

ROCK TALK



Newsletter of the London Curling Club

March 2013

Bonspiel with a difference has a winning formula

The curlers march onto the ice to the music of the bagpipes, just like they do at the Tournament Hearts. But piper Eileen Robertson has more credentials than her musical talent and costume. A native of Scotland, she proudly bills herself an "authentic Scottish lady piper."

Off the ice, the curlers dress up as clowns and compete for best costume honours. Then there is the food and camaraderie.

"The drawing card for this bonspiel is the hospitality, people always go away praising the food," says Fay Weiler, who has volunteered at the annual Sheila Betkus two-day women's bonspiel for 15 years. "And we always have a theme. More than three-quarters of the curlers wore clown outfits for dinner."

Last year to mark the 60th anniversary of the bonspiel the curlers dressed for dinner in clothes reminiscent of 1952.

Weiler believes all of these elements contribute to the success of the Sheila Betkus two-day spiel. "Virtually no other bonspiels give you that combination," she says. While many bonspiels can no longer fill their draws, this event regularly has a full slate of 24 teams, although organizers have to work harder to fill it.

All that fun doesn't mean the curlers aren't serious when they are on the ice. The Scotia Bank event final went to an extra end between two Ilderton rinks in which each team threw only four rocks. Dalyce Southern's rink prevailed over Linda McKnight's team.

The bonspiel attracted teams from curling clubs in Aylmer, Chatham, Ilderton, Ingersoll, Sarnia, Tillsonburg, the LCC, Elmvale CC south of Barrie and a combined team from Highland and St. Thomas. **(More two-day bonspiel photos on Page 6.)**

Burt Dowsett



Left: Piper Eileen Robertson leads the curlers onto the ice for the final draw of the Sheila Betkus two-day women's bonspiel.

Above: The Ilderton Curling Club rink of skip Dallyce Southern, third Karen Grealis, second Ami Southern and lead Lisa Campbell won the Scotia Bank event trophy.

Women's two-day winners

Scotia Bank event:

Winner Dalyce Southern (skip), Karen Grealis, Ami Southern, Lisa Campbell (Ilderton); runner-up Linda McKnight rink (Ilderton); consolation Amie Shackleton rink (Ilderton).

Constellation Brands event:

Winner Mary Robertson (skip), Brenda Taylor, Jill Slaughter, Polly McDonald (Chatham); runner-up Lois Lindsay rink (Ingersoll); consolation Sharon Philpott rink (Sarnia).

Krown Rust Control event:

Winner Ferne Taggart (skip), Judy Van Ymeren, Bernita Jordan, Mae Legg (Aylmer); consolation Sheila Novlan rink (LCC).

Can Am RV Centre event:

Winner Wendy Young (skip), Shirley Ireland, Wendy Bowen, Isabel Brown (Tillsonburg); consolation Joan Dickie rink (LCC).

London Honda event:

Winner Miolyka Steele (skip) Wendy Foster, Pam Harrison, Deb Pullen (LCC); consolation Dianne McKenna's rink (LCC).

Mykonos event: Winner Brenda Thompson (skip), Jan Murray, Mary Ellen Duggan, Jinx Weise (LCC); consolation Doreen Stacey's rink (LCC).

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New curlers, club fellowship, club atmosphere highlights of a good season at LCC



With the beginning of March, the club is moving toward planning for season-ending activities such as social events, award presentations and making plans for the 2013-14 season. From my perspective it has been a good season so far with new curlers taking up the sport and members enjoying the friendly atmosphere and fellowship for which the club is known. Many members have been responsible for this. I would like to thank our league convenors, bonspiel convenors and interim managers for their dedication. I also want to thank and congratulate the editorial board of Rock Talk for putting together our newsletter in a very professional manner.

