President’s Message

Why don't we get to the Jim Joseph news early this month :-) 

As I write, our world traveler is in Lucerne, Switzerland competing with Team USA at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships. The round-robin portion of the competition continues through February 27. You can keep up with the results at www.worldcurling.org

Closer to home, we are preparing for our own Women's Championship, the Glengarry Challenge. Thursday, March 3; Saturday, March 5; and Sunday March 6 are blocked out for the event.

Our final event of the year, the Rose Bonspiel will be March 17, 18 and 19; with the closing party Saturday evening. I hope to see all of you who aren't competing in an out of town event either on the ice or the dance floor that weekend.

You should also save the date for the Annual Meeting Wednesday, March 23. The sign up board for dinner will be posted soon.

--John Jacon, UCC President

From the Glengarry President’s Desk

Our “SOUP’S ON” fundraiser continues to be a great success, the last date to enjoy the homemade treats will be March 7th. For those of us who aren’t flying down to Rio for the Olympics, you can enjoy the next best thing right here in our club by signing up to participate in the Glengarry Challenge that will be held on March 3rd & 5th. Get a team together and continue to promote our sport by including a newer curler on your team, try it you just might like it! Save the date for our Glengarry closing dinner that will be on Thursday, April 7th read all about it in this issue.

Keep the Spirit & Sport of Curling alive & well at the UCC,
Jacquelyn Schmidt, Glengarry President
**College Curling**

On Feb. 12th and 13th, UCC hosted our annual college bonspiel. As usual, 16 teams signed up to play. Unusually, Mother Nature didn’t interfere with team travel!

Teams from Bowdoin College (Maine), Colgate University, Hamilton College, Harvard, MIT, RIT, RPI, SUNY Polytechnic, Utica College, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova, and Yale came not only to play, but also to earn points for the USCA College National Championship in Chaska MN in March. RIT took top honors, defeating last year’s champions Penn in the A final. Of note, SUNY Poly 2, all first year curlers, won the B event! They’ve been working hard under the tutelage of Blake Hagberg, who’s combined SUNY/Utica College team took the C event. Colgate won the E event. [Full results](http://uticacurlingclub.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=1762) are on the website.

Although not official, it looks like all three local teams are off to nationals, and we’ll keep the club abreast of their progress.

It was a healthy year for college curling, with 48 curlers from four schools and about 30 “regulars” that we could count on each week. Our alumni are out there contributing to curling (e.g. Alex Boyce is teaching at the Brooklyn Lakeside, Jill Ferris is introducing folks to the sport at Chesapeake, and we have college curlers playing at a number of clubs). Ten Colgate alums came back to watch the spiel and get in a quick game of their own during the awards ceremonies.

— Mary Jane Walsh, College Curling Instructor

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**Spread the word**

**Courtesies of Curling**

**AFTER THE GAME**

The losing team clears the scoreboard, removes the hacks, sweeps the hack areas, mops the ice and sweeps up debris.

The winning team buys the first round of drinks
The losing team buys the second round of drinks
Happenings

Sara R. Falvey, mother of Ann Falvey, died on February 2nd, at age 86.

Laura Jacon's mother, Marie Garlock, passed away on February 9th, also aged 86.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.
Before We Say Goodbye For The Summer
WE HAVE ONE MORE THING TO DO...

PARTY...

THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH AT MICHAEL T’S

6:30 COCKTAILS

7:00 DINNER

FEATURING:
GREENS, PASTA, MEATBALLS, CHICKEN MARSALA, EGGPLANT PARM

PLUS A SPECIAL DESSERT

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT EILEEN
Just a reminder about the UCC Golf Tournament. All returning teams must submit their entry and team check prior to May 1, 2016 to save your place in the tournament. After that date, it is first come, first serve and spots fill up fast so don’t delay- get your entry in as soon as possible. Entry forms can be found through a link on the UCC website.

We are also looking for prize donations and tournament sponsors at varying levels. Any donation such as a gift certificate, golf items, apparel, themed gift baskets, greens fees, etc. are welcome. As a reminder, we are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Please contact Barb Felice if you can help out. A sponsorship form can be found on the UCC Website.

Not a golfer but want to be involved? Beth and Dave Mitchell are looking for volunteers to help in various areas: registration, ticket sales, hole assistants, etc. Contact the Mitchell’s if you would like to help out.

**We are also selling tickets for a chance to win 1 of 10 great prizes (see below) with the top prize being $1,000 in cash!** All prizes are valued at $100 or more so even if you win a prize that you don’t necessarily want or will use, you can always sell it for cash.

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 Beth/Dave Mitchell
GOLF TOURNAMENT RAFFLE - $20/TICKET
Will be drawn June 11th

$1000 cash  50% off UCC membership
Kindle Fire  $250 cash
Wine A Lot Basket  Otseaga Greens Fees
Stanley Theatre - dinner and show
Seven Oaks Greens Fees
Premium Bottle of Scotch
Tailor & Cook/Ocean Blue GC

See any member of the Golf Committee
to purchase a ticket(s)
UCC GOLF TOURNAMENT – June 11, 2016

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

Silver Sponsorship: $150
  o 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: $350
  o 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
  o All Gold Sponsorship items plus: curling scoreboard advertisement and full page curling roster book ad throughout the 2016 – 2017 curling season.

