

The Sweeping Times

Monthly Newsletter
High Park Club - 100 Indian Road
416-536-8054

President's Message

December 2006



Our season is well under way, and Christmas festivities are already fast approaching. Our Social Mixed section has gotten into the true spirit of the season and has initiated a Food Bank Drive for our club. Please help out and drop off non-perishable items in the boxes by the billiard corner. For easy Christmas shopping, our Pro Shop is stocked with all sorts of curling goodies and I invite you to have a look in our display cases for ideas. What a great time to replace that old gripper...

Once again our club is hosting **New Year's Eve at High Park**. Ring in 2007 with a family-friendly evening of curling, snacks and champagne. It is open to members and guests, and offers a chance to invite people to try out the social aspects of High Park. Sign-up sheets are already posted on the bulletin board.

It is an annual tradition that on New Year's Day, the President hosts a brunch and curls against the current Vice President. I invite you all down to the club on January 1, 2007, the event is open to anyone who wishes to play. Game time is 11am - look out Mike, I'm starting to nail that draw weight!

We'll be holding a Members' Meeting in January, where the Board presents an update on our club's current state of affairs and outlines some of our future plans. I invite you all to attend, and more information on date and time will be available on the bulletin board shortly.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making our club so friendly and fun, and I wish you and yours the happiest of Holiday Seasons!

Merry Christmas,
Karen Hajdur

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Manager's Review

Another month of curling has gone by and we are now into the second series of most draws. Whether curling here in our own leagues or playing at outside clubs, in spiels and events, High Park Club had a very successful month of curling. Keep your eye out for results in December as we have many teams competing in the upcoming zones for the Brier and Scotties play-downs.

With Christmas just around the corner please keep the pro-shop in mind for Christmas gifts for family and friends. If we don't have what you are looking for talk to me in the office and we can see if we can get it. The bar staff will be more than happy to open the pro-shop for you to purchase any of the items we have in stock.

To all members who do not have a club card please email me at manager@highparkclub.com so I can set that up for you. Once it has been set up the card will be left at the bar for you to pick up. Most new members should have received one in November. If you have any further questions about your account or card please do not hesitate to contact me.

Are you interested in going to the Opening Weekend of the Tim Hortons Brier?

The Brier is being held at Copp's Coliseum in Hamilton this year. The opening weekend is March 3 & 4, 2007, and we are trying to organize a group purchase of tickets from the High Park Club. If we organize a group of 20 or more, we save \$10 on the ticket package. The tickets include the opening ceremonies, the Ford Hot Shots Skills Competition, two draws on Saturday and three draws on Sunday.

Ticket price (less than 20 people): \$92.00

Ticket price (more than 20 people): \$78.00

Ticket prices do not include accommodation and transportation to Copp's Coliseum. If you are interested in participating in this group event, please contact Jennifer Webster (Friday night social section) by



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December 11, 2006 at Jennifer.webster@sympatico.ca or at (416) 712-9403. We need **payment for tickets before we purchase** and we will only purchase tickets for which we have received payment.

Happy Holidays
Abbie Darnley

Please note that the office will be closed from Dec 23rd to Dec 26th.

Day Men's Section

After seven weeks into the 2006/2007 season, we have an average of 32 curlers coming out on Wednesday afternoons. We have been as high as 38 and as low as 19 curlers. Our participation depends upon the availability of the members of our section and since my last note, we have two new sign ups and they are Robbie Brydon and Johnathon Hoskins. The Day Men will once again be running The High Park Senior Men's Invitational Bospiel on Thursday February 15, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Anyone who can donate prizes be it big or small is encouraged to contact Al White, George Ross, Joe Coneybeare or Ken Brock.

Ken Brock

Women's Competitive Section

Well the Christmas decorations are going up all around me and it scarcely seems possible that this year is almost over. Thanks to all the ladies for a great year of curling!

The first Quad Club event of the season took place Nov 26th at High Park. The event went smoothly with ladies from Mississauga, St. George's and Weston having a great time at our club. The Killoch team was the top team from High Park and won the coveted bottles of wine. The next Quad Club event is Sunday, January 14th, 10am at St. George's. Sign up sheets are in the draw room now. Remember you can sign up individually, as a pair or as a team!

