

Between the Sheets



MEN'S BONSPIEL GETS 2010 ROCKING



The Beausejour Curling Club welcomed the New Year with the Men's Bonspiel...and what a welcoming event it was! The 30 teams participating (including two junior-aged teams) enjoyed a raucous weekend that made the New Year's celebrations of the week before resemble a library tea party. Friday evening featured the Calcutta and, led by auctioneer extraordinaire Jack Kowalchuk, the gathered throng readily parted with the remnants of their post-holiday cash in order to invest in the fortunes of their favourite dark horse team.

On Saturday the famished curlers were treated to an exceptional roast beef dinner, courtesy of Claudia Dumoulin of the Beausejour Co-op, and that was followed by an evening of great musical entertainment, thanks to music-man, Barry Weidman. Throughout the weekend curlers and spectators could buy 50/50 tickets and tickets for the raffle of a Texas-sized bottle of "perfume" and beer fridge. Jason Lundstrom left the bonspiel happy to have a fridge to keep his "perfume" cool, and Tim Marcinkow enjoyed a free weekend as a result of his 50/50 winnings.

On the ice Wayne Ewasko warmed up for his trip to the Safeway championship by winning the A Event over the Robert Thompson rink. In the B Event the Barry Cope rink defeated Carl Plohman's entry, and the C Event winner was the Stan Pleskach rink over the Robert Lidster foursome. All the winners had their choice of great prizes, proving that Christmas can be enjoyed more than once a year.

Our thanks to Bonspiel Co-ordinator, Steve Gray, who did a fantastic job in creating an event that our club can be exceptionally proud of, not to mention turning a tidy profit. Also a well-deserved thanks goes to all the volunteers who contributed to the success of this event, including Wendy Lidster, Tim and Maureen Marcinkow, Carl Bangert, Jarrett Powers, Lorne Ryall, Ellery Lamy, Jack Kowalchuk and all the volunteer bar-tenders. Of course, ice is quite an integral aspect of curling, and so particular thanks is due to Dennis Adams and his ice-crew for the terrific ice-conditions throughout the bonspiel. Great going all of you!

BANTAM/BISON BONSPIEL

On January 23 and 24, Beausejour hosted one of the area's most popular bonspiels for younger curlers, the Bantam/Bison bonspiel. A total of 16 teams participated, and featured teams from throughout the area and Winnipeg. The organizers received numerous compliments from the participating curlers. The A Side winner in the Bantam Division was the Luner rink from Elmwood, the B side winner was Team Matshulok from Lasalle and the C side winner was Team Kirkness from Winnipeg. In the Bison Division the A side winner was Beausejour's own Kaatz rink. The B side winner was Team Dunlop from Ste. Anne's and the C side winner was Team Brandt also from Ste. Anne's. Congratulations to all the winners, and to all who participated in this terrific competition. A note of thanks to Justin Richter for all his help in preparing the draw. A special thanks is due to Lisa Hnatyshyn for once again organizing and running this bonspiel. Great job, Lisa!

UPCOMING BONSPIELS

Never ones to sit back and be outdone by their male counterparts, the Women's Bonspiel is on tap for this weekend (February 5-7). Wanda Wenzoski and her dedicated committee are determined to show the men how rambunctious a bonspiel can **really** get. If you've ever wanted to see Yogi Bear stealing ends instead of picnic baskets this will be your opportunity, as the

bonspiel features the theme of Cartoon Characters. Add to that, a great meal courtesy of Lucy Wutke and her catering team, entertainment and fantastic prizes, and it adds up to a weekend event you don't want to miss. So if you are a member of the female persuasion and haven't yet registered a team, call Wanda (265-3541) and she may still be able to fit you in.

For an event renowned for its unrestrained exuberance, the world famous Farmer's Bonspiel is also on the horizon. If you are a hard-working member of the agricultural community (or even if you are a slacker who periodically consumes agricultural products) this is the event for you. Scheduled for the evening of March 16 and during the day on March 17, entries are already coming in thick and fast. So don't miss out, call Bonspiel Co-ordinator, Carl Bangert (268-4294) right away, to get in on all the mayhem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



As part of the community celebration known as Winterfest that takes place on February 15 (Louis Riel Day), our club will be organizing a Draw to the Button

contest. For a couple of bucks demonstrate to all your mastery of your draw weight and the opportunity to win big cash prizes (well, not that big). It should be a lot of fun, and so drop by between noon and 2 p.m. that day to give it a try. Thanks to Leon Dionne and Glenn Lowery for volunteering to organize this.

