

ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the
London Curling Club

January 2018



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Coming this month to London Curling Club: Mixed doubles - a unique way to curl

In February 2018, mixed doubles curling will be played at the winter Olympics for the first time. But before then, on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 5:45 p.m., under the guidance of coach Jennifer Cuddie, London Curling Club will introduce the mixed doubles format and rules to interested club members. A sign-up sheet is posted in the main lounge. Space is limited.

Following this introduction evening, starting on Jan. 25 at 8 p.m., four sheets will be made available each week for mixed doubles curling. A new sign-up sheet will be posted weekly in the main lounge. Ice will be available for mixed doubles every Thursday for

the remainder of the year, alternating between 5:45 and 8 p.m. alongside the Sweeney league. There is no cost to club members to compete in mixed doubles this year.

London Curling Club hopes to introduce as many members as possible to mixed doubles, with the intention of starting a regular open mixed doubles league during the 2018-2019 season.

Mixed doubles curling is quite different from regular curling and has never been offered here at London Curling Club, until now.

Interestingly, there will be lots of opportunities for curling fans to watch the best mixed doubles curlers in Canada and the world in the near future.



The first Canad Inns Canadian mixed doubles Olympic trials are scheduled for Jan. 2-7, 2018 at Stride Place in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. CBC Sports will offer live-streaming of every draw at CBCSports.ca beginning on Jan. 3. Broadcast coverage of the final two days will be available on CBC TV.

In addition, mixed doubles will be part of the Continental Cup to be held Jan. 11-14 in London, Ontario. Those draws will be broadcast on TSN.

Last, but not least, will be the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games to be broadcast on CBC.

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Canad Inns Canadian mixed doubles trials

The 18 teams will be split into two nine-team pools, based on their Canadian mixed doubles rankings.

The teams will play a single round-robin within their pools, before eight teams (first and second in each pool, and the next four best win-loss records) move on to the playoffs.

POOL A

1. Jocelyn Peterman (Calgary)/Brett Gallant (St. John's) (pictured on the front cover)
4. Dawn McEwen/Mike McEwen (both Winnipeg)
5. Jennifer Jones (Winnipeg)/Mark Nichols (St. John's)
8. Nancy Martin (Saskatoon)/Catlin Schneider (Regina)
9. Jill Officer (Winnipeg)/Reid Carruthers (Winnipeg)
12. Kim Tuck/Wayne Tuck (Strathroy, Ont.)
13. Emilie Desjardins/Robert Desjardins (Chicoutimi, Que.)
16. Shannon Birchard/Jason Gunnlaugson (Winnipeg)
17. Sherry Just (Prince Albert, Sask.)/Tyrel Griffith (Kelowna, B.C.)

POOL B

2. Chelsea Carey (Calgary)/Colin Hodgson (Winnipeg)
3. Kalynn Park (Edmonton)/Charley Thomas (Calgary)
6. Kaitlyn Lawes (Winnipeg)/John Morris (Canmore, Alta.)
7. Laura Crocker (Edmonton)/Geoff Walker (St. John's)
10. Marliese Kasner (Shellbrook, Sask.)/Dustin Kalthoff (Saskatoon)
11. Val Sweeting (Edmonton)/Brad Gushue (St. John's)
14. Nicole Westlund-Stewart/Tyler Stewart (Kitchener, Ont.)
15. Dana Ferguson (Edmonton)/Brendan Bottcher (Sherwood Park, Alta.)
18. Sherry Middaugh (Victoria Harbour, Ont.)/John Epping, Toronto

Basic rules for mixed doubles curling

- A team consists of two curlers. A game consists of eight ends.
- Each team shall deliver five stones per end.
- The player delivering the first stone in an end must also deliver the last stone. The other player will deliver stones two, three and four.
- The player delivering the first stone can change from end to end.
- The free guard zone rule is in effect. As in regular curling, the fourth stone to be delivered is the first stone that can remove a rock from play.
- Once a stone has been delivered, either or both players may sweep the rock in motion.
- Each end begins with two stationary stones in place, one from each team. The "A" stone shall bisect the centre line and be placed midway between the front of the house and the hog line. The "B" stone shall bisect the centre line and be placed with the back edge of the stone on the back edge of the four foot circle. (See the illustration on the next page.)

