



# DUCK SOUP

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

"All the News That Fits"

[www.ardsleycurling.org](http://www.ardsleycurling.org)

## Stopera and Sather Qualify for Nationals

By Jeff Casper

Ardsley Full Member Bill Stopera and Associate Member Martin Sather were vice-skip and second respectfully for Team McCormick, who qualified for the 2011 Men's National Tournament this weekend at Rochester CC's East Region. Ardsley full member Dennis Mellerup also competed on a strong Team Edie, but fell short during the qualifying round.

The McCormick and Wight rinks battled throughout the tournament, with McCormick taking the first match 7-5 when they took 2 in the 8<sup>th</sup>, and they eventually earned the A Event qualifier to the playoff round. McCormick also plays the B Event in this format and once again faced Wight. This time Wight battled back to move on as the B Event playoffs qualifier by besting McCormick 8-6 in a back and forth affair. The two teams reached the final match, with McCormick moving on in yet another back and forth affair 7-5 (9), as they secured the win with 2 in the 9<sup>th</sup>. They were able to steal 1 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and grab 2 with the hammer twice.

The Men's Nationals will be held in Fargo, ND February 12 - 19. Other spots awarded went to Craig Brown, Geoff Goodland, Craig Disher, and Jason Larway. They join Pete Fenson and Tyler George. The final three spots will be determined at the Challenge Round, Jan. 19-23 in Waupaca, WI.

Team McCormick also fared well at the 2010 Laphroaig Scotch Open Cashspiel, where they made a fine showing on the World Curling Tour.

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Team McCormick swept their first four matches to finish first in their round-robin division, besting Dropkin, Hamilton, Farbelow, and Godfrey.

In the quarters however they lost 6-5 to the reigning US national championship team skipped by Pete Fenson. The team can take heart that they were able to come almost all the way back after surrendering 4 in the first end, and they finished in the money.

## Team Austin Prevails At Norfolk For Calder Trophy

By George Austin

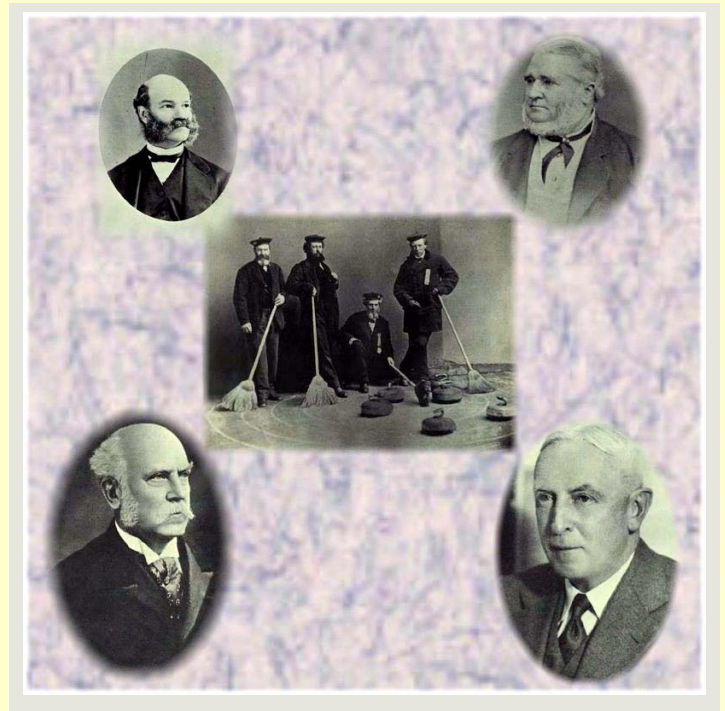
In December, George Austin travelled to Norfolk, CT to skip a rink that included Stuart Graves of Broomstones CC, Jon Kuniholm of Border CC and Jim Parsons of Canadian Club of Boston and won the 52nd Calder Cup, in a 12 team event, under the New York Caledonian banner. Going 4 and 0, they defeated Schenectady CC in a ten end final that was not decided until the last rock. New York Caledonian was down by 4 rocks after 7 ends, but managed to take 3 rocks in the 8<sup>th</sup> on a double takeout, stole the 9<sup>th</sup> and stole the 10<sup>th</sup>. Star Childs represented his family at the awards ceremony, indicative of their long standing support for curling in the idyllic New England town of Norfolk and within the GNCC.

