

# ROCK TALK



Newsletter of the London Curling Club

November 2014

## 'Undergrad' Lindsay's journey to Brier dream

"Professor Howard and undergrad Lindsay face off today," announced a headline in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal during the 2003 Brier in Halifax.

Tim Lindsay, now skip of the LCC men's club champion rink, had realized his dream of making it to the Brier. Chronicle Journal reporter John Nagy set the stage for Tim's reunion with old friend, mentor and teammate Russ Howard as opponents on curling's biggest stage by interviewing Howard about his protégé.



TIM LINDSAY

Lindsay was playing lead for skip Scott Henderson's Fort William Curling Club rink from Thunder Bay that was representing Northern Ontario at the Brier.

"It felt like a dream and I was on a journey to a dream. I think it's everybody's dream growing up," says Lindsay, who wishes every curler could live that dream.

He awoke from the dream quickly in the Hot Shots competition, where he scored "very high in all the shots" in the practice round. His first shot in the round that counted called for a "hit and stick" on the button. "The announcer comes over the PA and states your name, where you're from. This was my first experience being in the hack in a large stadium. I threw a perfect freeze instead of a hit and stick. Russ Howard joked 'Hey Tim, I can throw harder than that.' It was total muscle memory because the previous shot (in practice) was a freeze. I made the perfect freeze but it was the wrong shot. Your muscle memory is there but your head might not be. That is the Brier, you have to get through all that."

Henderson's rink, which also included third Art Lappalainen, second Mike Desilets and Rick Lang as fifth and coach, also had to adjust to the Halifax ice, which was "12 feet faster than any other ice in Northern Ontario we had played on all year."

Employed by Hydro One, Lindsay's job involves moving to various locations in Ontario, including Penetanguishene from 1986 to 1994. He served as president of the Penetanguishene Curling Club for three years. It was there he would meet Russ and Glenn

Howard, as well as their father, Bill Howard, who was the ice maker. They became close friends and Russ served as an usher when Tim and his wife, Denise, were married.

Lindsay also was the second and only non-Howard on the club's most daunting team that featured Russ, Glenn and Bill at skip, third and lead, respectively. They played in a men's competitive league at their club.

Tim also played on a mixed team that included Russ and his wife, Wendy Howard. "Russ hollers a little bit," Lindsay quipped. "He liked a good sweeper out there and I tried to do my best. We did fairly well."

Bill Howard, who is now deceased, taught both Russ and Glenn the game, while Lindsay, in turn, benefited from Russ's vast knowledge of curling.

"He's a student of the game and he can make you throw in the 90s (per cent). He is one of those skips who can take anybody and really improve them both from his skipping ability and his coaching ability. I coached with Russ for years. We led the coaching clinics for probably six years in a row. We were the fastest growing club in Canada."

The Howards were also innovators. Bill Howard was one of the first, if not the first, to install a quarter-inch Teflon slider on a curling shoe. He believed they were more consistent for draw weight and, given their thickness, a scrape on the bottom of the slider would not affect it. Lindsay followed up by drilling a hole in a quarter-inch slider so there would be less surface area to cause resistance to the ice and also to create better balance. Tim was a member of Barrie Curling Club at the time and he showed Balance Plus owner Scott Taylor what he did to his slider. Taylor found an engineer to make a design and now sliders with circular depressions in the Teflon are common.

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## Safety gear, awareness of accident response critical

This is the time of the year that the president reiterates the importance of wearing the correct gear to prevent accidents, as well as familiarizing yourself with safety procedures at the club.

Grippers are important obviously to stop you from slipping and an old gripper has much less grip and sheds pieces of rubber on the ice. It is recommended that you change it once a year. The Pro Shoppe still offers a \$5 rebate on your old gripper when you trade it in for a new one. Head protection is becoming much more common and is now available in many forms. Bike helmets, skateboarding helmets and ski helmets all work well. New this year, the Pro Shoppe is offering a ball hat with a special padded area in the back, as well as halos. Be sure to check them out.