Prize Donor:
  o 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 13415

As a reminder, we are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible.
Instructor’s Corner

I’m a relatively new skip. I seem to be losing my curling games even though my team is making shots. What am I doing wrong? —Hugh Blewitt

If your team is not curling 60%, strategy doesn’t matter too much. But if you are making your shots—and the other team is, too—then strategy matters a lot. Good strategy won’t win games, but good strategy makes it likely that you will win if your team curls better than the opposition. On the other hand, bad strategy means you must curl twice as good to achieve half as much. This article summarizes some commonly employed bad strategies. In all the diagrams the non-hammer team is red, the hammer team yellow.

5 Ways to Blow a Curling Game

1. Guard lonely shot rock without hammer

You are in a close game and find yourself without hammer in the 4th end. The good news is that you are shot stone in a very good position (Figure 1). The bad news is that the hammer team has repeatedly cleared your guards and has rolled a few potential counters into the house. This situation should scream “Danger, danger danger!” Resist the temptation to guard shot rock in this situation. If your guard is not perfect and the hammer team removes shot rock, you are very likely to drop 3 or 4 and probably the game. What you desperately need is another stone in the house to lie 1-2 or even 1-3 to avoid a disaster. The 2nd stone must be placed where it cannot be doubled out, even if it is in the open. In this particular case frozen or tucked around the corner guard would be a good spot to put 2nd stone. Even a hit and roll to lie 1-2 or 1-3 would be helpful. You can afford to give up 1 or 2 without hammer in a close game. Dropping 3 or 4 is usually fatal. Always look to get two counters in the house when you don’t have hammer. It’s a good insurance policy. You don’t have
to steal every end without hammer; giving up one is usually a good result.

2. **Put your guards in the house**

You are down 1 in the 5\textsuperscript{th} end and really need to steal this end if possible. Your team got off to a good start and has a stone well-positioned to steal, and it is your turn to throw. Where to place your guard? You could throw a guard a few feet in front of the house, or you could place your guard biting the 12-foot and sit 2. What the heck, if sitting one is good, sitting two is better! You might even wind up stealing two instead of one! Resist putting your guards in the house—this only gives the hammer team the opportunity to hit and roll a potential counter into the house each time they clear a guard. This leaves you in the “lonely shot rock” scenario above, except you don’t have the option of playing for a force, but must guard for your life since you are behind in the score late. If you throw an imperfect guard anywhere along the way when the hammer team is sitting 2-3-4-etc., you could drop a bundle with little hope of recovering in the remaining ends. When you want guards, put them outside the house so the other team can’t clear them and roll for additional counters. Putting guards outside the house also makes runback doubles a little more difficult, too.

3. **Guard rocks behind tee line**

Rocks behind tee line are just sad. They can never be made better, and they are often freeze targets or backers that make removing stones above them difficult. Unless you just have no other option—maybe you are behind late in the game without hammer and your only good rock is sitting back button—resist the urge to guard a rock behind tee line. Your guarded rock only becomes a better freeze target, and opposition stones can be partially buried behind your guard and above your stone, making them very hard to remove. With the hammer, it’s usually better to split the house than guard when you have shot rock behind tee line; without hammer, splitting the house to sit 1-2 may also be advantageous.
if you don’t need to steal and are happy with a force to 1.

4. Don’t clear the guards with hammer

It is sometimes tempting to get caught in a draw game with hammer, but this can lead to a steal or an undesired force. When things have just not gone right, clear the guards! If you can’t blank or score 2, you need to ensure that you get your one with hammer. In Figure 3, you are in a close game in the middle ends. Things have not gone all that well for you this end with hammer, and your third is throwing the first of two stones. It might be tempting to play a come-around freeze to opponent’s shot stone behind tee line, perhaps tapping it back to set up an eventual deuce. But if this shot is missed—and it will not be an easy make in this scenario—your opponent may bury another and sit 2 guarded against you, leaving you with little opportunity to score. Start clearing the guards, and any replacement guards, try to open up a line to get your one and live for another, better day. A double peel here will go a long way toward opening up a way to access shot rock. If your opponents throw perfect replacement guards, you may have to try a runback double, the difficult freeze-tap, or accept a steal of one. On the other hand, if your opponents throw a half-shot guard somewhere along the way, you may get lucky and be able to tap out shot rock for a score of 3. (Of course if you successfully make the double peel, your opponents may likely call a shot to sit 1-2 against you to guard against dropping a 3-spot.)

5. Put up guards when you are in control

You find yourself up 3 in the 7th end of an 8 end game without hammer. If your instinct is to throw a center guard in the scenario, shame on you! The only way your opponent can get back into the game with two ends to play is to have guards in play. If you throw a center guard, you are helping your opponent! The more guards in play, the more stones they can potentially hide and score. Do yourself a favor when you are up by 2 or more: bring your first stone into the house and make your opponent figure out how to establish a deuce or trey with their own guards. The usual strate-
Is to put one or two stones in the 4-foot, then start clearing the opponent’s guards at your first opportunity. The idea is to get out of the end giving up only 1 or 2, and coming home with hampered or up 1. This strategy works earlier in the game, too, putting you in control with the hampered or ahead.

Good curling!

Have a question for an Instructor’s Corner article?
Send an email to curlingschool@utacurlingclub.org