

## **The Wednesday Night Men's Curling League (Blanton):**

The season has just gotten underway with 12 teams and around 60 curlers. The teams look well balanced and a very competitive season looks to be shaping up. The following members have joined Wednesday Nights for the first time; Hayle Chun, Ed Sherin, Heinz Gruettner, John Noble, Hal Cashman, Sam Wechsler, Zachary Fletcher, George Fletcher, Jamey Gelardi, Martin Webb, Jason Nawyn. The skip's in the Blanton are; Dan Tufaro, Bill Borowitz, Isa Barghout, Ed Siebert, Steve Hess, Steve Smith, Bill Pekowitz, Bunkie Harmon, Adam Chebetar, Trevor Davey, Chris Banino, and Vic Huebner.

Tom Doherty – Wednesday Night Men's Chairperson.

## **2007 BOOSPIEL**

Paul Huebner's team (BOOGIE SHOES) comprising of Lili Knighton, Michelle Schliebaum and Matty Allen danced after defeating Bill Stopera's team (2001 ODYSSEY) made up of Pam Politano, Jacques Jacquet and Andrew Stopera in an extra end. It was the game of the weekend at the 2007 version of the BOOSPIEL – "Danger at the Disco Prom [when Tony met Carrie]". Disco music blared, Saturday Night Fever played continually, and costumes were prominent on Saturday evening... there were prom dresses, white suits, beer kegs, even Cleopatra made an appearance. Twelve teams made up the bonspiel which ran from Thursday evening (October 11 through Sunday afternoon (October 14). The Best Costume Award was presented to Mark Bussy for his inspirational, yet aptly themed, white suit spattered with blood, black shirt, and the obligatory "bling". Winners and runners-up were as follows:

### **1<sup>st</sup> Event ("You Should be Dancing")**

#### **Winners**

**Boogie Shoes** – Paul Huebner, Lili Knighton, Michelle Schliebaum, Matty Allen

Runners –Up

2001 Odyssey – Bill Stopera, Pam Politano, Jacques Jacquet, Andrew Stopera

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Event ("Jive Talkin")**Winners

**Blue Ribbon Laundry** – Adam Chebetar, Sandy Gaffner, Rich Goodwin, Liz Chebetar

Runners-Up

Verrazano Bridge -Walter Baggett, Tim Klein, Jason Nawyn (Zach Fletcher as spare in the finals), Kim Nawyn

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Event (Stayin' Alive")**

#### **Winners**

**Kelly Fruit Company** – George Austin, David Schrull, TC Yeh (Patrick Gaimbalvo), Sharon Jacquet

Runners-Up

Telekinesis – Robin Gestring, Chris/MaryLou Banino, Beverly Baynard

David Wachtel

### **4<sup>th</sup> Event (Disco Inferno)**

#### **Winners**

**The Jolly Roadhouse** – Ed Siebert, Pam, Siebert, Robbie Chebetar, Heinz Gruetner

Runners-Up – Bay Ridge – Mark Bussy, Ed Tucker, Vi Taylor, Mike Murray

The other 4 teams not having the privilege of playing on Sunday morning (but still had fun nonetheless) were as follows:

Josie & the Moonglows – Trish Ryan, Andrew Erbelding, Paul Lawer, Neil Lawer

Chamberlain – Shoji Takiguchi, Norm Laird, Ted Pitt, Rose Claus

Buckets of Blood – Jim O'Boyle, Mike Infranco, Zach Fletcher, George Fletcher

Ewen High School – Dan Tufaro, David Wagenheim, Burt Reminick, Ed Sherin.

Due to the support of our curlers, the 2007 Boospiel resulted in a profit of almost \$600 to the Curling Club.

2007 Boospiel Committee

Armen Balemian, Boospiel Chair

Trish Ryan

Sandy Gaffner

Dee Sullivan

Jim O'Boyle

## **Ardley Showcase Merchandise Department.....**

The showcases have been cleaned and once again are stocked. I'm in the process of making out orders for merchandise from Goldline and Lands' End.