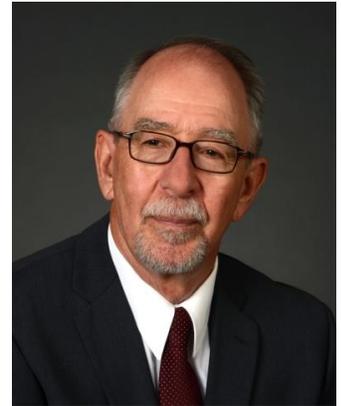
If there's an accident on the ice and an ambulance is required the best way to get the stretcher in is through the emergency door on the southwest corner of the arena. If this should happen, someone should place themselves at that door to direct the EMTs. Inside, to the left of the bar in the lounge area, there is a first-aid kit, as well as a defibrillator. In the case of fire there are four exits in the building – the main front door, the door to the parking lot, the door on the northwest corner of the building as well as the emergency exit mentioned above. Please make yourself familiar with all of this so you will be prepared.

The club had a successful open house in mid-September and has already conducted three clinics, one for novices followed by one for intermediates on Oct. 4 and a clinic on strategy on Oct. 25. Again, the many volunteers from the organizers to the coaches make them work. Many thanks to all those involved. These clinics are all part of your membership. All we ask is that you sign up ahead of time as there is a limited number spots and then show up on the date.

The advertising committee, chaired by Don Agnew, is again looking for a couple of volunteers to join it. The committee is responsible for bringing in more than \$10,000 to the club, which reflects directly on your yearly fees. If interested please contact Don.

Membership at the LCC is down a little this year. The exact numbers are not yet clear as people are still signing up but many leagues are down a team or two and in some cases more. We still have a very active and vibrant club but I want to ask all our members to promote the club whenever and wherever they can. The learn to curl league accepts new players all season with no cost introductory sessions and our Pro-Shoppe has special introductory packages for all players.

*John Crosby, LCC President*



## TIM LINDSAY: Dream realized with family support, Howard's tips

Curling is a family sport with the Lindsays. Their son, Matthew, 18, curls on Sunday afternoons and spares for his father in the Miller league. When Matthew was three months old, Bill Howard made him a pair of curling shoes. "He put the slider on the right foot." It was a good guess because Matthew is left-handed. Their daughter, Kayla, 15, was skipping in an adult mixed league when she was seven, but now prefers to play hockey. Family is also important for competitive players who must play long schedules to realize their dream. "My wife is my greatest supporter," says Tim. "If you don't have a family that is 100 per cent committed it won't work."

When the 2003 Brier ended and Tim and his teammates finished with a 5-6 record, Denise Lindsay was there to compile a huge loose-leaf binder recording the event, complete with photos, stories and memorabilia. It included the story about "Professor Howard and undergrad Lindsay." It was a fitting link of Tim Lindsay and the ultimate curling mentor who helped him on his "journey to a dream."

*Burt Dowsett*

**Editor's note: This is the second in a series of profiles of LCC members.**

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## Israeli curlers next Jamaican bobsled phenomenon?

A film crew envisioning a curling version of a movie about the Jamaican bobsled team was the last thing Warren Brooke expected when he agreed to help select a fledgling Israeli curling team in May.

Someone in the Jewish community in Minneapolis had seen a parallel between Israel's push to send a curling team to the Olympics and the similarly unlikely occurrence of the Jamaican bobsled team's appearance in the 1988 Calgary Olympics. The latter would lead to a movie entitled "Cool Runnings" in 1993.

"We get there (Minneapolis) and there is a film crew with 10 guys putting mikes in our faces all the time," says an amused Brooke, a member of the London Curling Club. Brooke was recruited by long-time friend and former TSN curling analyst Ray Turnbull, and had been part of Turnbull's team that travelled the world teaching the sport 30 years ago.

