

GORD CARROLL CLASSIC

This year was the 7th edition of our Ontario Curling Tour event and featured probably our strongest Ladies' field ever, with the Men's side consisting of several past champions. Planning for this event is almost a yearlong venture and many thanks go out to the members on the committee that assist, with everything from sponsors, snacks, player questions, lounge duty, 50/50 ticket sales and scheduling. Two huge thanks to Ted Birchard and Sarah Gray for all their assistance. Linda Green the past chairperson, who has moved to a new community also provided a wealth of experience and assistance.

The field this year saw many new faces, lots of returning players with different teammates. There were two men's teams from the US, a young ladies' team from Gavle, Sweden, Team Tracy Horgan from Northern Ontario. Team Middaugh and Team Epping, both ranked #7 in the world were also in the field.

Games started on Wednesday evening and featured more local team, including our assistant Ice Tech Stephanie Van Huyse, Team Beddows from Lindsey and Team Martin from Oshawa. The event got into full swing Thursday afternoon and continued with a full slate of games Friday and Saturday. Jamie and his ice crew did a great job

of keeping the ice consistent all event even with some unforeseen issues.

The many fans that came out to watch, either members or out of club guests, were treated to some fabulous curling. Team Epping and Team Gardener qualified through the A side events and ultimately both reached the championship match. Team Epping capitalized on their opportunities and scored a decisive victory. This is the 2nd Gord Carroll Classic win for John Epping, the first with his new team. Team McManus, from Sweden were the only Ladies' team to have a perfect record through round robin play, after winning their quarter-final match they were eliminated by Team Middaugh in the Semi-finals. Local favorites and perennial Gord Carroll Classic participants team McKnight won their semi-final match and moved to the finals against team Middaugh. After a shaky start Team McKnight rebounded in the second half of the finals to capture an extra end victory.

If you would like to become more involved in the planning and running of this event next year please let Casey or I know and we will find a role for you.

Submitted by Malcolm Macaulay

