



President's Message

For the past two years it has been my privilege to serve as your President for the Utica Curling Club. As always, the bulk of the credit for any successes over the last two years goes to the great volunteers at the club and the rest of the Board of Directors. I owe special thanks to Vice President Carl Thomas, Past President Julie Chanatry, retiring Secretary Sean Lanigan, and retiring Board Members Doug Hurd and George Brown.

Congratulations go out to our new Board members Dave Mitchell, and Peggy Caneen; along with Secretary Doug Smith, Vice President Roger Rowlett, and returning for another term as President Fred Hicks. Thank you all for your service to the club.

Our season may be over but curling continues around the world with the Men's World Championship currently being contested, along with the US Mixed Championship. Many Clubs in the GNCC still have late season ice availability and their closing bonspiels. For some arena clubs, their season is just starting, and there are many summer bonspiel opportunities to spread the name of Utica and invite new friends to our events.

The next year will be a busy one for our club as we begin planning for our 150th anniversary celebration. The planning committee will be looking for volunteers and if you've got ideas, don't hesitate to offer suggestions. We hope to use the publicity generated by our celebration as a springboard to increased membership in the coming years.

My wish for you is that the ice is keen and your rocks always run true. --*John Jacon*

Farewell from the Glengarry President...

To hold an office is a way to serve your membership. They put their trust and faith in you to represent them every day and in every way. It has been my pleasure and honor to have served the Utica Glengarries as your president every day and in every way. We, together as a group of women curlers, have started to become a gathered group rather than a scattered group. We gathered and had a “Drink Pink Week” to support our fellow curlers that have struggled with or are continuing to struggle with breast cancer. We sold poinsettias, soup, cookbooks, all with great success. We adopted a mission statement we should say before every game to help us focus on why we curl. We laughed together, drank together and sometimes cried together all in the name of the sisterhood we call curling. So as my time runs out as your president I want to say THANK YOU to the best membership any president would be happy to serve. Best Wishes to Colleen Welch and her incoming slate of officers, continue to support our projects.

Promote the sport and spirit of curling, *Jacquelyn R. Schmidt*



Election results from the Annual Meeting

President – Fred Hicks

Vice President – Roger Rowlett

Secretary – Doug Smith

Treasurer – Brad Andersen

Board members – Peggy Caneen, Dave Mitchell

Nominating committee - Ben Gaetano, chair, Donna Caleo, Brenda Card, Phil Citriniti, Tami Dunnigan



Spaghetti Dinner Success!!

Thank you to all who purchased tickets; donated your time to help out on the ice or in the warm room; baked yummy desserts and most importantly brought family, friends and co-workers down to try curling and dig into a big bowl of pasta!!

200 tickets sold

164 ate dinner

65 on ice participants

Total ticket sales/donations: \$1000

Bar revenue for the day \$700+

A BIG Thank You to our caterer Dominick and his entire staff. This event couldn't have been possible without their very generous donation of food and services.



2015-2016 Men's Ladder



Winners

Congratulations to the winning teams of the 2015-2016 Men's Ladder competition.

Sims

Michael Kessler
Gary White
Lanigan, Sean
John Collea

Garber

Mike DeGironimo
Joel Scherer
James Rishel
Michael Cosgrove

Allen

Mike Platt
David Kammer
Erich Krumme
Gary Williams

Rink

Gary White Sr.
Dave Kammer
Dave Mitchell
Allen Zuck

Daytime Curlers League, Meredith Roefaro & Peggy Rotton, Chairs

The League played a double round robin. Six teams played a series of ten games to determine the recipients of the Thistle Medal. Joyce Shaffer, league sponsor, presented the medal to the winners of the event at the closing luncheon held at Peggy Rotton's home, after the last game 3-15-16.

Winners of the event: Peggy Rotton, skip; Fred Hicks, third; Colleen Welch, second; Rebecca Kick, lead

A special thank you was given to the ice crew that prepared the ice prior to each game. It is agreed that the men who joined the league were much appreciated as they allowed us to have six teams. In addition, the chairs thanked the many subs who filled in when people were unable to play due to injuries, accidents or sickness.



