

DUCK SOUP

Ardsley Curling Club, N Mountain Drive,
Ardsley, NY 10502

"All the News That Fits"

www.ardsleycurling.org

Team Hames Turns Heads *Stopera and Sather Shine at Nationals*

See Team Gestring at Women's Club Playdowns, page 3

By Jeff Casper

It is subtle but it is there. Some Midwest curlers don't think as highly of the East Coast game. New York-based Team Hames showed the best men's teams across the country that they not only belong but need to be reckoned with.

Ardsley members Bill Stopera (vice) and Martin Sather (2nd) helped their team beat the likes of Midwest-based teams Fenson, Birr, and Brown on their way to a 6-3 round robin result, tied with three others. It was Team Farbelow that had their number however. Hames lost to them twice in a row including the tie-break. Then they dropped to Stephens in the quarterfinals to end their impressive run. Matt Hames skipped and Dean Gemmell led.

Stopera had stated that his goal was just to reach the Championships, but he was pleased with the team's effort.

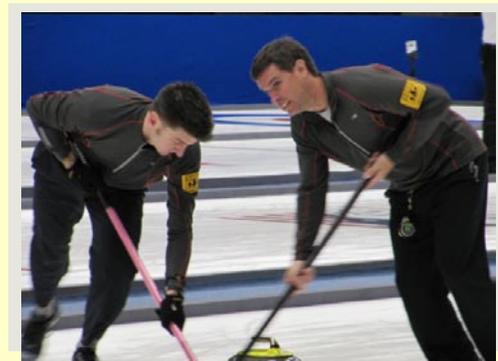
"We showed we could play by beating some top teams," Stopera said. "We had one bad end in the quarters. Otherwise we hung with that team, too."

Team Fenson ended up winning, but it's safe to say that a return trip next time would mean a higher seed for the East Coasters.

Congratulations to Team Hames, and let's hope for a return trip.

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Photos top to bottom: Sather delivers in the 2nd, Stopera and Gemmell hard all the way, Hames calls the shot.

Open House Exceeds Lofty Expectations

By Kim Nawyn

Thanks to the efforts of dozens of on-ice and off-ice volunteers who spent countless hours at the curling club, and those who worked behind the scenes, we were able to accommodate 776 people during our Olympic Open Houses. Five Open Houses had been scheduled during and immediately following the Olympics. But due to the overwhelming interest, the Friday night curlers graciously gave up one of their regularly scheduled league nights to add a sixth Open House. There were about 400 additional people who expressed interest in attending who we could not accommodate. Hopefully, they will be back in the Fall. The Open Houses brought over \$6,000 of revenue to the club. While there are too many people to mention everyone, a special thank you goes out to Julie Everett and her tireless efforts as Membership Chair.

110 of these people signed up for our 8 week Learn to Curl course, which is bringing in an additional \$10,000 for the club. Three of these classes are taking place before the season ends. The additional 5 classes will resume when the season starts up again in October. The classes are all run by volunteers, many who helped out at the Open House. A special thanks to Bill Pekowitz for organizing all of the volunteers and students! Classes are intended to give new curlers instruction in the rules of the game, delivery and sweeping technique, and the etiquette of the sport. If you see a new face around, don't forget to introduce yourself. You never know, you could be meeting one of your future teammates!

April 16-18 is the Headless Horseman/Pull the Plug. Brand new curlers are invited to join experienced curlers in this event. Look for details in the warm room.

An incredible amount of work went in to saving the ice after the power outage. Please stop any member of the Ice Crew and buy them a drink. The ice needed to be saved largely for the new curling training sessions. All agree they've done a great job under trying circumstances.

Quote overheard multiple times from longtime members: "This is the best Open House I have ever seen"

USWCA National Bonspiel

By Nancy Clancy



This year, February 10-14, saw the 62nd USWCA National Bonspiel in Schenectady, NY. Ardsley fielded two teams. Ardsley 1 was Joyance Meechai, Alice Yeh, Kim Nawyn, and Ina Obernesser. In a very competitive draw they finished 1-3. Ardsley 2 (Nancy Clancy, Pauline Davis, Julie Everett, and Lauren Paul) had a better draw and finished with three wins, but lost to the First Event Runner up and 2nd Event Winner. There were 17 teams from the East, 3 from the West, 6 Central, and 6 Wisconsin teams. All 32 teams had a great time.

