



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 25, Issue 1

August 2023

Looking forward to a new season

By Martha Tanner

Welcome to the ~~June July~~ August *Sweep*! What excuse can I offer, except “summer” and its lazy, hazy days? But fear not, behind the scenes at RKCC, others have been hard at work to launch a new curling season with improved facilities and an opening like no other.

To begin with, at our AGM in May, the board welcomed three new members who are already making their presence felt: Mark Riley replaces longtime Marketing Committee chair Bruce Jeffery; Samantha (Sam) Tomsett takes over from Michael Flowers as chair of the Membership Committee, and Shawn Kelly assumes sole occupancy of the Curling Committee chair, after sharing it for a year with Linda Lott. Work has finally begun on our new air tempering system, made possible with a Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Progress has been delayed over the past year, due to widespread difficulties with the supply chain and labour shortages in the industry post-COVID, but the OTF has been generous and understanding in granting extensions. Work is expected to be completed by November. The new system will provide additional air conditioning to reduce the temperature and humidity for pickleball players and other users of the rink surface in summer, thus expanding the hours and availability for the community.

And last, but not least, our determined and resourceful manager, Deb Hill, has managed to do what has so far been impossible and extended the liquor licence to the outdoor volleyball area and the board room. With Daft Brewery on board as sponsor and the Kingston Sport and Social Club sharing the cost of summer student Sarah, business is brisk. Plans are in the works to build a tiki-style bar to make the atmosphere more festive.

Registration for curling opens August 14. There has been a modest increase in fees and the capital cost replacement fee remains in place.

The weekend of September 22 is when the season gets really get underway. On Friday, September 22, there will be a welcome-back barbecue, where we hope to officially unveil our new air tempering system and thank the OTF and special guests. Please register for the BBQ on the website. The cost is \$15 (free for those who participated in the Golf Tour).

For Saturday, September 23, Sam Tomsett and her committee are planning a day of festivities for the Kingston community featuring live bands, food trucks, cotton candy, games, bouncy castles, face-painting, vendors, volleyball and free learn-to-curl sessions of 30 minutes off-ice and 30 minutes on. That will be followed by our traditional daytime and evening open houses from Sunday, September 24 through Tuesday, September 26.

Three new events added to busy bonspiel/funspiel schedule

By Susan Hara, Bonspiel Chair, 2023-24

RKCC will see a full slate of bonspiels/funspiels in 2023-2024. All our traditional spiels are returning next season plus there will be three *new* events – an open junior invitational, a four-person stick funspiel, and a Fall open invitational.

From late October 2023 to early April 2024, thanks to the efforts of our wonderful volunteers, the club will hold 17 spiels – junior, ladies, mixed, open and men's. If you are someone who likes to plan early, here is a list of what is happening at the club:

<u>BONSPIEL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
RKCC Fall Classic	Sat-Sun, October 21-22, 2023
Limestone Sr. Men's	Sat, October 28, 2023
Evening Ladies'	Sat, November 11, 2023
Pratt Day Men's Fall	Fri, November 24, 2023
Open Doubles	Sat, November 25, 2023
Mixed Christmas Turkey	Sat, December 9, 2023
Day Ladies' Christmas Funspiel	Thur, December 14, 2023
Four-person Stick Funspiel	Wed, December 20, 2023
Junior Bonspiel	Sat, January 13, 2024
Ted Brown Classic	Thurs-Sat, January 25-27, 2024
Empire Life Mixed	Fri-Sat, February 9-10, 2024
Day Ladies' Funspiel	Thur, February 15, 2024
Pratt Day Men's Winter	Fri, February 23, 2024
Betty Bush Memorial	Sat, March 2, 2024
Super Senior's Men's	Fri, March 8, 2024
Grandmothers and Great Aunts	Wed, March 27, 2024
The Fisherman's	Thur-Sat, April 4-6, 2024

According to Kathy Jackson, Stick League Chair & Convenor, the *new* Four-Person Stick Funspiel will take place in late December starting at 11:30 am where all players will deliver the stones with a stick.

This social-focused event will feature shortened games followed by a delicious lunch. A brief introduction to delivering the curling rock with a stick will be incorporated for 'first-time' stick throwers. More details will be available in the fall and, for further information, contact Kathy.

Each of the spiels is organized and run by a volunteer convenor along with their team of helpers. If you have any questions or need more information, the convenors are listed on the RKCC website along with all the pertinent spiel information.

