
GERALDTON CURLING CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 2014



By the looks of the white stuff that has fallen in the last couple of weeks, and the snow that continues to show up in the forecast, it appears as if Mother Nature has decided to end golf season for us whether we want it to or not, and is attempting to get our minds focused on the upcoming curling season! The ice plant was turned on two weeks ago, with flooding being done by our employees and volunteers, (THANK YOU!) So we are hoping to start curling the week of OCT. 20th!

Last year was a terrific year for Canadian (and Northern Ontario) Curling with Canada winning **THREE** gold medals at the Olympics and Paralympics (by the Brad Jacobs team, Jennifer Jones team and Jim Armstrong team). Hopefully 2014-15 proves to be another great season for Northern Ontario competitors! The first National competition in the Season of Champions is the Canadian Mixed which is being held at the North Bay Granite Club November 9 – 15. Northern Ontario is being represented by the Colin Koivula rink of Thunder Bay (Oye-Sem Won Briand, Chris Briand and Amanda Gates).

This year on the local scene we look forward to following Dave Barker, Brian Aaltonen, Ron Melhuish and Kurt Pristanski in November as they are representing Northern Ontario at the Travelers Club Championship National Championship in Halifax. **GOOD LUCK GUYS!!**



EXECUTIVE:

The turnout at both the Annual and Semi-Annual general meetings was very disappointing, only a couple of members showed up. Luckily all of last year's Executive have agreed to continue on for another year but we are still in need of a NOCA Club Rep. If you think you might be interested in the job or would like information as to what the position involves please contact Karen S.

We are always looking for members who are willing to volunteer some time to help us out in many different capacities throughout the season so if you have some skills and can offer us some time, just let an Executive member know!

EMPLOYEES:

Guyline Letourneau is returning as our Bartender, with Bruce Lamb once again returning as our icemaker along with Dominique Lafrance as ice helper. We still have to finalize our other hirings - deadline for ice helper applications is Friday, October 10th (see ad in October 1st issue of the Times Star.)

FINANCES & FEES:

This past July the Club spent a fair chunk of our reserve money on a new rug (the previous one was 18 years old), new dance floor (which we also enlarged a bit) as well as new flooring for the hallway leading to the locker rooms. We will continue to look at making further improvements to the club, in particular to the locker rooms and washrooms.

Fees had not been increased for a number of years. In order for us to continue to make improvements to the club the Executive decided to increase the club fees by a small amount for this season.

FEES: (HST included)

Men`s or Ladies One Night - \$220

Men`s or Ladies Two Nights - \$260

Mixed League - \$510

(split fees maximum six ways – any person playing in Ladies or Men`s league does not pay extra for Mixed)

Junior (in adult league) - \$120

Wednesday afternoon Juniors - \$40 for 10 week session (starting Nov. 5th)

Afternoon League - \$5/week to maximum of \$30 (starting Nov. 4th)

Spare - \$5/game to maximum of \$50

REGISTRATION:

*This year we will be holding TWO REGISTRATION/FEE PAYMENT nights – THURSDAY, OCT. 9th and FRIDAY, Oct. 17th from 7-9 p.m. at the club. ALL CURLERS are asked to come out on one of those evenings BEFORE the leagues start to REGISTER and PAY FEES so that we don't have to spend so much time chasing people for money after the leagues begin. We are again offering **FOUR \$50 TEAM KITTY AWARDS – one to a team from each of our Leagues! In order to be eligible, players from teams MUST register and PAY fees on one of the Registration Nights! The more team members that come out to register and pay, the more chances your team has to win one of the KITTY PRIZES!***

You may still pay in two installments using postdated cheques. The first one must be dated November 15th, with the second due on December 15th. The Bar will be open on the Registration Nights, so come on out to check out our new rug and flooring, and visit with friends!

LEAGUES:

We are considering making Tuesday Night an OPEN league night, in order to get a few more people and teams into the building. So if there are any Ladies or Mixed teams interested in playing a SECOND night on Tuesday, please contact one of the League Chairs to let them know.

Tuesday – Men`s League – possibly OPEN league

Tuesday – Afternoon League

Wednesday – Ladies League

Wednesday – Junior League

Thursday – Men`s League

Friday – Mixed League

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Last year we asked all members to provide us with an **email address** so that we could keep you up to date with club news, dates of events etc. This worked very well so we are going to continue it. We won't share your address with anyone else; it is only for the club's use. Feel free to pass this newsletter on to anyone you think that might be interested in becoming a curling club member this year!

