

Between the Sheets



THE SAFEWAY COMETH



The big news emerging out of this year's Safeway Men's Curling Championship in Steinbach, aside from the Stoughton Team wrapping up yet another provincial championship (ho hum), was the announcement that we will be hosting the event next year. Being awarded the Safeway Men's Championship is a tremendous accomplishment for our curling club and our community, and speaks volumes about the recognition we have achieved in provincial curling circles.

Planning is already well underway. The event co-chairs, John and Gary Plohman, have been hard at work putting together a planning team, which features many of those who were instrumental in the success of the Provincial Scotties Women's Championship when we hosted it in 2004. But there are still vacancies in several of the key positions, among them a Committee Secretary, an Accommodations Co-Chair, a

Promotions and Advertising Co-Chair and a Co-Chair for the Lounge Committee. Gary and John are eagerly looking forward to hearing from people willing to assume these and other roles on the host committee. So consider doing your part to make this event the success we know it will be. Give Gary (268-3218) or John (801-5243) a call and let them know of your interest.

Ultimately, over 300 volunteers will be needed in an endless number of roles to ensure the success of the Safeway Championship. Within the next few months, a recruitment initiative will be taking place. So don't be shy. When the call goes out be sure that you are among the volunteers. Every Beausejour Curling Club member (along with their friends, neighbours, relatives and pets) will be needed. So start talking this up now, and let everyone you are in touch with know what a fantastic opportunity this is to showcase our curling club and our community.

BONSPIELS STILL TO COME



Even though the ice is disappearing from the sidewalks and the seed catalogues are arriving in the mail, there are still opportunities for some great curling competition (and plenty of fun) here at our local club. March 16 and 17 are the dates for the infamous Farmer's Bonspiel. If you harvest crops, raise livestock or can identify crops or livestock, you meet all the basic criteria for entry into this beloved event. So for great fun, a fabulous meal and even a little curling, you won't want to miss this one. To get in on the action, give Carl Bangert a call at 268-4294.

Our season wraps up with the ever-popular Mixed Bonspiel, scheduled from March 26 to 28. This one has it all...great music that will keep you hopping, a Saturday banquet second to none, terrific prizes and a last chance to put your curling skills to the test before storing your brushes away until the fall. This one's filling up fast, and so to get in on all the fun and excitement, get in touch with Gary Plohman at 268-3218 or by e-mail at rossing@mts.net.

BOARD MEMBERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We have a number of Board members stepping down after the current season is finished, and so your club is urgently needing members to come forward to replace them on next season's Board. The role of a Board member is to participate in setting the direction for the club and to work with other club members to keep our leagues and programs functioning smoothly. We offer our thanks to Lucy Wutke, Brian Bangert, Justin Richter, Glenn Lowery and Al Cherrey for their dedicated work on behalf of the BCC for the past several years. We will miss their valuable input.

Of immediate concern is that no-one so far has volunteered to serve as club president. Since I am leaving Beausejour, I am unable to continue in this role. The key responsibilities of the position involve managing monthly Board meetings, providing leadership to the Board and the club as a whole and ensuring plans/people are in place to keep the club's programs running smoothly. I would remain available to offer guidance to anyone willing to help out the club by taking this on. Also, we will need someone to take on the role of club secretary, which would largely involve taking and distributing minutes, picking up and distributing mail and related duties. Without volunteers to fill these key leadership positions, it may be impossible for our club to deliver its programs and leagues for next season.

A sign up sheet on which you can indicate your willingness to fill a position on the Board can be found on the bulletin board in the Lounge. If you would like more information, please let your League Coordinator or myself know. Please consider contributing to the future of curling in our community by giving a little of your time to participating on the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to Dennis Adams and the rest of the Legion committee for their work in organizing the Legion championships held at our club last month. From all reports the event was a great success and the curlers thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Dennis and his team-mates (Denise Strecker, Terry Law and Gerry Liske) played the accommodating hosts by permitting a team from Gladstone to emerge victorious.

The Beausejour Centennial Committee will be publishing a local history book, covering the past 50 years of Beausejour's history, and I seem to have been awarded the task of preparing a piece on the Beausejour Curling Club. If any of you have brief

anecdotes or information about the BCC from its time in the “old” building, I would much appreciate it if you could pass them on to me. Similarly, if you have interesting photos from that era (exterior/interior shots of the old building, events in progress etc.) or photos of our curling teams that have made provincials/nationals, those would be very useful. If you have information or photos that might be helpful, just give me a call (268-1556) or send me an e-mail message (platimer@xplornet.ca) and I will arrange to get them from you. Any photos I will return promptly to you once I have scanned them.

During the recent Winterfest activities around the SunGro Centre on Louis Riel Day, the curling club attracted a throng of eager participants to its Shoot to the Button contest. Jenny Woloshyn demonstrated her renowned skills in using a “throwing stick” by walking away with first prize. Our thanks to event organizers, Glenn Lowery and Leon Dionne, for their work in putting this most enjoyable activity together. This provided a great opportunity for those unfamiliar with the sport to try their hand at the “roaring game” in a fun atmosphere. Who knows, perhaps we’ll have hooked a few of those participants, and we’ll see them registering for league play next season.

