



ROCK TALK

March 2005

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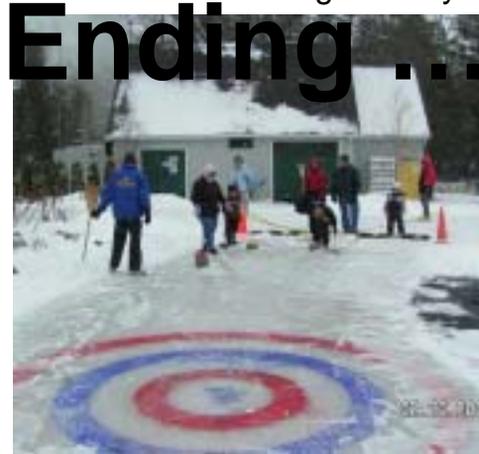
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SPIRIT OF CURLING AWARD

Nomination information
page 2
Past winners
pages 6-7

A Storybook

LCC Promotes Curling at Storybook Garden's Winter Funderland



LCC was proud to be asked to participate in and promote the sport of curling to youngsters at Storybook Garden's 2nd Annual Winter Funderland. Andrea Child, our resident pro, was on hand at the park showing kids what curling was all about and promoting youth curling at the LCC. Storybook had sectioned off a portion of their skating pad and painted curling rings under the ice. LCC supplied the temporary hack, little rocks and brooms. The Funderland activities were held over the weekends of February 19-20 and 26-27 - in sun and snow!! In all, over 150 kids, and even some of the parents, gave curling a try! As you can see from above, even "Sonny the Seal" tried his luck at tossing a stone!

CASINO NIGHT AND BANQUET

Saturday April 16 at 6 p.m.
at the London Curling Club
Tickets \$20 each
Buffet Dinner Catered by Linda Arthur
Followed by Card & Casino Night
for your Entertainment
March 28th sign-up deadline
(sign-up sheet in the main floor lounge,
tickets available from the bar, the office,
from Mike Bancroft or Bruce Cooper



SO MANY COOKS !!!

Just another reminder to those of you who use the London Curling Club's kitchen facilities that the LCC

DOES NOT HAVE A DISHWASHER. The appliance that graces our kitchen is only a **SANITIZER.**

The rules for use, as outlined by the Middlesex Health Unit, are posted over the unit, and these rules must be followed. All dishes must be **WASHED BY HAND** in hot soapy water (not just rinsed of food). They are then **RINSED BY HAND** before being placed in the sanitizer for sanitizing only!

The cooperation of all members will be appreciated.

**Marc Claveau,
Housekeeping Committee**



2004-5 Fund-Raising Summary

Many members have spent a lot of time and effort in raising money to decrease our \$100,000 bank loan. Also most members have supported these fund-raising efforts. Many thanks to everyone involved!! A very preliminary summary of the funds turned in to date is shown below:

Tuesday night Social	\$ 425
Fun Bonspiel	1165
Ladies Daytime	3670
Friday Night Mixed	1774
Thursday Night Business	<u>76</u>
TOTAL	\$ 7110

Several leagues and groups have not yet reported, and a final list will be presented at the Annual Meeting. From other known ongoing activities, we should have close to \$10,000 in fund-raising, a very substantial and important amount for the LCC. Congratulations again to everyone involved.

Mike Bancroft



ICE MAINTENANCE

Due to the extreme cold air temperatures that we experience in January and February, Ice 1 and Ice 6 become sloped. What is happening is that the ice is slowly turning into water vapour. The fancy name for it is sublimation. The rest of us call it freeze drying. It's about the states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. When it's frozen, water can jump from solid directly to gas, skipping the liquid state, usually in between. It's also what causes that homemaker horror: freezer burn.

During the months of October, November and December, the air temperatures in the rink area are usually 35 to 40 degrees, so sublimation is not occurring. Ice 1 and Ice 6 are level. But in January and February the air temperatures average about 25 degrees and as low as 18 degrees, causing sublimation. To correct the topographical state of the ice, we do an ice maintenance which starts with burning the ice and vacuuming the water up. This cleans the ice nicely. It is done with a 13' ice melter requiring 3 people about 7 hours to complete. It also warms up the air temperature above 32 degrees so we can flood. You cannot flood below 32 degrees because the water will freeze from the top as well trapping air pockets in the ice causing an unstable surface.

The burning and vacuuming take away about 600 gallons of water and we then put about 600 gallons back in the flood. The flood takes 2 people an hour-and-a-half. Every time we have done this, about 3 hours after the flood the only wet areas of the ice are one half of Ice 1 and Ice 6, showing what the sublimation of the ice had done. It takes about 5 hours for the ice to completely freeze. The next step is to chop the ice out of the hacks and scrape and pebble the ice about six times to ready the ice for play. This process takes 3 people about 8 hours.

