



DUCK SOUP

Official Newsletter of the Ardsley Curling Club
www.ardsleycurling.com



Francis Dykes Memorial 5-and-under

Nate, Scott, Mike, and Stefan

Call the Cops!!! Ardsley stole some rocks to win the B event final at the 81st annual Dykes 5-and-under bonspiel held Mar 12-15 at the Charlotte Curling Association. The team of Nate O'Reilly (skip), Scott Druskin, Mike Horowitz, and Stefan Benkowski represented Ardsley in the last great curling of this season due to suspended sports across the world in response to COVID-19.



Other Ardsleyites among the 40 teams included Matt Rogala vicing for Albany's Team Romero and Johnny Lusardi skipped a shiny team from LICC.

The event is named in memory of former St. Andrew's Curling Club member Francis Dykes. This year was the first time the GNCC event occurred south of Maryland.



Howard Kunzinger, Johnny Lusardi, Mike Kelly, Colin Kasprowicz

Save the Date - April 17-19 - The Virtual Pull the Plug Bonspiel. Make an account at playcurling.com and start practicing.



April 15 via Zoom - details on FB Ardsley Curling Fanatics

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-- **Joe Sablow**

joesab.curling@gmail.com



Greetings All,

I hope everyone is well and staying safe in these trying times.

I know we are all disappointed that the curling season was cut short. It was a very difficult decision, but I believe the correct one. Your health and safety outweighs the game.

For the moment, and because of social distancing, we have put on hold the closing dinner and the annual meeting. Once we get the all clear and we can resume our normal lives, we will reschedule.

The one thing that we have not put on hold is the new lease with the country club. The board has been working diligently in securing an extension. At this point we are 98% there. We have an agreement in principle, and are just finalizing the language. I hope to make the official announcement soon.

We will be facing many challenges as we move forward. Everyone will need to pitch in and volunteer. The board will be there to add guidance, but they can't do it without lots of help. Take this time to think of how you as a club member can make a difference. I am open to any and all ideas. Please feel free to contact me to discuss your ideas.

We will be sending out emails to keep everyone up to date. Please read them. Also please stay in touch with each other. Check in with friends and teammates. We are after all curlers.

Stay safe and good curling.



-- **Vinay Goenka**

Dear Friends,

While it was a heartbreaking decision to cancel BA, I believe it was the right decision. Safety of members and participants is the first priority for any Chair. I would also take this opportunity to thank you all for showering my team with so much love and support. I am really thankful to Dan for entrusting me with the responsibility to run the Big Apple this year. Over the course of the last 5 months, I had an opportunity to interact with so many of you at a personal level and learn so many things.

A lot of members gave us their valuable time, effort, inputs, and resources. For that I am indebted big time - Mike DeWalt, Jon Schuster, Matt Scheiner, Joe Panella, Amy, James Weeks, Judith, Dave Wagenheim, Nicole, Derek, Bill, Julie, Pam, Ray, Nick, Dave Schrull, Jeff Lesuk, Jan, Jason - the list is endless. Big Apple was a mission for us and so many of you backed our vision and planning. Mike went mock shopping, volunteered for bonspiels, tested recipes in dinner leagues - so that the BA food would be perfect. Jon was brilliant with the registration and the live draw format that we uploaded on the club website. He never said no to any suggestion and made it all look so easy. I can literally go on and on with such stories from other volunteers. While I apologize that I couldn't deliver, I will carry with me some great memories from such individual acts of volunteerism!

Finally my organizing team: Jon, Jim, and Meg, they were the true rockstars behind the scenes and brought amazing energy and ideas to the table. No thought was crazy enough and no work was too small. I was really lucky to work with them and can only hope they had fun along the way.

Unfortunately, it is the second cancellation in the last three years. I sincerely believe Big Apple will only emerge stronger and bigger! Besides, nothing represents the spirit of resilience better than the Big Apple.

Stay safe and good curling.

Joe Sablow, Gail Boggio, Mike Shalhoub, and Gudrun Sablow at the first Big Apple



Digital Big Apple Bonspiel

-- **Seth Altman**

On Sunday, March 22, 25 Ardsley curlers took to the internet and participated in the first ever Digital Big Apple Bonspiel. Driven by their love for curling and a slight hint of cabin fever, these “curlers” worked their way through a single-elimination tournament until, late in the evening, Keith Wisbauer (Wisbauer) was crowned champion with the last shot in a nail-biting final game over Nate O'Reilly (natron13).