I would encourage every member to note the date of the Annual General Meeting, which will be on Tuesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. If you cannot attend please submit the signed proxy form that will be sent out in May. We need members to support this so we can proceed with the election of a new board of directors, approve the audited financial statements and chart new initiatives for the 2013-14 season.

Although the club is not like our provincial government, we are projecting an operating deficit this year. Rather than letting this get out of hand, our treasurer, Dave Peeling, along with the executive will need to “adjust” the membership fees to reflect increases in supplies, taxes, salaries and general maintenance. There has not been a fee increase in three years so I hope the membership will be understanding in this regard.

I would like to congratulate and thank the club coaches organized by Joyce Hetherington and the membership services committee chaired by Roger Moyer, who put on an excellent program on Family Day, Feb. 18. The clinic in the morning and the open mixed curling following it were well received and provided another opportunity to interest potential new members in our sport. I really liked the home-baked cookies!

On Saturday, March 16, the membership services committee is planning a “mixed, all-level, bring-a-friend” curling event that will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Teams will be organized on the day of the event. Please watch for details on the bulletin board.

Our salaried and contract staff members work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the club. It has been great to have the support of Doug Petch, Barb Colbourn, Kevin Breivik, Les Sonier, Mark Phillips and Janice Henry, our housekeeper. I would like to thank Ken Walmsley, a former manager, for his efforts in providing input related to staffing issues.

The executive, directors of portfolios and committee members will have lots of issues to consider for next season. I appreciate the support I have received from these groups in my attempt to facilitate the curling experience at our club. I hope all our members have had an enjoyable season and that you will make an effort to share this experience by introducing new members to the club. Enjoy the remainder of the season!

Gord Sellery, LCC President

End of season ☹️? 😐? 😊?

Curlers are reminded to remove all their belongings and the lock from their lockers at the end of the season. The lockers will be cleaned before the start of the 2013 – 2014 season.

Thanks for your co-operation.

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LCC member leads nation in Pick'Em challenge

Dave Mann has a hot hand. The co-convenor of the men's Monday night Miller League is tearing up the ice – and he's not even on it. He's participating in the Canadian Curling Association's (CCA) Pick 'Em Challenge. As of press time, Mann leads the nation. Currently, there are over 1,529 participants.

Here's how the contest works. Players earn points based on their picks for various tournaments posted on <http://games.curling.ca/pickem/>. Players receive: no points for an incorrect pick or if they don't make a pick; one point for every correct pick in round-robin games and tie breakers; two points for every correct pick for page playoff games; three points for every correct pick in semi-final games and four points for every correct pick in each championship game.

After each event, players earn digital medals, which are based on their performance for the week. Those with the highest score receive a gold medal; player(s) with the second-highest score receive a silver medal, while bronze is awarded to the player(s) with the third-highest score. The grand prize winner will receive a \$500 Future Shop gift card.

Mann saw the contest's advertisement on the CCA website and decided to participate. He finished first in the opening event – the Canadian mixed tournament. The Dominion bonspiel was the next event and he came in second.

"So with having luck early, I became committed to the contest," he said. "It never occurred to me that I could win an event, never mind the improbable possibility of winning this contest. I entered for fun."

There are still more events to be played and he said who knows where he will end up once these events are finished. He stressed the key to his success is that he doesn't know more than the next guy, he's "guessing and being lucky."

However, he does have some strategy for making selections. "When I have had mixed feelings about who to choose, I will usually pick the team with the hotter third. That doesn't sound right. Oh well, I just gave my secret away," he said.

The website also has a discussion board where people can talk about the games and you can also invite friends and create groups. Mann said the contest is a lot of fun. He added that if people are watching an event, such as the Brier or Scotties, participating in the contest provides a reason to cheer for a team.

"I'm certainly into it," said Mann. "One game at a time."

Gerry Rucchin

Miller League begins playoffs on March 18

The Miller League's 2012-13 regular season is wrapping up its schedule on March 11. The playoffs to determine the league champion will begin on Monday, March 18. The top eight teams will play for the right to represent the league in the club championship beginning on April 9.

