

The Backline



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

November and December = Spiel Success

The end of November and beginning of December saw three weekends in a row of special events being hosted at the club: the PRCL's Pink Broom, the VCC Ladies Totem Cashspiel, and Curl BC's Women's Coastal Playdowns.

The Pacific Rim Curling League (PRCL) hosted its annual fun curling event: The Pink Broom. Since the event was held during Grey Cup Weekend, the theme this year was, "the Pink Broom presents....the Gay Cup".

The Pink Broom is a great event that enables PRCL members & their friends to get together and curl with league members and friends in a less competitive environment. Since the league has over 170 members and curls on two different days, it isn't easy getting to know everyone in the league.

As always, participants were encouraged to "Think Pink" and dress accordingly for the occasion. This year saw some of the most exceptional outfits: pink bunny slippers, a pink wig & housecoat, pink bunny ears and pink pyjamas.

The bonspiel is a mix n' match affair - each player selects a curling position (lead, second, third or skip) and plays with a new team each game. After four 4-end games, the scores for each individual were tallied and the winning lead, second, third & skip (pictured above) were crowned. Each one of them took home the coveted first place prize - a hand-knit pair of pink slippers.

Pink Broom 2008 was a tremendous success and could not have succeeded with the organizing committee and its volunteers. A big thanks from all participants for their hard work.

The inaugural VCC Ladies Totem Cashspiel is now in the books... and the VCC's own Team Mallett was the winner.

Featuring almost all of BC's top women's high performance curling teams, the club was full of exciting games. And, as Team Mallett shook the hands of Team Clark to end the proceedings, it was clear the first VCC Ladies Totem Cashspiel was a success.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Curlers are Lifelong Learners ...

The editors of "The Backline" recently caught up with SF, one of the participants in the introductory clinic series in September. Now that December is upon us, we were wondering how her season has gone so far...

We haven't seen you around the club before this year, SF. How long have you been curling?

I only curled once prior to joining the VCC this September.

So the clinic series was almost your first time on the ice. Why did you decide to register?

I took the skills clinic because it was a reasonable price and I wanted to have a clue about the basic rules and strategies of the game.

How has your clinic experience translated into your league play?

It's been helpful. With our team in the B+B league, we change the positions we play week to week (maybe we ought not to, but we are all just beginners). We all really enjoy it.

I was wondering about that because we've seen you skipping on Friday nights... so you must be doing something right. What do you have to say about the B+B League and about the club in general?

I heard the B+B league was a casual league, a good group of people and that there was a good lounge / social atmosphere along with that. That's why I joined the Vancouver Curling Club.

Looking ahead, will we see you out for the clinic in January?

I probably won't be there but maybe sometime in the future I'd take a more advanced clinic. We now know the rules and currently are enjoying playing the game. Plus, we'll be busy -- we have a new baby to look forward to in 2009!

Thanks, SF! Good luck with the rest of your season and with the baby – another future VCC member, and a candidate for the Junior Program!

Intermediate Clinic Planned for January ...

Are you looking for ways to increase your skill level? Well, early in the new year will be the time to get your game on!

The club's **Mid-season Intermediate Skills Clinic** is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2009.

The clinic is a 3/4-day event designed to work on both skill and theory development. The clinic will run from 9am to 3pm, and the cost is \$40/person.

The on-ice time will give you a chance to improve multiple skills through different drills, including each participant being videotaped. The off-ice time will be used to review theory, strategy and analyze the video taped skill sessions.

There is a maximum of 40 participants so be sure to register early. You can sign up by either emailing the club at manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com or calling 604.874.0122.

Spiel Success *(continued from front cover) ...*

The idea behind the VCC Ladies Totem Cashspiel is to provide the competitive ladies teams in BC with another opportunity to compete and earn valuable CTRS points. The VCC greatly appreciates the support and participation of the competing teams!

Special thanks also go out to the fans (VCC club members and guests, plus team members' friends and families) who came to watch the action. Congratulations to Sharon Carefoot - the winner of the VCC members' draw for a pair of opening weekend tickets to the 2009 Scotties in Victoria.

