

The Hogline

APRIL, 2010

FROM THE PEN OF THE PREZ.....

Tom Devaney

As we prepare for our end of the year extravaganza, the Steakspiel, it is hard to believe that we are already at that point of the season. One of mixed emotions for sure; disappointed because curling is coming to end, but excited because golf season and warmer weather are ahead.

What an exciting winter it was. Hosting a very successful Gore Provincial Championships was certainly a highlight. The Olympics were about as exciting as they could have been and then some. We certainly got our fill of curling on the tube this year and it has generated interest in the roaring game with our very first spring Curling 101 class being a tremendous success with over 16 new members. Please extend a very warm welcome to these new curlers when you meet them at the Steakspiel. Due to the overwhelming interest in the Steakspiel we have had to add a third draw. This year's theme is western and we have a comedian booked for the Friday night. Magic Light and Sound will also be on hand once again to keep us rocking into the night. If you haven't yet signed up now is the time to get in on the excitement.

Our club is a volunteer run club and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that have volunteered over the season to make our club the premiere curling facility it is. We could not have done it without you! Currently we are short one volunteer on the Board of Directors, so if you have some time to give back to the club please identify yourself to myself or one of the current directors. The final report card for the 2010 season is yet to come. Plan to attend the Annual General Meeting Wednesday June 16, 2010 to find out how we did.

The 2011 season will be a busy one with our club co-hosting the biggest curling event in the world. I'm talking about the 2011 Brier in London, of course. Members of our club have been hard at work preparing to host this curling mega event for a couple of years. I'm sure they could use your help. If you haven't yet done so, you can register online at www.seasonofchampions.ca/2011brier/ to volunteer for this once in life time event. I would like to thank our staff that has worked tirelessly to make sure your curling experience is the best it could be.

Finally, be sure to watch our website throughout the summer for updates and we will see you at Guest Week October 5 – 7, 2010.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

MEMBERSHIP

We're really pleased with the response to our learn-to-curl programs (Curling 101) this year. The Olympic trials, the Olympics, the Canadian Women's and Men's championships, plus the Women's Worlds, have provided almost non-stop coverage the last few months and sparked lots of interest in our roaring game.

The latest Curling 101 has run the last four weeks of the season and has attracted many participants. We welcome all those who have participated and hope that if you are going into the Steakspiel that you have a great time and will be back next year!

We hope that all of our members have had an enjoyable season. Our club is only as strong as its members. Therefore please do not hesitate to become involved in any way. Your input will be much appreciated and welcomed.

I would like to thank all those of you who have volunteered your time to be on any of the various committees, to act as league conveners, those who have helped in the kitchen and those who have talked to others about curling and helped to increase our membership. Remember we recruit the most members through word of mouth so brag about your club to all your friends and workmates.

It has been a great season and we look forward to seeing you at the Open House next season.

Christine Hale-Sanders
Membership Chair

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Despite having a reduced number of members this year, we have had a good season. There were some changes made in how we run the leagues. In the Monday night league we went from 3 flights to 2 flights after a round robin – with 2 teams bring given a bye each week. In addition instead of having a playoff format we went with a play down format which allows every team to play until the end of the season. On Wednesday night teams were established at the beginning of the year with the teams remaining together throughout the year, this has helped with attendance and has made for a more enjoyable year for members as well as conveners.

We had three bonspiels throughout the year, the first one being the 'Curlers Care' which raised money for a little girl with special needs. The breakfast spiel held in January was once again well attended. The Women's One-Day held at the end of February with teams coming from out of the club as well many teams from within our club.

The season has once again gone by very quickly!! With this years executive the year has run very smoothly and I think I can say we have enjoyed working together. To all the conveners and committees: Congratulations on a job very well done!!! To our treasurer/secretary Barb Peters a huge thank you for all your work!! Marilyn Graham is our incoming president and will do an outstanding job next year.

Sincerely, **Jennifer Barnes**
Women's League President

RENTAL REPORT

We have been busy again this year with outside groups using our club for curling and/or for the lounge. These groups provide added revenues for the club and potential new members.

We have also been busy with school groups coming to experience curling. So far this year we have had 23 learn-to-curl school groups come to the club for instruction and practice.

Our wonderful team of 15 volunteer members has collectively put in over 150 helping sessions and well over 200 hours of volunteer time. They do this to help promote the game and to protect our club and its ice surface.

Thanks to all those who help so willing with our school program. It couldn't be done without your help.

Don Marcou, Rental Chair

50/50

Here is the list of the year's winners of the Club 50/50. Some were very lucky indeed. Congratulations to all who won. The final draw will be made at the Steakspiel. There is always next year for the rest of us!

