



HISTORY OF THE
ARDSLEY
CURLING CLUB

We're Brithers' A'

Compiled by
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Preface

With Apologies and Acknowledgements

Like many new and small organizations, the Ardsley Curling Club failed to keep adequate records of its early procedures and accomplishments. Even where such items were recorded, retaining them for posterity was haphazard. The human mind is such that recollections can be hazy or blank for events that occurred only a short time ago, to say nothing of 40 years back.

As a result, many important events of the Club are undoubtedly missing and inadvertently, there may be errors here or there. So this is started with an apology for such omissions or errors.

Many thanks are due to friends and associates for discussions, either in person or by correspondence, in which we tried to unravel and turn up facts. In this category, I particularly want to acknowledge four Charter Members: Bart Eddison, Mait Griggs, Bill Kinbel and Stu Stevenson.

At the time of writing this preface, there is a woeful lack of knowledge on my part about the mixed, ladies and teen-age events. Possibly they could be culled from Duck Soup. But I am hopeful that someone who is more familiar with these subjects will undertake the task and appropriately interweave what should be said throughout this document. My gratitude is expressed in advance.

The greatest credit for background material goes to the late Cuyler Stevens. When he was Secretary of the Club (1943-45), he gathered what material he could and wrote a history of the Club at the time. He supplemented it with the events of the 1945-46 season. Even then, only a dozen or so years after the Club was formed, Cuyler expressed the same apologetic thoughts that I have in the first two paragraphs above concerning the lack of full and accurate information. Although his efforts were never published, a copy was fortunately retained in the archives.

Since the mid-1940's, there is an almost complete set of Duck Soups available. Despite occasional missing copies, or some failures to report who did what, the source material for the intervening years is quite complete.

J.P.R.
1973



Chapter 1

Genesis

In the beginning, the Ardsley Curling Club was created. It was good. Its patron, St. Andrews, set aside one day in seven when the Ardsley curlers should relax from other worldly chores and enjoy the “roarin’ game.” And they said that that day should be Tuesday. It was good. And so it came to pass that the Ardsley men curled each Tuesday evening at St. Andrews until they had their own home and new ice in their Promised Land.

It was on December 6, 1932 that William A. Kimbel gathered several men together at the Ardsley Racquet and Swimming Club, (The name by which the Ardsley Country Club was once known) for a preliminary meeting. Two curlers from St. Andrews – Alexander Halliday and Franklin Coe – told those present about this peculiar sport, “outlining the origin of the game, it’s unusually fine traditions and the rapid recent growth of the interest in the sport in this country.” Although curling had taken place at St. Andrews on a pond for several years, their new all-weather indoor rink – “the finest in the country” – had been built as recently as 1931.

A week later, Tuesday the 13th, an organization meeting and dinner was held with 30 in attendance.

Officers were elected as follows:

- W.A. Kimbel.....President
- C.A. Miller.....Vice President
- T.K. StevensonTreasurer
- Henry Cape, Jr.....Secretary

An Executive Committee, a Committee on Membership and a Committee on Arrangements (Curling Committee, in today’s terms) were named.

The minutes continue: “ – and thus was established and organized the Ardsley Curling Club a permanent activity in our community.

“To further establish ourselves, it was duly moved and seconded that we apply for membership in the Grand National Curling Club of America.

“Fixture tournaments are held by several of (the member) clubs and upon our being elected to membership we shall be eligible to enter these tournaments.”

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned to the St. Andrews curling rink.

On January 13, 1933, the Club was admitted to membership in the Grand National Curling Club of America. It is interesting to note that the Grand National's schedule of events for the 1932-33 season includes Ardsley as a member club. The schedule must have been printed late that year.

There are 33 Charter Members of the Club. They are named in Appendix I. They are the 30 who attended the December 13th meeting and 3 others who joined the Club within a month. Rev. Robert MacGowan composed odes for each of these men in 1933 or 34. These were reprinted in 1954 and a copy in the archives erroneously attributes them to 1932. One of the Charter Members is still an active curler with the Club: Mait Griggs. However, he had to drop out for a few years, so the record for active membership belongs to Bart Eddison who participated through the 1970-71 season – 39 consecutive years.

It was during the first year that Bill Kimbel received an invitation to bring a rink to the Stockton Bonspiel at the Country Club in Brookline. With him were Bart Eddison and Stu Stevenson. Memories differ on whether the fourth was Carl Miller or Doc McLeod. Their first match was against Archie Bell, whose rink had won the Quebec Bonspiel the previous week. For Bill and his tyros, it did not look like there was a chance for anything but a bad drubbing, but to everyone's surprise, including themselves, Ardsley pulled an upset. There is no record that Stu Stevenson had to leave ahead of the others; he was called back to New York because of F.D.R.'s pronouncement of the nationwide bank holiday.

Ardsley also had a rink that first year in a bonspiel sponsored by St. Andrews at Playland, consisting of Bill Kimbel (Skip), Walter Cluett, Carl Miller and Stu Stevenson.

Among the original members and those who joined within a year were such as A.R.M. (Alec) Boyle, Stuart C. (Doc) McLeod, Walter Cluett and George B. (Gug – pronounced Jug) Ogden who had had previous curling experience elsewhere. These men and Bill Kimbel gave Ardsley the steadying influence in bonspiel competitions that was needed in the early days.

Gug Ogden started Ardsley in the winner's column in 1935 when early in the season he skipped a rink that won the Playland Cup, second event of the Utica Cup competition held at St. Andrews and not to be confused with the Utica Bonspiel. Late in that season he led the rink that captured The Country Club Cup at the Utica Bonspiel. Ardsley made it two in a row for the latter competition when it was won in 1936 by a rink skipped by Bart Eddison.

We cannot leave the formative years without some special comments about William A. (Bill) Kimbel – Truly the father of our Club – and his father-in-law, Mr. Herbert G. Windeler

who not only introduced the game to Bill, but was also responsible for bringing the sport from his native England to The Country Club at Brookline. Mr. Windeler must have taken his role seriously as “grandfather” of the Ardsley Club, for when he attended the dinner preceding curling on January 3, 1933; he presented the Club with the permanent trophy the Windeler Cup which is still competed for as the Club Championship.

