

# THE T-LINE

**VICTORIA CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER Feb. 2009**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are now in the month of February and playdowns continue for many categories of competitive curlers. Congratulations to the Victoria Men's team of Jason Montgomery moving on to the 2009 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship in Maple Ridge at the Golden Ears Winter Club, February 9-15.

Because the Victoria Curling Club is involved in the Scotties Tournament of Hearts this year and our Club will be host to the Heartstop Lounge, we did not put our names forward for any regional curling opportunities this year. However, we will be seeking opportunities for upcoming years to continue to support competitive curling here in Victoria.

We had a successful Mistletoe Bonspiel this Christmas Break. Thanks go to Board members Rick Manifold and Catherine Wollner for a job well done. With the valuable experience they have earned this past Mistletoe, it will be helpful for planning the Mistletoe for this upcoming year in whatever format it may take!

Work continues on the Regional Curling Facility Initiative with the Committee selecting Canon Design to do the regional curling facility study. Canon Design is world renowned for its design work having recently designed and completed the Richmond Olympic Oval for the 2010 Winter and Paralympic Games as well as many other world-class athletic venues.

The Scotties Tournament of Hearts is taking place next month. All committees are working hard to make this a successful event. Individual tickets for the event recently went on sale to assist the organizers in meeting their goal of 100,000 tickets sold.

The 50/50 committee work is well underway, with all volunteers being scheduled for the event. Approximately 35 ticket sellers and 5 bankers will be used during the event. This will give volunteers a chance to see their schedule prior to the rally taking place February 01, 2009.

Board member Brian Morin is currently in Scotland curling in the Strathcona Cup with the Gratton team from BC. Both the team and Canada are doing well, with Canada leading 1293 points to 1009. Go Brian!

Regards

Bud Harbidge - President

## Manager's Message

We are now rounding the turn for the season and heading for the home stretch. Of course we have to get through that little event called the Scotties first. With most of our curlers involved in some fashion it seems that we are all very busy these days outside our regular lives getting final details ready for what will no doubt be another fabulous time for us in the curling world. Congratulations to all playdown teams that were successful in getting through their first rounds of competition. Good luck to Jason Montgomery and team on pushing aside your opponents on way to the Provincial Men's Championship next month in Maple Ridge. We are looking forward to hanging another provincial banner on our walls. No pressure boys! Still to come for club curlers are the Juvenile Jan.31-Feb.1), High Schools (Feb.7-8) and Masters (Feb.6-8) playdowns. Be sure to keep tabs on our teams on playdowns.com for end by end coverage. We have a junior star amongst us! Lucky Alycia Streifel has been chosen to be a Junior Star at the Scotties. Alycia will be a guest of the Jennifer Jones team for a draw during the week. Have a great time with the team Alycia! Club members Greg Danderfer and Don Vermiere will be doing their thing of drawing to the button for \$\$millions\$\$ (well maybe not quite that much guys) during a playdown format during the Scotties with a chance of showing their skills during semi and final games. Good luck guys! Recently we held a silent auction at the club for the TV in the lounge. The bids that came in were very well received. The winner of the TV was very happy and the club was very happy with the price, so all in all the process was a success. Notices will be going out shortly regarding parking during the Scotties. The status for parking will be **"THE GREEN ST. LOT AND THE ARENA LOT WILL NOT BE HONOURING THE VCC PARKING PASSES DURING THE SCOTTIES EVENT AT ANY TIME"**. This means that our parking passes will not be valid (this includes all VCC staff, board of directors and volunteers that have parking passes for along the side of the building). If you are unclear about this please give us a call at the office and we will try to be more clear on the situation. Don't forget that we still have our 2 annual bonspiels coming up in March. So ladies and gents, be sure to get your teams registered for the Daffodil and Thunderbird before the cut off dates.

Bill Chester-General Manager

## Men's Thunderbird Bonspiel

The **57<sup>th</sup> annual Victoria Men's Thunderbird Bonspiel** has been set for **March 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>**. 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 deposit on your MC or Visa. **The entry deadline is March 12<sup>th</sup>** (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  
Bonspiel Committee

### **Wed. AM Ladies Select**

The round robin portion of our season ended on January 7<sup>th</sup> with a very tight race to the finish line. Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> place team of Mavis Drabitt, Moira Bernard, Bev Robertson and Jan Laidlaw. The Drabitt team has decided to participate in the BC Club Challenge, and to this, your fellow curlers with you all the very best in your endeavours. Honourable mention goes to the runner up team of Melissa Soligo, Val Turner, Bonnie Light and Donna Somer. The play-offs for A and B squares are well underway with the final game on March 25.

