President’s Message - Carol Jones

Most of the fun to be had at the Utica Curling Club is when the dining room is packed, the ice is in full swing (pun intended), the bar is three deep, and the dance floor is hopping! Thank you to all of you who have returned to the club this year! And to those new faces...welcome! Make the club your Winter haven, come often, relax in the wonderful surroundings, sit behind the plate glass, and lose your thoughts in the intrigue of a strategic game.

Remember, virtually all events are open to all members of all abilities! You don’t have to be a pro to sign up for any of the bonspiels. Check the bulletin boards weekly and the newsletter for upcoming events. Ask any member about the events posted and how to sign up! If you’re interested in going out of town, there are always invitations posted from other clubs as well. Anyone can go to these out of town events, so don’t be shy, join the fun!

The club is purchasing new hacks for the ice. The new, improved hacks are removable, allowing for better ice maintenance around the hack area and better playing conditions. Each hack has space available for engraving. You can purchase a hack for the club for $100. For your donation we’ll gladly engrave the name of your choice on the hack. First come first serve, we only have 24 hacks to purchase. Call Carol Jones at 885-9867 if interested.

Donations to the club are tax exempt. If you need a tax write off for the 2003-tax year. See your tax accountant for details. We certainly appreciate your considering the Utica Curling Club as your worthwhile cause. Donations need not be monetary, such as the hacks mentioned above. The club has a wishlist of items needed to keep the facility and the ice in spectacular shape. Check the wishlist postings on the bulletin board, or if you have an idea for a donation, we’ll be pleased to consider it.

Mohawk Valley Quilt Show
from Pat Costello

The Utica Curling Club hosted the bi-annual Mohawk Valley Quilt Show the weekend of September 26-28, 2003. This event was a huge success from several stand points. Approximately 900 people paid admission to view the beautiful quilts and to view the Curling Club as well. The Quilt show organizers were very pleased with our lighting, spacious flooring, more than adequate and convenient parking which translates into their likely desire to request a return in two years. This was a win-win situation for both clubs.

Thanks to all Curling Club members who participated in the house set-up, curling information booth and security: Dave Palazzoli, Carol Jones, Dave Russell, Renate Swiercz, Barb and Ed Bonhain, Marty Jones, Mickey Haase, Ellen Boerger, Pat and Marie Costello, Les and Yvle Cortright, Bob and Diane Carre, Doreen Hayes, Paul and Michelle McEnroe, Mike Lennon and Peter Caralli. Many thanks to all members for their time and efforts to make this event a smooth running success.

If any Curling Club members can think of other similar low impact events the Utica Curling Club can host for revenue and exposure, please share these ideas with any Board member.

Welcome New and Returning Members

Yes the Utica Curling Club has great ice, thanks Jim and crew. Yes we have a great facility, thanks Dave and crew. But what makes the club special is its members. Welcome back to all of you and thank you for making this place a great spot to spend the winter.

The Men’s, Women’s and mixed committees have scheduled a number of events that are designed to add to everyone’s enjoyment. Some of those events lead to championships but to most are just designed for us to have fun and enjoy each other’s company.

The membership committee is asking that we all take the chance this year and to expand yourself in the club and curl with some different people. You don’t have to break tip a team that is driving for one of the club championships. However, pick an event and ask someone different and new to join your team.

Nothing keeps a couple or individuals coming back to the club more than being asked. While this is very true for first year curlers the same is true for people who have been in the club for year.

This is great way to increase your fun and to make the club more dynamic.

Wanted:

One standard snowblower! Seven ten HP preferred. New or used okay, just needs to move snow well! Please consider donating one. Call Mark Tucker at the curling club at 736-1724. You’ll receive a BIG thanks from Mark for your consideration!
The Snowflake Raffle
JANUARY 2004

Look for a flurry of fifties during the month of January. 31 chances to win!! Two special $100 prizes on January 1 and January 19 and $50 every other day. You have multiple chances to win on the same number if it is selected by the N.Y. State lottery three digit Evening drawing during the month of January.

