

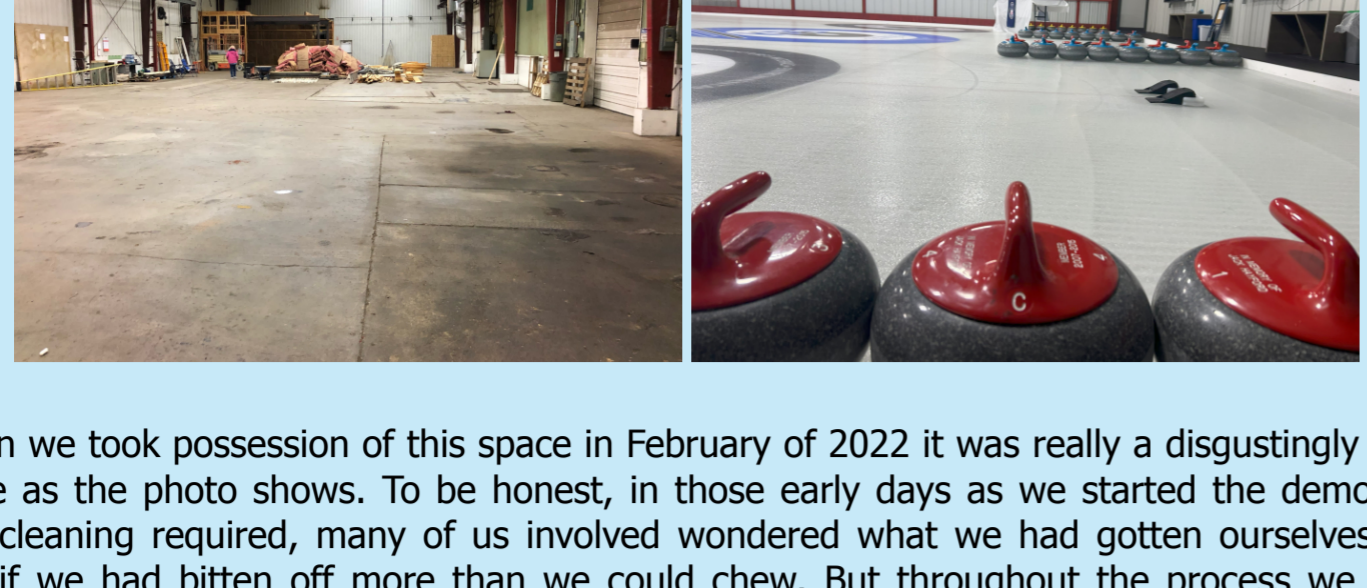


Our House February 2024

newsletter archive

A Message from the President

As I write this our leagues are finishing up the first week of our final session of the season. And what a great season it is turning out to have been. In our second year of operation, we have managed to avoid the sophomore jinx! As you will see in more detail later in this newsletter, the successful hosting of a national championship by a club this new to dedicated ice is a huge accomplishment. I would like to take a moment to stress just how far this club has come in the last two years.



When we took possession of this space in February of 2022 it was really a disgustingly filthy place as the photo shows. To be honest, in those early days as we started the demolition and cleaning required, many of us involved wondered what we had gotten ourselves into and if we had bitten off more than we could chew. But throughout the process we were blessed to have talented people envision and design the layout and supervise and lead the hard work put in by the volunteer crews. Ernie Forney and Sharon Martin in the icehouse and original warm room and joined by Keith Hammer and Todd Shelton for the expanded lounge and dressing room area. The result of the inspiration and toil by all involved is a facility and a club that, while limited in quantity by having only three sheets, is truly world class in terms of the quality of our amenities, ice conditions, and spirit and energy of our volunteers. As an example, the electronic scoreboards and over-house monitors provided a big wow factor for the officials and competitors at the seniors.

What was really encouraging was to hear how all involved highly regarded the quality of our playing surface. Two years ago, Wes Hoffman accepted the role of chief ice maker and went about educating himself and the crew he recruited in how to create and maintain curling ice. The product that this intrepid band has delivered is truly exceptional, especially considering their limited experience starting out. We are very proud of them and thankful that we get to play on this wonderful ice on a nightly basis.

From removing steel I-beams and obsolete infrastructure, cleaning up 40 plus years of filth then levelling 61 tons of stone dust to aweing competitors and officials who have experienced facilities across the nation and around the world, this club has accomplished amazing things in a short period of time. I hope that you are as proud of it as I am, and I look forward to even more to come.

