



Official Newsletter of the Ardsley Curling Club

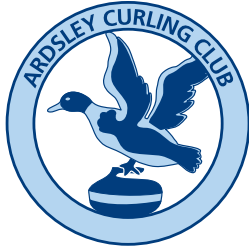
DUCK SOUP

January 2012

"All the News That Fits"

USWCA Senior Women's National Bonspiel

By Karen Luckey



North Mountain Drive
Ardsley, NY 10502



At the time that Mieko Takiguchi, Pippa Broadhurst, Kris Liddle, and I signed up for the USWCA Senior Women's National Bonspiel, hosted by Nutmeg Curling Club, we

had not yet played together as a team. Two women using a stick delivery system, a second year curler, and a Skip for whom English is a second language might be an unusual combination, but with the host club close by our objective was to have an enjoyable time curling and socializing with women across the country. We also wanted to be an Ardsley Club team presence.

With a couple of discouraging practice games under our belt, we were off to face our opponents. We lost our first game to lake Placid,

but it was not a blowout. We then scored a win against the Mesabi (MN) women. We had stayed in the second event. Needless to say, we were pretty excited.

We moved on to play one of the three Mayfield (Cleveland) teams also in the second event. The game went back and forth several times. In the seventh end we were tied (without the hammer). Mayfield's last shot was just off enough that our lying stone counted to give us the point for the win! Surprise, surprise we were in the second event finals!

Sadly, we were not able to defeat Kettle Moraine (WI), the second event winners. Kettle Moraine's team has curled together many years; a nice group of women. We had some off shots, and they made some great shots. Our impromptu Ardsley team was very excited to be runners-up in the second event.

calendar notes

Upcoming GNCC events:

Mitchell Invitational (men's)
Utica Curling Club
Thurs. Jan. 12 - Sun. Jan. 15

Chesapeake Funspiel (open)
Chesapeake Curling Club
Thurs. Jan. 12 - Sun. Jan. 15

Empire State Ladies
Schenectady Curling Club
Thurs. Jan. 19 - Sun. Jan. 22

GNCC Senior Mixed Championship
Norfolk Curling Club
Fri. Jan. 20 - Sun. Jan. 22

GNCC Senior Men's Championship
Ardsley Curling Club
Thurs. Jan. 26 - Sun. Jan. 29

A complete calendar of events is available at www.gncc.org

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Philadelphia is Hosting the Men's Nationals

As our email has stated, the Men's Nationals will be held relatively close to Ardsley this year at the Ice Works Sports Complex near Philadelphia. It is rare that this event is held in the Eastern Time Zone, so please make every effort to take advantage of this opportunity. The event runs from February 11-18. Tickets can be purchased through their website at 2012USACurlingNationals.com. You may be startled to see a picture of Bill Stopera on the home page.

Bill Stopera and Martin Sather are once again making a bid to compete at Nationals as part of Team McCormick. They are currently the number 1 seed at playdowns held at Potomac Curling Club next week. There are 9 teams competing for one automatic bid to Nationals. There is a second chance available at the challenge round. This is a big commitment for them and their families, so let's all be there to support them. The playdowns are January 5-8th and you can follow along at curldc.org or attend in person.



Norfolk Curling Club Burns to the Ground



Many of you already heard the sad news that vandals burned down the Norfolk Curling Club. Two teenagers were arrested nearby and are alleged to have burned the club, along with part of another nearby house. They have also been arraigned on a host of charges including arson, larceny, burglary, and trespass. The club is completely destroyed, including all the curling stones

and historic placards and pins. Their website www.NorfolkCurlingClub.org will give further news on next steps needed to replace the club. Here are some photos courtesy of the Hartford Courant, Norfolk CC's website, and Karen Casper. Let's all hope that this disaster at least serves to bring the curling community closer together.

76th McKay-Douglas

The McKay Douglas Bonspiel is right around the corner! February 23rd to the 26th. This is the major fundraising opportunity for our club, so please volunteer. Contact Scott Silverman at scott.a.silverman@verizon.net

Calder Trophy Goes to Schenectady

The Calder Trophy has been up for grabs annually (first weekend of December) at the Norfolk Curling Club, located in Northwest Connecticut. This year's trophy was claimed by the Schenectady Curling Club's Team Macout that bested perennial favorite, Caledonian's George Austin Rink, along the way. Austin's Rink included Plainfield's Jim Parsons & Ontario's Jon Klinsman at the front, and fellow Caledonian and Ardsley CC curler Adam Chebetar at Vice. The rest of the curlers present watched the Saturday night prime time match and agreed it was a good close match as they dined on specially prepared steak and potatoes with salad. The Caledonians went on to the fourth event, where they came home with beer.

