President’s Message

Another Mitchell Bonspiel has come and gone, but unlike other years, I don't want to talk about the wonderful house parties. I'm also not going to dwell on the great banquet on Friday, the way all the draws went off without drama, the timely updates to the draw-board, the seamless changing of the team names on the scoreboards, breakfast setups in the mornings, display of the medals and trophies on Sunday morning, or the awards presentation at the end of it all, along with all the other things I'm no doubt forgetting from my days running events. What must be mentioned is that all of those things and more went off without a hitch in the absence of the bonspiel chairman. We should all raise our broom as tribute to the organization provided by Brian Moore, the efforts of his committee and volunteers, and the foundation laid by past Mitchell chairs and committees that makes this one of the most popular events on the GNCC calendar. Well done all.

If another month has gone by and I'm writing a president's message, then it must be time to once again congratulate Jim Joseph on another achievement. Please join me in wishing Jim well as he travels to another World Championship as a member of Team USA.

Let's also congratulate Lis DeGironimo and her rink of Cindy Brown, Barb Felice, and Kathy Palazzoli on their A-Event victory in the 62nd Empire State Bonspiel. They weren't lonely on the ice that Sunday, as Joyce Shaffer, Jan Rishel, MJ Walsh, and Bernadette DiMeo competed for the B event trophy.

Now is the time of year that your nominating committee starts their deliberations on the future leadership of our club. If you have an interest in serving, please speak to them, or any member of the board. In addition to recommending two board members, we will be selecting a Vice President, and a secretary to replace Sean Lanigan, who is retiring after long and distinguished service.

Please remember that this is your club, and it is all of our collective efforts that make it a great place to be. –John Jacon, UCC President
From the Glengarry President’s desk

“SOUP’S ON” What better way to end your curling draw then with a nice bowl of hot homemade soup, chili or stew? The Glengarries will be serving delicious bowls of these yummy delights on MONDAY night. The price will be $5.00 per bowl and will be available after the women’s draw. We will have a sign-up sheet for those of you who would like to donate a soup or such! Thanking you in advance for your continued support of our fund raising events. Our Monday night league (Lambert Grant) has eight teams competing, our Wednesday night league (Glenpladies) has seven teams competing and our Tuesday Morning Fun league has six teams competing. We are off to a great start for the second half of curling. The winner of our basket of cheer raffle was Jackie Strife, thanks again to everyone that supported this fund raiser.

Keep Promoting the Spirit & Sport of Curling, —Jacquelyn Schmidt

Save the Dates for the ROSE

March 17th, 18th, & 19th

Watch for sign-ups on the Mixed Board! Price to be determined.
May enter as teams or individuals. Last Bonspiel of the season. Don’t miss it!
Photos from the Deadwood Saloon

There may have been ‘murder’ but there were also good times at the Calder Conley Hurd party!
2015 Murray Bonspiel

Don Knapp

The Murray Bonspiel, which doubles as the Mens Club Championship as well as the playdowns to get into the Mitchell Bonspiel, was held December 17-20. 16 rinks played down for the Murray Medal.

In an unforgettable extra end game the rink of Skip Jason Brein, vice Mike Kessler, second Howard Feldman, and lead Jason Golubski prevailed over the team of Skip Pat Costello, vice Brad Anderson, second Tom Platt Jr., and leads Pete Ciaralli/ Tom Firsching.

The other three teams winning the B, C, and D events and therefore qualifying for the Mitchell Bonspiel were: Utica 3: Skip Paul Giovannone, vice Joe Giovannone, second Mike Sexton, and lead Sal Inserra. Utica 4: Skip Don Knapp, Tom Everson, Roger Rowlett, and Kevin Stevens. Utica 5: Skip Bill Sewell, vice Dave Cragnlin, second Sean Lanigan, and lead Ray Edic. Utica 6 is drawn out of the hat. This year’s lucky team was Skip Scott Lent, Conrad Law, Phil Citriniti and Jerry Stevens, who didn’t win a game in the Murray going 0-3. Congrats to all the Rinks

Thanks to all who helped out particularly the many members of the ice crew who supplied tremendous ice throughout the event and to Dom and Rhonda for the delicious food. Also thanks to all who came down to watch.

