

The Backline

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

A Touchdown on Ice

The 2006-2007 season is off to a flying start at the Vancouver Curling Club.

All of the leagues are moving into their second month of play, and the club has already hosted two bonspiels.

The season-opening Mix n Match Bonspiel saw an afternoon filled with fun, laughter and some enjoyable curling on October 14th. The following weekend, on October 21st, the Pacific Rim League held their annual Pink Broom Bonspiel and a fantastic time was reported by all who participated.

As the rain begins its persistent presence and the air becomes crisper, we begin to think about the annual fall ritual that is the Grey Cup.

And, what better way to celebrate a Canadian Classic than to combine your football celebrations with your love of the ice.

In November, the **3rd Annual Grey Cup Bonspiel** will kick-off at the VCC.

An open-format event, teams will play from Thursday, November 16th to Sunday, November 19th. And a special game-day meal will be served for everyone to watch the game on the big screen

To register for the Grey Cup Bonspiel, contact manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com



Competitors from the Pink Broom Bonspiel

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Junior & Adult Development

Ken MacDonald

The 2006/2007 season has begun on a positive note for many of us at the VCC and the Junior Program is no exception.

The Klassen Team has started the season on a strong note with a win in the first round of play in the Premier Junior Curling League. This team is a complete Junior-level team (aged under 20), and they hope to qualify for the Provincials this year after losing out in the Qualifying Final last year.

The Club is also represented at the Juvenile level (under 16) by the Lao Team, and they are working towards the Juvenile Provincial Championships in Lake Cowichan next March.

This year, the Club's high performance training program has been expanded to include Adult Development. The expansion was to provide adults with an opportunity to receive weekly support and instruction as well as joining a team that would aim towards competition. In the first year, we have fourteen participants. They have been put together to form three teams, which receive competition by playing in the Thursday Night Open League.

If this sounds interesting to you, you may want to attend the information session that will be held in February for the Adult Development Program in 2007/2008.

VCC Junior Team

Skip: Steve Klassen Lead: Jonah Sacks
3rd: Brandon McKen 5th: Chris Klassen
2nd: Nik Slomba Coach: Ken MacDonald

VCC Juvenile Team

Skip: Aaron Lao 5th: Luc Hamel &
3rd: Harry Yau Alvin Lao
2nd: Daniel Busto Coaches: Gary Lubin &
Lead: Nicholas Martin Keith Hamel

Dear Skippy...

Dear Skippy,

My partner got the box seats for the Canucks games in the divorce and I have no place to watch the game. I just can't go to GM Place as it brings back too many memories. Where can I go?

Divorced Unhappy Manic Professional Therapist

Dear D.U.M.P.T.

Why the Lounge at the VCC for pay-per-view Canucks games is where you need to go. Watch the game on the big screen and check out the single curlers - Ladies on Tuesday Night, Senior Men on Wednesdays and Pac Rim Sunday and Monday ... all your options are covered!

a new edition to "The Backline"

Dear Skippy,

I love curling, football and pom poms! How can I enjoy all of them at once?

Got to Shake My Bon Bon

Hey Ricky,

Curl in the Grey Cup Bonspiel on November 17, 18 and 19. Lots of fun, curling and watch the Big Game in the Lounge on Sunday afternoon. BYOPP!

If you have a question about your troubles on or off the ice, be sure to email newsletter@vancouvercurlingclub.com and Skippy will attempt to help solve your dilemma.

Greetings from the GM

Jason Rowland

Now that the 2006/07 season is in full swing, I wanted to take a moment bring up a couple of key items: timely play & ice cleanliness.

All of us should make an effort to complete 8 ends of play in all of our 2-hour timed leagues. By playing 8 ends as opposed to 7, it adds 15% more curling to your game every week.

This can be achieved with a few simple steps:

1. Start the game on time by taking care of the coin flip in the lobby and you can be on the ice 2-3 minutes early and ready to deliver the first rock at the bell.
2. Be in the hack and ready to deliver quickly... you can enter the hack after your opponent's stone is released, but before it comes to rest.
3. Leave the decision making to your skip and third - and make your shot calls quickly.
4. Develop non-verbal communication among your team for weight, location, take-outs, etc... this will eliminate the need to have a long-distance conference call to clear up the shot call.

Of course, as you and your team begin to improve your timeliness, you will want to also help ensure the club maintains a high level of ice cleanliness. Here are a few simple steps we can all take to help improve the cleanliness of the ice and ice shed:

1. Dedicated shoes... every curler should have a pair of shoes they use for curling only. If they are curling shoes then that is optimum, but if you wear runners at the club make sure they are used only or curling.
2. Clean shoes... be empowered to let your teammates or opponents know when they have dirty shoes. Let the assistant ice tech know.

