
GERALDTON CURLING CLUB NEWS



JANUARY 2016

January is nearly over and we have managed to avoid some really cold weather this winter. Hopefully that is a good sign that spring is just around the corner. Well maybe not the corner....but hopefully a few blocks down the street!

THANK YOU!

We have lots of THANKS to give in this edition –

BAR COOLERS

THANK YOU to Muhamed Sivic for attempting to fix our three door ice cooler for us, but unfortunately it has given up the ghost. As a result we ended up purchasing a new two door stainless steel cooler that was just installed this week, as well as a household fridge. **THANK YOU** to John Salo, Mike Davis, Doug Haldane, Bruce Lamb, Dariusz Ornatowski, Edgar Carreira and Dan Flynn for removing the old cooler and getting the new one into the bar (they had to lift it over the counter!), and for picking up the household fridge.

CHRISTMAS MIXED SOCIAL

THANK YOU to A, J & J (Andre, Jim & John) for playing music, and to Beth and Steve Anderson for organizing food for the social held on the last mixed night before Christmas, and to everyone who brought goodies to all of our Christmas Socials on league nights!

MASTERS PROVINCIAL

We held the Northern Ontario Masters Provincial last weekend with three teams participating in a double round robin followed by a final game. The competition was very close with a number of games being decided on last rock. In the last round robin game Saturday evening Raymond Roy from Fort Frances had to make his last shot to knock Dave Barker (with Greg Kendall, Kurt Pristanski and Victor Tschajka) out of the competition. Barker finished with a 1-3 record, Roy was in first place at 3-1, and Gord Williams was second at 2-2. Williams and his Port Arthur rink of Ed Pedersen, Ernie Surkan, and Ed Koivula then defeated Roy (with Don Debenedet, Brent Taylor, and Ian McLellan) to repeat as Northern Ontario Champions. The team now advances to the Canadian Masters Championship scheduled for April 4 – 10 in Nova Scotia hoping to finish one win better than last year's second place. On the Women's side, only one team entered the NOCA Women's Masters. Karen Saarimaki from our club will be joining Marion Clark, Bev Junnila, and Barb Ward from Port Arthur to represent Northern Ontario at the same Canadian championship in April.



THANK YOU to all of those people who helped with food, and timing for the Masters: Joan Bull, Heather Liscomb, Dorothy Friske, Julie Davis, Kirsti Davis, Sylvie Fortier, Jim Guillemette, Rick Sarmiento, Ron Melhuish, as well as our bartender Carole, and our ice helpers Jacques Lafrance, Nick Marino, and Don Pettigrew who did a great job preparing the ice for the guys! The teams had nothing but good things to say about the event!

BONSPIELS UPDATE:

Our bonspiels are fast approaching. There has been a change in the date of the Men's Bonspiel – it will be held on March 18 – 20th a week later than originally planned. The posters and signup sheets are on the main club bulletin board, so get a team together and sign up! (the earlier the better, so as to help out the organizers with preparations).

Ladies Spiel – Mar. 4 – 6 – Contact Pina Luomala 854-2035 – looking for 16 teams so we can have pool play like last year

Men's Spiel – Mar. 18 – 20 – Contact Dwayne Sutherland 854-0116 – cash prizes this year

Senior Spiel – Saturday, February 27 – Contact Karen Saarimaki 854-1739 – last year we had 40 players – let's try to get 48 this year!

The Longlac Club is having their one day annual Senior Spiel on Saturday, February 6th (open to anyone 50+, spouses may be younger than 50). Entry fee is \$30, sign up as an individual, included are muffins/coffee, lunch and supper. Starts at 9 a.m. and usually done around 6 p.m. Contact Diane Tschajka 876-2700 or Les McLean 876-2228 if you are interested. There are already eight people from our club that are planning on attending - let's try and increase the numbers!

The area spiels list posted on the hallway bulletin board has been updated - Please try to support the area spiels so that those participating will reciprocate and support our spiels!

