



# DUCK SOUP

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



## Archie Bruce 2023



The 22nd Annual Archie Bruce Bonspiel was played at Ardsley January 21 & 22. This event alternates yearly between Ardsley and Cape Cod Curling Club.

Cape Cod's Liz Abeltin brought 12 curlers and two alternates to the event, while Ardsley was represented by 16 curlers, including: Mike and Madelene Knaggs, Joe and Gudrun Sablow, Lynn Salmon, Suki Miyamoto, Jim Duke, Heinz Gruettner, Tim Klein, Dave Schrull, Jon Schuster, Jeff Greenberg, Andy Ness, Jim McGinnis, and new curlers Tom and Kristen LeFebvre, who both curled brilliantly in their first bonspiel. (con'd page 2)



The Archie Bruce medal was awarded to Joe Sablow, Mike Knaggs, Suki Miyamoto, and Tom LeFebvre for winning their game by the greatest stone differential, a brutal 12-0 in the Saturday draw.

### Save the Date:

Strategy Class: Feb 12

Over/Under: Feb 26

Club Playdowns: Feb 16-19

Nutty Duck: Mar 11



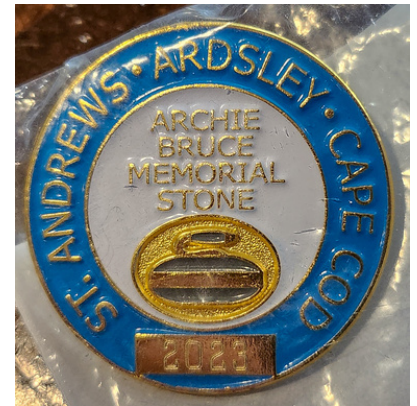
# Archie Bruce - it came down to the last stone!

--- James Weeks



In this event, the club with the greatest number of total stones is the bonspiel winner, and is awarded the Archie Bruce trophy to hold for the year. This trophy is a 42 pound curling stone atop a large wooden plinth, decorated with a wee statuette of a piper. It is very heavy and awkward to carry.

Cape Cod retained the Archie Bruce trophy with a tally of 41 stones versus Ardsley's 39. It was a Pyrrhic victory, however, as the Cape Codders had to haul the trophy back up the hill and carry it north to Falmouth, where it awaits our 2024 bonspiel.



Thanks to Tim Klein, Dave Schrull, Joe Sablow, and Mike Knaggs for providing great ice, and to Ina Obernesser and emeritus Archie Bruce chair Jim McGinnis for the great meals (especially the early breakfast!) in the warm room. And, as always thanks to Andrew our bartender.

## Life on an Ice Sheet -- Memo from the Ice Crew

Make sure you clean your shoes before you come into the house to play.

A rolling stone may gather no moss but a curling stone may gather some dirt. Clean the bottom frequently during a game; either with gloved hand or curling broom.

Brooms pick up dirt! Clean yours frequently during a game. Brushes should be provided.

This just in: Bits of dirt and lint like to hide under and around the stones that are at rest in their respective rock houses at the warm room end. Ferret these out before they freeze in. This is one aspect that gets neglected when the sheet is swept at the end of a game. Hand sweep the hacks themselves, and the corners where the stones rest.

And, of course! Avoid: hand prints, knee prints, scratches and gouges. Check your equipment.

Your active participation in maintaining the quality of the ice is another, greatly appreciated, aspect of club membership. The Ice will thank you and so will the Ice Crew. Good Curling.



# IN MEMORIAM

## ANN MARIE "NANCY" CLANCY

**Jun 22, 1948 - Jan 22, 2023**

Nancy was a devoted curler. Arguably her greatest passion in life from her first introduction to the sport in the 1980s. Curling led Nancy to travel across the United States and often to curling rinks in other countries, including Canada, Scotland, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Iceland. Curling, and its associated social gatherings, were an outlet for Nancy's other loves in life, including dancing, friends, and generally bringing a high-energy jolt of fun to everyone around her.



Nancy (left) skip at the 2015 USWCA National Bonspiel (with Lynn Salmon, Gail Boggio, and Susan Lapham)



Nancy (below, left) John Dorff, Majic Jones, and Ray Ullmer with a winning seniors' trophy.