The whole process takes about 24 hours to complete and about 50 man hours.

Kevin Breivik

“Spirit of Curling Award”

It's not too late to nominate YOUR candidate for this year's SPIRIT OF CURLING AWARD. Nomination forms are available in the lounge and all active members (except members of the Board of Directors) are eligible nominees.

The deadline for nominations is March 31. The Awards will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

(See centerfold “photo collage” of previous winners on pages 6 and 7 of this issue).

SURVEY ANALYSIS March 2005

Key points from the Survey analysis

Total of 231 (123 male and 108 female) responses have been received and analysed.

- 71.9% (166 members) voted for "one night curling fee". It is important to note that only 21.6% (50 members) responded that they will use the option if they've been given the "one night curling fee" option.
- Club members notified that they knew of 135 potential new members who would consider joining if one night per week curling fee was introduced.
- 82.3% (190 members) have said "yes" to the existing length, start and end date of the season. However, there is a need to review beginning of season for some leagues
- 75.8% have agreed with the volunteer management at least until club is financially out of debt. Only 20% of surveyed members believe in full-time paid manager.
- It is wonderful to see that 92.2% are planning to come back next year.
- 58.9% of surveyed members are satisfied with the club.
- Less than 10% of members fall under 35 years of age group. It is our responsibility to be more creative in attracting and keeping younger members.

Membership Committee:

Guiti Massoumi, Marc Claveau, and Joanne Laws

List of suggestions from surveyed members

- Find ways to eliminate "byes" in all leagues
- Create more competitive and mixed leagues during the week
- Offer more clinics for novice and intermediate curlers throughout the year
- Communicate with members, especially new members
- Create "Buddy system" for new members
- Organize funspiels that would give new members an opportunity to meet existing members
- Name tags for new members; increase membership fee by few dollars
- Review the additional costs involved in the hiring of a club manager
- Assure bonspiels scheduled during the weekdays do not interfere with the evening league schedules
- Improve parking lot security
- Improve the junior program that will make our juniors more competitive
- Review fees schedule
- Reduce ice rental conflicts
- Implement an "incentive" for early payment - membership fees
- Improve the ice
- Improve the kitchen facility
- Provide better food at the bar
- Improve men's lockers room
- End games within scheduled times

WANTED:

Competitive Teammates!!

Marilyn Beernink (who is new to the club this year but not new to the game) wishes to be part of a provincial competitive curling team next year. She is looking for teammates at the intermediate level, either women's or mixed.

Please contact her at beernink@sympatico.ca or fax a written note to 473-1202.



OCA REPORT

As our curling year draws quickly to a close we would like to thank all of the members of the London Curling Club for their support and cooperation during the past two years. We would especially like to recognize those who represented the club in OCA competitions this past year. From the women's side we had the Rochefort Rink entered in Intermediates and the MacRae Rink in Masters. From the Mixed we had the McLean Rink. From the Men we had the Heinrichs and Beckett rinks represent us in Kia Cup zone playdowns and Beckett entries also in Intermediates, Holiday Inn Challenge, and Colts.

Our thanks too for the help we received during our hosting of the Kia Cup men's zones last December - the ice was great and the competition keen.

Linda's term as women's representative is now up and she will be replaced by Sylvia Leuszler and her assistant Linda Peeling. Good luck gals. Sue Beckett will be representing the Juniors for the coming season. The OCA men's rep for 2005-2006 has not yet been confirmed.

As this goes to press any further hosting of OCA events has not been determined for the 2005/2006 season (OCA Spring meeting for Zone 16 is to be held in Ilderton on May 5th at which time further events are awarded) but the reps will keep us all posted in the Fall.

Next season will be particularly exciting for all **London** and area curlers as we look forward to having the Tournament of Hearts at the JLC in 2006 !!!!!!!!!!! This is a wonderful chance for us all to get involved as volunteers and spectators.

Have a great summer !! Shall look forward to seeing everyone back on the ice in the Fall.

Linda Karl and Dave Heinrichs.

HEARTS SMARTS

Jack Phillips



In this issue of Rock Talk we are going to report on our visit to St Johns Newfoundland to attend the 2005 Scott Tournament of Hearts. Ten members of the London organization committee, including Gord cNabb, Event Coordinator for London, attended the event in St Johns. Curling games were held in Mile One Stadium and the Heart Stop Lounge was at the Convention Centre. The main Hotel for the Tournament was the Delta. These three facilities were all connected by covered walkways. Mile One Stadium had a seating capacity of 6500 and the Heart Stop Lounge had a seating capacity of 1500. The three facilities were all located in the downtown area of St Johns.