Bill Kimbel was imbued with the “unusually fine traditions” of curling and it was in the spirit that he led the Club in its early years. He was an organizer, leader and teacher of the game not only in its tactical and competitive aspects, but also in the courtesies. He steered the Club in its early critical years. Although the manner of delivering a stone has changed radically since 40 years ago, it was a pleasure to watch the stylist that Bill was, in the era of only a short slide out of the hack.

The Ardsley Curling Club was truly fortunate to have Bill Kimbel lead it at the outset. Since moving to South Carolina where there is no curling, he has maintained close relationships with the Club, for which those of us who know him are duly grateful.



Chapter 2

Exodus

Now the Pharaohs of St. Andrews never held the Ardsleyites in bondage, nor did they attempt to stop them when the Ardsleyites decided to trek to their Promised Land. The move seemed to take almost as many years as the Biblical counterpart.

In fact, St. Andrews was anxious for Ardsley to build its own facilities. It would permit St. Andrews to expand its own membership. But more importantly, it would broaden the interest and participation of the game in Westchester and nearby environs, which would be good for the sport. Furthermore, additional nearby facilities would permit holding events that might otherwise be impractical.

As a result of more facilities, the Gordon International event (started in 1884 and held alternate years in Canada and the U.S.) was held for the first time in the New York area in 1968. It was co-hosted by Ardsley, Nutmeg and St. Andrews. This was followed in 1970 with the U.S. Men's Championship, held at Ardsley and St. Andrews.

The decision to leave St. Andrews was not one that occurred on short notice. It had been the dream and desire of the Club for over 20 years. Cuyler Stevens reports in his 1945 history of the Club (never published) that "in the mid 1930's, Walter Cluett approached the Ardsley Country Club with the suggestion that he give the Club a curling rink in which the Ardsley Curling Club might be housed under the Aegis of the older organization. Mr. Cluett was thanked for his generosity, but was told that the Country Club was a golf club primarily and that it was not interested in fostering other sports. Cuyler called it a heart-breaking fact.

In the 1950's committees were repeatedly pointed to look into ways and means of building a rink, either in conjunction with another curling club or going it alone. Numerous investigations and reports led to nothing concrete.

In the September 11, 1962 issue of Duck Soup there is a report of a meeting of officers and others of the Ardsley, Mahopac and N.Y. Caledonians where they discussed "the possibility of a joint venture of all three clubs to form a combined base of members to finance the construction of new ice, either at a country club or at another site to be selected. The joint venture will receive further analysis – etc."

It was about this time also that each active member was asked to contribute \$200 to a kitty that could be used for financing engineering consultation fees, architect plans, etc. Future members and those who did not care to contribute initially, would be assessed a similar amount as an initiation fee when and if Ardsley constructed its own ice.

When the Ardsley Country Club decided to abandon its club house near Hudson House and to purchase and occupy the Gould estate (its present location), the Curling Club entered into negotiations that finally resulted in fruition of their dreams. On December 26, 1966, Barton Eddison threw the first stone on the new ice and The Ardsley Curling Club had finally reached it's Promised Land.

The formal dedication of building, however, was not held until January 28, 1967.



Chapter 3

Leviticus

Which is the book of laws and believe it or not, The Ardsley Curling Club had no laws until by-laws were adopted in October, 1945. There is no copy of those by-laws in the archives, the oldest set being a "Code of Procedures – as amended November 3, 1948."

In this write-up the word "laws" will be used loosely, for there will be recorded some of the rules, regulations and customs which prevailed during the early years of the Club. Newer members may be surprised, astonished or amused, but it is the way things were done in those days.

In the initial meeting of the founding fathers, it was agreed that on each night that there was to be curling, the members would meet for dinner at a club or with some member in New York. Following that, they would commute to Westchester for the matches.

The members were few, the Secretary (writer of the weekly newsletter, not yet called Duck Soup) was diligent and the mails were far more reliable than today. Hence, the assignments for the Tuesday matches were published in the newsletter which reached each member in Monday's mail. How simple!

Women's Lib was an unknown term in the 1930's. Women and even ladies were not at liberty to enter St. Andrews' main building, except through a separate door from the outside. Inside was a tiny sitting room and powder room. There was also a door from the lobby into the sitting room through which a gentlemen, after knocking, could pass liquid refreshments for the ladies to enjoy by themselves. Nevertheless, broadmindedness was entering the thoughts of some men and ladies were either permitted in the warm room to watch their men curl.

Although the rules then said and still do, that the skips shall decide which side shall deliver the first stone, this function was then (as now) usually delegated to the leads. The usual procedure was for one lead to toss his broom to the other to catch with one hand. Then alternately they would place their hands on the handle, one above the other, with the man attaining the top position being the winner; the same procedure with a baseball bat in one-o-cat. In addition, the winner had to swing the broom in a full vertical circle to prove that he had control. It was no mean feat if he had a 2-finger grasp, because the brooms in those days were the size of a large kitchen broom; nothing was known of these brushes or slim brooms of today.

“Once a skip, always a skip” seemed to be the rule of the day. Skips were usually chosen on a seniority basis. It was almost as bad as the committee seniority rules in Congress. Players showing great potential just could not break through until an opening occurred through fate rather than poor curling.

The official rules stated that, in case of a tie score, the rink to curl first in the extra end would be chosen in the same manner as at the start of a match. In the opinion of the author, that rule made more sense than the present rule which is based on which rink scored last.

The hand signals of the skip were the opposite of those used by most skips today. An outstretched left arm meant an in-turn (for a right-hander), while the right arm, either outstretched or with hand on hip, meant an out-turn. Some of the skips in other clubs still use those old signals.

In the 1932-33 and 1933-34 Grand National schedule of events, it is stated that some of the matches will consist of “17 heads”, instead of “17 ends”. (“17” is not a typographical error; most bonspiel matches were that long in those days.) The next oldest schedule in the Ardsley archives is for the 1938-39 season, where the term “ends” is used.



Chapter 4

The Promised Land (Our Own Ice)

The primary problem in building a curling rink is, of course, money. Financing is not only needed for construction, but there must at least be some assurance that the membership will be able to support the project on an ongoing basis.

But there were numerous other questions that required solutions before construction could start:

How many sheets of ice? Consideration was given to starting with two and designed so that expansion to four would be feasible. The decision was three.