There was plenty of "armchair curling talk" among fellow curlers during the Saturday draws including Walter Baggett,

who brought and Ardsley team of Kurt Pader, Jim Duke, and Heinz Gruettner. They finished Sunday morning as runners up in the B Event. They bested yet another team of Ardsley CC curlers skipped by Tim Klein, and including Jeff Casper, Matt Gallegos, and Nathan Van Auken along the way. The Norfolk Curling Club was a two-sheeter located in a beatific country setting. Set adjacent to several miles of private land and state protected land, it is a real treat to get an opportunity to go for a hike. As with any small community, the Norfolk curlers are a small tight-knit group that made everyone feel welcome as always. The Calder Trophy has been played among men's teams for more than 50 years. There are many teams that came back year after year to compete, enjoy themselves, and enjoy the company of others. It is an event that never lost its sense of community and friendship. We only hope it will continue in the future.

Mixed Doubles Nationals



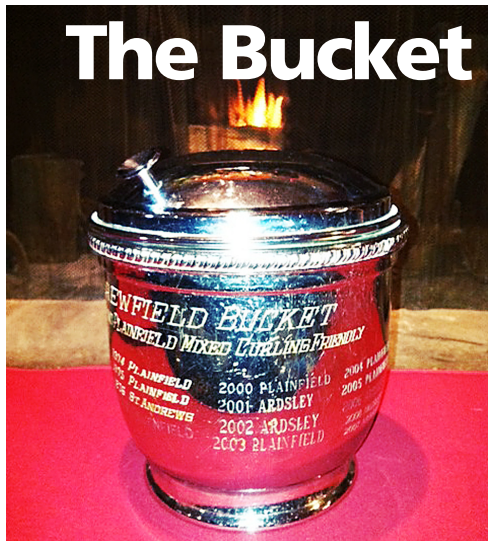
The US Mixed Doubles Championship saw Joyance Meechai compete with her Seattle partner Mike Calcagno at Broomstones Curling Club this past December 8-11. The outcome was less exciting than the adventure. Joyance had to take the arduous United Nations entrance exam in NY the same day as her Boston draw. The exam finally finished at 2:30 and she somehow got to Broomstones in time for a 7:30 practice time despite fog and rain all the way. Still completely stressed out, the team started poorly their first two matches. The calming effect of curling started to take hold the next two games as the team won their next two matches against (on paper) superior teams. Their 4th draw pitted them against multiple champion Brady and Cristin Clark. Joyance and Mike came up short. The Clark team went on to win in an exciting final against local favorites Jennifer and Alex Leichter and will represent the US in Worlds next year.

The favorite Meechai/Calcagno story came in the 4th match. This was a close affair. The webcast moved all their equipment over to capture the exciting last end. Joyance was forced to make the 5th and final shot of the end, and it was quite difficult. Joyance made a brilliant shot to win the match, but the video feed broke down. Alas, her great shot remained a secret until playback was later restored.

Former Ardsley curlers Kim and Jason Nawyn also competed, also finishing 2-4. For a brush up on the unique rules of doubles curling, you can refer to last December's Duck Soup found online.

The Bucket Goes to Plainfield

Mike Greene



Everyone who brought food including Peter Decker for bagels and muffins in the morning, Leeza Furman for the heros, wraps and fruit and all the dessert and snack-bringers. Those who helped to score including Leeza and Lyn. Those who brought food from the lower level to the warm room including Matt and Barb Jonathan and Matthew for preparing popcorn. Everyone who helped to clean up and my wife, Ruth

Loomis, who remembered to get waivers from the Plainfielders and spent a lot of time in the kitchen preparing food and washing dishes.

I'm sorry that my memory fails me (usually within 10 minutes), because I know I could name a lot of other people. But because of everyone's participation, it was a successful day at the club. Thank you everyone.

The 53rd Men's Continental Bonspiel

By Jon Peter

Always an amazing bonspiel, the Continental prides itself on being the "World's greatest men's bonspiel."

Jeff Klein, Dave Wagenheim & myself, Jon Peter, traveled to Highland Park, IL to compete in the 53rd Men's Continental Bonspiel. This was my eighth appearance at the Continental and was the 'rookie' appearance for front-end curlers Jeff & Dave. After a slightly delayed flight to O'Hare Airport, the world's third busiest airport, we were picked up by team skip, Steve Neff. Steve is a long time Illinois curler from a legendary curling family. He has played in the Continental Bonspiel for over 10 years and currently curls out of the Wilmette Curling Club (a paper club that uses Exmoor C.C. ice house), after his former club, the North Shore Curling Club closed its doors to curling this past year. After a short visit to the local Bocce Club for lunch and a beer, we headed to Exmoor C.C. to check out the ice and the competition.

