



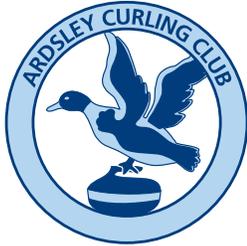
Official Newsletter of the Ardsley Curling Club

# DUCK SOUP

February 2013

"All the News That Fits"

## Messing, Mellerup Win the 2013 Men's Senior National Championship



North Mountain Drive  
Ardsley, NY 10502

### calendar notes

#### Upcoming GNCC events:

Kayser (mixed)

Wed. Feb. 13 - Sun. Feb. 17  
Utica Curling Club

Little International (men's)  
Fri. Feb. 15 - Sun. Feb. 17  
Belfast Curling Club

GNCC Mixed Championship  
Thurs. Feb. 21 - Sun. Feb. 24  
Plainfield Curling Club

McKay-Douglas International (men's)  
Ardsley Curling Club  
Thur. Feb. 23 - Sun. Feb. 26

Francis Dykes (men's)  
Wed. Feb. 27 - Sun. March 3  
Potomac Curling Club

A complete calendar of events is available at [www.gncc.org](http://www.gncc.org)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2013 Men's Senior National Championship .....	1
Team Dunnam Earns 3rd Place at Junior Nationals .....	1
North Americans Win at Continental Cup .....	2
Ladies Empire State Bonspiel .....	3
Robbie Burnspiel 2013 .....	4
Tobacco Belt Bonspiel .....	5
Curling Etiquette .....	6
1st Half League Round Ups .....	7



Team Messing: (left to right) Bill Peskoff, Don Nickle, Dennis Mellerup and Gert Messing

When Gert Messing and Dennis Mellerup teamed with Don Nickle and Bill Peskoff of Plainfield, they did not have realistic designs on winning the biggest U.S. event for curlers over 50, the Senior Nationals. Messing admitted, "I was hoping we would make the playoffs. It would mean to me that all the practice this year and all the money and effort it took to fly all the way out to Fairbanks, would have been worth the effort."

Team Messing instead ended up ripping through the initial round robin going

undefeated 5-0 in their pool (one of three pools, six teams each) and gained the top seed in the playoffs. The top seed earns a double knockout advantage in the playoffs, and they needed it after dropping a game against Team Pustover of Hibbing after a first round bye. They went on to win the whole thing after sneaking past Team Jensen in the Sunday afternoon final. Every match save one was at best a three point differential.

*continued on page 5*



## Andrew Stopera, Part of Team Dunnam, Earns 3rd Place at Junior Nationals

Vice Andrew Stopera should be happy with his teams showing at Junior Nationals. The top junior curlers came together at Broomstones January 26th - February 2nd for a week of the most intense curling. In the end on the men's side, The Dropkin "High Performance" rink prevailed over 10 teams to repeat as champion. The women's side also saw the high performance team victorious, the Solem Rink after three second place finishes the last three years.

*continued on page 6*



## Stopera, Sather, Team McCormick Share North American Win at Continental Cup

Team McCormick continues to reap the benefits of their U.S. National Champions status. This time, it was being part of the Continental Cup team. And they continued their winning ways, with Team North America pulling away on the final day to earn the coveted trophy and bragging rights. The Team avenged a lost last year to Team World in convincing fashion at “home” in Penticton, British Columbia January 10-13.

Team North America was in control the whole way, taking a big lead into the final day, where Glenn Howard was given the chance to secure the pivotal 30th point in the regular team curling event as the rest of the team cheered from the sidelines.

Team McCormick went 2-1 in the team curling, but dropped matches in skins and in singles competition

This event sees a pretty even split between the internationals and the North Americans. The last 8 are 4-4.

The Continental Cup is an annual event that brings together the finest curlers on the international scene to compete against Team North America (U.S. and Canada) in a series of events over several days. The unique format lends itself to an intense match up and creates a level of camaraderie not often seen in traditional bonspiels. After all, it's 24 players on a side.

Six teams are on each side – three men's and three women's. They face each other during this four day event in regular Team curling games, Mixed Doubles, Singles, Mixed Skins and Skins games. Think golf's Ryder Cup for men and women.

Singles competition earns points by how well each shooter performs Run Throughs, Draws to the Button, Draws the Port, The Raise, Hit and Roll and Double Takeout. Skins games award skins by how many ends are won. Mixed Doubles and team curling follow more familiar formats.

