

Medalists - McKay-Douglas International – February 22-25, 2007

Ardsley Curling Club, Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY

Here are the winners of the McKay-Douglas events. Thanks to all of all the volunteers who made it work. The bonspiel generated more than \$14,000 of profit for the club due in large part to the Journal, but also the raffle, food donations, ice committee contributions, etc. And the feedback from participating teams was very positive. The McKay-Douglas is both a significant curling event and a top money maker for the club, and deserves continued strong support from the membership

First Event – Douglas Medal

Winner – Plainfield – Don Baird, Bill Peskoff, Bob Graham, Eric Blassneck

Runner Up – Plainfield/Potomac – Dean Gemmel, Derek Surka, Ivo Petrov, Mark Mooney

Second Event – New York Caledonian Medal

Winner – NY Caledonian 1 – Jeff Lesuk, Scott Silverman, Brian O’Neill, Bill Pekowitz

Runner Up – RCN (Navy) Ottawa – Johnny Morrissey, Jim Cole, Gert Messing, John Dorff

Third Event – Ardsley Medal

Winner – Schenectady – Pat Fitzgerald, Dion Warr, Jeff Mayott, Dennis Quinn

Runner Up – St. Andrews – Steve Smith, Norm Laird, Bill Borowitz, Pete Westrell

Fourth Event – Williamson Medal

Winner – Philadelphia – Tony Steiert, Ken Blankenstein, Eric Palmer, Vincent Fumo

Runner Up – Ardsley Park – Link Heffner, George Shirk, Pete DeJong, Andy Stedman

Fifth Event – Mahopac Medal

Winner – Ardsley 4 – Isa Barghout, Jim Kindler, David Wagenheim, Brad Sabel

Runner Up – Nutmeg 1 – Jeff Hannon, Terry Smith, Rob Reihl, Andrew Sherriff

Sixth Event – St. Andrews Medal

Winner – Ardsley 1 – Ed Siebert, Mark Bussy, Paul Huebner, Anthony Huebner

Runner Up – Ardsley 5 – John Noble, Tim Klein, Martin Webb, Mike Courts

The Final Thorndike Standings:

	W	L	Pts		W	L	Pts
Stopera	16	4	24	Barghout	11	8	11
Messing	15	5	22.5	Meechai	9	10	9
Austin	14	6	21	Muldowney	9	10	9
Clancy	10	9	11	Seibert	9	11	9
Lesuk	7	13	10.5	Greene	9	11	9
Gutekunst	5	14	5	Silverman	6	13	8

Tuesday Women's League

The winners of the Wells Wick, the women's club championship, was won by the team of Sandy Gaffner, Laurie Frees, Heather Morrison, and Michelle Schleibaum. Second place went to Alice Yeh, ML Banino, Pippa Broadhurst, and Hsiao-lien Boardman.

Team records:

Gaffner 4-0

Yeh 3-1

Mackay 1-3

Clancy 1-3

Murphy 1-3

Due to an oversight in the last edition, the following info was omitted: the Ardsley 1 team of Joyance Meechai, Pauline Davies, Sandy Gaffner, and Lisabeth Sugahara won the second event in the Empire State. Congratulations!

Contact Nancy Clancy at curlnancy@aol.com if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the women's monthly summer dinners at local restaurants.

The Men's Wednesday Night Curling League (Wells 2007)

The men would like to thank the ladies of Tuesday night and the curlers of Thursday night for adjusting their schedules to help the men find ice time because of what happened to Sheet A. We would like to also thank the Ice Committee and all its members for what they do for the club throughout the season. The final standings in the Wells 2007 are:

1. Gert Messing	1 0	1
2. Peter Austin	7	4
3. George Austin	7	4
4. Mark Bussy	6	5
5. Geoff Broadhurst	5	6
6. Tom Doherty	5	6
7. Jeff Lesuk	5	6
8. Bill Stopera	5	6
9. Walter Baggett	5	6
10. Jerry McCarty	5	6
11. Adam Chebetar	3	8
12. Trevor Davey	3	8

The 1st place team was Gert Messing, Bill Pekowitz, Shoji Takiguchi, Richard Kilsheimer, Ethan Roeder.

The 2nd place team was Peter Austin, Brian O'Neill, John Dorff, Paul Hendry, Harry Quinn.