2015-2016 Women's Competition Winners

John Calder Trophy (Monday evenings, Fall 2015)

Skip, Karen Rogowski; 3rd, Brenda Citriniti; 2nd, Tami Dunnigan; lead, Vicki Sheardown

Bonnie Piper (Wednesday evenings, Fall 2015)

Skip, Brenda Citriniti; 3rd, Knyoka Law; 2nd, Vicki Sheardown; lead, Toni Rosinski

Lambert Grant (Monday evenings, Winter 2016)

Skip, Erlene Puleo; 3rd, Donna Caleo; 2nd, Jan Rishel; lead, Brenda Card

Glenplaidies (Wednesday evenings, Winter 2016)

Skip, Ann Stuhlman; 3rd, M.J. Walsh; 2nd, Brielynn Twitchell; lead, Sarah Keen

Mary Clark (Tuesday mornings, Fall 2015)

Skip, Colleen Welch; 3rd, Mark Taylor; 2nd, Clare Bareiss; lead, Rebecca Kick

Joyce Shaffer (Tuesday mornings, Winter 2016)

Skip, Peggy Rotton; 3rd, Fred Hicks; 2nd, Colleen Welch; lead, Rebecca Kick



Stuhlman Rink wins in Canada

A UCC team skipped by Anne Stuhlman won the Cornwall Ladies Invitational Bonspiel held at the Cornwall Curling Center from February 5-7.

The UCC team was 5-0 against Canadian opponents, defeating teams from Richmond, Rideau, Montreal West, & Cornwall. Team members also included Lis DeGironimo, Carol Jones, & Julie Chanatry.

Charity Challenge success ... again!

The 17th Annual Charity Curling Classic sponsored by Biogenic Dental Corporation and Sew What was held Saturday, March 7th and attended by teams Raising \$1,235 for 4 charities.

With the services of the Ice Crew, bartenders, kitchen staff, coaches and volunteers a great time was had and the majority of participants promising to come back next year.

Thank you go out to the teams that participated:

- ◇ Team "Stonecutters" representing the charity National Multiple Sclerosis Society, coached by Vickie Sheardown and Dawn Scherer.
- ◇ Best Curling Prowess with highest curling points scored went to Team "If You're Not First You're Last" raising money for the Utica Curling Club and coached by Anne Stuhlman and Tim Conboy
- ◇ Highest Fund Raising Honors went to Team "3 Chicks and a Dude", raising the most funds for the Children's Miracle Network, coached by Dan Reed and Steve Gorrell.

This year's Grand Champions with the highest combined points from money raised and curling score are "The Fourth Street Fritters", raising money for the St Therese Food Pantry. Team members were Anna Baluha, skip; Steve Baluha, vice; Chris Tremblay, second; and Frank Touart, lead. Coaches Brenda and Phil Citriniti.

Thank you to sponsors, coaches, ice crew, and staff for introducing people to the sport of curling while helping worthwhile causes in the community! —*Carol Jones*



Keep in touch over the summer with the UCC website (<http://www.uticacurlingclub.org/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UticaCurlingClub>) for club news, calendar updates, and curling stories.

Help Wanted

Your webmasters are looking for someone to take over photos for the club's presence in the cloud (i.e. linked to from the website, not "living" on the website). See <https://picasaweb.google.com/UticaCurlingClub/> for some examples. This person will:

- ⇒ in consultation with the webmaster, select an appropriate platform for club event photos (must be transferable to future photo editors)
- ⇒ transfer photos from existing Picassa website (MJW will assist, since she owns the current Picassa site)
- ⇒ eliminate backlog of photos from previous events
- ⇒ solicit new photos of club events like bonspiels, community events, try curling events, etc.

Experience with photo editing software required. Great hours & location; pay, not so much! ;-)

Please contact Roger or M.J. at webmaster@uticacurlingclub.org



Happenings

Kenneth (Ken) Blodgett, father of Kathy Davis, died March 10 at the age of 94. Ken joined the UCC in 1958 and was an Honorary Life Member. He donated our beautiful trophy case in honor of his late wife Robin's memory.

Mary Spicer, mother of John Spicer, passed away March 29, 2016.

Beth Mitchell's mother, Wanda Fay Pappalardo, died on April 2nd.

Our sincere condolences to their families and friends.



