

# Between the Sheets

The Newsletter of  
Beausejour Curling  
Volume 11 • Issue 3  
31 December 2009  
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Latimer



## BEAUSEJOUR CURLERS ON THE MAP



As mentioned previously, two young curlers from Beausejour made their mark on the Provincial Junior curling scene this year. Selena Kaatz, who throws fourth rocks for the Alyssa Vandepoele team, and her brother, Kurtis, who skips his own team qualified for a berth in the Women's Provincial Junior Championships and Men's Provincial Junior Championships respectively. Unfortunately, despite great efforts in the Provincials, they came up a little short of being named Manitoba champions. But, nonetheless, Beausejour couldn't be more proud of what these two have accomplished. And with several more years of junior eligibility left, they will undoubtedly be back in the hunt next year. Selena's team has already taken a giant step in that direction by qualifying for

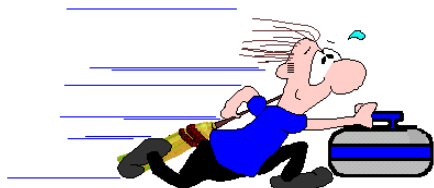
next year's Junior Women's Provincials with their outstanding performance in the Junior Women's Division of the Christmas Bonspiel. Great going Selena and Kurtis!

And of course those of us with a functional television set in our homes followed with mounting excitement the exploits of BCC's young Jason Gunnlaugson team at the Olympic Trials on TSN. Clearly the fan favourites (even when playing against hometown teams Martin and Ferbey), they were competitive in practically every game and well deserved the fan support they received. With this experience under their belts, we will, no doubt, soon be seeing them step into the time-worn shoes of the Howards and Ferbeys on the national curling scene. You did all of Beausejour proud, guys!

### AFTER SCHOOL CURLING UPDATE

The After-School curling program is up and running and successful as ever, thanks to the efforts of head coach, Darla Armstrong, and parent organizers, Karen Kaminski, Debbie Strecker and Susan Yusishen. But we would be remiss if we did not give particular mention to four junior-aged curlers, members of Trevor Ans Men's team, who have been offering their services as assistant coaches. As a result, the youngsters participating in the After-School program are able to benefit from increased hands-on instruction that will ultimately enable them to master this life-long winter activity. So our club owes a debt of gratitude to these four young men: Trevor Ans, Robert Yusishen, Drake Strecker and Kurtis Mikoliew. We really appreciate your efforts.

### MEN'S BONSPIEL COUNTDOWN



No doubt those of the male persuasion are anxiously looking for opportunities to show off that spiffy new curling gear that Saint Nick left under the tree on Christmas morning. Well, look no longer. The renowned Beausejour Men's Bonspiel will take centre stage this coming Thursday evening to Sunday (January 7 to 10). Bonspiel Co-ordinator, Steve Gray, has put together a great lineup of activities for the weekend, including a face-paced Calcutta on Friday, a scrumptious meal and entertainment on Saturday and top-notch prizes for the various champs. And of course you will be treated to the opportunity to put your exceptional curling skills on display throughout the weekend. If you get in touch with Steve Gray right away...and I do mean right away...you may still be able to get in on all the thrills and excitement. And if you are the wife, mother or grandmother of a male curler, why not sign your curler up and have a whole weekend to yourself? Steve can be contacted by phone at 268-3304 or by e-mail at [s.gray.bjcoop@mts.net](mailto:s.gray.bjcoop@mts.net).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



Last month the league coordinators polled the curlers in their leagues about a one-day "Members and Families" funspiel just before Christmas. There was a highly positive response to holding this type of event...but not during the hectic Christmas season. After considering whether we might be able to try this for later in the year, the Board determined that there were very few open dates, and those available conflicted with bonspiels and other activities that many club members usually participate in. So what we will be doing is planning later this year for this to take place in November of next season and, if it is well supported by the members, hopefully it will develop into an annual event. We would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to take a lead role in organizing this for next season.

Although much of the anxiety over the H1N1 flu virus has subsided, there are still many who are endeavouring to undertake suitable precautions to ensure that their primary winter activity involves sweeping rocks on a sheet of curling ice, rather than lying in bed coughing and sneezing. Thus, we would suggest that we give all our curlers the option of keeping the hands gloved while shaking hands. That way we can ensure everyone's comfort, while continuing that important pre and post-game tradition.

While we are still barely half-way into our curling season, we wanted to give you a head's up about the date for our annual wind-up. It will be held on April 10, and so mark that on your calendars now before it gets taken over with such activities as planting the garden, trips to the beach etc. That will also be the date for the draw to determine the Beausejour Co-op Gift Card winners. More details will follow, as we are looking at how we might make the atmosphere as fun as last year without last year's congestion. Your suggestions would certainly be welcomed.

## UPCOMING BONSPIELS

While the Men's Bonspiel is the most immediate post-Christmas event, now would be a good time to mark the dates for some of our other curling events.

For those 15 and under, January 23rd and 24th is your chance to rock and roll at the Bantam/Bison bonspiel. Show us old codgers how this game is really meant to be played. Both female and male curlers are welcome to join the fun as you compete in either the Bantam or the Bison division, depending on your age. To register for this great week-end of curling excellence and/or enjoyment, get in touch with Bonspiel Co-ordinator, Lisa Hnatyshyn, at 265-3436. If you have an Olympic contender of the future in your family or living in your neighbourhood be sure to pass this information on to them so that they can show off their "stuff".