The Men's League this year had a nice combination of experienced curlers and new curlers. The training that the new curlers received in the beginning of the season was just outstanding. We had a total of 60 curlers in the Wednesday Night Men's League in both the first and second half of our season. It was great to see so many people interested in curling on Wednesday nights. Looking forward to seeing everybody back next season.

Tom Doherty Wednesday Night Chairperson

Whatever happened to the Mahopac Curling Club?

If any member has any history or background about this club please contact Tom Doherty @ thomas_doherty@hotmail.com

Thursday Open League Summary:

The Thursday Open League had two great league sessions this year. The second half apertura champions was the Shaloub rink. Michael Shaloub skipped with Gail Boggio as vice, Ralph Peach second, and leads shared by Jackie Yodashkin and Ed Sherin. Rink Shaloub won with a great deal of spunk and verve and more than made up for their cellar dweller finish in the fall season. The apertura had a two-way tie for second place. The Paul Huebner rink with Mike Infranco, Martin Levy, Julie Everett, and Jamie Gelardi finished even with Heather Morrison's feisty group which included Chris Banino, George Gierer, Susan Lapham, and Ellen O'Connor. Congratulations for a fine year!

2007 Headless Horseman

The 36th Headless Horseman Birthday Battle of the Curling Rock Bands

Jim O'Boyle, Executive Producer

The 36th Headless Horseman was held at the Club from Thursday evening, March 29, 2007 to Sunday April 1, 2007. All in all, it was non-stop curling. We had 20 teams on 2 sheets of ice, with draws on Thursday (8 end games) at 7PM and 9PM, Friday (8 end games) at 5:15PM, 7:30PM and 9:45PM. On Saturday (6 end games) it was all curling all the time with draws at 8AM, 9:45AM, 11:30AM, 1:15PM, 3PM, 4:45PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM and 10PM. On Sunday (6 end games draws were 8AM, 9:45AM, 11:30AM, and then in 8 end games the 3rd and 4th Event Finals were at 3PM, and the 1st and 2nd Event Finals at 5PM. We were told that the 20 teams in a Headless Horseman was a record number. The planning for 20 teams on 2 sheets with a 3 games minimum presented a challenge, but in the end it all seemed to work. The combination of 6 end games and 8 end games caused the skips to make strategy changes throughout the weekend as well. At the end of each draw each team, if they so chose, got to participate in a trivia quiz. There was a "60's" quiz, a "billboard #1 hits" quiz, and a "toys and games" quiz. There was also non-stop food to go along with the non-stop curling: appetizers and desserts brought by the curlers on Thursday and Friday, bagels and muffins for breakfast, 3 foot heros for lunch, Chinese food for dinner on Saturday, an eclectic collection for breakfast and lunch on Sunday (as some called it... leftovers), and Italian food for supper on Sunday, with a smattering of eclectic Chinese as well. We sold Headless Horseman 2007 long sleeve dry-wick shirts (Sandy Gaffner, designer), we sold raffle tickets for a 50-50, and for Mets tickets (which had been donated). We had a special performance of the song "Bad Day" (music by Daniel Powter, with curling lyrics, of course, by Jim O'Boyle) sung by our resident professional songsters, Vi Taylor and Karen Pekowitz. Not to be outdone, there were Ardsley Curling Idol performances by (i) team Gladys Knight and the Picks (Nancy "Gladys" Clancy lead singer, with the Picks – Joe Redding, Dolores Redding and John Dorff) singing, and that term is used loosely, Midnight Train to Ardsley), and (ii) team Box Tops of the House (Mike Greene, lead singer, ably backed by Ruth Loomis, David Schrull and Ed Sherin) singing (loosely, very, very loosely) The Hammer. Music from the 60's to the 2000's played continually during the bonspiel, although some participants insisted that the 2007 music was not really music. After the finals on Sunday Vic Heubner made a speech about the tradition of the Headless Horseman, and Alice Yeh commented on the new floor and the fund raising required for its completion to begin the upcoming curling season.

Due to the overwhelming support of our members with a record 20 teams in the Event, and due to everyone's generosity, the 50-50 raffle, the Mets tickets raffle and the sale of Headless Horseman shirts, the bonspiel resulted in a **profit to the Curling Club of \$2,317**. There are still some Headless Horseman 2007 dry-wick long sleeve shirts left for anyone wishing to purchase one or two or more. They are \$35.00 each. Contact Sandy Gaffner. The full gross proceeds on the sale of each remaining shirt goes directly to the Curling Club as the total cost of the shirts has already been covered. Buy, buy, buy.

