President's Message

By Art Cobb

It appears that 1998 was a better year than last for recruiting new members. We have a total of 42 new members for the second half of this season. We also received some interesting ideas on attracting and training new members that may help improve next years membership drive. I was especially struck by the comments from the trial member survey, including this one: "This place feels like home away from home. Everyone is like family." Could not of said it better myself.

Despite some ugly weather The Mitchell Bonspiel was a great success. Congratulations to Mike Semeraro (and his many helpers) for such a smooth running event. The Mitchell is the largest men's bonspiel in the eastern U.S., and at 48 teams is larger than most in eastern Canada as well. A job well done!

Good news also on the Mixed Bonspiel front. It looks like we will make our goal of 32 teams this year. Many Bonspiels are having a very difficult time drawing teams; their host clubs have even canceled some events. We must be doing something right. Could it be our great facility, great ice, and friendly members?

A word about ice conditions. As you may know we have installed control equipment on the compressors which allow us to vary the temperature of the ice. We now allow the ice temperature to rise slightly during the hours when we are not curling. This practice will considerably reduce our energy costs. Some members have expressed concern that this is making the ice "greasy" and have excessive curl. The controls have been set to bring the ice down to proper curling temperature well in advance of scheduled games. What appears to be causing the problem is the highly variable outside temperature and humidity conditions we have been experiencing this winter. When the sun comes out and the outside temperature gets high (high by upstate winter stand-}

ards) the temperature and humidity in the ice shed can skyrocket well above normal. This is what is causing the problem. Unfortunately there is no easy or cheap solution to this situation. We would need either a skilled full time professional ice maker on payroll to monitor conditions and make adjustments, or a complex and expensive computer control system. Either solution is beyond our budget for the foreseeable future.

Finally, by the time you read this our new ventilation system should be up and operating in the bar area. Please see Matt Cashion if you appreciate it and can help with a donation to offset the cost.

"Stick" With The Game!

By Paul L. Giovannone

They say that miracles can happen at any time and any place and can come in any shape or form.

It was Mid December and I was throwing my first stone of the year using the delivery I had been accustomed to and bang... right off the bat, instant sciatic nerve pain. I had injured my back in January of '98, and this was a very familiar pain in my hip and leg. I figured that was it, my curling season hadn't even started yet, it was the first game of the Murray competition, and it already looked like it was over. I played four ends with increasing sciatic pain when I said that's enough, bring in my replacement. We play a five man team, and Mike Sexton was quick to jump in.

The next morning I was in dire need of a miracle. The pain in my hip was still there, and I really wanted to curl. I had to sit out the next game, and this is what I always considered playing from the wrong side of the plate glass. It's one thing to observe a curling game, but it's entirely another thing when you have to watch your own team play.

Knowing that Dean Kelly couldn't make the evening game because of a prior engagement, I scrambled to think of a way to deliver a stone without aggravating my injury even worse. Fred Hicks lent me a knee slider and was kind enough to throw in some quick instruction on the famed knee slide. I figured this has helped many members, who had developed knee pain from the conventional style of delivery, so maybe this will be my salvation. After about five slides I found it impossible to push off. Now what? I looked around the club to see who was hanging out that may not already be playing. Well, if you think it's hard to find a sub for a league night, try finding one a half an hour before a game when most of the men's membership is already playing.

Now comes the miracle part. Dan Boerger says to me, "why don't you try the Feather Stick... pause... pause... you've got to be kidding me, I replied. He asked if I had any better ideas... pause... pause... no, I replied. After throwing twenty painfree stones with unexpected accuracy, I realized that my miracle had come in a very odd shape and totally new form. Prior to using the stick, my participation at the club was restricted to one side of the plate glass. Now that I am a "Stick Man" I can fully participate from both sides. Any person that has quit this wonderful game because of the physical demands of delivering a stone, has to try this fantastic stone delivery aid and "STICK WITH THE GAME". I really cannot believe that I'm back on the ice playing the game I love. I don't consider myself a "Stick Master", but I would be happy to help anyone who would like to try.