FINISH THE SEASON IN STYLE

While the end of the curling season is always beset with pangs of sadness at having to forego the sport we all love for six months of lolling on the beach, that sadness is eased somewhat with the anticipation of the social event of the season...the BCC annual wind-up. For this, we will be rounding up some barbecues so that you will have the opportunity to grill a prime steak to your own personal specifications, which will be supplemented by all the goodies you have come to expect from our caterer par excellence, Lucy Wutke. In an effort to relieve the congestion that we encountered at last year’s gala, we will be using the Sunova Room as the site for our meal and the Lounge for the rest of the evening’s festivities.

In addition to this succulent meal, the evening will feature musical entertainment, a silent auction, awards all sandwiched around a brief annual meeting. Of course there is the draw for Beausejour Co-op Gift Cards, and so make sure you turn in your ticket stubs at the bar before league curling wraps up. But best of all the price is affordable...FREE to members and guest tickets for only \$15. Each men’s team, however, is asked to provide an item of approximately \$20 in value for the silent auction, which Wanda Wenzoski and Darlene Witzke are organizing...the women’s teams have already done their share by contributing generously to the silent auction at the Women’s Bonspiel. Tickets to the Windup will be distributed to each skip by your League Coordinator during the last couple of weeks of the season, and guest tickets may be purchased at that time.

In a fast-breaking development we have learned that we have been pre-empted from our planned date of April 10, as some sort of boxing event is now going to be invading the curling club on that date. Instead our wind-up will be held on the following Saturday, April 17. That way if you are enticed by the prospect of sweaty men in short pants beating one another to a pulp, you can get your pugilistic fix, while still enjoying the refined atmosphere of our wind-up, in all its glory.

CURLING WITH MICKEY AND DONALD

Typically, the popularity of “the roaring game” soars during an Olympic year, and this is certainly true of our own Women’s Bonspiel as many of our favourite cartoon characters descended on the local ice-palace during the first weekend in February. Attendance was up this year with 19 teams participating, and if the positive feedback from the out-of-town teams is any indication, the entries are destined to grow even further for next year. A delicious meal of fried chicken, prepared by caterer extraordinaire, Lucy Wutke, gave the curlers’ creative energies a

boost as they then entertained their comrades with an array of skits (which cannot be described in detail in this, a family publication). Afterwards, Gary Ross kept the place jumping with a great selection of lively music.

Out on the ice the Carol Mackay rink from Winnipeg emerged as the A event winner with a victory over Karen Klein of Tyndall. The Gisele St. Vincent rink of Ste. Anne walked away with B event honours over Cathy Juskow of Oakbank and in the C event Margaret Streich of Winnipeg won out over Georgetta Kirkness of Selkirk.

Wanda Wenzoski and her bonspiel committee are to be congratulated for their work in making this year’s bonspiel a tremendously successful one. In addition, Wanda would like to thank the following for their valuable contributions: Lucy Wutke for the excellent meal; Stan Pleskach for keeping the curlers’ thirsts quenched by organizing the bar; Gary Ross for the awesome entertainment on Saturday night; Steve Gray for preparing the draw; Dennis Adams for giving the curlers fabulous ice conditions; all the local businesses who contributed to the silent auction; and of course all the volunteers and helpers from the Ladies’ League for the valuable time and effort they put into this bonspiel. It was the excellent teamwork from all involved that will leave Mickey and Minnie and the rest of the gang from the Magic Kingdom with fond memories of their curling experience here in Beausejour. Well done, everyone!

VIEW FROM THE LOUNGE



Now that Canadians are in the throes of withdrawal from our most successful Winter Olympics’ performance ever, we still hear occasional slurs against our favourite winter activity, suggesting it does not deserve to be included as a true Olympic sport. So here follows my list of reasons for contending that the world’s best curlers should find themselves on the Olympic podium every four years.

1. They are permitted to wear whatever gaudy uniforms they choose (the pants of the Norwegian curlers for example), all of which show up much better on a wide-screen TV screen than the bland greys and off-whites worn by the bulk of the Olympic competitors.
2. Curlers contribute to the diversity of the Olympic teams by being some 20 years older on average than your typical Winter Olympian.
3. There are no recorded fatalities involving an Olympic curler in the 20 or so years since curling was included on the Olympic roster.
4. The breaks after every end, two time-outs per team and the extended respite after the fifth end provides the television networks with plenty of opportunities to air their commercial messages without disrupting the flow of the game.
5. If the game is getting out of hand, the team taking the drubbing can concede, thereby allowing the television networks to shift to something more dramatic...like the biathlon semi-finals.
6. It is perfectly acceptable for curlers to shout at each other throughout the game without danger of disciplinary action being taken by the IOC.
7. It’s necessary to provide a total of only 12 medals for each of the two curling events (as opposed to 75) for hockey. These savings on the cost of medals enable the organizing committee to generate a profit.

So there you have it, 10 important reasons to keep our cherished sport at the heart of the Olympic competition every four years.