All tickets must be purchased by December 20.

Are you looking for a special event, stocking stuffer, holiday present?? Look no further. Buy a special $10 ticket. Tickets will be available October 27 at the front desk. Additional tickets may be obtained from members of the committee Ylva Cortright, Diane Farr, Cindy Kelly and Peggy Rotton. A special $25 gift certificate will be awarded to the individual selling the most tickets.

This fund raising project sponsored by the Utica Glengarries will benefit all members of the Utica Curling Club. The funds are used to assist in expenses of the club that are not covered by dues.

Please Note

Calling all helpers!! Please track your volunteer hours! It is very important for our 501c-3 status that we show how much of the work performed at the club is done by volunteers. If you're a chair, a trainer, committee member, help with house and repairs, work on the newsletter, etc., use this simple form and put it in the treasurer's mail box at the end of each month. Thanks!

Name: ____________________________

Date ______ Hours Worked ______ Project __________

Good Equipment is Key to an Enjoyable Game
by Carol Jones

Equipment purchase and maintenance is frequently overlooked in curling. As in any other sport, the care you give your equipment can make a difference in how much you enjoy the game.

Whether you are a knee slider, foot slider, or deliver with a stick, curling shoes can make your ice time more enjoyable. Shoes are insulated for warmth and gripper soles are designed for optimum grip of the ice. If you don't want to purchase special shoes, keep a pair of shoes dedicated to curling only so that soil and dirt is never tracked onto the ice.

Grippers are available at the club for people to use when learning to curl. Once a regular curling member, buy your own as soon as possible. Identify your gripper with a marker or label so many look alike on the ice. When delivering a stone, place your gripper on a bench, not the catwalk where others can trip over it. Grippers should be replaced annually or as you see wear on the sole. If there are holes in the sole, that means the gripper is shedding on the ice and may deflect a rock in play.

Brooms are an important piece of equipment to maintain properly. Clean the head of your broom with a small brush frequently during a game. If you own a sponge head broom, scrub the head with mild detergent a few times during the season. Some can even be put in the dishwasher! Horse or hog hair brooms can start to shed after a few years. If you have one that is, retire it as a great snow brush for your vehicle, but please keep it off the ice. The most frequent cause of deflected rocks in play is from a hair on the ice. If you use a different broom or apparatus to deliver a stone, place your sweeping broom against the wall, not on the catwalk where others can trip over it.

Men's Ladder 2004
Fred Hicks, chair

The Men's Ladder is played during the second half of the curling season. This is a competitive league where the skips move up or down the rungs of the Ladder depending on their team's success (or lack thereof). The entry level, or lowest rung, of the Ladder is the Rink, which is played at 5:45 on Tuesdays. Curlers volunteer to skip in this league and are elected based on seniority in the club. The top skips from the Rink are eligible to move up to the Veterans the following year. The Veterans is played at 8:00 on Mondays. The lowest skips from the Veterans move down to the Rink each year to make room for those moving up. Similarly, the path to continued success is from the Veterans to the Allen (played at 8:00 on Tuesdays) and then, ultimately, to the Sims (played at 8:00 on Wednesdays). The Sims skips are generally regarded as the best men curlers in the club. Even they, however, realize (generally) that their success depends on the play of their teammates.

The sign-up to curl in the Men's Ladder will be handled as it was last year. The "master" sign-up sheet will be posted on the board outside the men's locker room early in the season. As men sign up, the computer file will be updated periodically. As the file is updated and re-posted, each curler is requested to verify that his selection has been recorded correctly. A deadline will be posted and a final update to the file will be done immediately after that deadline. The deadline will be sometime in the middle of December about one week before curling ends for the first half.

Everyone is requested to be available for at least two nights, even if he only wants to curl once each week. This is in case he is not drafted on one of his chosen nights. Anyone who cannot be available for a second night should contact the Men's Committee.

If you have first-year curlers on your team during the first half please explain the Ladder and encourage them to sign up.
Are We Correct?

