



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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Ted Brown Classic

Renamed spiel honours ‘Mr. Curler’

By Martha Tanner, Sweep editor

The longest running bonspiel at the Royal Kingston Curling Club has a new sponsor and a new name. The Ted Brown Classic, formerly The Whig Men’s Open, honours one of RKCC’s longest members and one of the most influential curlers in Kingston’s history. The ‘new’ bonspiel is sponsored by Tulips and Maple the Art of Catering, owned by Brown’s Fine Food Services Inc. of Kingston.

Edward (Ted) Brown joined the Kingston Curling Club in 1958 (now the Royal Kingston Curling Club) and was inducted into the Kingston & District Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, as an outstanding athlete and builder of the sport of curling. According to his Sports Hall of Fame bio, Ted was “*known as Mr. Curler for his nearly 50 years of involvement in the sport as player, coach and builder.*”

His long list of accomplishments includes winning the Governor General’s double-rink competition in 1969 and reaching the finals in the 1970 Silver Tankard provincial championship. He won major bonspiels in Toronto and Whitby in 1971, including a ‘carspiel’ where his team took home four Renault cars as prizes.

The highlight of his curling career was the 1975 Macdonald Brier in Fredericton, where his Cataraqui rink finished with

a 6-5 record. The next year, Ted skipped a Cataraqui rink at the Canadian mixed championship in Lethbridge, Alberta.

By the mid-1980s, Ted had begun coaching younger teams. In 1989, he coached David Allen’s team to the Ontario junior men’s championship. In 1990 he coached Noel Herron’s Kingston Curling Club rink to the Ontario and Canadian junior championships, and to a silver medal at the world junior championship in Scotland. Fittingly, Noel is skipping a team in the inaugural Ted Brown Classic.



Ted Brown in front of one of the banners he has won at Cataraqui.

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Left, Russ Howard caught up with Ted Brown at a 2019 clinic at RKCC. "I never won a car," Russ told him.

Right, Ted Brown in action.



'Mr. Curler', continued from the front

Even when he wasn't curling or coaching Ted had a huge impact on the sport. In 1980 he developed the Brownie Brush, which was used by championship teams around the world including Wayne Middaugh, Russ Howard, Kevin Martin and Jeff Stoughton. At the time Ted owned Brown's Upholstery and he came up with the idea of using a foam pad wrapped in sturdy nylon fabric to solve the problem of horse- and hog-hair brushes littering the ice and causing 'picks'. The brush revolutionized the game, leading the way to the competitive era of synthetic brush heads that is still unfolding today.

At 85, Ted no longer curls, but he is still a familiar face at both RKCC, where he is a Life Member and where his wife Kathy curls, and at Cataraqui. He was touched when his cousin Phillip Brown, owner, president and CEO of Brown's Fine Food Services, agreed to sponsor the former Whig bonspiel as a tribute to Ted.

"I feel quite honoured, because curling has been a big part of my life," Ted said. Getting to the Brier in 1975 was definitely his biggest accomplishment. "It's what all the competitive players played for. In those days, there was no curling on television; in your mind it was bigger than life!"

He looks back fondly on his years at the old Kingston Curling Club on Clergy Street, where he spent most of his time when he wasn't working and partying on weekends and special occasions like New Year's. Those were the days where "you more or less knew everybody in the club."

"I had a lot of great games," he reminisced, "some good wins, some tough losses, and some long drives home."

But if there is anything he misses about curling, it isn't the trophies and the accolades, it's the people he met along the way.

The inaugural Ted Brown Classic runs from Thursday, January 19 through Saturday, January 21 in cooperation with the Cataraqui Golf & Country Club and features prize money totalling \$7,000, with \$2,000 to the winning team. Kingston's Daft Brewing is supplying the kegs.

It's the first time the men's open bonspiel has been held since the pandemic, and organizers Phil Tomsett and Mario Fabbro, along with Keith Mitchell and Murray Matheson, are hoping it will be the start of another long tradition of great curling and great fun in Kingston.