The London Committee had a booth in the Stadium during the event and the last information available was that 20 ticket packages were sold. There were a number of enquiries made about London and some of the out-of-town volunteers advised us that they would be filing an application for volunteer positions.

Mile One Stadium personnel acted as ticket takers at the entrances and all the ushers were Mile One personnel as well. There was one restaurant in the Stadium similar to the one we have in the John Labatt Centre. The total attendance at the event in the Stadium was slightly under 73,000. The Committee had hoped for an attendance figure of 80,000 and Warren Hansen from the Canadian Curling Association told the media that he had hoped for an attendance figure of 100,000. The draws on the opening Saturday and Sunday were well attended while the draws on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday were small and left a lot of room for improvement. Attendance did pick up on Thursday and Friday. A large crowd was on hand for the semi final and championship game on Sunday afternoon. We understand that school children were bused in for the morning draws and created a lot of excitement.

We were told that there is only one Curling Club in St Johns with a membership of approximately 200 so the committee had to recruit most of the volunteers from the community to reach the 600 plus volunteers required. The stores in the downtown area were decorated with Hearts memorabilia and prizes were awarded to the top 3 stores. We found the citizens of St Johns to be very interested in the Hearts and the clerks in the stores, the cab drivers and the restaurant personnel were very friendly and helpful.

The Hearts Stop Lounge was open every day from 10 am to 1 am. Lunch was provided in the Lounge at noon hour but no food was available at other times of the day and evening. Attendance was light during the day but certainly picked up in the evening after the games were completed. After the tie breakers on Friday the place was packed with people. This was probably the best night in the Lounge, and we were told that the beverage and snack sales were approximately \$ 24,000 for that day. This figure was far above the sales for the opening night of approximately \$15,000. The entertainment was good but we felt it was too loud most of the time. We noticed that some people left after having one refreshment and we assumed it was because of the noise in the Lounge. It was impossible to strike up a conversation.

The St Johns committee members were eager to spend some time with us and were very helpful in providing information to us. They could not do enough for us and if we asked a volunteer to point out a vice chair or other committee member we wished to spend some time with. they went and found the individual and introduced that person to us. And after the first experience if they spotted us in the Lounge they would come and ask us if we needed any assistance. We were greatly impressed by the St Johns people. Heck, they even knew about the London Knights and wanted to know about their tremendous season.

It would have been nice to have two Ontario teams in the Hearts at London next year but everyone we talked to was impressed with the performance of the Ontario team from Ottawa and there is no doubt that Jenn Hanna and her team will be back.

Application forms for volunteers are now available at all four clubs. A meeting of the committee was held on Wednesday evening, March 9th.

Friday Night Mixed League

The season is quickly coming to an end. There have been a lot of fun evenings for members of the Friday Night Social League. Potluck dinners likely added a few pounds to those who didn't sweep hard enough.

Make sure your team signs up for the playoffs to be held on April 1 and 2. (Sign up sheets located at back bulletin board). Remember there is no mixed curling Good Friday March 25. We will likely continue the practice of passing out half of the prize money during the season draws to first and second place teams. The other half goes in the final playoffs

I expect a couple of teams we lost last year will return and some new league members from the Tuesday league will add to our numbers, so be sure to sign up for next season by Sept. 15th to ensure your team a spot. Sign up as a team, couple or single. We can only handle 42 teams in our present format.

Over the summer, talk up "Curling" to your friends to help add new members. Hope to see you all back next year

Remember there is no mixed curling Good Friday March 25

Don & Gail Agnew

YOUTH CURLING NEWS

Bantams

Rick Battson

On behalf of the Bantams, I would like to thank the staff of the curling club for the hospitality they showed the kids. I would also like to thank Derek and Sherry Shadlock for helping out with attendance and for making up the teams each week. I think the Bantams had an enjoyable season, learned a bit about curling, a bit about etiquette, a bit about sportsmanship and a lot about having fun. I hope all the kids have a great summer and **come back next year.**

Little Rocks

Dave Dreher

Well fellow curlers, we find ourselves near the close of another curling season. I would like to thank all that helped in the little rock program this year ... you guys know who you are. Special thanks to all the parents for travelling to the seven bonspiels we played in. Thanks also to John Spetman for all that pop consumed by thirsty young throats when coming off the ice. Our kids participated in the following spiels since our last report:

Ilderton Curling Club, February 20: Skip Nathan Cowderoy, Connor MacLeod, Zachary Sequin and Brett Power (won one, lost one, made some new friends and had a blast) and Skip Andrea Holstein, Heather Aipperspach, Ciarra Jensma and Daniel Mallett (lost both their games, but had a lot of fun playing).