For those who think using the "Stick" could be embarrassing or demeaning in any way I offer this sampling of some of the names you may be called, and some of the sayings you will be able to use:

Suggested Nicknames
"Stick Boy" - this is not highly preferred by the young males
"Stick Girl" - this really shouldn't offend
"Stick Man" - this is not offensive
"Stick Woman" - this shows more respect than Stick Girl
"Stick Stud" - this would be my preferred nickname
"Stick Chick" - use this term carefully
"Sticky" - this could cause a messy interpretation
"Stick Master" - this term is used for the
more experienced
Terms You Can Use As A Stick Player
- I'm "Sticking" with the game
- This time I'm gonna "Stick" it to you
- "Stick" around baby
- "Stick" me in the line-up
- The ice seems a bit "Sticky"
- "Stick" it on the button
- Careful or I'll "Stick" it where the ___ - ___ - ___!
- Must be beginners luck
- Well, it's probably because my team played very well

And For Your Info
The Feather stick or stick or cue as they say in Scotland has been officially okayed by the GNCC, the Ontario Curling Association and RCCC - (Royal Caledonian Curling Club) the mother club of all curling clubs.
Bill Rotton found this in the magazine Scottish Curer.

Mitchell Bonspiel Results
Mike Semeraro - chair
Jan. 8th through the 12th we held the 114th Mitchell Bonspiel. It was the 88th to be held at the Utica Curling Club and with 45 rinks it was the largest ever. There were 22 rinks from Canada and 26 from the United States. The bonspiel drew record receipts at the bar and extensive coverage from Channel 2 News and the Utica Observer Dispatch.
An event of this magnitude cannot be put on successfully without the efforts of a great, hardworking committee and I would like to thank them all Terri Flemm, Treasurer; Lee Gibbard, Drawmaster; Deb Morehouse, Publicity; Eydie Savett, Home Luncheons; Tom Garber, Awards and Program; Carl Thomas, Chief Umpire; Colleen Thomas, after dinner snacks; And most of all, our Hostesses who did a lot of everything to make sure it ran smoothly. Denise Fusco and Chris Gleason. Anyone with suggestions or an inclination to help next year please let me know. Thanks also to the club members who came down to make the party wilder.

The Results Are
MORRIS MEDAL: St. Andrews, Gert Messing skip Runner up: Broomstones 2, Grayland Cousins skip ALLEN MEDAL
Navan 1, John Rothwell skip Runner up: Team Ontario, Don Lebano skip COUNTRY CLUB CUP: Broomstones 1, Sam Williams skip Runner up: Utica 8, Brian Moore skip EVANS MEDAL: UTICA 3, Ed Bonham and George Brown skip Runner up: Schenectady 3, Bob Travis skip FRIENDSHIP MEDAL: Navan 2, Kelly Oka skip runner up: RCPM 2, Ewen MacMillan skip SARANAC BREWERY AWARD: Rochester 1, Rick VanCuyck skip runner up, Utica 1, Paul Giovannone and Dan Boerger skips

Greenhorn League a Success!
From Caitlin Costello
All six sheets on Sunday nights were full of enthusiastic Greenhomers and their coaches. Each week, every player curled on a different team while rotating through every position. Points were awarded on an individual basis for number of wins, ends taken, and points scored. The top four point collectors were awarded with their own pin collection starter kit. At the end of six weeks the points were totaled and Congratulations to our winners: Ralph DeSantis Jr., Bob Drozynski, Doug Rosenthal, and Sue Crossley. Also, a Congrats to our draw to the button contest winners: Maureen Anderson, Carol Myers, Gloria Petrie, and Joan Muldowney. Many thanks to all the coaches who shared their time and curling expertise with all the new comers.

Inspirational Note
"Indecision is the key to flexibility"
you're welcome!!