Turnbull had been recruited by friend and former teammate Terry Braunstein, who went to the Brier as teenagers in 1958, losing in the final. Braunstein was the skip, his brother, Ronnie, was the third, Turnbull threw second stones and the lead was John Van Hellemond, brother of former National Hockey League referee Andy Van Hellemond. Braunstein, regarded as the best Jewish curler ever, would later win the Brier and in 1965 he became the only Jewish skip to compete in the world championships.

Neither Brooke nor Turnbull are Jewish, but their ties to Braunstein go back to their curling roots in their native Winnipeg. All three would be re-united at the first national training camp of the Israeli Curling Federation at the Four Seasons Curling Club in Blaine, Minnesota (part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area).

The Israeli Olympic Association invested in the curling team and it was decided the best approach would be to recruit Jewish curlers primarily from Canada and the U.S. When the team was chosen, Israeli citizenship would be sought for its members.

Twenty Jewish male curlers and five women were selected for the camp. From this group, five male curlers were selected. "We picked the kids with potential, including a couple from Maryland with good coaching. They are decent club curlers already and they'll get better, says Brooke." They also picked a curler from Montreal who had been to a junior championship. Youth was a factor. Three of those chosen are 21, while two are in their 30s. It was decided that they didn't have enough competitive players yet to form a women's team.

For Brooke, getting back to teaching alongside Turnbull decades after they had taught the sport together in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Scotland, "was wonderful. It was like we never missed a beat. Ray wanted me there because I knew the program. We know what they need to do to get better." Answering Braunstein's call was an easy decision. "The three of us have been friends for 50 plus years and we love curling."

"This is absolutely good for the sport," Brooke says of curling's rapid expansion. Scott Arnold, competitions and development officer for the World Curling Federation and a former LCC member, agrees. "Since the Nagano Olympic Winter Games in Japan in 1998 curling has developed incredibly fast around the world, so much so that we are now considered the fastest growing winter sport," says Arnold. "Over 25 new member associations have joined the World Curling Federation since then, almost doubling our membership in size . . . In Europe and North America in particular, curling has always shown continual growth. However, the Pacific-Asia region has shown considerable development in recent years. All of this bodes well as we look toward the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games and beyond."

Brooke points out the rapid advance of Chinese and Korean teams at the world level. "These guys are really good. When they take it on, they take it on. So will Israel." The Israelis have already begun to do just that. Its men's team won its last seven games in level C at the European curling championships in October to qualify for the B level in Switzerland later this month. It's the first step toward an Olympic berth.

Quips Brooke: "The Israeli bobsled/curling dream is alive and well."

*Burt Dowsett*



WARREN BROOKE

### Upcoming entry deadlines - Please ensure your entries get in on time.

November 9	Master men & women	<b><u>Ice Technician's Course Level 2</u></b>
November 16	Junior men & women	End of November in Blenheim
November 23	Intermediate men & women	More information is on the OCA website.
	STOH/men's Tankard	
November 29	Gore schoolboy/schoolgirl	

*Bruce Thom, Leagues and OCA director*

## Women’s Daytime Section opens with a busy on-ice schedule

The WDS started the season with its opening meeting on Oct. 1, convened by incoming Chair Marnie Dickout and Past-Chair Carole Darowski. Curlers were welcomed back by President John Crosby, Manager Doug Petch and Pro Shoppe Director Richard Rodgers. The membership totals 81, including six new and three members returning after being away for a year or more. In addition, there are seven social members in the WDS.

To start the new season and to ease their muscles back into the curling mode, the WDS held two jitneys, convened by Fay Weiler. Thirty-four curlers participated on Oct. 7 and 33 on Oct. 9. The teams were well matched and everyone enjoyed the six-end games. No winners were declared, as it was just for fun.