NOCA COMPETITIONS:

The Northern Ontario Competition season is in full swing these days. Most of the deadlines for competitions have come and gone. The only deadline remaining is for the NOCA Mixed Provincial – deadline Friday, Feb. 22.

*Congratulations to Mike Assad, Mitch Shallow, Andrew Hackner and Dwayne Sutherland who will be participating in the **NOCA Men's Provincial** in North Bay Feb. 10 – 14 after finishing in first place with a 5-1 record at the West Men's Qualifier held at Port Arthur in early January. The Assad foursome will get to the compete against defending champion Brad Jacobs (Community First CC), Colin Koivula (Port Arthur), Jordan Chandler and Rob Gordon (Sudbury), Pat Gelinis (Voyageur CC), Dylan Johnston (Fort William), and Tanner Horgan (Copper Cliff) who is currently playing in the Canadian Junior Championship this week. The talented young team from Sudbury has made it out of the pool play event and is now competing in the Championship pool, sitting with a record of 7-1 with one game remaining against Matt Dunstone from Manitoba who is 7-0. The team has a great shot at making the playoff round and we might just see them on TSN this weekend! (see schedule at end of newsletter)*

This weekend January 30th & 31st we will be hosting the **Region 3 Senior Men's** event with two local teams vying for a spot at the NOCA Senior Provincial to be held in Iroquois Falls Feb. 18 – 21. John Salo along with Norm Kristjanson, Brian Aaltonen and Clarke Brown will be competing against Dave Barker, Edgar Carreira, Ron Melhuish and Gates Goulet in a best two out of three event with draws slated for 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30th, with a tiebreaker if necessary scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31st.

*Also attending the **NOCA Senior Provincial** in Iroquois Falls will be the local women's team of Pina Luomala, Darlene Leupen, Guylaine Letourneau, Suzanne Lafrance and Denise Santerre, who will compete against last year's NOCA Senior Women's champion Peggy Taylor out of Kenora for the right to wear the Northern Ontario green and gold at the Canadian Senior Championship to be held at the end of March in Digby, Nova Scotia.*

Our club will be hosting the **Region 3 Traveler's Curling Club Women's** playdown the weekend of Feb. 13 & 14. Darlene Leupen, Dorothy Sutherland, Kirsti Davis and Carol Kristjanson will be playing against the Sue Joseph rink from Nipigon for a spot at the NOCA Travelers Curling Club Provincial to be held at the Fort William Curling Club in Thunder Bay at the end of March. Congratulations to Dave Barker and his team of Brian Aaltonen, Ron Melhuish and Gates Goulet who have automatically advanced to the Travelers Provincial as no other clubs in our Region 3 entered men's teams in the event this year.

FUNDRAISING:

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE for an IPAD and a TV to be drawn at our annual windup in May. Tickets are only \$5 and will be available at the bar, from Executive members and at locations around town.

CURLING EQUIPMENT:

A reminder about curling equipment – if you are looking for something new or want to replace some equipment that perhaps isn't doing its job properly or efficiently, then check out the showcase at the club, and talk to Norm Kristjanson.

JET ICE LOGO CONTEST:

Do you perhaps have some hidden artistic talent?

Perhaps you could use it to help out our curling club!

NOCA in partnership with Jet Ice is having a contest giving curling clubs the chance to win two full houses valued at over \$750 – those are the pre-made ones like the four we have at our home end.

Ideally we would like to acquire four more, though with the economy the way it is, it is difficult to secure sponsors.

Perhaps we could win two if someone can design an eye-catching, winning entry for this contest.

A copy of the information is attached. A NEW house for our curling club has to be designed. Two of our current house logos are based on our club pin. Perhaps a new logo could include the mine shaft, or ...????

The designers of possible logos do not have to be members of the club. We have sent this information to the elementary and secondary schools to see if there are possibly students that might be interested in designing something for us. The Club is prepared to offer a prize to the best entry!

The deadline for entry is March 1st. A photo and a drawing of the design must be submitted.

