

The Sweeping Times

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

President's Message

April 2007



As I write this we are moving briskly into play-offs as the weather grows ever warmer. It's hard to believe that there is less than a month left in our 06/07 curling season.

There will be some fabulous curling going on at our club over the next few weeks, and I encourage you to join in the various festivities whether you're curling or not. This coming weekend is our **Grand Mixed bonspiel** with a Mardi Gras theme. Please come down for the party and live band on Saturday night, March 31st.

Hot on the heels of the Grand Mixed is our **Calcutta Night/Skins Competition** on Thursday April 5th. The Skins Games start at 6:30 with some sharp teams vying for the cash and the action will heat up after the games when the Calcutta takes place. All Members are invited to come down and bid on the men's teams competing for the club championship. Watch out, boys, the Calcutta Cougar\$ are shrewd scouts!! The **Club Championship for Mixed** is on Friday April 20th and the **Finals for both Men and Women** are held once again on the same day, Saturday April 21st. Come on down for a great event to culminate our season! The final day for ice activities is our annual **Skating Party** on Sun April 29th. Bring the whole family and strap on your skates.

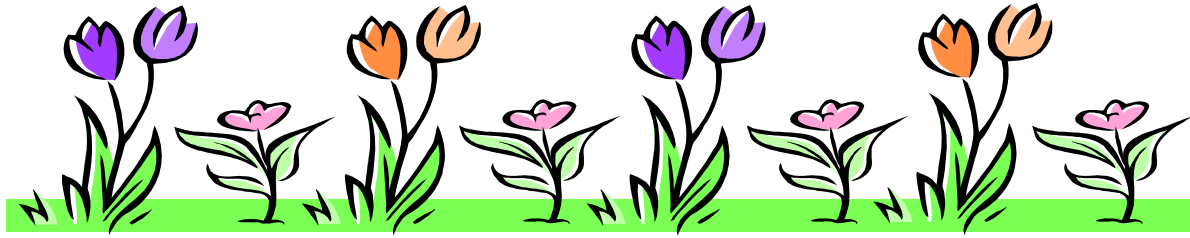
I have a few other key reminders: the Annual High Park Club Survey is on our website at www.highparkclub.com and also available in hard copy at the bar. Please take a moment to fill this out and give us your feedback. It's REALLY important! The minimum food charge needs to be used up before April 21st. Food service may vary during playoffs, so check the website for availability. **Volunteer Day** is being held on Sat, May 26th. Sign up in the draw room and come down for a day of pitching in with needed tasks, followed by pitchers.

For our wonderful Tennis Members... Welcome Back! The Tennis AGM was well attended and we're all looking forward to a great season on the courts. I encourage all members to come down during the summer months, sip a cool drink on the verandah and enjoy watching some great action. See you on the porch!

Karen Hajdur

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The Sweeping Times



WALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Every year the Men's Committee solicits nominations for the *Wall of Fame*. The inductee is usually someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty around the club and can be nominated by any club member. The nominations are voted on by the Men's Committee and the inductee usually participates in the proceedings on Finals' Night. If your memory needs refreshing as to who are already inducted take a look at the wall.

If you have a nomination, please send it to the Men's Chair, Howard Stanfield, at howardstanfield@rogers.com

Day Women's Section

Day Women are into the third draw of the season and the winning team of Draw 2 comprised of Sue Mooij, Kim Steynor, Jane Sutherland, and Diane Poloczek. January 2007 saw the numbers of babies and children in our day care swell to 11, as 5 new mothers joined the section. Many thanks to our great babysitting duo: Lynn and Linda, who manage the chaos.

Early in March, the Day Men's league challenged the Day Women to a game. In a most satisfactory ending, the two sections finished in a tie -- three tied games, and one win and one loss on each side. Following the game, the men provided some yummy snacks. Thank you!

The Day Women's closing dinner will be the evening of April 19th.

Elaine Freedman

Day Men's Section

ATTENTION ALL DAY MEN:

Please remember that our final day for curling will be Wednesday April 11th @ 11:00 A.M. We will be meeting @ 10:30 in order to organize the teams.

FORMAT: Two six enders with a lunch break in between games.

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The Sweeping Times

PRIZES: There will be one for every curler and we also be running a raffle. The proceeds will go to the Day Men Project.

COST: \$10 per person

LUNCH: James Cockhill will be providing the food.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me @ 416-537-5155 or kbrock@sympatico.ca.

Ken Brock

Ice Committee

Ice conditions continue to be a hot topic around the club and, as we move into playoffs, we would like everyone to understand what is happening with our ice. It has been a difficult winter with highly variable temperatures and humidity's both before Christmas and now. In order to keep ice speeds up to around 24 seconds we like to run the brine warmer, however if the air then gets warm and the ice is "soft" then the pebble can break down quicker. If we turn up the dehumidifiers too much or turn down the brine, that risks bringing frost into the ice. If we just kept the brine cooler to start with then we won't get quick ice (likely 23 seconds at best). You appreciate the icemakers problem?