Volunteers needed for Learn to Curl events

TWO LEARN TO CURL DATES FOR FEBRUARY:

FEBRUARY 2 - 12:30 TO 2 - ARC

FEBRUARY 3 - 3 TO 5 - LOCHNER ENGINEERING

A minimum of two volunteers are needed for each date above.

Thank you for helping. —Bernadette DiMeo
PLEASE PUT ROCKS AWAY LIKE THIS AFTER EACH GAME

Just a gentle reminder from the Ice Crew to put the rocks away like this after each game. This allows the crew to pebble or scrape the entire surface that comes into play. Plus it is safer for pebblers, who need to step off of the ice safely.

Thanks so much and Good Curing !!!

2016 Glengarry Challenge!!!

Women's Club Championship!!!

Thursday, March 3 at 6:30
Saturday, March 5 at 11:00 & 3:00
(Sunday, March 6 if needed)

Get a team together for some friendly competition!!!

Sign up in the ladies locker room for our own Rio de Janeiro Olympics!!!

Deadline is Thursday, February 25.

Ladies, let's make this an awesome championship!!!

Your Host Team:
Michelle MacEnroe, Erlene Puleo, Donna Caleo & Jan Rishel
**Women's evening leagues results**

**Calder League**
The Calder is played on Wednesday nights and is the first rung of the ladies evening ladder. Eight teams competed and two teams were tied at 5-2 after round-robin play. In the finals – a close game that came down to the last skip shots, Karen Rogowski’s team defeated Audrey Foote team. Congratulations to both teams on fine seasons!

Calder winners: Karen Rogowski, Brenda Citriniti, Tami Dunnigan, Vicki Sheardown

Runner’s up: Audrey Foote, Bryn Davis, Sue Williams, Eileen Sunderhaft

**Bonnie Piper League**
The Bonnie Piper is played on Monday nights and is a non-ladder competition. This season, six teams competed. After a round-robin and two playoff weeks, the team skipped by Brenda Citriniti won. Congratulations!

Bonnie Piper winners: Brenda Citriniti, Knyoca Law, Vicki Sheardown, Toni Roskinski

**Tuesday Morning League**
What else can you do on a Tuesday morning that will provide FUN FOOD & FROLIC? Well look no further than our Curling Club! We are looking for more women and/or men curlers to curl the second half. Our morning games start at 9:45am and the first one will be on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

If interested contact Peggy Rotton at 315-797-2975 or Meredith Roefaro at 315-724-3338.
4th Empire State Win for Utica Team

Lis DeGironimo, skip; Cindy Brown, Barb Felice, Kathy Palozzoli Won the coveted Empire State medal this past weekend in Schenectady, NY. As first-place winners, they also won the Schenectady Stone trophy.

“Congratulations to them on this exemplary accomplishment.”

Joyce Shaffer, skip; Jan Rishel, MJ Walsh, Bernadette DiMeo were the runners-up of the 2nd event, winning them the Rochester Thistle trophy.

Karen Rogowski, skip; Brenda Citriniti, Knyoca Law, Dawn Scherer were the winners of the Beulah Fitzgerald Trophy

ROSS TARLTON BONSPIEL WIN

Team USA (20 teams from the GNCC) traveled to Niagara Falls, ON, to take on 20 teams from Canada (Ontario Curling Association) on November 5-7, 2015.

Team USA won the competition. On Team USA was the Utica rink of Duane Farr (skip), John Davis, Jim Griebsch, and Charlie Schatz.
Happenings

Our condolences to Brian and Marj Moore on the sudden passing of their nephew Brian John Coster, of Pontiac MI.

UCC GOLF TOURNAMENT – June 11, 2016

Bronze Sponsorship: $75
- Hole Sponsor sign, listing in the program, $25 off a team entry.