Remind teammates and opponents to use the boot boy EVERY TIME if you see them not using it on the way into the ice shed area. The club uses the following policy as it relates to rental groups - and it should be adhered to by members as well:

Everyone MUST bring an pair of clean curling shoes or indoor runners to change into AFTER they arrive at the club. No outside shoes or shoes considered too dirty by our staff will be permitted on the ice. If you do not have clean shoes, you will not get to curl.

3. Lastly, please stay on the ice during your game... if you are playing on sheet 1 or 5, remember that the carpeted walkways are for the storage of equipment and for staff members only. If you walk on the carpet during your game, you may track fiber and debris onto the ice.

I hope we can all work together to curl *more* each time we are out on the ice, and do our best to help ensure the cleanest ice possible... so everyone can have fun!



From the Iceman

Don Swann, Ice Tech

It is human nature to doubt information unless you can verify it yourself. If you are told that a curling rock weighs 42 lbs, then why would you then pick it up? Or why would you pick it up over a sheet of ice that is only 1.5 inches thick over the painted surface and then allow it to drop back to the ice surface (resulting in a mark in the ice that may or may not be able to be removed when your game is over)?

As you are aware the new style of delivery is a “no lift or swing” method. This application, if done properly, will keep the ice clean and pick mark free for all to use.

The area in front of the hack - and 12 inches on both side of the center line - is called the “compression zone” of an ice surface. It is the area of the ice that receives all the weight of the rocks and curlers over 90% of a game. It is the hardest part of a curling sheet surface, therefore the hardest to repair if it gets chipped or damaged.

Did you know that even the turning over of a rock to clean it must be done gently? This helps prevent the scraping of the ice around area and, when the rock is lowered back to the surface, be sure to do so gently.

You may have noticed holes, chips and scrap marks around the hack areas from curlers not paying attention to this form of incorrect rock handling.

A good curler is very aware of this sort of action, preventing damage to the ice surface. It is up to all curlers to let other curlers know – should they notice improper actions with regards to the rocks. There is nothing more frustrating than sitting in the hack and having your rock fall in and out of holes in the ice around the hack because of improper delivery practices.

This approach is not being snobby, but rather saving the ice for them in the future. It’s a win-win helpful hint for all members.

Mix n Match Kickstarts the 06/07 Season



An afternoon of fun, prizes were won, and Cara Pryor (*featured on the left*) led the leaderboard to capture the Golden Broom.

If last was first, and not the worst, then Todd Rowatt was just as successful as Cara !



Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2006 Mix n Match Bonspiel.

In Memoriam

... gone but not forgotten

Since the end of the 2005/06 season, the Vancouver Curling Club has seen the passing of two long-standing members.

Wilf Shaver was the driving force behind the Motors League. A 40+ year member of one of the oldest leagues in the province, Wilf began his time in the league out of the Pacific Coast Curling Club (whose home used to be near MacDonald & 4th). When the league moved to the VCC, so did Wilf.

In fact, when anything significant happened with the Motors League, Wilf was probably involved. He enjoyed being the self-described “head screw” in the league as he took on the roles of secretary, treasurer, club liaison, and more.

Wilf was known as a friendly yet competitive curler who had draw weight figured out quite well at the VCC. He played with the same corn broom for decades, as his sweeping technique involved barely tickling the ice. So, on his 85th birthday in 2003 and to help him close out his curling career, the Motors League presented Wilf with a state-of-the-art push broom and a new curling sweater.

~ This summary on Wilf's history & impact with the VCC was created with assistance from Richard (Dick) Adams. ~

Edward V. (Ted) Glover was probably the last surviving male member of the club who curled here when the current facility opened in 1949. During his time with the club, Ted played an active role in shaping the VCC that we enjoy today.

Ted was President of the Club in 1961-62. He was also an active volunteer in the Totem Bonspiel that was held in Vancouver area curling clubs during the 1950's and 1960's and served on the Pacific Coast Curling Association board during that same period.

Ted worked as a salesman and graphic artist for a printing company in Vancouver. In fact, he enjoyed painting both oils and watercolours his whole life. As a result of these skills, he was involved in the development of the club emblem which is reflected on our crest and curling pins.

Ted's connections to the club were strong and personal as he is survived by his wife, Lil, who was also a curler and President of the Vancouver Ladies Curling Club in 1971-72. Furthermore, Ted and Les Kitson, another VCC Life Member who passed away in 2005, curled together for over 30 years.

~ This summary on Ted's history & impact with the VCC was created with assistance from Ron Avery. ~

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

Do you have a creative streak you would like to showcase? *“The Backline” newsletter team is looking for a cartoonist and guest contributors to help tell the stories of the club, its members, events and our history. If you are interested, please send us an email newsletter@vancouvercurlingclub.com.*



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