

ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the
London Curling Club

April 2022



PAGE 2

WDS holds annual
closing meeting

PAGE 3

March Brooms and Brews
event successful

PAGE 4

About that Kilworth
Curling Club banner

U18 DOMINANCE

Both our teams advance to national championships

It was an amazing week for both London Curling Club junior teams entered in the CurlON U18 provincial championships in Kingston.

Both Team Stratton and Team Johnston won their seven-game round robins with 6-1 records, earning byes to their respective finals.

In the mens final, Team Stratton finished a close game with Team Jones from Burlington by scoring three in the eighth end to win 7-4. This makes them Team Ontario #1 at the U18 national championships to be held at Oakville Curling Club, May 1-7, 2022.

In the womens final, Team Johnston lost a close 6-5 final to Team Acres from the RCMP Curling Club in Ottawa. However, they rebounded to win the second final 7-4 over Team Frlan from the Huntley Curling Club

in Carp, ON, securing their berth as Team Ontario #2 at the U18 national championships.

Since the U18 championships were cancelled last year due to the pandemic, Curling Canada is allowing two teams from each province to compete in the national event this year.

Asked about how they felt about becoming Team Ontario, mens skip Kyle Stratton said, "It's an amazing feeling to be Team Ontario. Also a very tiring one, I felt even more tired the day after than on Sunday. But putting the Team Ontario jackets on was what really made it click for me. It is an honour to play with my best friends at a national level and I can't wait to make new memories and experiences."

Continued on page 2



Team Stratton (left to right): Kyle Stratton (skip), Liam Tardif (vice), Matt Pouget (second), Brayden Appleby (lead), Kebo Mulima (alternate) and Tim Lindsay (coach).



Team Johnston (left to right): Charlotte Johnston (skip), Julia Markle (vice), Scotia Maltman (second), Brooklyn Ideson (lead) and Tony Francolini (coach).

WDS holds annual closing meeting

On March 30, the Women’s Daytime Section was able to hold their annual closing meeting after two years of cancellations due to COVID lockdowns.

During the meeting, Marj Dudley (left) received her chair pin from past chair Sherry Chambers (right). Everyone who played in the WDS this year would like to thank Marj for her dedication and hard work to make it a successful curling season.



U18 Dominance - Continued from page 1

Vice Liam Tardif noted, “It was definitely a time I will not forget, I had an amazing time playing it and it was even better with these guys. I’m with Kyle on this one seeing and putting on those jackets one was such an amazing feeling and I’m so happy that we can represent Ontario together.” Second Matthew Pouget said, “Excitement and relief last night and today. Couldn’t sleep during the long car ride home. Proud and honored to represent the Ontario crest and colours. Time to show ‘em what’s up.”

Coach Tony Francolini notes about his team, that in Kingston, “The charm of Team Johnston won over the event volunteers, who adopted them, throwing down any semblance of impartiality. They declared Team Johnston their favourites and cheered them on.”

Tony also states that, “ Many of you will recognize these women who have played in the Thompson, Wednesday open and Thursday women’s leagues. London Curling Club’s openness to having juniors play in their evening leagues is a very big factor that has contributed to their growth as curlers and their competition success.”

Congratulations to both teams. We wish them all the best at the U18 national championships!

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I wonder if they made any lucky shots?



On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, Stacey, Roxanne, Sherry, Rhonda and Bonnie of the Business Women's league dressed for the occasion.

Nicholas Shaw's Spanish team repeats as champs

London Curling Club member Gary Shaw, whose son Nick works and curls in Spain (and was profiled in the January 2020 issue of Rocktalk), reports that Nick's team has once again won the Spanish men's curling championship, making them eligible to compete in the European Curling Championships "B" division. In 2021, the team had a 6-1 round robin record, and lost in the semi-final to Turkey who won the event beating Russia, 4-3.

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Brooms and Brews a success again

On Saturday, March 12, 48 people signed up again for the latest edition of Brooms and Brews.