Should it be in conjunction with another curling club, this ensuring a larger base of enthusiastic curlers at the outset? Although this had been considered in prior years, the decision was to have ownership for Ardsley alone.

Should it be at a country club, where parking space and bar and dining facilities would be already available? This was judged preferable to buying or leasing land which would not have any use for half of the year.

If at a country club, then should the two clubs merge into one or each retain its own identity? The latter course was decided upon. This in turn presented a further question: What should the arrangements be between the two clubs?

The final arrangements with the Ardsley Country Club are in two facets: social and financial. As to the social side, any member of the Curling Club who is not a member of the Country Club has "house privileges" during the curling season and may sign chits for services such as bar and dining. Also, any member of either club may join the other without the usual screening processes provided that there is an opening in the class of membership desired in the other club.

As to the financial arrangements between the clubs, the land occupied by the curling rink is rented from the Country Club for one dollar a year. The Curling Club receives part of the profits on drinks served at the bar to curlers --- there are separate types of chits to aid in the bookkeeping. The Country Club prepares and renders a monthly bill to the curlers, for a fee of course. The Curling Club pays its share of the real estate taxes for utilities (water, electricity and telephone) which are used at the rink and all operational costs for the rink building. But the most important point is that, once the mortgage on the curling rink has

been paid off, ownership of the building will be transferred to the Country Club.

The first step necessary to finance the new structure was to incorporate as a Membership Corporation under the laws of the State of New York. This was necessary in order that mortgage money could be obtained. It was done in July, 1965, with the incorporator's to serve as directors until the first annual meeting. The original incorporator's were: L.W. Graaskamp, Virgil D. Hager, George S. Shirk, Edwin L. Sibert, Jr. and Ashley Thorndike.

Part of the funds were raised by outright gifts from members and friends, part by the sale of bonds (if one bought enough, there would be a reduction in annual dues) and the rest was by mortgage.

One difficulty was obtaining a mortgage for a building to be located on land owned by another party. But it was done.

One snafu occurred that may be noted. The original site planned for the building was entirely within the corporate boundaries of the Village of Irvington. But objections were raised as to the location and it moved a few feet. This resulted in part of the building being in Dobbs Ferry. Thus it was necessary to apply for building permits with two village authorities before construction could start.

Ground was broken with appropriate ceremonies on June 11, 1966. Some unforeseen delays occurred during the building erection and in getting the ice started, so Ardsley missed about two months of curling during the 1966-67 season. The first stone was laid by Barton Eddison on December 26, 1966 and the formal dedication ceremonies took place on January 28, 1967.

"The Ardsley Curling Club wishes to record its particular gratitude to the following for their donations to the Building Fund:

H. Laurence Achilles

Edward C. Childs

W. Barton Eddison

Albert Shaw, Jr.

J.V. Dillon

And to these contributors to the Warm Room:

William A Kimbel

Mrs. Charles C. Townsend

Mrs. Carl Von Bernuth



Chapter 5

The Early and Middle Years (1932 through 1966)

During this period, only men were members of the Ardsley Curling Club. It was an unincorporated group until July of 1965, when the Club was incorporated in contemplation of erecting a curling rink the following year. There were not even by-laws until October, 1945.

Initially there were only active members and the dues were \$15.00 annually. In 1944, Associate Membership was adopted; open to former active members who, for small annual dues, received all privileges of the club except curling itself. They were given preferential treatment if they wished to transfer back to active status.

In 1946, Honorary Membership status was adopted and has been extended to only 10 men over the intervening years. They are named in Appendix II.

Both Associate and Honorary members receive Duck Soup regularly.

In the early years, active members ranged between 30 and 40. There is a notation in some papers of the early 1940's that there was a limitation of 31 active curlers. About 1950, Ardsley rented one sheet of ice on Thursday evenings (In addition to all three on Tuesdays at St. Andrews) and the limit was raised to 48. This limitation was lifted in the two years preceding building our own ice and there were 53 who actively curled in the 1965-66 season.

Officers were elected by the membership, in contrast to today when the membership elects directors who in turn appoint the officers.

During the first several years, Ardsley rented ice privileges directly from St. Andrews. All three sheets were assigned for Ardsley's use on Tuesdays and as stated above, one additional sheet was rented on Thursdays starting about 1950. It was during these evenings that Ardsley held its intraclub competitions: Windeler from the very beginning, Ardsley medaled in the 1943-44 through 1946-47 and the Blanton beginning in 1948. The rental also covered Ardsley's participation in the weekend interclub events such as the Wilds, Kimbel Plaque and starting in 1952, the Ogden Jug. House privileges were extended to the Ardsley members at St. Andrews during the curling season.

In 1951 a change was made in the rental arrangements. Why, the author does not know, but it was probably to obtain a favorable excise tax situation on club dues. The Westchester Curling Association was formed including Ardsley, Mahopac and New York Caledonia Clubs and joined by the Wicks (ladies) in 1952. Each of the clubs paid fees to the Association who in turn arranged ice privileges with

St. Andres. Except for technicalities, there was no change in the running of the individual clubs and the competitions.

There was one year during this period that deserves mention --- the 1942-43 season. It can best be told by excerpts from Cuyler Steven's account who was on hand at the time:

"The cards were stacked against curling this season and it was Mars that stacked them. For, no sooner had the Windeler matches started that it was decreed that automobiles should no longer be used for pleasure driving. Regular curling ended the second week in January."

"However, St. Andrews held its ice and we did informal curling on weekends, getting to Mt. Hope by walking, bicycles, and scooter or shared taxis. Roughly 20 Ardsley players kept the game going."

"Yet Ardsley curlers attended bonspiels at Utica and The Country Club where a rink reached the finals of the Clyde Park. No bonspiel was held at Schenectady since their pipes developed a leak and no material for fixing was available due to wartime restrictions.

"We also sent rinks to the Gordon International where Add Hastings' rink scored two victories, each by scores of 16 to 8."

"It was this year that St. Andrews inaugurated the pleasant custom of inviting the Metropolitan clubs to compete for its championship trophies, the Kitchell and Williamson Medals. But Ardsley could not bring home a winner here."

The frequent newsletter appeared with the name "Duck Soup" for the first time dated December 27, 1943. Stu Peabody is responsible for that title.