For the six Mixed Doubles and six Singles matches, one point is awarded for each victory, one-half point if tied. There were 18 team games (nine men's and nine women's) played, also worth one point for a win, one-half point for a tie. All games are eight ends and there are no extra ends. There were also six Skins games, with each game worth a total of five points to the winner. So out of 60 points, the first side to 30 wins.

And there's actually money on the line. The winning side received \$52,000 Cdn (\$2,000 per member, including captain and coach), while the losing side got \$26,000 (\$1,000 per member, including captain and coach). As well, the side which generated the highest points total from the six Skins games received an additional \$13,000 (\$500 per player, plus captain and coach).

# An Ardsley Rink Battles into the First Event Finals at the Ladies Empire State Bonspiel

*Karen Luckey, Pippa Broadhurst and Pauline Davies*



Taylor Block skipped her rink of Mieko Takaguchi, Karen Luckey, and Pippa Broadhurst to capture the First Event Runner-up trophy in the annual Empire State Bonspiel.

We headed for Rochester with no particular expectations as we had not played or practiced together, although Mieko Takaguchi's Rink (Broadhurst, Luckey, and Ardsley's Kris Liddle) was the second event runner-up in the USWCA Senior Women's Bonspiel in 2011.

We discussed strategy on the flight to Rochester. Thanks to Taylor's and Mieko's quick read on ice and shots and some good front-end shot making, our first match vanquished the rink who eventually won the second event. The semi-final event brought us against a team from Welland, Ontario in a very tight match, won by one point. They were considered to be the toughest team in the bonspiel, after decimating previous opponents. That put us into the finals!

In our last game we faced the Welland 2 rink. Exhilarated by our previous games, our thoughts on strategy went out the window and we were soundly 'trounced'! It was a great experience for all of us, and we were very pleased to be the First Event Runner-up representing the Ardsley Curling Club in the Empire State Bonspiel.

Nancy Clancy, Pauline Davies, Barbara Gabhart and Pam Politano also curled at the Empire State Bonspiel up on Rochester. The team won their first game, lost their second, won their third and then lost their fourth game. All four games were very close and the first game even went into a ninth end. With their win/loss combination, Ardsley 1 made it into the Third Event semi-finals. Unfortunately, they lost this game. The team enjoyed curling in the "Celebrate the Northern Lights" bonspiel and look forward to curling in the 60th Empire State Bonspiel up on Utica in January 2014.

The Empire State started 59 years ago. At that time the bonspiel rotated between three clubs: Utica, Schenectady, and St. Andrews. When St. Andrews folded in 1985, Ardsley took over the third hosting spot and recently, Rochester has become the fourth club to share hosting of the event.

***Good luck to the teams representing Ardsley in the  
74th Francis Dykes Memorial Bonspiel  
February 27- March 3 at the Potomac Curling Club***

**Ardsey 1:** Matt Scheiner, John Salmon, Jeff Klein, Seth Altman

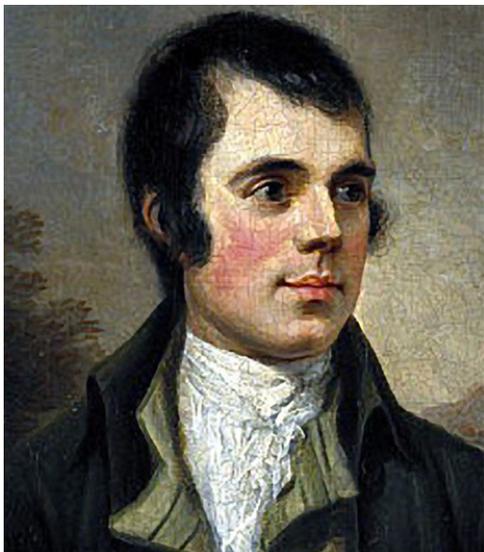
**Ardsey 2:** Matt Gallegos, Jordan Becker, Joe Panella, Mike Spensieri

