

The Sheet

Circle City Curling Club

CCCC's Newsletter

Your source for all things curling in Circle City. Who's curling? Where and when are they curling? Who's winning? Who's having fun? What are people doing off the ice?

newsletter@circlecycling.com



The Board Report

The board met in November. Following the November financial report, the board voted to move \$7,500 from the general fund to the dedicated ice fund. A discussion reviewing the fall league was followed by a discussion of plans for the fall league. It was agreed to phase out the trophy pins and to investigate options for a club trophy that could have plates engraved with the names of winning teammates. It was also agreed that people who request playing together on a league team should be consulted whenever their request is not honored. An update on fundraising efforts (including request letters, golf outing, a possible pledge drive) was given. Men's and women's teams are registered for 2018 Arena Nationals, and a men's team is registered for playdowns for Club Nationals. It was agreed that the club's Business Plan needs to be revisited and revised; a subgroup of Dan Ivers and Jim Puckering are doing so. It was agreed to do the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society event again this year. Because CCCC is a 501(c)3, the minutes of all board meetings are a matter of public record. Please submit a request (board@circlecycling.com) if you ever want to read the full minutes.

Current Dedicated Ice Fund Total: \$155,685
Current 2017 Dedicated Ice Fund Total: \$46,060
We surpassed our goal of
\$150,000 by December 31, 2017!

2017-18 Board

President Ernie Forney

Vice President Adam Van Zee

Treasurer Tammy Hoffman
 GLCA rep
 USWCA rep

Secretary Steve Straiger

Past President Dan Ivers

Nicole Brinkmann Reeves,
 Rachel Buetens, Susan Fleck,
 Jeff Heck, Matt James, and
 Jim Puckering

board@circlecycling.com



Winter League:

Thursdays, 8:00 PM December 7, 2017 – February 1, 2018
 at the Pop Weaver Arena at the Fairgrounds – 1202 E. 38th St.



White Elephant Broomstacking

Members of the curling club met at the Ram for food, drinks, and holiday merriment in early December. The festivities included a white elephant gift exchange, and the theme of the gifts was “Starts with C” (because we’re “C”urlers). People were creative and used the full range of phonics sounds for the letter C as gifts included chocolate, cookie mix, cards, and a ceramic citrus press. The largest gift was a big barrel of cheeseballs (won by Jim Puckering and gifted by Wes Hoffman), and the most popular gift was a table top curling game (won by Peggy Anne Hoy and gifted by Jim McNab). Some gift givers thought they were being clever by selecting double-C gifts (cookie cutters and coffee cups), but the big-C winner of the night was Jim Reeves who gave a 6-C gift of a Candy Container filled with Chocolate Caramels and Cherry Cordials (won by Tammy Hoffman). The gift that will live on with the curling club is the crab hammer gifted by Bruce Johnson and won by Nicole Brinkmann. After much discussion (or maybe after just a few giggles), Rachel and Nicole suggested that the crab hammer should be used at board meetings like the conch shell is used in Lord of the Flies, but ultimately, it was decided that the crab hammer should

be used to ring a gong at the beginning of league the way most clubs ring a bell to announce that the ice is ready for play. Most importantly, everyone shared a lot of laughs and a fun evening together.



Heard on the Ice...

November's HotI Puzzler

Situation: The skip called for a take-out. The throw was tight, and while the teammates were sweeping, the skip coaxed the rock down the ice with his/her best Star Wars Gold Five voice, saying, “Stay on target...Stay on target.”

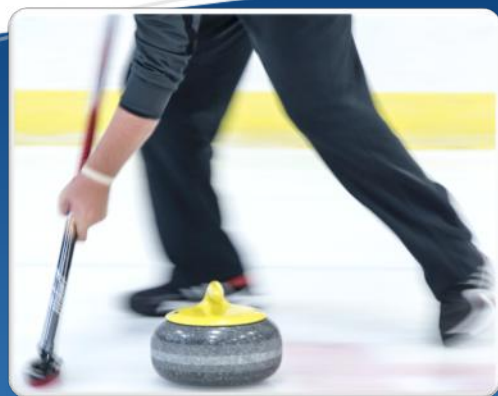
No correct answers were submitted, and so our mystery curler, Jim McNab, will receive his choice of a curling pin.

December's HotI Puzzler

Situation: As the rock was coming down the ice, the skip asked, “How’s the weight?” His teammates replied, “It’s light,” to which the skip politely asked, “Then don’t you think you ought to sweep?” (Clue: This skip is not currently in league, but think of the politest skip in our club...)

Who said it? Send your guesses to newsletter@circlecycling.com

The first correct response will be declared the winner. Winner will be announced in the next newsletter. Prize will be awarded at league night (or delivered to you).



