
GERALDTON CURLING CLUB NEWS



APRIL 2014

The last curling game was held a couple of nights ago, and soon the ice will be out! Unfortunately Mother Nature is continuing to be in a nasty mood, and the golf clubs will have to remain in the basement for a few more weeks.

Many of you have probably heard the saying that “third time is a charm”, well if you ask Dave Barker and his men’s curling team they will say “the fourth time is even better” as this past weekend Barker, along with Brian Aaltonen, Ron Melhuish and Kurt Pristanski, won the Northern Ontario Traveler’s Club Curling Provincial Championship held at the Copper Cliff Curling Club just outside of Sudbury, in their fourth appearance at this event!



Six years ago Dominion Insurance – now under the Traveler’s umbrella - started an annual curling championship for men’s and women’s regular club curling teams who enjoy the sport recreationally, and support their club leagues on a regular basis each year. Teams from every corner of the country are given an opportunity to compete in provincial/territorial competition leading to a national championship – the ultimate experience for club curlers - where the teams are treated to the same atmosphere as that of being at the Scotties or Brier.

On the last weekend of March, each of the NOCA’s six curling regions were represented by a men’s and women’s team who played a round robin competition followed by final game between the first and second place teams.

Region 3 was represented in the Ladies division by the Geraldton team of Karen Saarimaki, Heather Dyke, Tara Evoy and Sylvie Fortier who were hoping to be contenders but had a disappointing weekend and finished with a 1-4 record.

In the men’s division, the Barker team played very well and finished the round robin with a 4-1 record, losing only one close game to the Scott Seabrook team from Soo Curlers, who went through undefeated at 5-0. Barker and Seabrook then met in the championship game with Barker coming out with a convincing 10-4 win.

Congratulations and good luck to Dave, Brian, Ron and Kurt as “Team Northern Ontario” at the Traveler’s Club Curling National Championship to be held at the Mayflower Curling Club in Halifax in November of 2014!

BONSPIEL UPDATE:

The 2nd annual Mixed Business Challenge Bonspiel was held on March 21st and 22nd, with 12 teams taking part. Teams were divided into two pools, each team played 3 – four end games, with points given for games and ends won, points scored etc. Cash prizes were awarded to teams for wins. Each team then advanced to one of the three events based on the points earned and semi-final and final games were then played. The results were as follows:

A Event

- 1. GCC - Karen Saarimaki, Jim Smith, Donna Smith, Sylvie Fortier**
- 2. Le Chateau - Claude Beaulieu, Star Beaulieu, Jean-Louis Lepage, Lori Beaulieu**

B Event

- 1. OPS #2 - Dave Barker, Pina Luomala, Dominique Lafrance, Suzanne Lafrance**
- 2. OPS #1 - Mitch Shallow, Brandi-Jo Fortier, Serena Davis, Andre Proteau**

C Event

- 1. TBFC - Josh Wenzoski, Nicole Moffat, Tracy Nadon, James Nadon**
- 2. GDH Elite - Guylaine Letourneau, Sylvie Duranceau, Tom Bull, Pauline Violette**

Thanks to all of the teams who participated, to the Ice Crew (Bruce Lamb, Mike Haliday, Dominique Lafrance) for the great ice, and to Sylvie Koger and her staff for the delicious dinner!

A big THANK YOU to Kurt Pristanski for looking after this bonspiel!

AREA BONSPIELS

There are still a few area bonspiels scheduled for this month so if you are interested check out Facebook, or the NOCA or club websites.

NORTHERN ONTARIO CURLING ASSOCIATION:

The last provincial championships were held over the past few weeks. The Mixed Provincial was won by the Port Arthur team of Colin Koivula, Oye-Sem Won Briand, Chris Briand and Amanda Gates who had to win a tiebreaker to get into the playoffs, and who now will be competing in the National Mixed next November in North Bay.

The Wheelchair Provincial was won by Gino Sonego and his team from the Fort William Curling Club.

This week the National Masters Championship is being held in Coldale, Alberta. Gord Williams who used to live in Longlac is skipping the Northern Ontario team from Thunder Bay in the men's division and Marion Clark, also from Thunder Bay is skipping the Northern Ontario ladies entry.

OTHER CURLING EVENTS:

The Kevin Koe team is currently representing Canada at the Men's World Championship being played in Beijing, China. If you watched at the start of the week, you would have heard the commentators talking about the wacky ice, which was initially made with contaminated water, that had the teams all shaking their heads. The finals will be carried by TSN this weekend – check online for listings.

The last Grand Slam – the Players Championship will be held April 15th – 20th in PEI, involving 24 of the best men's and women's teams in the world, including our Canadian Olympic Champions skipped by Jennifer Jones and Brad Jacobs. Sportsnet will be covering the event but the television coverage has not been posted yet.

CURLING WINDUP – scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd – more information will be sent out by email!



SEE YOU ON THE GOLF COURSE – I HOPE!