The Nemeth Group



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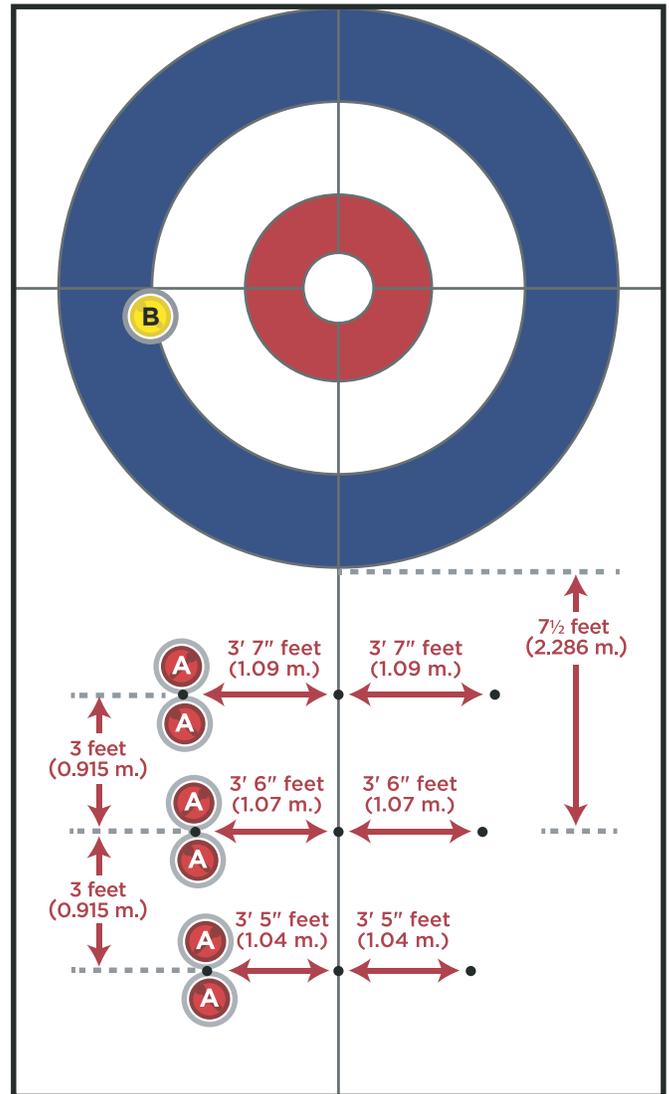
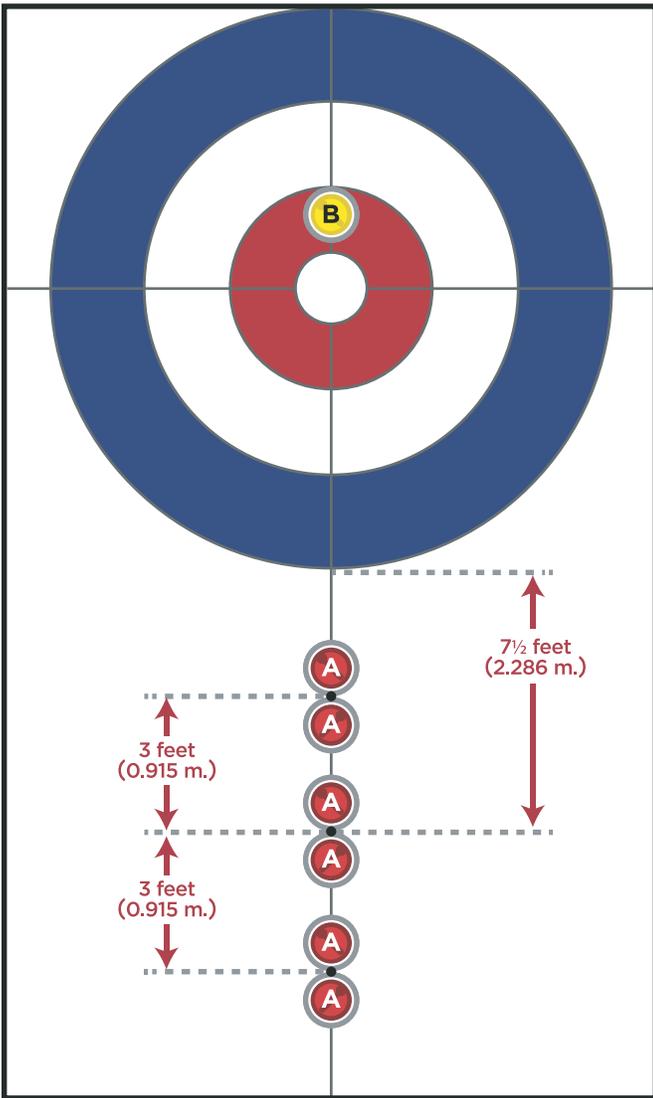
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behind the guard. The team calling the Power Play can decide which side of the house these stones should be positioned on. (See the illustration below.)