The Marie Cobb Mixed Bonspiel
At The Utica Curling Club Presents A BUCCANEER BONSPIEL February 18th-21st, 1999
To All Curlers:
Please join in the fun of the Buccaneer Bonspiel. The adventure begins:
THURSDAY: The Opening Party, Lots OFrog (Toddie Bowl) AMD great victuals (hors d'oeuvres) from 6:15-9:30, curling begins at 6:30. No reservations necessary, $6.00 - Matey's in pirate gas $3.00.
FRIDAY: Curling all day beginning at 8:30. Please join us for a wonderful meal prepared by Joe "C" and a treasure chest with dancing to Joe Angerosa band 9:30 - 1:30. All members including hosts and hostesses planning on attending the banquet please sign up on the mixed bulletin board by February 13.
SATURDAY: Curling all day, beginning at 8:30. After the in-house parties at 8:30 PM. It's the night to Don Yer Pirate R Gala, 'cause there'll be prizes for the bestlookin' Buccaneers and Wenches. There'll be music and grog too. All members are invited to the club for partying and dancing (no charge).
SUNDAY: Moose milk, bloody's and brunch (dutch treat) at 9:00 AM. Semi Finals 9:00 - Finalist Parade with the piper 11:30 - Finals 11:45 - Awards 2:30
Lunches available Friday and Saturday (Dutch treat). Sign up sheets for the banquet and brunch are on the mised board. For any questions please call Linda or Dick at 733-4074 or Brian or Marj at 735-160. We look forward to seeing all Utica members participating in the fun events of Marie Cobb - Buccaneer Bonspiel!!

A Plea!!
from all the ice cleaner uppers
If you received a fluffy, fuzzy sweater for Christmas -- Pull this!! Run it through the dryer - no heat - to defuzz it. It saves a lot of lint from shredding on the ice.

Ladies Lockers Needed:
We are in need of Ladies lockers of The Marie Cobb Mixed - Buccaneer Bonspiel, February 18th - 21st. Ladies, Please clean out your locker by Wednesday, February 17th. THANKS!

Buccaneer Bounty Needed!!
Aye, matey! Whacha think 'appens to those caught hoardin' treasure?" Cap'n Blue Beard says that those found t'be in such a condition'll be a swingin' hull side up from the yardarm afore six bells! Now if you've no desire t'meet such a fate, you'll search yer seabags, check every cannon breach, look through the chain locker, and scour the scuppers to find any Bounty that'll help fill our Buccaneer Bonspiel Treasure Chest!
The pirates in charge of this year's Marie Cobb Mixed Buccaneer Bonspiel
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**February 1999**
(Feb. 18-22) are looking for a few good door prizes, and we need your help! If you have some booty (e.g. any gift, present, promotional item, donation of any value) please give one of the following mates a call: Sharon Brown 738-1233 or John Bullis 866-6762 do it NOW. Before it's too late!!

Wanted: Silk Trees Or Floor Plants
Do you have a silk tree or large floor plant that you'd be willing to let the club borrow during the weekend of Feb. 18-21 for the Buccaneer Bonspiel? More foliage is needed to make the club look like a tropical paradise. Please contact Marj Moore at 735-1960 if you can help. Pickup can be arranged if needed.

Mixed Playdowns 1999 Results
Chairs - Erlene Daley & Neal Burns
Congratulations to the following teams, which will be representing the Utica Curling Club in our Annual Marie Cobb Mixed Bonspiel in February.
Utica #1: Skip - Bill Sewell, Sharon Halligan, Tom Luker & Sue De Faria Winner of the "A" Event.
Utica #2: Skip - Brian Moore, Marj Moore, Dale Jones & Carol Jones - Runner Up of the "A" Event.
Utica #3: Skip - Bill Morehouse, Deb Morehouse, Andy Hobika & Meredith Hobika - Winner of the "B" Event.
Utica #5: Skip - Pat Costello, Joyce Shaffer, Brian Costello & Mickey Haase - Winner of the "D" Event.

The following teams are in line should there be anymore Utica teams added on for subbing.
Utica #6: Skip - Les Cortright, Yvora Cortright, Chuck Harter & Donna Calero - Runner Up of the "B" Event.
Utica #7: Skip - Paul Giovannone, Alicia Giovannone, Mike Sexton & Mary Sexton - Runner Up the "D" Event.
Utica #8: Skip - Art Cobb, Martha Hoffman, Bob Burnett & Melon Sofinski - Runner Up the "C" Event.

A Big Thank You To:
• Everyone who participated
• Everyone who subbed
• Everyone who helped out
• Mike Kessler - great draw
• Joe "C" - delicious meals
• Ed & Bonnie Louis - Toddy Bowl
• And our Co-Chairs John Bullis, Carol & Dale Jones for all their help.
We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and be sure to support the Mixed Bonspiel and our teams. It will be great fun!

