



... a newsletter for the members of the Vancouver Curling Club

Spiels, Spiels and Spiels ...

October and November were busy months at the VCC for special events and on-ice activities.

On October 13th, the Mix 'n' Match Spiel - with a Hallowe'en theme - was held at the VCC.

This 4th annual edition of the Fall Mixer Spiel featured four 4-end games for all of the participants. And the event was highlighted by the "Pumpkin Shoot".

Trish Brown threw the frozen pumpkin in the spooky dark to the 4 foot guided only by flashing orange lights in the house and was declared the winner of the 4th Annual VCC Fall Mixer Spiel.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event a lot of fun: Jan Bos (pumpkin maker), Eric Helgren, Rob Hodgins, Gary Dunnet,

Kathryn Willey (prizes), Diane Petrant (prize table decorator), George Opacic (pumpkin shoot official) and Pat McSherry (event coordinator). The event was capped off with a tasty luncheon from Emelle's, complete with Gory Finger cookies to reflect the Hallowe'en theme.

One week after the Mix 'n Match Spiel, the Pacific Rim Curling League held their one-day Pink Broom Funspiel on October 20th. This year's theme was "Think Pink" and many of the 40 participants and volunteers adorned their curling outfits with pink accessories. All participants played five four-end games in a mix and match format and a couple of novelty games were also introduced this year to add to the excitement.

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Spiels, Spiels, Spiels (cont'd)

Pink Broom Spiel Prizes were presented to the "prettiest in pink" (Jack) as well as to the top skip, third, second in lead based on points accumulated over the duration of the event. Congratulations to this year's winners (Rod, Denis, Lara and Lucas).

And the most recent Spiel to take over the VCC was the annual Grey Cup Bonspiel, from November 22-25. It was a fantastic event, both on and off the ice, with 25 teams competing in A through D events plus off-ice activities such as the Super 50/50 draws, the Grey Cup squares, the "Win your entry fee back" draw, and the Loonie Loser Bin. In total, over \$2500 in cash was given out to the participants of the bonspiel.

The on-ice action was competitive and fun-spirited, and the winners of each division were as follows:

A Event: Team Faa -- Chris Faa, Andrew Giles, Justin Leblanc and Jaryn Perkins

B Event: Team 796.964 -- Jason Rowland, Brent Stanfield, Kym Neutel and Todd Rowlatt

C Event: Team Bain -- Croft Bain, Karen MacDonald, Lori Isfeld and Rob Hodgins

D Event: Team Allcock -- Chris Allcock, Craig Whitaker, Hamish Macdonald and Shannon Wing

At the end of the weekend, another special set of prizes that were awarded - the Performance Broom Sportsmanship awards. One vote per team for the most sportsmanlike player on the opposition was allowed and the following spiel participants won a brand new carbon Fibre Performance Broom: Lead - Yolanda Bouwman, Second - Eric Bond, Third - Pam Chow, and Skip - Sam Corea.

The event finished off with the ever-popular chili feast and over 80 people watching the Grey Cup final on the big screen as Saskatchewan beat Winnipeg.



Jack -- the "Prettiest in Pink" winner from the Pink Broom Funspiel



Top point winners from the Pink Broom Funspiel

Thank you ...

... to everyone that helped make the 2007 Grey Cup Spiel a great success!

The Ice Techs: Don Swann, Chris Allcock, George Opacic, Luke Opacic and Toyo Miyazaki.

The lounge staff: Marilyn and Molly, with assistance from Jon, Linda and Dyan.

The Langara College intern group led by Alexis Smith and the rest of the team: James, Shayam, Shoogo, Naida, Max, Peter and Mike.

Special thanks to Team Ashizuka (Leo, Yoko, Toyo and Kayo) for their help during the weekend.

And a big thank you to Club Manager, Jason Rowland.

Letter from the President ...

