

The Backline



... a newsletter for the members of the Vancouver Curling Club

A Season of Champions ...

The 2008-2009 season at the Vancouver Curling Club is coming to a close, and we have crowned a number of champions at events both inside and outside the VCC.

Last month's edition of "The Backline" celebrated the fantastic accomplishments of Team Mallett, and I would like to once again congratulate the team for their brilliant run as they captured the 2009 BC Provincial Championships and a silver medal at the 2009 Scotties National Women's Curling Championships.

Additional accomplishments by our VCC Blind and Juvenile Men's teams are highlighted in this edition of "The Backline."

Closer to home, the club has hosted a couple of exciting events to close out the 2008/09 season.

The club's season-ending event was the **2009 VCC Championships**. Twenty-four teams from the club's different leagues competed from March 31 to April 2 for the chance to be named club champions.

The 2009 Club Champions are Team Faa (from Sunday Open). Pictured above (L to R) is second Sean Ramsay, skip Chris Faa, third Allen Ho and lead Steve Lewis. They defeated Team Martin (2007 Club Champions) of the Motors League in the A division final.

The B division final also featured a Sunday Open team on the winning side against a team from the Motors League as the 2008 Club Champions, Team Macdonald, defeated Team McGinty.

Before we got to the VCC Championships, the 13th Annual Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel was held in mid-March.

The complete summary of the 2009 Charity Skins is featured on the following pages.

Looking ahead, our final event of this season at the VCC is our Annual General Meeting, taking place at the club at 7:30pm on Thursday, April 23rd. All members are invited to read more details inside and then attend the AGM.

Sincerely,
Scott Allen
President, VCC Board of Directors

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VCC Championships ...



A Event Runners-up:

Team Martin

(L to R: Gerry Chatelain, Owen Thomas, Shorty Sellars, Jerry Martin)



B Event Champions:

Team Macdonald

(L to R: Jan Bos, Victoria Gray, Doug Macdonald, Hamish Macdonald)



B Event Runners-up:

Team McGinty

(L to R: Jim Fofonoff, Rob Goble - sparing for Kevin Burden, Bill McGinty, Jerry MacKenzie)

Year-end Events & 2009 AGM

Now that all of the club's on-ice curling activities are concluded, members are reminded about the upcoming year-end events.

Thursday, April 24 features three special events at the VCC: the club's Annual General Meeting, our annual Volunteers BBQ and the season-ending League Reps meeting.

Our annual **Volunteers BBQ** takes place on April 23rd, starting at 5:30pm. It is a chance to celebrate and thank the contributions of the many volunteers who help ensure the continued success of the VCC. The season-ending **League Reps Meeting** will take place on April 23rd from 6-7:15pm.

And an event that is open to all members of the VCC is our **Annual General Meeting**. The 2009 AGM takes place on April 23rd from 7:30 - 9pm. The VCC is a membership-driven organization so if you would like to contribute to the growth and development of the club, please attend our upcoming AGM and also consider putting your name forward to be elected to the Board of Directors.

If you have any questions about the upcoming AGM, please do not hesitate to contact the club president, Scott Allen, at president@vancouvercurlingclub.com.

VCC Men Compete at Juvenile Provincials ...

The VCC Juvenile Men's Team - **Team Martin** - won the right to represent Zone 5 (Vancouver-Squamish) at the 2009 BC Juvenile Men's Provincial Championships. Team Martin traveled to Winfield on March 16-19 to challenge the province.

The team finished in a tie for seventh place. Congratulations to Team Martin, which includes: Nicolas Martin, Maxium Langlaid, Alvin Lao and Luc Plagnol, with Coach Ken MacDonald.

Building a House through Curling ...

The **13th Annual Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel** was held from March 12-15, and a great time was had by all both on and off the ice.

Named after the late Barry Naimark - who was a member of our club and became a world curling champion in 1964 - the Charity Skins Bonspiel is an opportunity for curlers to play the game they love, have fun with their friends and meet other members, and raise funds for charity.

This year's charity was the Talitha Koum House, which is a Spiritual House of Healing for Women in Conflict with Society. Talitha Koum House helps those in trouble with the law by providing a supportive community for growth in spiritual values and self worth. And the sponsor cash donations plus the contributions from the participating teams via the 50/50 and raffles draws led to a donation of more than \$1,000 to the Talitha Koum House.