Nancy was often first to greet new curlers as they came in the door, and welcomed many to join her on her bonspiel journeys. She ran the Ardsley Tuesday Ladies league from 1999 - 2013 and was active on the USWCA circuit.

She curled with first husband, Kevin Clancy, until his death in 1998 and met 2nd husband, John Dorff curling at Ardsley.





# World University Games

Our own Danny Casper as part of his Team USA took a silver medal at the World University Games. Held in Lake Placid this year, the "WUGs" is the second largest sporting event to the Olympics. These "junior olympics" included over 2500 athletes from over 50 countries over 11 days of competition. To be eligible, athletes must be taking classes at a college and be between 17 and 25 years old. The U.S. is the only country to medal twice in curling, with the women earning bronze.



2023 WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

SILVER



Team Casper made it through on the strength of winning two of three extra end games and a huge win over Team Canada to end up the three seed in the playoffs. After a gutty win against the Swiss, they found themselves in front of a packed house playing Great Britain for the gold. Alas, we fell short after just a couple key misses.

WUGs has been an engine for development upstate. Over \$550 million dollars was spent to refurbish and build out all the facilities in and around Lake Placid. Curling saw a \$7 million investment to completely redo the Saranac Lake Civic Center. Primarily used for hockey and summer events, the Civic Center is now a top tier curling facility, too. Saranac Lake Curling Club will definitely see an uptick in membership. Thank you for all of your support, viewing and cheering on ESPN+. They really felt it.

# Duck of the Month

## Knob-billed Duck

(*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)

These African comb ducks are found in Sub-Saharan Africa. The males have a large black lump on the head. Perhaps hit on the noggin one time too many by a curling stone.

photo credit: Debbie van Zyl




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## Curling -- Aanya Goenka

*In the hack and grip your rock,  
Crouch and gracefully slide.  
Eyes on the broom across the sheet,  
Send the stone across the ice.  
First, I played Lead and threw a guard,  
Then I could sweep really hard.  
Second, I took out all their rocks,  
The ice is so keen beneath my socks.  
Thirdly, they had me hold the broom,  
Up in a house with no doom.  
Fourth was a team who plays together,*

*They will come out no matter the weather.  
Five are the rocks that can't be moved,  
The Five Rock Rule that keeps them glued.  
Now the house is getting full,  
Rocks in top twelve, four, and eight.  
Try the takeout, but watch the jam,  
Need to throw a lot of weight!  
We got hammer and it's the last shot,  
Draw to button, a clear shot.  
Sweep and watch it curl,  
It looks easy, but it's not!*

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## 5U Nationals Bound

Congratulations to Team O'Reilly (Nate, Mike, Stefan, and Jim) for winning the A-Event at the Brunchspiel Potomac Curling Club!

They now move on to the USA Curling 5U National Championship this April in Minnesota!



## Empire State - Jan 20-22

We had two teams representing in the Empire State Women's Bonspiel at Utica Curling Club, with both making it to Sunday event finals! Team Davies (Pauline, Sere Politano, Pam Giambattista, and Astrid Mel) made it to the 1st Event finals, finishing as the runner ups. As a result, they received the Helen Hurd Trophy. Team Costantino (Amy, Judith Kelson, Amber Will, and Katy Hodgdon) got to the 3rd Event finals, also finishing as the runner ups.



Team Davies would like to dedicate their win to Nancy Clancy, who was a long time Empire State participant and Ardsley's representative on the Empire State committee for many years.

## Governor's Bowl



Ardsley had several members and alumni represented at the Albany Curling Club's 57th Annual Governor's Bonspiel on January 19-23, 2023. Team Ardsley consisted of Matt Scheiner, Tom Vespo, Vinay Goenka, and Matt Rogala. Also representing parts of two various Schenectady teams were our club President, Derek Kayser, playing with club alumnus Gert Messing (Defending Champs). Alumnus, Brian Stewart, played on the eventual championship team skipped by Dion Warr. Teams Scheiner and Messing met in the semifinal and played an exciting matchup that resulted in Team Messing meeting Team Warr in the final. Team Scheiner eventually beat another Schenectady team, skipped by Pat Fitzgerald, in the D final (essentially the 3rd place game). The Albany Curling Club is always full of fun energy and good laughs. It is a relatively short drive of about 2.5 hours from Ardsley and worth the trip if you're looking to visit another club.