You are encouraged to visit the RKCC website at *EVENTS > BONSPIELS*

Capital cost replacement fee helps build for the future

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

It sometimes seems that a curling facility is only ever one disaster away from closing. The cost of a new roof, a new ice plant, or a new floor have sounded the death knell for clubs across Canada. And no club is immune from rising costs like electricity and property taxes.

Last December, the Granite Curling Club in Saskatoon closed after 90 years. There were brine leaks and the floor needed to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$500,000, more than the club could afford. The closure sent shock waves through the curling community, even though it is no secret that many clubs are struggling with aging infrastructure and increased facility costs.

Closer to home, Garrison Curling Club made the difficult decision to permanently close its doors in 2021 due to major repairs and after facing many challenges in trying to maintain the facility.

For a long time, Royal Kingston on Days Road has enjoyed the distinction of being both the city's oldest and newest curling club. Established in 1820, it moved to a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility in September 2005. Everything was new. But now everything is approaching 20 years and some components will soon reach or have already exceeded their life span.

It's a fine line between keeping membership fees reasonable and setting aside funds for contingencies. It's a challenge that every board of directors and every finance committee in the history of this not-for-profit club has wrestled with. Since moving to Days Road, the club has looked for ways to make the facility more viable year-round and, as a result, has added beach volleyball and pickleball courts and made partnerships with Kingston Sport and Social Club and the Kingston Seniors Association. Our willingness and success in hosting CurlON events has resulted in a mutually beneficial partnership with CurlON, with more exciting opportunities to come.

On top of that, we are extremely fortunate to have on our Operations Committee a group of knowledgeable and skilled tradespeople and handymen who go above and beyond to keep the club running and save us countless dollars in the process. These unsung – and unpaid - heroes do everything from putting up bulletin boards and replacing light bulbs to repairing toilets and patching the roof. They secure quotes for major repairs and grant applications. Every year they perform inspections and undertake repairs: washrooms, locker rooms, kitchen, bar, fans, ventilation, roof inspections and sealing of roof penetrations, condenser inspection and descaling if necessary. They respond to alarms and are on site or on call during major events like the U18 provincial championships. They deal with contractors and inspectors for fire and safety. They ensure that our curling stones are maintained on schedule. They come up with innovative ways to keep costs down.

Yet despite our successes, our capital cost replacement fund has not kept apace. That's why, at the start of the 2022-2023 season, the board implemented a capital cost replacement fee for all members. The fees go directly into the capital cost replacement fund and will only be used for capital expenditures. Fortunately, our members have accepted this additional fee without complaint. Some have even wondered why it wasn't introduced sooner, as this type of fee is standard in a great many clubs in Ontario and across the country. Maybe it's because generosity is a hallmark of RKCC's membership, especially in terms of support for the club.

Summer Golf Tour Report

By Keith Mitchell and the RKCC Summer Golf Tour Committee

Well, here we are more than halfway through the summer golf tour. So far, I can report that none of our members have been recruited to the LIV tour yet. Perhaps they are not offering enough money?? So far the tour has visited RKCC sponsor Amherstview GC (thanks to Joe Rishaur and his staff for a great day), Camden Brae where thankfully we (mostly) dodged some sketchy weather but enjoyed the great conditions, and a new tour stop at the Bay of Quinte where the weather and the course were stunning.

I can also report that we are having a great season and a ton of fun out there. Prizes have been awarded for various skill sets. Longest drive – (This is painful for me to write but John Latimer narrowly beat Keith Mitchell to take all the glory. I'm not bitter. Honest. (At least not much...), longest putt – rumour has it Ivan B. was in a bunker and purposely blasted out away from the pin and then sank a 40-foot putt – shades of Babe Ruth!! Straight shooter – imagine playing an entire round with the same ball. Sadly, we have not had a hole in one, but our closest to the hole winners were REALLY close. There have also been prizes awarded for “other” skill sets. Heather E. is our resident desert nomad and managed to hit eight bunkers in one round at Bay of Quinte. And, of course, we drew prizes for the “wayward wackers” (i.e., the majority of us who generously donated a ball or two to the course).

At Camden Brae everyone was challenged to a curling/golf trivia. I was pleased to see that everyone was able to name five sponsors of RKCC, but less pleased that half did not know who the RKCC Vice-President is. Do you? Test your knowledge on the following page. The winning score was nine correct answers.

We are off to beautiful Smugglers Glen GC for our next stop and will be finishing up at Rivendell in September.