I hope to see many of you at the Shamrock Spiel on March 16&17, and at our end of season bash – the Circle City 500 – on March 30.

Good Curling!

Jim Puckering

USA Curling Women's Senior National Championship



From February 20th-25th, we successfully hosted the Senior Women's National Championship, and we can't overstate the use of the word "successfully". We started the week with additional ice work (including a flood) on Sunday, followed by timer training on Monday. The athletes arrived on Tuesday for their first practice, and were treated to a pre-event social and meal courtesy of the club and its members. Starting Wednesday, we had 32 games over 13 draws culminating with the medal games and ceremony Sunday afternoon.



Pictured: Wes Hoffman, CCCC Head Ice maker (Left) and CCCC Spectators (Right)

Throughout the week, we heard nothing but good things from everyone involved. Representatives from USA Curling were on hand (including Dean Gemmel, CEO; Aaron Kaylor, Events Director; and Shawn Oleson, Head Ice Technician) and they all expressed their appreciation for our willingness to host this year's event, as well as complimentary of the quality of the facility that we've built and people that have done it. We had teams from 9 states and 14 clubs visit the club, and none had anything but the highest praise for the club. Our own Susan Fleck and Sheila McKinley were able to put together a team with friends from Fort Wayne and Midland and, despite coming up short on the scoreboard, played 7 strong games against a really solid field of competitors. In the end, Team Montgomery from the Madison Curling Club came out on top and will represent the country in Sweden this April at the World Championship.