NEW IN THE INVENTORY are the beer mugs and there are also a pair of Goldline GLX Black Curling Pants in Men's Medium (waist 30" – 32"). These are Goldline's top selling curling pants, so if you need a pair, come and check them out.

I'm pleased to inform you that the prices of clothing have come down once again. Tim Klein, our Treasurer has informed me that the tax rate on clothes under \$100.00 is lower than on other merchandise, and I'm thrilled to be able to reduce the prices accordingly.

Once again I am looking for HELP WITH THE SHOWCASES. It would be wonderful if I could have someone from each league assigned to sell items from the showcases. It is really very simple, but I cannot be there all the time. The names will be posted on or near the showcase for shoppers to see. Currently we have Paul Huebner for the Friday evening league and Paul & Vic Huebner for the Wednesday evening league. I'll try to be there for the bonspiels, but there will be times when it won't work for me. Can you please help at other leagues times or bonspiels? Please contact me at [MerleH@optonline.net](mailto:MerleH@optonline.net) or call me at (914) 693-4741. Many hands make light work. Isn't that how it's supposed to be? Also, come and check out the inventory. Any questions or concerns? Please contact me.

## **Nutmeg has announced the first USCA 5 and Under Open Bonspiel**

Nutmeg Curling Club is pleased to host the first 5 and Under Open Bonspiel -- sponsored by the USWCA -- on December 13-16, 2007

The bonspiel is open to Men and Women with 5 years or less experience.

There'll be pins and trophies for the 4 event winners and a whole lot of fun!

We're guaranteeing 1 team per club (non-paper) until November 15 -- after that it's on a first come - first serve basis.

A flyer is attached - entry forms will follow shortly.

We look forward to seeing your teams represented.

Good Curling!

Bonspiel Co-Chairs

Pam Smith - [pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net](mailto:pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net) Kathy Morley - [edward\\_b\\_morley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edward_b_morley@sbcglobal.net)

## **Looking for a Bonspiel?**

As a reminder, we post all announcements/invitations we receive to bonspiels on our website (Members Section - Announcements - Bonspiels) rather than emailing them all to you. If you're interested in curling in bonspiels please check this site regularly. If you receive invitations directly that others might be interested in, please forward them to [curlingpete@aol.com](mailto:curlingpete@aol.com) for posting on the website

## **We need to expand the list is volunteer instructors**

to assist in our corporate/private event program. This program is a significant revenue producer for the club.

Please let Sandy Gaffner ([acuberk@aol.com](mailto:acuberk@aol.com)) know if you can assist at any of the following events.

- 1) Friday October 19th - 4-7- ARUP - Andrew Marchesin
- 2) Sunday November 4 - 3:30-6:30 - De Shaw - Dan Conn
- 3) Saturday November 10th - 7:30-10pm - Giles Communications - Mark Jeffers
- 4) Thursday November 15th - 2-5pm - Deloitte - Shane
- 5) Wednesday December 12 - 3:30-5:30 - Mark Halleck
- 6) Friday February 22nd - 1:30-4:30 - Wells Fargo - Jason Auerbach

If the event is listed as 3 hours, the first 2 hours are on ice time, the last hour is in the warm room.

If you can't help with on any of these dates but would like to be contacted for future events, please let Sandy know. If you are already on the volunteer list, thanks, and no need to respond further.

## **New WCF Stick Delivery Release Point Rule**

The GNCC fall meeting was held at the Nutmeg Curling Club on Saturday, September 8, 2007. One major topic of discussion was the new WCF Stick Delivery Release Point Rule. At its April meeting the USCA adopted the WCF Rules in their entirety. On Wednesday September 5, 2007 the USCA Rules Committee, after a prolonged teleconference, voted 8 – 7 in favor of not implementing the new rule. The USCA Board may re-visit their April decision and reject the Rules Committee decision at their September 15, 2007 meeting.

