

On January 1, 2007, 20 curlers met at the Ardsley Curling Club to celebrate the New Year, representing the full range of age and experience. Team Greene (Mike, David Schrull, Ruth Loomis, Nathaniel and Matthew) was the grand prize winner. In second place was the team of John Dorff and Nancy Clancy (sharing the skip position), Matty Allen, Jay Melnick, and Jim Denny. The next two teams were tied in points, but Ann MacMillan's team of Jim McGinnis, Ed Andrews, with Sharon and Jacques Jacquet took third by way of a head-to-head win over Diane Muldowney's team of Don Torey, Armen Balemian, Jesse and Mitzi Wang. Ann, Ed and Jim platooned in and out as did Mitzi and Jesse.

94th anniversary of the Quebec International Bonspiel IN Quebec City

On January 20th, the usual suspects (Jim Gutekunst, Jerry McCarty, Bruce Huffine and from Burlington Ont, Don Garside and Doug Jury) boarded planes to travel to the 94th anniversary of the Quebec International Bonspiel.

Unfortunately Steve Smith had to withdraw due to a family issue at the last minute.

The team had a great time attending all the activities at the luxurious Chateau Frontenac Hotel while managing a curling schedule at the three curling clubs in and around the city. Unfortunately that task resulted in a 2 and 5 performance.

This year, plans were afoot to install Jim Gutekunst as next year's Bonspiel President; a great honor for Jim! Next year's festivities should prove to be a memorable event. Any one interested in attending should contact any of the "usual suspects" to announce their intention to attend next year's event.

Of note was the celebration of Jerry McCarty's tenth year at the Bonspiel who planned a joint celebration with Steve that was interrupted by his inability to attend. Jerry managed to kickoff a campaign to fight a terrible affliction that has surfaced from time to time in Bonspiels.....NACS. What is this you may ask? Why

it is No Ability to Curl Syndrome....that affliction can strike curlers at anytime and anyplace.

Steve plans to attend next year to continue this campaign to fight NACS and celebrate his 10th year participation as well.

In addition to Steve's anniversary, Jim Gutekunst will celebrate his 15th year and Don Garside his 25th year.

As usual, a good time was held by all.

The 53rd Empire State Bonspiel was held at the Ardsley Curling Club January 18-21, and got rave reviews for the club. We hosted 24 teams from Seattle to Maryland to Massachusetts and the tri-state area. An event like this needs the support of the membership, and many people, from newbies to veterans, stepped up and did a great job. Thank you to all from the Bonspiel chair, Nancy Clancy. A list of helpers, and the full results, are on the club's web site. The winners of the Empire State medal were Team Granite: S-Cristin Clark (Granite Seattle), V-Janice Langanke (Plainfield), 2nd-Nina Reiniger (Ardsley), and L-Melanie Dubberley (Plainfield).

Nancy Clancy, Peter DeJong, Paul Huebner, and Michelle Schliebaum went to the 100th Anniversary of the Schenectady Curling Club Bonspiel, curled well, had a lot of fun, made new friends, saw old friends, and generally celebrated. It was Michelle's first away bonspiel. The team had a very respectable 2-2 record in a highly competitive field, getting knocked out in an exciting game by last rock in the ninth (extra) end by two inches. We had the crowd on our side after fighting back from giving up five in the second

Norfolk Ladies Winter Wonderland Bonspiel - Feb. 23-25.
Ann MacMillan's team of Marion Cowles, Vi Taylor and Kris Liddle were runners up in the third event at this bonspiel.

Tuesday League:

The Icebreaker event was won by the team of Sandy Gaffner, Pam Politano, Pam Siebert and Joan Davidman.

The MacIntosh (Jr. skip) event was won by the team of Nadja McKay, Sandy Gaffner, Pat Riedel, and Maureen McErlean. Pat and Maureen are newbies.

MacIntosh standings:

McKay	4 - 0
Morrison	3 - 1
Frees	2 - 2
Siebert	0 - 4

SUNDAY LEAGUE UPDATE

The first of the two short five-week sessions of Sunday curling finished on February 11.