And for the WINNERS:

FIRST EVENT – WINNER - WASHINGTON (Gold) MEDAL

The Who'(s Got the Hammer)

Dan Tufaro - Skip. Tim Klein – Vice Vi Taylor – Second Patricia Riedel - Lead.

The Runners-up - The Washington (Silver) Medal *The Shangri Las(t Rocks)*

Shoji Takiguchi – Skip Ralph Peach - Vice Jamey Gelardi - Second Heinz Gruetner – Lead

SECOND EVENT - Winner: The Irving (Gold) Medal Nickelhack

Adam Chebetar – Skip Lily Knighton – Vice George Fletcher – Second Zachary Fletcher – Lead

Runners-up – The Irving [Silver] Medal Lead Zeppelin

Paul Heubner – Skip Michelle Schleibaum – Vice Richard Goodwin – Second Armen Balemian – Lead

THIRD EVENT – Katrina (Gold) Medal Winner: *Box Tops (of the House)*

Mike Greene – Skip David Schrull – Vice Ruth Loomis – Second Ed Sherin – Lead

Runners-up – Katrina (Silver) Medal Cold Play

Pete Westrell – Skip Alison Bankes – Vice Norm Laird – Second Patti Burns – Lead Assisted in games by Steve Hess

FOURTH EVENT – The Graveyard (Gold) Medal Winner: *bon(spiel) Jovi*

Bill Stopera – Skip David Wagenheim – Vice Burt Reminick – Second Andrew Stopera – Lead

Runners-up – The Graveyard (Silver) Medal Dixie Skips

Sue Bussy – Skip Trish Ryan – Vice Mike Courts – Second Patrick Giambalvo – Lead

Winner of the 60's Quiz: – Bunkie Puckett and the Union Tapback Winner of the Billboard #1 Hits Quiz: – no one, pitiful answers

Winners of the Toys and Games Quiz: tie - Lead Zeppelin and Lovin' Broomful

Quiz winners received scratch lotto tickets, and some of the winning tickets were donated back to the club.

Winner of the 50-50: Jacques and Sharon Jacquet

Winner of the Met Raffle: Ed Andrews

Winner of the Ardsley Curling Idol: although it was Gladys Knight and the Picks, no invitation to Hollywood was offered. A hearty applause was the prize.

The participants and teams were as follows:

Team 1 - **Bunkie Puckett and the Union Tapback** (1967) (**Harmon, Bejnart, Wachtel, Doty**)

Team 2 - **Alice Yeh In Chains** (2007)(Yeh/Silverman, McGinnis, MCowles, GCowles)

Team 3 - **Gladys Knight and the Picks** (1967) (Clancy, Dorff, JRedding, DRedding)

Team 4 - **The Non-Rolling Stones** (1967)(McCuen, Andrews, JNawyn,KNawyn)

Team 5 - **BonSpiel Jovi** (2007) (**Stopera, Wagenheim, Reminick, AStopera**)

Team 6 - **Cold Play** (2007)(Westrell, Bankes, Laird, Burns)

Team 7 - **Lead Zeppelin** (2007)(PHeubner, Schleibaum, Goodwin, Balemian)

Team 8 - **NickelHack** (2007)(Chebetar, Knighton, GFletcher, ZFletcher)

Team 9 - **The Shangri Las t Rocks** (1967) (Takiguchi, Peach, Gelardi, Gruetner)

Team 10 - **Alcohollica** (2007)(Lesuk, Chris/ML Banino, JJacquet, SJacquet)

Team 11 - **The Who s Got the Hammer** (1967) (Tufaro, Klein, Taylor, Riedel)

Team 12 - **The Boxtops of the House** (1967)(Greene, Schrull, Loomis, Sherin)

Team 13 - **Four Foot Seasons** (1967)(MBussy, Politano, Pitt, NLawer)

Team 14 - **The Rolling Rocks** (2007)(Gestring, Shaloub, Weeks, Overnesser)

Team 15 - **The Red Hot Chili Pippas** (2007)(Broadhurst, Broadhurst, Gierer, Wang)

Team 16 - **Creedence Brinewater Revival** (1967)(Baggett, MacMillan, Din, TCYeh)

Team 17 - **Motley Curl** (2007) (Chun, Dexter, Cashman, Willey)

Team 18 - **The Dixie Skips** (2007)b(SBussy, Ryan, Courts, Giambalvo)