- The team with the “choice” (or hammer) places the stationary rocks. If they choose to place their stone in position “A”, they shall deliver the first stones in the end. If they choose position “B”, they have last stone in that end.
- The team that does not score in the previous end shall have the “Choice” in the next end. If an end is blanked, the “Choice” shall belong to the team that delivered the first stone in the blanked end.
- Once per game, each team with last stone has the option to place the stones in a “Power Play” position. Stone “B” of the team with last stone in that end is placed with the back edge of the stone on the tee line, splitting the 8 foot and the 12 foot rings. Stone “A” is repositioned from the centre-line to a direct line between the middle of Stone “B” and the middle of the hack in such a way that Stone “B” is directly



Women's daytime section December wrap-up

Christmas luncheon report

On Dec. 13 there was much joy and laughter as 59 women and a male quartet enjoyed lunch in the upper lounge at London Curling Club. Included were four social members (Barb Gordon, Carol Moir, Lil Richardson and Shirley Vaile).

Six end games took place on five sheets prior to lunch with 39 members curling. Thanks to Fay Weiler and Lynda Reesor for being in charge of the draw.

We were wonderfully entertained by a quartet arranged by Marjorie Dudley. Their Christmas and winter songs were delightful and enjoyed by all.



Women's daytime section members donated toiletries, clothes, gift cards and cash to My Sisters' Place. Thank you for your generosity.

Special thanks to Rose Kuchynski and Guiti Massoumi who helped convene the event and to Linda Round who decorated the upper lounge. Also thanks to all who helped in any way to make this a special event.

Fun Spiel results

On Nov. 30, 2017, the daytime women's section held their third annual Fun Spiel. Twenty-four participants took to the ice with instructions in hand on how each end was to be played and how the scoring was to be done. Normal curling strategy did not apply this day. As well, positions were changed after every end. Despite the mixed up format, everyone enjoyed the challenge.

Coffee, snacks and good conversation finished the morning fun.

Sign up now for the Sister City Spiel

The annual Sister City Spiel will be hosted by the women's daytime section on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at London Curling Club. Curlers from the Aylmer, Highland, Ilderton, Ingersoll and St. Thomas curling clubs will participate in this event and teams will be comprised of members of the different clubs. It's a great opportunity to get to know women from our sister city clubs and to share a day of good fun, fellowship and curling. The single entry sign-up sheet has been posted in the upstairs women's locker room.

Volunteer social capital or how to earn a \$10 Tim Hortons card

A message from Paul Pergau, president, London Curling Club

I know I may be starting to sound like a broken record as I write more about volunteerism — but it's important!

Volunteers, and our excellent staff, are what makes our curling club tick along so nicely. It's a worthy topic for more than one column. We want and value you as an London Curling Club volunteer!

To make volunteerism even better at the London Curling Club, we're collaborating with the kinesiology department at Western University with what they're calling a volunteer social capital case study. They're interested in understanding the connections volunteers have with others in our club, and what difference those connections make to volunteers carrying out their tasks and fulfilling their role.

