

ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the
London Curling Club

March 2018



PAGE 3

Curl for Prostate Cancer
ends successful 4-year run

PAGE 5

Nominate someone for the
Spirit of Curling Award

PAGE 8

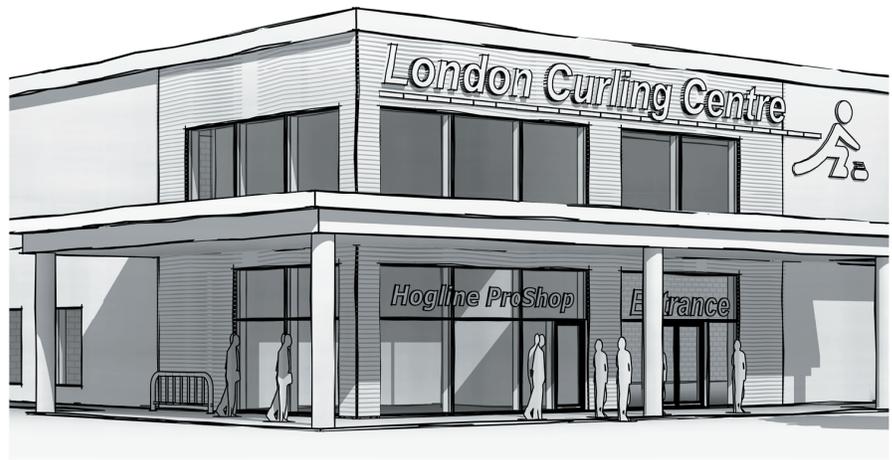
Highland wins senior
men's interclub bonspiel

London Curling Club moving towards a new future

“Dissatisfaction with curling club facilities revealed by membership survey”, could be the sentiment summarized by the market analysis study done by students from the Ivey School of Business.

Here are some of the concerns and issues raised by our members:

- Facilities don't meet current building standards
- High maintenance and utility costs
- Steep and narrow stairways, no elevator
- No barrier-free access to ice and upper/lower levels
- Curling sheets that aren't regulation size; 2'7" too narrow and not enough room behind hacks
- Lack of insulation in arena resulting in very cold playing conditions, increased utility costs and difficulty in providing consistent ice conditions
- Exterior ice damming problems have caused water to leak onto the indoor ice surface
- Poor arena foundation/footings lead to inconsistent ice surface
- Poor clubhouse ventilation means some areas are warm while others are cold
- Kitchen requires a complete overhaul
- Upstairs washroom requires renovation
- Main lounge is too small
- Lack of comfortable seating and social area
- Lack of dedicated meeting space
- Emergency medical access to the arena is difficult
- Parking lot will soon need to be resurfaced
- Further renovations may not be practical



The survey also indicated that London Curling Club members would like to see:

- More social activities
- Food services
- Fitness center
- Online media
- A new facility within five to seven years

To help the club achieve this timeline, member response strongly indicated support for both investing in London Curling Club issued member bonds to raise additional capital and a willingness to participate in major fund-raising initiatives.

The Ivey team also provided a market study of curling in London. Membership numbers have been very stable over the last several years, with the club operating at near capacity. Market conditions are right for new member growth, and to support this growth initiative, it's recommended that the new facility be designed for eight sheets.

...CONT'D ON PAGE 2

To determine a suitable new location and to explore potential developer partnership opportunities, London Curling Club has enlisted the services of a commercial realtor, while also exploring other direct partnership opportunities, various financial models, grants, charitable donation receipts and fundraising.

Currently, London Curling Club has lower membership fees versus other comparable area clubs. To help raise finances for the capital building fund, London Curling Club membership fees will need to increase over time. Although no one likes to hear that the cost of membership will increase, these additional fees are an investment in London Curling Club's future growth.

Both the new facilities committee and your London Curling Club board of directors would like to thank you for your continued support as we move closer to achieving London Curling Club's vision statement. The future outlook for your new curling facility looks very promising. We'll keep you updated as this project moves forward.

DAVID BECKETT
NEW FACILITIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

After fourth fundraiser, Walmsley steps down

Ken Walmsley is stepping aside after launching and managing four successful prostate cancer fundraisers. If it is to continue for a fifth year, someone will have to step up and take his place.

"At the beginning of the year, I discussed it with a number of people. I have had enough but if anyone wants to take it over I will throw it out there. The sponsors have been generous. That has helped pay the bills. The only thing we pay for is the luncheon. The rest goes into the pot."

Walmsley says he is gratified to have had volunteers out there finding things, getting companies' support and all the donations. Eighty per cent of the donations were from restaurants, golf clubs, health and wellness businesses and entertainment.

The timing of the Continental Cup in London also worked for prostate cancer fundraising. Jim Waite brought curling shirts from that event, as well as from the Brazil rink that unsuccessfully challenged Canada for a berth in world men's championship. Glenn Howard, Adam Spencer, Brent Lang and Geoff Walker also contributed sweaters to the prostate cancer cause.