Be sure to let Cindy Brown know a.s.a.p. of any address or phone # changes so the Roster will be correct.

Wheelchair Curling

They will play in the National Wheelchair Championship (official USCA event) in Belfast, ME, November 21-23. The winner there will go to the world championship in Switzerland in January 2004.

We will be practicing as much as possible, as well as playing games in the Greenhorn League, fun and fitness and against able-bodied curlers as ice and time permit. If you are willing to help or compete, contact Bill Rotton, 797-2975, bproton@borg.com.

On October 29, Casa Too Much is donating 10% off all proceeds to RecNet, the adaptive sport program at Stirling Rehab Center. This is a fund raiser for the program which supports our Wheelchair Curling program.

New Curler Bonspiel

Vinnie Grove, Chuck Delmonte

Are you ready for the first bonspiel of the new season? Time to break in that old body for curling Ouch! The New Curler Bonspiel is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd. This way we avoid any conflicts with Halloween. All curlers are welcome and encouraged to sign up. Teams will be made up by the committee, and we will make every effort to match you with any prospective curlers you are sponsoring. Sign-ups are on a first come-first serve basis. Sign-up sheets will be on the Mixed Board at the Club, or clip the response slip out of the Curlogram and send it to Vinnie Grove, 14 Barley Mow Run, New Hartford, NY 13413 or call Vinnie Grove @ 733-7379 or Chuck Delmonte @ 736-4515.

The entry fee of $15 includes 2 six end games, continental breakfast and moose milk both mornings, snacks after each draw, prizes and surprises, and lunch on Saturday. No charge for new curlers. Sign up now!

Draw A: Saturday @ 9:30 AM. Saturday @ 3:30 PM
Draw B: Saturday @ 11:30 AM. Sunday @ 11:30PM
Draw C: Saturday @ 1:30 P.M. Sunday @ 9:30AM.

Think you can sign up for only one day, or one game? Sign up as a substitute for a reduced rate. Sign up deadline is Sunday, October 26th.

Sweet Points!!

Bill Morehouse, Chrissy Fink, chairs

We’ve heard all the arguments before. The skip claims he/she made the shot, the sweepers claim without them it wouldn’t have happened! So which is it?

Well, Sweet Points is the tell all, the judgement day, the time to “face the truth”. This fun event puts curlers through a course of planned shots which must be made without sweepers for assistance, that’s right, winners have been bragging rights that they truly did it on their own. Take outs, wick ‘n rolls, draws to the button, the perfect guard, these and more. Each player is scored on their ability to make the shot (or even half make it). Medals awarded to top curlers in the 5 year and under experience level as well, so don’t think you have to be an experienced curler to win at this. You can try your luck (or skill as the case may be) come Saturday, November 8th. Sign up at the club.

The 2003 chairs are the 2002 winners: Bill Morehouse 734-1475, Chrissy Fink 518-885-7395.

Friendly Early-Bird Bonspiel or is it Early-Bird Friendly Bonspiel

Or is it the Early-Friendly Bird? What’s in a name anyhow? Mark your calendars, the first official medal event of the 2003-2004 season. Medals awarded in both the first and second events. Food and party, all the good things, even a special appearance by Big Bird. First real opportunity to compete in a medal event with the New Curlers. First weekend in December 2003. Sign-up sheet and details will be posted on the mixed committee board. Chair - Sue and Gary Williams 339-7382. Helpers - Kathy and Dave Palazzoli 853-2042.

Attention Junior Curlers

Junior League Teams Forming - Don't be left out

Junior League sign-ups will be Sunday November 2 at 2:00 pm. This will be our first practice and registration for the first half of the season. This year we will be forming teams to play together for the first half of the season. Juniors will be on Sundays 2-4pm. Junior curlers are anyone that is between the ages of 11 to 21. Please bring a friend to join the fun. Non-members is only $35 for the entire season!