Westmount Golf and Curling Club, Kitchener (lite rock spiel): Skip Nathan Cowderoy, Connor MacLeod, Russell Cuddie, Brett Power and Max Borrowiec. Thanks to Max for subbing. The boys did well, winning the first game and losing the second, for sixth place out of 12 teams.

Upcoming: on March 19 at the LCC, the 3rd annual Optimists Club of Middlesex-London Bonspiel for those 13 and under. LCC rinks playing at 9 am (half sheet): Skip Daniel Mallett, Sean Easter, Brandon Hay and Karley Hay, and Skip Blake Nichols, Alysha Child, Brett Power and Charlie Wearing. At 11 am (full sheet, regular rocks) Skip Nathan Cowderoy, Connor MacLeod, Ciarra Jensma and Travis Hay, plus Skip Andrea Holstein, Heather Aipperspach, Max Borrowiec and Colin DuPlessis.

Good luck to all our curlers, and thanks to all our sponsors who make this possible: The Optimists Club of Middlesex-London, Tozer Electric, NorthPole Trim&Supplies, Why? Designs, and London Ice Cream.

JUNIORS

Sue Beckett

The LCC Juniors would like to give a big thank-you to the Ladies Sinners group who made a donation to our program this year. It was decided to purchase a dozen stop watches from the Club Pro Shoppe to enable us to further our curling instruction. Thanks very much ladies!

Our final day is March 20. We will be having fun doing a turkey shoot and a Hot Shots Competition complete with cars to take home for the winners.

We will be recognizing the four most consistent curlers in our group this year. The four are Tom Pickles, Cory Downing, Thomas Beckett and Mark Medeiros. We will also be recognizing the students who are in Grade 12 and have contributed so much to our Junior Program over the years. These are Cory Downing, Mark Medeiros, Dan Mudry, Jean-Paul Myers, Emily Phillips, Tom Pickles, Andrew Romagnoli, and Dylan Zimmerman.

We wish all of these curlers the best for the future and invite them to come curl with us if they are around on a Sunday afternoon.

I would personally like to thank Bob Davis and Pat Downing for all their help this year. Bob has always been available to help me and the teens on the ice with the games. Pat has helped in many different ways no matter what I asked her to do. Thank you both so much.

If anyone knows of a high-school-aged student who would like to participate on a Sunday afternoon, get them to sign up next year. We have a lot of fun and would welcome both beginner and experienced curlers.



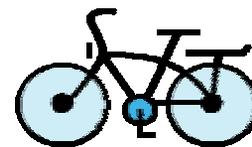
Monday thru Friday 7am - 11pm
Saturday, Sunday 10am - 6pm
(519) 432-0112

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BIKE RAFFLE

This is your **LAST CHANCE** to purchase a ticket for the Schwinn Bicycle raffle.



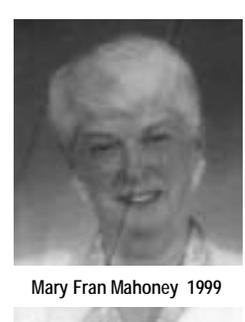
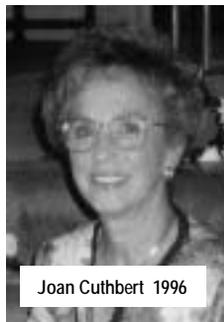
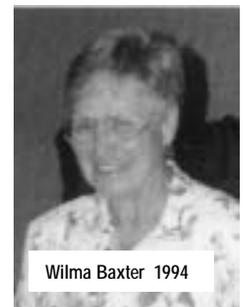
Tickets (one for \$5 or three for \$10) are available from John at the bar, Barb in the office, and from members of the fund-raising committee: Mike Bancroft, Marc Claveau, Bruce Cooper, Pam Harrison, Jack Phillips, Dave Shaw and Sharon Sivak. The draw will take place at the LCC on Friday March 18 during the Mixed Curling event.

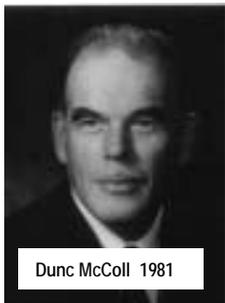
**Celebrating the Winners
of the
LONDON CURLING CLUB
“Spirit of Curling Award”**

Annually, a “Spirit of Curling “ award is presented to one man and one woman for good sportsmanship and skill. The winners of the women’s award, which was established in memory of Anne Shaw in 1991, have their names engraved on a Silver Bowl. Former club member Ken Koprowski proposed the men’s “President’s Award” in 1981, and the names of the winners appear on a Silver Tray. Recipients are determined by consideration of the following philosophy:

“While the main object of a game of curling is to determine the relative skill of the players, the spirit of the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honourable conduct.