Congratulations goes to Team Shalhoub (Mike Shalhoub, Mark Bussy, Jason Nawyn, Kim Nawyn and Peter Forrest) for their blistering performance. All five are now obligated to come to the closing dinner to receive their medals. Make your reservations. Just kidding!

Sunday Winter Session I Standings:

Shalhoub	4 - 1
Greene	3 - 2
Schrull	3 - 2
Klein	2 - 3
Reminick	2 - 3
Sullivan	1 - 4

Lady Liberty results:

McIntosh 6-0
Muldowney 3-3
Broadhurst 2-4
Noble 1-5

Winning team consisted of: Jean McIntosh, Hsiao-lien Boardman, Sue Tattar and a vast array of subs for the injured Vice Skip. Silver medal team: Diane Muldowney, Marion Cowles, Jean Glus and Nick Andes.

All American results:

Noble 3-1
Clancy 2-2
McIntosh 2-2
Muldowney 2-2
Davies 1-3

Winning team consisted of: Joy Noble, Marion Cowles,
Kris Liddle and Jean Glus.

Currently in the process of the Wells Wick. After 3
weeks, the results are as follows:

Muldowney 3-0
Davies 2-1
McIntosh 1-2
Noble 0-3

We have enjoyed another season of good curling and good
camaraderie. Always looking for more women to curl on
Thursday mornings in a non-competitive environment.

Results for the All American:

Murphy 4-0
Clancy 3-2
Yeh 2-2
Gaffner 2-2
Broadhurst 0-4

The winning team was Jean Murphy, Pam Siebert, Patti
Burns, Nancy Block and Dolores Redding. Nancy and
Dolores are newbies.

Good Old Boys (Nutmeg) VS. The Ice House Gang (Ardsley)
March 9th 2007 at Bridgeport!

Good Old Boys (GOB) Ice
House Gang (IHG)

Captain Charlie Mack Captain
Bunkie Harmon

Score	Sheet A	GOB 6	IHG 8
	Sheet B	GOB 8	IHG 1
	Sheet C	GOB 5	IHG 6

Overall Leader Good Old Boys with 19 points Total, Ice House Gang 15. Cumulatively for 2006/2007 Good Old Boys won the trophy by 10 points! Congratulations!

Teams for Ice House Gang

Sheet A	Sheet B
Sheet C	
Heubner (Skip)	Austin(Skip)
Broadhurst (Skip)	
Harmon	Baggett
Barghout	
Cowles,	Takigocuhi
McCuen	
Andes	McGinnis
Pitt	
Marziale	Sheerin

The curlers had a festive lunch at a local Bridgeport tavern to celebrate Good Old Boys win! We will try to get the trophy back at Ardsley in December 2007!

What happened to Sheet A?

On Friday 2/23, during the McKay- Douglas bonspiel, water flowed onto Sheet A near the Warm-Room-side House. This water came from the initial melting of the snow and ice, which flowed down the path (pitched toward the wall) and found a crack in the wall onto Sheet A. The flow onto sheet A was mopped up and did not stop the bonspiel.

On Wednesday 2/28, the weather was warm, and the old snow and ice melted more rapidly. The runoff from the roof came down the middle gutter pipe, but the drain pipe in the ground near the double doors was plugged with leaves and gravel and the roof water spewed onto the path. Unfortunately, the frozen ice on the path was as high as the double door cement sill; so lots of water easily flowed onto the middle of Sheet A.

On Thursday 3/1, Geoff Broadhurst enlisted the country club handyman and "Emergency Sewer-N Drain" company to clear the underground drain pipe, but both were unsuccessful. They concluded that the underground pipe was broken. Subsequently, Geoff attached a 4" flexible

black sewer pipe to divert the anticipated storm water to the end of the building. On Thursday evening and Friday morning (3/2), 2.5" of rain fell BUT NO water came onto Sheet A.