Say you have a suggestion, complaint, accolade or question related to the curling club. Who should you contact? Now the club has its own e-mail address so that you can simply send an e-mail describing your question or issue and it will be passed on to the appropriate person for a response. So add the following to your address book, beausejourcurlingclub@gmail.com.

Last, but not least, Mallory Black and her team of Tanya Hnatyshyn, Daryl-Ann Rawluk and Gabrielle Sorin have qualified to represent Eastman at the upcoming Manitoba Games. They've been working hard towards this goal, and we're sure will do us proud during the games. So be sure to offer these young ladies your congratulations on their success, or even better travel down to Portage la Prairie from March 7-13 to see them in action. A photo of the team appears below.



WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

This month's overheard excuse for missing a wide-open takeout at a crucial juncture in the game is a real gem, "Someone opened the door while I was throwing my rock". What effect a door opening might have on the concentration of an individual who is even half focused on the task at hand is beyond me. Perhaps if a Sherman tank, discharging live ammunition, was being driven through said door, that excuse might have a shred of credibility, but to date I have received no reports of vehicles of any description entering the ice shed in recent days. Now if a CFL quarterback can typically complete 70% of his passes (well, not Michael Bishop) while dodging 300-pound defensive lineman determined to transform him into part of the turf and feathering the pigskin through a six-pack of ball-hawking defensive backs, why should the opening of a door impede our complaining curler from sliding his/her rock down the ice at a stationary object at the other end. To make it even easier, our curler has a couple of sweepers whose role is to keep the shot on target so that the throw doesn't have to be half-way accurate to reach its intended destination. A door opening...come on!

THE END IS COMING

No, not the end of civilization as we know it (although that too may be on the horizon if you listen

to David Suzuki) but the end of our curling season is only a couple of months away. That means, of course, that the Beausejour Curling Club's wind-up and fun-filled wing-ding is right behind it. This year it will be held on Saturday April 10, and will again feature a grill-your-own steak dinner, free to all members. To avoid the "excessive intimacy" we encountered at last year's event, we have decided to relocate the meal portion of our festivities to the Sunova Room at the Sun-Gro Centre, leaving the Lounge as the setting for music and socializing, as well as for handing out rewards and for the general meeting. We will also be looking to each team to donate an item of approximately \$20 in value to the Silent Auction table as the price of admission. So start doing your planning now for an item that will have the gathered throng thirsting to put their tickets on.

VIEW FROM THE LOUNGE



With the increasing number of junior-aged curlers now participating in the various leagues in our club, it is becoming apparent that there are very clear differences between those young curlers and their more aged (I mean experienced) counterparts when it comes to their approach to curling. So this month I would like to highlight the key differences that I have observed between our young and not-so-young curlers.

1. Young curlers spend ten minutes stretching before each game to get limbered up; older curlers spend ten minutes before each game trying to bend down to get their shoelaces tied.
2. Young curlers take a few practise slides out to the hogline before the game starts to get a feel for the ice; older curlers squint trying to make out where the hogline is.
3. Young curlers always have a throng of spectators cheering them wildly throughout the game; the only spectators older curlers have are a few fans from the hockey game next door who have come to enjoy a between-periods beverage.
4. Young curlers bring sport drinks with them to replenish the electrolytes they may have lost from vigorous sweeping; older curlers bring a round of beers to the ice every couple of ends to enjoy as an alternative to sweeping.
5. When the skip yells, "hurry, hard" young curlers actually sweep even harder; when the skip yells, "hurry, hard" older curlers stop and ask, "Eh, what's that you said?"
6. Between shots, young leads and seconds time the opposition rocks and analyze the ice surface for any hidden "flat spots"; between shots older leads and seconds collapse on the benches gasping and wheezing.

So there you have it, the differences between older and younger curlers. If you're unsure which category you belong to, just follow the guide above that will unfailingly slot you into the appropriate group...or better yet just look in the mirror. Until next month!