Watch for details of the opening ceremony on the 19th, with guests of honour Ted and Phillip Brown.

I.D.E.A. (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility)

Is “club” a four-letter word?

By Martha Tanner, Sweep editor

Is “club” a bad word? Bill Tschirhart thinks it is. And he’s not alone.

Bill’s name is synonymous with curling in Canada. He is a national coach with Curling Canada, curling mentor, author of “A Pane in the Glass: A Coach’s Companion”, prolific blogger and host of A Pane in the Glass podcast. On his January 1, 2023 podcast, featuring an interview with Kim Forge, a former Albertan now president of the Australian Curling Federation and newly elected to the World Curling Federation board of directors, the word “club” came up several times. The topic was diversity in curling. I had heard hints that the word “club” was falling out of favour, due in part to its association with exclusive “country clubs” and thus regarded as a possible barrier to newcomers to curling. So, I wasn’t entirely surprised to hear Bill say in his interview, “I don’t like to use the word ‘club’ anymore.”

“It’s] a terrible word,” agreed Kim, adding that “club”, like country club, “has an aura of prestige and rules, and that’s not what it’s all about now.”

Curious to see what other clubs are doing, I visited the websites of CurlION member clubs. Almost all are still curling “clubs”. There are a few curling “centres” and one that can’t decide if it is a “centre” or a “center”, but nonetheless states in its general by-law that it is “hereinafter called “the Club”.

It’s the same with the Northern Ontario Curling Association. Almost all are “clubs”. The North Bay Granite Club and the Hearst Curling Club have retained their legal names but rebranded themselves on their websites as North Bay Curling and Hearst Curling respectively.

The Pembroke Curling Centre changed its official designation from Club to Centre when it changed from a private company with shareholders to a non-profit corporation. According to its website, the name change was also intended to show that “we are not exclusive - everyone is welcome here, from Little Rocks just starting, to seniors who want a vigorous activity coupled with socialization.”

I don’t believe that “club” is a terrible word, certainly not in the context of curling.

Consider this definition from the Cambridge Dictionary: “an organization of people with a common purpose or interest who meet regularly and take part in shared activities”.

And while it is true that “club” implies “membership”, it is also true that membership is open to all. Members are simply people who belong to a group. As a not-for-profit “club” we rely on “members” (an “old-fashioned” word, according to Bill Tschirhart) who pay membership fees to keep our doors open. We try to keep fees affordable and offer different membership and payment options to accommodate as many people as we can.

It is an RKCC policy that members do not discriminate on any basis including ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed, disability, ethnicity, language, marriage or family status, race, sex, sexual orientation, and that in fact we have a responsibility to respect individuals “regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, gender, ancestry, colour, ethnic or racial origin, nationality, sexual orientation, age, marital status, religion or disability”.

Yes, there is more that we *can* do and *will* do. But for now, the word that we use to describe ourselves is less important than the actions we take to embrace the values of inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility.

(I.D.E.A. will be a regular feature on the issues of inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility in curling.)

DL Fun Spiel

The Day Ladies held their “12 Days of Christmas” Fun Spiel on December 13. Twelve teams played two four-end games with delicious lunch in between, plus a challenging quiz (created by Deb Emerton) and a costume contest. Christine Sweetnam won the prize for Best Shot and the Oops went to Heather Sinclair. Thanks to Lin Jenkins for being our score keeper. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make it a great Fun Spiel.



The first-place team was that of, from left, Lin Jenkins (skip), Darlene Naugler (vice), Christine Sweetnam (second), and Helen Chadwick (lead).



Candace McConomy, right, DL Social Convener, presents the award for best costume to the “Partridge in the Pear Tree” Heather Emslie.



The winners of the quiz were, from left, Alice Gardiner, Cathy Grant, Gisele Cyr and Renee LeClair.



A close second was the team skipped by Colleen Bennett. From left are Josée Dumas-Hurt (second), Colleen Bennett, Marilyn Chilton (vice), and Janet McCreath (lead).