Inspired by CurlingZone's virtual tournament with the elite curling community, including curlers like Matt Hamilton, Reid Carruthers, Matt Dunstone, Brett Gallant, Danielle Inglis, Robbie Gordon, and Andrew Stopera, some Ardsley folks thought this might be a fun way to get people together outside the club and recapture some of the camaraderie and curling spirit that we've all been missing. "The curling community is finding creative ways to come together right now, with events like online tournaments and virtual broomstacking sessions. I hoped we could do the same at the club level, and it was great to see everyone come together to curl, chat and have some fun for a few hours" said co-organizer Erin Durba (Warm Room Skip).

It was great to see so many people come out and have a few laughs. The website offers a chat room for encouragement and trash talk, as well as the ability for guests to watch and offer their thoughts like a real warm room. As Club President Joe Sablow added, "the Digital Big Apple [was] a great distraction and a great way to keep us all connected with each other. Just like the actual game - [it] looks a lot easier than it is."

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Games stretched for several hours on Sunday afternoon/night - some more competitive than others. In one matchup, Joe Sablow was able to fight off Michael Villanova's potential eight-ender. Early on, it became clear that several curlers, including Matthew Rosenbloom (Doublution), Annie Goodwin (A Good Win), Jim Mantia (CD Truckdriver), and Scott Druskin (Scott D), may be serious contenders for the title. But in the end, Keith and Nate worked their way through the field, showing deft touch with their draws and their ability to navigate some tough ice.





Duck of the Month

Masked duck

(*Nomonyx dominicus*)

These secretive ducks range widely in the American tropics. Their built-in mask and solitary lifestyle make them experts at practicing social distancing.

Digital BA

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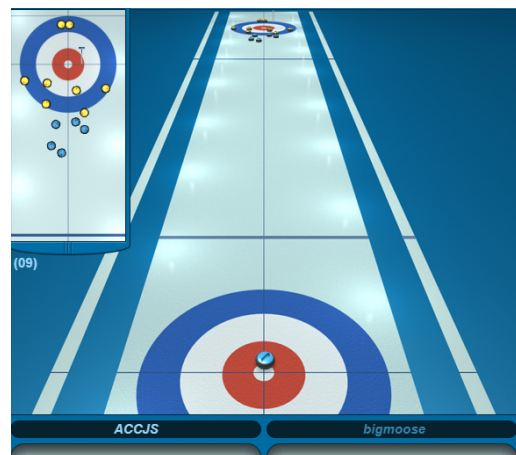
Thanks to everyone who came out and played and a special thanks to those behind the scenes - Erin Durba, Meg O'Reilly (meglet), Nate O'Reilly, and Seth Altman (The Salty Dog). Looking back on his victory, Keith Wisbauer commented "It was great that everyone got together. The game is pretty silly, but it's enough to use the curling brain. Something I'd encourage everyone to at least try." If you'd like to participate in future events or just to play on your own to satisfy your curling fix, you can find the game and create a free account at playcurling.com.

See you on the "ice."

Michael Villanova had 8 yellow stones in the house - but our crafty president, Joe S, with hammer, was able to prevent an 8-ender.



Cassie is taking pawcautions and hopes Lucky and Garth are too!



CURLER ON THE SHEET INTERVIEW

How I discovered curling (and the result!)?

-- by *rsk*

Jean Moss

In 2014, a good friend said his favorite sport was curling. I thought he was pulling my leg, but I tuned in to the Olympics that year and really liked it. Bitten by the curling bug, I discovered ACC and came to an open house in 2016. It was a blast, and I signed up for the rest of the season. I fell backwards after some fast moving sweeping that year, got a concussion and whiplash, which ended the season for me, but didn't deter me from signing back up the following Sept.

I love bowling, was on my bowling team in college, and continued with bowling all my life recreationally, even organizing bowling tournaments at away work conferences every year. There is a similarity to the delivery with bowling. Enough so that when I first tried delivering a stone, it felt familiar, though not easy-lots of delivery falls my first year. And my favorite thing to do (or try for) in delivering the stone is a take out. (strike!)

What I found most intriguing is the strategy. I sometimes become so distracted by what the best next move might be during a game, or on another sheet, that I may be late getting into place to sweep the next rock! I had a lot of fun trying to be a skip and attempting to put strategies into practice at the last Cool Duck bonspiel. My teammates can vouch for the fact that I was a bit indecisive at times (sweep!! No, wait, stop sweeping! LOL).

