

The Sweeping Times

Monthly Newsletter

High Park Club - 100 Indian Road

416-536-8054

February 2004

President's Message

Two of High Park's curlers are excelling in this year's curling competitions. Kelly Cochrane and her team won the Ontario Junior Women Championships on Jan 11th and now move on to the Canadian Championships in Victoria which start on Feb 7th. Past Club President Howard Stanfield will also be going to Victoria as Coach of Kelly and her team. Heather Carr, playing on the Kathy Brown team, won the Eastern Ontario Regionals and are on their way to the Scott Ontario Hearts. The Provincial Hearts are slated for Jan 27th through Feb 1st in Sudbury. On behalf of High Park, Congratulations to both on your success so far and best of luck in the upcoming competitions! And Congratulations as well to the team of Sue Mooij, Sue McCoy, Debbie O'Reilly and Elaine Freedman for winning zones and making it to the Provincials of the Women's Best Western Challenge. Well done to all.

Closer to home, I want to thank the Women's Section for an outstanding bonspiel they hosted at the club on Jan 17th. Not only did the bonspiel prove to be wonderfully entertaining for the women in attendance, it also raised \$1600 for the Ross Tilley Burn Unit at Sunnybrook Hospital.

I have heard from many of you that recent curling experiences at other clubs have confirmed that the quality of ice at High Park is second to none in Toronto. Brian and his crew are doing a wonderful job. Nevertheless, we can each do our part to help maintain clean, quality ice by reviewing what we wear to curl. Old grippers, dirty brooms, street shoes, and clothing that leave fibres on the ice degrade the curling experience for all. Please perform a critical review of your equipment and attire and replace as necessary. There has been one recurring problem in the ice area. Some of you may have noticed that the lights on sheet one and over the scoreboard have sporadically shut down. Please have patience; we have old wiring and to effect a complete repair involves shutting electrical power down for a considerable period of time – a period of time we just don't have during this busy curling season. Unless things get worse, we will wait and address over the summer.

A final note about safety on the ice. At a recent bonspiel I attended, a gentlemen lost his footing while sweeping, slipped and landed on his head. He was unconscious until revived by paramedics. I ask that all curlers review the footwear they wear on the ice. For those of you who use a slider to sweep, please consider adopting the two-gripper approach, and any new curlers still using tape, please purchase either a slip-on gripper or a slip-on slider. The two-gripper approach for sweeping is not only safer but it is more effective and is the standard taught by the Canadian Curling Association.

Play safe!

Blair Clemes

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Women's Section

Congratulations to Sue Mooij and her team of Sue McCoy, Debbie O'Reilly and Elaine Freedman for winning the 'A' and making it to the Provincials (Best Western Women's Challenge). They had a great time in Picton and Stirling finishing in the top half of the draw. *Congrats* and good curling to Kelly Cochrane and her team as they head out to BC to represent southern Ontario at the Canadian Juniors. Let's hope we see them on TV.

The first annual Firemen's spiel is now complete. A total of twenty teams competed representing Ottawa, Peterborough, St. Catherines and the GTA. Everyone was treated to a visit from a couple of our local calendar guys during lunch and Super Dave who did everything from handing out chocolate covered strawberries, manning the Caesar bar and offering hugs for hogs. We were able to raise \$1,600 for the Ross Tilley Burn Unit at Sunnybrook Hospital and a good time was had by all. The team from Peterborough will be trying their luck at the Sunshine Spiel.

Our third Quad club event will be taking place at noon on Sun Feb 8th at Weston. I don't have the final numbers but High Park is in either first or second place. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the draw room. Can't believe that playoffs are just around the corner and will be taking place on Wed April 14th and keep Wed April 28th open for the closing dinner, more details to follow soon.

Sharon Zelinski

Dates to Remember

Feb 20	Men's Bonspiel
Mar 26	OK Corral Bonspiel
Apr 1	Calcutta

Change to Free Guard Zone Rule

The CCA has noticed that its' wording of the Free Guard Zone Rule has led to inconsistent interpretation and application. As such, the CCA has simplified its Rule and aligned itself with the World Curling Federation. In summary, if any of the first four shots of an end results in an opposition stone being moved from the free guard zone, either directly or indirectly, to an out-of-play position, an infraction has occurred. The non-offending skip then has the choice of leaving the rocks as they stand, or removing the thrown rock and repositioning all rocks to where they were before the shot was thrown.

This simplification will make resolutions of infractions easier. And remember that the free guard zone is only present for the first four rocks – take-outs of guards are fully permissible on the fifth shot.

Day Women's Section

Our second series is underway, and we welcome the return of those who missed the first series, as well as to all the "regulars". The new format using a "bye" team should allow for more spares being available each week.

The Dixie series held before Christmas was a big success, and we are disappointed that their Skins series has been cancelled. We are hosting one of the Mini Major games at High Park on Feb 6th. Chris Phillips stepped in for Sue Mooij as skip in the Weston Fireside

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Bonspiel, and her team was runner up in the Second Event. Sue plans to take a team to Cobourg again this year. Unfortunately we are experiencing scheduling problems with the Spring Fling for March so that may be cancelled. We look forward to taking on the Day Men in a rematch in February. Good curling everyone.

Linda Mears

Men's Section

The renovation of the men's locker room is coming along, albeit slowly. The club needs any and all able-bodied men to volunteer for painting, cleaning, assembly and arrangement of the lockers. Please make the effort and sign up on one of the sheets on the notice board! Your club needs you!

The Men's Section is bumping up the prize pool for the Men's Invitational by \$200 to attract more interest in the Event. Ken Brock's ever-ready enthusiasm has already drummed up an impressive prize table for this traditional event. The Men's Invitational will be held Feb 20 – 21.

I still get questions about how long teams can stay on the ice. On the early draw, only two ends can be completed once the clock reads 8:21 pm. So if you are still playing in the sixth when the clock changes to 8:21, you are entitled to finish only that end and the seventh.

This reminds me of some other courtesy issues. Common sense and courtesy go a long way to improving the tempo and enjoyment of the roaring game. Keep these points of courtesy in mind at all times:

- ❖ Practice on sheets that have been groomed completely by the icemakers. Ice is eligible for practice ONLY after the scores have been taken down. Don't make the icemakers wait while you get your rocks back in.
- ❖ When you first step out on the ice, your slider is warm. Chill it by standing behind the back line for a minute with the gripper off before taking your first slide. This reduces breakdown of the slide path.
- ❖ Leads, Seconds, and Thirds should wait for their opponents' throws from between the hog lines. The opposing skip may stand behind the house (off the ice), but must be motionless while the opponent delivers his rock. If the opposing vice is present in the house, he should be away from target.
- ❖ When it's your turn to throw, don't watch your opponent's rock from centre ice. Instead, get in the hack, clean your rock, and be ready to throw as soon as his rock comes to rest.
- ❖ Only Skips and Vices may be in or behind the house at any time. Even after your side has thrown all its rocks, the lead and second should stand between the hog lines while the opponent delivers the hammer.
- ❖ It is not necessary to meticulously organize all your rocks before starting an end. Find the lead stone, throw it, and then set up the remaining rocks between lead rocks one and two.

These courtesies help keep the ice in shape and can save time per end, which can mean the difference between playing a full game or being forced to come in after seven ends.

Eric Ziezold

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