

ROCK TALK

Newsletter of the London Curling Club

December 2013



Readin', writin' and curlin' at the LCC

It's 9:30 on a Wednesday morning and class is in session at the London Curling Club.

Peter Askey asks the Grade 7 and 8 students from London's Masonville Public School what they know about curling.

"There's a lot of yelling," offers one student.

"If you fall on your knees, it hurts a lot more than if you fall on your side," says another.

Askey, along with fellow retired educator Joyce Hetherington, spearheaded the launch last year of this program that brings school classes to the LCC to introduce them to our sport. This year, 12 groups ranging from 25 to 30 students each, will experience a sport that may last them a lifetime. This means 300 to 360 students will experience curling at the LCC this season. For 95 per cent of them, it will be their first time on curling ice. Advancing age, health and other commitments are always eroding curling club membership, so programs such as this will eventually help in the renewal that Rock Talk is calling "Rebuilding the House."

Askey was a physical education teacher, principal, superintendent of education and briefly a director of education before smaller boards were brought under the umbrella of the Thames Valley District School Board. Hetherington taught physical education in London secondary schools before becoming co-ordinator of physical and health education for the Thames Valley board, basically teaching teachers how to teach.

Their roots are deep in education and it shows. The three-hour session with this group of students is well organized and runs like clockwork. It begins with a brief off-ice session before the students select slip-on sliders and take to the ice. In an experimental departure from the norm, the first ice session teaches them how to use the delivery stick. The idea is to give them immediate success in getting the rock down the ice and experiencing the game. First impressions are important. After a mid-morning break for hot chocolate that is accompanied by more instruction from Askey, they go back to the ice to learn the traditional slide delivery. The morning concludes with an abbreviated game.

One of the challenges is to condense such an ambitious schedule into three hours, for which Askey and Hetherington credit Jennifer Cuddie, a competitive coach in the LCC's bantam/junior program. "We needed to do a curriculum for Grades 7 and 8," says Hetherington. "The CCA program didn't fit our three-hour time slot."

The response has been positive. Several teachers noted the coaches' interaction with the students and what it meant to their self-esteem.

"Peter and I, as teachers, try to build in success for every student," says Joyce. "We know the more often these kids get into the hack and throw the rock the more success they will have. We also stress that every time kids come out of the hack you say something positive. We know a relaxed person is a person who is more inclined to succeed. The first thing you say is so important."



Rachel Orr of Masonville Public School quickly picks up the slide delivery.



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LCC members urged to experience our neighbourhood

I represented the club at the Old East Village Business Improvement Area’s annual general meeting in late October and was impressed with the number and variety of businesses. Art groups, restaurants, theatres, retail and residents all within walking distance of each other make it a unique area.

I would encourage everyone from the club to make a point of exploring the area on Dundas from Adelaide to Rectory. You will find great bargains, unique shops and great restaurants. The more of us that visit the more we will help freshen up the image of the area.

The latest membership numbers are in for the club and we are down 32 members as of Oct. 28. Our total membership is 623 but new members are still signing up so this will likely still improve. I encourage all our members to get your friends and neighbours out to either a Bring-a-Friend Day or to Learn to Curl, where they can get two free nights of curling before they have to join.

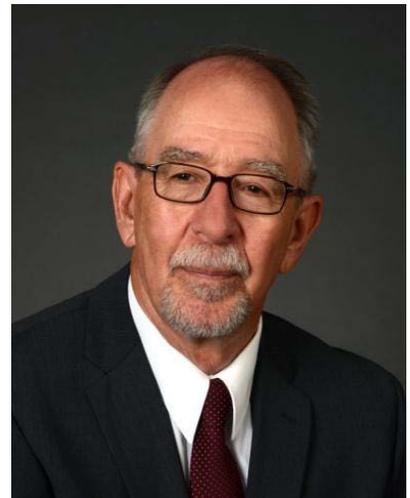
Our membership is still in good shape but we want to keep bringing in new members. Even with the slight drop in membership we are still operating close to our projected budget.

The board has decided to go ahead and install the last six video cameras over the lounge-end rings during the Christmas break. We would like them in place for the Bantam/Junior mixed championship in early April and the Christmas break is the best opportunity.