## A GNCC Historical Review Underscores the Power of Volunteerism

By Jeff Casper

Taking a look at the history of the GNCC helps understand our roots and appreciate the effort consistent volunteerism means to our sport, not just at our club but across the whole of the country. For those who don't yet know the GNCC stands for Grand National Curling Club. It is an organization of the east coast curling clubs that provides a venue to introduce standards for proper instruction of how to curl, how to teach curlers, how to tend to the ice, and how to officiate. They also provide financial services and funding for certain club repairs, starting new clubs, and financing curling camp expenses for junior curlers, called "2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Fund". They provide communication services in an annual handbook, newsletters, and their website at [www.gncc.org](http://www.gncc.org). These communication pieces highlight among other things bonspiel schedules at all the clubs, some of which are directly sponsored by the GNCC. Finally, they provide a liaison between east coast curling clubs and the USCA, the U.S. governing body, and the WCF, the World Curling Federation. Senior members at our club volunteer their time to work with the GNCC each year. Over your curling lifetime you may find the GNCC to be a great help to your development and enjoyment of this game.

Believe it or not the GNCC started way back in 1867, just two years after the Civil War. The "Grand National" name was a nod to the first curling club formed in North America, called the Grand National of Montreal, in 1807. As more clubs formed it became necessary to make sure they were organized. A meeting was held on Sullivan Street, NY with delegates from many clubs present. As usual politics ruled the day. The ideas being weighed included whether to ask permission to form a branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, based in Scotland, or a whole new organization based in North America. The sticky point



*(Center) The "Border Rink" of Buffalo NY, (Clockwise from Upper Left) Alexander Dalrymple 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Andrews President 1870-1872, GNCC Patron Alexander Mitchell of Milwaukee C.C., Honorary Patron Lemuel Cushing of Royal Montreal CC, First GNCC Patron Robert Gordon, also of St. Andrews*

was that some of the North American clubs were not already individual members of the Royal Caledonian Club and would have to wait to earn that right. It was decided then to create a whole new "National Curling Club" organization to further interest in curling "on this continent". It was also resolved that "this Convention take the necessary steps to form a branch to be known as the United States Branch of the Royal Caledonian Club"\*. Further, James Brand, there as a representative of the Caledonian Curling Club of New York, suggested the name Grand National Curling Club. And so it was that since that point all clubs east of the Mississippi River were members of this new organization.

By 1868 they already had 12 clubs all over the U.S. and also Canada that had paid dues. At the time they played 14 ends, all outdoors. Rink fees were a princely \$8.

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## GNCC History

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The original dues paying members included the Caledonians and St. Andrews clubs. The Caledonians are still active in the GNCC and curl at Ardsley. St. Andrews no longer pay dues to the GNCC but several legacy curls also play at Ardsley.

David Bell of Buffalo was elected as the first president of the GNCC. Interestingly, the first trophy event he created and introduced to the GNCC was not for curling but for "quoiting", an ancient Scottish game and an early form of horseshoes, held in the spring. Called the Bell Silver Quoit Medal it was last competed for in Cooperstown, NY in 1966. This medal was considered so important that at the 1876 annual meeting voted to publish the rules every year, forever. This is still carried out.

In the early days of the GNCC it was important to find and rely on "patrons". Patrons are people with financial means to provide prizes and travel expenses, as well as connections to organize clubs and find places to play. The idea of an inside rink was not known. Early places where curling events were held include Van Cortlandt Park in New York City and Lincoln Park in Chicago. Club Presidents were often also Patrons.

One early patron was one Robert Gordon, the first GNCC Patron. He was a big deal in the New York area as he was also one of the first incorporators of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, President of the Down Town Association and of the St. Andrew's Society, and a partner in the financial firm Maitland, Phelps, and Co. Mr. Gordon created the "Gordon Championship Rink Medal" to be presented annually to the champion curlers of the United States and Canada. Except for 1874, 1887, and 1889 (early thaw), and in 1890 and 1943 due to war, this medal has been in competition every year and still is as the Gordon International. It is believed to be the oldest continuous athletic medal.

