
GERALDTON CURLING CLUB NEWS



JANUARY 2015

Groundhog day is in a couple of days. Wonder if Punkxutawney Phil will see his shadow or not? The legend says that if he does then we will have six more weeks of winter. Have to laugh at that, because most people think that is horrible, however for us in the Great White North only six weeks would be a blessing!



ICE and ROCKS:

THANK YOU to our Ice Crew – Bruce Lamb, Dominique Lafrance, Jacques Lafrance and Nick Marino, as well as Dwayne Sutherland for doing the ice maintenance over the holidays. Brent Adamson – head icemaker at FWCC and PACC in Thunder Bay along with Lloyd Stansell dropped in on their way to Longlac earlier in the season and “sandpapered” or “textured” our rocks to try and get a little more curl into them. We had the rocks done similarly few years ago. There is a very interesting video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eZy5RULzKE> you might wish to check out - CCA Icemaker Jamie Bourassa and Fred Veale from Canada Curling Stone discuss rocks, and maintenance including texturing.

BONSPIELS UPDATE:

Our first club bonspiel is only a month away. 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). Anyone interested in helping out with any of the spiels is asked to contact the Darlene, Kurt or Karen.

Ladies Spiel – Feb 27, 28 & Mar. 1

Men's Spiel – Mar. 6, 7 & 8

Senior Spiel – Mar. 21

Mixed Business Challenge – Mar. 27 & 28

The Longlac Club is having their one day annual Senior Spiel on Saturday, February 7th (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 Tschajko or Les McLean if you are interested. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, Feb. 1st.

Please try to support the area spiels (list posted on hallway bulletin board, as well as individual posters) so that those participating will reciprocate and support our spiels!

NOCA COMPETITIONS:

The Northern Ontario Competition season is in full swing these days. The Junior and Ladies Provincial championships have already been held. This week the Tanner Horgan and Krysta Burns rinks from Sudbury are competing in the Canadian Junior Championship. Tracy Horgan (Tanner's older sister – this family eats, sleeps and lives for curling) and her Sudbury team made history a couple of weeks ago by becoming the first Ladies team to have the opportunity to wear the Northern Ontario colors at this year's Scotties Tournament of Hearts. The Horgan team will be competing in the relegation round just prior to the start of the event along with Northwest Territories and Yukon for the final spot in the main draw.

Upcoming deadlines: NOCA Mixed Qualifier – Friday, Feb. 6th

Masters Men & Women (age 60+) – Friday, Feb. 13th

Information on all NOCA competitions – locations, deadline dates etc. has been posted on the main club bulletin board and is available on the NOCA website www.curlnoca.ca. If you have any questions, contact Karen Saarimaki.

Last weekend we held a very successful **Men's West Qualifier**. Seven teams took part and provided some excellent curling including local teams skipped by Cory Nephin and Mike Assad. Congratulations to the Ben Mikkelsen, Brian Burgess and Jeff Currie teams from Thunder Bay who qualified for the NOCA Men's Provincial Championship to be held Feb. 4 – 8 in Kenora. They will be competing along with teams skipped by Olympic Champion Brad Jacobs, two time World Champion Al Hackner (with Kristofer Leupen at second), Dylan Johnston, Mike Jakubo and Chris Glibota for the opportunity to represent Northern Ontario at the Brier in Calgary.

We had a minor blip, with the compressor going down Thursday night, but thanks to Bruce Lamb and his ice crew for getting the ice back as quickly as possible. We heard a lot of great comments from the players about the ice and the hospitality that was provided. **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out with putting on this event. Without the assistance of both club members and the people from the community the event would not have been a success! (see list of volunteers at the end of the newsletter).

Longlac is hosting the **Senior Men's Provincial February 18 – 22**. The region qualifiers for this event are being held this weekend. Al Hackner is one of the favorites in Region 2 along with Scott Henderson who just won the Thunder Bay Major League playoffs. Hackner's teammates include Eric Harnden (father of EJ and Ryan) and Rob Thomas from the Soo as well as Frank Morrisette.

Traveler's Curling Club – The Region 3 representatives at the Provincial Traveler's Curling Club Championship were decided on the weekend of January 17th at the Nipigon Curladrome. Congratulations to our teams skipped by Mike Assad (with Mitch Shallow, Andrew Hackner, Dwayne Sutherland) and Karen Saarimaki (with Tara Evoy, Pina Luomala, Sylvie Fortier) competed against club teams from Nipigon, both winning two games straight to advance to the provincial championship to be held at the end of March in the Soo. On the previous weekend, the Saarimaki team played off in the club against Darlene Leupen (Heather Dyke, Kirsti Davis, Dorothy Walker). Leupen won the first game, and Saarimaki won the next two to advance to the Region 3 event.

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.

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!

