



Official Newsletter of the Ardsley Curling Club

DUCK SOUP

February 2015

"All the News That Fits"



North Mountain Drive
Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY 10502



Upcoming Events

National Championships
February 14 - 21
Kalamazoo

McKay-Douglas (men's)
February 19 - 22
Ardsley Curling Club

Francis Dykes (men's 5 & under)
February 25 - March 1
Broomstones Curling Club

Elisabeth Childs (women's 5 & under)
March 12 - 15
Potomac Curling Club

**A complete calendar of GNCC events
is available at gncc.org**

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Between the Sheets at the Empire State

Nancy Clancy

The 61st Empire State Bonspiel for women was held at the Ardsley Curling Club this January. Our theme, Between the Sheets, focused on pampering women. We were treated to a high level of competition with twenty-four international teams competing for the Empire State Medal and the Ardsley Duck Trophy. The winners were the defending champions, Utica 2: Cindy Brown, Lis DeGironimo, Barb Felice, and Kathy Palazzoli.

The event began on Thursday, with a wonderful welcoming party hosted by Mary Lockhart at her beautiful home. There was delicious food, a live jazz combo, and handsome bartenders served our signature Between the Sheets drink. Cheryl Bernard, skip of the Canadian Women's 2010 Winter Olympics Team donated copies of her book, Between the Sheets, for our raffle.

On Friday, the women were able to get paraffin treatment and manicures, as well as shop for natural stone jewelry. That night, Il Sorriso in Irvington stepped up to be an outstanding eleventh hour substitute for the country club banquet, with music and dancing. On Saturday, there were massage therapists on duty from 10 until 5. With curling morning, noon and night, the "Where's the Beef" duo of Matt Scheiner and John Dorff served a first class beef tenderloin dinner.

The ice storm created problems on Sunday, but the competitors were very good sports, and we were able to play all but one game after a two-and-a-half-hour delay. The finalists were led onto the ice by the Bergen County Firefighter Pipe Band. It was spectacular!

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Ardsley Curling Club is well represented at the upcoming National Championships Feb 14-21 in Kalamazoo, MI. Joyance Meechai is skipping one of the 10 Women's teams at the event. On the men's side you can cheer on Bill Stopera and Martin Sather, vice and second for Team Gemmell. Andrew Stopera playing lead for Team Dropkin, and Will Pryor, lead for Team Meyers. Go Ardsley!

THE CHAMP

Barbara Gabhart



Ardsley Curling Club added a new national champion to the ranks. Will Pryor and Team Meyers take Gold at the US Men's Junior National Championships held in North Dakota on Jan 25. Andrew Stopera took silver on team High Performance in a close final match.

Team Meyers includes:

Skip - Ethan Meyers: 21, a Biomedical Engineering senior at University of Minnesota
Years curled: 12 - Duluth Curling Club

Vice - Quinn Evenson: 19, native of Alaska, currently student and Certified Personal Trainer living in Duluth. Years curled: 9

Second - Steven Szemple: 18, senior at J.P. Stevens HS in Edison, NJ. Years curled: 9. Plainfield Curling Club

Lead - William Pryor: 18, freshman at University of Minnesota studying economics. Years curled: 5

Coach - Linda Christensen, Duluth Curling Club

Between the boys, they have 8 regional/state championships, 3 junior national medals (not counting this year!), 2 junior national semi finalists, 1 men's club nationals semi finalists, and 1 gold Optimist U18 medal.

They're the nicest, easiest going competitive team I have seen. Am I biased? Probably!

Spirited Juniors

Pam Politano

The GNCC Spirit of Curling award was presented to Team Schoder at the GNCC Junior Playdowns in December. The team consisted of Ardsley players Ellen Schoder and Seré Politano and Philadelphia players Susan Dudd and Sarah Ogawa. The girls were selected by their peers for playing honorably and for being fierce competitors on the ice but, most importantly, always friendly and respectful off the ice and thus exemplifying the true spirit of curling.

Also competing at the event was Danny Casper who was on a team skipped by Eli Clawson of Potomac, along with teammates Andrew Gittis (Philadelphia) and Chris Pingitore (Potomac).

The Ardsley Juniors wish to extend their thanks to the Rochester Curling Club for sponsoring the event. The ice was keen and the competition very strong.

ROBERT BURNS 2015



AULD LANG SYNE



Pictured from left to right - James, Katie, Nicole, William, Christina, Benny, Pete, Alex, Johnny, Matt and Matt.

GNCC Men's Senior Championships

Norfolk Curling Club hosted 20 teams from all over New England for the Grand National Curling Club Men's Senior Championships Jan 29 - Feb 1. Jim McGinnis is shown delivering a stone.