This year the Pro Shoppe will be offering a sale display and clearance table from Nov. 29 to Dec. 23, so be sure to do all your Christmas shopping at the LCC.

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and great curling in 2014.

John Crosby, LCC President



Tell us your curling stories

Rock Talk is interested in hearing your favourite curling stories. Maybe it’s an eight-ender, a miracle shot, or a funny incident in which you were involved. Contact information for Rock Talk is in the box at the **bottom of this page.**



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Issue Deadlines	September 30
	October 21
	November 25
	December 20
	January 28
	February 24

Roar of the Rings attracts best field in curling

It only happens once every four years and it is the best curling competition in the world – better than the Brier, the Hearts, the Olympics and world championships.

It's called the Roar of the Rings and its mission is to bring together the eight top Canadian teams in each of the men's and women's divisions. One men's and one women's team will emerge to carry Canada's colours at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia Feb. 7-23.

The eight-day Roar of the Rings competition begins Dec. 1 in Winnipeg. It may be much closer four years from now. The London area's curling bid committee is already working to bring the prestigious competition to Budweiser Gardens in 2017.

Curling's history in the Olympics is relatively short but the exposure it gives the sport is unprecedented. Canadian national coach Jim Waite thinks curling may get more air time at the Olympics than any other sport. "It's on for two weeks so it gets a lot of exposure," says Waite, adding that if a skiing event is postponed because of weather there is always a curling draw that television can cover as an alternative. Unlike hockey, on which television focuses almost exclusively on Team Canada games, curling is covered in a wider focus.

"Curling on TV is much better than football or hockey. There are no helmets and the cameras are right in your face," says Waite. Also, the ability to listen in on the players' conversations, along with the comments from the colour commentators, provides an invaluable insight for club curlers and fans alike. (TSN's Russ Howard and Linda Moore are both former world champion skips.)

Still, TV is a double-edged sword, says Waite. The exposure is priceless but the TV presentation is so good some people prefer to watch at home. Ticket sales suffer.

That said, television's benefits to curling out-weight any drawbacks. At the club level, there are ways to take advantage of the profile TV coverage gives curling.

"One idea is to have an Olympic curling night at the club when Team Canada is playing," says Waite. The club could be decorated with Olympic photos and symbols. "Get a huge screen and have members bring a non-member (to expose him or her to curling)."

Waite says this was tried with success by some American curling clubs during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, although the time difference between Canada and Sochi will be a challenge. The exposure the Olympics has given curling in the U.S. has been a factor in the growth of the sport there. Some new clubs have been built and curling, which had primarily been played in the northern U.S., has now expanded to California, Florida and North Carolina, adds Waite.

The Olympics have changed the game. "We are now in a quadrennial process," says Waite, adding the question for top players is no longer do I want to curl next year? "It is do I want to curl for four more years?"

The prize for our Olympic curlers is prestige and for the sport unparalleled exposure. Waite says curling coverage at the Vancouver Olympics attracted the biggest TV audience the sport has ever enjoyed.

So why does the Roar of the Rings top the Brier, the Hearts, the world championships and even Olympic curling? At the Brier and Hearts, each province or territory has just one representative. Provinces such as Alberta and Manitoba with three or four top teams each will only send one men's and one women's team. The teams that don't make it from those provinces are usually better than those that represent some of the smaller provinces or territories. At the world's and Olympics, top European curling nations often send the same team year after year. Their talent is good but their talent pool is limited. For Canadian teams, it's a battle to get there.

At the Roar of the Rings, the best eight teams period compete in each of the women's and men's divisions. If the local bid committee is successful, London and area fans will see and hear the Roar up close and personal in 2017.

Burt Dowsett

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SCHOOLED ON CURLING: Three-to-one ratio crucial to success

Crucial to the program's success is the three-to-one ratio of students to instructors. Western student Kristen McDonald, who is responsible for on-ice instruction for the Little Rocks program, demonstrated the slide delivery for the students and within half an hour, several students were already sliding to or almost to the hog line.

In a group of three girls instructed by the LCC's Linda Bailey – Rachel Orr, Sophie Jones and Abby Benest – all were sliding well for novices. Sophie even made a come-around of a corner guard, half-burying her rock.

Sometimes, students will even surprise their teachers. "I had a little guy last year whose teacher told me he couldn't balance," recalls Peter. "He was mobile but was one of these kids with no sense of balance. So I gave him the stick and away he went. He could get the rock down the ice."