**Ardsey 3:** Yushi Yang, Ken Hsu, Peter Decker, Barry Rosenbloom

**Ardsey 4:** Andy Eaton, Ray Ullmer, Paul Sobran, Alex Zic

# Some Love for Bob Kennedy and the Robbie Burnspiel

Pippa Broadhurst



and teams. Some of the teams even found flannel pajama bottoms in their clan tartan! How cool is that? Bob has small Tea Towels imprinted with the clan tartans and the team names below. When the winners are 'piped out' on the ice (good recording), the clan leaders drape those towels over their brooms! One enthusiast wore his clan tartan as a cape (who was that?). Bob has songs printed up. In this case it was "Auld Lang Syne." I know most of us had NO idea of how many verses there were! He also printed up the "Ode to the Haggis" with Double Dutch Gaelic on one side and real English on the other. This was presented in a booming voice by our favorite HAM, Jim Duke! I am still not sure if his 'dirk' cut the table below but it sure made a lot of people jump! Each team member received a crisp Scottish two pound note as well.

All the food had a Scottish theme from Scotch eggs, and special stews to the famous haggis mentioned above. Not only did we have one haggis but we had a second vegetarian one (NO ESCAPE EXCUSE for those who really didn't want to try it!) All the credit for the lunch goes to Barbara, Bob's non curling but incredibly good cooking wife! Barbara says that cooking for a crowd is nothing. Her Italian family is a large one. At all festivities, there are never fewer than 22 people. Hey Barb, how about a cooking lesson fundraiser for the club? You teach some of us who are 'faint of heart' preparing food for any number over 8 for dinner?

One person who has made a big difference to the Ardsley Curling Club is Bob Kennedy!

I can't remember what we did before Bob brought his own brand of enthusiasm and humor to the club. Bob has taught those of us what fun can occur in his many 'special' events. He has shown us that good curling need not be aggressive but can embrace all levels of curlers and come up with 'darn' good teams.

As the "Burnspiel" is most recent in my mind, I'd like to share a few facts for those very unlucky people who have not participated in one of Bob's events. Some of the many extras Bob added that day are as follows. Every team not only has a clan name, but you knew what their special tartan colors were. Bob's program has the tartans pictured with the names



The "Highland Games" were another treat! The façade of a "castle" about 4 feet high with an open doorway was placed at the far end of a sheet of ice. The Highlanders were then challenged to deliver a stone (no sweeping) through the open door. If you were dangerously unsuccessful, the castle would rise so its beautiful structure was not damaged. The list could go on and on.

What I want to say about Bob is that he makes curling both interesting and fun for all.

Although I don't curl Thursday nights (it is always sold out), I hear it is a blast. Their holiday parties have a reputation for the most 'interesting' presents imaginable. Thank you Bob for making curling most enjoyable.



**1st Event Winner**  
Matt Gallegos (skip)  
Sharon Gallegos  
Kevin Greaves  
Dolores Redding



**2nd Event Winner**  
Shoji Takiguchi (skip)  
Mike Infranco  
Mieko Takiguchi  
Pippa Broadhurst



**3rd Event Winner**  
Mike Spensieri  
Nicole Mikoleski  
Jim Borgia  
Diane Borgia

# Messing, Mellerup Win the 2013 Men's Senior National Championship

continued from page 1

Team Messing will now be a part of the Senior World's, held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. April 11 to 21. They are in group B that includes Canada and Sweden in a 9 game round robin.

Next followed the long arduous flight home to report back to work. But the journey must have been sweet. Team Messing has done it. They are senior national champions.

**Gert Messing** - We got together for a meeting to discuss the amount of commitment each one of us had towards playing in the senior nationals that were rumored to be set for Fairbanks, Alaska. We all agreed that we would play in a spiel every month leading towards the playdowns. We agreed to play together in a spiel in September, October, November and December. We were not able to all play together in another spiel in January

but Dennis, Bill & Bill played together while I played on a different team that I already had committed to. We also practiced together either as a team or at least in pairs during the whole season.

We then took the long flight to Fairbanks (10.5hrs). We arrived a day earlier than the competition was scheduled, to get acclimated to time change. We were also able to practice one day earlier than scheduled at the club, which gave us a nice advantage.

It is very important as a team to have all players be honest and say how much effort each player is willing to make to reach your goals. As teammates, you owe it to the team to put the effort in that you say you will.

It is also important to stay loose, play together, and most importantly have fun on the ice.