The Caryl Baker Visage sponsored event began on Oct. 14, convened by Pam Harrison and Penny Brown. The event sponsored by Young and Company and convened by Jinx Findlay and Marilyn Brown started on Oct. 16. Convened by Linda Bailey and Pat Bell, the Friday Morning Competitive League began on Oct. 17. The fall card party held on Oct. 29 was convened by Jean Walmsley and Joan Bancroft.

Upcoming events in November include a mixed “Bring a Friend” curling clinic on Nov. 10, convened by Linda and Peter Bailey. The “Jeanette’s” Early Bird Bonspiel held on Nov. 5 was convened by Leslie Smith and Jinx Findlay. A skins game will be played on Nov. 20, convened by Fay Weiler and Sandy Ronson. The Goldline-sponsored event will begin on Nov. 25, convened by Fay Weiler and Sherry Chambers. The event sponsored by Marshall’s Pasta will start on Dec. 4 and is convened by Dianne McKenna and Jean Cameron,

*Pam Harrison, WDS vice chair*



The WDS executive committee for 2014-15 includes, from left to right, Carole Darowski (past chair), Katie Ungar (photographer/historian), Pam Harrison (vice chair), Marnie Dickout (chair), Jeanette Walker (secretary) and Jan Murray (games coordinator). Absent was Jinx Findlay (assistant games coordinator).

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## Noting LCC ties in buying Tankard tickets will bring extra revenue to club

The Ontario Men's Tankard, which determines the province's representative at the 2015 Brier, is being hosted by the Ingersoll Curling Club in conjunction with the Dorchester "Flight Exec" Centre arena, where the matches will be held Feb. 2-8. Seldom will it be held as close to London as this time.

London Curling Club members can help "earn" some money for the club by purchasing their tickets either on-line or through ticket order forms available at the club and indicating they are members of the LCC. Once the accumulated total of net ticket sales reaches \$2,000, our club will qualify for a 15-per-cent commission on total sales to our club members. So, if our members buy \$10,000 in tickets to the event, we would earn \$1,500 in commissions. But if we buy \$1,999 in tickets, we earn zero dollars.

Go to [www.2015tankard.com](http://www.2015tankard.com) to purchase your tickets online. At the bottom of the purchaser information screen you will find the question "what curling club (if any) do you belong to?" and a drop-down box where you can click on London Curling Club.

If you choose to buy tickets by mail, write on the Ticket Package Order Form "London Curling Club Member" in a conspicuous place, such as just above your name. You can have your friends do the same thing with either form of ordering.

Let's get behind the Ingersoll club as it plays host to this great event, and earn some money for our club at the same time.

*Doug Petch, LCC manager*



Dethroned last season after eight years representing Ontario in the Brier, Glenn Howard will try to reclaim the Ontario Tankard at Dorchester Feb. 2 - 8.



The LCC's board of directors for 2014-15 includes, from left to right: Gord Sellery, Paul Pergau; Richard Rodgers, Don Agnew, Fay Weiler, John Crosby, Bruce Thom, Pat Boothe and Roger Moyer. Dave Peeling and Dave Weber were absent.



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## Skull fractured in a fall, curler urges others to wear head protection

How much do we value our heads? Not enough, apparently, as most of us still curl without protecting the most important part of our bodies.

On the Canadian Curling Association website, Calgary Winter Club head curling professional Kim Perkins writes about the traumatic injury Cheryl Whitnack suffered from a fall on the ice that changed her life forever.

Her fall was not unlike those of many LCC members, but thankfully, their injuries were not as severe those suffered by Whitnack during her weekly mixed curling game in January, 2011. A CAT scan showed that she had a Basal skull fracture. There was bleeding around the brain in the tissue of the subdural space.

Whitnack remembers nothing about her fall in the time period 15 minutes before to 15 minutes after her accident, but others told her what happened. "I went down horizontally and hit the ice hard with my head, bounced, and hit it again . . . someone five sheets over said they could hear my skull crack."

She decided to tell her story to encourage others to wear head protection and spare them the pain and some lasting effects she still endures.