Curling is a game of skill and of tradition. A shot well executed is a delight to see and so, too, it is a fine thing to observe the time-honoured traditions of curling being applied to the true spirit of the game.”





Dunc McColl 1981



Stan Ashworth 1982



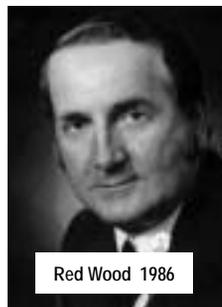
Ken Buchan 1983



Gil Walker 1984



Angus Jaynes 1985



Red Wood 1986



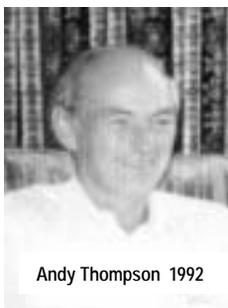
John Bullock 1988



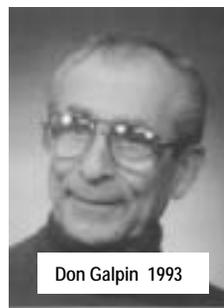
Don Willert 1989



Jim Fitzpatrick 1991



Andy Thompson 1992



Don Galpin 1993



Ray Sweeney 1994



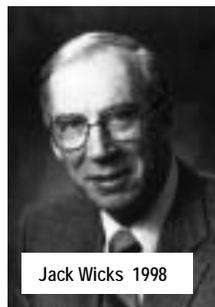
Jack Judd 1995



Boyd Hood 1996



Al McMillan 1997



Jack Wicks 1998



Harry Steele 1999



Garry Thompson 2000



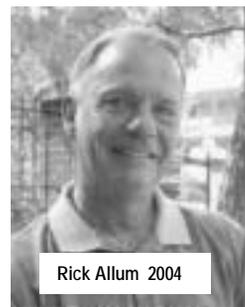
Dick Merrill 2001



Bill Easton 2002



Ken Walmsley 2003



Rick Allum 2004

DAYTIME WOMEN'S SECTION REPORT

Jean Walmsley

The news out of the Women's Daytime Section is that after considerable input from members, a decision has been made by the Executive to continue with the **Open League** curling on Friday. We will continue to monitor the number of Fridays that are available for this league. Dot and Jean wish to thank those many curlers who took the time and effort to make their views known in writing. There were many compelling reasons for continuing on Fridays and some for changing to Thursday, and a great deal of thought and reasoning went into many of the submissions. Also, thanks again to Jean Cameron for a very clear and concise report on this issue back at the opening meeting in October.

Dot MacRae and Jean Cameron wish also to express their sincere gratitude to the many women who convened and co-convened the many events for this section over this past year. We are still in need of **convenors** and **co-convenors** for several events for next curling season.....please call Dot or Jean to offer your services. It was another very successful year for the Women's section with 12 one-day events, three bonspiels and nine multi-day events. Also thanks to the many women who helped 'behind' the scenes....buying prizes, serving and preparing meals, decorating, cleaning up, doing dishes, providing loaves and squares and all the other 'little things' that make our events such a success and so enjoyable to so many. And of course, our many **sponsors**.....we could not do without them so be sure to use their services over the summer and let them know when you do.

Marg Sirna and her team provided two days of fun and great food in the **1st Annual Sheila Betkus Memorial Two Day Bonspiel** on March 7 & 8 in their German Biergarten. Her report appears elsewhere in Rock Talk. Thanks to you and yours, Marg.

Pam Harrison **Flip-Flopped** with 6 teams enjoying a 'crazy' game, lunch and prizes. There were several new curlers in attendance and thanks goes to the members who came out after the two-day to ensure that new curlers had this opportunity to curl.

The inaugural **Senior Mixed** event finishes March 30 with lunch and prizes. Sixteen teams have been competing on Wednesday mornings, sharing ice time with the Women's Social league. The event has proven to be a popular offering and will become a part of the 2005/06 curling calendar in the same time slot.

There are only a few more events until the end of curling season and all sign up sheets are posted now.....check the bulletin board. For new members, be sure to see what events are remaining; the one day events are non-competitive and give you that last chance to get in some curling. **For Fun** March 31 will be the last 'event' day and will feature a parade of Easter bonnets along with a curling game and lunch. The last game and pot luck luncheon for the **Open league** will be held Friday, April 1....note the revised timing of games for that day.