In the report of the Treasurer, George Williams at the end of the 1943-44 season, it was recommended that all the surplus be retained in the treasury. It has been the custom in previous years to retain only \$10 and use any excess over that amount for some special project.

The 15th anniversary of the Club was celebrated with a dinner at St. Andrews in March 1947, at which 10 Charter Members were presented. The 20th was similarly celebrated in 1953, at which it is noted that those present "drank Duck Soup" reputedly a horrible concoction prepared by Ed Fiske. There were 7 Charter Members in attendance and an anniversary pin made its appearance for the occasion.

The 25th anniversary was a gala affair, with parties at members' homes preceding a dinner at the Ardsley Country Club. It was held on January 30, 1958, coincident with the

Cuthbertson Bonspiel. Hence, members of numerous other clubs were present, as well as wives and other lady guests. 130 signed the guest register, including 7 Charter Members, but it is believed that the attendance was larger. Highlights included a humorous talk by Stu Stevenson and reminiscences by Bill Kimbel. An anniversary pin was made for the occasion and with a slight change of the die, is the present club pin.

When Ardsley moved to its own quarters in 1966-67, there were formal letters sent to St. Andrews and speeches made at the dedication ceremonies, expressing thanks to St. Andrews for all the courtesies shown to the Ardsley club and its members during the 34 years that they played host to us. Never the less, the author cannot resist repeating here – for the eyes of any St. Andrews member who might have occasion to read this document – his sincere sentiments along the same lines, friendships which he made over the years among the members of St. Andrews.



Chapter 6

Enter the Ladies and Youth

“Women and children first” has been the cry in many situations over the years.

But not so in curling, where male chauvinism kept the game for themselves for many years if not centuries. The game from its inception has been truly a great brotherhood with the motto “We’re Brithers A’.” But brotherhood was used in its narrow masculine sense, rather than as a broad term for all mankind.

It was not until the first half of this century that the ladies moved into curling, probably starting in Canada. In Westchester, the ladies organized the Wicks Curling Club, not associated with any of the men’s clubs of that time. They were admitted to full membership of the Westchester Curling Association on October 9, 1952. They curl during daytime at St. Andrews.

It was natural that mixed curling would soon follow, with participants drawn from the Wicks and the various men’s clubs. They curl weekend evenings at St. Andrews, and now of course at Ardsley.

The earliest Ardsley curlers to participate in mixed curling were the Well’s, the Sibert’s and the James’, although the last named couple never followed through. They first tried their hands on November 20, 1960. They were soon followed by the Dace Stevenson’s and the Whitman’s.

Jane Wells and Maggie Sibert also joined the Wicks in the fall of 1960.

When Ardsley opened its own ice, Ladies’ and mixed curling were involved from the outset. The introduction of ladies into curling is, in the Author’s opinion, a mixed blessing. It has introduced the game to numerous families, some of whose men would have been reluctant to join the men’s events had they not first tried mixed. Several ardent men curlers with Ardsley are in this category. On the other hand, mixed bonspiels where husbands and wives can go away for weekends together have caused a lessening of interest in men’s bonspiels; they cannot afford the time for both types of competition. Ardsley is not the only club where it is becoming difficult to send men to out-of-town bonspiels and the men’s events are suffering as a result.

Teen-age or youth curling was introduced in many Grand National clubs in the 1950’s and 1960’s. They take to it like ducks to water. It builds up interest so that there should

be many more young adults participating as the time goes on. Curling is no longer an old man's sport. There is now youth curling at St. Andrews and as well as at Ardsley.



Chapter 7

The Current Years (1966 Onward)

The opening of our own curling rink did not mean merely moving curling matches from one location to another. A whole new structure was required for the operation of the club.

First of all, several new types of membership were created and there was a substantial increase in membership required to assure financial success. The number of new members required a concerted training program so that they would enjoy the game and stay on as members. Added competitions were needed. In the men's field alone, two new intraclub round-robin events were created, which eventually became known as the Hastings and the Colgan Medals. A weekend intraclub knockout affair, known as the Headless Horseman was started with a few years.

Fortunately, from a competitive viewpoint, all new members were not inexperienced. The new facilities attracted several good curlers who had moved into the area from other parts of the country or Canada. Prior to having our own ice, the membership limitation as to numbers caused many such persons to join the other Metropolitan clubs.

The types of memberships created initially were:

Family (Husband, wife and minor children, with availability to all types of activities)

Male

Mixed

Ladies

Teen Age

Associates

During the second year, the Family and Male memberships were reclassified to full status, to Junior I and Junior II, the latter two being for adults aged 35 and under and 30 and under respectively. By lower initiation fees and annual dues, it was hoped to attract young adults who might not feel that they could afford "full" status. Except for voting rights, which are retained for full family and male members, all club privileges are open to other classes in their respective types of curling events.

Ardsley has had the pleasure of hosting or co-hosting several bonspiels. For men, it started the annual invitation Ardsley Bonspiel in 1968. This was soon followed by annual Mixed and Teen Age bonspiels. In 1968 it co-hosted (with Nutmeg and St. Andrews) the Gordon

International and the first New York Friendly which was run coincidentally. The following year it hosted both the Dykes Memorial and the District Championship events, which are rotated among the Grand National clubs from year to year. 1970 was the banner year when the U.S. Men's Championship matches were held at Ardsley and St. Andrews.

After seven years in its new home, it would appear that the Ardsley Curling Club has, for the second time, steered itself through the crucial growing pains of a new organization.



Chapter 8

Competition

Curling is a game of competition and it is a pleasure to win, or at least do well. Ardsley has had its fair share of glory in competitions throughout the Grand National and in Canada and has done well in other events.

Fortunately, the camaraderie and brotherhood among curlers make it a pleasure to attend a bonspiel without winning a match, or even to go only as a spectator. Many a rink has returned home from a bonspiel and when questioned about results reply, "We had a great time." As Bill Nolan once remarked after taking a rink to the Royal Victoria Jubilee matches in Montreal, "It was like a revolving door, in one side and immediately out the other. But we had a great time."

But let's not stress the negative. There is too much that can be said about the positive and winnings side. Unfortunately, some of the records are incomplete, so some wins may be inadvertently omitted or only the names of skips may be known. In some team events, like the Gordon International and the Ardsley Cup, individual matches do not matter, so such results are lacking detail.