Silver Sponsorship: $150
- Hole Sponsor sign, half-page golf program ad, $25 off one team entry, and your choice of a two-hour corporate curling outing for up to 10 people (a $250 value) or one fall (Oct – Dec 2016) trial curling membership ($150 value – non-members only) for 2016-2017 curling season

Gold Sponsorship: $300
- Hole Sponsor sign, full-page golf program ad, $25 off one team entry, and your choice of a two-hour corporate curling outing for up to 20 people (a $500 value) or two fall (Oct-Dec 2016) trial curling memberships ($300 value – non-members only) for 2016-2017 curling season

Platinum Sponsorship $500
- All Gold Sponsorship items plus: curling scoreboard advertisement and full page curling roster book ad throughout the 2016 – 2017 curling season

Price Donor:
- Name/business/organization listed as donor in the golf program

All sponsorship checks should be made payable to the Utica Curling Club and mailed by May 15th to:

UCC Golf Committee
205 Washington Drive
New Hartford, NY 13413

As a reminder, we are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible.
UCC Golf Tournament

BREAKING NEWS....

..... (from The Enquirer) – Jordan Spieth, Rory McElroy, Jason Day and Tiger Woods have committed to play the UCC Golf Tournament at Pine Hills on Saturday June 11th as a warm up on their way to Oakmont, PA for the U.S Open! While some may think this is uncharacteristic for these top professionals, the players justified their decision by stating “we’ve heard the tournament is so much fun and a fun relaxing round with the wonderful people of the Utica Curling Club is just what we need going into a major golf tournament. We’re stoked up to play in this tournament and can’t wait to Woo! Woo!” on hole 16!

Yes, planning is underway for the 9th annual UCC Golf Tournament and with this exciting news it should be our best one yet! Save the date - Saturday June 11th - and join us and Team Spieth for a day of fun, camaraderie and a great “shot” or two at Pine Hills Golf Course in Frankfort. We welcome curlers and non-curlers of all ability levels. There will be a Men's, Women's, Mixed and Senior division (minimum of 2 teams required) as well as many contest prizes for men and women. Team formats are open - any gender combination is acceptable.

Sound like fun? Grab a team and get signed up early! Returning teams are guaranteed a spot if fully paid by May 1st. If you did not have a team in 2015, entries will then be taken based on date of payment so feel free to submit your entry prior to May 1st. We will notify you after May 1st if your team is in. If you don't have a team but want to play, let us know and we'll put you on a list for teams who need a player or two.

There is much to do to get ready for this event and many donations/prizes will be needed. We need your help!!! We don't want our golfers to go away empty handed so we annually gather 144 door prizes. We would appreciate any help in asking a business that you frequent or a business associate if they would be interested in donating a small $10-$15 prize. Gift certificates, bottle of wine/liquor,
greens fees to a local golf course, golf apparel/equipment or anything else you can think of that makes a nice gift is greatly appreciated. Don’t be shy - just ask! We will also gladly accept larger prize items or themed gift baskets that can be raffled off in our larger prize raffle. All donations can be given to Barb Felice.

As for sponsors, included in this curlogram is a listing of sponsorship opportunities. If you know of someone who would be interested in being a tournament sponsor, hole sponsor, goody bag donor or would like to donate in some way, please let us know and we can send them our sponsor letter or contact them. Feel free to give them a copy of the sponsorship form or ask them yourself if they would be interested in being a sponsor or donor. Most businesses need a copy of the sponsor form before committing to making a donation. As a reminder, we are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible.

We are also selling tickets for a chance to win one of our top 10 prizes with the big prize being $1,000 in cash! You'll be seeing us soon around the club with raffle tickets in hand. Take a chance and maybe you’ll have your curling dues paid before the season starts in Fall 2016!

If you're not a golfer but want to join in on the fun, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities. Beth and Dave Mitchell are looking for volunteers for various jobs: registering golfers, selling raffle tickets, golf hole assistants, photography and many more. Contact Beth or Dave if you are interested in helping on the day of the event.

In addition we welcome your feedback on prior years’ tournaments. If there is something that you would like to see changed or added, discuss it with a committee member and we will consider making a change for 2016.