Teams that are seeded nine through 16 will play for the B championship and teams that are seeded 17 through 24 will compete for the C championship.

The teams competing in the A championship are Team McLaren, Team Beckett, Team Lindsay, Team Mann, Team Chronick, Team Witty, Team Ellwood and Team Saunders. Each championship round will have a main event and a consolation event.

Teams that win game one will advance to that group's championship event and the losers will play in the consolation division. The draw will be posted shortly after league play finishes.

This year the Miller League will be having a "Finals Night" on April 8. Games will start at 5:30. All six sheets will be active with championship games and consolation games going in all three events. There will be a closing dinner and prizes to be awarded following the finals. This is a new approach to finishing the season. Even if you are not a participant in the league, come on out, support your club and watch some good curling. Thanks for a successful season.

Bruce Thom and Dave Mann



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Boosting skills, not scores trademark of Learn to Curl

They come to the LCC's weekly Learn to Curl sessions for a variety of reasons.

Erin Grigg took to the ice with roommate and fellow Western student Lisa Boyko because they "wanted to get into something different," says Grigg. "Lisa mentioned curling and I was one of those people who said 'I'm not sure about this but I'll try it. It's a lot different than I thought it would be. It's a lot of fun. I love throwing rocks.'"

Boyko's brother and his wife curl and she thought it would be fun to join them. "I've loved it. I like the social aspect, being out on the ice and the people are nice," she says, noting that it's a sport that can last a lifetime. "I'm very happy how things turned out."

For Grigg, the learning curve has been positive. "It came easy to me. I was on a scholarship at Eastern Michigan University in gymnastics. The balance from that sport has definitely helped me. But I think curling is harder than you think. To know how hard to throw the rocks and the all the angles, there are complications," says the masters of occupational therapy student at Western.

Boyko, a fourth-year PhD student in developmental psychology at Western, has also become an enthusiastic curler, except for one thing – the broom.

"I asked Jack (lead coach Jack Nichol) 'do I have to use the broom?' I don't like to use it to deliver. It's an extra thing to worry about. Everything to do with the broom I don't like," she laughs, adding that Nichol jokingly "calls me a rebel because I don't want to use the broom."

It was a wish to do something together now their children are older that brought Joan and Mike Vita of London to the Learn to Curl program. Their neighbour, LCC member John Hamilton, suggested they try curling.

Joan had curled in high school so she had some background when they started coming out every Tuesday night for the program. Mike had only curled once – in a bonspiel, which, he recalls as "a lot of laughs because nobody knew what they were doing."

Nichol says the format of not keeping score when playing games puts Learn to Curl's emphasis on participation, coaching and improvement. Each curler has the opportunity to progress at his or her comfort level, rather than get involved in a game "where competitive urges will often get in the way of personal growth and improvement."

Short seminars on etiquette, strategy and line of delivery are part of the course. The new curlers have also been videotaped to enable them to study their own deliveries. Among other skills taught are brushing techniques and stick delivery. Taking a page from the routine in Scotland, Nichol taught three new students with the stick for the first half of their initial two-hour session, and followed it with regular delivery instruction in the second half. The benefits of this, he feels, are twofold. It gets novices to safely use the whole length of the sheet from the start. Secondly, establishing the stick as an acceptable delivery tool may also help them switch to the stick instead of quitting the sport when they get older.

Nichol saluted the work of long-time Learn to Curl coach Dan McInnes. "Many of the participants "appreciate his patience and thoughtful influences."

Learn to Curl, convened by LCC president Gord Sellery, is a major plank in the club's recruitment process. It has the endorsement of Grigg and Boyko, as well as the Vitas. Mike Vita puts it this way, "The people who run this program are outstanding. I was very skeptical about how it was going to work out. Each time we come they are so patient. They make it fun."