At the hospital, the neurology unit kept her an extra six days. She was experiencing severe headaches, weakness, vomiting and fatigue, Perkins reported. She still experiences some of these symptoms, as well as pain and weakness in her right arm that resulted from the fall. She has been unable to return to work.

In January of this year, Whitnack gave curling another try. Perkins worked with her to help re-establish her comfort on the ice and balance. She also wears a halo-style curling helmet now. The LCC Pro Shoppe's introduction of new caps and headbands with built-in protection this year couldn't be more timely.

As Whitnack asks: "Do you value your brain, because in a few seconds your life can change."

## Why we have advertisers

For the first time the Advertising Committee has billed just over \$10,000. Ninety per cent of that money goes to pay for such things as the Club Directory, Rock Talk, our web page and internet connection, as well as many miscellaneous office supplies. Without this revenue, we would need to increase each adult membership fee by \$20.

Open the middle of this year's Directory and you will see an alphabetical listing of our 42 advertisers and the services they provide. Please take the time to thank those who are members. We ask you to support those who advertise whenever you need their services and **most important: tell the owner/manager/cashier that you are there because they advertise at our club.** Better still: give them a card thanking them for their support. **(Cards can be picked up from the plastic rack beside Rock Talk just outside the men's washroom)**

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## Rockin' start as novice clinic attracts 21 new curlers

London Curling Club did it again, welcoming 21 new curlers at the novice clinic on Oct. 4. Darlene ten Haaf managed all the off-ice aspects with her usual ease, making everyone feel welcome. With the help of Jack Nichol and his team of coaches, all curlers were trying a mini game by the end of the morning.

In the afternoon, 38 club members enjoyed the drills organized by Sue Lawrence. Ten members contributed their expertise as coaches. With their help, the club continues to provide opportunities for members and non-members to improve their knowledge and skill of the game.

The "managing the house" clinic on Oct. 25 was well received by intermediate curlers. Jennifer Cuddie and Stan Smith gave lots of tips to help skips and students of the game improve. On Nov. 10 we will welcome friends, both men and women curlers, for a morning of instruction and a friendly game. If you want to join us please register with the office.

There are now 31 club members who work with Skills and Development helping to provide instruction for the seven clinics, the two "Learn to Curl" programs, and the Little Rocks program. If you have a chance to participate in these programs, please take a minute to thank the coaches for their time.

*Pat Boothe, Skills and Development director*



The LCC's coaching program is already into high gear this fall with a variety of clinics. Here Jim Russell, one of the club's 31 coaches, instructs a new curler in the hack.

## Lindsay rink ousted in semi-final of Travelers Club Ontario playoff

Tim Lindsay's rink represented the LCC well at the Travelers Club Ontario championship in Cornwall, making it all the way to the semi-final before losing, 6-2, to Mike Hull's Cataragui Golf and Curling Club team from Kingston.

His team, which included vice Kirk Massey, second Mark Flynn and lead Bob Bourdeau, started the weekend championship tournament with a 6-4 loss to Brent Gray's Kitchener-Waterloo Granite Club rink. Then they went on a run of three straight victories, defeating: Gord Norton's Annandale Golf and Curling Club team 9-6; Paul Attard of the Dixie Curling Club, 9-3, and Ken Sullivan of the Russell Curling Club, 9-2, before losing to Hull.

At the zones earlier in October, Lindsay's men's rink started with a 7-3 loss to Scott Corby's Ilderton rink, but bounced back the next day with an 8-2 victory over the Grant Collison rink from Sarnia and a 12-2 win over Tom Bannister's Paris rink. In the zone wrapup, Lindsay's LCC club champions won all three games, beating David St. Louis of Stratford, 6-2, Chatham's Steve Vanheste, 6-1, and Terry Corbin of Brant, 6-2.