The Ice is Especially Friendly

Nicole Zahour

On Saturday, January 10th, the Ardsley Special Olympic Curlers and Ardsley club volunteers travelled to Nutmeg in Bridgeport CT to play a friendly. We put together two teams who played against two Nutmeg Special Olympic teams. Playing at a different club was challenging as the ice was faster than our players were used to. It was a fun time with two tight games but Ardsley was victorious in both games!

GOOD GENES

Jean MacIntosh hung up her curling shoes last year at the young age of 94. Jean began curling at St. Andrews before Ardsley had their own ice, and she is the oldest active member to have curled at Ardsley. Close contenders include Carl Honzak (92) and Ann Duncan (91).

The Irvington Historical Society published a profile of Jean's life after she celebrated her 95th birthday last October. A few tidbits -- Her first job as a high school English teacher in South Onondaga, NY paid an annual salary of \$1,100. In 1943, she enlisted in the US Navy and eventually met her husband-to-be. They honeymooned in Cuba before settling in Irvington. Jean has travelled extensively for curling with SLICCS, Senior Ladies International Curling Club. She still stops by the club, and we may yet see her back on the ice. We should all hope to have such good genes!

Between the Sheets at the Empire State

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From brand new curlers to veterans, and everyone in between, the Ardsley Curling Club showed itself to be top class, generous, friendly, and the home of superb ice maintenance. Simply the best! It was all made possible by the volunteers who bought, cooked, served and cleaned up food. More volunteers donated, arranged, bid on and sold raffle tickets. Others provided an artistic bonspiel logo, signs, paperwork, and kit bags, with hand-made pins for each participant made by Melissa Dominguez. More volunteers took photos, and provided live streaming and commentary. Lindsey McKee did a professional

decorating job upstairs, and a wonderful private massage room was created downstairs by Lyn Greaves.

The membership of Ardsley Curling Club put on a first class event, and made a handsome profit doing so. Nancy Clancy, as bonspiel chair, had the support of co-chairs Taylor Block, Leeza Furman, and Karen Luckey. Each one of us recruited an impressive group of volunteers to make the event the most successful in the club's history.

Bonspiel Results:

A Event (Empire State Medal)

Team Brown - Utica 2 (w)

Team Karst - Madison-Ardsley (r-up)

B Event (Schenectady Stone)

Team Hall - Schenectady 3 (w)

Team Boutilier - Nova Scotia (r-up)

C Event (Rochester Thistle Trophy)

Team Davies - Ardsley 2 (w)

Team Colacchio - Cape Cod (r-up)

D Event (Hurd Brothers Trophy)

Team Wood - Rochester 2 (w)

Team Stannard - Nutmeg 2 (r-up)

League Roundup

Wednesday Night Mens - Blanton:

The first half of the year featured the Blanton with "junior" skips. A tie-breaker determined the final standings with the top two teams each having 9 wins and 2 losses. Taking the Gold Medal was Mike Spensieri with Dave Shrull, Brian Stewart, Heinz Gruettner, and Kevin Greaves. Nick Beaton won the silver with Dan Tufaro, Steve Agostinho, and Cory Fischer.

Sunday Morning Jug Ogden: Jim Borgia

The Sunday morning Jug Ogden Junior Skip league started the first half of the season quickly. With four new curlers

joining us, we are now using three sheets regularly. This compares favorably to the two previous years where only two sheets were used. Additionally, we have three junior curlers who join us regularly, play together, and are fun to watch. Several experienced skips play vice and offer their advice to their skips as well as the opposing skips.

In December, we brought back strategy sessions before going on the ice. Our first discussions included reading the ice for curl and speed, timing stones, zones, and communicating speed to the skip. Future sessions will include skip communication, shot selection, team member responsibilities

and teamwork. This is a learning league where players can try new positions in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

This is also considered a drop-in league, so if you'd like to join us, you're more than welcome. Teams are varied each week and positions are selected based on player's requests and experience. Although teams are created the night before based on who is expected, teams are finalized on the spot based on who shows up.

Please email Jim Borgia at jfxborgia@yahoo.com if you'd like to join us regularly or if you're going to drop-in.

USWCA SENIOR BONSPIEL

Nancy Clancy

Nancy Clancy joined three Plainfield curlers and traveled to Green Bay, Wisconsin for the USWCA Senior Bonspiel. Our team name was Port Authority. We toured Lambeau Field, ate in Bret Farve's Steak House, and became at least temporary Packer fans. The theme was Wine and

Cheese, so we dressed as bunches of grapes. A lovely party was held in the beautiful home of Tom and Carla Casper, Jeff's uncle and aunt. Our record was 1 - 2, but our losses were to the First Event Runner-up and the Second Event Winner (by 1 rock).



DUCK OF THE month



Falkland steamerduck (Tachyeres brachypterus)

A large, flightless waterbird that propels itself across the surface of the water reminiscent of an old paddle steamer. Four steamer ducks weigh about the same as one curling stone.

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