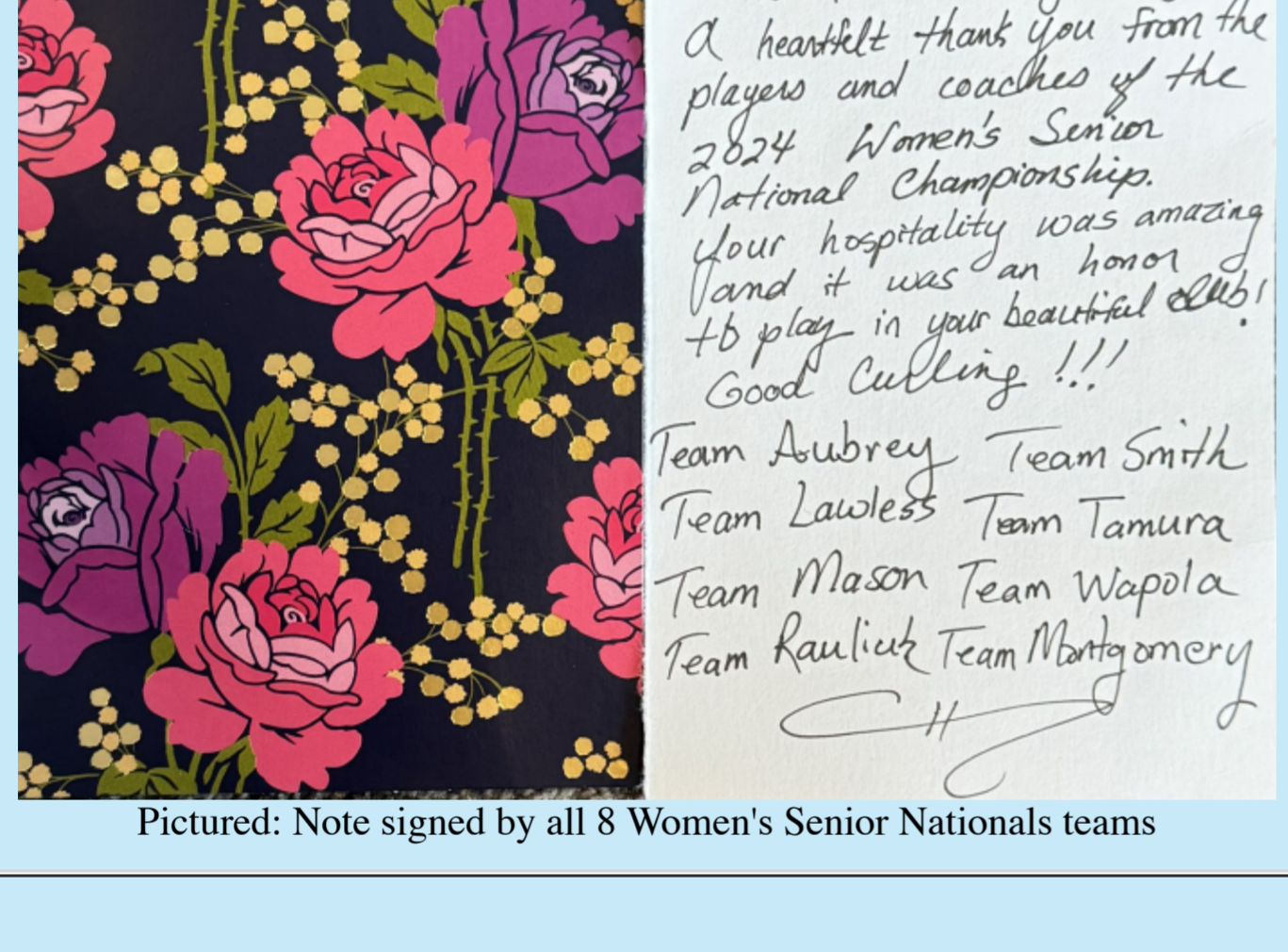


Pictured: Team Montgomery



Pictured from left: Marty Lemert, and CCCC Members Sheila McKinley and Susan Fleck

All of this would not have been possible without the countless hours put in by you, the members of the club. From the ice crew who created some of the fastest and smoothest ice some of the players had seen; the timers who were repeatedly praised for the focus and commitment by the umpires of the event; the bartenders and greeters who made everyone feel welcome with their hospitality and attitude that was noticed by our guests at every level; and to the food providers who took time from their day to make sure that our staff was well fed in the sparse time between games, as well as putting on quite the spread for the athletes themselves during the pre-event social. Very special thanks to Matt James, who took the lead role in organizing a very well-run event. Everyone involved was at their best, and their caring and attention to detail did not go unnoticed. It's events like this that will continue to show everyone across the country that curling is here to stay in central Indiana. Thank you again for your continued support, and we look forward to the next time these guests will grace our door and again be welcomed with the spirit that defines the curling community the world over.



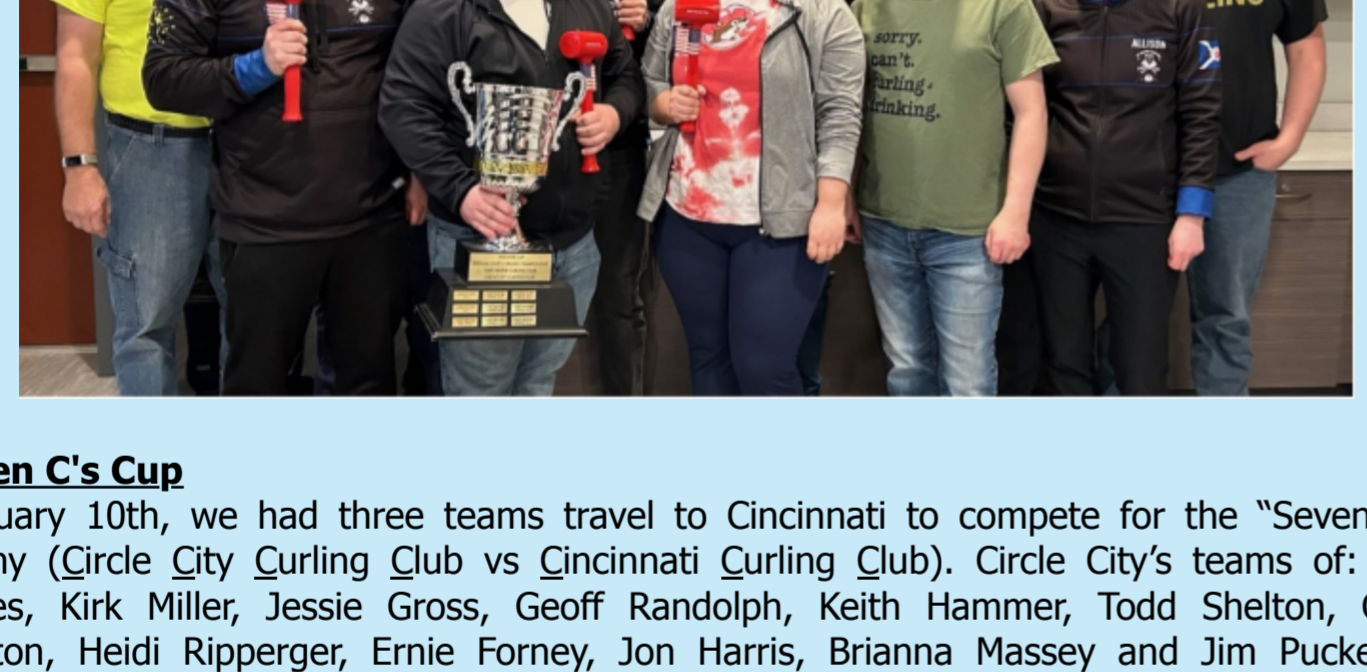
Pictured: Note signed by all 8 Women's Senior Nationals teams

Other CCCC Events in February

In addition to our league play, our club members have been very busy curling in other Circle City Curling Club events during the month of February.

