier 70
24	President's League
25	Closing Party
26,27	Sweeney Dinner
28	Mixed Playoffs
29	Little Rocks, Bantam & Junior Party
29	Senior Men Closing Party
	Miller Playoffs (continued April)
30	Closed for Maintenance (evening)
31	OCA Mixed Provincials (continued April)

APRIL

1,2,3,4	OCA Mixed Provincials
5,6,7,8	Miller Playoffs
6	Women's Closing Meeting
7	Business Women's Party
11	Skate Off

Have a Wonderful Summer

**"THANK YOU" from ROCK TALK**

This is our last issue of the 2003-2004 season. So many members have contributed to RockTalk throughout the year. Special thanks for another great year to **Marg Sirna**, who writes so many of our informative articles and helps to edit the final product. We are delighted to have **Chris Henderson** back with us ... Chris's writing AND computer skills have again been much appreciated! **Connie Weir** is to be congratulated for the wonderful "history lessons" she's given us throughout the season ... an incredible amount of research was involved and we are grateful for all her hard work. **Linda Round** has done a great job scouring the club and newspapers for tidbits of information which she turns into trivia questions for you in each issue ... thank goodness she provides us with the answers, too! And thanks to **Doug Weir** for all his efforts in 'copying' RockTalk onto the club website (an onerous task at times!). **Mr. Completely and Ms. Takes** have gone south for the winter but we hope to hear from them again in the fall. Thanks, too, to all the **Members of the Board** and our **OCA Reps**, to the **LCC staff**, to the **convenors** of all the events and bonspiels, to **Committee members** and the general **membership** for being so enthusiastic about providing articles and information. What a pleasure it has been to work with all of you! Cheers! Wink

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