Once again this year we will be having our Tour BBQ in combination with the Welcome Back BBQ on September 22 and we hope to see everyone there. We will be thanking all our volunteers, raffling off some rounds of golf to raise money for youth curling and replacement of our old club brooms, giving out the final tour prizes and remembering that 20-foot – no wait, 40-foot putt – on the 18th (or was it 19th)?

The BBQ is free to members of the golf tour, but \$15 for everyone else. To attend the BBQ we ask that you register online prior to the event, so that we can plan for the number of people who will be attending.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and keep your eye on the ball!!



The 'Boyz in Blue', from left: Allan Black, Rod Pearson, Keith Mitchell.

Photo by Reg Gore



Peter Coughlin , above, a 'wayward wacker' below.

Photos by Keith Mitchell

RKCC Summer Golf Tour Trivia

1. Who is the VP of RKCC?
2. Who did Gushue beat to win the 2020 Brier?
3. Who did Homan beat to win the 2013 Scotties?
4. Name five wall sponsors - look it up. Happy to say everyone got this!!
5. In what year was RKCC founded?
6. In what year did RKCC get its Royal Charter?
7. Name two people with busts on the wall at RKCC.
8. Who won the 2023 Masters Golf tournament?
9. Who was the 34th president of the US (i.e., the 'Golfer in Chief')?
10. How many turns were there on the Edin spinner (+/- 5)?
11. Name the five courses the golf tour went to in its first year.
12. What is the highest score on one hole on the PGA tour?
13. Who was the youngest winning skip of the Brier?
14. What was the Scotties called during the 1970s prior to Kruger Products taking over?
15. What is Ben Hebert's Curling Show called?
16. What is the length of a curling sheet hack to hack? (+/-10 ft)
17. Who won the 1959 Kingston Brier?
18. How many Briers did Russ Howard win?

Answers on page 10.



Stick League Section

Season fast approaching



By Kathy Jackson, Stick Leagues Convenor

Registration for the upcoming curling season has now opened. Individuals who plan to curl in the Two-Person and Four-Person Stick leagues are encouraged to sort out team line-ups and partners **prior to** registration. Four-Person teams and Two-Person partnerships are also asked to consider carrying a fifth or third player, respectively. As we all know, finding spares is often very difficult, so carrying an extra player is beneficial when the need for a spare arises. Curlers without a team for the Four-Person league or a partner for the Two-Person league are asked to clearly indicate this in appropriate section of the registration form.

Once again, the Four-Person Stick league will run on Thursdays in the two-hour time slot from 11:15am to 1:15pm. The Two-Person Stick league will run on Wednesdays in one-hour time slots at 11:15am and 12:15pm. No games will be scheduled at 1:15 unless registration numbers warrant it.

Curlers are reminded of the following changes that will be implemented in both leagues this year.

- The Two-Person Stick League will have an 'A' and a 'B' division. Assignment to the 'A' division will be based on a top ten finish in the league in 2022-2023. All other teams, including teams joining the league for the first time, will be placed in the 'B' division.
- Both the Two-Person and Four-Person Stick Leagues will feature 'draws' that will allow curlers to sign up for a specific block of time. This change is being implemented for a variety of reasons, including accommodating people who travel and have to miss a portion of the curling season.

Lastly, watch for details about a new invitational Four-Person Stick Fun Spiel to be held in the week leading up to Christmas. All participants will deliver their rocks with a stick. Information regarding the event and the registration deadline will be available in the fall.

For additional information or assistance, contact the convenor, Kathy Jackson.

See you on the ice!

In case you missed it

A good news pickleball story

By Denis Faubert

From the warmer side of the glass

Sometimes serendipity and circumstances coalesce into something meaningful . . .

And so it was that some of us were approached to instruct a class of 13- and 14-year-old boys and girls on how to play pickleball at RKCC.

Although I would like to say that everything went smoothly, it was more like controlled chaos.

Having said that, it was immensely satisfying to see 24 enthusiastic students doing their best to hit the ball over the net and at times in the right court over the next two hours. After three more similar sessions it was clear that some were quite talented and others more importantly were having fun. So... how did this come together?

Barry Niles, a member of our curling club and volunteer at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School had spoken to Murray Matheson (club president) and suggested that this might be an opportunity for



From left, St. Francis of Assisi teacher Ryan Borges, Denis Faubert and Barry Niles with some of the donated equipment.

some of these students, who may not have had any previous experience with racket sports in general. After the board approved the free use of the courts, a plan was put in place.