Eight volunteer coaches led them through a one-hour "how to throw a stone" session, followed by a one-hour game, and an hour of social time and snacks in the upstairs lounge.





Participants received tickets for door prizes which were drawn during the social hour.

Thanks to the volunteer coaches, bar staff and everyone else to made the event a success.

Buy your tickets every month at curl-on.ca



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About that Kilworth Curling Club banner?

You may have wondered why a banner for another curling club would be on display in the upper lounge?

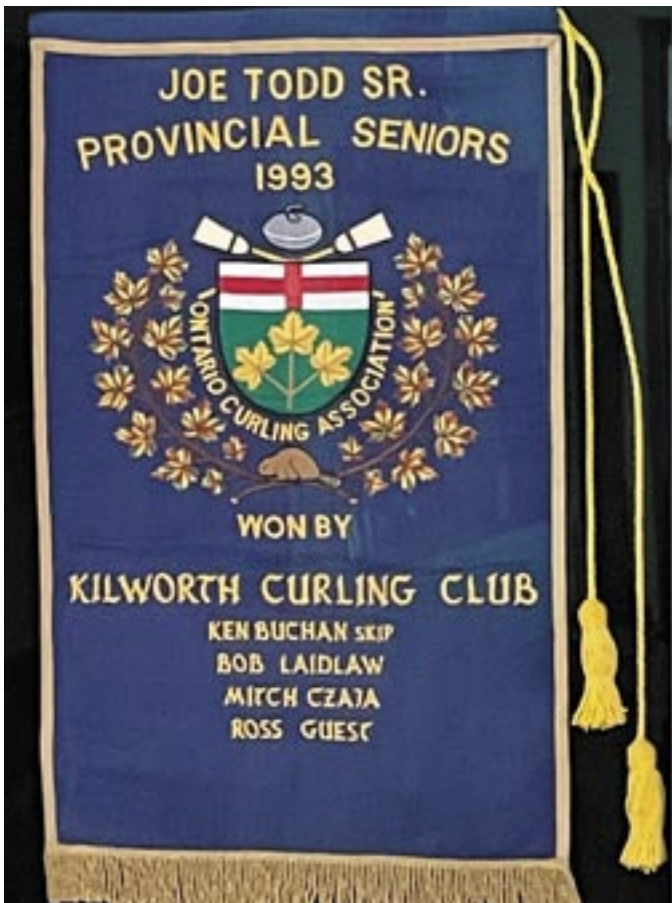
In the late 1980s a small group of “older yet competitive” male curlers from London, Toronto and other parts of Ontario formed the Kilworth Curling Club (KCC). Many had won provincial championships representing various curling clubs but weren’t interested in club curling. In those days, it was almost impossible to join a curling club only to

compete. Most London area clubs required members to play in a club league to play in club playdowns to determine the club’s representative to compete in provincial championships such as the Tankard (Brier), Seniors, Mixed, etc.

So the Kilworth Curling Club was born! It didn’t have a facility, and for a few years was affiliated with a league that curled at Western University’s Thompson Arena. The club played in a few zone playdowns, then in 1993 a team from KCC won the Ontario Senior Men’s Provincial Championship (at the time called the Joe Todd Provincial Championship). This team of Ross Guest, Mitch Czaja, Bob Laidlaw and skip Ken Buchan went on to represent Ontario in the Canadian Seniors Championship in Edmonton, Alberta. They played in two more provincial championships before retiring from competition.

Many local curlers falsely believed the KCC was deceiving other curlers. Rumours circulated of the KCC being illegal, cheating and only wanting to avoid club playdowns. However, through all those years KCC was in good standing with the Ontario Curling Association. Even today, some curlers at the mention of the KCC respond with a smirk.

This 1993 team have donated the Kilworth Curling Club’s Ontario Senior Men’s Championship banner to London Curling Club for display and safe keeping.



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