BONSPIELS:

The dates for our bonspiels have been decided so mark them on your calendar now!

Ladies – Feb. 27, 28, Mar. 1st

Mens – Mar. 6 – 8

Mixed Business Challenge – Mar. 27 & 28

NEW - This year we also are going to hold a ONE day SENIOR bonspiel on Saturday, March 21st. Nakina and Longlac each host a one day Senior spiel that some of our members have attended in the past and have really enjoyed – more details to follow!

Kurt Pristanski will be chairing the Men's and Mixed spiels, with Darlene Leupen heading up the Ladies Spiel.

If you are interested in helping or have any ideas as to how we can make our spiels more successful please get in touch with Kurt or Darlene.

NORTHERN ONTARIO CURLING ASSOCIATION:

Be sure to check out the NOCA website www.curlnoca.ca for up-to-date information on what's happening on the curling scene in Northern Ontario! Some news for those of you that like to follow scores in curling competitions – NOCA will not be using playdowns.com any longer for score posting, instead the CCA's program will be used. Links will be provided directly on the NOCA site to access results – more information will be coming on this. Good news - Seniors and Mixed competitions have been changed from ten to EIGHT ends and this year there will be no relegation round for these two events – fourteen teams from all the provinces and territories will be participating similarly to the Junior Nationals. 2014-15 will also be the FIRST year that Northern Ontario will have their OWN representative at the National Scotties!

TRAVELERS CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP:

The rules for the Travelers Curling Club Championship have been revised again (see www.curlnoc.ca – look under the Competitions tab then click on Travelers Curling Club championship and you will find an Eligibility document which contains all of the rules). Some changes to note – players must now be 19 years of age and over in order to participate, also players that compete in this year's National event in November will NOT be allowed to participate this year (so that means we will be looking for another Men's team from our club to try and get to the provincials and nationals this year). The Region 3 championship is tentatively scheduled to be held in Marathon – date TBD with the Provincial to be held in the Soo on the last weekend in March. Information will be posted on the club bulletin board, as well as on our website and the NOCA website regarding qualification for this year's Travelers Club competition.

CLUB WEBSITE:

Sarah Green continues to look after our website – be sure to check it out at - be sure to check it out at www.geraldtoncurlingclub.ca. We also have a FACEBOOK page and are on TWITTER – hope you have “liked our page” and are following us!

CLUB HOURS:

*The club is open for regular league play Tuesday to Fridays starting at 6:30, as well as Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 for the afternoon drop in league. On Monday evenings the club will be open for practice or makeup games (THANK YOU to Julie D. again for looking after this). **There may also be open sheets available on other evenings for practice or makeup games – please sign up on the board located in the hallway in order that our ice crew can make sure the ice is ready.***

CURLING EQUIPMENT:

THANK YOU to Norm Kristjanson for agreeing to continue to look after bringing in curling equipment for our members! Curling equipment has come a long way in the last couple of decades, and you don't have to pay an arm or a leg for it. Old outdated, antiquated equipment can limit your skills and actually HARM ice conditions. Brushes with lighter handles made of carbon fibre or fiberglass, are available for as little as \$80 and make brushing less taxing for a whole game, and can help you become a more effective sweeper.

Check out the brush you are using – **heads do wear out** - once they get shiny, dirty, no longer feel rough to the touch and fail to provide friction on the ice they need to be changed! They aren't that expensive! Another thing that wears out and needs to be replaced is the anti-slider or gripper. Constant use and subjecting the gripper to constant extremes of hot and cold like stepping off and on the ice, hastens the deterioration of the rubber particles that make up the gripper, which causes them to break off onto the ice. These can create havoc to curling rocks as most of us have experienced on a few occasions!

If you are looking for new equipment, such as pants, shoes, brushes, grippers - for yourself, or as a gift for someone, be sure to talk to Norm Kristjanson as he may be able to help you out. Check out the equipment display in the club showcase!

We are looking forward to offering everyone a great time curling during our long winter! Bring along some friends to try it out! Our Mixed League is great fun for everyone - don't worry about winning, just worry about playing, meeting new people and well – just having a good time. We try to offer instruction for new curlers, and even for those that are not so new but want to improve their skills! A curling clinic has been planned for Saturday, November 1st if enough people are interested (contact Karen S. for info).



SEE YOU ON THE ICE!