

ROCK TALK



Whitby Curling Club Newsletter

May 2016

Message from the President!

Wow, another successful season behind us! Time to start enjoying the warmer weather and all the activities we participate in to keep us fit and ready for next season.

Many of us will continue to keep in touch with our curling friends over the summer with golf games, lawn bowling, barbeques, camping or whatever you enjoy. From my perspective, this is the best part of the Whitby Curling Club, the friendships that have fostered on and off the ice. The Club has lost some of our members this year and others have struggled with health challenges. Throughout it all, support has been shown through the friendships that exist. Thank you for being part of that.

We had another year of transition successfully behind us. Angela has settled in as our Club Manager and is looking forward to another season next year. She has spent time this year becoming accustomed to how we do things and even got on to the curling ice a couple of times. Heck, she even participated in the Ice Makers Bonspiel helping Whitby walk away with the title! Not too bad a start to her curling career!

Plans are underway for next season already. Check out the club calendar on line for information. Before you know it, it will be time for Learn to Curl Week, the Gord Carroll Curling Tour Event, and other spiels whose planning is underway!

This year we will be adding a Mixed Doubles League to our league offerings. It will take place on Wednesday nights and share the ice with the Wednesday Mixed League. Take a look in the newsletter for more information.

Watch your email and the website for registration dates and for the Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be in early September. As a member of the club, you are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

This will be my final article as President of the WCC. It has been a pleasure! See you next season!

Tracey Macaulay

President

NEW MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE!!

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NOVICE LEAGUE 2015-16!

You may have noticed some unfamiliar faces around the Club this year, perhaps sparing in one of your leagues, possibly playing in a bonspiel or two, or even just sitting around having a drink. Seems that word has gotten out about one of the worst kept secrets in the Club – the Novices have arrived.

This year's Novice League was an overwhelming success, with over 60 beginner curlers coming out every Sunday night to try their hand at one of our favourite pastimes.....and they even curled too!

From what began as Malcolm's simple suggestion, the Novice League has grown over the past few years to the point where we are actually running two draws. Sincere thanks to the Sunday Night Ladies League for allowing us to share your ice time.



It wasn't just the number of curlers; their enthusiasm for the sport, the camaraderie on and off the ice and the fun that everyone had each and every night contributed to a tremendous season. Often we would get off the ice after 10:00 on a Sunday night and the majority of players stayed around afterwards partaking in the tradition of 'winner buys'.

Many of these same Novices would happily come out Tuesday's and Wednesday's at 9:00 p.m. just for the opportunity to throw more rocks and improve their game. And improve they did. At the start it was the traditional "herding cats". Where do I stand, how do I throw the rock, what is the skip asking for, how do I sweep, how do I just stay on my feet? Things experienced curlers may all take for granted, but are foreign concepts to new curlers.

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The theory of the Novice League was that if you teach people the game in a relaxed, friendly manner then those who come to love it will join other leagues. I'm happy to report that that has already happened. And based on the response I've gotten many more will be joining other leagues next year. So you too will get the pleasure of curling with these terrific people. Just don't teach them your bad habits!

Of course what we didn't expect was that many who have joined other leagues want to continue to come out on Sunday nights, simply because they enjoyed it so much. And all I can say to that is: "you are welcome any time".

Look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Fortunately, we had a brave group of volunteers who came out every night to teach, explain and work with this eager group. On behalf of the entire Novice League, our collective thanks to Brent Barton, Peter Warnica, and the "Way Brothers", Dave and Jeremy for their tireless efforts.

By the end of the season the questions turned to strategy and technique. Way beyond the basics. And again we were fortunate, as our Director of Curling Development Sarah Gray, with the able assistance of her protégé Melissa, ran a number of curling clinics which were well attended by members of the Novice League. I must say that it was very gratifying to be able to watch this group grow and improve as curlers. Thanks to Sarah, Melissa and all those who helped with the Curling Development program.

But what was unexpected, and perhaps the reason why, in my opinion, the league was so successful this year, was that the Novices are simply a great group of people. For that I am extremely grateful.

And the best part of all is that many of you will get to experience what I did this year.

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YOUTH CURLING

What a great season for our kids and coaches! It was rewarding to watch the improvement in skills and knowledge over the season. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteer coaches and to the Bantams who helped with Little Rocks. Our program couldn't run without you.

Our recreational Bantam & Little Rock curlers visited a lot of clubs around the GTA this season. Bonspiels were entered at Milton CC, Tam Heather CC, Port Perry CC, Bayview Golf & CC, East York CC & Oshawa CC. We are very proud of how well they represented our club. We get a lot of compliments on our curlers etiquette and behaviour!