Remember the next **theatre night** on April 6 to see *Midnight Sun* ... tickets still available from Jean Walmsley and Pat Bell (the stage director for this play) for \$10 ... our final fund-raising event. To date our section has raised \$3,341 towards the **capital fund**. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Nominations are open for the **Spirit of Curling Awards** ... forms are available at the club for return by March 30.

The **closing luncheon and meeting** will be held on Tues April 5 and tickets are available from all members of the Executive for \$13 until Friday April 1. Come early for social time at 12 noon, lunch at 12:30 and meeting following. The new Executive will be installed and plans made for next year's activities. A slate of proposed nominations will be posted two weeks prior to the meeting. We will most definitely be looking for volunteers to co-convene next year's events so please come prepared to offer your services.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the members who so graciously welcomed and assisted the 22 **new curlers** who joined us this year.....we hope that you will all return next year. They have been a very keen group and have found everyone so helpful. We plan to hold a follow-up clinic for them on Monday, November 7 from 1-4 pm. Thanks also to this group of new curlers who kept us on our toes with their many questions about skills and etiquette. Their most frequent remark is, "It is not as easy as it looks on TV!" If you are aware of any new members for the fall or of any women moving from evening to daytime, please advise the vice chair over the summer so that arrangements can be made to have them introduced at the opening meeting in the fall and Big Sisters can be provided prior to the meeting.

Again this year some women of our section have worked in the office as **volunteer interim managers**... a very valuable contribution of time and effort. Thanks to all those whose volunteer spirit has made curling so enjoyable for all members of the section.

A very big thank you to the games committee for all their planning ... without their work none of the events would have happened.


ROSE & JOHN GERAGHTY
London Stores

1061 Wonderland Rd. S.	(519) 685-2261	Fax: (519) 685-7085
Westmount Shopping Centre	(519) 473-1103	Fax: (519) 473-1048
4530 Colonel Talbot Road	(519) 652-0700	Fax: (519) 652-6882
1322 Commissioners Rd. W.	(519) 641-2333	Fax: (519) 641-8580

“Bavarian Marchfest”

Marg Sirna

LCC was transformed into a “Bavarian Wonderland” on March 7 and 8, welcoming curlers from Windsor, Chatham, Sarnia, Stratford, Kincardine, Elmvale, Ingersoll, Aylmer, Ilderton & Highland, as well as our own club teams. The colour scheme of white, blue and gold was used by our decorators to provide atmosphere ranging from elegant dining to a more casual Bavarian Biergarten mode. The “Bavarian Marchfest” theme was carried throughout with the decorations and the food. Throughout the two days the curlers feasted on a selection of German foods, including sauerbraten and Black Forest cake.

This was the 38th year for the annual Women’s Two-Day Bonspiel and the first year renamed as The Sheila Betkus Two-Day Bonspiel. Sheila died in May, 2004, leaving a large void in our club. She was a curling enthusiast and did much to promote women’s curling in our club and across Ontario. To keep her memory alive and to remember her in connection with the sport she loved so well, this event has been named “The Sheila Betkus Women’s Two-Day Bonspiel”. A trophy has been created with her name engraved on it and it will reside in the club..

Following the Scottish tradition of curling, our first three trophy events were piped onto the ice for their final games by Alex Adams, a very talented young woman from the Strathroy Legion Pipe Band. The 2005 winner of the “A” Scotiabank event and the winner of the Bonspiel was the Carolyn Sheppard team from Ilderton Curling Club.

The many expressions of appreciation from our visitors, the excitement over the prize table, and the requests for recipes are all indicators of the good will the club gains through this event. Members of the London Curling Club were very generous with their time as they managed the kitchen, served meals and assisted the committee to keep the days moving along smoothly. We appreciate the outstanding assistance and cooperation we received from all LCC staff.

Danke!
Danke!
Danke!

The Sheila Betkus
2005 Women’s
Two-Day Committee



A BIG “THANK YOU” FROM YOUR PRO SHOPPE

The Pro Shoppe has enjoyed a great sales year and a BIG “THANK YOU” goes out to all members who shopped with us. As you know, all profits go directly to YOUR London Curling Club.

Another BIG “THANK YOU” goes out to our sales associates – Pat Bell, Bud Boyd, Andrea Child, Mark Claveau, Barb Colbourn, Alec Curtis, Joanne Laws, Lil Richardson, John Spetman, Marilyn Wearing, and all the volunteer managers – for a job “well done”. The Pro Shoppe could not have run without your continued and valued assistance.