No major rule change has been made without some controversy. The hogline rule, for example, was a very contentious issue for many years until the current rule was adopted. Originally there was no hogline because curlers delivered the stone from the hack. Once curlers determined they could push out of the hack and slide down the ice, a rule governing when to release the stone became necessary since some curlers could slide to the far house and place the stone. It took a few years before the current hogline position was selected. Even then controversy continued because the rule stated the stone had to be released when the player reached the hogline. It did not specify what part of the stone or the player so you had some curlers with most of their body over the line before the stone was released. The next rule stated the curler had to stand up before reaching the hogline. This unpopular

rule was quickly replaced. When the current rule (stone released before front edge of the stone reached the front edge of the hogline) was proposed everyone except Canada adopted it. The Canadians used the back edge of the stone at the far side of the hogline for all competition which put their competitive curlers at a disadvantage in World competition. It was only a few years ago the Canadians adopted this rule.

The Stick Delivery Release Point Rule was written by the WCF and adopted for this coming season because release at the hogline was considered an unfair advantage for stick delivery curlers. The Canadian Curling Association (CCA) has elected to adopt the WCF rules with the exception of the Stick Delivery Release Point for the coming season. They will continue to use the hogline as point of release.

After much discussion by the GNCC Board, Representatives and visitors present at the fall meeting two motions were made and unanimously accepted by the GNCC. The first motion was to accept all WCF rules except the Stick Delivery Release Point Rule for all GNCC sanctioned events. The second motion was to encourage all stick curlers of our member clubs to try the WCF rule as well as two compromise release points:

1. line parallel to the back line be placed across the top of the house. Stones delivered by stick would have to be released before the front edge of the stone reaches the front edge of the "top" line.
2. The Mixed doubles line (halfway between the top of the house and the hogline) be extended the width of the 4-foot. Stones delivered by stick would have to be released before the front edge of the stone reaches the front edge of the "top" line.

If your Club plans to participate in this test a decision will have to be made soon so your iceman will be able to install the additional lines while putting in the ice.

The GNCC encourages all stick curlers to try the new WCF rule as well as the two (2) compromise release points with an open mind and provide feedback to me prior to January 15, 2008. All responses and comments will be reported to the USCA and the WCF Rules Committees so that they may make an informed decision about revising this rule.

As with the hogline rule, please understand there will be changes over the next year or 2 before a final rule is adopted. It is clear that the hogline will not be the release point but there is no clear indication where the stick release point will be located. The Cape Cod Curling Club is already committed to testing the current WCF rule and the two compromise release points. I look forward to hearing from you this season with test results from your club.

Gwen Krailo, GNCC President, September 10, 2007



# *Grand National Curling Club*

## **2007-2008 GNCC Calendar**

Got to for the complete calendar <http://www.gncc.org/calendar>

### **Help Ardsley increase participation and buzz in Korbel Elite Curling Challenge!**

A message from Rick Patzke, GNCC

The second running of the Korbel Elite Curling Challenge was filmed in New York City on Friday, and I wanted to give you a quick recap. As a reminder, this program will air nationally on NBC on Sunday, Dec. 23, from 2:30-4 p.m. ET.

If I could sum up the experience in a few words, it would be that NBC and Korbel California Champagne—with USA Curling's partnership—accomplished what they set out to do with this program, which was to bring NBC, Korbel and curling to the masses via a unique event in a unique location. I've attached a note from Bob Hughes, of Carr-Hughes Productions, that also comments on this and other aspects of the show.

In addition to the program that will air nationally on NBC, this event in New York also garnered four Today Show "hits" (i.e., a quick hit going into or out of commercial breaks showing the curling and saying "coming up later in this program"), plus a featured segment. The Today Show is the highest-rated morning show program in the country. Recent ratings show them pulling down a 4.1 Nielsen rating weekly average, with about a 15 share of viewing households. The Korbel Elite Curling Challenge program in December will likely pull in a 1.5 and 4 share, or thereabouts (5 to 6 million viewers), so you can see how valuable The Today Show viewership was. This program would never have gotten The Today Show coverage without being played at the doorstep of the NBC building.

NBC will also air the Korbel Elite Curling Challenge on Universal HD this year, in prime time on Dec. 23 and then four more times thereafter. Universal HD's home reach is climbing into the 30 million range.