Again this year, there were two prostate cancer bonspiels. Saturday, Jan. 20, there were 72 curlers. Ron Swartz, Gwen Steffler, Barry Montgomery and Doris Montgomery won the A flight. Dave Ross, D.J. Ronaldson, Bill Brien and Brooklyn Ross won the B flight. The following Wednesday, Jan. 24, the team (shown below left to right) of Marty Holmes, Bill Wright, Nick Sauter and Tom Fejes and won the day, which featured 48 curlers in a single flight.



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Curl for prostate cancer makes cancer patients winners

Ken Walmsley and his fellow London Curling Club volunteers ran four bonspiels over four years to raise an amazing \$113,000 for the fight against prostate cancer. In stepping down as the leader and creator of the Curl for Prostate Cancer, Ken writes below of the experience, its goals and success.

The fourth and final Curl for Prostate Cancer event held on Jan. 20 and 24, 2018 was a total success attracting 120 curlers who helped raise \$35,000 this year alone. Over four years the grand total is now \$113,000 to be directed to renovate the brachytherapy unit to better handle the increased number of patients and improved radiation safety and also prostate cancer research.

More importantly, we've raised awareness of prostate cancer in our curling community families and friends to have annual checks for early detection. It also involves ongoing research for less invasive therapies for a more successful recovery for those one in seven men who are stricken in Southwestern Ontario.

Thanks to our seven generous sponsors for providing \$5,750 for activities required for successful fundraising, including hosting two one-day bonspiels, and a 10-day silent auction.

Thanks to the donors across London who generously provided items for our silent auction, which raised \$14,000. Also a special thanks to all the members and friends who participated in the bidding process to make this part of the event popular and successful.

Thanks to all the curlers who made time to be with us and whose entry fees are all part of the proceeds. Congratulations to the draw winners whose names are now on the prostate cancer plaque.

Also many thanks to London Curling Club members and friends who made personal pledges and on line donations to Curl 4 PC 2018. Your generosity was a big part of our overall fundraising.

Last of all, I'd like to thank and congratulate every committee member for their extra efforts and dedication over the past four years. It was my privilege and honour to have worked with you to make a difference to those men affected by this silent disease.

The committee shown below left to right are: back row, Paul Pergau, Dave Wilson, Larry Round, Nicole Jamrozinski (development officer for community events with London Health Sciences), Gord Sellery, Dave Rush, Steve Bowden and Ron Riehl; front row are, John Brown, Ken Walmsley, Nick Sauter, Bruce Thom, Doug Wilson, Grant Wilson and Jim Russell.



Women's daytime section event three and four winners

Event three results

Event three, convened by Karen Jacobsen and Rose Kuchinski, finished on Tuesday, Jan. 23 with a light snack of muffins and scones. There were 51 curlers signed up resulting in 13 teams, with one team each week having a bye. The winners were (shown below, left to right), Rose Kuchynski, Mary Cross, Cindy Thom and Liz Ohm (absent).



Event four results

Forty curlers participated in this six week event, which began Dec. 7, 2017 and ended Feb. 1, 2018. The event was won by (shown below left to right), Joanne Laws, Judi Sofalvi, Sheila Van Sickle and Karen Jacobsen.



In second place was Sherry Chambers, Linda Bailey, Mary Lucas, and Mary Stokley. The team of Pam Harrison, Cheryl Adams, Pat Boothe and Janice Elloway finished third.

Sister City Spiel

The women's daytime section hosted the annual Sister City Spiel on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Participants from the Highland, Ilderton, Ingersoll, St. Thomas and London curling clubs curled with and against each other, as each team was comprised of a member from four different clubs. They played one eight-end and one six-end game and enjoyed a fabulous lunch catered by Linda Arthur, Village Catering. This event is held annually rotating amongst the five clubs involved and focuses on friendship and a little friendly competition. Participants enjoyed renewing friendships and making new ones. The upper lounge was beautifully decorated for Valentine's Day. Judging by the level of chatter and laughter, it appeared everyone had a good time!

In first place was the team (shown below, left to right) of Ann Meeuse (St. Thomas), Louise Sawyer (Ilderton), Carolyn May (Highland) and Pat Pallister (Ingersoll).



Finishing in second place was the team of Judy Oryniak (Ilderton), Marlene Suzuki (Highland), Judi Sofalvi (London) and Marilyn Robinson (Ingersoll). Third place was Linda Allard (Ingersoll), Gill Rowe (Ilderton), Trish Gamble (Highland) and Karen Jacobsen (London).

Thanks to the convenors of this event, including Pam Browne, Joan Crosby, Linda Bailey and Pam Harrison. Thanks to Fay Weiler, drawmaster and assistant Karen Shearer. A special thanks to volunteer extraordinaire Barb Leisinger.

It's a wrap!

A message from Paul Pergau, president, London Curling Club

Wow, we're turning to the last page of our curling calendar for this season. Can you believe it? Is it just me or do the days, weeks and years seem to be going by faster and faster? I'm sure enjoying the journey and would like it to last.