Special “THANKS” go to Andrea Child, who spent countless hours showing (babysitting!) me the “ropes” of the Pro Shoppe. Your patience and experience during the transition process was invaluable as I tried to acclimatize myself with the responsibilities of the Pro Shoppe. A much deserved “THANK YOU”!

Looking forward to next year.

Bob Davis

This ‘letter to the editor’ appeared in the National Post following the STOJ and is reprinted with their permission.

Get to know your curling terms

Re: Jones Fires Winning Shot, Feb 28; Mixing Up Our Raises And Angle TakeOuts, letter to the editor, March 1.

Not to belabour the point – well OK, to belabour the point – in competitive curling parlance the shot that Winnipeg curling skip Jennifer Jones played to win the Scott Tournament of Hearts is known as an “in-off.” In Manitoba it is now also known as a “win-off” and in Ontario it is called a “piss-off.” To Manitoba supporters it was “Hail Mary” – as in their last desperate prayer. Ontario supporters can call it a “Hell Mary” as in “Hell Mary, that bison girl just made the shot of her life to beat us!”

Ken Thompson, writer and publishing partner, Ontario Curling Report, Kingston, Ont.

Spring Thaw

The annual "Spring Thaw" was held on Saturday, January 22nd. The sign-up sheet was filled within two weeks of posting it and we had two full draws competing. It was a good day to be inside as it stormed outside all day. The event included muffins and doughnuts in the morning, lunch and M&M Meat prizes for all.

John and Rose Geraghty from Tim Hortons were very supportive in providing the muffins and doughnuts for the morning and helped towards the prizes. Thanks also to Mark Castle, John Spetman and Heather Greenfield who helped in obtaining prizes for the elimination draw. Fay Weiler volunteered to keep track of the scoring and other functions throughout the day and we thank her as well.

Everyone had a good time ... and the event brought in a profit of \$779.96 for the club!

Marc Claveau



Answers to our "Hearts" Quiz

(from the February issue)

Q. Has an LCC member been to "The Hearts" other than when it was in London?

A. Ten members of the 2005 Hearts organizing committee, including Jack and June Phillips from the LCC, attended the Hearts in Newfoundland last month. We KNOW there are other members who have attended "Hearts" in the past but we didn't hear from you!

Q. Name the team that has won "The Hearts" more than twice? How many times and where?

A. Colleen Jones has skipped six teams to victory at the Hearts, in Regina (1982), Charlottetown (1999), Sudbury (2001), Brandon (2002), Kitchener-Waterloo (2003) and Red Deer (2004). Her current teammates are Kim Kelly, Mary-Anne Arseneault and Nancy Delahunt.



From the Desk of the SENIOR MEN

That other early February bonspiel "The Sweethearts", was convened with the dexterity expected of "the two Dons" (Dudley and McKay). Although only 33 curlers participated, the bills were covered (lunch, prizes and favours for the ladies) with a creative accounting surplus of \$4. Thanks to all for your participation in the 50/50 draw. I'm told that a special thank you should go out to Don Dudley, whose prize chocolates got re-awarded as a door prize, much to the surprise of Marj! The entertainment was provided by the "whole male assemblé" singing "Happy Valentine Day to You". Unrehearsed, too! Boy, I'm sorry I missed it.

Well! Did you get your names onto the "shootout" sign-up sheet? By the time you read this, the shootout will be under way. Four (or more, depending on last minute sign-ups) fixed teams will do battle on Mondays, March 14, 21 and 28 for the prestigious "At-A-Boys". Awaiting the winning team at our closing luncheon meeting.

The sign-up sheet for the **closing luncheon meeting** on Monday, March 28 at 12:45ish has been posted onto a bulletin board near you (west wall). John Spetman will supply the sustenance again at a very reasonable price so we are able to maintain the \$7-per-person cost. Come prepared to support another 50/50 draw pleeeeeeeeeease. Here are the items to be discussed:

- election of 05-06 executive
- your active participation in awarding the 'first annual' (we hope) "At-A-Boys"
- applause to the winning shootout team
- draw master convener re awarding of the Gerry Davies Plaque
- report from our treasurer re financial status and anticipated capital campaign contribution
- your president's parting shot (don't push!)
- our new president's remarks (give 'em hell Dick)

With such an exciting agenda, how could you not attend! See you there!

