



The Backline

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

Welcome Back Curlers ... *A Message from the Club President*

My name is **Jen Lucas** and I have been elected as the President of the Vancouver Curling Club for the 2010 – 2011 season.

The off-season has been a busy one for our volunteers as we prepare for the last season of curling in a building that has been our home for more than 60 years.

Your board and a number of volunteers have been working hard all summer to prepare for the upcoming season. Our External Affairs Committee has been meeting regularly with the Vancouver Park Board to ensure we have the best possible facility next year. The Special Events Committee has been planning bonspiels and other exciting events for 2010-2011.

I want to thank everyone that has volunteered their time this summer for helping out. It is important to remember our Club is fuelled by the energy of its volunteers. We all need to chip in if we want to leave our current facility next spring with a bang!

The board is focused on returning to a “normal” VCC schedule this season and planning events that we anticipate will be fully attended.

Last year was a challenging one for the VCC in terms of bonspiels. We really hope that with more lead time and a bigger group of volunteers, we can have a number of successful bonspiels and special events.

I urge members to volunteer at a single event if they have time and, more importantly, I urge everyone to actively participate in as many events as possible.

The VCC is a community and we would love to have more involvement from the members. Volunteering at a single event is a great way to give back to the VCC without committing to a full slate of events. There are a lot of great people with interesting stories in our membership and the only way to meet them is through participation.

Good curling everyone.

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We Want to Hear from YOU ...

Please take a moment to fill in the membership survey as your feedback is essential to helping us plan for our new facility - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6BBYTRL>

Meanwhile, "The Backline" is your club newsletter. We're looking for contributions – stories, ideas and photos from club members are always welcome. Let us know if you have a story suggestion or want to try your hand at writing a short article. E-mail us at newsletter@vancouvercurlingclub.com

Open House Draws a Crowd ...



Our club opened its doors on September 11th & 12th to give people the chance to try the roaring game.

The focus of the **Pre-Season Open House Weekend** was to build on the interest generated in curling during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. On-ice instruction was offered in 30 minute blocks, and more than 80 new curlers took the chance to try the game. We also saw many club members stepping out on the ice to get ready for the new season.

A big thank you to the following club members who volunteered their time and/or coaching services during the instruction sessions: Dianne Petrant, Matthew Hinton, Luke Opacic, Jan Bos, Gordon Arai, Gary Lubin, and Keltie Worrall.

Breakfast Television Broadcasts from VCC ...

Breakfast Television (BT) paid a visit to the club on Sept. 13 to help us kick off the new season.

Club members were up well before dawn to participate in curling demonstrations with BT Live Eye Host Greg Harper.

Special thanks to our manager - Chris Daw, current president - Jen Lucas, past president - Jan Bos, experienced curlers - Sam Corea and Steve Lewis, and novice curlers - Jason Tusor and Trevor Boudreau for coming out early in the morning to demonstrate our great game!

Visit http://bit.ly/BTV_VCC to watch the video.





Make a Difference and Donate ...

The Vancouver Curling Club has come up with a unique way to help fund our move to our new facility at the Vancouver Olympic Centre.

Through the **National Sport Trust Fund**, administered locally by Sport BC, VCC members can now contribute to our new home by making a tax-deductible donation (or gifts in kind or capital property such as stocks, bonds, etc.).

All contributions will be used exclusively to pay for furniture, fixtures and equipment needed to make the transition to our new club.

You can contribute to the VCC Capital Development Fund online by following these easy steps:

1. Visit: http://bit.ly/NSTF_VCC
2. Enter your donation amount
3. Click on the button: ADD TO DONATION
4. Then confirm your donation amount, and click on the button: DONATE NOW
5. Fill out the secure, online form to complete your donation

If you would like more information about the National Sport Trust Fund, please visit the following link:

http://bit.ly/NSTF_BC

If you prefer to make a donation in a more traditional way, see the VCC Manager and pick up an application form and designation letter in the office.

You may also wish to take this opportunity to review your estate planning to consider the place that your curling club may hold there

All efforts are being made to ensure our move takes place smoothly and in a financially responsible manner. We look forward to beginning our 2011-12 season in our new home to kick off a new legacy of curling in Vancouver.

The choice of charitable giving is a very personal decision. The Board wishes to thank members for their consideration of this very important item.

As a registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association (RCAAA), the National Sport Trust Fund is able to issue an official tax receipt for all qualifying donations of \$100 or greater. Sport BC is the National Sport Trust Fund Manager in British Columbia.

In Memoriam ...



Joy McLellan

a VCC honorary life member, passed away on June 21, 2010. An original member of the Business Women's league, Joy was the draw convener for that league for 25 years.



Ernie Stitch

passed away on June 12, 2010. He was a long-time member of the Daytime Senior Men's League.

League Reps Prepare for New Season ...

Representatives of each league at the Vancouver Curling Club gathered on a late summer evening on September 2 to hear the latest plans for the 2010-11 season from the Board and Club Manager.

The League Reps discussed the new bell system and received updates on ice preparations for the final season in our current building along with information on our schedule of events, bar services and locker policy.

All club members are encouraged to contact their League Reps as a way of staying informed about league and club activities.

A number of questions were raised regarding the move to the new facility. An interesting fact regarding the ice shed in the new building – it is 23,000 square feet in size compared with the current 11,500 square feet.

Information concerning the move to our new facility will be distributed regularly during the upcoming season through “The Backline” newsletter, “Totem Tales” manager’s newsletter, and our website.