From February 5-7 the ladies will have their opportunity to engage in wild and unruly behaviour in the rockfest that is the Women's Bonspiel. To get in on that get in touch with Wanda Wenzoski at 265-3541 or by e-mail at [wanwen59@granite.mb.ca](mailto:wanwen59@granite.mb.ca). And if you want to rock and roll in mixed company, there is our closing bonspiel, the Mixed, on March 26-28. Gary Plohman is receiving entries for that. He can be reached at 268-3218 or by e-mail at [srossing@mts.net](mailto:srossing@mts.net).

The Dominion is a Canada-wide competition to select the country's top "non-competitive" curling team. It starts with a male and/or female team being selected at the club level to go on to a regional playdown. Those winners then compete in a provincial playdown and the top teams there ultimately play for the national championship, which will next be held in P.E.I. next October. To qualify teams must play together regularly at the club level and include no more than one curler who has played in a provincial championship in the previous two years. This year to select representatives from our club we will be holding a bonspiel-type competition for interested teams from within our club. This is scheduled for March 6 and 7 and Glenn Lowery is the contact for that (268-1951 or [lowery@mts.net](mailto:lowery@mts.net)). So if the notion of feasting on some fresh Maritime lobster appeals to you, why not get your team in on this? What do you have to lose?

## WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

This month's favourite overheard excuse for missing a routine open hit is, "My underwear was too tight." I have some difficulty understanding how one's selection of undergarments has any relevance to the eye-hand co-ordination required to slide a rock down the ice at a stationary object. If the participant was involved in ballet dancing or bungee jumping there might be a case to be made. And more to the point, just how is it that said apparel came to be too tight. Methinks it would have more to do with the excess poundage filling the apparel than a wardrobe malfunction. And any self-respecting curler who chooses to sport a tight-fitting thong under their curling pants deserves whatever fate befalls them as a result. So better cross that one off your list of viable excuses.

## UNDER THE "B"

All you young (and old) romantics may already be trying to figure out how to celebrate Valentines' Day. How about going for something totally unique? Instead of all the aggravation and cost of an expensive candlelight dinner, why don't you and your sweetie serve as Bingo volunteers? Not only would you get an evening out, but it won't cost you a cent and you would be making an invaluable contribution to the Beausejour Curling Club. You see, our obligation in return for the \$3000 grant we received towards the new ice-scrapers is to provide 7 volunteers for the McPhillips Street

Station Bingo beginning at 8 p.m. on the evening of February 14. Neither the time commitment nor the responsibilities are particularly demanding, and you would be providing a valuable service to your club. These grants have been an essential component to upgrades to our facility, and so we would hate to lose out on them because we failed to provide the required volunteer "person-power". So if you could help out or would like further information, please get in touch with Stan Pleskach at 268-2961.

## VIEW FROM THE LOUNGE



By now the flurry of excitement of Christmas gifts having been opened/exchanged/broken is pretty well over and we can focus instead on how we are going to pay for the darn things. If you have a curler in your household, you probably wanted to treat him or her with a surprise gift of a curling-related item. Now if you are somewhat taken aback by the recipient's lack of enthusiasm upon opening their gift, it may be because you failed to adhere to the golden rule of what curlers do NOT want to find under the tree.

First of all, an instructional book on curling. Now this is akin to providing the typical male motorist with a road map. Is there a curler out there who believes she or he does not have the type of delivery that Glen Howard would pine to have? Or who is not convinced that their sweeping technique causes rocks to dart down the ice with radar-like precision? Not a chance. Of course, the typical curler is convinced that the rest of her/his team could certainly benefit from a present of this nature, and so all is not lost, should you have already erred by providing your curling aficionado with such a gift. Rather than it gathering dust on a shelf, your loved one will quite happily re-gift it to the team skip next year.

Secondly, curling clothing is an absolute no-no. What self-respecting curler would want to appear for his/her first game of 2010 decked out with glistening leather gloves so stiff that they can't bend their fingers, a spiffy jacket with the washing instruction tag still hanging from the sleeve or a synthetic broom without a trace of frost to be found on the brush head? Any one of these items would immediately typecast the user as a rookie, subject to the barbs and derision befalling a newbie at whatever sport they participate in. For the veteran curler, it is essential to be decked out in the most motley equipment imaginable. They must sport curling gloves with their fingers poking out through holes in the leather, shoes held together with 15 or 20 feet of duct tape and brushes (of course the horsehair variety) that are shedding more hairs than a moulting sheepdog.

Last on my list of verboten curling gifts is a stop-watch. Now the concept is all well and good...to assist the curler in timing rocks so she or he can gauge how much push to give his or her own rock for a perfect draw to the four-foot. But who, with the possible exception of Justin Richter, can make any semblance of a connection between a 16 second draw and a related amount of leg push when they deliver their own rock? Not only that but your average curler already has more than enough electronic equipment dangling from their pockets and waistband to get tangled around their broom. An ipod (for musical entertainment between shots), a Blackberry (to check on Tiger Woods latest escapade) a GPS (to help them hone in on the location of the skip's broom) and so on. So the last thing they need is yet another electronic distraction with equally as limited utility.

So there you have it...three things your curling connoisseur would never want to find under the tree. So next year you'll know. Until next month!

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OFFENDING COMMAND: --nostringval--

STACK:

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