After Gordon moved to London, a second patron named Alexander Mitchell took over. He was based in the Milwaukee area and curled at the Milwaukee Curling Club. Mitchell created the Mitchell Trophy originally intended as a Midwest-East Coast rivalry. Today, it is played annually out of the Utica Curling Club. The Mitchell has been in existence since 1885. After Mitchell died of pneumonia in 1887, the office of Patron stood vacant. Finally, in 1948, one Leonard Cushing was voted "Honorary Patron". He was instrumental in increasing friendships between the U.S. and Canada through his many appearances at various curling events. A Canadian by birth, Cushing was President or Vice President of numerous curling clubs and was an accounting partner by trade.

While the Mitchell and Gordon continue today, they buck the trend. Many early medals are discontinued including the Dalrymple Trophy, a competition between local curlers from North and South of Scotland. This was started by Alexander Dalrymple, St. Andrews' second President in the 1870s.

The GNCC over the years has had periods of prosperity and periods of waning interest and challenges. Through it all, and by efforts of individual curlers, indoor curling facilities were developed in Boston (in 1920 at the TCC after an early fire destroyed a 1910 facility also in Boston), and Women's Curling also became organized. Originally, this was done by forming the U.S. Women's Curling Association in 1948. Although the GNCC did not start a women's division, it was a supporter of this organization through its tremendous growth today.

Just as our own club relies on its member's interest and time to survive, so does the GNCC. The fruits of the effort put forth by passionate curlers throughout are evidenced by the tremendous growth the sport enjoys today.

## First Half League Summaries

Many first half seasons are ending or have new news to report. A big round of applause to our League Runners.

**Monday/Stopera** – Congratulations to the Clancy and Gaffner Rinks for moving up to the “A” Division of the Thorndike.

**Tuesday/Clancy** – The results of the MacIntosh (Junior Skip) are as follows: The winning team was Lillie Baggett at skip, with Lauren Paul, Laurie Frees and Sarah Mermer. Here are the final standings: 1<sup>st</sup> Lillie Baggett 4–1/2<sup>nd</sup> Katy Clough 3–2/3<sup>rd</sup> Gail Boggio 3–2/4<sup>th</sup> Lyn Greaves 2–3/5<sup>th</sup> Heather Morrison 2–3/6<sup>th</sup> Mieko Takiguchi 1–4.

The Buddy System Results are as follows: Pam Politano–Heather Morrison were the winning back end. Taylor Block (newbie) – Subs won the front end competition. **Results of Back Ends:** 1<sup>st</sup> Pam Heather 4–2–1/2<sup>nd</sup> Katy Clough–Ann Dondlinger 4–3/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Lauren Paul–Gail Boggio 4–3/ 4<sup>th</sup> Lillie Baggett–Ann MacMillan 3–4/ 5<sup>th</sup> Nancy Clancy – Laurie Frees 2–5/6<sup>th</sup> Pam Seibert – Melissa Dominguez 2–5/ 7<sup>th</sup> Pattie Burns–Alison Bankes 0–7. **Results of Front Ends:** 1<sup>st</sup> Taylor–Subs 4–3/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Lyn Greaves–Liz O’Laughlin 3–3–1/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Kris Liddle–Melissa Schori 3–4/4<sup>th</sup> Wezie Corry–Sarah Mermer 3–4/5<sup>th</sup> Ellen O’Connor – Barbara Gabhart 2–4–1/6<sup>th</sup> Mieko Takiguchi–Carol O’Neill 2–5/7<sup>th</sup> Dolores Redding–Pippa Broadhurst 2–5.

**Wednesday/P. Austin** – Team (Jon) Peter won gold with a record of 9–2. Team (Mike) Shalhoub took silver with a record of 7–4. In addition to Jon and Mike, Ed Siebert (7–4 record) and Tim Klein (6–5) are moving up to skip in the Wells. It was a tight race from start to finish with 2nd, 3rd and 4th places being determined on the last night. We had 19 new curlers which was fantastic. We are looking forward to a great 2nd half.

