



December 17, 2018

Presidents Message:

Hello everyone. Hope you are enjoying curling with us this year.

We had a good start to the first half of the season, competition was tough. Twenty-six teams competed in square one while 32 teams or 128 curlers competed in square two. Teams appear more balanced this year than in previous years which suggests we can all be on winning teams.

The Kergan was fun, 64 players came out (plus the occasional spare). I think a good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who came out and played. I also have to thank every team I played against. Each one of them gave me a lesson. Ouch!

Special thanks go to Earl and the bonspiel team and a HUGE thanks to Monika and Doug for putting the social event together.

So far it appears our numbers will be down for square three. More of our members are taking winter vacations which can't be all bad since now we will be able to schedule free practice ice every day from Tuesday to Friday.

In response to member requests, the time of the buzzer is now set five minutes later to provide more time to complete 8 ends. Please read "Curling Etiquette" by Earl for tips on speeding up the game. This is important since the school groups have scheduled ice-time before and after us. In addition to curling etiquette, your safety is of primary importance to us, please read "Safety on Ice" by Kent Perry.

Next event; the Ham and Turkey bonspiel is on its way. We have a full house, 80 curlers who signed up quickly. Perhaps it's not only the fellowship and the fun that caused this event to fill up so quickly but the prizes, the food and a chance to meet old friends.

We are incorporating our Welcome back event into the final day of the Ham and Turkey. We have invited former league members to come watch the final game, partake in the snacks and renew acquaintances with the current curlers. If you know of anyone who is no longer curling with us, invite them along.

At this time, we want wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Safety on Ice (Kent Perry)

Curling is a fun and social sport and can be played by all age groups. One of things that doesn't seem to affect the younger curlers as much as the older ones is when we fall on the ice.

As we age, our reflexes slow down so we fall harder, which is no fun at all. And, we don't seem to heal as quick either. So, because of this, we seniors need to make sure that we stretch our muscles before we begin curling and we must always wear two grippers on the ice when we are not delivering a rock. This means when we are standing on the ice and when we are sweeping a stone.

I know it is hard to sweep with two grippers when you have been sweeping for a very long time with your slider. But as I said, we don't heal as quickly as we used to, and we seem to fall harder. So, stretch those muscles and learn to sweep with two grippers. Maybe even get a helmet from the curling pro shop. Some of our best curlers are wearing a helmet, it may even be fashionable. One last thing - when you are moving around on the ice or the back boards, keep your eyes down for things such as stones, brooms, and crutches that may cause you to trip and fall. They seem to come out of nowhere. All curlers are therefore encouraged to keep the backboards (walkway) next to the ice clear of any tripping hazards. Please place your equipment well back towards the wall.

See you on the ice, no pun intended.

Curling Étiquette (Earl Barton)

1. Shake hands with your opposition before and after the game, then try to get them to buy you a drink (or coffee)
2. After sweeping or throwing your rock, move to the side of the sheet between the hogs and stand still so you don't interfere with the sight-line between the skip and thrower of the following rock. Doing this in a timely manner will allow the opposing player to throw their next rock and help speed up the game and ensure we can get our eight ends in in the allotted time.
3. Players standing behind the house should lift their brooms, so they are not confused with the broom of the skip calling the shot. Only two of the opposing team, should be behind the TEE line; not all four discussing who has to pay for coffee.
4. The only players who should be in the throwing end should be the two throwers and the players who are going to sweep. Opposition sweepers should not be inside the hog line (See #2)
5. Please be ready to throw your rock shortly after the opposition have thrown theirs and remember your crutch and stick if you use them. Again, this will help speed up the game for all.

Member Communications (Larry Button & Henry Bosman)

Over the last two years the 50+Curling League has increased its use of email and the Club's Internet Web-Site to communicate with club members. We experienced some growing pains, but we believe this will evolve to allow effective two-way communications between the club and members. If you are without internet, no need to worry, traditional paper systems and Bulletin Boards will remain. We welcome suggestions how to make the Club's Web-Pages better.

Draw Master Committee (Henry Bosman, Larry Button, Bob Ivison)

The job of the Draw Master has evolved over many years. Originally teams were selected by drawing the names of members out of four labeled hats (leads, seconds, thirds and skips). At the beginning of each square, half of the teams were assigned to the Tue/Thu session while the other half to Wed/Fri session. The session for a curler could change during the year from square to square. Increasingly members requested that the social aspects of the game could be improved by minimizing repeated recent pairing of team members, and that teams should be balanced in skill, gender and sweeping strength so that each team should have an equal chance of winning against any other team in the league.

Members may now request preference for a specific session or indicate that they are flexible as to the session in which they wish to curl on an assigned team. Additionally, members may indicate their preferred position on a team, the session for which they may be available to spare, with whom they wish to coordinate their curling schedule and of course specify in which of the four squares they wish to curl. We encourage all members to let the Draw Master committee know, preferably by email, if any of your preferences change, and particularly, if you become flexible in your preferred session.

We will continue to strive to accommodate everyone's preferences but please keep in mind that we must also balance the teams by position, session, and try to equalize team skill. Sometimes that means assigning curlers to positions for which they are best suited instead of their preferred position. Consequently, you may not always have all of your preferences met. However, all reassignments are based on what the committee knows at the time when teams are made up. The basis for such reassignment is greatly assisted by the recently implemented practice of requesting skips to assess each member of their team in terms of skill, sweeping, delivery and whether the member is assigned the position for which they are best suited.

To make your search for a "spare" easier, we will endeavour to update and post spare lists at the rink with phone numbers as change requests become known to the committee. We have received favourable comments on our practice of posting of team win/loss standings in matrix form which we intend to continue as long as it adds interest.

At this time we wish all our members good and pleasurable curling.