Did You Know... that curling is a game of good sportsmanship, common courtesies, and honorable conduct? But what exactly constitutes those things in curling? This column is your resource for learning all about curling sportsmanship, courtesies, and conduct.

Did you know...

Did you know... that as soon as your opponent delivers their rock you can get your rock, get in the hack, and be *READY* to shoot? If you are sweeping, you can be in position *READY* to sweep. This is called *READY CURLING*. In league play, there is a time limit on how long the club has access to the ice. The goal is to play a complete end in 10-15 minutes. To keep within this time frame and still give your skip and vice-skip time to strategize, you can facilitate the speed of play by practicing *READY CURLING*. A full eight ends gives both teams a chance to fight for a win in the last end because as Yogi Berra said, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” (I’m sure he would have said this about curling if he had been born in St. Paul instead of St. Louis.)

Circle City Brings Home the Pearson Cup

The second weekend of December, a contingency of the Circle City Curling Club traveled to Midland, MI, for the seventh annual Midland Friendly. The competition began in 2010, and this is the first year that CCCC has won the friendly event and brought home the trophy. The trophy, called the Pearson Cup, is named after CCCC club member Doug Pearson who used to live and curl in Midland before moving to Indianapolis. For only \$25/person, club members played four games and enjoyed meals and fellowship provided by members of the Midland Curling Club. The Circle City curlers reported that they had an enjoyable time, and Dan Ivers noted, “I think it is important to recognize the contributions that Midland CC made to CCCC winning the event, especially since they had two very good teams and one less experienced team and provided experienced curlers to complete our teams.” Dan described the event, saying, “It is a great event that all CCCC members should try to attend regardless of how long they have been curling...It’s a great opportunity for CCCC members to get to curl four games in a great dedicated facility on an weekend,” and Susan Fleck added, “It was a wonderful event. The Midland curlers are very kind, gracious, and helpful.”



Brenda Mason and Fred Strautman from the Midland Curling Club helped CCCC curlers win the Pearson Cup.



Winners of the Ugliest Holiday Sweaters, Jim Reeves and Tammy Hoffman display their winnings (an Ugly Sweater key chain and the club plaque).

Ugly Xmas Sweater Night a Festive Time at League

The Circle City Curlers sported all manner of ugly holiday sweaters and hats at league in December. Voting on the “Ugliest Holiday Sweater” prompted much discussion about what exactly qualified a sweater as “ugly” versus “gaudy” or “crazy” or “over-the-top.” But, in the end, the membership overwhelmingly agreed that the Ugliest Holiday Sweater in 2017 was worn by Tammy Hoffman who combined her moose sweater with Christmas leggings and accessorized with a necklace of light-up Christmas lights. “I love Christmas,” Tammy giggled, adding, “I’m putting this up at my desk at work,” as she was awarded the club’s Ugliest Christmas Sweater plaque. Second place was

awarded to Jim Reeves whose grumpy cat-elf sweater garnered strong reactions and giggles.



Retraction – Final Fall League Standings

In November, we reported that there was a three-way tie for second place in the fall league. Three teams (Buetens, Wilder, and Fenelon) finished with records of 5-3. However, on closer inspection, it was found that the actual story was just a bit more complicated than that. The Buetens rink beat the Wilder rink, the Wilder rink beat the Fenelon rink, and the Fenelon rink beat the Buentens rink. And so, based on these head-to-head match-ups, it would appear that a three-way tie for second place was indeed how the fall league ended. However, while the first place team (the Heck rink) defeated both the Buetens and Wilder rinks, the Fenelon rink defeated the Heck rink. (Are you still following all of this?) Thus, with this second degree of



analysis, the Fenelon rink should be rightfully acknowledged as the second place winners of the 2017 Fall League. Phew. Is your head spinning, too?

Members of the Fenelon rink watch what was undoubtedly a take-out thrown by take-out king, Fred Pabon

Friendlies, Bonspiels, All-American

December 8-10, Tammy Hoffman and Nicole Brinkmann joined friends from Tennessee and North Carolina at the Milwaukee Curling Club's Ladies' Kiltie. Although their team did not bank a win, they played some tough teams from Minnesota and Wisconsin. The ladies did have some good ends and excellent shots and enjoyed good food and fellowship. In addition, Tammy had a hit on Bra Pong, Nicole won a raffle basket, and much laughter was had.



Have you been to a bonspiel? How did you do? Do you have a picture to share? Send your information to newsletter@circlecitcurling.com to share it in the next newsletter.



Social Happenings with CCCC

In December, club members enjoyed **Ugly Christmas Sweater and/or Hat Night** and **White Elephant Broomstacking**. Next up is a club **Game Night**, which is scheduled for the evening of January 27, 2018. **Game Night** will be hosted by our very own Game Guru, Stephen Conway. Mark your calendar and save the evening. Watch your email and the Facebook page for details.