If one wants to look for the results that are known about winners, reference is made to Appendices IV and V. Both intra and interclub events are covered. Even a casual glance will reveal three members with numerous wins, both as skips and otherwise: Bart Eddison, Add Hastings and Dick Wells.

One could comment on many individual matches or events, but space permits only where there seems significance.

Ardsley played in two bonspiels in its initial year, one at Playland sponsored by St. Andrews and the Stockton at The Country Club in Brookline. Bill Kimbel skipped in both events. No medals were brought home, but Ardsley had its baptism under fire.

The first Grand National event wins occurred two years later when Jug Ogden skipped a rink to win the Playland Cup (second event of the Utica Cup matches at St. Andrews) and also a rink to win the Country Club Cup in the Utica Bonspiel. Ardsley repeated in the last event the following year, but this time the skip was Bart Eddison, playing at the No. 2 position while Ogden played the No. 4 spot. This was the first Grand National event win by an Ardsley Skip who had not curled until the club was formed three years earlier. Ardsley was on the way.

In 1968, Doc McLeod skipped the winning rink in the Griffith, which is notable in that in the finals, they defeated a rink from The Country Club by a score of 24-0!

1939 brought the first win of a main event in a Grand National bonspiel. Bart Eddison skipped the rink that won the Mitchell Medal in the Utica Bonspiel. By winning this event, Ardsley won the privilege to enter a rink in the Royal Caledonia matches in Montreal. Two substitutes were required to raise a foursome and up to Canada they went. They lost the first match, but went on to win the St. Lawrence Trophy. Ardsley had proven that they could meet the best of competition and win.

In Cuyler Stevens' history of the Club (never published), he states that the 1943-44 season was the finest in the Club's history. The Windeler ended in a tie and an extra end was required in the playoff before Stevens' rink overcame that of Ed Fiske. Bart Eddison skipped rinks that won both the Utica Cup and Douglas Bongspiels. Ed Lockett had played No. 3 for Bart in both events and he took a rink to Schenectady where they won the Emmet and reached the finals in the Gordon Medal. In those days, a rink could enter either or both events. Ardsley also competed in the Utica and Stockton Bongspiels but failed to add to the Club's laurels. A recapitulation of the season shows that Ardsley and Schenectady, between them, won all the U.S. main event medals won by American Teams. The Toronto Granites won the Stockton to break the monopoly - or was it monotony?

Cuyler goes on to say that the following season was almost as successful, although there was only one win of the Grand National event. In the Douglas-Griffith Matches, Ardsley had three semi-final rinks. Add Hastings survived to the finals, only to lose to the Toronto Granites in the Douglas. Cuyler Stevens took a rink to Utica where they reached the finals of both the Mitchell and the Allen competitions. It was an all-Ardsley final in the District where Cuyler Stevens' rink won out over one skipped by Add Hastings. The winning District rink went to Montreal for the Royal Caledonia matches. They lost their first match and reached the finals only to lose in the St. Lawrence Trophy. This was the seventh time during that season that Ardsley had been finalist in Grand National competition. There were, however, two other wins for the season. Ardsley walked off with both the Kitchell and Williamson Medals in St. Andrews' bonspiel involving only local clubs.

In 1949 there was another "almost the top". Add Hastings took his District Medal winners to Montreal for the Royal Caledonia matches. They reached the finals.

This event and its successor, the Royal Victoria Jubilee, has been won only once by a rink south of the Canadian border. The Utica Curling Club pulled the trick in 1950.

There have been many winners and near misses in the intervening years, but none seem to have significance as first until 1964 when Dick Wells as skip, teamed with Bill Wood, Bill Nolan and Ash Thorndike, won the New York State Championship. By so doing they

participated in the U.S. Men's Championship matches. This feat was repeated in 1972 and 1973 by rinks skipped by Ed Brandt. When pitted against the Mid-westerners and their take-out tactics, none of these Ardsley contingents have come home with more than so-so accomplishments. As Ed Brandt said after his first time at the U.S. Men's, "I learned plenty" and proceeded to prove it by a far better record the following year. To be there and to do reasonably well was in itself recognition that Ardsley is among the tops.



Chapter 9

Heraldry

Since the founding of the Club, its emblem has been a flying duck, grasping a curling stone. On the face of it, this would be ludicrous in real life. But is it worse than some of the crest or escutcheons of the nobility? It is the symbolic meaning that counts.

During one of the first evenings that Ardsley was curling at St. Andrews, many of the stones thrown by the novices (and most of the members were) travelled down the ice rocking from side to side. This produces a sound of “quack-quack-quack,” and such a shot today is often referred to as a quacker. One of the St. Andrews onlookers stated to the effect that the Ardsley members were a flock of ducks. From this quip came the thought of the emblem. Unfortunately, neither the archives nor the memories of the oldest members can identify the individual who created the original design.

The Ardsley Duck has appeared on numerous pins and trophies, on the Club’s letterhead, on the heading for the publication “Duck Soup” and on the jacket and sweater patches.

The original club pin is described here in detail, because none have been made since 1957. It was round and about the size of a quarter. The duck carrying its stone appeared on a light blue background. The outer edge, about a 1/8 inch, was on a dark blue background. Thus the club colors, light and dark blue, came into being.

The current club pin, a silhouette of the duck and stone, is a modification of the 25th anniversary pin. The characters on the stone were changed from “1932-57” to “Ardsley.”

The current ladies pin is like that of the men, except that a white bonnet and apron have been added on the duck.

The 20th anniversary pin was celluloid covered, like many political campaign buttons. The design was similar to the original club pin, except that “20” appeared on the light blue background and the outer rim was white instead of dark blue.

The duck and stone appeared on the second version of the Windeler winner pins, starting sometime in the 1940’s. The pin was the shape of the curling stone, with a ½ inch flying duck emblem near the bottom of the stone. This pin was used through 1968. In 1969, the current Windeler winner pin was adopted, reusing the die of the Ardsley Medal pin that was dis-continued as the main event of the Cuthbertson Bonspiel.