Sportsmen's 'B' Champs

On January 7-8, 2023 the RKCC team of, from left, Michael Berry (skip), Michael Flowers (vice), Kyle Horbay (second), and Anthony Hale (lead) competed at the Sportsman Men's Invitational Bonselpiel at the Prince Edward Curling Club in Picton, winning the "B" side championship.

Tell us what we can do for you!



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An important responsibility of the Social Committee is to survey RKCC members at strategic times for event and program suggestions. One of our goals is to organize activities and events during the curling season based on input from RKCC members.

Another goal is to have members on the committee from all sections.

In early February we will conduct a brief face-to-face survey to discover what the RKCC can do for **you**. It will take only a few minutes of your time. We will follow up with an electronic version for those who are away.

We want to hear from YOU!

The Scots are coming!

Curling for auld times' sake

By Martha Tanner, Sweep editor

A contingent of over 20 Scottish curlers is coming to Kingston January 27 as part of the legendary Strathcona Cup Tour. The five teams will play at Royal Kingston in the morning and, after lunch at the club, will head over to Cataraqui for another game there. In total, 61 Scottish curlers are in Canada for nearly a month to play Canadian teams in over 75 clubs from Victoria, British Columbia to St. John's, Newfoundland. The Tour is divided into the West Tour, the Central Tour and the East Tour, with five Scottish teams playing in each. Kingston is part of the Central Tour. The tourists, as the curlers are known, will play a total of 90 games, with each curler playing roughly 30 games. The Scottish team is led by non-playing captain Mike Ferguson, president of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC).

The Strathcona Cup has been played roughly every five years on a home and away basis since 1902-03 (with a break during the war years). It was started by the RCCC in Edinburgh, Scotland, after repeated invitations by Canadian member clubs to members of curling's "mother club". When the first Canadian team went to Scotland in January, 1909, Lord Strathcona, president of the RCCC, presented a specially designed silver challenge trophy. According to an account by the Edinburgh Curling Club, "Every point in every game counts and is recorded, so competition is fierce right to the last stone played by each rink. Pride is very much at stake."

Scottish Curling reports that "the Strathcona Cup was last won by Scotland in 2013, but reclaimed by the Canadian tourists in 2018. Canada has 12 victories to Scotland's 10, but the Strathcona Cup is about more than just winning and losing. The very essence of it is to ensure that curlers from Scotland and Canada have the opportunity to meet every five years on one side of the Atlantic or the other and to further the friendship between curlers of the two countries, upholding the traditions of the 'roarin' game'. "Having said that, the 2023 Tour are determined to regain the Strathcona Cup and are looking forward to the competition, the friendship and the hospitality for which Canadian curling is justifiably renowned."

Continued on page 7.



RKCC Teams

Team Tomsett

Mario Fabbro, Phil Tomsett,
Ross Fabbro, John MacMillan

Team Mitchell

Garth Mitchell, Ken MacMillan,
Dave Barr, Dave Bracken

Team Johnson

Todd Johnson, Michael Berry,
Denis Faubert, Anthony Hale

Team Herron

Noel Herron, Steve Lodge,
Jason Boyce, Chris Barkley

Team Murphy

Joe Murphy, Lorne Carmichael,
Keith Mitchell,
Murray Matheson

Spares

Rob Campbell, Henry Treier

Please join us to welcome the Scottish curlers. On their arrival at 8:30 a.m., they will be piped into the club through an “arch of brooms” held by the RKCC curlers and welcomed by club president Murray Matheson. Opening ceremonies are at 9:30, followed by some excellent curling. Let’s show our support for our RKCC curlers!

Sponsors

RKCC is most grateful to its sponsors for the 2023 Strathcona Cup:

BMO Wealth Management

Subaru of Kingston

Service Master

Amherstview GC

Fabbro Masonry

Scottish Tour Charity

The Scottish Tour is supporting Doddie Aid as its Tour charity. Doddie Aid is a virtual mass participation exercise event that raises funds for My Name’s Doddie Foundation. Named for Scottish rugby union player, Doddie Weir, who died in November 2022 at the age of 52, the Foundation invests in research to find treatments for Motor Neuron Disease. The Scottish Tour has joined the Northern team of Eve Muirhead with an initial donation of £20 for each of its 61 curlers and is hoping to raise additional funds through its Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sct2023>.