We look forward to another fun tournament and a successful year! If you have any questions or comments, please contact any member of the Golf Committee:

Tom Thorngren, Anne Stuhlman, Barb Felice, Don Knapp, Jim Schafer, Julie Chanatry, Tim Conboy, Ben Gaetano, Conrad/Knyoca Law or Dave/Beth Mitchell.
Instructor’s Corner

Roger Rowlett & Mary Jane Walsh

I’ve been curling for 6 years and I still get assigned to play lead for my teams. When do I move up?
—Emma Leed

Emma’s question is natural, but quite possibly misdirected. New curlers somehow inappropriately assume that the positions on a curling team are assigned by skill level, with the lead the least skilled member of the team, and the all-powerful skip as the most skilled member of the team. Those new to the game might reasonably arrive at this conclusion because novices are often assigned to play lead for their teams.

Curling is a team sport

Curling, unlike many sports, is a true team game. In most team sports, the action typically centers around only the player who has the object of play, and at any one time, only a few players are immediately involved in the play. In baseball, for example, much of the play revolves around the pitcher, catcher, and batter. However, in curling, every player on a team participates 100% in controlling the outcome of every shot from beginning to end. In such a sport, every player has to be skilled, and perform their roles to perfection in order to be successful. No player gets to “sit out” a shot, or choose not to be involved.

Each curling position requires a different skill set

The four positions in curling have distinctly different required skills. Leads have to be adept at draws: setting guards and coming around them for cold draws and freezes. Takeouts are not a staple, but in today’s game throwing accurate tick shots are becoming more important. Seconds will typically throw many clearing shots, since when it is their turn it is the first opportunity to remove guards from play. Seconds will throw all kinds of shots, including draws and freezes, but takeouts are often a staple shot for seconds. The front end must be superb sweepers and judges of weight, as well as adept at reading the ice for running speed.
Thirds must be the most versatile shot-makers: the scenarios they see are quite varied, and many of the shots they are called upon to play will require a great deal of precision. Thirds must also be excellent and experienced strategists, both to understand team strategy, but also to assist the skip if necessary in making strategic decisions. Skips, of course, have to be master strategists, and have tremendous resilience and patience. Ironically, skips may not typically have the most difficult or precise shots to throw, but those they do throw must be made consistently, because the score is totaled when they are done. Skips must have superb command of draw weight and be able to hit and stick consistently anywhere on the ice. Skips also have to be able to memorize ice topography and keep track of changing conditions in order to ice shots properly. Skips and thirds both need good team leadership skills.

To excel, each team member must relish their role

A competitive team requires skilled and dedicated players at each position. And each player must be enthusiastic about their role. To be a good lead, master the activities that make for a good lead: making precision draws and sweeping teammates rocks to perfection. To be a good second, become consistent at throwing hits, and of course be a consummate sweeper and learn to read the changes in the ice with your lead. Thirds and skips need to be comfortable with strategy, and skips especially need to employ a game strategy that his or her teammates can implement. Skips must master ice reading. Thirds must figure out how to read the ice without the benefit of seeing line for most of the stones thrown during the game. It is not easy to excel at ANY curling position: and each comes with its own peculiar challenges.

Find your best role

So why do new curlers get asked to play lead? It’s not so much that leads don’t need much skill (au contraire!); it’s that leads, because they shoot first when no rocks are in play, have the smallest number of shooting tasks to master. A new curler will probably find lead easier to grasp than playing other positions. Don’t look at playing 2nd or 3rd or skip as a “promotion.” It’s just the same kinds of shots in a different context. That context may be more important than shot-making. Instead, think about what your best role on a team might be. If you have great draw skills and are an accomplished sweeper, your
skills might be wasted at skip or third. You might make a great lead. On the other hand, if you can throw heavy weight peels and takeouts, you might find your role among seconds or thirds. If you are a strategy geek, can make routine draws and hits, and have an excellent memory for reading ice, skipping might just be for you. Every team needs four players who can fill four different roles. Which one are you?

*Good curling! Have a question for Instructor’s Corner? Have a suggestion for an Instructor’s Corner article? Send an email to curlingschool@uticacurlingclub.org*

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**Been to an out of town bonspiel?**

UCC members who play at out of town bonspiels can have the results included in the Curlogram. It’s not bragging – just reporting! And it can encourage others to try an away event.

Send your article and pictures to the Curlogram editor, Ann Kebabian, akebabian2@gmail.com.
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Don't forget to check the website calendar for all changes, updates, and additions!

http://uticacurlingclub.org
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