## Albany 5U Open

Kellen McNally, Jonathan Leung, Holly Halmo, and Mike Horowitz played in the USWCA East 5 & Under Bonspiel from Dec 15-18. After losing a tough one to Schenectady on Thursday Night, they ran off wins versus the Albany, Blackstone (Hopedale, MA), and Finger Lakes (Ithaca, NY) Curling Clubs to win the B-Event.



## Cracked Bell

The team of Tom Vespo (Skip), Joe Sablow (Vice), Jeff Greenberg (Second), and Jack Glanzer (Lead) were the B-Event runners up in the Cracked Bell Bonspiel at the Philadelphia Curling Club, January 6-8.

The team of Tom Vespo (Skip), Tim Klein (Vice), Jeff Greenberg (Second), and Chase Hodgdon (Lead) won the C-Event at the Ice Box Bonspiel at the Norfolk Curling Club. After a close second round loss in the A-Event to the eventual overall runners up sent them into the C-Event, they would never look back, winning the rest of their games. Their semifinal matchup was probably the most memorable game of the spiel. Down 6-2 after 6 ends, the Ardsley rink scored 3 in the 7th, stole one in the 8th to send the game to an extra end, where they would once again come up with the steal to send them into the finals.

## Ice Box





## Women's Scots Tour

On Monday, November 7th, 2022, Pauline Davies and Gudrun Sablow travelled to the Nashua Curling Club to represent Team USA vs. the Women's Scots Tour team. The Scottish women had been touring the US since October 19, 2022, and their game at the Nashua Curling Club was near the final days of their tour. It was a competitive game (with the Scottish Women winning on all 4 sheets), followed by a cooking demonstration, luncheon, and entertainment provided by the Scottish women at the Nashua Country Club. It was an honor for both of our Ardsley women to be a part of this international curling tradition.




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## Men's Scots Tour

Across the Pond, Ardsley's Mike Shalhoub was selected to be one of the 20 "tourists" representing the USA in the 2022 Men's Scots Tour (delayed until Jan 2023). The USA Tourists have officially retained the coveted Herries-Maxwell Trophy by leading the Scots by 171 points over the 32 draws.

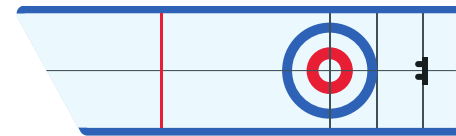
more at: [HTTPS://2022ScotTour.blogspot.com](https://2022ScotTour.blogspot.com)







# League Roundup



## Monday Thorndike: chair Keith Wisbauer

This years Thorndike, Ardsley's Monday night competitive league, is being contested by eleven teams. In the standings, two teams have stood out. Team Poole-Dayana (Greg Poole-Dayana, Scott Silverman, Tom Vespo, Alice Yeh, Dennis Mellerup) have a 9-3-2 and currently sit in second place. Leading the way with a record of 11-3 is team Stopera (Bill Stopera, Martin Sather, Peter Austin, George Austin, Megan Stopera). The top four teams in the league qualify for the page playoff at the end of the season to determine the champion.

Playoffs are scheduled to begin March 27th and club members are welcome to attend.

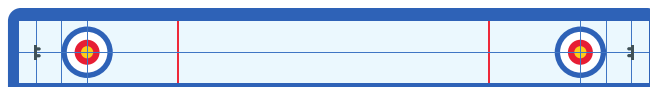
A special shout-out to curlers participating in the league for the first time this year: Stefan Benkowski, Scott Druskin, Chase Hodgdon, Colin St. Aubin, Greg McCarron, Walter Michalski, and Megan Stopera.

I strongly encourage anyone considering playing in competitive league to put a team together, or contact myself or the club. The league used to be fourteen teams and we have enough strong curlers to fill those spots.