A couple of housekeeping notes: please do not bring any food out onto the ice surface, and please ensure that you give your shoes a clean before you step onto the ice. The Ice Committee has brought to our attention that there is a significant amount of debris being tracked onto the ice.

Secondly, tardy starts on the early draw are continuing to be a problem. The vast majority of early draw games are beginning after 6:43. This is causing early games to run late and late games to run even later. We will endeavour to ring the bell at 6:35 to remind curlers to go out onto the ice and please remember, you should be on the ice and ready to curl at 6:40.

Seasons Greetings

Lisa Mathers

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Toronto Curling Association

On behalf of all the junior curlers I would like to thank the High Park members for their generosity by purchasing the TCA Raffle tickets. The money raised will be used for initiatives such as the Skills Award Program to assist our young curlers in learning, mastering and enjoying this great sport.

A special thank you goes out to Howard Stanfield, Dan Yamasaki, Nadine O'Gorman, Karen Gigliotti, Ken Brock, Roseann Barry and Karen Madej for their efforts and dedication in selling the tickets within their section.

Congratulations to the team of Kelly Cochrane, Kelly Scissons, Doris Bitz and Nadine O'Gorman for winning the *TCA Business Women's Bonspiel*.

Rogers Television will broadcast the Trophy and Seniors Event finals on Dec 3rd from 1-5 p.m. The TCA is working with Rogers Television to broadcast the finals of the TCA Men's Energizer and there is still time and space to enter your team for the TCA Men's Energizer.

TCA Rep.
Gene Hajdur

Announcement

High Park Club needs you!

Dan Yamasaki is stepping down from his role of organizing the **Annual High Park Golf Tournament** and therefore would like to pass the role onto someone else. If anyone is interested in organizing this popular event please contact Dan in the office as soon as possible, preferably before December 30th.

Mixed Competitive Section

Hello everyone, hope everyone is feeling the festive spirit....just a couple of things to say from the Mixed Competitive Section this month.

Please note that there will be no curling on the 26th of December as it is Boxing Day, however there will be curling on the 2nd of January. On that note, please be kind to the Draw Masters of the sections, they really try their best and volunteer their time. Any mistakes that are made are not done on purpose - please calmly inquire when you have questions. If your life seems busy chances are people volunteering also have busy lives, they try their best – no one is perfect!

Congratulations to the winners of the first series !!

D Flight – Craig Bancroft Team

C Flight – Mike McCutcheon Team

B Flight – Rob Kavals Team

A Flight – Michael Adams Team

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Don't forget that the Mixed Energizer is coming up in the New Year and Entry Forms are posted in the draw room. There are wine gift baskets for early bird entries, so get a team together and sign up now! Entry is \$200/team which includes dinner/dance on Saturday and lunch for teams returning on Sunday. The host club this year is Scarboro.

On behalf of the Mixed Competitive Section, have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Nadine O'Gorman

Men's Section

The first series is complete and some guys have still not put their golf clubs away! With temperatures in the mid-teens at the end of November we extend our commiserations to Craig and crew in their never-ending efforts to make the ice as good as it can be for us. The first series winners were as follows:

	"B"	"C"
Mondays	Teams Dearie and Baty	Teams Clendennan and Pavlich
Thursdays	Teams Lumsden and Adams	Teams Lubinsky and McDonald

The Adams team came through as a result of the shootout as they tied with both the Freitag and Bancroft teams for first place in their pool. Remember to do your shootouts every series (shootout sheets can be picked up and dropped off in the men's box in the draw room).

All winning team members should remember to block out Wednesday 7th March as we are giving Brier tickets as series' prizes (once the organizing committee down at Cops actually gets around to issuing single-draw tickets). The winners of both the second and third series will join those who have already won their way to Hamilton.

Due to all the rental activity along with all the full sections throughout the club, there is very little make-up time available if games have to be rescheduled. Try to get your games played as per schedule but check the Ice Schedule in the draw room if you desperately need time. As Monday Men are scheduled to play their last games of the second series on the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year, any games in need of rescheduling will have to be made up before Christmas ... the earlier every team can check their availabilities the better!

I'll be down-under in Australia by the time the next Sweeping Times comes out so talk to the rest of our eminently-capable committee (especially our Draw Masters: James Pitts and John Ferren and our Vice Chair, Mike Adams) if any issues come up in the New Year.