A final round of applause goes out to the key event organizers: **Bev Bryck** - Chair of the VCC Special Events Committee, **Dianne Petrant** - Chair of the VCC Education, Youth & Skills Development Committee, and **Ken MacDonald** - VCC GM.

And the final recent special event at the VCC was the Curl BC Women's Coastal Playdowns. The VCC's own Team Mallett continued their winning ways and, by virtue of winning the C event, captured one of the three berths to the 2009 Scotties Provincial Championships in Parksville from Jan. 20-25, 2009.

Are You Missing Something ?

Have you lost one of those new grippers that you bought earlier this year?
Or maybe you have misplaced your favorite curling jacket.

The VCC would like to remind you to please check out the **Lost & Found** area near the club's entrance.

The number of items (including shoes, gloves, grippers, jackets and more) has been growing recently, and any unclaimed items will soon be donated to a worthy cause.

Recent Changes in the Lounge ...

"The Last Draw" lounge now features wine by the 1/4 litre, 1/2 litre, full litre and litre. For those with a more specific choice in mind we also serve wine by the bottle and our Wine List (found at the back of the menu) being updated regularly, Club Manager Ken MacDonald encourages everyone to come up for a glass of wine.

If wine isn't your drink of choice, the "Last Draw Lounge" has a full menu of delicious food and delightful beverages.

We support members' suggestions and accommodate them when possible. So c'mon up to the "Last Draw Lounge" - it's a steal.

What Would a Curler Want for Christmas?

Rocks in their socks of course! Get the curler in your life (or treat yourself to) exactly what they want without leaving home. Go online to www.rocksinyoursocks.ca and purchase tickets for the

2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Victoria. Ticket packages are available between \$49 and \$99.



In the Spotlight ...

VCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Vancouver Curling Club is a not-for-profit society governed by a duly-elected Board of Directors... and all of the club's directors were asked to answer the following questions so we can all learn a little more about them:

- * Where did you start curling, and when did you move to Vancouver (or are you a lifer)?
- * How long have you been a VCC member, and a board member? * Which league(s) do you curl in?
- * What's one of your favourite pastimes? * When you visit "The Last Draw" lounge after curling, what's your order?

Scott Allen, President

While he moved to Vancouver in 1999, Scott started curling in 2002 at the VCC. He curls in the Thursday and Sunday Open leagues (and after games orders a GI Honey Lager), and he's been on the board since 2006. Outside of curling, Scott plays wheelchair basketball and Ultimate frisbee.

Hamish Macdonald, Vice President

Hamish - an avid cook away from the rink - has been a VCC member for 10 years and on the board for 3 years. Hamish curls in the Sunday and Thursday Open Leagues. Last year's VCC Club Champion enjoys a GI Pale Ale after his games.

Bev Bryck, Secretary

Bev moved to Vancouver in 1976 but didn't find curling until 1991. She's been at the VCC since 1993 and is serving her 7th year on the board. Bev enjoys a glass of wine after playing in the Thursday Open league. Away from curling, she plays, coaches, and runs events with South Hill Fastpitch.

Pat McSherry, Past President

Born in Vancouver, Pat grew up in Pine Falls, MB and learned to curl on an outdoor jam-pail curling sheet. She returned to Vancouver in 1979 and has been a VCC member since 1980. Pat has been on the board from 1991-95 and 2005-present. She curls with the Daytime Ladies League, dabbles in golf and enjoys a cranberry spritzer.

John Cruickshank, Director

John joined the board in September, after recently joining the VCC in 2007. He first curled from 1970-80 and then restarted again last season, curling with the Senior Men's League, he's been using a stick and enjoying a GI Pale Ale in the lounge. In the summer, John golfs at least twice a week.

Art Hawkins, Director

Another outdoor jam-can curler, Art's first indoor experience was the Wascana Curling Club (SK). He currently curls in the B+B and Sunday Open leagues. Besides curling, Art loves playing cards and is absolutely devoted to Ultimate Frisbee (and loves the fact so many curlers play 'ulti').

Rob Hodgins, Director

Rob curls in the Super Seniors and Motors Leagues (and will spare for anyone who needs a lead). He's been a member at the VCC since 1980, and started his curling experiences at the London Curling Club. New to the board this year, Rob enjoys the club's Granville Island products and the popcorn. And, away from the club, he hikes, backpacks & likes to shoot some pool.

