

THE T-LINE

VICTORIA CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER Feb. 2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With this being the month of Valentines, and with the recent announcement that the Scotties Tournament of Hearts is taking place in Victoria BC in one year's time, it seemed a fortuitous time to announce that the Victoria Curling Club has been chosen as the Host of the Heart Stop Lounge. This is indeed good news for the Victoria Curling Club and curling in general. The Victoria Curling Club has shown in the past that it can host such events successfully and I am sure the Host Committee of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts had this in mind when they chose our facility to be the Heart Stop Lounge.

The Board of Directors is aware of the impact that this will have on our curling season and it is for that reason that a Liaison Committee of the Board has been established under the leadership of board member Dave Mueller with the able assistance of fellow board member Ellie Gerhardt. We will be meeting with all league representatives shortly to discuss the impact on curling and seeking input on how to make the 2008/2009 curling season the best ever. If you have any thoughts on how to make this the best event ever or comments in general please contact Dave Mueller.

Congratulations to Issy Horowitz for organizing another successful Senior Men's Bonspiel. We had 58 teams participating in day time curling and from all accounts it was a well run and organized event. I was pleased to be able to attend along with the General Manager, the Senior Men's banquet which was well received. Congratulations to all participants.

Next up is the 2008 BC Fire Fighter's Curling Championships to be held from February 21 to 24, 2008. The Victoria Curling Club has hosted many Provincial Curling Championships in the last 50 years and is particularly pleased to be chosen this year as the site of the British Columbia Firefighters Curling Championship.

The Ladies Daffodil takes place February 28 to March 2, 2008 and I understand that spots are still available to curl in this exciting event. Please contact the office at your earliest convenience to reserve your spot!

There are exciting times ahead for the Victoria Curling Club and the Board of Directors will ensure the membership is aware of events as they unfold.

Bud Harbidge - President

MANAGERS MESSAGE

Here we are into the stretch run of the curling season now after yet another purely successful Seniors Bonspiel. Thank-you to Issy and group for making everything run so smooth. Also fresh off the slate was the Men's Coastal Championship. This event once again showed the caliber of curling we have in our club with the number of local teams that went through the zone playdowns to get here. And without the Joanisse and McAulay teams not participating, the door was left wide open for teams to advance. Thank-you to John Coombs and your group of volunteers for all your hard work and long hours. Good luck to teams Joanisse and Craig at the Provincial Championship in Penticton! We have had teams at provincials again this season with the Joel Cave Junior Men's, and the Josh Hozack Juvenile Boy's team now heading to the BC Winter Games. Good luck boys along with Coaches Ed Gerhardt and Todd Troyer. Once again our junior program is turning out winners! (Great job Ellie and crew) We now start looking ahead to the Provincial Firefighters later this month, followed by the **Ladies Daffodil** and **Men's Thunderbird**. Entries are being taken at the office, so don't hesitate and get your team signed up now for these great events! Plans are underway for next season in order to get ready for the 2009 Scotties. A preliminary schedule has been drawn up with the usual amount of game days for all leagues, so besides an interruption in February all leagues will still get their fill of curling for the 2008/09 season. Not to mention, after watching world class ladies curling right next door, we will be able to come back and play more so that we won't have to get the golf clubs out too early! The call for volunteers will be announced later this month so watch for information to be posted around area clubs soon. Make sure to take advantage of our fabulous meals in the coffee shop. The soups and burgers are second to none, and where else can you get a steak dinner like we serve for \$9.95?

Bill Chester
General Manager

MEN'S THUNDERBIRD BONSPIEL

The 56th Annual **Victoria Men's Thunderbird Bonspiel** has been set for March 13th to 16th. The committee is beginning to roll and participation from the club's teams is paramount for a successful event. Registration is easy, just drop by the office during the day or call Anita at 386-6396 and she will accept your registration with a \$55.00 deposit on your MC or Visa. The entry deadline is March 2nd (if you register now, you'll save the committee the trouble of a reminder call). In order to continue to make the Thunderbird the best men's spiel in Victoria, each club team is asked to request prize items from your business contacts for either the prize table (\$50 and up) or for prize draws (any value). Contact Anita at the office if you can help us out.