On Saturday 3/3, the slow moving rain runoff that saturated the ground came down the hill and under our outside path to cause a high water table pressure behind our poured concrete foundation. Accordingly, more water came through the wall and froze under the wooden walkway. Little water came onto Sheet A, but the grey carpet was awash and freezing.

Throughout that first week, and into the next, the ice committee, consisting of Gert Messing, Tom Doherty, Bill Borowitz, Tim Klein, Bill Stopera and Bill Pekowitz worked hours on end to melt the ice with a propane torch and scrape the ice down. Geoff Broadhurst also assisted by buying more propane when it ran out and measuring the ice to locate high and low spots. Unfortunately, after all of the scraping, there were still spots that were half an inch higher than others, which is too uneven for curling. The only way to even out half-an-inch-high spots would have been to put five to six floods down, taking close to one week of work. With three weeks left in the season, and facing a burned-out ice committee, the Board decided not to ask the committee to flood the ice to even it out. The committee will continue to try to melt the high spots and scrape the ice, but all leagues are re-scheduling games to avoid curling on Sheet A for the rest of the season.

Next time you see one of the ice committee members, please take a minute to thank them for spending so much time in hard labor over Sheet A. The last couple of weeks have been rough for them!

Leaky Floor Fund Update

There are 3 weeks left to the season and we are still short of our goal of \$100,000!!

Jerry McCarty reports that the campaign has raised \$81,773 (cash and pledges) of the \$100k goal as of 3/10/07. While we thank all members who sent contributions, it is very important for those of you who have not, to think about whether you would want to curl next year. If the answer is yes, then please know that without your contribution, we will not make our \$100,000 goal and will not be able to replace the floor. Without a new floor, there is the distinct possibility that there will be no curling next season, because, as we learned at the beginning of this season, starting up the compressor tends to cause the pipes to leak. We are still in need of approximately \$18k by the end of March so that a payment schedule can be planned for the start of the new floor construction.

The Leaky Pipe Committee, consisting of Geoff Broadhurst, Scott Silverman, John Dorff, Gert Messing and Jeff Paul, advises that there were three bids, and they are in final negotiations with contractors and have brought the cost within our budget. The building departments of both Irvington and Dobbs Ferry have been notified, and building permits will be completed as soon as we have selected our contractor. We are scheduled to begin construction late April so that we can have everything completed in time for the Country Club's day camp to use our ice house.

GET YOUR ARDSLEY CURLING GEAR BEFORE END APRIL!

The sales from the showcases went very well during the McKay-Douglas Bonspiel. Right now Lands' End has a "no minimum" policy till May. That means that we can order one or two items at a time without a penalty. In the past, the order had to have a minimum of 6 items in the same category eg. Marinac, caps, denim shirts, etc. They are trying this to see how it will effect sales. I'm hoping that this is doing well enough that Lands' End will continue the 'no minimum' policy. So, if anyone has been wanting to order something, now is the

time. Call me at 914-693-4741 or e-mail me at merleh@optonline.net. I will not be putting in another order again this spring, unless anyone wants to order something that we are out of in the showcases.

In the meantime, the showcase sales is now running 'in the black' and all sales are now pure profit for the club. I urge everyone to take a look at what we have and do some shopping.

Other club members that will be willing to assist you in my absence are Hsiao-lien Boardman, Pat Devaney, Mike Green & Paul Huebner.

Merle Huebner

Scot Tour 2007 by Vic Huebner

On February 1/07 a group of 20 Royal Caledonian Curling Club members from Scotland arrived in Westchester with George Austin as their courier (guide for the Northeast US). These 20 Scots had traveled and curled for about 18 days in the Midwest and Northeast prior to arriving at Ardsley. They were hosted by George Austin at his Bronxville Field Club to a fine lunch and then traveled to New York City to see Ground Zero, have some free time and attend a Reception hosted by the Saint Andrews Society of New York. The evening ended up with some of the Scots singing Karaoke at Pete's Saloon in Elmsford!

On February 2nd, 8 of the Scots traveled to Plainfield and 12 stayed and curled at Ardsley.