**Dennis Mellerup** - Our team actually formally formed at the Elysian cafe in Hoboken one evening last August. It was there that we agreed on positions and set a schedule of 4 weekends for bonspiels and practice times. Interestingly, Gert had to squeeze in time for this team as he had already committed with his club team of Mike Murphy, Greg Poole, and Chris Banino to defend a number of titles they won last year. In my eyes Gert was already prepared for what would become a senior national championship. All of us have really been preparing for this our whole curling lives. Meaningful practice and competition year from year can pay off if you're patient. Good curlers don't always win even if they play well. Luck and team chemistry come into play, too.

## Team Peter Takes Runner Up in A Event at Tobacco Belt



Jon Peter came one win away from a triumphant return to his hometown of Tillsonburg, Ontario, as his rink of Ardsley curlers finished A Event runners-up in the Tobacco Belt Bonspiel on the weekend of January 18-20.

Peter's team of Dave Wagenheim (vice), Jeff Klein (second), and Jordan Becker (lead) advanced comfortably through the first two games into the A semifinal, where

they stole in the last end to win a chess match of a game. The 3-0 run earned the Ardsley rink a Sunday afternoon A event final matchup with Travis Fanset, the 2008 Canadian Juniors runner-up and current vice for Mark Kean on the tour circuits. Despite winning the support of the local crowd throughout the weekend, Peter's rink fell in final to the Fanset rink's spectacular shooting.

This was the 59th annual installment of the bonspiel, which became a popular local event during the heyday of Canadian tobacco farming. While cigarettes are no longer smoked on the ice during curling games, the Tobacco Belt Bonspiel has now become locally famous for its friendly social appeal, the massive steaks served for its Saturday dinner, and Jon's father, Les, handling emcee duties for the weekend.

This was the best finish at the Tobacco Belt in the three years Peter has brought Ardsley curlers to play in Tillsonburg. The boys took home some spending money for winning 2nd place along with a few raffle prizes, and the team made their way home without causing any international incidents. The weekend was also highlighted by the hospitality of both the Peter family and the Tillsonburg & District Curling Club. The team would also like to pass along the best regards of Kathryn Peter (who is back in Tillsonburg and doing well) to our club.



# Curling Etiquette

Greg Poole, Pam Politano and a few other parents have been having a great time with this year's crop of little rockers. Last week Greg put together a lesson on curling etiquette. It's always a good time for a brush up!

1. Before the game starts, shake hands with each opposing player saying, "Good Curling," as well as shake hands with the players on your own team.
2. Keep the game moving. An 8 end curling game should be played in 2 hours or less. Follow these rules to keep the game on time:
  - a. After handshakes, leads from each team flip a coin to see who has hammer
  - b. The player whose turn it is to shoot the rock should be in the hack ready to deliver their stone when the opposing team's rock stops. That means the thrower has their broom/stabilizer ready and their gripper off
  - c. Skips should be ready to call their shots after the opposing team's rock stops. More complicated shots may require a bit more time, but most shots are fairly routine and the skip should be ready to call the shot.
  - d. Sweepers should be ready to sweep when the thrower is ready to shoot. They should have their gripper on and be standing at the ready near the tee line by the thrower.
  - e. When the end is finished (thirds have to determine the score for each end), everyone except the skips should assist in clearing out the rocks to start the next end. The skips should be making their way down to the other end of the ice.
3. When the opposing team is throwing their rock the other team members must be between the hog lines, at the side, and not talking. The person whose turn it is to shoot next may stand behind the thrower, but off to the side and also not talking.
4. Only the thirds and skips should be behind the far tee line at any time during play of an end.
5. When an opposing player makes a shot it is customary to say, "good shot."
6. When an opposing player misses a shot you should never overtly celebrate.
7. When the last rock comes to rest to complete an end, the thirds should be the only players in the house, and they decide between the two of them what the score is for an end. If a rock needs to be measured, they place their brooms down on the ice, and one of the thirds gets the measuring device to determine the score. During this time, all other players stand outside of the house. Once the score is determined, the third of the scoring team puts up the score. If the scoreboard is at the opposite end of the sheet, putting up the score can wait until the next time the third is nearby.
8. There should be no yelling on the ice, except when the third or skip is calling sweeping or sweepers are giving weight - but only loud enough to be heard.
9. After the game ends, shake hands with each player on the opposing team as well as your own.
10. It is customary for the members of the winning team to buy a drink for their counterparts on the losing team. You then all sit together after the game.