All my life, I've been attracted to entering competitions, whether it be play writing, acting, poetry writing, bowling, art, karaoke. And, I even entered pageants when I was young (former Hudson Valley's Junior Miss, as one example!). Curling offers self competition and skills improvement, with never ending new shot opportunities. Then I learned about bonspiels! Heaven! And I was a pin collector before I learned about curling, so double Heaven when I learned about the pin thing and curling! Also, I'm so impressed and inspired by everyone's talent at the club. I see incredible shots at every game.

One small example I can think of how curling has changed my life is when making my way home during the November 2018 surprise snowstorm that caused a traffic debacle. After 3 slow hours of travel home from work, traffic was stopped on the Storm King Mountain Rt 9W near West Point. The Cornwall Police decided to guide a plow truck on a winding path around the many stuck cars in both lanes. We were all to follow behind. I started up my car and my wheels spun. It was uphill and too much new snow had fallen while waiting. I thought of my curling broom, got out and swept about a foot in front of each front tire.



And it worked! I was able to keep going - thanks to my broom! What was normally a 50-minute drive home from work took 4.5 hours, but less than it would have been without the broom, which was no worse for the wear.

Having curling in my life has given me the opportunity to meet some of the most kind, warm, and interesting persons on the planet, at the club and at competitions & curling camp. I've traveled to states, and Canada, that I never would have otherwise visited. Curling constantly challenges your mind, as well as contributes to fitness, and it's just plain fun! I travel two hours round trip to curl and it's well worth it. I shared this great sport with my work colleagues by organizing corporate events with participants from 3 of our offices over the last 2 seasons.

Everyone had lots of fun and wants to do it again next year!

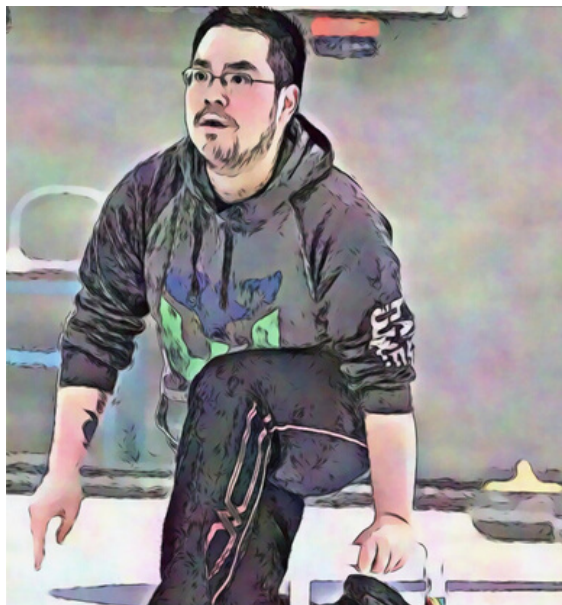
ACC curling has enriched my life with comradery, skills, challenges, and fun.

CURLER ON THE SHEET INTERVIEW

-- *by rsk*

How I discovered curling (and the result!)?

Jonathan Leung



I discovered curling while working on the overnight shift in early 2018. As you can imagine, your mind starts to wander due to the unusual work hours. This often leads to a lot of Google searches. I remembered that there was a short news story on USA Curling earlier one evening so I did a search for curling to read up about the game and how it is played.

Growing up, I was always the "weird" kid who would at least consider trying something once. With curling, you can't help but notice that it's different when you see people releasing heavy stones, gliding on the ice, using brooms, and yelling all kinds of commands. For me, after I researched how to play and what the rules were, it felt like this was something I had to go find.

A web search for curling led to the expected "where is curling in NY" search and I saw that there was a club in Ardsley that was minutes from Mercy College, which is where I went for my degree. I remember seeing a link on the Ardsley Curling Club's website about trying it out for \$20. A co-worker who was in the room, noticed the website I was looking at, and asked if I was going to try it. I vividly remember going back-and-forth whether I would or not, saying that I would probably look like a fool in front of strangers. He told me to try it and the worst case was that I'd be out \$20.

So I tried it, and managed to survive and not feel any more embarrassed or foolish than anyone else who was there for the first time. The instructors were welcoming, encouraging, and friendly. There was a clear sense or presence of camaraderie for sure. It felt like a place and a sport I could enjoy...challenge my skills, express some of my competitiveness and make friends.