The 3 games in the morning resulted in a 6 point gain for the US, but we fed them too well, and in the afternoon 3 games the Scots gained 16 points. Ardsley gave up a net of 10 points to the Scots who curled very well. Overall the Scots won the Herries Maxwell trophy by 949 to 869. They took the trophy back from the US which had won it for the previous 5 competitions!

After curling, the festivities moved to the Huebner's house in Dobbs Ferry for a Buffet Dinner and ample Scotch and Spirits! We were treated to several Scottish ballads by the group which should have been given bonus points for their singing ability!

As coordinator of the event, I would like to thank all those club members who helped with the Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, The Ice Team and those helping in the Warm Room! I believe we showed them great hospitality and they appreciated it! There is a banner hanging in the Showcase autographed by all the Scotsmen to commemorate their appreciation for our hospitality!

Walt Baggett, Cool Duck 2007 Chair

The Cool Duck 2007 Bonspiel had 43 participants and the Shenkle systems seemed to sort things out in as fair a manner as possible. The winners are:

First Event

Winners:

TEAM 4

Skip Rob Chebetar

Vice Sandy Gaffner

2nd Dan Tufaro

Lead Mary Lou Banino

Runners-up:

TEAM 2

Skip Nick Andes

Vice Burt Reminick

2nd Mike Infranco

Lead Sal Marziale

Second Event:

Winners:

TEAM 8

Skip Jeff Casper

Vice Mike Courts

Lead George Gierer

Runners-up:

TEAM 9

Skip Richard Goodwin
Vice Jamey Gelardi
Lead Jason Nawyn

Third Event:

Winners:

TEAM 1

Skip Hayle Chun
Vice Jill Dexter
2nd Hal Cashman
Lead Jessica Willey

Runners-up:

TEAM 11

Steve Devaney
Ray Conley
Ian Everett
Julie Everett

We expect our top finishers to do well in the Kaiser and Dykes Bonspiels, but we want some Women's Challenge teams next year. I will try to get the trophy updated in the next week or so.

We are pleased to report that we covered our expenses so a good time was had by all and money added to the new floor fund. From the ice to the kitchen John Dorff carried the day ably assisted by Sandy Gaffner and Mike Murray. We had too much food for lunch and a bit too little for dinner, but leftovers from the Scotts' Tour got us through. Andrew's steady hand at the bar and the chairman's lovely and talented wife, Lillie Shortridge-Baggett, kept things humming. Appetizers were supplied by Mike Courts, Ellen O'Connor, Pete Forrest, and Roehel Sybing. Deserts were supplied by Kim Nawyn, Julie Everett, Mike Murray, and Ray Conley. Given the quantity and quality of these eats, Ardsley will have no trouble maintaining its standing as a first class party bonspiel operation.

Running something like this, you really appreciate the club's infrastructure of food support systems with plates and chafing dishes and so forth. You also appreciate the effort required to clean things out! As a 30 plus year curler, it was great to see all the new

faces and the enthusiasm for the game. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to run something that made such a special group of people so happy.

9th Annual New York National Tartan Day Parade on April 14th

All metropolitan curlers are invited to join in the 9th Annual New York National Tartan Day Parade on April 14th <http://www.tartanweek.com/> -- the largest Scottish celebration in Manhattan and one of the largest Scottish parades in the world. UNIQUE among parades, the NY Tartan Day Parade not only features full pipe bands but individual pipers and drummers from around the world. Last years parade participants hailed from Australia, Canada, England, France, Scotland, Switzerland, Pakistan and the United States, with the parade being enjoyed by thousands of spectators in Rockefeller Center.

We had a contingent of curlers enjoy the march two years ago and they also had a great time at the party afterward. We have reserved a marching slot for the parade. There is no cost, so one just has to show up and march. This year's Post Parade Party will be at Stout NYC. This, not to be missed, sell-out party will feature the best in live Scottish music. Starting at 4:30 pm and running to the late hours, the Post Parade Party will be a ticketed event; watch for future details.(there is a cost for the after parade party).