The other winners in the 2009 Charity Skins were the champions from the A, B and C Divisions. Featured on the right-hand side, and pictured with club President - Scott Allen on the left & Charity Skins co-chair - Bev Bryck on the right, the winning teams were:

A division -- Team Misfits

(Jan Bos, Chris Faa, Hamish Macdonald, Jaryn Perkins)

B division -- Team Smith

(Gary Smith, Harley Bryson, Barry Yates, Grace Matsutami, Randy Freeman)

C division -- Team McKay

(Andrew Tully, Jim Tarnava, Doug Poulin, Ron McKay)



A Event Winners:
Team Misfits



B Event Winners:
Team Smith



C Event Winners:
Team McKay

VCC Curlers off to BC Club Challenge ...

After winning the club's internal playdowns, two VCC teams are headed off to represent the club during the Easter long weekend at the Mainland Division of the BC Club Challenge. **Team Carefoot** will compete in the women's division, and the team is made up of skip

Sharon Carefoot, third Bev Bryck, second Pat Upper and lead Debby Volbrecht. **Team Faa** are the VCC men's representatives and feature skip Chris Faa, third Andrew Giles, second Justin Leblanc and lead Jaryn Perkins. Good luck!

Charity Skins Donations

Donations are crucial to the success of the Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel so thank you to the following individuals or companies who donated money for the event:

Thomas Lutes and Wolrige Mahon Chartered Accountants

The following individuals or companies donated prizes for the event:

Ann McCavan Morris, Arts Club Theatre, BC Lions, Cookies of Course, Edgewater Casino, Lifestyles Cafe, Markings Visual Communications, Nesters Market, News 1130, On The Rocks Curling Store, Que Pasa, The Beat 94.5, Vancouver Curling Club, Vancouver Giants, and Vancouver Symphony

And a large and successful event is not possible without an organizing committee so special thanks to the following individuals for giving of their time leading up to and during the 2009 Charity Skins:

Hamish Macdonald (co-chair), Bev Bryck (co-chair), Jan Bos, Victoria Gray, Dianne Petrant, Rob Hodgins, Croft Bain, Shea Bos and Scott Allen

In the Spotlight ...

a Q&A with VCC Members



Brenda Knechtel

is a new curler to the VCC this season. She is a member of the blind curling league and was recently honored by the VCC Blind League.

Why led you to take up curling?

I lost my sight four years ago and have been working to become independent again. Jack Conway [an accomplished curler in the VCC Blind League] put the bug in my ear during meetings at the CNIB. So I agreed to try the sport this past fall. I had never tried curling before, and had only watched it a couple of times on TV during past Olympic Games.

How would you describe first curling experience?

The first time out had its ups and downs, figuratively and literally. While I fell on the ice a couple of times,

I found the coaches' descriptions, strategy, and discussions of potential outcomes to be very helpful. In fact, all of the volunteers with the Blind League are absolutely incredible! Everyone involved with the league made me feel so welcome.

Can tell us about your recent honors?

I cannot believe the recent awards I have received. To begin, I was on the winningest team in the league from January onwards, so that was a great feeling. At the end of the season, the coaches selected me as the most improved player. The league members then voted to award me with the Paul Hoeberigs Memorial Sportsmanship Award, which exemplifies good sportsmanship and the true spirit of curling.

Do you have any closing thoughts?

In losing my sight, a lot of doors have closed on me. But I find the sport of curling, and everyone involved with the blind league, to be awesome!

Support Team Canada in 2010 ...

As was announced via email to the membership on March 18th, the Vancouver Curling Club and Canadian Curling Association are partnering on the **Family and Friends Program**.

The program provides accommodation to the families and friends of the two curling teams that will represent Canada in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Getting involved with this program will be a great way to ensure you have a unique and memorable Olympic experience. You will have the opportunity to get to know the curling athletes and their families/friends

that will be coming to Vancouver to support Canada's Teams as they compete for Olympic Gold.

Please visit vancouvercurlingclub.com/files/CCA_2010_Accommodation.pdf for more information about the Friends and Family Program.



Upcoming Events ...

The 2008-2009 season is coming to a close:

Wednesday, Apr. 15

Ice is removed for the season at the VCC

Thursday, Apr. 23

Volunteers' Barbecue, League Reps Meeting & Annual General Meeting

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For more information on any of the events scheduled at the VCC, please contact the Club Manager - Ken MacDonald - at 604-872-0122 or manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com.



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