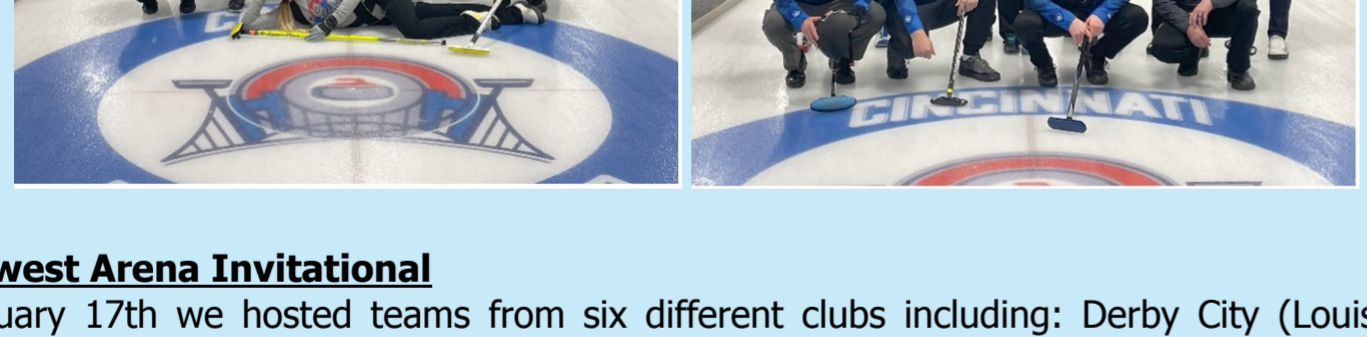
Hoosier Cup

February 3rd, we hosted three teams from our neighboring Fort Wayne Curling Club in an event we call the "Hoosier Cup". Although the score was not close, nor in our favor, we would like to thank those who participated: Sheldon Bender, Todd Shelton, Rob Jennings, Todd Hester, Ernie Forney, Dan Ivers, Jon Harris, Jim Puckering, Keith Hammer, Jon Schoenberg, Kirk Miller and Geoff Randolph. Congratulations to the Fort Wayne team for their 96.0 to 49.5 point victory in this point spiel and thanks to their members for making the trip: Craig Fischer, Doug Lothamer, Tony King, Allison Treleaven, Ian Harley, Matt Hart, John Sheman, Cory Grimm, Keith Bradtmiller, Anthony Harberg, Jeremy Worden and Rachel Sonam. Fort Wayne team pictured below with the Hoosier Cup.



Seven C's Cup

February 10th, we had three teams travel to Cincinnati to compete for the "Seven C's" trophy (Circle City Curling Club vs Cincinnati Curling Club). Circle City's teams of: Matt James, Kirk Miller, Jessie Gross, Geoff Randolph, Keith Hammer, Todd Shelton, Grant Shelton, Heidi Ripperger, Ernie Forney, Jon Harris, Brianna Massey and Jim Puckering; jumped off to a great start winning 4 of the first 6 matches and taking a 59.5 to 41.5 lead into the last draw. Unfortunately, the early morning travel time caught up with them and Cincinnati took all three of the final matches and won the point spiel 74.5 to 72.5. Thanks to our great hosts in Cincinnati, Monique and Jonathan Penny and to the Cincinnati club for their hospitality. Both teams pictured below.