The LCC women's representatives, skipped by Candis MacDougall, didn't qualify for the finals in Cornwall, after going 0-2 in the zone playdowns. They lost 10-5 to Charlene Haluk-McMahon's Chatham rink and 9-6 to the Marg Heyden-Pearson team from Stratford.

*Bruce Thom, Leagues and OCA director*

## Bring a Friend

**Monday November 10, 9:30-11:30**

You are invited to a Friends Clinic. There are two aspects to this clinic. If you want to bring a friend, with or without experience, we will be doing a learn-to-curl type clinic for the first hour for newbies. While they are learning the basics we will have drills on the ice to practise specific skills for experienced curlers. The final hour will be games with mixed teams so that the new curlers can experience what it is like to be in a game. Of course there will be some time for socializing at the end. You can register by signing up on the list at the club or phoning the office.

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## More teams sought for Sifton Classic's 31<sup>st</sup> annual bonspiel

The deadline for entries to the London Curling Club's 31st annual Sifton Classic is approaching and convenor Gord Sellery is looking for more teams.

The event is scheduled for Dec. 2-3 (Tuesday and Wednesday) and club members can sign up on the bulletin board. The bonspiel committee would like everyone to sign up by Nov. 15.

"Everyone plays two games on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. Lunch is provided both days," says Sellery, adding that there is an awards banquet Tuesday evening at the Mocha Shrine Temple (468 Colborne St. north of Queen's Avenue). The reception is at 6 p.m. and dinner follows at 7 p.m. Drinks before dinner are pre-paid.

LCC President John Crosby will present trophies to the winners' of last year's event at the banquet. The one-year delay is due to the fact the banquet always precedes the Wednesday morning curling wrap-up.

The bonspiel, named in honour of the late Harry Sifton, who was a long-time member of the LCC, has experienced declining entries in recent years. At one time it attracted 32 teams, but last year's entry list totaled 22 rinks and so far just 18 have signed up for this one. This decline is not uncommon with other two-day bonspiels, but the Sifton committee is striving to maintain the event in the two-day format.

On Tuesday, the morning draws are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., while afternoon draws are at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. On Wednesday there are just morning draws, at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

*Burt Dowsett*

## Wednesday afternoon mixed league off to good start

The new Wednesday afternoon mixed league got off to a good start with 36 eager curlers. The curling starts at 1 p.m. and the teams are made up randomly as people arrive. In launching the league, two of the sheets played with five-person teams.

Everyone had a great game and enjoyed the strategies of playing with the mixed team members. There were a lot of laughs and some new friendships being made as new curlers got to know each other. Please join us any Wednesday you want some ice time as there is no commitment to a team, it's just show up and play. Each week you play with new people and get to know others in the club.

We are exploring the idea of the last Wednesday of the month having the bar open for social time — but the coffee pot is always on!

If you have any questions about the league, call Darlene ten Haaf at 519-471-9354 or [tenhaaf3743@rogers.com](mailto:tenhaaf3743@rogers.com).

*Darlene ten Haaf*

## Friday night mixed league seeks curlers

Come and enjoy another night of curling in the Friday night mixed league. Once a month there is a potluck supper! Team entries, couples or individuals are welcome. For more information please contact convenor Joan McKinnell.

*Joan McKinnell*

## Laurier lands CIS curling nationals

Canadian Interuniversity Sport's 2015 Canadian university curling championships will be held at the KW Granite Club in Waterloo, March 18-21. Wilfrid Laurier University will be the host school.

Laurier athletic director Peter Baxter called the event "a great opportunity for us to showcase the world-class level of talent that currently exists within CIS curling."

## Teasdale League down two teams

The 2014-15 Teasdale League began curling on Oct. 16 with 12 teams, down two teams from the previous season. A warm welcome is extended to the new curlers to the league—Dave Ross, Al Saunders, Geoff Corfield, Marcus MacRae, Bruce Turner, Rod Lawrence, Steve Bowden and Edgar Hooper. Good luck to all teams.

*Bob Kerwin & Ron McLennan, convenors*



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