If you are unable to come on Sunday, November 2, but still would like to curl. Please call Bill or Deb Morehouse at 734-1475 to reserve your spot on a team! See you on November 2 at 2:00pm
### November 2003

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2004 Calder-Conley-Hurd Bonspiel

This is one of the oldest and most prestigious Bonspiels in the Utica Curling Club's history and is a Three Metal Event.

In 1975, 44 teams (that's forty four) participated. In 2003, 8 (eight) teams participated. We feel this was due to its placement on the calendar, as it was so close to the Marie Cobb Mixed. Consistently in the years prior to 2000 The Calder Conley-Hurd was a 20 team Bonspiel and that is our hope for this year. The new dates for this year are January 2nd, 3rd, & 4th. What a great way to start out our 2nd half!!!

We know it may be early but we hope you will reserve time in your busy schedules for the Calder-Conley-Hurd Bonspiel. This is an in-house 4 event bonspiel opened to all curlers. Medals will be awarded to the first three event winners, The Calder, The Conley, And The Hurd with prizes to the runners-up and the 4th event teams.

There will be more information in the next curlogram. Start thinking about a team and put the Calder-Conley-Hurd on your calendar.

Dick & Linda Robinson & Martha Hoffman, Chairpersons, TBA, Chairpersons

Senior Friendship Tour in Utica November 14 - 15

Every 6 years, Canada and the USA send 16 ladies over 50 on a goodwill tour. This year the Canadian ladies will visit GNCC sites and is sponsored by USWCA. The ladies will arrive November 14 to have lunch, curl, socialize, meet their hostesses, have cocktails and dinner at Peggy Rotten's home. Saturday there will also be lunch served at the Club, curling, socializing, and dinner at the club will follow.

Local members are welcome to all events including lunches and dinners A sign up sheet will be posted for anyone who wishes to attend. The Rochester ladies will join us on both days, since the tour will not be able to be at their club.

We still need 2 curlers for Friday & Saturday curling. We also need 2 more houses for the Canadian ladies. Please call Peggy Rotton, June Balduf or Eydie Savett to offer to curl or house our Canadian neighbors. We need your help.

Glengarry Rep attends National Meeting

Peggy Rotton

Peggy Rotton, USWCA Rep from the Glengarrys, attended the Fall meeting in Virginia, MN. This meeting of officers, committee chairs and representatives from all curling club women's groups across the US, met for 3 days to discuss current issues about membership, bonspiels, education, various committee needs.

An intense meeting to discuss membership revealed many of the many ways that clubs work to retain and increase their membership. Many clubs have doubled and tripled membership and are concerned about how to retain them, others are struggling with finances and decreasing membership. The meeting was most informative and productive. Ideas from this meeting were passed to membership committee UCC Pres. Pres. & V.P. A full report will be placed on file with Glengarry minutes.

New Curlers' Bonspiel

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Names of prospective new curlers would like to curl:

Mail to: Vinnie Grove, 14 Barley Mow Run, New Hartford, NY 13413
Deadline: October 16 - Entry Fee $15. No charge for new curlers

Co-ed Fun and Fitness 2003

6 end games - Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. - begins November 6th thru December

I am willing to skip: 3rd, second, lead, sub.
Deadline: October 30

Return to: Gary & Susan Coutant, 15 Upper Woods Rd, New Hartford, NY 13413
Happy Thanksgiving

From The Broom Hildas’ -

If possible - and deeply appreciated . . . please send your news items typed or neatly written on letter size paper so we can use the fax, and as uncreased as possible.

Deadline for the December Curlogram is:
Friday November 15th - VERY FIRM

Please send news items to:
Eileen Boerger
209 Hartford Pl., Utica, NY 13502
or
Betty Hurd
8 Knollwood Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413

Thanks for your cooperation.
"The Broom Hildas"

You may send items as early as you wish - so you don’t forget. The 15th of each month is the 2003-2004 season deadline.

Name: ____________________________

Date _____ Hours Worked _____ Project _________

Good Equipment is Key to an En.

by Carol Jones

Equipment purchase and maintenance is frequently one of the sport, the care you give your equipment can make a enjoy the game.

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