Burt Dowsett

[More Learn to Curl on Page 8](#)



Erin Grigg's background in gymnastics helped her with balance in sliding



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Sisters' curlers draw on ice and on Hearts knowledge

The Sister Spiel is all about peace and harmony. Instead of competing against other clubs, we invite them to curl with us and get to know us. This honour devolves to the LCC every six years. This year, we invited members from our sister clubs – Aylmer, Highland, Ilderton, Ingersoll and St. Thomas – to join us for a day of fun and “sistahood.” The five clubs were pretty equally represented and the draw was full, in spite of the wintry weather.

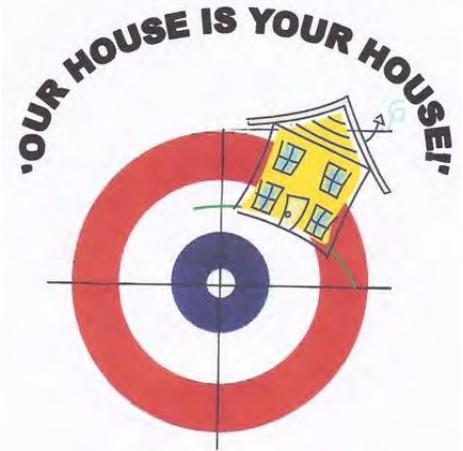
The LCC organizing team was awesome: Linda Round did flyers, letters and club contacts; Marlene Benny was in charge of prizes, favours and nametags; Mary McGuigan looked after the table decorations; Pam Harrison and Penny Brown organized and served the lunch by Chef Les Cooks; Ed Harrison did the food run; Fay Weiler was drawmaster; Kay Wicks collected registrations; and Mary Lynne Patterson washed a lot of dishes. We'd also like to thank Pam, Penny, Mary and Linda Bailey for food donations, Linda Round for taking photographs and the LCC staff.

The bonspiel was won by the rink of Doreen Stacey (LCC), Lynn Rock (St. Thomas), Rosemary Stevens (Highland) and Krys Teall (Ilderton). The second-place team consisted of Janet Stenson (LCC), Barb Coughlin (Ilderton), Ruth Newson (St. Thomas) and Chris Gray (Highland).

Not all the competition was on the ice. The teams also met off the ice for a “Sister Quiz” that was based on the Tournament of Hearts, including the recent national championship in Kingston and earlier events, both national and provincial. One of the questions was which skip that played in this year's Hearts won the Southwestern Ontario Women's Charity Cashspiel in London in 2007 and 2008. The correct answer was recently crowned 2013 Hearts champion Rachel Homan of Ottawa. The answer to the question of who skipped the LCC team that won Ontario in 1980 was Sheila Seltzer. The quiz was won by the team of Ann Lapchinsky (St. Thomas), Sandy Ronson (LCC), Sinni Barr (Aylmer) Deb Menear (Ilderton).

We can be proud of our success in hosting our sister clubs and in providing a fun day of curling with our fellow women curlers. We will re-convene at the Highland in 2014.

Mary Lois Cooper, Convenor 2013



Awards honour LCC volunteers

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards serve as a way for government to recognize volunteers for their contributions. They also enable organizations to thank volunteers for their continuous commitment and dedicated service. Adults are recognized for five, 10, 15 and more years of continuous service. Youths are recognized for two years.

They are presented to volunteers who contribute consecutive years, including the present year of service to a single group in Ontario, and whose work is characterized by meaningful volunteer time given on an ongoing basis to the same group. Organizations that have been in existence for a minimum of five years may submit nominations. Each may submit up to six adults and up to three youths (under 24 years of age).

Recipients are presented with stylized trillium pins and personalized certificates at special ceremonies across the province. Pins and certificates correspond to the length of service being recognized.