**9th ANNUAL UCC GOLF TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY JUNE 11th
PINE HILLS GOLF COURSE**

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

Stanley Theatre - dinner and show

Seven Oaks Greens Fees Wine A Lot Basket

Tailor & the Cook / Ocean Blue Gift Certificate

Otesaga Greens Fees Premium Bottle of Scotch

See any member of the Golf Committee

to purchase a ticket(s)



Instructor's Corner

Roger Rowlett

Directional sweeping in the Brier and what it means for club play

I know many club members watched many of the games of the Brier on ESPN3 in mid-March, and what a fine field it was! I had the privilege of being able to attend the games in person. While there was much discussion of directional sweeping on the TSN coverage we were able to view, it was difficult to fully appreciate the impact of directional sweeping from the TV coverage alone, which is kind of like watching a game through a telescope. In person, the impact of directional sweeping during the Brier was obvious and dramatic.

So what's all the fuss?

For those who have read the last few Instructor's Corner articles, you know that "directional sweeping" is all the rage. It involves using an angled sweeping stroke with a single sweeper to gently but significantly nudge a rock in a particular direction, namely in the direction of the push stroke of the single sweeper. The effect can be as much as a stone's width or more depending on the thrown weight and ice conditions.

In the Brier, directional sweeping is especially effective on hack weight shots, and the top teams utilized this weapon well to neutralize their opponent's scoring chances. This stratagem was especially evident during the playoff games. Basically, if a team *fully* buried a stone behind a center or corner guard, it could be easily removed. If a stone was buried more than 5-6 feet behind a guard, the opposing team threw a hack weight shot (either turn) with relatively tight ice, and held the stone straight and tight by the guard using low-side directional sweeping. A few feet before passing the guard, the low-side sweeper let up and the high-side sweeper would push the stone over behind the guard to get anywhere between 2/3 of a rock or a nose hit on the buried rock. Very few of these come-around hits were missed. The only way to prevent directional sweeping from removing these buried rocks was to hide a stone closer to the guard. But stones buried less

than 5 feet behind the guards were all too easy to remove by a short runback, which at this level is rarely missed. The result is that it was impossible to hide a rock behind a single guard. Ben Hebert made a humorous if telling comment on the ice during the Page 3-4 game. When the front end was asked if shot rock was too buried and difficult to remove with a come-around shot, Ben replied “Last year, yeah!”

The impact of directional sweeping was dramatically seen in the Jacobs-Gushue games. In the last round robin game, Gushue repeatedly tried to hide stones behind single guards to no avail. The result was 5 consecutive blanks by Jacobs’ rink until they coaxed a mistake out of Gushue’s team and took control of the game. In the Page 1-2 game hours later the same day, Gushue opened the first end by throwing two center guards, just like you might if tied in the last end of play without hammer. This was a surprising turn of events, but it allowed Gushue to keep some rocks in play and attempt to force Jacobs to one. With two guards, it was possible to bury stones tight behind the last guard without fear of a runback. (Getting two angles perfect on a runback is very difficult to do.)

What does this mean at the elite level?

Despite the prohibition on sweeping materials that have strong directional sweeping characteristics, there is probably still too much control of stones with some of the allowed fabric materials. Some of the top teams exchanged their Balance Plus brush heads with the newer, approved, but still more effective Hardline brush heads (*sans* pressure plate and magic fabric). Expect additional restrictions on allowed fabric materials at the pro level that will reduce the directional effects of sweeping next year. There is talk of regulating sweeping technique, but this may be very difficult to achieve in practice, without getting out a protractor and measuring sweeping angles. Who wants the refs running curling?

What does this mean at the club level?

Directional sweeping is here to stay. The genie is out of the bottle, and he doesn’t want to go back in! If you are not using directional sweeping at the club level, you are missing more shots than you should. In limited experience with directional sweeping with league and bonspiel teams, I can say that it is definitely possible to save or salvage 3-4 or more shots a game if directional sweeping is properly employed. You need strong sweepers (dusters need not apply) and good technique to

do it right, or at all. But on club ice, you can definitely move board weight hits a half-stone or more, and hack weight shots a stone or more on fast ice. In a previous Instructor's Corner article, I discussed managing misses: for most ends the score is determined by the net misses for each team. Each miss you save potentially means a point scored for you or not given to the opponents. Mastering directional sweeping may mean an extra point or two in your favor in each game, and that can lead to more wins.

Front End Clinic

Look for a front end clinic early next season right after the ice installation. This clinic, which will be aimed at players wishing to improve their front end play, will include sweeping technique, rock placement, using interval timing to enhance your weight judgment and teammate's shot making, and of course directional sweeping.

*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*



***Have a great summer
See you on the ice in the Fall***