Any questions, please contact Karen S.

Let's get our imaginations working and come up with some ideas to win a couple of houses!!

REMINDERS:

It's a good idea NOT to leave your lockers open or unlocked as items may disappear especially if the doors to the public washrooms are left open. Please try to remember to shut the doors to the washrooms if you are the last one leaving!

With the bonspiels fast approaching a reminder that liquor is not to be taken OUTSIDE the club or into the locker rooms as it puts our license in jeopardy!

See you on the ice!



Upcoming CURLING ON TV

Canadian Juniors - TSN

Sat. Jan. 30 2 p.m. Women's Semi- final

7 p.m. Men's Semi-final

Sun. Jan. 31 10 a.m. Women's Final (replay 7 p.m.)

3 p.m. Men's Final

Scotties Tournament of Hearts – TSN

Feb. 20 – 28

Brier – TSN

Mar. 5 – 13

House Call: Five things you can do to help your curling club

March 20, 2013

Curling clubs often operate on a shoestring budget...or less. Sure, collecting dues from members helps to offset some of the operational costs, but there are many other expenses. For the most part, clubs try to offer as many inexpensive or free events as possible. So keep this in mind: it is the job of members to help make their club a better place, just as it is the job of the curling centre to offer a friendly, clean facility with good ice.

Here are five simple things you can do to help out and make your club even better:

1. Use the Boot Boy (Shoe Cleaner) – Always. No exceptions. You want clean ice? It starts with clean shoes coming into the building and then again before heading out onto the ice. Clean your outdoor shoes and clean your curling shoes (gripper foot) too. I promise if everyone to enter a curling club were to actually do this, you would have pristine ice all season.

2. Volunteer for small events and fundraisers – Volunteering when the Brier or the Scotties come to town is a great thing to do and lots of fun. However, smaller events are often crying for help. Why not volunteer to help out with a junior bonspiel or help out at fundraiser casino night? You could also offer to help during some of the playdowns at the district or regional level.

3. Keep your equipment up to date and in good shape – It is your job as a curler to keep an eye on your curling equipment. If you see your gripper is starting to peel apart and flecks are getting on the ice you are overdue for a new one. They generally don't last longer than one season...maybe two.

Also make sure your broom isn't shedding hair. Hair brooms should be replaced every one or two years and remember to always store them with the head facing up. If it's synthetic, make sure the pad isn't so dirty that it's picking up dirt and laying it back down on the ice. If the sight of dirty ice gets your goat, be sure you are doing your part before you complain, and make sure all your teammates are taking good care of their equipment too.

4. Tell the Ice Maker if you liked the ice – Don't talk to him or her only when you have a gripe. Don't get me wrong; if there is a problem with the ice, the Ice Maker should be made aware. However, before you blame the ice or the rocks make sure you used the Boot Boy, check your own equipment first, and also be sure you aren't thinking there is a run in the ice when players might have delivery problems instead. If you still think there's something going on with the ice, then go speak with the Club Manager or the Ice Maker. Just remember, Ice Makers often only hear about things when they're bad. Please remember to mention to the Ice Maker or Club Manager if you thought the ice was particularly good. Nothing helps motivate like a little positive reinforcement.

5. Have a drink in the lounge after your game with your opposition – This is important for two reasons; the first reason is that having a drink (alcoholic or non... makes no difference) with your opponents helps to create a sense of community within a curling club. It's how you get to know other members and many of them have some hilarious and exciting anecdotes about their experiences with the Roaring Game. The second reason is that it's important to drop a little money in the lounge or in the cafe for a coffee as it helps the club to bring in a little extra revenue. The best part is that prices at curling clubs are usually inexpensive compared to some trendier bars downtown.

There are other ways you can help out at your curling club, but these ideas are more than enough to get you started. Remember this: in general, most clubs are not for profit and are overseen by a volunteer board of directors (something else you could always volunteer for!). We all have to do our part to make our curling clubs a better place.