

Between the Sheets

The Newsletter of
Beausejour Curling
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Latimer



ROAD TO THE RINGS



Those of you who have been hidden away in a cave over the last few weeks might not have heard that Beausejour Curling Club's Jason Gunnlaugson team has qualified for the Olympic Trials, thanks to a thrilling extra-end victory over the Mike McEwen rink at the Pre-Trials in Prince George (which was covered on national TV). What a tremendous accomplishment for these young curlers! Now they take on the seven teams who are the who's who of the Canadian Men's curling elite at the Olympic Trials in Edmonton, with the winner becoming Canada's representative at the Vancouver Olympics. Below is a photo of the guys in their spiffy green jackets.

To wish them well at the Pre-Trials the Beausejour Curling Club arranged a send-off party for them in the Lounge. The room was packed with friends and families of the competitors, as well as with a great complement of you, their fellow members of the BCC. The mood was relaxed and raucous, and the guys appeared to appreciate the support. Clearly, it paid off in their performance in Prince George.

Now here's hoping that we can improve on that with send-off party #2. This time friends and family of the

curlers have organized a gala social at the Beausejour Community Hall to give the whole community an opportunity to wish the guys well. It is scheduled for this Thursday, December 3, beginning at 8 p.m. with a short program consisting of various dignitaries (as well as a representative from our club) reflecting on the team's accomplishment at around 9:30 p.m. Of course the team members will also share their own experiences in achieving this pinnacle of success. A silent auction and late lunch will follow, not to mention an evening of rampant enthusiasm and excitement. So try to take this in and give Beausejour's curling heroes your support. Tickets are only \$10 and are available from the bar or at the door. Besides, it's Justin Richter's birthday, and so you wouldn't want to miss out on this opportunity to celebrate with him.



POST-CHRISTMAS EXCITEMENT

Right now you are all likely getting geared up for Christmas festivities in less than a month's time. But what is there to look forward to after the presents have been unwrapped (and exchanged at the Boxing Day sales) and we have toasted the arrival of 2010? Well, if you are a member of the male species (or a close facsimile thereof), how about the annual Men's Bonspiel? Running from January 7 to 10, it features a rowdy calcutta on Friday evening, where you can invest your Christmas bonus in picking the team that will advance to the prizes. On Saturday the curlers can feast on a sumptuous post-holiday meal, followed by musical entertainment. And of course, there's the opportunity to energize your competitive hormones by engaging in some great curling match-ups all week-end long. What better way to welcome in the New Year! If you want to get in on all the fun and excitement, please get in touch with Steve Gray at 268-3304 or by e-mail at s.gray.bjcoop@mts.net. It's important to get your entry in right away as those entering by December 15 will qualify to be entered into a draw for a prize that may be as lucrative as a free bonspiel entry.

CURLING AFTER SCHOOL IS COOL

We are pleased to announce that the After-School curling program for young people in grades 4-9 is now running, thanks to Darla Armstrong stepping forward to serve as head coach. In a change from recent years, the program is now being held on Mondays from 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. With Darla being a member of the team who recently scored an 8-ender in Women's League play, along with her Level 1 coaching credentials, she will have a great deal to offer the youngsters involved in this program. The community is most fortunate to have her step forward, along with parents such as Deb Strecker

and Susan Yusishen who worked very hard to get this activity in place again. Without their efforts the program was at risk of not being held this year. After all, these young people are the future of our curling club. If you are aware of youngsters who would like to participate, please get in touch with either Deb (268-3993) or Susan (265-3357).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The idea of holding a Members and Families funspiel just before Christmas was being considered, but the initial feedback has been that this would be a great idea, but not just before Christmas. So the Board will soon be discussing how to proceed, and we'll provide you with more information as it becomes available.

Congratulations go to Beausejour's Seleena Kaatz, who throws fourth rocks for the Alyssa Vandepoele rink of Ste. Anne. They recently qualified for the Junior Women's Provincial curling championship through the Junior Berth Bonspiel in Petersfield. They now go on to challenge the other top Junior Women's teams in the province at the Charleswood Curling Club from December 18-22 for the opportunity to advance to the national championship. Why not take a break from your Christmas shopping to cheer Seleena and her teammates on? Great going, Seleena!

Finally, if you see our ice-maker, Dennis Adams, grinning from ear to ear these days, it's not only because he is now a second-time grandpa but also because he will soon have a new ice-shaver at his disposal. With a generous grant of \$3000 received from the Manitoba Community Services Council combined with funding from the Town of Beausejour and the sale of our old shaver, the club will be able to fund this essential ice-preparation equipment with a minimal expenditure from our own (very limited) coffers. The grant from the MCSC is, however, contingent on us providing 7 volunteers for an upcoming Bingo at Club Regent or the McPhillips Street Station. So when the call goes out, please do your best to help us out by volunteering a few hours of your time.