Marion Tribe: \$312.00
Danielle Hale-Sanders: \$321.50
Henry Mulders: \$63.50
Art Labord: \$385.00
Jean Matthews: \$190.00
Don Marcou: \$123.00

DAVID LETTERMAN'S SURPRISING TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT CURLING

10. *Every year it's watched by dozens of people.*
9. *Consistently ranked the world's No. 1 broom-related sport.*
8. *It's a lot like hockey, minus the speed and excitement.*
7. *No Number 7 -- writer fell asleep while researching curling facts.*
6. *Not to be confused with Norwegian sport "Carling" where you push a guy named Carl across the ice.*
5. *Longest match ever: length unknown, because no one ever stays till the end.*
4. *No Number 4 -- writer still asleep. Damn, curling is boring.*
3. *Mickey Rourke is making a film about washed-up curling legend who comes back for one last big curl.*
2. *Thing they slide down the ice is called "thing they slide down the ice."*
1. *No one cares.*

David, David.....you don't know what you are missing.

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CHARITY CASHSPIEL

It is with great excitement that we announce the news that games will once again be played at the St. Thomas Curling Club from October 15th to 17th, 2010.

This Cashspiel is your opportunity to see some world class curling without leaving town. In the past teams such as Team Bernard (Olympic Silver Medalist), Team Ott (Switzerland), Team Wang (China) and many others have taken part. The event is hosted by the St. Thomas Curling Club, the London Curling Club, Highland Curling Club and Ilderton Curling Club. This year games will be played at the London and St. Thomas clubs with the finals being on Monday October 18th in London.

Not only does this event bring world class curlers to town but it also serves as a fundraiser for local cancer research. We will be hosting a Celebrity fun spiel on Friday October 15 at the Highland Curling Club, to help raise funds for the charity. This will be your chance to curl with the experts so sign up now. Please see the flyers posted in the club. After curling you will also get to participate in a meet-and-greet with the curlers plus a tax receipt will be offered.

The charitable donations are given to the London District Cancer Centre and they direct the donation towards finding a cure for Breast Cancer. So participate in any way you can, come out to watch the games and leave a donation or sign up for the Fun Spiel. Either way you will come out a winner.

If you have any further questions please ask one of the St. Thomas committee members: Barb Jones, Ann Lapchinski or Christine Hale-Sanders.

Christine Hale-Sanders

LOCKERS

Lockers need to be emptied for the summer. Men.... Hopefully you don't need a reminder of what happened last year. Who can forget the nasty flood that caused raw sewage to course through the locker rooms and into the men's lockers?! It was not pretty. Not that we are expecting it to happen again, but.....

So, please clean out your lockers. Because the Steakspiel is taking place this week, it would be easiest if you came in this week. The club is open all day Saturday. After this weekend, it will be hit-and-miss to find the door unlocked. So, come watch some curling. Stay for a drink.

TIM HORTONS BRIER 2011

The Tim Hortons Brier is coming to London Ontario March 5 - 13, 2011. A favourite among curling fans who relish the excitement of 21 draws spread evenly over nine incredible days. It's the Big Ticket for the big time curling enthusiast and you can get one of the best seats in the house right now. End zone, side view, up high, down low...the choice is yours! This "Old Classic" is priced at \$389. Or consider some "Flex Appeal"! With the introduction of our new flex option, you can load up on certain days and take a few friends, family or club members. It's a great way to make the most of 21 tickets. To download a buyer's guide, get more information, and to purchase tickets go to www.seasonofchampions.ca.

Volunteer registration has been phenomenal. Currently 450 registrations have been received and our target is 500. Many committees have reached their quota of volunteers but if you are still interested in volunteering, please go to <http://www.seasonofchampions.ca>.

Various levels of sponsorship are available. If you know of any potential sponsors please refer their names to Peter Inch, Ted Smith or Ann Lapchinski (contact info in our membership book).

Remember that a successful Brier means a financial benefit to our club. Have you got your ticket yet?

Ann Lapchinski,
Vice-chair

BRIER VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

A chairperson, 3 vice-chairs and 20 directors of the various committees are at the helm of the 2011 Brier. Ilderton, London Curling Club and Highland are the other clubs involved.

The St Thomas Curling Club is extremely well represented by the following:

Peter Inch- Chair

Ann Lapchinski- Vice-chair: Volunteers and Special Events

Ted Smith- Vice-chair: Facilities

Dave Bowden: Director of Bar Services

Jeanne Gray: Director of Volunteers and Merchandising

John Lyle: Director of Banking

Dennis Potter: Director of Construction and Signage

Jim Waite: Director of Officials and Statisticians

As Ann stated, there will be 500 volunteers involved in the event. It's not an undertaking that is for the faint-of-heart. It will be a great success!

A NEW CONVENIENCE

The St Thomas Curling Club sells curling equipment for the convenience of its members. All of this must be done at the club and from the bar personnel. To enhance the availability of curling equipment to its members, the club is investigating the setup of an e-commerce store (an online store) to display and sell all of its curling equipment. For you as a member, this means that you will be able to pick out your favourite piece of curling equipment, pay for it online and then either pick it up or have it shipped to you. You, as a customer, will be able to do this from wherever you can access the store online. Hopefully this will enhance this service to you as a member and make it easier for you to purchase curling equipment from the club.

