

THE HOGLINE

December, 2011

FROM THE PEN OF THE
PREZ.....

Larry Jenner

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish all members of their families a joyous holiday season, and a very prosperous New Year. As we look forward to the New Year, our thoughts are with Ed and Cheryl Jermyn and we wish them all the best. Ed's absence has left a huge hole in our operation, and the board of directors is moving forward in the organization of the club.

Also at this time, I would like to emphasize again, the importance of security at the club. I believe that it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to provide as safe and secure an environment as possible, by setting policy and providing facilities that are secure. However it is also the responsibility of members to assist in maintaining that policy and those facilities. To that end, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of maintaining the privacy of the door entry code. It will be changing over the Christmas break, and I would urge all members not to share it with non-members. I would also like to urge all members to take and active part questioning any strangers that they may not know, and to ensure that strangers do not enter the club with them, unless they are your guest.

Again have a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year.

FUNDRAISER FOR ED JERMYN

As most or all members know by now, our assistant ice maker Ed Jermyn is in hospital with a very serious illness. At their Dec 14th meeting, the Board of Directors decided to hold a fund raiser for him and his wife Cheryl, early in the New Year. It will take the form of a silent auction. At press time, although all details, as to when it will take place have not been worked out, we will be asking for any assistance/donations from members, that they may be able to provide. We will attempt to get this organized over the busy holidays and be ready to provide more details in early January. For more details, contact Andrew Pearson at (519) 719-7127, or President Larry at (519) 769-2498. Thanks in advance for any assistance.

In addition any league or individual may donate directly to the fund as they see fit.

Larry Jenner

HOUSE FOR RENT

At this time, the Board of Directors has received notice that our tenants will be vacating the house at 34 Parkside Drive (beside the Curling Club), on or before January 31st, 2012.

The Board of Directors has decided to re-lease the house, and will be advertising it ASAP in the New Year. If any club member is interested, or knows of a possible tenant, please contact Larry Jenner.

NORMAL CLUB HOURS

For all members of the St. Thomas Curling Club, the hours of operation are as shown in the club calendar/league schedules as posted in the handbook, or online. Best efforts are made to keep the listings up to date, but one must remember that, at this time, this effort is performed by volunteers.

Members are welcome to attend the club during all club operated events. During these times, they may utilize the facilities in a fashion consistent with the event occurring, or they are free to simply watch the curling, and to enjoy a beverage, provided that the bar facility is open. If practice time is desired, it may occur during any scheduled league time, provided that the league is not using all sheets. Check with the league conveners regarding spare ice time during their time.

Members are not able to use the club during all scheduled private rentals and events.

Special arrangements can be made for practice time, any time, by scheduling with the ice making staff.

The club lounge is not available during Wednesday afternoon ladies social time. These hours are 12:30 to 04:00 PM, Wednesdays only.

We are not able to 'post' a weekly/monthly event calendar on the bulletin boards, similar to the calendar in the club handbook. At this time, it would need to be a volunteer function. If anyone feels that this would be helpful to the members and would like to volunteer, please speak to the president.

We will attempt to post any deviations from the club calendar on the bulletin boards.

At this time, it is board policy to keep the club closed, during all non scheduled event times, unless prior arrangement has been made.

Larry Jenner
President

LADIES' LEAGUE

The Ladies' League had their annual two day **Belles and Brooms** bonspiel on Nov 28 and 29 this year. As usual it was a very successful event. Diane Ferguson was the convener for the second year and along with her hardworking committee did a great job. The theme was **A Candy Cane Christmas** and with the decorations and favours supporting that theme. This is a very popular bonspiel so as usual it was full. A team from Ilderton won this year and they were thrilled with the prizes from our lead sponsor – **Jennings Furniture**.

On **Tuesday, January 3** we will be having a **Jitney** will consist of 2 four-end games followed by a **potluck lunch**. In the afternoon there will be 2 three-end games followed by dessert. Non curling friends are invited for join us for this Jitney – maybe they will want to become curlers after joining in the fun. On a cold, cloudy winter day it is hard to beat the camaraderie of a curling event!

Barb Green, Ladies' President.

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“I stopped making a list. Nothing is considered naughty anymore!”

CLUB 50/50

Congratulations go to the winners of the club 50/50.

Cindy Gillard: \$305

Bill Tymchyshyn: \$74.50

Terri Vansevenant: \$76.00

It isn't too late to participate. If you didn't pay in advance, please remember that you can pay \$1 each week. The sign-in sheets are kept at the bar. You could be the next big winner!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming the new members to the club and hope that you are enjoying the game and our organization. Be sure to ask one of our very friendly members, if you don't know why we're doing what we're doing.