The **Annual General Meeting**, luncheon and prize presentations will be held following the final draw of the season on **March 25<sup>th</sup>** at 12 noon in the upstairs lounge. All spares will be contacted and invited to attend the AGM and luncheon. Please note the start time for the game on March 25<sup>th</sup> is 9:00 am.

If you are interested in running for a position on the league executive, please contact Diane Caldwell, the nomination chairperson at 250-652-7959.

Good Luck and good curling to all teams during the play-offs.  
Maxine Hanson

### **Teachers**

Our year is rapidly coming to an end unfortunately for those of us who eagerly look forward to early Friday evening curling. This year due to a number of cancelled evenings we will be ending our season on February 13 with an evening of curling followed by our annual meeting and banquet.

Our regular season play has ended and we are now in our playoffs. This annual series of evenings is proving to be exciting as always with of course the cream not necessarily rising to the top. It seems that the pressure of these playoffs leads to a bit of choking by certain curlers whose names will go unnamed of course.

We are seeking to add to our numbers and have openings for an estimated 16 curlers for the 2009-2010 curling year so if you are interested in joining our league, please contact our president, Kirby Rimer @ 250-479-9605. You don't have to be a teacher to play in our league, as a matter of fact you don't even have to have ever been a student I'm told.

Looking forward to an exciting last 4 weeks of curling and an all you can eat dessert-filled banquet.

John Plantinga

### **Mon/Wed Men**

The Monday and Wednesday night men's leagues are now entering our playoff round. We anticipate some well played and close games leading up to our league champions and club champion being decided. We will take a short break while the Scotties festivities take place at the curling club. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered for the Scotties. If you are attending the event don't forget to purchase your 50-50 draw tickets. The Victoria Curling Club will benefit from the proceeds of the 50-50 draw. It is time to register your team for the **57th annual Thunderbird Men's Bonspiel** being held

March 19 -22, 2009. To avoid disappointment, get your entry in as soon as possible, the deadline is March 12, 2009

Don McMullen  
Director

### **Special Olympics**

The athletes are well into their season and have just played their second bonspiel of the 3 they play each year. We hosted the event with 12 teams. We were gracious hosts and placed third to second Nanaimo and winner Parksville. We will participate in our last stop on the tour in Nanaimo Jan 31.

The athletes have been enjoying a wonderful year with their enthusiastic coaches.

Ed Gerhardt  
Head Coach

### **Ladies Afternoon Curling**

Here we are two thirds of the way through the curling season with thoughts of spring as of this writing. The sun is shining and we have warmed up from the frigid December. In spite of the nasty cold, this group celebrated a fun-filled Christmas luncheon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, following the first snowfall. Continuing with the luncheon as planned, in spite of the snow, confirmed that indeed, curlers are tough! Forty-five women braved the elements and cold rink conditions to start the holiday festivities on a high note. Thanks to Alice Howes for once again planning the event and looking after us well. Thank you also to the other women who helped with the extras including the 50/50. The clubs' share of \$55 was sent to the Mustard Seed on your behalf.

The second draw is now completed with the Monday winners being the Barb Copley rink of Helen Paterson, Ann Leadbeater, and Elaine Shirley. Second place went to Sylvia Field, Sharon Kelly, Cathy Bartlett, and Edith McHugh. Thursday's winner was the Elaine Shirley team of Cathy Bartlett, Ann Leadbeater, and Ev Sigalet. In second place was Barb Copley, Henriette Ballinger, Delores Troyer, and Edith McHugh. Congratulations ladies..

A reminder for the third session to closely consult your draw calendar. There are a lot of irregularities in the schedule with days "off" and "on". The Senior Men's Spiel is the last week of January, followed by two weeks of curling, followed by three weeks lay off, followed by..... ! Please read your draw calendar provided and planned by your fabulous draw "mistress", Yvonne Oakley.