So curlers put on your kilts (not mandatory) and lets have some fun marching in the parade. Yes, if you have friends who want to march but arent curlers bring them along. Please contact Jim Gutekunst at jgutekunst@hamiltonsec.com for details of where to meet, attire, brooms, banners, tickets etc, Good curling Jim Gutekunst

3/30/2007 to 4/1/2007 - Pull-the-Plug/Headless Horseman

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The Ardsley I Remember By Walter O. Baggett

I started curling at Ardsley in 1975. Walter Steineman, a Swiss engineer from the South Presbyterian Church invited me to the open house. I remember Geoff Broadhurst giving me instructions and trying to "close the deal." It was not very hard to do. Joe Curry, whose name is on a plaque in the bar lived two house down from me on Meadow Way. I would walk to the club past Dick Wells' and Ed Sibert's houses on Park Road, around Halsey's Pond and over the golf course.

Most people got to the club by climbing down from the parking lot on 72 stair steps, some held in place by reject Remington Rifle barrels supplied by Ed Doonan. The entry way was a little covered set of double doors, subsequently replace by the Charlie Marks designed red barn. Of course, the smoking lounge was originally designed as a wood shed and the structure has been repainted to match the rest of the building.

The warm room was much as it looks today, although there were no Burns Paterson installed eating boards in front of the windows by the glass and on the railing on the top level of the main floor. We still have most of the chairs around the tables supplied by members with their alma maters' crests on them. If you check out the schools involved, it is a pretty interesting collection. That was a great way to use pride of alma mater as a way of covering the expense of purchasing those needed assets. It is a practice we should encourage to help replace some of that aging furniture.

The ice was another story. I have a lovely picture looking towards the glass from that era. The stones have steel gooseneck handles. The booms hanging on the wall are all corn with some hogs hair brushes. We still have the same benches, but between them are cigarette urns. We also had urns next to the benches on the side boards, as well as at the far end. If you look closely, you can see that the hacks are the flat Olson hacks.

At far end of the ice we did not have the sign and clock, also designed and built by Burns Paterson. The American and New York State flags were there, but I subsequently collected and installed the Canadian provincial flags that represent Canada from east to west on the west wall. The flags on the other wall are a collection of Scottish, International and the venerable GNCC flag. Over the years I presented and swapped a number of those flags to Canadian clubs I have visited. You can find one hanging over the ice in Steventown, Newfoundland, for instance. Jon Fagenburg gave us the Swedish flag.

Of course, curling is a game of people. Ed Doonan was the ice master. You can probably find his records of the floods as he directed our iceman, Joe Valpone, to put them down. I can still remember Joe sitting by the bar during bonspiels and asking me, "How was the ice, Walt?" as we sauntered over to the bar after a match.

My first Blanton skip was Hank Eager. A fellow South Presbyterian Church member, he is long gone, but his widow, Marilyn married Bob Hill, after his wife, Jinny, passed away. In the Windler, I was luckier, subsequently winning it on team with Dick Wells, after whom the event is now named.

At that time, St. Andrews also had three sheets of ice and there was a very active Saturday/ Sunday morning men's league that used all six sheets. Beside the Jug Ogden, which was used to qualify people for the Blanton, there was also the Thorndike and the Colgan. The Colgan medal in particular is interesting because it has a brush with a handle attached to it so it could be used by one armed curlers. Indeed, there are any number of old medals around that could and quite probably should be revived as we institute new leagues.

Unfortunately, the ice was decidedly on the slower side. As a consequence we all used deliveries with big back swings to power stones down the ice. Many of us still have treasured copies of Ken Watson On Curling explaining these deliveries and the finer points of the

game by the "sliding schoolmaster" who took the game from the old "chucker" who never left the hack to the long, low slides of today's Olympians.

Weeknight matches started at 8:00 p.m. and were ten ends. After that we would roll the dice and the unlucky two losers would sign the chits. We still used the Country Club's liquor license, but on weeknights, we served ourselves on the honor system. As you can imagine getting home by midnight was not so unusual in the era so some things have not changed that much.

Next Duck Soup Mid April ted_pitt@msn.com