Realizing that we would need an abundance of paddles, the Kingston Seniors Centre kindly lent the use of eight additional paddles, the remainder being offered by our club's pickleball facilitators. With regards to instruction, I was fortunate to have Barry Malmsten, Anna Salmon, and Tim Salmon assist in providing a rudimentary explanation of the game and some tips in hitting the ball.

At the conclusion of these sessions, Ryan Borges (class teacher) shared with me, while not going into specific details, some of the difficult circumstances a number of these students live with day to day.

Continued on page 8.

A Good News Pickleball Story, continued

He also mentioned that for some of them, this was the first time they were truly interested in taking part, whereas in general they did not partake in any type of organized physical activity. This was quite a sobering moment and left quite an impression on me. To say that I was holding back tears is no exaggeration. He mentioned offhandedly how nice it would be to have this activity available in their school and shrugged it off as they did not have the financial means to make this happen.

This is where the generosity and kind-heartedness of many people comes into play. Out of a desire to achieve this goal a small group of pickleball players decided to donate some funds to purchase some equipment for the school.

Ok, bear with me as this story gets a bit convoluted.

First off, RKCC had an older pickleball net not currently in use that required a little bit of elbow grease and TLC. Once that was accomplished and approval for its donation was obtained, we set forth to purchase some paddles. I had recently taken advantage of an open house opportunity at the Kingston Pickleball Club and, as luck would have it, Ryan Hanes was there (high-level player and certified instructor). I was hoping to get his expertise, more specifically, which paddles we should purchase that were both of good quality and not too expensive.

I further explained our situation and, after pausing for a moment, he excused himself and shortly after returned and handed me six slightly used high-end paddles and eight new balls . . . no charge. I was speechless (which is not usually the case, much to the dismay of people I know), but extremely grateful. With this unexpected and generous gift I then approached Larry Howes (owner of Racquet Science) and in the same vein inquired about purchasing two additional new paddles towards our cause. He as well kindly offered to sell these at a discounted price.

Shortly after that, I was able to visit the school, in particular the gymnasium and realized there was ample room for two courts. After some communication with our group, we decided to increase our donations to allow for the purchase of an additional net/hardware.

(Stay with me folks, almost done.)

I contacted Dave Bussiere (also a high-level player and instructor) and I mentioned our intent to purchase another pickleball net and once again apprised him of our situation. He was able to procure a 'VIP' discount which amounted to a significant saving.

With approximately \$560 in funding, we were able to provide close to \$2,000 worth of needed equipment.

It's not often that we have the chance to make a meaningful contribution, but if we can stitch together enough of these opportunities that we are given, together they may change the fabric of a young person's life for the better.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who has helped make this a reality and would like to acknowledge the following people for their contributions (both on and off the court):

Bonnie Arlt, David Bussiere, Rob Campbell, Ryan Hanes, Larry Howes, Tish LaVallee, Donna Malekos, Barry Malmsten, Murray Matheson, Barry Niles, Anna Salmon, Tim Salmon, Steve and Martha Tanner, Brian Ward, Deb Wilkin.

Board plus – Notes from the Board

Notes from the June 28, 2023 Board meeting, plus other odds and ends

The Board approved the expenditure of up to \$400 for materials to build the base for a 'tiki' bar for the beach volleyball courts. This expenditure will be matched by outdoor bar sponsor Daft Brewing and the Kingston Sport and Social Club. The ground-level base will be built by volunteers.

The beach volleyball area is now licensed, as is the board room, thanks to the diligent work and perseverance of club manager Deb Hill.

Otter Creek occasionally rents a spot in the parking lot at RKCC. Watch for upcoming dates on the Otter Creek Facebook page.

Pickleball and beach volleyball are both doing well this summer.

The RKCC budget was approved. Membership dues will increase approximately 3.5 per cent. The capital cost replacement fee will remain the same.

The board approved a new Criminal Reference Check Policy proposed by the Governance Committee. Board members, staff and coaches and volunteers working with minors will have to have a Criminal Reference Check and, where appropriate, a Vulnerable Sector Search. This will be paid by the club.

The club has applied for a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to improve the beach volleyball courts. The improvements will save greatly on maintenance costs.