Some replacements will be needed on your executive for the 2009-2010 season. Please consider a position if you have not already held one (or even if you have !).

The **AGM** will be held on **Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 followed by the **end of the year luncheon**. Your skips will soon have the tickets for this event. The next executive meeting is on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> following the draw. Once again, thank you to all the executive members and to the office staff for their continued support. Enjoy the Scotties!

Linda Carswell-Bland

## **Senior Men**

Members and a few “guests” enjoyed our Certificate Shoot on Dec. 19. Fairway Market – thanks for your kindness.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> round is underway for the League Championship with fewer teams on the ice as members fly south for a while, move away or experience health issues. However, our spare list is longer.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Best Bloomin Bonspiel” is Jan. 26-30 again had fewer registrants for reasons cited above and conflicting curling events. We appreciate our sponsor’s help from Vision Travel, BCAA Travel, Irwin Industries, Jean Luc at Edward Jones and Cordova Bay Esso. As well, we thank Bill, Anita, Al Wood, Janie and crew, Al Sutherland and our volunteers for their skill, time and energy.

The last local Senior Spiel of the season is at Glen Meadows the week of Feb. 16 has space available. Call the club at 656-3136 or Glen Canning at 595-0307.

The Directors have been discussing ways of increasing our membership. If you or friends know anyone who would like fun and exercise Tues. and Fri. mornings, please encourage them to visit or call the Club. Experience an asset but not a requirement.

Rob Watson

## **Thursday Open**

The Thursday Open league has entered the last set of draws for this season. At this time, the rinks skipped by Dale Clark and Blair Ewart are tied in first place in the draw for the trophy round. Dale Clark’s team is the top team in the second series. The league has a brief hiatus over the Scotties’ and will celebrate the victors at the last meeting near the end of March.

Tom Mace

## **Sportsman League**

Well it feels like the curling season seemingly just started just a few short weeks ago, however reality has set in and the C-FAX Sportsman league wrapped up it’s round robin play on January 10<sup>th</sup> with the Terry Walker rink being the league’s 2008/2009 champ. Terry is no stranger to being the league champ, a great feat in a league where teams are formed each year by a draft system. With the finish of round robin play the league has now entered its playoff format which will finish up at the end of February. The early start of the curling season in order to accommodate the 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts has made the season literally roar by and will culminate in March with the league’s annual general meeting and banquet. For Sportsman curlers, the wrap-up is the highlight of the season with a meal and prize table unmatched by any other house league.

Just before Christmas the league had its annual “Turkey Shoot” that put many a turkey or ham on the tables of our league members who brought their “draw” weight to this event. The highlight of the event is the league’s donation to C-Fax’s Santa’s Anonymous Fund which helps Children and Families in need in the Victoria area. The generous donation is always based on the great effort of the league’s membership

headed by Jim Gordon who once again with the help of our sponsor put together a Canuck hockey package. With the season coming rapidly to a close, many thanks to the sportsman league executive made up of Dan Holland, Jim Gordon, Barry Hilton, Al Hood, Don Sheldrick, and Dave Sheldrick. Thanks also goes to Mark Mackereth who helps put the wrap-up banquet together each year. New curlers looking to join the Saturday Sportsman League can contact League president Dan Holland @ 744-4465. For those taking in, or helping out with the Scotties Tournament of Hearts taking place on February 21<sup>st</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.....have fun and enjoy this great event!!!

## **What's Happening**

Sat. Feb. 7  
Shorty

Fri. Feb. 13  
Teacher's Windup Banquet

Sat. Feb. 14  
Shorty

Feb. 15-21  
Heartstop Lounge Prep

Feb. 21-Mar. 1  
Scotties Tournament of Hearts

Mar. 2 -5  
Ice Prep

Fri. Mar. 6  
Fri. Night Mixed Banquet

Sat. Mar. 7  
Sat. AM Banquet

Sat. Mar. 7  
Shorty

Mar. 13-15  
Ladies Daffodil Bonspiel

Wed. Mar. 18  
Wed. Comm. Banquet

Mar. 19-22  
Men's Thunderbird Bonspiel

Tues. Mar. 24  
Evening Ladies Banquet

Wed. Mar. 25  
Wed. AM Ladies Banquet

Wed. Mar. 25  
Men's Windup

Sat. Mar. 28  
Shorty

Sun. Mar. 29  
Sports Traders Banquet

Mon. Mar. 30  
Aft. Ladies Banquet

### **Legion League**

Our league champion this year was the Ron Bilodeau team with Andrew Thompson, Rowen McKenzie and John Flagel.