There have been three versions of the club patch, each featuring the club emblem. The first was circular, and about 3 ½ inches in diameter and appeared in the mid-1940's. It was intended primarily for wear on a jacket, but some wore it on their curling sweaters. The current jacket patch (gold embroidery of the emblem) was introduced in 1960. When the Club adopted uniform light blue sweaters in 1970 for wear on the ice, the current sweater patch about 4 inches in diameter was also adopted. This is the only one of the three patches to have any wording, the name "Ardsley" appearing on the stone.

It is interesting to note that the Ardsley Curling Club is one of the few (if there are any others) which forbids trading, giving or selling its patch to anyone who is not a member of the Club.

The first Ardsley Club jacket made its initial appearance at the Stockton Bonspiel in 1945. It was made of dark blue corduroy except for the collar above the lapels, which was light blue corduroy. Whether or not the first pocket patch appeared then or earlier is not known. Manufacture of this jacket was discontinued about 10 or 12 years later and since then any navy blue jacket with the pocket patch is the uniform.

The Club tie, adopted in the mid-1950's, is dark blue with thin diagonal light blue stripes.



Chapter 10

Trophies - Intraclub Men

The Windeler Cup is the oldest and most cherished of Ardsley's trophies. Mr. Herbert Windeler, father-in-law of William Kimbel attended a dinner of the Club on January 3, 1933, where he announced that he was presenting a cup for competition within the Club. For many years following the death of Mr. Windeler, it was customary for the skip who had won the trophy to write to Mr. Windeler's widow to maintain the ties and heritage of the cup.

Since the first year of the Club, there has always been a Windeler competition except for the War year 1942-43. The winning of the cup has also been considered the Club Championship, except for the two seasons 1943-44 and 1944-45, when this honor went with the Ardsley Medal. But the Windeler competition returned to its proper status in 1945-46. All members were assigned to Windeler rinks until the enlarged membership made this impractical in most years since the enlarged membership following building our own ice.

The Ardsley medal competition was started in 1943-44. It was the championship event in that and the following year. All members were assigned to Ardsley rinks.

In 1948, the Blanton Medal was introduced, in memory of Alexander Blanton who had been an ardent and well liked member of the Club. It replaced the Ardsley Medal, and has been skipped by 'junior skips' with, since the mid-1950's, first or second place moving up to become Windeler skips. All members are assigned to rinks in this competition, even with the expanded membership. It affords an opportunity for even the newest members to compete with and against the experienced players.

Three new competitions have been introduced into the Club since the membership has grown. One is the Hastings Medal for lesser experienced men and run concurrently with the Windeler on weekday evenings. The second is the Colgan Medal, donated in memory of Charles Colgan by his friends. It is also for the lesser experienced and is played on weekends concurrently with the Wilds for the more experienced.

All of the above competitions are run as Round-robins, each rink playing each other rink in competitions that occupy about half of the season.

The third new competition is a weekend knock-out event open to all men, including those

who normally play only in mixed curling. It is known as the Headless Horseman Bonspiel, with the main event trophy being the Washington and the second event as the Irving.

In addition to these competitive trophies there is also the '000' trophy which no one tries to win, and is awarded annually since it was donated in 1939. It is given to the skip (but not his rink mates) who comes in last in the Windeler competition. The trophy itself is a fur-lined you-know-what. There is an appropriate pin which is awarded but is seldom seen worn by a 'winner'. The name of the trophy comes from the fact that its first recipient had a .000 percentage winning record for that year.

Interclub Men

The club donated the Ardsley Cup for an annual competition between Ardsley and St. Andrews starting in 1946. The event is usually held on Washington's Birthday.

In 1950, the Club donated the Ardsley Bowl to the Grand National Curling Club for golf competition among the member clubs at the annual 'iceless bonspiel' held each summer. (For the record, the first 'iceless bonspiel' was held at the Mahopac Country Club over the last weekend in September 1949.

In 1952, Ardsley donated the Ogden Jug for competition for junior skips among Ardsley, Mahopac, New York Caledonia and St. Andrews clubs. It was in memory of George B. (Gug – pronounced Jug) Ogden, who had great interest in developing new and young players. On the silver jug is prominently soldered a numeral '4' which is a story in itself. During the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid in 1932, there were some exhibition curling matches in which Gug participated. Special medals were made for the curlers who participated. When returning on the night train, Gug 'temporarily' exchanged his Olympic pin with the numeral '4' which was worn by the Pullman Porter. The next morning, the porter knew nothing about the exchange. So for his remaining years of curling, Gug wore the numeral on his cap as his Olympic pin. His widow donated it to the Club and it was soldered on the Jug.

In 1955, the Club donated the Ardsley Medal for a Cuthbertson Bonspiel trophy. By drawing lots with the other co-sponsoring clubs, Mahopac and New York Caledonia, this became the main event trophy until Ardsley withdrew as a co-sponsor when it inaugurated its own bonspiel in 1968. Another trophy then replaced the Ardsley Medal as the main event.

In 1965, Ardsley donated the Ardsley Shield to the Nutmeg Club for the third event in their annual bonspiel.

When Ardsley sponsored its own bonspiel in 1968, the Club provided the Eddison Medal for the winners of the main event. It is in honor of Barton Eddison who was the only Charter Member who had curled continuously since the Club's founding.

In the same year, St. Andrews gave the St. Andrews medal for the second event, and Nutmeg donated the Nutmeg Jug for the third event of the Ardsley Bonspiel.



Chapter 11

Honor Where Honor is Due

The success of the Ardsley Curling Club, as in any club, is due to the unselfish devotion of relatively small proportion of the overall membership. Many Ardsley members, past and present, rightfully belong in this category. The contributions of the men (and recently ladies also) are in many cases obvious to all. Other important work has been done by individuals more or less behind the scenes, yet the accomplishments were very important.

There were the formative years and the going years through the next three decades while we were curling at St. Andrews. Then came the planning and implementation years for our own building: the financial problems, the legal problems, the arrangements with the Ardsley Country Club and the problems of expanding membership. Nor should we overlook the yeoman work that is currently going on to have a successful club where all members can participate in a meaningful and enjoyable manner. For that matter, several members of other clubs could be considered for their sage advice and financial support.

An attempt to name all who should receive recognition makes a list of least thirty or forty people. A few others might inadvertently be overlooked.