When available, this service will be announced on the club website at: <http://www.stthomascurlingclub.com>

Al McRorie , Webmaster

LADIES LEAGUE REPORT

I can hardly believe that the curling season is now over. What an incredible group of volunteers we have in the curling club! I would just like to take the opportunity to thank the Ladies League executive for all of their support and volunteer commitment. Without these ladies, this league, the bonspiels and many club upgrades and changes would not occur. THANK YOU again for all that you do.

After completing Thursday morning round robin play, the team of Jean Matthews, Barb Burgess, Terri Vansevenant, and Joanne Oldham captured 1st place. We then split into A & B divisions and after a page playoff, modified so that every team played, the winner of A division was again the Matthews team, and the team of Diane Ferguson, Brenda Cairns, Denise Cyr and Sherry Rosevear won the B division. For next season, the league voted to return to the previous system of curling the regular season in A & B divisions, with the playoff system to be reviewed.

Our Tuesday Ladies League has wrapped up another successful season. The decision to use a round robin format rather than the page playoff allowed all teams the opportunity to continue curling longer. Grace Armour's team won the A division, Marie Lowe's team took the B Division and Jean Matthew's team won the C division. Thank you for a great year and we look forward to seeing everyone return in the fall.

It has definitely been a year of celebration (what better than having the Olympic winter games in Canada) and a year of challenges. With challenges comes change and it is always good to reflect on what has been done and how it can be made simpler, more effective, not done at all or not changed because it's the best solution to a complex problem.

One of the challenges that we all face in this club is succession – keeping our leagues going so that we can continue to curl and future generations have the opportunity to participate in this fantastic life sport. With that comes reflection – which is sometimes difficult or perhaps it's really just a change in attitude. Do we welcome all curlers regardless of their age, opinions, skill, work etc.? My response is ABSOLUTELY – welcoming all curlers should be a key marketing strategy for our leagues and club. Remember, only one person has to have a bad experience or experience someone without that same welcoming attitude and they won't return. It's why high school curling and youth are important to me personally and in my volunteer commitments.

“There is very little difference in people. But, that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative.”

W. Clement Stone

Have fun golfing or fishing or relaxing or camping or walking or hiking or biking or visiting or whatever you do over the summer months and we will see you again next season.

Kim DeKlein
Chair - Ladies League

SKATE OUT

Don't forget the annual Skate Out this Sunday from 1:00-4:00. A great way to end the year.

BAR REPORT

As Bar Chair, I would sincerely like to extend my appreciation to Shirley Baker, our Bar Manager, for her devotion and hard work. Shirley has made my job very easy as Bar Chair. Shirley, I raise my glass to you, as I know our members do too! And to our bar tenders, I raise my glass also. We are fortunate to have you and appreciate you! Thanks Theresa and Jacqui!

The bar had a very successful year with the Pro Shop. Tournament Sports attended one evening of our Open House in October and proved to be very helpful to our members in selecting the right curling equipment. I'd also like to thank Scott Lees who picked up our curling supplies from Tournament Sports and saved us shipping charges. Every bit helps!

As I tell my staff at work, my door is always open. Please do not hesitate to come forward with your suggestions!

I wish everyone a happy, sunny & safe summer!

Joan McGregor, Bar Chair

VINCENT VAN GOGH'S RELATIVES WERE:

His dizzy aunt.....**Verti Gogh**
His brother who ate prunes.....**Gotta Gogh**
His brother who worked at a convenience
store.....**Stopn Gogh**
His grandfather from Yugoslavia.....**U Gogh**
His brother who bleached his clothes
white.....**Hue Gogh**
His cousin from Illinois.....**Chica Gogh**
His magician uncle.....**Where-diddy
Gogh**
His Mexican cousin.....**Amee Gogh**
His Mexican cousin's American half-
brother.....**Gring Gogh**
His constipated uncle.....**Cant Gogh**

His nephew who drove a stagecoach...**Wells-far
Gogh**
His ballroom-dancing aunt.....**Tang Gogh**
His nephew psychoanalyst.....**E Gogh**
His fruit loving cousin.....**Man Gogh**
His aunt who taught positive
thinking.....**Wayto Gogh**
His little bouncy nephew.....**Poe Gogh**
His sister who loved disco.....**Go Gogh**
And his niece who travels the country in a
van.....**Winnie Bay Gogh**

Well, there you Gogh!

COME FOR A LAUGH

On Friday evening at 9:30, the Steakspiel is hosting a comic from Yuk Yuk's, Rob Ross.

All club members are invited.. Hope to see you there!

**See you at the Annual General Meeting, Wednesday June 16th, 2010. We'll send out a
reminder, but you can put it on your calendar right now!**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!