Throw 'em well,

Howard Stanfield

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Ice Committee

With outside temperatures at near record highs at the end of November, ice making continues to be a challenge for Craig and his staff. In order to keep the speed of the ice quick Craig is running the ice temperature at 24 degrees, the absolute maximum it can be. However, there are down sides to having such "warm" ice – any hands or knees left in contact with the ice for a couple of seconds produce imprints. It is risky running the heaters too as the warmer air can break down the pebble quickly as well. Big swings in the ice together with flat spots are not always conducive to precision curling but we constantly hear that quicker ice is the major desire for our members so that's our primary goal. Some cold weather would help Craig but, in the meanwhile, if we can keep our hands and knees off the ice it will help. We have also been finding popcorn, cookie crumbs and chocolate bar residue as we clean the ice. None of this stuff should be out there (eat inside!). The O.C.A. has actually banned food on the ice altogether during mid-game breaks in competition because of similar concerns.

We have been continuing to monitor game times in the first draw from Mondays to Thursdays. Only 9 games had thrown the first rock before 6:41 in the first series while 65% of the games had not thrown a rock until the digital clock had passed 6:43. Our conclusion is that if we can get more games started on time we can get more finished on time. To that end we have asked Kevin to ring the buzzer at 6:38 each night as a gentle reminder that it's time to get out on to the ice. We'll also provide a few tips on how to keep all of our games moving so that the desired goal (of getting the second draw on to the ice as close to 8:50 as possible) can be achieved. That's what most curlers asked for in last year's survey. Game times in the first draw were better in mid-November than they were in October (did members actually read last month's Sweeping Times?) so let's keep up the improvements so that everyone can enjoy playing the game in two hours!

We're going to find a little corner in the crowded draw room to post not only the monthly Ice Schedule but to identify when some practice time and/or make-up games can be scheduled. This is a tough proposition with all of our sections completely full and with our many rental leagues also occupying the ice. For example, the only ice that can be prepped for 6:00 o'clock before the first draw on weekdays is on a Thursday. However, even then it's tough to encourage curlers to practice a lot then as lots of rocks thrown up and down the ice breaks down the pebble (the O.C.A. have reduced practice times to 7 minutes per team in competition as a way of reducing this particular problem). Oh to be an icemaker! We continue to welcome your thoughts and questions,

Howard Stanfield, Ice Committee Chair (howardstanfield@rogers.com).

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Friday Social Mixed Section

The Friday night section is going really well this year. We had a lot of new curlers join this year, and our returning members have been great at making them feel welcome. It's tough to say whether people are having more fun on the ice curling, or afterwards enjoying the conversation and adult beverages. I would also credit the social committee for welcoming the new curlers and organizing events such as the Pumpkin Carving session.

We had a very successful mixed bonspiel on Nov 17th, with great attendance, especially among newer curlers and those that haven't been to a club bonspiel before. The event ran smoothly and people really enjoyed themselves. The social committee under Zach Levinsky's tutelage did a great job pulling it all together in the short time we had to plan things. We are already looking forward to the Grand Mixed and we have decided on a Mardi Gras theme. We encourage members from other sections to join the planning committee and attend the first meeting in early January. Please contact Doug Pengelly or Zach Levinsky if interested.

Starting in December, we will be collecting for the Daily Food Bank, and encourage members from all sections to participate. Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of food (so bring in heavy stuff).

We are having a "Night before Christmas Pyjama Party" on Fri Dec 22nd (I have learned how few curlers wear pyjamas. We do however recommend wearing at least something). It is also the last game of the first series, and prizes will be awarded after the second draw.

Social note: Zach Levinsky's new kitten Oreo is finally settling in, and has been well behaved apart from a minor incident with a lampshade.

Fri Dec 29th is not on the schedule, however we are planning a fun day with some pick up games, and a chance to socialize starting at 6:30 pm. Drop in, bring a friend, throw some rocks, and enjoy a few beverages!

On Jan 5th, we are planning a "Re-gifting" day - bring in a gift you received and don't want, and you can trade it with someone else. For fun why not wrap it or otherwise obscure it and enjoy the look on your friends face when they open it.

Doug Pengelly

**Merry Christmas and a Very
Happy New Year**

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