In order to avoid being accused of bias or oversight, the author is narrowing the list drastically to the four early members who, in his opinion, molded the Club into its present character. Two have passed on to the curlers' Hereafter. The other two are no longer active curlers. Future historians of the Club may wish to enlarge this list. As stated above, there are many who could be considered.

William A. Kimbel – The single individual who caused the Club to be founded by influencing some friends to try the game. While an active member, Bill was a leader on and off the ice. The greatest attribute that he leaves with those of us who know him is his true sportsmanship, which he not only exhibited but caused the rest of us to follow.

Even after retiring from active curling when he moved to southern climates, Bill has kept in close touch with the Club and many of its members. His keen interest in the Club was evidenced by a donation when the building was being built many years after his retirement from the sport.

W. Barton Eddison – A Charter Member who continued active curling through the 1970-71 season: 39 consecutive years. No other Ardsley curler can match that record. Bart

carried on Bill Kimbel's theme that sportsmanship and friendship among curlers is the true spirit of the game.

Bart was the first of those who had never curled before the Club was formed, to skip a winning rink in a Grand national event. This was the Country Club Cup in the Utica Bonspiel of 1936. He was the first Ardsley skip to win the main event of such a bonspiel, the Mitchell Medal in the Utica Bonspiel of 1939. This latter win permitted him to take an Ardsley rink to the Royal Caledonia matches in Montreal, where they came home with second event St. Lawrence trophy.

George B. Ogden – Who was familiarly known as Gug (pronounced Jug). He had curled for many years at Utica, when his business required that he spend much of his time in New York, he joined Ardsley. His great contribution was to teach new members the rudiments and strategy of the game. In this capacity, Gug probably contributed as much as any other person to building the competitive strength of the Club in the 1930's and 40's.

Gug also contributed to the game through his keen sense of humor and despite his desire to win, he could laugh off a poor shot or loss. Several sayings which are common in the game today can be attributed to him, among them being: "No harm done", "Coming nicely", "Cream puff" and "Mae West"

Addison B. Hastings – Who kiddingly posted himself in local competition as "1066," after the battle that bears the same name. Add was probably one of the winningest players that Ardsley has produced. He was tireless in his work within and for the Club in many fields, particularly after we had our own new building.

Add might be considered our greatest ambassador. He was known and respected innumerable curlers throughout the Grand National Curling Club and the Canadian Branch – Royal Caledonia Curling Club. In turn, this brought respect and friendship for the Ardsley Club and its members. Add served a two-year term as President of the Grand National Curling Club of America, (as has one other Ardsley member – B.B. Wood), Vice-President of the Royal Caledonia Curling Club, and was made Honorary Life Member of the Grand National in 1970. But his honor that he esteemed most was his election as an Honorary Life Member of the Canadian Branch, one of three Americans to be so named.

It is fitting to note that each of the above four was named an Honorary Life Member of Ardsley Club after retiring from active participation in the Club, and that each has a trophy named after him. The Kimbel Plaque is owned by St, Andrews and has no connection with the Ardsley Club other than that Ardsley rinks have competed for it. The Eddison Medal, the Ogden Jug and the Hastings Medal are discussed in Chapter 10.



Appendix I

Charter Members

Harvey Bell
A.R.M. Boyle
Axtel S. Byles
Henry Cape, Jr.
Walter H. Cluett
W. Barton Eddison
Harold V. Engh
Sherman Feary
Porter Feary
George F. Gentes
George Gilson
George W. Gordon
Maitland L. Griggs
Arthur L. Harmon
Gordon Harriss
James B. Henney
Archibald Wilson

John T. Jones
Russell Jones
William A. Kimbel
T. Wylie Kinney
Stuart C. McLeod
Carl A. Miller
Fredrick L. Moore
H. Terry Morrison
J. Wood Rutter
Arthur C. Shorey
Warren P. Smith
Stuart R. Stevenson
T. Kennedy Stevenson
Charles T. Townsend
John Tyssowski
Hassow von Wedel



Appendix II

Honorary Members

1946-65	James A. Finn*
1946 -	William A. Kimbel
1946-47, 1949-52.....	George B. Ogden*
1946-65	Philip B. Weld
1948-65	Charles T. Townsend*
1965-.....	Edward C. Childs
1967	Laurence Achilles
1969	J.V. Dillon
1971	W. Barton Eddison
1972	Addison B. Hastings*

**Deceased*



Appendix III

Roster of Officers

From the Club's origin in 1932 until its incorporation in 1965, the officers were elected by the general membership. After incorporation, the general membership elected a Board of Directors, who in turn selected the officers.

For two seasons, the records indicate that an Historian had been elected in addition to the usual officers.

1945-46 Cuyler Stevens

1948-49 Addison B. Hastings

In occasional other years, there have also been Historians, appointed by the President. In some years, there are no document sources as to who held which office. In such cases, an attempt has been made to reconstruct the past officers from memories of older members. Where there is doubt, the listing is shown with an asterisk (*).

Interpolated comments are introduced where it seems appropriate.

Prior to incorporation, the Secretary also prepared the general news letters ("Duck Soup" starting in 1943-44). Since 1965-66, the Duck Soup editor has been an appointed office.

Year	President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary
1932-33	Wm. A. Kimbel	Carl A. Miller	T. Kennedy Stevenson	Henry Cape, Jr
1933-34	Wm. A. Kimbel	Carl A. Miller	T. Kennedy Stevenson	Henry Cape, Jr
1934-35	Wm. A. Kimbel	W. Barton Eddison*	T. Kennedy Stevenson	Henry Cape, Jr
1935-36	Wm. A. Kimbel or W. Barton Eddison*	Guy Robinson*	Stuart Peabody*	W. Barton Eddison*
1936-37	W. Barton Eddison	Guy Robinson	Guy Robinson*	Stuart Peabody*
1937-38	W. Barton Eddison	Guy Robinson	Edw. H. Lockett	Stuart Peabody*
1938-39	Guy Robinson	Stuart Peabody*	Edw. H. Lockett	Albert Shaw, Jr.
1939-40	Edw. H. Lockett	A.A. Throckmorton	John F. Plummer	Albert Shaw, Jr.
1940-41	A.A. Throckmorton	Addison B. Hastings	John F. Plummer Jos. P. Ringland Walter M. Howlett <i>Plummer elected previous Spring; never served, Ringland served first half of season. Howlett served balance of season.</i>	Albert Shaw, Jr.