Curling has made me realize that it's more important to have fun than to worry about winning all the time. It's helped me relax and let go of a lot of the competitiveness I had when I was younger. It also helped that a lot of people I met early on were very welcoming. That's why for me, it's important to volunteer at Open Houses, Learn to Curls, and Samplers. I want to convey in some way, whether it's

through instruction or words, that curling's not only a fun activity, but the Club is a place you could call a second home.

In curling, someone can get up to speed rather quickly, that adds to the fun, but it takes time to get good. Refining one's delivery, speed and learning the strategies are the true challenges over time. The play is competitive and you constantly challenge yourself to improve. But like with any game or sport, sometimes it can get too serious. Winning is nice, but it's not the only thing. There are much bigger things going on in the world, so getting upset about not hitting a particular shot can seem a bit ridiculous.

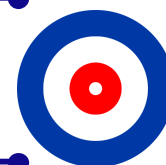
Being a part of a curling Club has definitely changed my life. I've met and become friends with people who I probably never would have crossed paths with. There isn't a day that goes by where I don't think about or watch curling, view instructional videos about it, or receive an e-mail about it from a friend or organization.



I look forward to more.
Good curling.



League Roundup



Monday-Thorndike

1st: Bill Stopera, Martin Sather,
George Austin, Pete Austin,
Mike Murphy

2nd: Catie Daly, Dan Gerlach, Jeff
Casper, Tom Daly, Susan Petersen

Tuesday Doubles

1st: Pam Politano
and Bill Stopera

2nd: Fiona Crisp
and Michael Villanova

Wednesday-Mens

Blanton Winners:

Gold: Ray Ullmer, Keith Wisbauer,
Steve Hess, Michael Higgins

Silver: Tim Klein, Tom Doherty,
Seth Altman, Billy Nauman

Wells Winners:

Gold: Dan Tufaro, Zach Aragosa,
Stefan Benkowski, Greg McCarron,
Jim Borgia

Silver: Matt Scheiner, Tom Vespo,
Scott Druskin, Michael Mraz

Furline Winners:

Mike Spensieri, Nate O'Reilly,
Seth Altman, Jeff Greenberg,
Curt Pader

Thursday-Night

First Half Winners:

1st: Dave Schrull, Sharon Gallegos,
Gudrun Sablow, David Santini

2nd: Mike Infranco, Barbara Gabhart,
Adam Dore, Ruth Loomis, Michael
Higgins

3rd: Jim Duke, Geoff Domm, Steve
Wruble, Jason Dore, Meg O'Reilly

Second Half Winners:

Score Sheets quarantined by
COVID-19

Friday-Night

Session 1

Tom Daly (skip), Scott Druskin,
Miles Lum, Andrew Jarratt

Session 2

Tom Daly (skip), Erin Durba,
Scott Druskin, Amber Will, Jason
Thoms

Session 3

Doug Hill (skip), Nate and Meg
O'Reilly, Nikki & David Pirrello

Saturday-Night

Jon Schuster, Mike Infranco,
Valeria Barreto, and Karina
Ansok were the undefeated
winners of the first session.

Heinz Gruettner, Dolores
Redding, Suki Miyamoto, and
Bob Kennedy won the
abbreviated second session.

Sunday-Morning

Thanks to everyone who
participated in Sunday Morning
drop-in curling. We had many great
games, newer members tried their
hand at Vice and Skip positions, and
all enjoyed a few slices of pizza
afterwards.