Should you expect to see championship-level curling when you watch in December? No. Staging this event in the middle of Manhattan on “America’s ice rink” at this time of the year presented as many logistical challenges as expected. Icemakers Mark Shurek and Greg Ewasok darn near pulled off a miracle in getting the ice ready several hours ahead of the scheduled time in order to get the game in before another rainstorm was expected to hit (and did, not long after the game was completed). They were assisted by a large number of volunteers from area clubs, plus the TV production crew, some USCA staff and even some NBC executives (in suits, no less) pitching in at all hours of the day and night to make this thing come together.

Back to the curling, for a moment. The featured teams, led by USA’s Pete Fenson and Sweden’s Peja Lindholm, understood what this event was all about and did their very best to deliver. I’m sure if you asked them they might say they were disappointed in not being able to really show off their curling skills due to fact that they weren’t playing on championship quality ice. However, I think they’d also tell you that it was an amazing feat for the sport of curling to be playing this event in the middle of Manhattan, regardless of the ice conditions.

I asked Don Duguid, who will be the analyst for the program, how he anticipates handling the usual commentary about ice, shot selection, strategy, etc., for the NBC program, knowing full well that the teams competing were not playing their normal shots by any stretch of the imagination. He put it quite well when he said (paraphrasing): “It doesn’t matter. Look around you. Did you see all the people crowding around the rink? Did you see all those people watching from their windows in the skyscrapers? This is great for the game.”

The location was also extremely important to title sponsor Korbelt. They brought about 20 VIPs to New York, including President/Owner Gary Heck, and also held a sales meeting with about 200 key East Coast reps. The Korbelt brand manager told me in advance of the sales meeting that he might not be able to hold them for more than 15 minutes, as they’re all union and can flee whenever they wish. We helped him out by lining up Joe Polo and James Dryburgh to do a little curling Q&A. Later, the brand manager said he was amazed by the fact that the entire group stayed for over 2 hours.

At Friday night’s reception, Mr. Heck said he has yet to meet someone in curling that he doesn’t like, and asked me where the next program would be held. (I said preferably somewhere inside.)

The location was also important to NBC, the rights-holder for the Olympics through 2010. In case you weren’t aware, NBC carried over 50 hours of curling from the 2002 Games, and over 80 hours in 2006. They are planning on a like amount from Vancouver in 2010. NBC will more than likely lose money on this program, and that’s not what they’re in business for. But there were several very high level NBC executives at this production, and what they saw and experienced will help in the long run.

NBC President of Sports Ken Schanzer spent more than an hour at the Korbelt reception with the teams Friday night. NBC Vice President, Sports Jon Miller (who reports directly to Schanzer) attended and spoke at a Korbelt VIP dinner with the teams on Thursday, spending more than three hours there. NBC Sports Director of Business Development Gary Quinn was at the dinner, the reception, and also helped with some of the on-ice setup in the midst of everything else. NBC Vice President, Olympic Sports, Peter Diamond was late in getting back from a trip to Beijing on Friday but called on his way home from the airport to see how things went and to congratulate everyone on pulling the event off.

I am sure that the Carr-Hughes Production team will put together a solid and professional program for NBC. I am also sure that many curlers, maybe even some of you, will be disappointed in the level of play. I urge you to remember that this program is all about marketing, and that the on-ice show is not the only aspect of marketing the sport.

Consider taking the skyscraper view: From 30 floors above the Rockefeller Center Ice Rink, I can almost guarantee you that those people watching weren't thinking about a bad strategy call or bad shot. They were thinking about how cool it was that curling was happening right in the middle of Manhattan, and maybe they ought to find a place to try it themselves. Or, maybe their company ought to start looking at sponsoring this non-mainstream sport that keeps popping up between Olympic Games.

There are 55 days before the Korbel Elite Curling Challenge goes on the air. What can you, or your club or region do to make the most of this opportunity to increase participation and buzz in your area?

**Next Issue December 18<sup>th</sup> [Ted Pitt@MSN.Com](mailto:Ted.Pitt@MSN.Com) 212 9883314**