GOOD LUCK TO OUR JUNIORS

Our boy's team, Andrew Krell, David Easter, Jordan Moreau and our own Aaron Squires, coached by Tom Devaney and girl's team consisting of Stephanie Van Huyse, Rachelle Vink, Tess Bobbie and our own Sara Westman, will be competing at the Provincial Juniors in Ottawa in January.

Good luck to you all! We'll be rooting for you.

FACILITIES REPORT

We are all missing Ed very much and it is a challenge to maintain our Club's activities as well as when he is here. Sara Westman has been invaluable to us as she stepped in to do Ed's ice work and custodial duties. She will be leaving at the end of January. Our loss, but we wish her well with her new job in Alberta. Thank you so much, Sara!

Woolley's Maintenance has been hired to clean the Club on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. They are usually finished at the Club by 8 AM. We are asking those who use the kitchen to be responsible, as in the past, to clean up after use. Dispose of garbage in the dumpster. If there is a physical challenge and assistance is not readily available, leave the tied up bag near the back door.

Every effort will be made to have extra supplies in washrooms, etc. If a supply has run out, contact a Board member, bar staff or myself. They can access the Supply Room.

There are cigarette butt containers at the front and back doors. They are not always being used. In fact the container is often dumped on

the walk way. Any suggestions on how to keep this area clean would be welcome. Are there any volunteers to help clean up soggy butts?

Ongoing maintenance continues with refrigeration, gas fireplace, carpentry, sewer, plumbing, eaves trough removal and electrical issues. For the automatic lighting and fan to work as designed in the washrooms, the sensor switch needs to stay on the automatic line indicator. Otherwise, the new energy saving lighting system is working well.

During the Christmas Break, the security code will be changed. All League conveners will be contacted with the new code. Please do not share this number with non-members.

ECM has installed our new security system which includes a motion sensor in the ice area. The security system will be activated at night and during closed times. During regular hours, please be vigilant for watching for unauthorized entries. The Club is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Thank you to all those wonderful members who are pitching in to help us with the facility needs. It is deeply appreciated.

Diane Marcou, Facilities Chair

FINANCE REPORT

Club finances for the year to date continue to be well maintained. Although slightly below budget, membership revenues are firming up

close to budget and with a bit of an after Christmas push by the membership committee may approach the budgeted level for the year. Revenues in other areas including bar revenue remain slightly low compared to 2010 -2011, but still relatively strong. We have had significant change in our staffing area from what was budgeted, but every effort is being made to ensure costs are controlled in both the ice and facilities areas. Did you know that membership revenue only accounts for slightly under 60% of the club's total revenue?

We were pleased to receive a cheque from the 2011 Brier Committee in the amount of \$42,077 which has been placed in a GIC and for accounting purposes added to the capital fund balance. Over the last few years we have been able to grow the capital fund and put the club in a much better position to meet challenges going forward. We continue to see the need for significant funds in the near future to ensure the longevity of the club.

Also a thank you to the members for funds put toward improvements in the ladies room, the front reception area and the new lounge TV.

Jim Frederick,
Finance Chair

BAR REPORT

Bar revenues for the year from food and beverage, as well as Pro Shop sales, remain strong although not nearly at 2010 – 2011 levels which were historic highs. Availability of some curling club spirit wear has been met with enthusiasm. We continue to try new products and have recently added Iron Spike Copper Ale to our Draft selection. I would encourage you to try this product brewed right here in St. Thomas, Ontario. This year we have tried to add product and provide additional items of interest to the members.

The club is run for the members, so if you have ideas that you think might be beneficial to the bar and Pro Shop operations, please let me know.

Jim Frederick,
Bar Co-Chair

MEMBERSHIP BOOKS

The Membership books are finally ready. Sorry that they took so long. If your address or phone number is wrong, please let us know. We'll make the change, even if it takes another year! Please email your changes to the club or speak to Cathy Hedley.



SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THIS YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Unlimited:	77
Limited: 8 ends	110
Limited: 6 ends	59
Senior:	125
Senior: 1/2 Yr: Men	5
Senior: 1/wk: Women	8
Student:	10
Intermediate:	2
Social:	25
Life:	3
Free:	2
Top-Up of Free	
Membership	1
Parachute:	9
Total:	435

NEW MEMBERS

Joined 11-12:	57
Rejoined: 11-12:	<u>19</u>
Total:	76

Did not come back: 95

New Members were asked: What made you join the club?

A current member:	26
Returning to curl:	3
Sign on Elm St.:	3
Exercise:	1
Friends wanted to play:	1
Moving to Pt. Stanley:	1
Son took up curling and they need coaches:	1
Steakspiel 2010:	1
Newspaper Ad:	0
Other:	3

Home City:

St. Thomas	321
London:	53
Port Stanley:	14
Union:	14
Aylmer:	11
Other:	22

Male:	246
Female:	189

The best to you and yours' this Christmas. Happy New Year!