A key message to remember is that we will have a full season in our current building with a “Last Rock Celebration” scheduled for April 30, 2011.

Stay Up-to-Date Online ...

The Vancouver Curling Club website is the top source of information for club members.

Features at www.vancouvercurlingclub.com include:

- Important News Updates
- Upcoming Schedule of Events
- Links to Leagues
- Details about and ability to register for bonspiels
- Information about our new facility
- Open Ice Times

Speed of Play ...

Jan Bos, Education Committee Chair

With another curling year upon us, it is again time to revisit what has become one of the most discussed topics at the VCC in recent years – slow play.

What is slow play? Well, if you aren't completing eight ends of curling in your two-hour time slot then you're playing too slow. What can be done to speed up play? Surprisingly, adding time to the clock is easy to do.

Let's have a look at the 'symptoms' of slow play, and a few 'remedies'.

1. Posing. This happens if, after your delivery, you lay/squat/stand on the ice and admire your expert shot making.

By clearing the play area as quickly as possible, you allow the opposing team to prepare for their shot and thus, speed up play.

2. TV curling syndrome. You're guilty of being a watcher if you admire every shot being made instead of making your way to the hack in preparation for the next shot.

Remember, the moment your opponent leaves the hack, you can pull your stone, clean it, and be in the hack ready for when your skip calls the shot. No more than 10 seconds should elapse from the time your skip calls the shot to when you're making your delivery.

3. I'm a skip, he's a skip, she's a skip ... we's a skip

Does your team huddle up to analyze and discuss all the possibilities of a shot?

According to the rules of curling, only the skip and vice-skip of the delivering team are allowed inside the hog line of the rings in play (prior to the delivered rock set in motion). By limiting even these twosomes to the final few stones of an end, play will speed up exponentially.

4. Lead on fearless leader. After an end, your team casually gathers the stones and orders them perfectly in their cozy little boxes along the side boards. What could be wrong with that?

Nothing, if (and only if) the lead is in the hack and is cleaning his/her stone in preparation for the first rock of the end. Let everyone else put the stones away. Up to two minutes per end can easily be saved if the lead, after the score has been decided, grabs his/her stone and begins preparation for their shot. Your skip will love you for it.

5. Country Strolls. Your team delivers, you sweep like mad, the shot is made, and then casually saunter back down the ice, often walking near the centre line, thus impeding and preventing your opponents from beginning their delivery.

Once your sweeping job is done, make your way back to the area just outside the delivering end hogline by walking quickly along the very outside edge of your sheet. By being ready for the next shot, you're adding valuable minutes to the clock.

6. Gotta limber up. Okay, it's the start of our time slot so I'll just take ten or twelve practice slides, do a few stretches, socialize some, and shake a few hands. By the time this is all done, a good five to ten minutes have elapsed and can't be recovered.

By stretching before you enter the ice shed you add minutes to every game. So take a slide, shake hands, and start on time.

7. Waffling. As Skip, your decisions are paramount, so you go over all the possibilities, permutations and combinations of each potential call, and then after deciding on the call...you waffle.

Most shots are fairly evident even when your opponent's rock is still coming down the ice. Your team will love you if you've already decided on the next shot and put your broom down the moment all rocks have come to rest. Shot calling – or lack thereof – is the single greatest waste of time we experience on the ice. By making the "easy" calls quickly, you can spend a few extra seconds on the tough ones.

Focus on what you can do to eliminate slow play within your own team and we can all enjoy more ends of play and more great curling.

2010 - 2011 Season Calendar

The following list of events highlights what is happening at the VCC from mid-September until the end of April. Be sure to visit www.vancouvercurlingclub.com/events for complete details on the events below.

2010

Saturday, Sept. 25

Intermediate Clinic - Sweep & Slide

Sunday, Oct. 10 and Monday, Oct. 11

VCC closed - Thanksgiving

Saturday, Oct. 23

Intermediate Clinic - Team Dynamics

Friday, Nov. 5 to Sunday, Nov. 7

Harvest Bonspiel

Thursday, Nov. 11

VCC closed - Remembrance Day

Saturday, Nov. 13

Pink Broom Bonspiel

Saturday, Nov. 27

Intermediate Clinic - Line of Delivery

Saturday, Dec. 11

Intermediate Clinic - Grip & Release

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Last day of league curling - 1st half

Wednesday, Dec. 23 to Friday, Jan. 1

Happy Holidays! Club closed

2011

Sunday, Jan. 2

League curling resumes - 2nd half

Saturday, Jan 8

Mid-season Basic Skills Clinic

Saturday, Jan. 22

Intermediate Clinic - Shot Calling

Friday, Jan. 28 to Sunday, Jan. 30

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

Saturday, Feb. 12

VCC Doubles Bonspiel

Saturday, Feb. 19, 26 & Mar. 2

Club Challenge Playdowns

Saturday, Jan. 22

Advanced Clinic with Bill Tschirhart

Thursday, Mar. 3 to Sunday, Mar. 6

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

Saturday, Mar 19

Intermediate Clinic - Strategy

Sunday, Apr. 3

Last day of league curling - 2nd half

Monday, Apr. 4 to Thursday, Apr. 7

Club Championship (VCC Members only)

Saturday, Apr. 30

Last Rock Ceremony

For more information on any of the events scheduled at the VCC, please visit www.vancouvercurlingclub.com/events or you can contact Chris Daw, club manager, at 604-874-0122 or manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com.



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