Team 19 - **Lovin' Broomful** (1967) (Messing, Frees, Forrest, Claus)

Team 20 - **Gerry & the Icemakers** (1967)(Davey, Davey, Melnick, Goff)

Kudos and thanks:

Thanks to the Headless Horseman Committee of Trish Ryan, Dan Tufaro, Tim Klein, and last, but certainly not least, Sandy Gaffner for helping in running the bonspiel. **Thanks to the Ice Committee** without whom we would not have had any curling: **Gert Messing, Bill Borowitz, Bill Stopera, Mark Bussy, Tim Klein, Dan Tufaro, Mike Courts, and David Wagenheim.**

Thanks to the Thursday night league (and those other league teams who had scheduled make-up games on that Thursday night) for so generously ceding their last night of curling so that we could start our bonspiel on Thursday. As it was, there was curling virtually non-stop for the entire weekend.

Thanks to Vi Taylor and Karen Pekowitz for performing **"Bad Day"**. **Thanks to Nancy Clancy's team and Mike Green's teams** for their Ardsley Curling Idol performances. **Thanks to Robin Gestring** for her generous donation of flowers. **Thanks to the "food" team** too numerous to mention. **Thanks to the "cleanup" team**, also too numerous to mention. **Thanks to Andrew** the bartender for his tireless efforts behind the bar.

Curling in Calgary By: Jim O'Boyle

Jim O'Boyle and Patti Burns from Ardsley (together with Peter De Jong) traveled to Calgary, Alberta over Easter weekend to participate in the Western Cup. Jim and Patti formed a team with 2 curlers from the Toronto area, and Peter joined a team from Calgary. Western Cup is Apollo Friends in Sports annual multi sport tournament. In 2007 Apollo celebrated their 25th Anniversary of the tournament, and has become the longest running gay and lesbian multi-sport annual tournament in North America. Inclusion is their goal and all people, whether gay or straight, are welcomed. Formed in 1981, Apollo came into existence after a small group of individuals came together with an idea to form an athletic social group. The idea was to fulfill the needs of interested people in the Calgary area with sports and social activities. Four people attended the first meeting. During that first year an invitation was extended to a similar group of people in Edmonton to play volleyball in Calgary. The first Western Cup was born. Incorporated in August 1982, the name Apollo - Friends in Sports was selected. There are now seven simultaneous tournaments running during Western Cup - Bowling, Badminton, Curling, Hockey, Running, Swimming and Volleyball. Each year over 500 athletes have participated over Easter Weekend. This year, there were over 1,000 participants. Jim, Peter and Patti were 3 of 4 US citizens who participated in the 32 rink competitive curling event. There was also an all Canadian 24 curling rink recreational event. There were also a smattering of US participants in running and hockey this year.

Jim and Patti were the skip and lead for the Ardsley- New York team. Although the curling results were not as hoped, the games were quite competitive, and the middle game actually went to a shootout where Jim drew to the 4 foot but the opposing skip drew to the button for the win. Ardsley was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the 3rd Event. Ardsley pins were given to all opponents of the Ardsley rink. Peter's team played quite well and won their first 2 games, but were eliminated in the quarterfinals of the First Event.

At the Awards ceremony, the Ardsley- New York rink was awarded the Most Sportsmanlike Team Award and therefore, Ardsley now has its name on a beautiful plaque at the Calgary Curling Club. This award is presented by the bonspiel committee of the Western Cup (nominations are made by the curlers) to the team that most embraces the true spirit of the game, and good sportsmanship both on and off the ice (or as our new friends from Montreal say *“la plupart des étreintes le vrai esprit du jeu, et le bon fair-play sur et de la glace”*). Jim and Patti are very proud of this award.

It is hoped that Ardsley can send multiple full teams to next year’s multi-sport event. All participants, whether straight or gay, are welcomed at the Western Cup. And of course, the curlers are the most friendly.

High School Curling by Peter Westrell

This year’s high school curling program was a tremendous success. We had the four quad-village schools participating: Hastings, Ardsley, Irvington and Dobbs Ferry. Each school came to the ice for a day to go through our “on ice experience.” A total of 300 students experienced first-hand the fun of curling. Instruction was provided by volunteers from the club. Enough cannot be said for their dedication and talents with these boys and girls. Without their help and generous donation of time, the program would not be possible.