I'm completing and enjoying my second, non-consecutive year as president of London Curling Club, so'll take this opportunity to reflect a bit on what took place this past season...and it has been a great one!

Firstly, this job would not be nearly as much fun and rewarding if it wasn't for our current board of directors. They're all great at what they do and they show a real passion with their efforts. When their terms are up please do consider joining your board of directors. It's worth it for you and for our club.

Secondly, we have terrific management and other salaried staff that keep our club running as well as it does. Both Greg and Mark do an awesome job keeping our club afloat, sometimes literally! The ice crew, bar staff, housekeeping and administration staff are appreciated for their excellent contributions. The next time you see them, be sure to say thank you!

Lastly, our members are what allows this club to keep going and to be a leading curling centre in southwestern Ontario since 1847.

Thinking back over this past season are some of the things I've really enjoyed are:

- The Great Ontario Bonspiel and the great turnout we had
- Curling for Prostate Cancer Research and surpassing our fundraising goal
- Being club president for the second time
- Open doubles and what fun is that
- Looking forward to the Academy of Curling in October. I hope you've signed up for one or more sessions.
- Trying a different craft beer each week
- Coaching new member clinics and school kids

- Making so many friends by losing so many curling games. As we seniors typically only have one drink after a game anymore, I was thinking the other day that if I was to save what I would have spent on buying our opponents that second drink, I could probably pay for half of next years membership fee.
- Working with our new facilities project team. I just know we'll be able to pull this off and within a few years be curling in new facilities with all the same people, great ice and comfortable surroundings.
- Continental Cup - who knew being a statistician could be fun

Please attend our annual general meeting in June, welcome in your returning and new board of directors members and give us your feedback on how we're doing.

Nominate someone for their Spirit of Curling

It's time to nominate someone for the London Curling Club Spirit of Curling Award.

Each year you have the opportunity to put forward the names of individuals who best exemplify what our club's most prestigious award is all about! This individual obviously loves the sport of curling and is a good sport both on and off the ice. He or she is serving a league or the club with volunteerism above and beyond the call of duty. The recipient is a credit to our club and we are pleased to honour one male and one female at our Annual General Meeting in June.

Why not consult with others, pick up a nomination form at the bar and meet our March 29 submission deadline.



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Senior daytime men lose interclub to Highland

The return match of the Highland Friendly, also known as the Senior Interclub Bonspiel, was hosted by the Senior Daytime Men of the London Curling Club on Feb. 6.

Highland came into the day with an 18-point lead from the away match held at Highland Country Club on Nov. 7, 2017. Although London won the second round by nine points it still left our club nine points short of victory. The trophy has now been returned to Highland for the year after a three-year stint at our club. Over the past 43 years Highland has won the trophy 24 times to London Curling Club's 18 wins. There was a tie in 2003.

Shown below, is London Curling Club senior daytime men's convener Michael Leisinger relinquishing the trophy to Bill Heasman of Highland Country Club.



Lindsay rink splits games at provincial qualifier

The team of Tim Lindsay, Steve Gilbert, Kirk Massey and Bob McKinley with alternate Bob Bourdeau won two and lost two in an intermediate provincial qualifier event in Niagara Falls on Feb. 17 and 18.

A Family Day that was filled with curling

The London Curling Club Family Day clinic continues to be a favourite. We had a full house. With 10 coaches and two volunteers doing hospitality, everyone had lots of time to try out the basics, play a short game and socialize with cookies and hot chocolate. A big thanks to all the volunteers who made it a great morning.

The last introduction to curling is March 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. Why not introduce someone to the game you love?

Attracting non-members through social media

Chairperson of the promotion committee, Marg Dudley, has a request for club members. If you attend a fun, curling-related event, please take a few minutes to write a short blurb about it, and include a photo or two of you having fun.

This could include a lunch/end-of-event celebration/clinic/whatever at London Curling Club, or a bonspiel or event elsewhere. Try to include something that a non-member would like to know.

Send this to marjdudley2@gmail.com and, with your permission, she'll edit it and send it through social media to encourage others to try curling.

For example: Here I am, Chris Doe, sampling the goodies at London Curling Club after narrowly missing the Whatsit League playdowns. Congrats to my buddy, Sandy Shore. So much fun! Turns out losing can be sweet too!"

Thanks and remember to mention our wonderful sport and club to neighbours, friends, relatives, fellow golfers and lawn bowlers, and total strangers this spring and summer!

Teasdale league update

Round one of the Teasdale league is complete and Team Ross is in first place among the 15 teams registered.

All teams have now been re-ranked based on their win-loss record and for the remainder of the season, will play among one of two tiers. Tier one will represent the top eight teams and Tier two will be made up of the remaining seven teams.

The league champion will be the team which has accumulated the most points throughout the total season (two points per win, one point per tie), and will represent the league in the club championship during the last week of March.



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