Year	President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary
1941-42	A.A. Throckmorton	Addison B. Hastings Edw. W. Fiske, Jr.	Walter M. Howlett	A. J. Blanton
1942-43	Addison B. Hastings	<i>In Spring, Throckmorton and Hastings elected President and Vice President. Throckmorton resigned in Fall; Hastings and Fiske elected to serve.</i>	Geo. W. Williams, Jr.	A. J. Blanton
1943-44	Edw. W. Fiske, Jr.	D.D. Sutphen, Jr.	Geo. W. Williams, Jr.	Cuyler Stevens
1944-45	Edw. W. Fiske, Jr.	Albert Shaw, Jr.	Chas. H. James	Cuyler Stevens
1945-46	Albert Shaw, Jr.	A. J. Blanton	Chas. H. James	Russell B. Weston
1946-47	Albert Shaw, Jr.	A.J. Blanton	Geo. B. Ogden	Albert Koehl
1947-48	Cuyler Stevens	V.F. Hockmeyer	Geo. B. Ogden	Sherman Baker
1948-49	Cuyler Stevens	V.F. Hockmeyer E. H. Duckett <i>Hockmeyer elected in Spring, but did not serve. E. H. Duckett elected in Fall and did serve.</i>	J. Valentine	Wm. B. May
1949-50	Russell B. Weston	Harold Sothern	Wm. H. Gish	L. W. Graaskamp
1950-51	Russell B. Weston	Harold Sothern	Wm. H. Gish	A. C. Staley, Jr. <i>Secretary: Staley elected in Spring, but did not serve.</i>
1951-52	Harold Sothern	Wm. H. Gish	W. Van Alstyne *	Cuyler Stevens
1952-53	Wm. H. Gish	Albert Shaw, Jr.	W. Van Alstyne	Cuyler Stevens
1953-54	L. W. Graaskamp <i>In Spring, Gish elected President, Grasskamp, Vice President. Gish could not serve, so re-aligned as shown.</i>	A. Thorndike	W. Van Alstyne	Ralph Sheets
1954-55	L. W. Graaskamp	A. Thorndike	W. Van Alstyne	Arthur J. Kemp
1955-56	A. Thorndike	Brenner R. Wood	W. Van Alstyne	M. L. Griggs
1956-57	A. Thorndike	Brenner R. Wood	M. L. Griggs	Jos. P. Ringland
1957-58	Brenner R. Wood	V. F. Hockmeyer	M. L. Griggs	Robert L. Edens
1958-59	Brenner R. Wood	V. F. Hockmeyer	L. W. Graaskamp	Wm. J. Nolan, Jr.
1959-60	Richard C. Wells	Ralph C. Sheets	L. W. Graaskamp	Dace Stevenson
1960-61	Richard C. Wells	Ralph C. Sheets	L. W. Graaskamp	Edw. L. Siebert, Jr.
1961-62	Ralph C. Sheets	Robt. L. Reed	L. W. Graaskamp	E. J. Doonan K. Stevenson
1962-63	Ralph C. Sheets	Robt. L. Reed	L. W. Graaskamp	Chas. J. Colgan
1963-64	Virgil D. Hager	Robt. L. Reed	L. W. Graaskamp	Wm. P. Rogan
1964-65	Virgil D. Hager	Edw. L. Siebert, Jr.	L. W. Graaskamp	Chas. H. James
1965-66	Virgil D. Hager	Edw. L. Siebert, Jr.	L. W. Graaskamp	Geo. S. Shirk, Jr.
1966-67	Edward L. Siebert, Jr.	Chas. J. Colgan Virgil D. Hager A. Thorndike Richard C. Wells	L. W. Graaskamp Asst - R. C. Sheets	Horace J. McAfee Corres. G. Robinson
1967-68	Edward L. Siebert, Jr.	Chas. J. Colgan	L. W. Graaskamp	Horace J. McAfee

Year	President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary
1968-69	Chas. J. Colgan	Ex Vp Wm. J. Nolan Jr. C. T. Stewart R. C. Wells	L. W. Graaskamp Edw. J. Doonan	
1969-70	Wm. J. Nolan <i>(From Memory J.P.R)</i>			
1970-71	Wm. J. Nolan	Jos. P. Ringland	C. T. Stewart	J. .P. Curi
1971-72	Richard C. Wells	Ex Vp H.D. Hill J.P. Curi C.T. Stewart W.J. Nolan E.J. Doonan		
1972-73	Richard C. Wells	Ex Vp H.D. Hill J.P. Curi W.L. Johnson W.J. Nolan E.J. Doonan		

Duck Soup Editor

1965-66 George S. Shirk, Jr.
 1966-67 Guy Robinson
 1967-68 Wallace Ryan
 1968-69 George S. Shirk, Jr.
 1969-70 George S. Shirk, Jr.
 1970-71 Joseph P. Ringland
 1971-72 Joseph P. Ringland
 1972-73 N.B. Cook

The Curler Speaks

By Stuart Peabody, 1950, Ardsley Curling Club Member

O the squash men thrill
To the lightning kill,
Or the shot that dies by the wall;
And the ski-er yearns
For telemark turns
And for slaloms with never a fall.

The crash of the pins
And the strike that wins
To the bowler are sweeter than honey;
And the hockey fan dreams
Of the gallery's screams
And the puck in the cage for money.

There's the smack of a drive,
And a sloop that's alive
And hands on a hunter's withers;
In sporting lore
There are thrills by the score,
But they all seem tame to "Brithers."

Give me the drone
Of a running stone,
"On the broom" and curling free;
Or a shot laid hard
To take out a guard,
Or a draw through a port to the tee.

And "SWEEP" from the lip
Of a salty skip
Or "Don't be narrow or light –
Just let he bend
And we'll take the end;
Now SWEEP! You can make her bite."

The potent kick
Of a chap or a wick
Must be felt to be understood;
Or a stone well laid
And a shot that's played
So it comes to rest where it should.

Be a slave to your sports
That are played in courts
Or on alleys or fields I say I.
You'll be paroled
When you get too old;
But I'll curl till the day I die.

And as springtime looms
And we stack the brooms
And lift the stones to the rack;
I'll sigh for a time
When the ice is prime
And my toe's once more on the hack.