New Years Eve Party - '98-'99
Chairs - John and Martha Hoffman & Erlene Daley
We were almost 100 strong welcoming in the New Year at the Utica Curling Club. With our usual hardy and festive spirit, attired in party hats with noisemakers and champagne in hand, we gave the new year a very robust and joyful welcome. Dancing took place well into the wee hours of the morning with DJ - Tom Burke - who did a great job - and kept the party hopping. Of course, Joe "C" once again prepared a wonderful feast of Lobster Tail and Prime Rib for us. The meal was enjoyed by everyone and we thank him for his efforts. Also special thanks to all our members who brought those fantastic hors d'oeuvres. We were especially pleased with the new members - old members and friends of curlers - who joined us this year and thank them for their participation. Also, thanks to all who helped and assisted with our decorations - set up and clean up!! But most important we want to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of our members a very healthy and happy New Year!!!

Women Evening Curlers
Gloria Petrie, Chair
Please be on the ice ready to play at 5:45 sharp. If the 7th end is not completed by 7:45 you will not be able to play the 8th end.

And look for special event for March in the March Curlogram - also there will be a notice & sign up sheet in women's locker room.

Glengarry Evening Competition Results
The Bonnie Piper Competition, played on Monday evenings during the months of November and December, was won by Caitlin Costello(s), Eydie Savett, Joyce Tencha, and Pat Zumpano.

The Lambert Grant and Glenplaid Competitions both included 10 teams this year. We welcome all the new trial members who are joining us on the ice. Good curling!!

And This Correction:
Ladies' Evening Curling
Gloria Petrie, Chair
The Calder Competition, played on Wednesday evenings during November and December was won by Sharon Evans (Skip), Peg Rotton, Erin Clark, and Melon Sofinski.

Empire State Bonspiel
Joyce A. Shaffer
The Empire State Bonspiel is a women's bonspiel rotating between Utica, Schenectady and Ardsley. This year the Schenectady Curling Club hosted the bonspiel. Amherst was the winner of the Empire State Medal and the Schenectady Stone. Caitlin Costello skip, Chrisy Fink, third, Maureen Haase, second, and Nancy Wurth, lead. Caitlin and Chrisey are members of the Utica Curling Club. Next year the Utica Glengarry will host the 45th Empire State Bonspiel.

Albany, Schenectady
Utica Friendly
Alicia Giovannone, Chair
We are hosting a one day Ladies Bonspiel in Utica on Saturday, March 20th, 1999. Continental breakfast, lunch, two draws and awards make for a fun filled day!
Sign up sheet in Ladies locker room.

Glengarry Holiday Party
Co-Chairs Ginger Zilloux & Lee De Giroimino
The annual Glengarry Holiday Party was held on Monday, December 14 at the club with 45 members attending. A delicious saucy chicken breast dinner was served, preceded by mulled cider, amaretto eggnog and hors d'oeuvres. A collection was given to the New Horizons in the amount of $190.00. We thank everyone for their generosity. Lovely table decorations were designed and donated by Sue Fountain. Our sincere thanks to Sue. We would also like to thank Sue Williams for leading us in singing Christmas carols. It certainly helped us get into the spirit.
Roster Notes
email for Peg & John Caneen
cjaneen@compuserve.com

Active Membership!!!!!!!
page 9 - Cobb, Arthur D. w: 732-4195 x 236
Add to page 11 - Felman, Howard, 209 Higby Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413, 724-6918/736-7777
Add to page 12 - Gleason, Jim, 5214 Moore Rd., Westmoreland, NY 13490 339-5110

also
Mike LaBounty's name was not printed clearly in last months roster notes. His address is 5070 Bell Rd, Whitesboro, NY 13492 h: 736-7361 - w: 853-5339.

Happenings
We note with deep regret the deaths of
Elaine Hilton, mother of Tim Hilton
Dorothy Bartusch, sister of Ellen Boerger
Pete Custer, former curler, husband of Mary Lou Custer
Bruce Collins, former curler, husband of Eve Collins & father of Sue Osio
The sympathy of the entire membership is extended to their families.

Deadline For March Curlogram
Deadline for the March Curlogram is Friday, February 22, 1999.
Please send news items to
Ellen Boerger - 209 Hartford Place, Utica, NY 13502
or Betty Hurd - 1 Jordan Road, New Hartford, NY 13413.
Thanks for your cooperation “The Broom Hildas”

Hot News Flush

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480 Clark Mills Road
Utica Curling Club