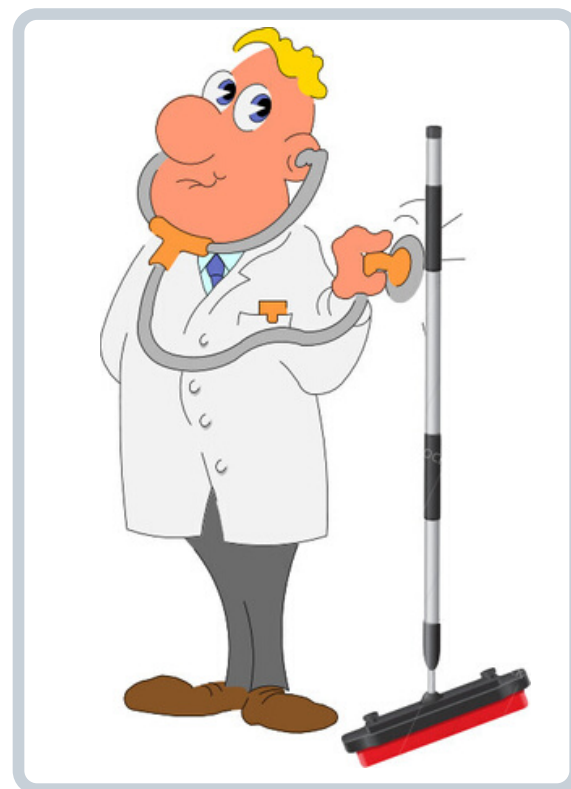
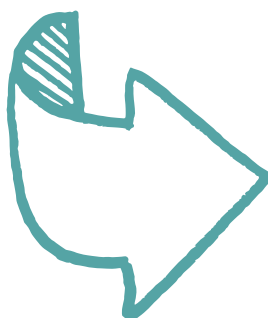
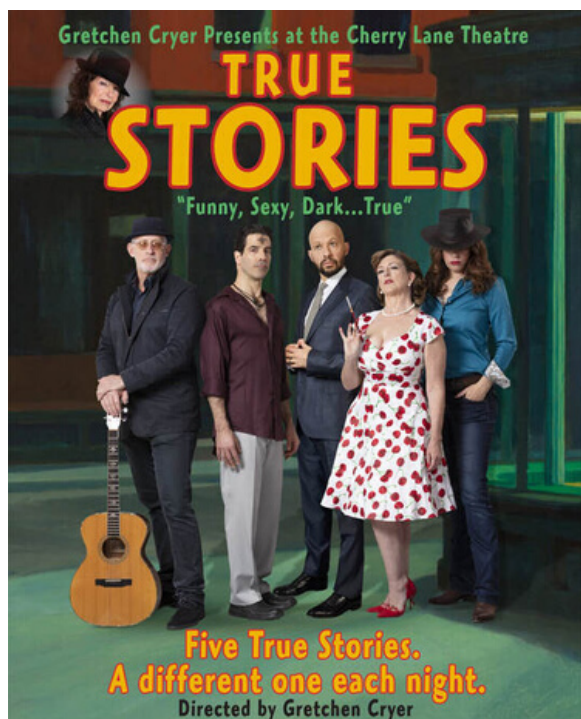
Mike would like to give special
thanks and recognition to Colin
Kasprowicz, who always arrived
early to get the ice ready. It should
be noted that he was ably assisted
by his son Ilya and Colin St. Aubin.

Sunday-Juniors

A fun season (while it lasted). A
total of 21 different juniors
participated, and on average we
had about 16 juniors each week,
significantly up from last year.
Our club participated in 4 Junior
Bonspiels: Plainfield Juniors,
Nutmeg Neon, Norfolk Juniors
and the Green Junior Bonspiel in
Schenectady. We also visited
Nutmeg for the 3rd annual Junior
Friendly called DuckMeg. The
year ended with an in house
virtual bonspiel. The finals to be
held April 5th.

Cartoon Caption Contest

Submit a caption for this curling cartoon.
A panel will judge, and the winner and runners up will be published in the next issue.



Tickets are available for Steve Wruble's show, pending possible postponement due to theatre closure.

10 Ways to make curling more exciting

-- from the *David Letterman* show

10. How about calling it anything but curling?
9. Instead of weird lookin' Norwegian dudes in sweaters—babes in lingerie.
8. Only allow French judges.
7. Sweep the stone toward the hog line and then...okay, I don't know crap about curling.
6. Is it too much to ask for one curler to bite another curler?
5. Throw in one of them miniature-golf windmills.
4. Instead of a granite stone, use the frozen head of Walt Disney.
3. 40% of final score comes from the swimsuit competition.
2. You don't think curling is exciting? What are you, insane?
1. First place gets gold medal, the rest are sent to CampX-Ray.

Ardsley Curling Club's Adopt a Chair Program



Derek Kayser continues to restore our warm room chairs to their original glory. Restoration includes disassembling the chair, sanding, and repainting. Reassembly includes a decal of your choice (college, business, favorite sports team, you choose) and a small plaque with your name on the back of the chair.

Adoption of a chair costs \$200 and decals should be no larger than 3 1/2 inches. For more information, contact Derek at dmkayser1918@gmail.com



Curling Quote

"They look like they're going jogging. Or maybe going to a pyjama party."
— Ed Werenich commenting on the new-style athletic gear being worn by several European teams at the 1990 World Curling Championships

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