Team Gestring Finds Success at Women's Club Playdowns

By Jeff Casper

Team New York may have lost more games than they won, but they made sure they were noticed. Our fearless four thumped the Wisconsin team 13-2 in front of full bleachers of Wisconsin faithful at Madison Curling Club. New York was skipped by Robin Gestring along Sandy Gaffner at Vice, Alice Yeh as 2nd, and Kim Nawyn at lead.

"We played great in our two wins, and in our losses we never got blown out." Gestring said. "We would have one bad end and have to play catch up."

The experience was a fresh shot of adrenaline for our team as they faced some of the best women curlers across the country in a top-notch setting. Madison

boasts 6 sheets, and Gestring states that it was the best ice she's ever curled on. Congratulations once again to Team New York.



Team New York with Team Washington Post-Match

Storms Rip Through Ardsley, Cancels McKay-Douglas

By Jeff Casper

Consider yourself lucky if you were among the households that did not lose power during one of the worst storms to hit the Westchester area in a long time. Many of our fellow curlers were struggling with no power for many days. Stories were shared of melting food in the refrigerators and trees falling down everywhere and anywhere.

Thursday's McKay Douglas draws were almost completed despite the weather, but once some of the lights started blinking on and off and the compressors shut down, the event was pretty much over. Teams couldn't make it back and forth from far flung destinations like Tarrytown and Ossining. Some stayed overnight in the club because they couldn't drive in the weather at all.

All in all, the away teams took it all in stride and shared some stories of their own. One Schenectady team staying at Tarrytown's Hampton Inn expended a lot of energy carrying a large full

cooler up six flights of stairs because the elevator was broken. Once they finally arrived at their room, they realized their electric key card wouldn't work either.

Ardsley organizer Vic Huebner in addition to all the tough decisions he had to make realized that no one was going to eat all the special chicken dinners he and his wife cooked. In his words, "Now we have chicken coming out of our ears."

Many curlers had expressed concern that cancelling this bonspiel will hurt the club's finances. Tim Klein, our treasurer, points out that Ardsley did exceptionally well selling ad space in our pamphlet and that some curlers wanted Ardsley to keep some of the entrance fees. As a result we probably broke even versus last year. Geoff Broadhurst sums up the positive attitudes of away teams the best, "It's the curling spirit showing through."

Baby Baby!

By Jeff Casper

Let's all congratulate not one but two new March arrivals among our curling membership. Cassandra Ann Banino was born to MaryLou and Chris. And Haley Grace Allen was born to Lea and Matt. All are doing well, although the babies are wiped out from the move.



Cassandra Ann Banino
7 lbs 0 oz - 20"



Haley Grace Allen
7 lbs 8 oz - 19"

2008 ROY Marries

By Geoff Broadhurst



On February 6th, our 2008 Rookie of the Year Armen Balemian married Lusine Davtyan who comes from Armenia. After Father Kasparian completed the wedding ceremony, Ina Obernesser, James Weeks, Pippa and Geoff Broadhurst assured them a good marriage by having the happy couple, come down the church aisle under curling brooms.

The Empire State

By Nancy Clancy

The Empire State is an international woman's bonspiel sponsored by four clubs: Ardsley, Rochester, Schenectady and Utica. This year, January 21-24, twenty-four teams competed for the Empire State medal and trophy at the Utica Curling Club. The teams were treated to a tour of the historic Stanley Center for the Arts, a theater established in 1928, followed by a banquet at the Fort Schuyler Club. Ardsley 1 went 2-1 with Laureen Paul, Ann MacMillan, Marion Cowles, and Pippa Broadhurst. Ardsley 2 went 2-2 with Nancy Clancy, Pam Politano, Julie Everett, and Majik Jones from Chesapeake. Ardsley 1 bested Ardsley 2 in the second game. Diane Muldowney viced the Nutstones team to win Third Event. Next January, the Empire State will be hosted by the Ardsley Curling Club.

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