Darren Boden
Men's Bonspiel Committee

SELECT LEAGUE

The Select League is in its second round robin and every Tuesday provides every team a competitive game. Come out and watch some of Victoria's best teams on Tuesday nights 6:30 & 8:45 alternating. Thanks to all sponsors including our main sponsor, Sports Traders.

Mike Wood

HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

There are 11 full teams still competing in the **Optimist Club of Victoria** High School League. All teams comprise of Grade 10-12 students and are learning lots about the game. Most of all.....having fun! Good Luck to all who attend their Playdowns in Parksville, Feb. 2-3. Thanks to all the teachers/coaches.

Mike Wood

EVENING LADIES

Happy Valentine's Day!! The Ladies Evening League thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas Party and banquet. Thanks so much to Lori Gray and her committee for a job well done and to Janie and her "kitchen" staff for the delicious meal!! The Round Robin portion of our league is almost completed. Round Robin play will be finished on Thurs. Jan. 31st and Tues. Feb. 5th. Square play will commence on Thurs. Feb. 7th and Tues. Feb. 12th. The league play has been enjoyed by all. The Tuesday and Thursday round robin winners will be eligible to participate in a playoff (arrangements to be made at the completion of the Round Robin) along with the daytime curling leagues to decide a winner to compete in the South Island BC Club Challenge at Juan de Fuca Curling Club March 21-23, 2008. Please make an effort to be a "spectator" and cheer on our teams.

The **Daffodil Bonspiel "Vegas"** theme February 28-March 2, 2008 with Lorna Taylor as chairperson is progressing well. **LADIES—PLEASE PUT IN YOUR ENTRY!!**

The **league windup banquet** will be held **Tuesday April 1**. Tickets will be available from Lori Gray and her committee and the club office.

Lorna Taylor

Teachers League

The Friday Teachers League and the curling club hosted an alternating 2 end/4 game funspiel to encourage new players to experience the enjoyable sport of curling and have some all night fun. The A and B draw were full with a 128 curlers, 32 teams. There was a good mix of experienced and novices, male and female, all age groups including 4 youth curlers, Alex, Katlin, Victoria and Tanner (skip), with two playing with their grandparents and parents, with one easily knocking off their parents.

Before the first rock was thrown at 4:00, skips Neil Campbell, Colin Coughlin, John Riopka, Larry Travis and Terry Weegar demonstrated the finer points of delivering a rock and the art of sweeping. This was much appreciated by the new curlers.

After 2 games, Janie and her staff rolled out a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings, getting through 128 curlers and guests with their usual efficiency and good humour. The dinner was well appreciated by all!

Eager curlers resumed play at 7:00 sharp, without my having to whisper a word, I thought to myself, something must be going right. They're full, they're loving it, and, oh yes, they know what they are doing!

Curling concluded at 9:30, with many players exhausted from sweeping their hearts out, skips shouting more pressure on that broom and some good natured poking fun at co-workers, especially directed at their bosses. All were anticipating the many wonderful prizes, live music, and dancing to come. Music was provided by the Golden Country Boys led by our very own David P Smith, who also skipped the winning team with an astonishing 36 points. Thanks to David's wife who joined the band for a couple of numbers. This was the first time this group of musicians had played together publicly and they were amazing!

The party continued with dancing, door prizes and spot dances, and a 50/50 draw (won by Bonnie Light), she is still dancing! It was great to see new curlers signing up for next season.