Two Bantam teams participated in the TCA league, Team Meadows, Stephanie Meadows, Sophie MacMillan, Rebecca Taylor & Eden DeHart in Goldline and Team Barton, Calleigh Barton, Nicole Bamrah, Amanda Taylor & Trinity DeHart in Interclub. Both teams had good seasons and qualified for their league playoffs. Congratulations Girls!

Our final bonspiel, Rockin' In Whitby was held on April 9th. It was a fun day judging by the smiles and the laughter. Congratulations to Team Gray, Melissa Gray (skip), Laurel Johanssen (vice), Alyssa Scanga (second) & Catherine Waghorn (lead) on their first place tie with Dixie CC's Team Prenevost. It was Laurel, Alyssa, and Catherine's first bonspiel....what a great start! Who would have believed that you could have a tie after 3 x 6 end games? A special thanks to Natalie Gunn for providing chocolate curling rocks for all the players, as well as chocolate pigs (awarded to the first player to hog a rock on each team). What a yummy treat!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back next season and meeting our new curlers! Enjoy your summer.



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THIS YEAR AT



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INTRODUCING MIXED DOUBLES!!!

A new League is coming to Whitby

Mixed Doubles

The league will play on Wednesday nights. It will play alongside the Mixed League.

Each league will be guaranteed 3 sheets of ice in both the early and late draws. Mixed Double Games will be scheduled at 7:00 and 8:30 p.m.

Over the last few years, the Mixed League on Wednesday utilized 3 sheets at 7:00 p.m.; therefore, should those numbers remain consistent, Mixed Doubles would be scheduled for 3 sheets at 7:00 and 6 sheets at 8:30 p.m. Schedule will be confirmed once registration is underway.

The Mixed Doubles League would be like any other league run at Whitby. With a full membership, you can register for Mixed Doubles. Teams can also register for the single league rate. We will be marketing the league to other clubs, please feel free to spread the word!

Changes to the Mixed Doubles rules have made the game even more appealing to players. You no longer need to get up and sweep your own rock after throwing (although you can if you are so inclined and coordinated). The partner can sweep the rock after it is thrown; they are not required to hold the broom in the house. The game is fast paced and fun to play! Come on out and give it a try!

There will be a prize fee of \$25 dollars charged to every player. Points will be accumulated throughout the season and a play-off will be scheduled. It is anticipated the WCC Mixed Doubles Champions will receive their entry into the TCA Mixed Doubles Championship, which had its inaugural spiel in 2016!

Malcolm and Tracey Macaulay have volunteered to be the convenors for this league. Should you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to them.

If you want to read about the game and rules, check out the links on the Curling Canada site
<http://www.curling.ca/about-the-sport-of-curling/getting-started-in-curling/what-is-mixed-doubles-curling/>

Message

From

The

Manager

I cannot believe how fast my first season at Whitby Curling Club flew by! I have learned so much and met so many great people here.

Some highlights from my first season:

1. Learning how much the members at WCC are like a big family
2. Seeing the amount of dedication and love people have for the club and the sport.
3. Curling in, and winning, my first bonspiel (and promptly retiring on that high note ;))
4. The amount of time and care is taken to make sure the ice is just right
5. Being a little shocked by the amount of chips the club goes through in a week

I want to thank all the members and volunteers who helped me out this past season. Your passion for this club and the sport is contagious! I hope you all have a wonderful summer and i'm looking forward to seeing you next season.

MIXED ROCKS ON!

Elvis lives! And so does Buddy Holly! Poodle skirts are back!

It's not time travel, you've just stepped into the Mixed Closing! This event is the pinnacle of the Curling Season (in our humble opinion) and combines playoff and trophy games, great food, dancing and a lot of fun in one evening. This year's theme was Rock 'n Roll and the closet rockers came out in force.

Of course, the fifties was not the only era saluted, the entire rock genre was up for grabs. A band member from KISS looked so authentic that we were waiting for Gene Simmons to arrive. Follicly challenged guys appeared with shoulder-length hair, with Dee Snyder wearing his Twisted Sister T-shirt and accompanied by a blonde seductress. The 60's were calling – hippies floated in and out of the room, spreading their message of peace and free love (Regina – did you really pick that outfit from your closet? Absolutely authentic!). The 80's came back with leather pants that appeared to have been applied with a spray bomb and the tall gleaming red platform stilettos screamed out "bring your ego to me, if you dare!". Punks came out in force in army boots and lethal jewellery with attitudes and piercings to match. Rod Bemister DJ'd the apres-dinner session and provided tunes that spanned half a century.