With only two weeks left in our season, playoffs will wrap up Feb.1st and then one more fun day on Feb.8th.

On the bright side it has been a fun filled year and there is still lots of curling to watch at the Scotties.

Good curling to the Stew Thomson team with Randy Niemam, Dave Neilson and Art Bamford in Campbell River at the end of January in the Royal Canadian Legion B.C. Playdowns.

A special thank you to my executive and all the committee members for your time and effort. Look forward to working with you next year. Have a great summer and see you all next year.

Stew Thomson

### **Sports Traders**

Congrats to the Gord Irwin team who clinched 1st place in the round robin this year with 24 points. According to Gord, Darren van Vort, who joined their team last year, has been key to their success, particularly since the two men have been taking turns at skipping this year. Lagging behind by only 2 points apiece, the Al Mellett team earned 2nd place & the Maurice Auger team had to settle for 3rd. Last but not least, the Jody Billings team have graciously slid through the round robin with 0 points & will be fighting with the Dave Cormier team to win the coveted trophy for last place in the playoffs.

Based on total points earned during the round robin, teams were split into A & B divisions for our 7-game playoffs which started Jan 25th. Because the VCC will be transformed into the Heart Stop Lounge during the Scott Tournament of Hearts, there will be no curling for 3 weeks, starting with Feb 15th. We will then reconvene on March 8th which, please note, is when Daylight Savings begins. Our last night of curling will be March 29th, followed by our wind-up banquet & prizes for all. The Gord Irwin team, being round robin winners, will get 1st dibs on 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 points + playoff points).

Once again there were plenty of tasty dishes to choose from at our annual Xmas pot-luck on Dec 14th. Special thanks Al & Karen Mellett who organized all of the prizes for this event & to the Keith Kresse team who were kept busy managing our Xmas Cheer booze raffle tickets. Once again, as in previous years, Jackie Graham of the Kyle Domes team showed off her excellent saleswomanship by selling 16 books of raffle tickets.

Lastly, congrats to Dave Blower as he & his team made it to the A event final against the Randy Ferby team in the Men's Bonspiel which was held at the Duncan Curling Club on Jan 1st to 4th. Because it would be cruel to tell you what the final score was, I will only mention that they managed to play 6 ends, the last of which the Ferby team screwed up by only scoring 7 points. Honourable mention also goes to Dave Blower for being the longest standing current member in our league, having joined as a young lad in 1980 when our league was known as the "Big I" & was sponsored by the Ingraham Hotel. Al & Karen Mellett joined the league in 1993 &, thanks to their generosity, we then became known as the Sports Traders League.

Cathy O'Brien

### **Friday Mixed**

Well Friday nighters, the season is nearing an end. It was a short season, but the length did not diminish the fun that we had. I want to remind everyone that the last night of curling is going to be **Friday, Feb 13**. Because of the Scotties, we will be having the banquet on **Friday, March 6, 2009**. The bar will open at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 7:00. Back by popular demand this year was the Chicken Cordon Bleu. Of course after dinner and the elections we will be having the prize draws and presentations to this year's winners. I will be talking a head count over the next few weeks as to who is attending the banquet. If you wish to invite friends/family we can arrange for additional tickets at a cost of \$19.00 a ticket. But you need to let me know in advance. Thanks again for a great year. And remember, the way you make this league great is by participating. Volunteer to help out, challenge friends and co-workers to put a team together and try to beat you and most importantly, join us again next year.