The organizing committee would like to thank the club, Anita, Bill and club members for supporting and encouraging our Funspiel. The ice staff, Chris and Jim for shaving the ice to the button for some teams, Janie and her cheerful staff providing a awesome meal, Derek and his assistant tending bar in a very professional manner. To our players who risked being skip for a night, way to go! It's not as easy as it looks, eh! Thanks to our two sponsors, Digital Direct Printing and Discovery Coffee. To our many family, friends and co-workers who came up with \$25 to try their hand at curling, thanks for coming along and participating fully. Hope to see some of you joining our league next year. If the timing doesn't workout, keep our funspiel on your dance card.

A big thanks to rink rat Alex, 8 years old, for filling the gaps for missing players, we have a winner in the making!

Overall the event was a great success and there were suggestions that we make it an annual event! The event was a success due to the hard work of the organizing committee: Joy Coughlin and Betty Storey – food; Kathy Godfrey and Barb Campbell – prizes; John Plantinga and Bonnie Light – music; John and Geoff Davis – printing and draw; Brad Blaney – ticket sales, player allocation and computer services

Kirby Rimer

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

We are winding down our season that has included a bonspiel in Nanaimo where we finished 1st and 2nd as well as hosting a bonspiel in Victoria where we finished 3rd. Our team of Nathan, Bill, Maggie, Winnie and Kerri are representing BC at the Nationals to be held in Quebec later this month.

We will send 1 or 2 teams to the Western Championships in March.

In league play the team of Jeff, Boyd, Clayton and Sabrina are still undefeated with 2 games remaining.

Our team of Danny, Mathew, Drew D and Clayton proudly represented us in the Police bonspiel held at Glen Meadows.

We have 38 terrific athletes this year and 10 enthusiastic coaches that have been very active in the program.

Ed Gerhardt, Head Coach

WEDNESDAY COMMERCIAL

The round-robin, which included all 16 teams, has now been completed. Congratulations to the winners - Ron Rauch, Deb Bottomley, King Lee, and Sherry Carter - and the runners-up - Issy Horowitz, Sue Ovans, Don Weeden, and Linda Weeden.

We will now split into "A" and "B" groups, and play an intra-group round-robin running from February 6th to March 26th. As a result of a conflict on March 19th, we have had to move our last curling date and Banquet to March 26th. March 19th will be a free date, with the ice available for anyone who wants to use it.

Please remember the **Seniors Wine and Cheese on February 13th**, to which we are all invited.

Issy Horowitz

Saturday AM Curling League

The **Saturday AM Curling League** curls from 9 am to 11 am Saturday mornings and is an open, relatively unstructured mixed league. Again thanks to the support of the Victoria Curling Club and Curl BC, our league held two successful curling clinics this year one in November followed up with a second in December.

Randy Anderson and his players Sue Cawley, Karen Lockheart and Doug Bowell won the League Championship with 17 points of a possible 22.

The league is now playing for A, B, C and D square winners with the last play-off game scheduled for February 16th. The wrap-up game on March 8th will be another Skins game followed with our AGM/presentations and Luncheon.

The **league shorty Bonspiel** is ready to go on **February 9th** which we hope to have 60 to 80 curlers at for a fun night of Curling and music and party.

Check It Out. <http://members.shaw.ca/saturdaycurling/> Get all the news, Schedules, Spare List, Roster, Rules, Last years winners and Shorty Information.

The League has plenty of spaces open to experienced and novice curlers open for next year. For Information or registration contact: Brian Morin 479-0088 bwmorin@gmail.com

MENS' LEAGUES

Both Monday and Wednesday night men's leagues have been running smoothly. With so many experienced curlers there have been many close games and some excellent shot making displayed. We are well into the second half of the season, and soon our exciting playoffs will begin. Please check your draw times at the end of round robin play. Thanks to our ice crew for keeping the ice in good playing condition during all the outside weather conditions we have faced this winter. It can be a chore regulating ice conditions. Fortunately we have not had to cancel any curling due to weather this year, so let's hope we can finish the season without any disruptions. Don't forget to register your team for the Men's **Thunderbird Bonspiel** being held **March 13th to 16th**. It promises to be a great event as always.