Several Masonville students shared their thoughts on their morning on curling ice.

"It's fun. It's harder than I thought it would be," says Mo Al Bardaweel.

Katie Crossett thought the game looked easy on television, "but when you try it you find out it is a lot a harder than it looks."

"When I watched it on TV I thought it was boring," says Angus MacRae. "Now, I think it's fun."

LCC member Gord Browne, one of the coaches instructing the Masonville students, says students typically want to do two things – get the rock down the ice and sweep.

As for sweeping, Browne quips: "I tell them, 'Now, you can go home and help your mother.'"

Burt Dowsett

Table-top curling won't rival real thing but it's affordable

I remember thinking what a lucky guy Alex McKinney must be as we threw rocks on his one-sheet Loonie Curling Club rink in the heart of Rideau Lakes cottage country, northeast of Kingston.

I was there to interview him for a feature magazine story on a man who realized his dream by building his own curling club. It was a dream writing assignment for me on two counts. It involved my favourite winter sport and my favourite summer retreat. Our family cottage is two miles by water from Alex's home and curling club.

I knew I'd never have my own curling club. Well, now I can – sort of – and so can anyone else who wants to invest \$19.99 in Compact Curling, a new table-top board game that simulates the roaring game.

Distributed by Borgfeldt (Canada) Ltd., the table-top game was created in partnership with the Canadian Curling Association. The CCA website reports that stores carrying the new product include Canadian Tire, Home Hardware, Toys R Us, Mastermind Toys, the Neighbourhood Toy Stores of Canada, Princess Auto and TSC Stores.

The CCA goes on to report that throwing guards and takeouts are part of this off-ice game as well.

The curling rink is 47 inches long by 11 inches wide. Simulating the ease of motion a real curling rock has on pebbled ice, Compact Curling's four red and four yellow rocks maintain their momentum on the board via a ball-bearing system on their running surfaces.

A storage bag for the stones, two surface cleaners, rules and instructions come with the game.

I think I'll buy Compact Curling, take it to the cottage in the summer and invite Alex down to throw rocks.

I wonder if he'll be envious of me.

Burt Dowsett



WDS annual fall card party raises \$555.85

The annual fall card party on Oct. 30 was once again a successful fundraiser for the Women's Daytime Section. Convened by Jean Cameron and Lynda Reesor, the event in the upper lounge was filled with the laughter and chatter of 72 women (18 tables) enjoying lunch and an afternoon of cards. The event raised \$555.85.

Thanks to all who donated food, prizes, brought card tables and decorations and to those who served as helpers during the day of the event. Your generosity and assistance were greatly appreciated.

On Nov. 6 the WDS played host to the 11th Jeanettes' Early Bird Bonspiel, sponsored by LCC member Joyce Hetherington – a tribute to the Jeanettes in her family. Joyce's niece, Heather, and great niece, Chloe (three years old) joined us for lunch during the bonspiel and shared stories about the Jeanettes. Joyce's support and enthusiasm for this event is greatly appreciated. Five teams from Aylmer, Ilderton and Highland joined seven teams from LCC for this bonspiel – the "warm-up event" for the curling bonspiel season.

Congratulations to Judy Oryniak and her team of Rosemary Gowman, Wendy Young and Linda McKnight from Ilderton, who were the Early Bird champions this year. Second-place winner was the Highland's Ruth Alexander with her team of Sue Aubin, Gayle George and Karen Webster. Third place went to LCC's Dianne McKenna with team members Penny Brown, Carole Darowski and Darlene ten Haaf. Placing fourth was Jeanette Pesall's team from Aylmer with members, Bozena Boadway, Bertha Strickland and Beth Phoenix. It was nice to see a "Jeanette" in the standings!

Many thanks to event convenors Sandra Fox and Leslie Smith, participating teams and to our volunteers – Sheila Novlan for decorations, bonspiel secretary Pam Harrison, drawmaster Fay Weiler, games coordinator Mardi McLaughlan, as well as our helpers for the day – Pat Bell, Pam Harrison, Janice Elloway, Lil Richardson, Pat Booth, Sylvia Leuszler and Mardi McLaughlan. I would also like to thank the WDS members who brought in items for the décor and baking for the breakfast.