In The Bradley Room, everyone had a replica 45rpm record at their place setting with no title or artist listed. A contest involved writing your title and artist in the blank space on the disk and submitting the effort. Matt Bennett handled the incoming records during dinner and gave us a progress report. The first batch of titles and artists were clever, some sounded cute and a couple were rather risqué. Matt quickly became the Maestro of the Microphone, savouring words and providing inflections and innuendo that brought out howls of laughter from the crowd. As each group of records came in, Matt teased and cajoled the audience, raising the level of immodesty to the point where people simply tossed out any sense of decorum in the name of comedy. Our caterer, Cheryl, told us that we were easily the loudest group she had catered at the Club but we were definitely the ones having the most fun.

Our group of vinyl experts was in their glory, scouring the anonymous album covers in the lounge and filling in the missing words. Later on, they owned the "Name That Tune" contest after the dinner, which was a real challenge with the decibels of enthusiasm drowning out the tunes. Even people cheating with their iphone apps were unable to beat the keen vinyl-eared types that identified tunes with only a few discernable notes. In the Lounge, for people who had the skill, the "Blow Me" booth offered up chewing gum and challenged them to blow the biggest bubble with a prize awarded at the dinner.

The evening started off with a piper leading the eight teams of combatants onto the ice with Bryce Jordan officiating the ceremony, sharing the Drambuie with the piper and announcing the start of the games. Of course, the four trophies up for grabs offered truly keen curling on fast ice that produced the following winners:

Remax Jazz Mixed Championship Trophy – Team Elliot
5 Paddles Cup – Team Downs
Whiners Trophy – Team Lavigne
Paul Welch Memorial Cup – Team Way (Jeremy)

The Closing was a fitting end of a great season – many thanks to the Mixed Committee for all of the hours of behind the scenes work from polishing trophies to organizing dinner, coming up with so many creative ideas and attending to a huge number of details to make everything work so well.

Dave Simmons on behalf of the Mixed Committee



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Curling

Development

As my first season as Director, Curling Development comes to a close; I would like to thank all the volunteer instructors who helped make our program a success. From 'Learn to Curl' to all the group instructions, the feedback from our membership & guests has been very positive.

Next year, clinics will start earlier in the season and run monthly on afternoons & evenings until the end of March. Check the calendar for exact dates.

Early season will focus on the basics of a balanced delivery, sweeping, etiquette and rules including any changes affecting sweeping. Later clinics will work on fine tuning skills and knowledge to help you take your game to the next level.

There is a lot to understand about the skills and knowledge of our favourite winter sport so please let me know if there is a specific topic or skill you would like to have covered. Improving your game really does enhance your level of enjoyment. It can be as simple as understanding why your team thinks your shots are great, even though the rocks aren't in the rings.....guards are very important! The level of interest and the detailed questions this season were amazing.....who expected that a 15 minute sweeping drill could turn into 45 minutes on all the nuances of sweeping and judging weight.

Enjoy your off season. Remember to stay active and participate in other sports. It will make a difference when you start curling next year.

Sarah Gray
Director, Curling Development



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MEN'S RATED

On April 22nd, the championship games were held for both the Monday Men's Rated League and the Thursday Men's Divisional League. The winners were the following:

In the Men's Rated League the Steve Smith team are the first ever winners for the Little Piddler Trophy. This new trophy was created to allow teams who lost in the A and B sides a consolation round to play in. His team members are Dave Keys as vice, Doug Schnurr as second and Chris Garnet as lead.

The winners of the overall championship and The Old Piddler Trophy are the Todd Ness team with Andrew Brown as vice, Mike Bertrand as second and Colin Schnurr as lead.

Some interesting facts about the winners are that Steve Smith is now the first person to be on winning teams for both the Old Piddler and the Little Piddler. Mike Bertrand has been on two winning teams for the Piddler and they were back to back seasons on two different teams. Todd has now been on two winning teams as well for the Piddler.

It was also a great year for the Schnurr family. Both Doug and Colin were on championship teams. As well, Doug was awarded the Glinz Trophy for having the most points through the regular season. Well done Doug and Colin!

In the Thursday Men's Divisional League the winner of the Gord Carroll Trophy was the Chris Berlette team including Andrew Brown as vice, Mark Blackmore as second and Tom Rolfe as lead.

This is Chris' second time winning the Gord Carroll Trophy as skip. He won it last in the 2009-2010 season with a different team.

This was a great year for Andrew Brown. He was a member of two championship teams in two different leagues. He had to get a spare (Todd MacNutt) for the Piddler championship game to allow him to play in the Gord Carroll championship game. Congratulations Andrew!





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