With the closure of Garrison Curling Club, the remaining four members clubs of Greater Kingston Curling will each have three representatives on the GKC board, instead of two. From RKCC there will be one member of the Curling Committee (currently Linda Lott), one from the Membership Committee (currently Michael Flowers) and the past president of the Board of Directors (Deb Wilkin).

It was determined that half-year members are eligible to play in the club championship.

Curling Club Manager, the software used for our website, has changed the calendar format slightly, so it will look a bit different, but is still easy to use.

Open Houses will be held on Saturday, September 23 through Tuesday, September 26. Membership Committee chair Sam Tomsett suggested the move to Saturday to incorporate music, food and outdoor games, perhaps to help raise money for much-needed new club brooms.

Championship weekend will be April 20, 2024.

Save the Date

Pizza and Games Night



Saturday, October 14

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Games at 7:00 p.m.

In the RKCC Lounge

Pizza \$5 a slice. Please pre-register on the website to indicate interest in either euchre or dominos.

Bar will be open.

All welcome. Meet and Mingle. Details to follow.



Answers to RKCC Summer Golf Tour Trivia

1. Who is the VP of RKCC? - Keith Mitchell
2. Who did Gushue beat to win the 2020 Brier? - Brendan Botcher
3. Who did Homan beat to win the 2013 Scotties? - Jennifer Jones
4. Name five wall sponsors - look it up. Happy to say everyone got this!!
5. In what year was RKCC founded? - 1820
6. In what year did RKCC get its Royal Charter? - 1983
7. Name two people with busts on the wall at RKCC. - Phil Tomsett, Linda Lott, Lefty MacDonald, Betty Bush, Carrie Cole et al.
8. Who won the 2023 Masters Golf tournament? - Jon Rahm
9. Who was the 34th president of the US (i.e., the 'Golfer in Chief')? - Dwight Eisenhower
10. How many turns were there on the Edin spinner (+/- 5)? - 53.5
11. Name the five courses the golf tour went to in its first year. - Loyalist (snowed), Amherstview, Trillium Woods, Rivendell, Garrison
12. What is the highest score on one hole on the PGA tour? - 23 - Tommy Armour
13. Who was the youngest winning skip of the Brier? - Kerry Burtnyk
14. What was the Scotties called during the 1970s prior to Kruger Products taking over? - MacDonalds Lassies
15. What is Ben Hebert's Curling Show called? - the Sheet Show
16. What is the length of a curling sheet hack to hack? (+/-10 ft) - 138 ft
17. Who won the 1959 Kingston Brier? - Matt Baldwin
18. How many Briers did Russ Howard win? - 2

Good news, curling fans!

Our MaxSold fundraising auction for RKCC has just gone into an **extra end**! Thanks to your generous donations and the amount of interest generated by our first auction, we have uploaded **115 new items** for bidding.

Our first auction, which closed at the end of July, raised almost **\$3,000** for RKCC. But there is more. In fact, there were so many items donated that we had to open a second, smaller auction.

The RKCC MaxSold charity/fundraising auction - *part two* - is now live and open for bidding at: [Kingston \(Ontario, Canada\) SELLER MANAGED Charity/Fundraising Online Auction - Days Road](#)

Mark your calendar for **Monday, August 21 at 8 p.m.** when the gavel comes down and the bidding concludes. Often, the most thrilling bidding happens in the last few moments, so don't miss the finale!

Pick-up day will be Thursday, August 24, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Royal Kingston Curling Club.

We remember

The Royal Kingston curling community was saddened to lose two cherished members in recent months. Betty Bryant, who passed away on June 28 at the age of 97, was a longtime member and one of the club's oldest active curlers before she stepped away from the game (and donated her gear to the juniors). In an interview with CTV during the 2020 Brier (when she was still curling at 92), she said that joining the curling club was the best move she ever made for the friends it brought her.

Rich Waller passed away suddenly on August 8 at the age of 80. We'll remember Rich for his love of the game, which he shared with his sons, Peter and Joe, and with his brother Larry, and for giving so generously of his time and good nature to the club. He always had a smile and a warm greeting for his fellow members on and off the ice. He was an avid golfer too, playing in the RKCC Summer Golf Tour. At the first stop on the tour this summer, Rich won the 'Straight Shooter' award, and he was that in life too, a good man who will be missed by all who were fortunate to know him.

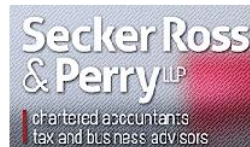


Betty with Russ Howard at the club's 200th Gala.



Rich with his game face on.

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Braun





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