Following the introduction the high school students were given a chance to practice after-school for the month of January. Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry, especially Dobbs, took advantage of the open ice with 15 to 20 curlers showing up on a regular basis. After the practice period the tournament was held. Dobbs Ferry won the Kay Sugahara trophy.

Next year, with a stronger commitment from each of the schools involved, I am anticipating further growth in the program.

Special Olympics by Peter Westrell

The Special Olympics program, headquartered in northern Westchester has been bringing special needs children to the ice for the last two years. The improvement in the skills development in these teenagers has been amazing. When we first started, some were afraid to just walk on the ice, and now they are delivering the stones with some degree of skill. With individual skill levels “all over the charts,” the volunteers; Patti Burns, Allison Bankes, Pippa Broadhurst, and Norm Laid have done a fabulous job with these special needs children.

On March 30, the last day of the program, I asked some of the curlers what they liked about curling; James and Matt said that they liked having fun with friends and knocking out the stones. Avery who doesn’t get excited about too many things said, “I do enjoy throwing the rocks.” Joey, who is quite articulate, said, “I enjoyed getting down on the ice in a real game; the strategy of bumping out the other

rocks.” Donna and Erin, who are my contacts with Special Olympics said, “Curling is the best experience that Special Olympic athletes have ever had.”

The long term goal is to have this group compete in the Special Olympic Games held in Idaho, 2009. Right now curling is a demonstration sport, but will become a regular competition sport by the time the games are held. Our group will compete against Special Olympians from the United States and Canada. This opportunity is so unique that it is hard to believe that the kids, who started on our ice, will compete on an international level. Good for them!!

To all the wonderful people who were so generous with the time and support I extend my heartfelt thanks. Because of their help and dedication special young people, who otherwise would never been given a chance, have been introduced to the sport of curling.

President’s Column: End of the Year

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

There is always something that has to be done. The brass rail under the bar has to be polished, the Ardsley Duck pins replenished, Membership forms mailed out. A curling club does not run itself. There are a million things that have to be done, and since we don’t have hired staff, those things are done by our 221 member-volunteers.

And I’m not just talking about the visible volunteers – the ones who ran the leagues, the others who chaired the bonspiels, the many who taught the newbies’ training sessions. I’m also thinking about the invisible volunteers – the guy who scraped the ice at 7 AM, the couple who made sure dinners were served every Saturday night, the woman who took charge of the kitchen on Headless Sunday. You know who you are and what you did to keep the curling club running this season.

So, I’d like you all to sit back and think about two things you did for the curling club this year – visible and invisible – that’s what I’d like to thank YOU for today.

(UNOFFICIAL) REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting on April 15 was very well attended (as these things go), with about 40 hardy souls braving the floods to hear the following reports. Note that this is an unofficial account of the meeting – official notes are being compiled by the Secretary, Vic Huebner.

The Membership Chair, Mike Greene’s report is in a separate article and will not be repeated here.

The Treasurer, George Cowles, reported that the Club currently has cash assets on hand of \$132,000. The New Floor Fund raising effort had produced \$76,000 so far, and there were outstanding pledges and Corporate matching gifts of \$24,800, which means that the campaign raised slightly more than its goal of \$100,000. He noted that these figures included some \$3,000 in contributions made in memory of the late Don Torey. The first payment to the contractor was made last week in the amount of \$37,140.

Liabilities of note are \$4,000 due in February 2008, the last payment to the GNCC Memorial Trust Fund on the loan it made to us for the new compressor four years ago, and an anticipated additional \$100,000 for the new floor.

He reported that dues of \$99,000 were collected for the year, corporate and other events provided \$9,000 to the Club, clothing sales some \$2,000 and bonspiels another \$15,000, primarily the McKay-Douglas. On the expense side, he reported that we had paid USCA/GNCC dues of \$8,100, that the utilities charge was \$20,000 down from \$25,000 a year ago, that real estate taxes amounted to \$35,000, and that rent was \$6,000.

The President (Alice Yeh) reviewed highlights of the past season and gave a few updates.