NEW CURLERS ABOUND



We've got our registration pretty well wrapped up for this year, and we're pleased to report that overall our numbers are up in our curling leagues. It's really encouraging to be able to welcome so many curlers who are new to the Beausejour Curling Club. We really appreciate you giving our club a try, and we hope you have a terrific winter of curling here with us. For you old-timers, please make the effort to welcome this cadre of new curlers, and do whatever you can to make it fun for them. We want to ensure that each of them is eager to return next year. Also encouraging is the number of young curlers who have joined our leagues. It's great to have them joining us gray-beards to show us what a difference some youthful sweeping can mean to a delicate draw shot. The one area of disappointment is the drop in the number of mixed teams. Come on folks, wouldn't it be fun to curl with your significant other and/or boyfriend/girlfriend (or even both)? It's still not too late to get involved. Just give Doug May a call at 268-4612. And our thanks to Evelyn Chemyshyn for the excellent job she did in organizing and running our registration again this year. And just a plea for next year. If you are planning on entering a team, please, please, please notify us at the time of registration, even if you aren't able to make it down to register your team. Otherwise, we have no way of knowing how many curlers we have in order to prepare our first draw.

We would also like to acknowledge the work of the league coordinators who play a critical role in keeping each of our leagues running smoothly and making curling here the fun experience you want it to be. They do everything from keeping the curlers informed of upcoming events to ensuring that the draws are made up, organizing the 50/50 draws, recruiting curlers and planning for special events. Without them we would have chaos. So be sure to show your appreciation with a pat on the back...or perhaps buying them their favourite beverage after a game. As a reminder, the league coordinators are: George Kowalchuk (Recreational), Vivian Jacob and Sue Mackenzie (Women's), Gary Plohman (Tuesday Men's), Glenn Lowery (Thursday Men's) and Doug May (Mixed). We would also like to thank Evelyn Chemyshyn and Brian Bangert who have now stepped aside after serving in this capacity for the past several years.

MONDAY EVENING INSTRUCTION

Now that we are a month or so into our curling season, have you noticed a few glitches in your delivery or sweeping techniques (or have you had these pointed out to you by your ever-so compassionate teammates)? If so, help is at hand. The club has several qualified curling instructors who

have generously volunteered their time to help you get back on track. Each Monday evening from 7-8 p.m. at the curling club one or two of these individuals will be available to provide basic instruction to beginning curlers or a few pointers to old-timers who have lost their touch. Best of all, this instruction is free to all. So why not come out on any Monday evening and learn how to curl like the pros? Our sincere thanks goes out to the volunteer instructors...Bob Rondeau, Reg Black, Dennis Adams, Stan Pleskach and Lance Wadelius. We really appreciate you providing this essential program on behalf of the club. For more information, please contact Leon Dionne at 268-3550.

VIEW FROM THE LOUNGE



With the possible exception of croquet, all major sports seem to tamper with the rules each year in the interests of increasing spectator appeal, reducing injuries or lining the team owners' pockets. Curling made a dramatic innovation a number of years ago by introducing the free-guard zone, as prior to that the roaring game had all the spectator appeal of an egg-laying contest. But no noteworthy innovations have been made since that time. So this month I would like to offer my suggestions on possible rule-changes to increase the drama of our favourite winter activity.

First there's the hogline infraction rule. This was instituted to prevent the powerful sliders from gliding practically into the house before delivering their rocks. But for your typical knee-slider, elbow-slider or nose-slider, being able to get anywhere near the hogline would be a remarkable accomplishment. So they should be rewarded in the event they can actually slide past the hogline by permitting them to slide as far as their contorted delivery will carry them. This might also mean a boom in curling apparel innovations as Arnold Asham would undoubtedly create the first teflon coated curling pants, curling jackets and nose covers.

There's a rarely enforced rule that only the skips and thirds are permitted behind the hogline between shots. This was clearly the creation of skips who didn't want to be pestered all game long by the lowly front ends, who would be likely to question their fearless leader's inane shot-calling. Without a doubt the excitement in the game would be heightened if the front ends were permitted to be back there, calling out the skip for giving three feet of ice on a bumper weight take-out. Imagine the drama if you had the lead and skip screaming at one another behind the hogline after each shot, and being close enough to one another to land a few telling blows. Why curling would then have all the spectator appeal of WWF Wrestling.

Finally, there's the rule prohibiting touching a moving rock with your broom or any part of the sweeper's body. I have difficulty seeing how whacking your skip's rock with your broom provides any great advantage. Typically it would ruin the trajectory of a perfectly-delivered shot. So I say let's scrap that rule and give courageous sweepers the opportunity to get a rock into the rings around a wall of granite in front of the house by applying a perfectly timed and aimed kick to a moving rock. If the sweeper is willing to risk a career-threatening injury to his/her pedal digits by kicking a forty-pound hunk of granite, it can only add to the game's drama by making every shot a potential winner.

So there you have it. A few minor rule changes destined to add excitement and conflict to our staid old game.

Until next month.