We've identified 95 or so currently active volunteers and sent them invites to be interviewed as part of this case study. Each willing volunteer contacts one of the Western team members and a short 30-minute interview is setup at a date, time and location of your choice (e.g. on campus or at our club). The interview is private and is strictly confidential. For your participation in the interview, Western will give you a \$10 gift card from Tim Hortons. In April 2018 Western will present their findings to our board of directors and we'll pass it them on to you. I've completed the interview process and received my \$10 Timmy's card. I highly recommend all current volunteers participate in this case study.

If we missed you as a current volunteer, please get in touch with club manager Greg Lewis and we'll get an invite sent to you as well. It's important we cover as many current volunteers as possible.



Share your Continental Cup volunteering stories in Rock Talk

We know lots of London Curling Club members are volunteering at the upcoming Continental Cup. And we know that volunteering at an event with this calibre of curler can have its special moments.

That's why we want you to send us your memorable Continental Cup volunteer experiences so we can share them with all London Curling Club members. What famous curlers did you meet up close and personal? What did they talk about? Where did you drive them?

We look forward to receiving your inside scoops. Please send them to Rock Talk editor Brian Arnold (barnold439@gmail.com) by Jan. 23.

Got a story for Rock Talk?

Please send any story ideas or club happenings for the next issue to Brian Arnold (barnold439@gmail.com). Deadline for the February issue is Jan. 23.

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Brazil rink challenging Howard has ties with Canada

Glenn Howard's rink will represent Canada to face Brazil's challenge for a berth in the 2018 world men's curling championship. Howard and his opponent, Brazil skip Marcelo Mello, will play a best-of-five series Jan. 11 to 14.

The playoff will overlap with the Continental Cup at the Western Fair District's Sports Centre where a fourth curling sheet has been added. The Continental Cup uses just three sheets.

The United States is usually the country being challenged for one of two berths available to the Americas zone for the men's world championship. But this time it gets a bye because it's the host country at the Las Vegas men's world, March 31 to April 8. That leaves just one other berth for the Americas and any World Curling Federation member can challenge for it. Brazil was the only member to issue a challenge.

This is the first challenge for a world berth Canada has had to combat. Howard, who has won four world

men's championships, will face a Brazilian team that has ties to Canada.

Mello (shown below) is from Brazil but lives in Sherbrooke, Que. Scott McMullan of Winnipeg lives in São Paulo and throws third rocks. Marcio Cerquinho is the second. Lead Filipe Nunes also lives in Sherbrooke. It's the same Brazilian team that American John Shuster swept in three games last year. Shuster's rink will be on Team North America at the Continental Cup.



Howard's rink has Adam Spencer at third, Dave Mathers at second and Glenn's son, Scott Howard, at lead. Richard Hart, a former teammate of Howard, is the coach.

Canada has won 36 world men's championships since the inaugural event in 1959 and has competed in every one.

In previous years, Brazil has challenged the U.S. four times and has never won a game, being swept 3-0 all four times.

The Brazil-Canada schedule is:

- Game 1, Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.
- Game 2, Friday, Jan. 12, 2:30 p.m.
- Game 3, Friday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
- Game 4 (if necessary), Saturday, Jan. 13, 2:30 p.m.
- Game 5 (if necessary), Saturday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.

By Burt Dowsett



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What you need to know about the innovative Continental Cup



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No one can accuse curling of fearing change. It's always tweaking the game to make it better. A prime example is the free-guard rule. At one time guards in front of the rings could be pealed immediately, which at the highest levels often led to 1-0 games.

Curling officials introduced a free-guard rule to generate offence. It started with the first three rocks in play outside the rings could not be removed until the fourth shot. It soon increased to four rocks and there has been some experimentation with a five-rock rule.

The Continental Cup of Curling, being played in January in London, has been a significant force for innovation as well. In it, Team North America (curlers from Canada and the U.S.) take on curlers from the rest of the world.

They play each other in traditional four against four play as well as mixed foursome skin games and mixed doubles (see our cover story).

"It (the Continental Cup) started in 2002 and it was considered by the Canadian Curling Association (CCA) as another way to showcase our sport and athletes and make them some extra money," said Al Cameron, director of communications and media relations for Curling Canada." It was put together by long-time CCA official Warren Hansen and former Olympian Neil Houston.

While the 2006 Tournament of Hearts and the 2011 Brier were well attended at London's Budweiser Gardens, because the Continental Cup was shorter and not as well known as the national men's and women's championships, organizers felt that the arena at Western Fair was a better fit.