- New 5 week training program at the beginning of the season was exhausting for volunteers to organize, but worth the results – an improved level of curling from the new members who joined the regular leagues. Any feedback from members on whether this program is worth continuing should be sent to Alice.
- New Open Leagues started up on Saturdays and Sundays – hurrah!
- In-house bonspiels were all well-attended (Boospiel, Turkey Trot, Cool Duck and Headless Horseman). For the Cool Duck and Headless Horseman in particular, we had record numbers of new curlers participating.
- National and international bonspiels we hosted included the Empire State, Scots' Tour and McKay-Douglas.
- Corporate Events Program was overwhelmed with requests for parties. We are still turning down requests (there were two this week!). This is a source of income for the club that does not come from members, so this is an important program.
- Youth curling is well-established. Tuesday afternoon junior league has three sheets and a majority of afternoons were taken up by the Girl Scouts program, Special Olympics and local high school competition.
- All was not fun and games, though. This was a tough year for our Ice Committee. At the beginning of the year, we experienced three glycol leaks and thought that we might not be able to put the ice in. Then we lost Sheet A at the end of the season, due to leaks through the foundation.
- Update on construction of the new floor with new pipes: A contract was signed with Ice Rink Events (they built the Bryant Park skating rink) last week. Removal of the walkways has already begun with in-house volunteers. Ice Rink Events will begin work the first week in May. Steel and pipes will be laid during the first two weeks of May, and concrete will be poured in one day during the third week of May. Work will be completed in mid-June (cross your fingers!).
- Geoff Broadhurst informed the members that Jeff Paul (integral member of the Ice Committee) is in the hospital with back injuries. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The election of new Board of Directors members was then conducted. Out of 15 Board members, five members' terms expired and two resigned. A Nominating Committee, consisting of three past Presidents Jim Kindler, Pam Siebert and Pete McCuen, proposed a slate of seven candidates: Alice Yeh (for one term), Gert Messing (two terms), Betsy Sugahara-O'Brien, Nick Andes, Mark Bussy, Gail Boggio, Steve Hess (all for three terms). The slate was approved by the members. [Note: At the Board meeting

immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Board voted for the following officers: Alice Yeh as President, Jeff Lesuk as Vice President, Tim Klein as Treasurer, and Vic Huebner as Secretary.]

In Other Business, the following announcements were made:

The Closing/Awards Dinner will be Thursday May 17 at the Ardsley Country Club. Cocktails will start at 6:30 and dinner will be at 7:30pm. Cost is \$70, which includes choice of chicken, beef or fish, wine with dinner, tax and tip. The bar will be charged separately to each member. Call the Country Club at 914-591-8150 to make reservations.

Note: Jacket for gentlemen.

- Visit Ardsley Curling Club online at <http://www.ardsleycurling.org/>
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- The Golf Outing and Lawn Bowling dates have not yet been set, but stay tuned.
- The Summer Picnic will be hosted by Patti Burns, who will let us know the date.
- Lost are an envelope of Ardwick pins (contact Merle Huebner if found) and the Ardsley Curling Club banner (note: this item was found by Mark Bussy after the meeting)
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- **LEAKY FLOOR FUND: WE MADE IT!**

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who donated so generously to the Leaky Floor Fund. As our Treasurer, George Cowles, reported during the Annual Meeting (see above), we have raised a little more than our \$100,000 goal. The donations, combined with money from the Curling Club's non-operational funds, will be enable us to pay the estimated \$130,000 total cost of building a new floor with new pipes running through it. Of course, construction projects tend to have overruns, so any more donations over the \$100,000 goal will still go toward building the floor. And it is worth mentioning that 25% of the \$100,000 goal is still in pledges, so those of you who have committed to making a donation, but haven't sent in your checks yet, now is the time to do so. A big thank you goes to Jerry McCarty, who served as fundraising chair for this effort.

ARDSLEY CURLING CLUB MEMBERSHIP REPORT Through April 2007

At the end of the 2005-06 curling season the Ardsley Curling Club membership list included 208 members. This number included members of the Nutmeg Curling Club, a club that lost its ice approximately 8 years prior and whose members had been curling with Ardsley since that time. Nutmeg procured a new site for their club and did not return to Ardsley for the 2006-07 season.

Curling received plenty of airtime during the 2006 Winter Olympics and Ardsley hosted a post-Olympics open house at the beginning of March. Seventy-four (74) trainees from that open house received three weeks of training in March and an additional five weeks of training was scheduled for October.

At the beginning of the new season in October, 63 (85%) of the original 74 post-Olympic trainees returned. The trainees were joined by 39 new trial members from Ardsley's annual fall open house. For five weeks, Ardsley volunteers trained the 113 new curlers. After the fall training, an additional 66 new members (38, or 60%, of the post-Olympic trainees and 28, or 72%, of the fall open house trial members) were added to Ardsley's list of regular curlers.