The Scots on ‘Why I wanted to be part of the curling tour’:



Billy Henderson, skip

Canadians have earned huge respect and are held in high esteem in the curling world. It will be a pleasure and privilege to have the opportunity to compete with them in the spirit of camaraderie and belonging companionship, to meet old friends and make new ones, sharing and enjoying après curl anecdotes..



Graham Young, third

Curling for me is much more than winning, although it is always favoured! It is about playing against old friends while also making new ones, taking part, promoting the sport and most of all about having fun with a lot of laughter along the way. Even on the days when things may not go so well, once you step off the ice the scores are largely forgotten and we enjoy the frivolity of the social side of our sport.



Paul Baughan, third

An amazing opportunity to curl competitively against like-minded people across different parts of Canada, whilst enjoying great hospitality, a few drams, and some friendly banter. The Strathcona cup tour will be one of the highlights of my curling career.

Stick leagues well underway

Submitted by Kathy Jackson, Stick League Convenor

As we head back to the ice for the second half of the season and 12 weeks of curling under our belt, the races for top spot in the two-person and four-person stick leagues are tight ones.

In the **Two-Person Stick League**, the Coulter/Secker team sits atop the standings with 32 points after winning 10 of their games this past fall. The teams of Bush/Thorburn and Rayner/Rayner are close behind with 29 points each. The newly formed team of McConomy/Stewart wrapped up the fall with two wins and shot up the standings to sit in fourth place with 28 points. League play will continue until the end of March, leading to a play-off round commencing on Wednesday, April 5 that will feature the top 16 teams in the standings.

There is a little more parity in the **Four-Person Stick League**, where any team can defeat any other on a given day. Currently, the Rayner team, comprised of Jim Rayner, Claire duBac Rayner, Don Mallory, Marty Chilton and Celia Russell, are atop the standings with seven wins. Closely behind with six wins each is the Dave Townsend team and the Vic Matthews team. Round-robin play will wrap up at the end of March with a play-off round commencing on Thursday, April 6 that will include the top eight teams in the standings.

Curlers are reminded to pay close attention to their schedules as there are a number of cancellations due to bonspiels this winter. The first of those cancellations affects the four-person stick league when the Ted Brown Classic (formerly the Whig) gets underway on Thursday, January 19.

Stick League Meeting

There will be an important meeting for the stick league section on Thursday, January 26 at 10:15 a.m. in the lounge. Agenda items include a discussion regarding league formats in 2023-2024 and the establishment of a committee to oversee our section. All stick curlers are invited and encouraged to attend.

STICK LEAGUE MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

10:15 a.m. in the RKCC lounge



Adult Learn to Curl

The first session of the eight-week Adult Learn to Curl program finished just before Christmas with a full slate of 24 participants. Above, instructors Peter Coughlin, centre, and John Giles, far left, talk about angles. Over half of the participants joined the club as members. The program was led by Denis Faubert. In addition to Peter and John, instructors were Judy Russell, Richard Dickson, Peter Waugh, Barry Malmsten and Martha Tanner. The participants described the program as good and enjoyable and appreciated the welcome and friendliness of the instructors. They particularly loved the on-ice activities (more curling!) and the emphasis on safety. We are thrilled to welcome these new curlers to the club – their enthusiasm is infectious, and they are making quick progress. Please support them as they continue to learn the game we all love.

Remembering Nigel Retchless

RKCC was saddened to hear of the passing of RKCC member Nigel Retchless. Nigel was an engaging and integral member of the 200th Anniversary Committee, formed to celebrate the club's Bicentennial in 2019-2020. It was Nigel's idea to create an official curling pin for the 200th anniversary and he took on the task himself. The result was the beautiful design pictured right. Nigel passed away on January 6, 2023 after a brief battle with cancer. Memorial donations can be made to UHKF - Cancer Clinic.