Don McMullen, Monday Night Rep.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Wed. Feb. 13
Senior's Wine & Cheese

Thurs. Feb. 14
Senior's Interclub

Feb. 21-24
Firefighter's Provincials

Feb. 28 – Mar. 2
Ladies Daffodil Bonspiel

Fri. Mar. 7
Teacher's Windup Banquet

Sat. Mar. 8
Sat. AM Windup Luncheon

Mar. 13-16
Men's Thunderbird Bonspiel

Sun. Mar. 16
Sports Traders Windup Banquet

Wed. Mar. 19
Wed. Ladies Select Luncheon

Wed. Mar. 26
Wed. Comm. Windup Banquet

Wed. Mar. 26
Men's League Windup

Mon. Mar. 31
Aft. Ladies Windup Luncheon

Tues. April 1
Evening Ladies Windup Banquet

Fri. April 4
Fri. Mixed Windup Banquet

SENIORS LEAGUE

The Men's Seniors League just completed a very successful bonspiel. A total of 58 teams participated, 44 in the main event and 14 in the Jack Crowther event. A Wednesday evening roast beef dinner was held at the Curling Club to help celebrate the bonspiel. The winners of the various events are listed below.

A Event Winner: Roger Pick, Dave Smith, Georges Bombezin, Bud Price (ESQ)
Runner Up: Don Moss, Chuck Coell, John Carter, Larry Erickson (VCC)

B Event Winner: Lyle Garraway, Dave Hemsall, Rick Gilmore, Ron Serra (GM)
Runner Up: Lynn Wilson, Lawrence Woytowich, Ken Wigbers, Dick Waller (GM)

C Event Winner: Al Frame, Gary Wilson, Dave Lloyd, Dan Danylchuk (KP)
Runner Up: Bob Leach, Al Turcotte, Rick Brokenshire, Barry Daniels (ESQ)

D Event: 1&2: David Jones, Doug Grant, Ron Reimer, Rob Watson (VCC)
Al Swanson, Ben Wilson, Gerry Siddall, Fred Zacek (ESQ)
3&4: Tom Melnyk, Bob Horner, Don Kennedy, Ed Gent (VCC)
James Turner, Mike Fry, Paul Kondal, Dennis Searle (KP)

JACK CROWTHER EVENT

A1: Dave Sinclair, Don Simpson, Stu Edmondson, Harry Irwin
A2: Gordon Brown, Vic Shorsky, Richard Fowler, Norm Preston.
B1: Jim Millar, Maury Ingram, Don Martin, Mike Oswell.
B2: Ed Miskiman, Wes Green, Bob Grant, Paul Beaulieu.
C1: Ron Pajunen, Jack Carson, Rod Richmond, Howard Burroughs.
C2: Jack Alexander, Cedric Trueman, Gord Boland, Jim Watson.

Congratulations to all the winners and to all who participated to help make the bonspiel a success. Congratulations also to Issy Horowitz and his Bonspiel crew for putting together a great event.

The DRAW COMMITTEE chaired by David Jones reported to the Board of Directors with the following recommendations. These recommendations will be voted individually at the AGM.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Continue with the current league format and draw.
- 2) Change to 2 draws a day, 0900 and 1115. The current 130 pm draw is the least desirable.
- 3) Have 4 squares instead of 3. This would provide one more team change per season.
- 4) Make it better known that new curlers to the league can play any position. There seems to be a misconception that new league members have to play lead or second.
- 5) Hold the Senior Men's League Wine and Cheese on a Tuesday or Friday to encourage more members to attend

Doug Grant

WED. LADIES SELECT

Our Round Robin Event was won by the Melissa Soligo Rink, 2nd was Lorna Taylor and 3rd Eileen DeFoe. We have now started on the A & B Square play. Our last day of curling will be **March 19th** and play will start at 9:00 am that day. Following our luncheon, awards will be presented and we will have our **Annual General Meeting**. Elections will be held at that time for the following season. Please see the notice on the Wed. A.M. scoreboard re the elections and what positions are vacant for the 2008-2009 season. If you are interested and wish to know more please talk to any member of this year's executive. Tickets for the windup luncheon will be available from Sandy Hulko and the club office. Happy Valentine's to all and good curling for the rest of the season.