Gary Lubin, Director

Gary began his curling exploits at Chinguacousy Curling Club in Brampton, and has been a member of the VCC since he moved to Vancouver in 1994. Now a true Vancouverite, Gary enjoys hiking in scenic BC. When you find him at the club, it could be working in his role as a board member of 4 years, curling in the Super Seniors and Motors Leagues or drinking Granville Island Pale Ale.

Bryan Mathews, Director

Bryan is on his second stint as a board member, re-elected this year after serving from 2002-06. He began his curling career at age 8 at the Tomahawk Curling Club (AB), moved to Vancouver in 1999 and been a VCC member since 2001. Bryan curls in the PRCL and is believer in a pre-game vodka and soda.

Dianne Petrant, Director

Despite moving to Vancouver in 1973 from Ontario, Dianne only found curling 5 years ago... but has been loving it ever since. In her second year as a board member, Dianne has curled with the Point Grey, Tuesday Ladies, 453 & Thursday Open leagues. She enjoys a cranberry juice, will play almost any sport and loves the arts.

Unable to respond by the print deadline: Treasurer - Eric Bond and Directors - Alistair Calder and Gary Dunnet.

In the Spotlight is a feature we have included in past issues of "The Backline". It's a casual Q&A that lets all of us learn more about the club. So if you know a great story to share, please email us at newsletter@vancouvercurlingclub.com.

The Torch is Coming ...

Unveiled at the end of November, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will connect Canadians in every province and territory. Presented by Coca-Cola and RBC, the first stop on the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will be in Victoria on October 30, 2009.

The torch will then take a 45,000-kilometre journey, travel by land, air and water and 106 days later return to BC. The Olympic Cauldron will be lit on February 12, 2010 to officially open the 2010 Winter Games.

As the Olympic Torch winds its way across the country, the national relay route will link together over 1,000 communities and approximately 12,000 torchbearers will have the chance to carry the flame.

VANOC is inviting Canadians from all walks of life to apply for the honour of becoming an Olympic Torchbearer. If you are interested, you can apply now through two different programs by the Olympic Torch Relay presenting partners:

*** Coca-Cola invites you to ignite the spirit**

*** RBC wants you to carry the torch**

- with files from
Vancouver2010.com



The World is Coming ...

The world is coming to Vancouver for the **2009 World Wheelchair and Junior Curling Championships**.

If you were not as successful as you had hoped in the Olympic ticket lottery, and/or you are a fan of world-class curling, then these two events are for you.

As “test events” for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, these two world championships will feature the world’s best wheelchair and junior curlers.

It will be an exciting three weeks of world-class curling in Vancouver next February and March. So be sure to check out the event schedules and ticket details on the event websites:

World Wheelchair - www.wwhcc2009.com

World Junior - www.wjcc2009.com

Upcoming Events ...

As 2008 comes to a close, there are many exciting events planned at the club for 2009...

2008

Tuesday, Dec. 23

Last day of league curling - 1st half

Wednesday, Dec. 24 to Thursday, Jan. 1

VCC closed - Happy Holidays!

2009

Friday, Jan. 2

League curling resumes - 2nd half

Thursday, Jan. 8

League Reps meeting: 7:00 pm

Saturday, Jan. 10 - 9am to 3pm

Mid-Season On-Ice Clinic

Friday, Jan. 30 to Sunday, Feb. 1

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

Saturday, Feb. 14

Sandra Schmirler Day

- Open House

- VCC Playdowns begin for the BC Club Challenge

2009 (continued)

Saturday, Feb. 21

Mixed Doubles Championships (VCC Members only)

Thursday, Mar. 12 to Sunday, Mar. 15

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

Sunday, Mar. 29

Last day of league curling - 2nd half

Monday, Mar. 30 to Thursday, Apr. 2

Club Championship (VCC Members only)

Thursday, Apr. 2

Past Presidents' and Honourary Life Members' Dinner

Thursday, Apr. 23

Volunteers' Barbecue, League Reps Meeting & Annual General Meeting

More details for all of the above events can be found on the club's website at:

www.vancouvercurlingclub.com/calendar



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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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