The teams in this Continental Cup are:

TEAM NORTH AMERICA

Captain Al Hackner, coach Rick Lang (Canada)

MEN

Team Gushue, skip Brad Gushue (Canada)

Team Shuster, skip John Shuster (U.S.)

Team Koe, skip Kevin Koe (Canada)

WOMEN

Team Homan, skip Rachel Homan (Canada)

Team Roth, skip Nina Roth (U.S.)

Team Englot, skip Michelle Englot (Canada)

TEAM WORLD

Captain David Murdoch (Scotland), coach Fredrik Lindberg (Sweden)

MEN

Team Edin, skip Niklas Edin (Sweden)

Team De Cruz, skip Peter De Cruz (Switzerland)

Team Ulsrud, skip Tomas Ulsrud (Norway)

WOMEN

Team Fugisawa, skip Satsuki Fugisawa (Japan)

Team Hasselborg, skip Anna Hasselborg (Sweden)

Team Tirinzoni, skip Silvana Tirinzoni (Switzerland)

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London Curling Club youth curlers excel in provincial qualifiers

This year marks the first in the revised qualification process for both Ontario Winter Games and Canada Games. These events are not run by the Ontario Curling Association (OCA), but rather by the Ontario Curling Council (OCC) as they include both OCA and Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA) in the same competition.

If you're not familiar with the OCC, it's the provincial sport organization (PSO) for curling. The OCC is tasked with developing athletes, coaches, and officials.

All PSOs are required to operate within the rules and guidelines of their national sport organization counterparts. Ontario curling is in a unique situation where we have two curling associations and the competition and representations are split along OCA and NOCA lines. Therefore Ontario must have a separate PSO to provide development for the entire province. Most sports have one provincial association which fulfils both mandates.

The Ontario Winter Games and Canada Winter Games are multi-sport games held on a rotating basis, and have always been training grounds for young athletes. Many former Ontario Winter Games and Canada Winter Games athletes have gone on to become Olympians. Ontario Winter Games curling has an age limit of 17. The following year those curlers should all still be eligible to compete in Canada Winter Games qualifiers as well as U18 OCA events.

Ontario Winter Games qualifiers were held from Dec. 15 to 17 across the province for curling. Sixty-one teams entered, with four teams competing under the London Curling Club banner in Palmerston. No other single club had more entries.

Our curlers acquitted themselves well in this U17 age group, many of them rookies.

Men's teams:

- Owen Henry, Graeme Daley, Brayden Appleby, and Jacob Bugler (ages 11 to 13) played two tough games and showed remarkable skill for their ages. Their coach, Pete Daley was very pleased with their progress between game one and game two.
- Jayden King, Carter Bryant, Nolan Bryant, and Dane M. (ages 15 to 16) made their way to the semi-finals in a nine team field, playing a head-to-head game with the eventual winners of the event, Team Leung. Coach Sean Bryant thought that their final game was the best of their season to date.

Women's teams:

- Kyra Woodend, Julia Markle, Kate Phillips, and Avery Sinasac (ages 13 to 16), coached by Jennifer Cuddie; and Charlotte Johnston, Caitlyn Evelyn, Kayla Cruikshank, and Scotia Maltman (ages 13 to 16), coached by Tony Francolini, met in the semi-finals with Team Johnston advancing to the final where they played an excellent game vs a more experienced Team Steele (ages 15 to 17). All eight girls performed well, elevating their level of play with each successive game.

Congratulations to all these curlers for a terrific competition with wonderful results all around. All this young talent has a bright future ahead.

Update of former London Curling Club U21 curlers

Dec. 15 to 17 was the challenge round for the Ontario Scotties Tournament of Hearts at Leaside Curling Club. The team of Kirsten Marshall, Terri Weeks, Nicole Titkai, and Emily Lloyd captured the third qualifying spot and are off to the Provincial Scotties in Whitby from Jan. 10 to 14 with Joanna Francolini as their fifth and Jennifer Cuddie and Perry Marshall as their coaches. All of these young women played on U21 teams at provincials representing London Curling Club in 2016 or 2017.