## Andrew Stopera, Part of Team Dunnam, Earns 3rd Place at Junior Nationals

*continued from page 1*

Team Dunnam features curlers from New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. They curled under the Pennsylvania banner and went through qualifying with just two losses. They beat the Dropkin rink along the way and made the playoff round. The playoffs proved difficult as they dropped their first match to the eventual champions and

then lost a tight, tough match to Team Vukich out of Granite Curling Club of Seattle 7-9, giving up 4 in the 9th end (all out of 10).

You can still view some of these matches online through the LiveStream link. Andrew is just 15, and we hope he will make many more trips to Junior Nationals.

# 1st Half League Round Ups

Following is a summary of how some of the first half leagues fared:

## TUESDAY NIGHT

Tuesday Night (Karen Luckey): The 11th MacIntosh or Women's Junior Skip event got off to a rough start thanks to Hurricane Sandy. At the finish of the event the standings by number of wins/losses was as follows:

The Rinks of Laura Hill and Melissa Domiguez were tied for first place, followed by Leeza Furman's Rink in the second spot and Karen Casper's Rink at third. Sharon Gallegos and Lyn Greaves were tied for the fourth place.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Wednesday Night (Jon Peter): The first half of the Wednesday night Men's League, also known as the Blanton, got off to a prompt start, beginning play on October 17th, 2012. There were six new skips added to the mix this year and six Blanton skips returning from the previous battle.

The rinks skipped by Isa Barghout, Will Pryor & Matt Scheiner got off to an early lead halfway through the season. A season that was forced to cancel one game due to the power outage caused by Sandy and which in turn would make things interesting for teams over the course of a 10 game – 11 team round robin season.

With some dominant curling exhibited by team Pryor, Will and his team rolled to a 9-1 record, clinching the gold medal and becoming the youngest skip in club history to win the Blanton medal. Congratulations to Will & his team, vice Gert Messing, second Douglas Hill, leads Alex Zic & Geoff Broadhurst!

The rinks skipped by Jeff Casper and Tom Doherty finished the season with a 6-4 record. Their head to head matchup saw team Casper as winners and moves his team ahead of team Doherty to finish second and win the Blanton silver medal. The remaining rinks were all very close

with two wins separating 2nd to 11th place, and which made for some close tiebreakers to decide the final finishing order. Congratulations to all the skips and their teams.

The final breakdown is as follows:

1st	..... Will Pryor	.....9-1
2nd	..... Jeff Casper	.....6-4
3rd	..... Tom Doherty	.....6-4
4th	..... Ray Ullmer	.....5-5
5th	..... Steve Hess	.....5-5
6th	..... Mike Greene	.....5-5
7th	..... Matt Scheiner	.....5-5
8th	..... Yushi Yang	.....5-5
9th	..... Isa Barghout	.....5-5
10th	..... Bill Borowitz	.....4-6
12th	..... Walter Baggett	.....1-9

Looking ahead to the Wells 2013, play will begin on January 30th and will continue through to April 10th. Attrition amongst the qualified Wells skips from last year has allowed the top five skips from the Blanton 2012-2013 to graduate to the 'senior' skip position. Steve Hess, Ray Ullmer, Tom Doherty, Jeff Casper & Will Pryor will move up and join Dan Tufaro, Andy Eaton, Tim Klein, George Austin, Jeff Lesuk & Jon Peter as they do battle and try to dethrone Matt Gallegos, the defending Wells Champion.

There are still available spots on Wednesday night, if anyone wants to join in the fun.

## THURSDAY MORNING

Thursday Morning (Pauline Davies): The Thursday Morning Ladies finished their MacIntosh Event (Jr. Skips) in early January. The winning team was: Karen Luckey, Pauline Davies, Lillie Shortridge-Bagget and Rose Claus. The runners-up were: Louise Corry, Diane Muldowney, Pat Riedel and Ann MacMillan. Congratulations!

On January 31st, 3 Thursday Morning Ladies teams traveled to Nutmeg to compete in the annual Two Brooms tournament. The ladies had a morning of good curling and enjoyed a lovely luncheon provided by the Nutmeg curlers. None of the Ardsley teams won their games, but this is a cumulative event. The Nutmeg ladies are coming to Ardsley to curl against the Tuesday Evening Ladies. This event will take place sometime in early April, after which time the winner will be announced.

The Thursday ladies are now doing the All American and will finish the season with the Wells Wick.

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