Diane Caldwell

Friday Night Mixed

Hello Friday Night Curlers. I hope you are all enjoying your year. And like every year, just as we are getting into the swing of things, and getting to know everyone, the season is wrapping up. Plans have now begun for the end of season banquet. The banquet is going to be held on **April 4th**, which is the Friday after the last night of curling. Just like last year, we are planning on starting with drinks at 6:00 p.m. and dinner served at 6:30 p.m. I know that Pauline has already bought some fantastic gifts, and Janie will have a great meal for us as usual. We will also be holding the elections for next years

organizing committee. If you have some ideas on how to improve your league, this is your chance. Step up and volunteer, it's really not that difficult. If there are any questions, you know where to find me on Friday nights! Good Curling!

Darren McKinty

SPORTS TRADERS

Congrats to the Lois Richmond team who earned 1st place in the round robin this year with 26 points, the Wayne Spiers team who dropped to 2nd place with 24 points & the Kelly Doerksen team who moved up to 3rd place with 21 points. Based on total points earned during the round robin, teams were split into A & B divisions for our 7-game playoffs which started Feb 3rd. Our last night of curling is **March 16th**, which will be followed by our wind-up banquet & prizes for all. The Lois Richmond team, being round robin winners, will get 1st dibs at the prize table, followed by the winners of the A & B divisions & then the runner-ups for A & B. Prizes will then be selected based on each team's total points (round robin + playoffs).

Once again there were lots of tasty leftovers from our Xmas pot-luck on Dec 16th & lots of happy card prize winners thanks to the numerous prizes donated by a number of people in the league. Special thanks Al Mellett who organized this event & to Paul Robinson, greenskeeper for the Victoria Golf Course, who donated club greens, a golf jacket, sweater & 2 piece rain suit. Thanks also to the Keith Kresse team who were kept busy managing our Xmas Cheer booze raffle tickets, as it was the most successful ever thanks to Scottie Crouse who sold a record of 27 books & Jackie Graham who sold 20 books. The profits from this fund raiser will all go towards our prize table on March 16th.

We have a wedding coming up on March 29th. John Cooper & Mary Palfrey are going back in time to the 1920's & will be tying the knot at Dunsmuir Lodge based on this theme.

Cathy O'Brien
Reporter

SPORTSMAN

The month of February always marks the end of the round robin part of the CFA Sportsman curling season thereby leaving just the playoffs to determine the winners of the A, B and C events. This year's Sportsman Club champions saw the Barry Hilton Rink win the coveted league champ jackets by hanging on to edge out the Dennis Omelchenko rink in the final week. Barry, who over the years has devoted time and effort to help grow and maintain the league has come close to winning the championship in the past making this first win very special for him.

Once again the Sportsman league held a Christmas charity draw sponsored by CFA where the winner got Canuck tickets for two plus overnight accommodation. Sportsman

curlers thank Jim Gordon for organizing this charity event along with the leagues Christmas turkey shoot which went along way to make many a curlers Christmas dinner extraordinary. This year also renews the competition that first began last year known as the "*Sportsman League Challenge*" held between the Esquimalt and Victoria Sportsman leagues. Esquimalt was last year's winner of the challenge, thereby putting the pressure on the Sportsman CFA group to pull out a victory when this fun event returns to the Victoria rink on February 9th.

The league wrap-up banquet will take place in March and thanks go to league members Greg Corbett and Mark Mackereth for helping to organize this event. For more information regarding CFA curling for next season please contact Dan Holland at 744-4465.