The Caryl Baker Visage (CBV) event, convened by Sydney-Ann Davidson and Pam Harrison, ended on Nov. 19. Our new sponsor, Deyan Adams, owner, and Jen Barnett, manager, of the three London CBV stores, attended the final game, and awarded the prizes to the three top teams. Placing first was the rink of Cindy Thom, Jean Cameron, Lynda Reesor and Sheila Dekeyser-Lock. Second prize was won by Penny Brown, Guiti Massoumi, Katie Unger and Darlene ten Haaf. Third went to Sylvia Leuszler, Jan Murray, Joanne Diehl and Janice Elloway.

In the wake of an accidental fall by Faye Weiler, the Skins event scheduled for Nov. 21 was cancelled. All members wish Faye a speedy recovery. The Goldline Tuesday event, convened by Liz Oehm, began on Nov. 26. Bring a Friend, convened by Marilynne VanBuskirk, was held on Nov. 27.

Upcoming in December are the Marshall's Pasta Mill event beginning on Dec. 5, Social Members visiting the club on Dec. 10 and the Christmas Party on Dec. 11.

Marnie Dickout, Vice Chair



Cindy Thom's LCC rink won the Caryl Baker Visage (CBV) event. From left to right are CBV owner Deyan Adams, Cindy Thom, Jean Cameron, Sheila Dekeyser-Lock, Lynda Reesor and CBV manager Jen Barnett.



Judy Oryniak, left, and her Ilderton rink of Rosemary Gowman, Wendy Young and Linda McKnight won the Jeanettes' Early Bird Bonspiel, sponsored by LCC member Joyce Hetherington, far right.



Santa brings his sack of curling gear to the LCC

If you want that new carbon-fibre broom for Christmas, you better not pout. Santa Claus is coming to the London Curling Club. LCC Pro Shoppe director Richard Rodgers is launching a Christmas sale Nov. 29 that will run right through to Dec. 23. It's a good chance to shop for the curler on your Christmas list, avoid the crowds in stores, park for free in the LCC lot and help support the club in the process.

The sale basically involves \$10 off on any piece of curling equipment or clothes in stock. All products are from the club's regular four providers – Olson, Goldline, Tournament and Asham.

The products being offered, along with their regular retail prices before the \$10 reduction include:

- Selected brooms, ranging in price from \$80 to \$140 for carbon fibre handles. Most of the brooms are in good stock.
- Tournament and Goldline delivery sticks. Goldline's regular delivery sticks are \$55 and its stick-brush combination is \$80.
- Curling shoes – Olson Classic men's, \$180; Olson Ole men's, \$155; Goldline Podium Gold men's and women's, \$230, Goldline Podium Silver men's and women's, \$160.
- Men's and women's pants.
- Goldline, Olson, Asham and Tournament gloves, \$27 to \$40, depending on manufacturer.
- Jackets can be ordered.



The \$10 price reduction does not apply to special orders. Also, Rodgers stresses that the club cannot guarantee a special order will arrive in time for Christmas, but those ordered by Dec. 13 stand a good chance of delivery on time. But early is always better. Goldline is back-ordered on a few items already.

Pro Shoppe products can be purchased from either Rodgers, club manager Doug Petch or an on-duty interim manager. The club accepts cash or cheque.

Pro Shoppe hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on week days and every evening except Saturday.

If anyone needs further information, Richard Rodgers' phone number and email is listed in the LCC directory.

Burt Dowsett

Values of curling etiquette can apply to everyday life

Etiquette sets curling apart from "in-your-face" sports seen on television. It even teaches life skills, of which none is more important than showing respect for others.

That is why curlers shake hands before and after a game and sit down together after the final rock is delivered. It is why they declare burned rocks and their opponents react by declining to remove them if they didn't affect the outcome of the shot. It is why we stand still along the sides of the sheet between the hog lines when an opponent is in the hack so we don't disrupt his or her concentration.