We wanted to submit a varied group whose involvement covers a combination of areas – league and club, male and female. The requirement that the years be consecutive, including this year, prevents many members from being included. Other names are being held for consideration next year. For this year the following members have been accepted by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship to receive this award. (They will receive more information from the ministry directly): Jennifer Cuddie (seven years); Robert Davis (nine years); Donald Agnew (11 years); Pamela Harrison (11 years); Kenneth Walmsley (17 years); Fay Weiler (18 years); Russell Cuddie, youth (four years).

Fay Weiler

Junior mixed team advances

The LCC's Junior mixed team advanced to regional play last month in the zone playdowns in Chatham at the Granite Club. The team, consisting of skip Russell Cuddie, vice Cassandra Lewin, second, Eric Ledreff-Kerwin and lead Joanna Francolini will compete in the regional playdowns in Vanastra March 9 and 10.

Jennifer Cuddie

Curl for the Cause turns 'stones' into bread

It took less than 24 hours to play two games in the Curl for the Cause bonspiel, have lunch and raise a record \$2,734.22 for St. Paul's Daily Bread Program. Our speaker, Jane Moffat, told us about the hundreds of hot meals served every weekday, each week of the year, to families in need. Our contribution will help buy food. To illustrate that the need is real, Jane told us that during the recent snowstorm on Feb. 8, one individual walked from Clarke Road to Richmond Street to get a meal.

We are very grateful to all club members who donated raffle items, bought or sold tickets, wrote cheques and made yummy treats. We appreciate our sponsor and former member, Kay Carr, who passed away just one week after the event. Her donation of \$300 gave our fund a real kick start.

Ruth Prentice, Kay Wicks, Linda Round and Jessie McLean kept us hopping in the kitchen, while Karen Lowry and Bonnie Shawyer organized all donated items. Fay Weiler was our draw master.

Past President Connie Weir and Vice-President John Crosby presented the plaque to the winning team: Dan McInnis, Karen Shearer, Jack Nichol and Sydney Ann Davidson.

Congratulations team and thanks to all who helped us succeed.

Joyce Hetherington and Carole Darowski, convenors

LCC rinks win two trophies at Sheila Betkus spiel



Brenda Thompson's LCC rink of Jan Murray, Mary Ellen Duggan and Jinx Weise won the Mykonos event trophy.



The London Honda event trophy was won by the LCC rink of (left to right), Deb Pullen, Pam Harrison, Wendy Foster and skip Miolyka Steele.

Volunteers crucial to bonspiel's success

Without volunteers bonspiels would not happen at all, especially large ones such as the recent Sheila Betkus two-day event at the LCC. Bonspiel co-ordinator Sylvia Leuszler and committee members Mardi McLachlan, Pam Harrison, Pat Bell, Sandra Fox, Isabel Lynch, Liz Oehm, Sheila Novlan, Marilynne Van Buskirk, Jan Murray, Marilyn Brown and Fay Weiler would like to thank all the volunteers, helpers, LCC staff, participating curlers and sponsors who made it possible.

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Rewards of volunteering intangible, long lasting

Every time we step on the ice, curl in a bonspiel or enjoy the camaraderie of the club lounge, volunteers have usually played some role in making it happen.

Inevitably, as the curling season winds down, some will announce that they are stepping down. Others will be needed to fill their roles. Volunteering doesn't put money in your pocket but it offers intangible rewards that are longer lasting.

"I've enjoyed meeting the children and getting to know the parents," says Julie Scopel, who is stepping aside after convening the Little Rocks program for three years. "I've enjoyed watching the kids develop their skills."

Julie does not curl herself but when she first brought her daughter out for Little Rocks, the coach told the parents he needed an assistant. It involved a variety of duties, from sending emails each week to helping organize the annual March bonspiel. The bonspiel is the biggest responsibility, encompassing organizing the food, cleaning up, deciding on prizes and even creating a poster for the LCC website. "I like helping. It's very rewarding," she says. "The parents all pitch in and assist."