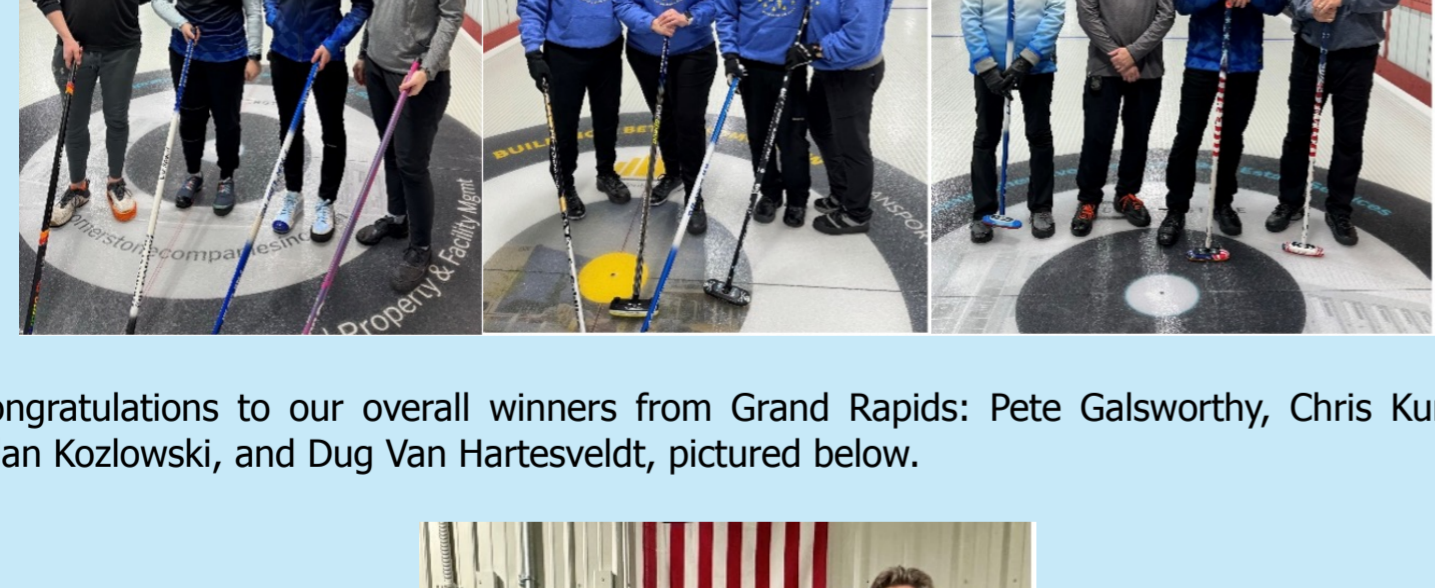


Midwest Arena Invitational

February 17th we hosted teams from six different clubs including: Derby City (Louisville, KY), Grand Rapids (MI), St Louis (MO), Curl Troy (OH), Fort Wayne (IN) and Circle City. The spiel we dubbed the "Midwest Arena Invitational" was a one-day event in which team from nearby arena clubs could come and compete on dedicated ice for a couple of matches. To round out the competition we invited one team from Fort Wayne and three teams from our club, all of whom have been curling for less than two years. The result was a fantastic day of fun and curling. Of the 48 participants over half had curled for less than 2 years, at least 10 had never curled on dedicated ice, and for several it was their first ever spiel.

Circle City was represented well. Our young teams went 2-0, 1-1, and 0-2, however the 0-2 team was one shot away from tying in their match with the team that took the overall championship. Congratulations to our Circle City teams of:

- Ron Groves, Jessie Gross, Katie DeCarlo, April Groves
- Jim Gillian, Kim Gillian, Luc Tremblay, Shannon Frederick
- Todd Hester, Jeff Timmons, Jerry Brooks, Connie Gangnon



Congratulations to our overall winners from Grand Rapids: Pete Galsworthy, Chris Kurby, Allan Kozlowski, and Dug Van Hartesveldt, pictured below.



A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped at each of our events or brought in food for the participants. These events would not be possible without our volunteers. A shout out to Joel Trusty who has donated our "Hammer" prizes that were given to the first-place teams in our home events. The red hammers have the circle city name and logo on one side and the event name on the other side.

Upcoming Events

- March 9th - Friendly vs. Fort Wayne CC @ FWCC
- March 16th & 17th - Shamrock Spiel (Brooms Up Trailer On-Site)
- March 23rd - Butler vs. Notre Dame (10am and 1pm)
- March 30th - Circle City 500 - End of Season Party
- April 6th - Butler vs. Notre Dame (10am and 1pm)

Circle City Curling Club Board of Directors

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Jim Puckering

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Matt James

Secretary:

Sharon Martin

Treasurer:

Keith Hammer

At-Large Members:

Jeff Timmons

Jim Gangnon

Jonathan Intrinsic

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Andrew Sand

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