## Wednesday:

### chair Stefan Benkowski

Congratulations to Team Bilodeau for winning The Blanton, the fall Wed. Night Men's Jr. Skip league in a hard fought final match against Team Angelli. The win promotes Jim to skipping in The Wells, the Wednesday Night Men's Championship league. Team Welch placed second and Bob Welch will skip The Wells in 2024 taking a sabbatical year. In his place Mike Horowitz was promoted in his stead.



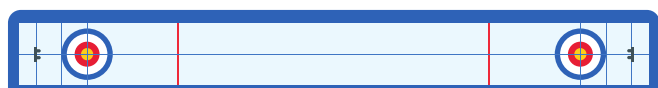
Skip: Jim Bilodeau, Vice: Keith Wisbauer, Second: Seth Altman, Lead: Demitri Muna

# League Roundup



## Sunday Juniors: chair Rich Goodwin

The Sunday afternoon Junior programs has grown to have 23 registered curlers this year. We're sending 2.5 teams (10 curlers) to the Neon Bonspiel at Nutmeg in February for glow in the dark curling. The kids are having a lot of fun and their skill level has greatly improved. Pictured here is our latest toy -- Curling Limbo Equipment. Thanks Derek! The Juniors love it. Adults are also welcome to try it, if you are feeling flexible and want a challenge.



## Thursday: chair Mike Horowitz

Fall Thursday night league champions: Team Politano. (l-r) Nora Mongardi, Walter Michalski, Sere Politano, and David Santini.

## Tuesday Doubles: chair Jim Bilodeau

Tuesday Doubles curling is going strong with 8 teams competing this year. Jim and Sere are currently undefeated (with 1 tie).





# Message from the President

-- *Derek Kayser*

Lately, I'm sure you've all been seeing emails with the subject: "A desperate call for volunteers." You may have even noticed all the extra corporate events, Learn-to-Curls, Curling and Cocktails evenings, and many other special events that bring extra income to the club. That's because of the work of Travis Spokes and his group of about 30 volunteers, who have been doing an incredible job this year. The revenue they are working to bring into the club is why we can cover our ever-rising rent and bills without raising your dues.

I like to think we have been transparent about our situation - rent is high, the search for alternative accommodations is difficult in the best of times, and our already high expenses are rising. The work that volunteers do at these events is the work that financially sustains us, but there is only so much work the core group of 30 folks who constantly show up can shoulder. At this point I would like to speak to the other 150 members: I know that life is busy, you get home from work and you're tired - the drive is annoying and there are other things that need to get done, but at the end of the day we are a community, and the curling club needs you. Club upkeep - especially in a world where our dues are kept low by keeping up this volume of special events - cannot be done by such a small percentage of our community. This is my appeal to us all, if we all volunteered at one event per year we would be in really great shape getting what has to be done, done.

This club has made significant strides in the past 5 years - from not knowing if we were going to have a facility at all, to reinvesting in our club by renovating, to increasing our membership to nearly 200, to hosting the premier 5-And-Under and Open Bonspiels on all of the east coast - all of this in such a short time has been such an accomplishment. This is all due to the hard work of our member volunteers. Think of all we could accomplish if the entirety of our community was volunteering.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

### PRIVATE EVENTS:

Feb. 4th 1-4pm

Feb. 5th 3-6pm

Feb. 6th 6-10pm

Feb. 9th 10am-1pm

### OPEN HOUSE:

Feb. 11th 1-4pm

### CURLING AND

### COCKTAILS:

Feb. 11th 8:30-11:30pm



<https://broomfitters.com/ardsley>

Ardsley now has a club shop on Broomfitters. Try it for great merchandise like shirts, hats, sweatshirts, water bottles and the popular "I don't hate it" shirt. If you buy through the link, or use the code "Ardsley" at checkout you'll receive a 5% discount.

## Corporate Sponsors



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P.O. Box 54, Ardsley, NY 10503 // 100 N. Mountain Dr, Dobbs Ferry, NY  
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Matt Rogala, Lynn Salmon, Travis Spokes, Tom Vespo  
Duck Soup Editor: **Lynn Salmon**