Thanks again.  
Darren McKinty

### **Evening Ladies**

The Christmas Banquet was enjoyed by everyone. As always Santa and the elves attended. Thanks to Katherine Frankfurter and her team for organizing the evening. Both leagues are into the final portion of their playoffs. There seems to be a few 'Hurries and Woas' heard on the sheets. Tuesday Ladies will be completed March 17 and Thursday Ladies will be completed February 12 with a furs/skins games planned for March 12. The Jennifer Blagborne (Tuesday) and the Dailene Sivertson (Thursday) round robin winners will be playing off with the Wednesday Select Ladies to determine a

Victoria Curling Club Ladies Representative for the BC Club Challenge at Juan De Fuca March 20-22. The **Daffodil Bonspiel** with the theme of '**Dancing Like the Stars**' is being held **March 13-15**. Remember to enter your team with Anita at the office. The league windup banquet will be held Tuesday March 24. Tickets will be available from Katherine Frankfurter and her committee and the club office. A special thanks to Bonnie Light for the curling pictures that were provided to us on the web. Also, the Ladies Locker Room Renovations has been completed. It looks great. Thanks to Eileen Defoe and Darlene Hansen for all their hard work and the coordination of this project and a special note to Bill Chester, Dave Martin, Chris O'Brien, Jennifer Blagborne, Sharon Roberts and Eileen Williams for their contributions.

Marilyn Sutton



**Don't miss your chance to experience the 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts!**

**HeartStop Lounge Entertainment Line-up at the Victoria Curling Club**

The party starts with an "Opening Night Free for All" on Friday, February 20 featuring the Tom Morrissey Band and opening act the Randy Waldie Trio. Free admission one night only! Then all week long before and after the games, fans must have a draw ticket to gain admission to the HeartStop Lounge.

The entertainment line up as follows:

Saturday, February 21 - Tom Morrissey Band (4pm) & Abba Live & Fleetwood Mac Tribute

Sunday, February 22 - DJ Night

Monday, February 23 - Johnny Vallis

Tuesday, February 24 - Flatline

Wednesday, February 25 - Crosstown Bus

Thursday, February 26 - Bryden Street Party Band

Friday, February 27 - Timebenders

Saturday, February 28 - The Chevelles (8pm)

Sunday, March 1 - The Chevelles (8:15pm)

(\*all times are approximate; unless otherwise noted all acts hit the stage following the last draw of the day between 10pm & 10:30pm. No one under the age of 19 allowed in the HeartStop Lounge after 7pm)

**Chart Your Own Course with flexible ticket packages**

Fans can enjoy the event whenever they wish, for a few hours or a few days. You can chart your own course starting at the low price of \$39 plus service charges and GST.

Individual draw tickets are also now on sale. To order or for more information please go to [www.seasonofchampions.ca](http://www.seasonofchampions.ca) or call (866) 514-5050.

## Juniors

There is a lot of excitement in the air as **four** teams of our juvenile players gear up for playdowns starting January 30th. By the time you read this you will be able to check the Victoria Curling Club website to see who is going to the provincial playdowns in March!

Bear Mountain Junior Curling Classic is also coming up at the end of March and there are two more Junior Bonspiels to sign up for ... Juan de Fuca on the Valentine's weekend and Esquimalt in the first week of March. Make sure your name is on the list if you want to attend either of these. JDF has a competitive side and a fun side; the Esquimalt bonspiel is in the format of two experienced and two novice players per team. Don't miss out on the fun! If you want to be a scorekeeper or flag bearer at Bear Mountain, please be sure to turn in the forms that were previously handed out.

One of our young curlers, Alycia Streifel, has been chosen to be a Junior Star for "Team Canada" at the Scotties. She will be an honorary team member of the Jennifer Jones rink during the event.

The list of kids who are drawing to the four foot and winning coffee shop gift certificates is growing. To date, we congratulate Rachel Carey, Alex Horvath (twice), Darcy Macdonald, Claire Rieberger, Jamison Schulz Franco, Marielle Timmins, Kirsten Ogloff, who achieved this after only ONE session, and Bailey Tinkler. Good work!

As I am moving on from the Junior Program, I'd like to part by saying how much I have enjoyed working with the young athletes - some of my most favorite memories revolve around the kids and our curling sessions. I will certainly miss it. Also, I can't adequately express how appreciative I am of the volunteer coaches of our junior program! They are dedicated and awesome coaches: Ann Thomson, Bonnie Davies, Cathryn O'Brien, Debby Bottomley, Ed Gerhardt, Josh Manzer, Lu Nielson, Rich Thierbach, Sean Cromarty and Steve Streifel. Thanks also to parents who have helped out over the years, to the club for all the support we have been given and thanks, most of all, to the junior curlers, past and present. You have been great!!

Ellie Gerhardt