**Thursday/Kennedy** – Thursday evenings had a great first half season. We had great fun and it was a close competition. The first two places were decided only in the last game. Because we have 12 teams this year, we gave 4 award placements: **First place** – Team Peter, Jon Peter, Jim Duke, Kathryn Lockey, Sarah Mermer, Jesse Sneddon **Second Place** – Team Morrison, Heather Morrison, Mike Murray, Michelle Schleibaum, Jim Holderman, Jordan Becker **Third Place** – Team Shalhoub, Mike Shalhoub, Gail Boggio, John Salmon, Lynn Salmon, Andy Eaton, **Fourth Place** – Team Klein, Jeff Klein, Jon Schuster, Betty Sybesma, Liz O’Loughlin

**Saturday/Broadhurst** – The Saturday 7:30 pm Open League will continue until the end of the curling season to have pickup games among those who show up

**Sunday AM/Scheiner** – The Sunday AM Jug Ogden League got off to a great start this year. With the help of some of the club’s finest experienced curlers, new skips are developing their strategy skills, while new curlers are learning and developing their technique. Fun is had by all at our pizza lunch after each week’s games. In the coming weeks, the league will be showing a video provided by Kay Sugahara on curling strategy. Each week before we go on the ice, we will watch a 10–15 minute segment of the video, talk about what we’ve learned, and then apply it in a real game situation on the ice. The video will start at 9:40am, and the games start at 10:00am. This is a pick-up style league, and all are welcome to join us. Good curling, everybody, and see you on Sunday mornings!

## Bloodies

By Walter Baggett

This year's Bloodies and Brooms went off well. Thirty two people signed up, making for a perfect eight team draw. We played four end matches. With a half an hour between these one hour matches, we started at noon and were done by six, with plenty of time for eating and drinking between the three matches most teams played. And the winners are as follows: **First Event Winner:** Dave Schrull (S), Ted Pitt, Vicki Sturner, Norma Hunter **First event Funner Up:** Ann Dondlinger (S) Jordan Becker, Jen Stein, James Skoufis **Second Event Winner:** Matt Scheiner (S), John Salmon, Lynn Salmon, Karen Luckey **Second Event Runner Up:** Laura Hill (S), Ken Hsu, Stephanie Lee, Doug Hill **Third Event Winner:** John Dorff (S), Matt Gallegos, Sharon Gallegos, Andy Ness **Third Event Runner Up:** Nancy Clancy (S), Will Pryor, Barbara Gabhart, Morgan Halperin

Reminders for January: The 57<sup>th</sup> Empire State Bonspiel at ACC January 20-23rd

### The Bucket Stays at Ardsley!

Congratulations to ACC curlers who defended the Bucket from our annual contest with Plainfield Curling Club. ACC won by 10 points, roughly one game. Thanks to Mike Greene for organizing the ACC portion.

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## Bonspiel Trail

By Nancy Clancy

Nancy Clancy, Andy Eaton, Barbara Gabhart, & Jordan Becker went to the Harvest Mixed Bonspiel in Philadelphia. Other than Nancy, it was the team's first away bonspiel and we had a great time, nailing the costume event. The theme was HS Homecoming, and we went at Class of 2050.

Diane Mudowney, Nancy Clancy, Mieko Takiguchi & Kris Liddle went to the USWCA Senior Women's Bonspiel at Blackhawk Curling club in Janesville WI. Nancy and Diane shared skipping duty, and the team finished in the medals, with runner up in the third event.



(Clockwise from Upper Left) Nancy Clancy, Mieko Takiguchi, Kris Liddle, and Diane Muldowney

All GNCC Source Material and Photos from "Grand National Curling Club of America 100th Anniversary 1867-1967", by Edward Childs, John Henderson, Allyn McIntire, Ralson Reid, Luguish Hill, Chairman.

Thanks to Sally MacIntyre of Nutmeg for providing this and to Bob Kennedy for formatting the photos