In January, the Club hosted its mid-season open house. Due to increased membership from earlier in the year, the January open house was an abbreviated version; it consisted of one day, instead of two. Nine members signed up for the two weeks of training and eight signed on as new members. Currently, Ardsley has 221 regular curlers and 22 associate members. The numbers of participants in afternoon programs (juniors, high school, Girl Scouts, Special Olympics) are unknown.

Additionally, over 125 curlers used Ardsley while attending a party or corporate event. There are approximately 10 people from those events that expressed an interest in exploring membership with the club. Besides providing revenue, the events are providing a pool of potential members.

		Total Members	Regular Members	Associate Members
Accounting of members from 2005-06	End of 2005-06	208	178	30
	Not returning		(33)	(15)
	Associate members who returned to regular status			(4)
	Regular members who became associates		(11)	
	Retained at same level		134 (75%)	11
	Associate members who returned to regular status		4	
	Regular members who became associates			11
	Members retained	160 (77%)	138	22
Additional members in Fall 2006	New curlers added from post-Olympics open house		38	
	New curlers added from Fall 2006 open house (4 days)		28	
	Other new members		6	
	End of December 2006	232	210	22
Additional members in January 2007	New curlers added from January '07 open house (1 day)		7	
	Other new members		4	
	End of March 2007	243	221	22

Showcase DUCK GEAR Report by Merle Huebner

This year was the first time that the showcases were stocked with curling supplies from Goldline. It is good to have variety and Goldline offers a great price point to curling clubs. It certainly made things interesting. I would just like to thank everyone who helped me look after the showcases throughout the year. Any extra monetary funds are always appreciated and, as you know, the sales of curling supplies and clothes is part of the fundraising efforts for our club. Our profit for the year was roughly \$2,000.00. It was especially helpful that so many purchases were made over the final weekend of curling.

It is difficult to know what colors and sizes to order for the showcase, so I would ask if club members would put in orders so that they get what they want. I'll continue to do my best at "guessing" what to order and hope it is right.

For next year, the plan is to have a representative for the showcase from each of the leagues and at each bonspiel. So, if anyone feels so inclined, please get in touch with me after curling starts again in October.

Relationship of Clubs that curl at Ardsley to the Grand National Curling Club of America (GNCC) and the United States Curling Association (USCA).

By Bunkie Harmon

This is an article to help explain how our curling clubs at Ardsley fit into the bigger regional and national curling associations. It will probably be most informative to our new curlers who wonder what we are talking about when we refer to the GNCC (<http://www.gncc.org/>) and the USCA (<http://www.usacurl.org/>) or the GNCC pink booklet and USCA Directory distributed annually in our Warm Room. Ardsley members also receive *United States Curling News*, the official publication of USCA.

There are currently thirty five member clubs of the GNCC (2007 membership 2875) which represents, roughly, the north-eastern part of the U.S.A... Actually, the geography covered by this organization extends as far west as Pittsburgh and as far south as Florida. Originally the GNCC, as it is known, was the national organization when the game was first imported from Scotland. As its popularity spread west, however, new Regional Associations were formed such as those in Wisconsin and Minnesota (Now 11 in the USA). They all now comprise the United States Curling Association (2006 membership 12408). The Ardsley Curling Club (Est. 1932, 2007 membership 198) and the New York Caledonian (Est. 1855, 2007 membership 28) are two of the clubs in the GNCC.

The GNCC and the USCA each have their own set of officers and directors (see websites or the booklets for the Bylaw position descriptions and current incumbents) who are selected from the ranks of their memberships. Currently, Geoff Broadhurst is a GNCC Member of the USCA Board of Directors. George Austin is a GNCC At Large Director. Bunkie Harmon is the Treasurer of the GNCC. Club representatives to the GNCC are Walter Baggett (ACC) and Chris Banino (NY Cal.). Past Presidents of the GNCC have been Dr. Joe Milano (1972-74) and Ken Cooper (1982-84). The latter is also a past president of the USCA

(1989-90). Don McKay (Nadja's husband) was USCA president (1977-78) and World Curling Federation Treasurer (1990)

The main function of the GNCC and the USCA is to provide a conduit for information to go up and down the line in the curling hierarchy. New Policies and Play Down schedules can be disseminated from the top down and problems can be brought to the attention of the regional, national and international organizations.

If you have additional questions on this subject any of the people in the previous paragraph would be glad to help you.

That's All Folks! Next Duck Soup in September, 2007!

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