The Hacking French Hens took home the turkey 'trophy'. From left are Geoff Dopking, Sharen McDowall, skip Teresa Gibson and Robert Ivimey.

Annual Turkey Spiel

The 12 Days of 'Christmasling'

By Peter and Janet Waugh, Mixed Curling Convenors

The annual RKCC Turkey Spiel was held on Saturday, December 10, 2022 with 47 curlers participating. This year's version was titled, "The 12 Days of Christmasling." The winning team was the Hacking French Hens with skip Teresa Gibson and teammates Geoff Dopking, Sharen McDowall and Robert Ivimey. They each received a turkey as a prize. Thank you to all who supported the Southern Frontenac Community Services (SFCS) Food Bank and to those members who so generously made donations of food. A special thank you message was sent by David Townsend, former Director of the SFCS.

A delicious lunch, of what else but turkey sandwiches, was provided by Skipper's Takeout and Catering. While at their tables, the teams tested their trivia knowledge with questions featuring all things turkey, curling, and Christmas. After the lunch break, a "Chase the Turkey" contest was held and was certainly deemed a "hit" among the participants. The women's winner was Teresa Gibson and the men's victor was Wayne Rice. They, of course, each received a turkey!

Prizes were also awarded to Murray Matheson and Deb Emerton for their festive attire and the brightest bulb award went to Diane Fera.

As convenors, we would like to thank the volunteers, Janet Pressacco, the ice crew, and bar staff. We would especially like to thank all the curlers who attended the event and made this bonspiel what it is supposed to be . . . FUN!

It's Wedding Time

For all the couples who got engaged during the Festive Season

Consider booking RKCC for your upcoming wedding

Check out our web site for details

www.royalkingston.com

Or contact Debra Hill for a tour of the venue

613-546-2243

rkcc.rental@gmail.com

Congratulations



RKCC to host 2-person stick provincials

RKCC is pleased to host the 2023 Two-Person Stick Curling Provincial Championship February 10 – 12. Representing the host club are the teams of Tony Bush and Jim Rayner and Ron Cameron and Bob Helliar.

Ron Scheckenberger, who won the provincials in 2019 and 2020 will be back to defend his title, this time with Rick Thurston, both from the Dundas Granite CC. This competition is open to everyone 18 years of age and older. Teams may be formed of any CurlON member athlete and of any gender combination. The winners of the provincial championship will earn a spot in the 2023 Canadian Stick Curling Championships taking place in Nanaimo, BC, March 30 – April 2.



RKCC Book Club

The first meeting of the RKCC Book Club is Thursday, January 26 at 3:30 p.m. in the lounge.

The book: The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
Questions?

Contact Deb Emerton at
debemerton5@gmail.com

or Trish Beckett at trishie_45@gmail.com

Join *Scott Chadwick* and members of *Team Epping*
For a Junior Curling Clinic at Napanee Curling Club
February 18th, 2023



Greater Kingston Area Curling Association
is proud to sponsor this opportunity for
10+ year old members of
Junior Curling Programs at the 5 GKC curling clubs with at least one year's
experience.

Napanee District Curling Club

Saturday February 18, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

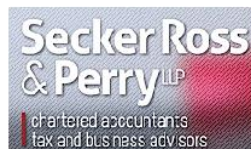
Cost: \$15/curler to cover the cost of lunch

To register contact Bob St. John by February 11th
Bobstjohn@kos.net or your local GKC representative.
Please visit the GKC web page for information about GKC events!

Share your story with Curling Day in Canada

Curling Day in Canada is February 25, 2023. Do you have a great curling story? Curling Day in Canada wants to hear your most unique, sentimental, hilarious or historic curling stories. You could win a 2024 Tim Hortons Brier closing weekend getaway for four! The deadline is February 10, 2023. See contest details and more information about other activities at curlingdayincanada.ca.

Please support our sponsors!



Michael
Braun





MOMENTUM
PILATES