Besides serving as LCC president, Gord Sellery also volunteers as convenor of the Teasdale league and the Tuesday night Learn to Curl sessions.

He estimates that at least 20 per cent of the club's members volunteer. There are 19 league convenors, numerous bonspiel convenors, 22 volunteers who each serve one week as an interim manager throughout the season, 12 members of the board, six committees whose membership numbers vary, and several coaches.

"You have to find someone who looks like they would do a good job and talk to them as an individual," says Sellery. "Anyone interested in a certain area should contact a member of that committee or go and see (club manager) Doug Petch or any member of the board."

New volunteers will find out that the circle of friends and acquaintances they have at the club quickly expands.

"When you are a volunteer you have to meet members of the club," says Gord. "There is the satisfaction of doing a job and knowing it is appreciated."

This is your chance to experience it.

Burt Dowsett

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Rolston rink wins Marshall's event

The rink of Judy Rolston, Penny Brown, Cathy Townsend and Darlene ten Haaf finished first in the seven-week curling event sponsored by Marshall's Pasta Mill.

Sharon Sivak, Sandy Ronson, Marilynne VanBuskirk and Donna Millar were second, while Sylvia Leuszler, Jan Murray, Linda Bailey and Doris Montgomery finished third.

The prizes were gift certificates from Marshall's. The event, which concluded on Feb. 7, involved 32 curlers. It was followed by a luncheon catered by Marshall's.

Thanks to co-convenor Penny Brown and Pat Bell for their help.

Sandy Ronson, convenor



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Learn to Curl League attracts 20-30 new curlers each session

The “Learn to Curl League” plays Tuesday evenings and has attracted 20-30 new curlers at each session. We have offered two free sessions so a beginner can try it and then decide to pay the fee and continue. Those that have attended have appreciated the instruction, as well as the patience of the coaches.

Even this late in the season we still are getting new members who pay a prorated fee. A number have “graduated” to other leagues, especially the Tuesday Evening Mixed Social League. I would like to thank our lead coach, Jack Nichol, and the other coaches, especially Dan McInnis, who has supported this league for 14 years. Although the season does not end until April 2, the final social event will occur on Tuesday, March 26, with food and refreshments after the 5 p.m. draw (six ends).

Gord Sellery, Learn to Curl convenor

WDS card party raises \$566.33

The Women’s Daytime Section raised \$566.33 at its winter fund-raising card party on Jan. 23. The WDS thanks members who contributed their time and donations to this popular event.

Linda Bailey, convenor



Lost and found

LCC members who are missing curling gear, clothes or other personal items are urged to check the lost-and-found boxes in the downstairs storage area. Items that are not claimed by the end of the curling season will either be thrown out or given to missions that may be able to use them.

Management



LCC team wins Tartan

The Highland Curling Club’s annual three-day men’s Tartan bonspiel on Feb. 22-24 was won by an LCC rink skipped by Dave Mann, who was throwing second stones. Kirk Massey threw third, Tim Lindsay fourth and the lead was Bruce Thom. They won the event with a 7-6 victory against the Scott Drinkwalter foursome from the host club.

A second LCC team skipped by Dave Beckett lost the third final on the last stone. Other members of Beckett’s rink were Tom Zavitz at third, Paul Reilly at second and Greg Lewis at lead. They were playing their sixth game in three days.

Gerry Rucchin

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Teasdale playoff teams established

The senior men (over 50) compete in the Teasdale League on Thursday afternoons for a plaque named in memory of Butch Teasdale, a former club president. This year, six teams reached the playoffs while the other nine teams will continue in the recreational group. The top six teams are skipped by Dave Mann, Jim Lone, Flo Kuchynski, Stan Smith, Ron McLennan and Don Dudley. The awards will be presented after the game on March 28, followed by a wine draw. We were pleased to have 15 teams and hopefully we can have 16 next year so that a bye is not necessary.

Gord Sellery, convenor



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