S.W.O.S.M.B. participants last month were: Blenheim (C. Townsend and R. LeBlanc), Ingersoll (J. Fitzpatrick), Sarnia (N. Sauter, R. LeBlanc, C. Townsend), Aylmer (R. LeBlanc, C. Townsend), Sarnia Mixed (B. Hart, R. LeBlanc), Tillsonburg (B. Boyd, B. Hart, R. LeBlanc), Kingsville (R. LeBlanc), Highland (B. Hart, B. McFarlane, R. LeBlanc, J. Fitzpatrick), Forest Tier 70 (B. Boyd), Forest (R. LeBlanc, B. Boyd, C. Townsend, B. McFarlane), Glencoe (B. McFarlane, R. LeBlanc), Ilderton (B. Boyd, B. McFarlane, R. LeBlanc, C. Townsend), Wallaceburg (R. LeBlanc, B. Hart), Exeter (B. Hart, N. Sauter, R. LeBlanc, B. Boyd, H. Buechler). The S.W.O.S.M.B. schedule will wind up on March 23 with a Tier 70 here at the LCC, under the able convening of Bob Hyatt and Don McKay.

Thus ends another well-attended season by "yous chappies". Your attendance and sociability is, as always, much appreciated by the other curling clubs. Cheers guys!

Dan McInnes

Quotes from the World of Competitive Curling



"If you don't know who the 'easy' game is, probably you're it!" (comment made during the Scott Tournament of Hearts by a CBC commentator, referring to the analysis by competing teams of their opponents' playing levels. (February 2005)

"Happier than a pig in poop" is how Brier 'rookie' Randy Dutiaume from Manitoba summed up being in this year's Brier competition. After a loss to Alberta's Randy Ferbey early in the week, he smiled when he said, "Today, I just feel like the poop!" He admitted though, that he was "honoured to be on the same sheet of ice as them." (Bob Weeks, Globe & Mail, March 9, 2005)



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PARTING SHOTS

If you've ordered a London Curling Club name tag, please be sure to pick it up from the bar before the end of the curling season.

"LOOKING BACK"

Did you guess correctly?



"Our "Looking Back" photo from the February issue featured (from left to right), Jim and Lil Richardson, and Fran and Gary Cruickshank, winners in 1982 of the Tyner Shorten "Touch of Class" Bonspiel.



MARJ CARSON CURL FOR CANCER

Berry Burrows and her team of Joyce Hetherington, Bonny Shawyer and Joyce Merrill won the 22nd annual Marj Carson Curl for Cancer held on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at the London Curling Club. It was a thrill to have Bill Carson visit and talk about Marj. Janice Bogard from the Canadian Cancer Society gave a short talk.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the baskets and silent auction, and assisted with the day by working in the kitchen, scoring, selling tickets, etc. You helped raise \$950 for cancer research.

Convenor Sharon Sivak
Co-convenor Linda Peeling

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 12 Family Bonspiel
- 19 Little Rock Bonspiel
- 23 Tier 70
- 25 Good Friday
- 28 Senior Men Curling and Closing Party
- 29 Tuesday Business Women's Party
- 30 President's League Closing Party
- 31 Sweeney Closing Party
- 31 For Fun

APRIL

- 1&2 Mixed Playoffs
- 4-8 Miller Playoffs
- 5 Daytime Women's Closing Luncheon
- 7 Business Women's Closing Party
- 10 Little Rock & Bantam Closing Party
- 16 End of Season Celebration Dinner and Card/Casino Night

A PERSONAL NOTE

Joyce and Dick Merrill would like to take this opportunity to say "Good Bye". For family reasons, we have decided to move back to Winnipeg so we will not be back next season.



We have certainly enjoyed our association with the London Curling Club and its members over the years and are thankful that you have been a part of our lives in London. Thanks for the fun time.

Joyce & Dick Merrill

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES at the LCC

Members of your advertising committee will be working hard throughout the spring and summer months to spread the word about the advertising opportunities available at the LCC next season.

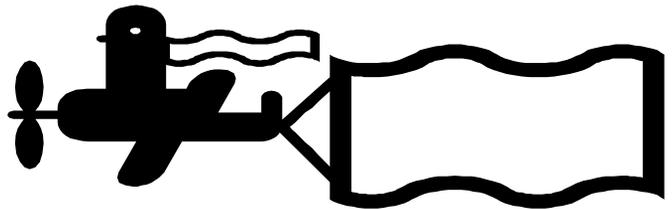
Don't miss out on the chance to advertise YOUR business or service to your fellow members and LCC visitors. Contact any one of the following committee members for further details.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Harry Steele | 660-0428 |
| Dennis O'Connor | 675-1945 |
| Barb Vitkauskas | 471-1821 |
| Wink DuBrule | 434-4410 |

"Curling is the most civilized and cultured use of ice yet invented by man. What you don't beat with a broom, you drop into a glass."



Del Bell,
London Free Press,
Sept 27,
1980



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Deadline for the October 2005 issue is September 23