Please try not to have body parts like fingers, hands, knees etc. come in contact with the ice for more than a couple of seconds, as the body heat leaves flat spots, which can cause havoc to the ice surface, stones won't react properly, and those spots become hazardous for players. Here is an article from the CCA website about this:

PICKS ON YOUR CURLING ICE – content by Gerry Peckham – posted by Danny Lamoreux

I can pretty much guarantee that every curling facility in Canada suffers from 'picked' rocks during recreation play as well as what you see and hear on television from the elite players. Picks are a pain and often spoil a good game or causes a team to lose.



Grippers should be maintained.

Or it happens so often, the game itself is not fun anymore. You know from previous blogs that customer service is the name of the game if we want to experience growth and while your icemakers will do all they can to provide solid ice that is fast and curls, it is up to us to educate our curlers on why we have so many picks and how we can change the way we do things to significantly reduce the number of times it happens in a game.

1. Hot feet.....It is universally agreed that heat from individuals that are working hard while brushing has the potential to be transferred through the bottom of shoes to the ice. When hot feet come into contact with the ice while brushing, smudges where the pebble has been affected appear (from pushing off with the gripper foot/feet) and can definitely affect the ice surface causing picks. How can we help 'fix this'? Players go through a footwear cooling down period prior to commencing play. So, stand behind the hack while shaking hands; and/or walk down the side of the sheet to the hog line and back before your practice slide.
2. Dirt.....Players often walk with their curling shoes on, from the dressing rooms to the ice surface bringing the dirt from the floors / carpets with them. How can we help 'fix this'? Carry your shoes with you to the ice surface OR stay on the playing surface during an entire game.
3. Grippers.....Older, worn out grippers tend to peel off small pieces of rubber that can definitely cause picks. Also, grippers are being worn out from the inside. The teflon or metal sliders dig away at the inside of the gripper causing small pieces to break off and get onto the ice and cause picks when the sliding foot gripper is removed for throwing. How can we help 'fix this'? New grippers OR a concerted effort to keep them "new" through washing and removing small pieces of rubber about to come off OR remove the sliding foot gripper behind the hacks. It is also recommended that player's who remove a gripper/anti-slider for the purpose of delivery, should leave it on the ice as opposed to setting it up on a walkway. There is a substantive difference in the ambient temperature of the two surfaces.
4. Body Parts on ice, knees / hands.....We have supplied information (below) from a current study being conducted at a university in Canada. Body parts touching the ice when during the slide have virtually no impact on the ice surface. Body contact in one spot on the ice for a period of 3 plus seconds after releasing the stone renders that spot "damaged" and it will not be improved until it is scraped and re-pebbled. This includes the knees and hands of skips and thirds while calling line in the house. National Team Program players have been made aware of this information and have truly made great strides in staying off the ice (except the feet) following the release of the stone. It is not perfect but it certainly has vastly improved. How can we help 'fix this'? Get your hands and knees off the ice following release at the conclusion of the delivery. Skips and thirds do the same in the house.

Effects of Body Parts on Ice:

Without a doubt, a knee print causes the greatest amount of damage to the ice surface. This includes the thrower's stationary position at the conclusion of a delivery and a skip's/third's knee on the ice in the house while calling line. Any stationary contact over 3 seconds can raise the temperature as much as 3 degrees Celsius. This damage is also enhanced by the common practice of using a brush or hand to "sweep away" any damage caused by the knees on the ice. This essentially reheats the spot extending the damaging effects to the ice. If there are any concerns about a damaged area left by an opposing thrower kneeling on the ice, it is recommended a very light dusting of the area is your best course of action.

The damage of a hand on ice can be significant as well if left in a stationary position on the ice. The heating effects of a bare hand on ice while the player is still sliding, is negligible.

The take-away message is to never place body parts other than your feet on the surface for an extended period of time.

SCOTTIES – February 14 – 22 in Moosejaw

BRIER – Feb. 28 – Mar. 8 in Calgary

Both are being televised on TSN. For the schedule check out <http://www.tsn.ca/2014-15-tns-curling-broadcast-schedule-1.95515>

See you on the ice!



THANK YOU to the following for helping out with the Men's West Qualifier!

Social: Julie Davis

Muffins/Lunch/Snacks: Carol Carreira
Beth Anderson
Nancy Sutherland
Carol Kristjanson
Liz Brown
Dorothy Walker
Brandy Fortier
Darlene Leupen
Pina Luomala
Karen Saarimaki
Sondra Davis

Online scoring: Kirsti Davis

Bartender: Guylaine Letourneau

Ice: Bruce Lamb
Dominique Lafrance
Jacques Lafrance
Nick Marino

Accommodation info: Kurt Pristanski

Head Official: Karen Saarimaki

Game Umpires: Dave Barker
Pina Luomala
Heather Dyke
Kurt Pristanski
Jamie McPherson
Victor Tschajka

Timers: Mike Davis
Dorothy Walker
Ron Melhuish
Edgar Carreira
Lana Letourneau
Darlene Leupen
Rick Sarmiento
Sylvie Fortier

Set up: Mike Gillis
Mike Assad
Mitch Shallow
Dwayne Sutherland
Andrew Hackner

Computers/Signs: Tara Evoy