Other upcoming events include a group evening at a local **theatre**, **community volunteer day**, and other off-ice social events.

If you have ideas for off-ice social events, let us know. You can either organize something yourself and share the details (when, where, what) on the Facebook page or use the email, members@circlecitcurling.com. Or send your ideas to newsletter@circlecitcurling.com and tell us you have an idea and would like help planning the event. We're here to help you make this be the club that you want it to be.

Facebook Group (membership req'd):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8547599118/>

Facebook Page (public):
<https://www.facebook.com/CircleCityCurlingClub/>

The Road to Dedicated Ice

The road to dedicated ice can be a long trek, and so is it helpful from time to time to take stock of where we have been, how much we have already accomplished, where we are now, and what remaining goals (short term and long term) we have ahead of us. In this series, we talk to current President, Ernie Forney, and current Vice-President, Adam Van Zee, about these things.

Part One: Where We Have Been and How Much We Have Already Accomplished

Most curling clubs start out in the red because the purchase of stones is one of the necessary first steps in founding a curling club, and curling rocks are not cheap. So, it is not surprising that the Circle City Curling Club carried debt in its early incarnation. *The first big milestone in our club's history was paying off the rocks in 2012.* This is a significant accomplishment because curling rocks cost about \$1000 apiece, and a club needs 16 rocks per sheet. This adds up quickly, and paying off that debt is no small feat.

In 2015, fundraising professionals were brought in to discuss expectations and efforts needed to make the move to dedicated ice. Based on revenue amounts raised by other arena clubs that have transitioned to dedicated ice, an initial goal of \$350,000 was set for the dedicated ice fund, and the first public launch of the CCCC capital campaign began in October 2015. *With a matching donation of \$30,000 (that ran through April 1, 2016) and with 91% of the CCCC membership making donations, a second major milestone in our journey was that our club raised over \$100,000 in the first eight months of the capital campaign.* (Also included in that \$100,000 was revenue from leagues and Learn to Curl events.)

For comparison, when another regional club launched a capital campaign, they had a total of four members (of more than 100 club members) make donations, and they raised about \$25,000 in their first year. So, it is worth taking a moment to *celebrate and acknowledge what we, as a club, have accomplished in a very short amount of time.*

In 2017, membership giving has dropped some compared to 2016, and that may be for a variety of reasons. However, *our members have continued to make donations to the dedicated ice fund, which is currently at \$155,000.*

Next month, we discuss the financial state of the club and what our financial goals are for 2018.

Note from the Newsletter Editor:

This series (*The Road to Dedicated Ice*) was inspired by a suggestion from club member, Lisa Wieland, and by discussions with several club members. Lisa suggested that I do an interview with club President, Ernie Forney, and discussions with several club members made me aware that many club members have questions about what it is that the board is doing to move us to dedicated ice. As I was traveling home for the holidays (turns out that I do some of my best thinking while driving!), it occurred to me that I could take Lisa's suggestion and address club member's questions with one swing of the bat (or throw of the stone?). And so, I want to thank Lisa and those of you who have talked with me about the club. This series grew out of your suggestions. I also want to use this as an example – this is *your* club and *your* newsletter. If you have ideas, I'm listening. Thank you, club members!

Nicole Brinkmann Reeves

Meet the Circle City Curlers

Curling is a unique sport. A quirky sport. Some people even question if curling qualifies as a “sport,” and although Barb Hayford doesn’t say whether or not she ever questioned labeling curling as a “sport,” she does admit, “I thought the whole thing sounded silly – sweeping, broomstacking, and getting down in the hack – what were these people talking about?” Barb and her husband Jack started curling in the 1970s when they were living in the Chicago-area and learned to curl at the Chicago Curling Club in Northbrook, Illinois. A partner in Jack’s firm asked a few couples to try the sport, and Barb and Jack accepted the invitation. It was an event that was geared at getting new members to join the club, and Barb says that as soon as they were on the ice, she and Jack were hooked. Jack curled with the men, Barb curled with the ladies (who call themselves The Heathers at the Chicago Curling Club), and two of their three children curled with the juniors. “We were all in,” says Barb. When they moved to Indianapolis in 1984, they say they got most of what they were looking for, except curling. When Barb and Jack retired in 2007, Barb discovered that there is a curling club in Indianapolis. “We were so excited, and so we began again,” she says, adding, “I found it difficult to

get down in the hack – what had happened? Twenty-five years happened, but the game was still fun.” When asked what she likes most about curling, Barb says, “The strategy of the game, the people, and yes, the broomstacking are what drew us to the sport and continue to be engaging to this 76-year-old. So many memorable moments, but it’s the people that make it. Curlers are a special breed.” And Barb is certainly a special part of Circle City’s special breed.



All photographs provided courtesy of Susan Fleck and club members.

Circle City Curling Club

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