Here are some other rules of etiquette, which are well known by most curlers:

- Never talk to a curler during delivery.
- Do not cross the sheet in front of a curler in the hack. Before delivery you would be blocking his or her view of the skip's signal. After release you would be blocking the thrower's view of the rock's path.
- Unless you are playing third, stay out of the house after an end when its score is being determined.
- When your opponent has released his or her rock and your turn is next, go promptly to the hack and get ready to throw.
- Protect the ice surface by keeping hands and knees off it, cleaning your broom and when you stop sweeping be sure to finish the stroke and do not lift it in front of the rock.
- Be careful not to affect the games being played on either side of your sheet. Don't walk behind them when someone is in the hack.
- Temper your reactions. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Unless you've just won the Brier, subdue your elation after a win and never bang your broom on the ice after a missed shot or a loss. Curlers never cheer an opponent's miss.
- Curling is a game played without referees. The two teams have to agree on decisions that are made. This is a huge contributor to the mutual respect and accord that is common on curling ice. It is human nature to treat others as they treat you. If you're fair with them, they will reciprocate. Never, ever violate that spirit of the game.

Burt Dowsett

Lone's LCC rink wins St. Marys Tier 55, beating Ingersoll teams

Jim Lone's London Curling Club rink won the St. Marys Tier 55 bonspiel on Nov. 13 with victories in both its games against strong teams from the Ingersoll club.

Lone's team consisted of vice Doug Wilson, second Gord Browne and lead Marty Holmes.

Doug Wilson



St. Marys Tier 55 champs are, from left, Jim Lone, Doug Wilson, Gord Browne and Marty Holmes of the London Curling Club.

WDS raffling Knights tickets in fundraiser for curling club

The Women's Daytime Section is organizing a fundraiser to support the London Curling Club. Tickets for five London Knights games have been generously donated by Rob Kelland of Scotia McLeod and by members Dot MacRae, Sherry Chambers and Dave Mann.

Known as "Knight Out," this fundraiser features games in 2014 on:

Jan. 25 – Kitchener Rangers

Feb. 9 – Plymouth Whalers

Feb. 14 – Sarnia Sting

Feb. 28 – Owen Sound Attack

March 2 – Peterborough Petes

Prizes: 1st – 2 tickets and \$100

2nd – 2 tickets and \$75

3rd – 2 tickets and \$50

4th – 2 tickets and \$25

Consolation – 2 tickets

See your league convenors for tickets on sale Jan. 8 - 21. Prices for the raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket or three for \$10. The draw date is Jan. 23. Proceeds go to club projects so please help us support the cause.

Carole Darowski

The Nemeth Group



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LCC rinks place first, second at St. Thomas Tier 55 bonspiel

London Curling Club teams skipped by Peter Jackson and Roger LeBlanc finished first and second respectively in the St. Thomas Curling Club's Tier 55 Bonspiel on Nov 15.

The teams actually finished in a tie for first but Jackson's rink of vice John Crosby, second Murray Turner and lead Gord Sellery was determined to be the winner via point differential.

LeBlanc's team included Dan McInnes at vice, Bob Davis at second and Ron Riehl, who threw lead stones.

Peter Jackson

Deadline for Spring Thaw spiel registration Dec. 18

A reminder to all mixed curling enthusiasts! The annual Spring Thaw Mixed Bonspiel will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11. It will be a full day of curling, including two eight-end games, a hot full-course lunch, coffee, snacks and prizes. The game times will be determined when all teams are registered (deadline Dec. 18). Sign up on the tripod bulletin board in the lounge. Don't forget to wear your summer duds. For more information, contact convener Steve Hobbs at 226-663-1404, or stevehobbs@hotmail.com.

Steve Hobbs



Novice Clinic/Bring a Friend Night a just-for-fun event on Jan. 4

The LCC's Novice Clinic/Bring a Friend Night is scheduled for Saturday Jan. 4, 2014 at the club.

The clinic begins at 7 p.m. and novices will get a chance to test their mettle in a game at 8:15 p.m. Those wishing to participate can sign up on the main bulletin board.

Joyce Hetherington

Boxing Day Curling

Again this year we will offer curling on Boxing Day for our members and their families and guests. Two-hour times are available on a reserved basis

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the bar.

LCC members encouraged to 'support our advertisers'

WANTED

Part-time ice assistant, preferably retired, or available throughout the day and/or evening. Trainable to do mopping, pebbling and nipping of sheets between draws, plus some additional duties such as vacuuming the carpet in the arena.

If interested, please contact Kevin Breivik.

Benjamin Moore

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