Our first game drew stiff competition against The Brown's, another legendary Illinois curling family. Skipped by Ken Brown (2nd generation) with Larry Brown (1st generation), who is one of the USA's greatest advocates for curling, playing vice. Larry had grandson, Ryan Brown (3rd generation) sweeping his stones and playing second, so they were in good shape on their home Exmoor ice. Luckily Russ Brown (2nd generation) was playing for a 'Scotland Tour' (more on this to come) team instead of his usual Continental 'The Brown's' team.



Team Neff: (l to r) Jeff Klein, Steve Neff, Jon Peter, Dave Wagenheim

It was a good, close game. The ice was new to us and took a few ends for us to catch on to the 4' of curl in the last 8'. Jeff Klein curled great and led team Neff to a win, with the hammer rock in the eighth end being the decider for team Brown.

The 'USCA Scotland Tour' <https://sites.google.com/site/scottour2012/home> had four of its five teams represented in this year's Continental. These teams are comprised of curlers or 'tourists' from across the US. The Scotland Tour is almost a month long commitment and I am sure there is some great curling and memories that have and will be made.

In our next game we faced more tough competition, a Scotland Tour team viced by Russ Lemke, Cape Cod Curling Club, and a frequent supporter of Ardsley C.C. Led by skip Doug Dedolph, they curled excellent and were much deserving of the win, so we moved into the Second Event.

The Continental Bonspiel gets its' namesake from the number of Canadian teams that travel each year to attend this epic curling event. This year, 19 of the 41 teams were Canadian. There is a trophy at the end of the bonspiel for the Country that wins the most head to head games.

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Bloodies and Brooms Gets Shorty



Jeff Klein and Dave Wagenheim were the chief organizers of another successful Bloodies and Brooms. Mike Greene, Carin Horowitz and Bob Kennedy were also indispensable. Klein and Wagenheim brought Shorty back from Chicago (see related "Continental article"). The event started at a very reasonable 11:00 AM on New Years Day, and the 32 participants were treated to first class food, raffle items (A big thank you to both Seth Altman for Ranger Tickets and the Wilks for many bottles of wine/liquor), and lots of good company.

Lunch, dinner, and specifically desserts were outstanding. The Dave Schrull rink ended up winning the first event. His team included Matt Scheiner, John Salmon, and Lynn Salmon.

The new wrinkle this year was the introduction of "The Shorty" tournament. Held on both sides of sheet B, the Shorty is an event where teams of two throw two stones each to the near side house from the hack. As long as they have one foot in the hack, and the other foot is parallel, the shooter can push the stone into the

house. Regular scoring rules apply. But one other wrinkle is that all stones must always be in play. Suffice it to say the whole Shorty Tournament was a riot. It was eventually won by Dave Schrull and Matt Scheiner, with Dave Wagenheim substituting for an injured Matt. They took home a cash prize and a fine bottle of Champagne.

What better way to ring in (softly please) the new year with a little curling and good company. Happy 2012!

The 53rd Men's Continental Bonspiel

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In our third game, we were up against a team from Leaside, Ontario, lead by skip Jim Montgomery. We were well adjusted to the ice at this point and curled very well, keeping the Leaside boys scrambling for the entire game.

On Saturday we entered in our fourth game in a do or die situation. The Continental has a four game guarantee and that was all our team was going to play this year. We faced a Chicago C.C. team skipped by David Geake. With a 3 point score in the first end, team Geake hung onto to the lead and gave us an early exit from the bonspiel.

The hospitality at the Exmoor Continental is great. All meals were served at the beautiful clubhouse and were worthy of many stars. The Continental is full of tradition, which is recognized during the formal banquet on Saturday night. Bonspiel coordinator, Chris Schallmo opened the evening, followed by Mike Griem, who honored many attendees for multiple years of attendance to the spiel. A total of 52 men have played in this bonspiel for 10 years or more. 37 of those

men were entered in this year's competition with the most impressive stat going to Dick Urevig of Chicago C.C. He has played in this bonspiel an impressive 40 years.

The next tradition was to honor this years Exmoor Hall of Fame inductee, Jim Smith, followed by the first public singing of John Denver's "Drunken Scotsman" by the Scot' Tour teams and led by Russ Armstrong. Russ was also the headline entertainer and between jokes managed to generate a lot of funds with an auction for Bears tickets, Cubs tickets, and a \$1000 CN Rail Pass.

There were also a number of Continental 'rookies' that were rewarded and a special thanks to a determined young group of guys curling for the first time in this bonspiel from the University of Tennessee.

The night's festivities continued as all curlers paraded back to the curling house to watch the semi-finals of the First Event and the 'Canadian Shorty' games playing on the other two sheets.

With some teams having to play three games on Sunday, the four Event finals were started on Sunday afternoon with traditional piping and ceremonial toast.

Even though the Ardsley curlers finished short of the jewelry, we ate well, we drank lots of free beer, we made new friends and we would like to commend the organizers of the Exmoor Continental Bonspiel.

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