Craig has been trying different pebble heads and different pebbling techniques to help alleviate these problems. On some nights it works well and we have great ice but on other nights we seem to get spots and quite a few rocks seem to pick. We don't think that this usually happens because of dirt on the ice (although we should all maintain good practices in both keeping our brooms cleaned throughout a game and check our grippers regularly for signs of rubber breaking up). Sometimes it happens when we leave our hands or knees on the ice for a few seconds (it doesn't take long) and sometimes it seems to happen when our grippers grind into the ice while brushing. When it is soft that can leave small circular rings in the ice. We have three tips – if you see any spots give them a good brush with your broom, keep your brooms "dusting" every rock that your team throws and put a little more rotation on your rocks. Most of the top curlers now throw more rotation than ever before. It used to be that 1.5 to 2 rotations was the standard but now 2 to 3 rotations seems more common. Kelly Scott, for example, has a really positive release to increase rotation (she's been watching our Kelly Cochrane and learning from her).

Craig and Kevin will continue to do everything they can to help make our ice great. Let's try to do our part as well. Good luck to everyone in the playoffs, throw them well and enjoy!

Howard Stanfield, Chair

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The Sweeping Times

Junior Section

On Sunday March 4th at the GTA Interclub Mixed Bantam Championship, High Park's team won both games to be awarded the GTA Mixed Bantam Division E Winners!

The games were exciting full team efforts with strong sweeping and everyone contributing key shots, including a take out shot by Cristiano Dias to take four!
The team members were:

Emily Vanderkruk
Cristiano Dias
Livia Coburn
Kevin Macdonald
Jeffrey Gorman

Congratulations to all!

Nancy Mackneson

Women's Competitive Section

Where has the year gone? Our last regular season game has come and gone and by the time this issue goes to press, we will be right in the midst of another exciting playoff season! I wish all teams the best of luck in your final few games.

Keep Saturday, April 21st free on your calendar to come on down to the club for our Club Finals Day. The women will be taking the ice at approximately 2:30pm, after a coin toss and warm up. All competitors will enjoy a 'wee dram' with the piper, as well as all non-competing women members of the section who come down to join in the festivities. There will be draws, snacks and a pot luck and it promises to be a great afternoon at the club.

Wednesday, May 2nd is the date of our closing dinner. This will be your last time to mix and mingle with your curling peers until those distant days in October. Eat some food, drink some wine, grab your prize and say goodbye to winter!

Thanks for a great season.

Lisa Mathers

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The Sweeping Times

High Park's favourite indie band

THESE ELECTRIC LIVES

Mark's (Stanfield) band has announced their ep release party for Saturday 21st of April at Lee's Palace. For those of you that haven't yet heard them here is a great opportunity to find out what the rest of Toronto is fast coming to know. The Sun called their Canada Music Week show "the feel-good party of the week", Now magazine called them "charismatic and guaranteed for the big-time" and CFNY recently featured them for their Steamwhistle "Unsigned" opener. Yes, it's Finals' Night around the club but with the band going on after 11:00 p.m. down at Lee's Palace there will be plenty of time to get there. Come down and join the party.

Check them out at www.theseelectriclives.com or, even better; listen to some of their stuff at www.myspace.com/theseelectriclives.

Howard Stanfield

MEN'S SECTION

It always amazes me how quickly the end of the season, and playoffs, descend upon us. I have to say that seven weeks "downunder" accelerated that as well as the marvelous weather of the past couple of weeks. However we have arrived at that crazy time of year and by the time you read this the wildcard will have been played and the final standings for both Mondays and Thursdays long completed. Congratulations to the teams that won LCBO vouchers and the jug of beer for their wins in the fourth series. They were:

	Monday	Thursday
"A"	Team Turney	Team Freitag
"B"	Team Reid	Team Yamasaki
"C"	Team McKessock	Team Larden
"D"	Team Pengelly	Team Ferren

Particular congratulations go out to our overall aggregate, and steak, winners:

Monday Aggregate: Tom Dearie, Cam Beatty, Alan Pawelek, Adam di Carlo

Thursday Aggregate: Jason White, Ryan Gain, Leonard Firkus, Kevin Sims.

There are several dates over the next month that we would like to highlight and have as many section members join us as possible.

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The Sweeping Times

Thursday April 5 th at 6:30p.m.	Invitational Skins Competition
Thursday April 5 th at 9:00p.m.	The Calcutta
Saturday April 21 st at 11:15a.m.	The Sad Sack
Saturday April 21 st at 6:00 p.m.	Men's Finals
Thursday May 3 rd at 7:00 p.m.	Men's Closing Dinner.

Please help the committee out by telling us about your availability for that night. We will be circulating a signup list on all of our event nights. All steak presentations for the playoffs will be made that night and we hope to see a lot of you there.

My personal highlight of the year was the men's trip (for series' winners) to the Brier, half of us going down on the school bus and the rest? We didn't quite double the crowd that Wednesday night in Hamilton but the personal conversations with players on the ice (and Dave Merklinger, our old friend who put the slab in for us and who has gone on to much greater fame as the CCA's top dog in ice making) and the cheer for Craig mopping the ice at the 5th end break were fun moments! I hope all those who went had as good a time as I did.

Howard Stanfield

Dates To Remember
Calcutta – April 5th
Mixed Competitive Finals – April 20th
Women's Competitive Section Finals – April 21st
Men's Section Finals – April 21st

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