Ken MacDonald

(originally sent via email to all members of the VCC on November 27, 2007)

To the Membership of the Vancouver Curling Club, Several days ago, the Human Resources Committee of the Vancouver Curling Club Board of Directors received a letter of resignation from our current General Manager Jason Rowland. At this time he has decided that, for personal reasons, he would no longer continue to function as General Manager of the VCC, effective December 14th.

Jason has been a valued employee of the VCC for three and a half seasons and it is with a sense of reluctance that the Board of Directors must accept his resignation.

The past weekend saw the Grey Cup Bonspiel which has been an important event in the calendar of the Club. With a large number of VCC teams participating in this event, it is clear that Jason has worked towards providing a strong curling experience.

We wish Jason well in everything he does and know that he will continue to be a member of the VCC in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Ken MacDonald
President, VCC Board of Directors



Jason Rowland, VCC General Manager (2004-2007)

General Manager Job Posting ...

Application Deadline: December 7, 2007

Job Description: The Vancouver Curling Club (VCC) requires a General Manager for our facility in the city of Vancouver. At present, the VCC is undergoing a great deal of transition as we head towards a move to our new facility in the time period after the 2010 Winter Games. In addition to the regular day-to-day duties of a General Manager, the ideal candidate would also have skills in managing change within our

internal programming as well as meeting the needs of our Membership. As the third-largest Curling Club in British Columbia, with about 900 Members, we are looking for a candidate that understands that a Curling Club needs to have a sound business plan while meeting the needs of our Membership and other stakeholders.

More Info: [please click here](#) to download the complete posting

In the Spotlight ...

In the Spotlight is a new feature we hope to include on a regular basis in “The Backline”. It’s a casual Q&A that lets us learn more about the club. We want to tell the stories of the VCC - our past, our present and our future - through our members and staff. So if you know of a member who has a great story to share, please email us at newsletter@vancouvercurlingclub.com.

CHRIS ALLCOCK

Assistant Ice Technician

Under the guidance of Head Ice Technician, Don Swann, Chris is a key part of the team that ensures we have the ice we need to play the game we love.



How did you become interested in curling?

Chris was born in Kerrobert (SK) and his father and sister both played the game so he was exposed to curling from a young age. He moved to Vancouver when he was 10 years old, and Chris first tried the sport of curling in grade 12 with family and friends at a fun event at the VCC. Following graduation from UBC, where he obtained a dual English-Geography degree, his first league experience was the VCC novice league.

Since that initial novice league experience, Chris has increased his on-ice time and now plays on three different teams in the Granville Island Open on Tuesday evenings, the Thursday Open, and the Sunday Open leagues. And his team on Sunday has been together for 6 years... and they all still get along well both on and off the ice.

What drew you to becoming an ice technician?

In 2004, Chris had left a job where he was unhappy and sent an email to the club expressing his interest for part-time work. He had decided that his ideal job would be working with something he enjoyed... curling.

There happened to be a job that had just opened up on the ice tech team so he began working 15 hours per week in the 2004/05 season.

Since then, he has increased his involvement and experience to where he is now a full-time member of the team. He spends five evenings a week preparing and cleaning the ice before and after each draw as well as doing the Wednesday morning ice preparation and laying the groundwork for the day’s curling.

What are your interests outside of curling?

When he’s not at the club, Chris enjoys both playing and watching baseball and hockey. He also plays the guitar, where he counts Kris Kristofferson as one the musicians who he enjoys listening to and emulating.

What’s your favorite thing about the VCC?

“I enjoy working at a place where people want to be. It’s good to be part of a team that helps people enjoy their time on the ice. And, hey, I get paid to have fun!”



Chris Allcock (second from the right) with his 2007 Grey Cup D-event winning team

On-Ice Tips... Strategic Planning makes decisions easier

Perhaps the best part of curling is summed up in the lively discussions that surround the game – usually held in the lounge while your friends watch you play and dissect every shot you call!

I don't think there were many curlers in Canada that were not talking about Randy Ferby's decision to take out his own rock in the ninth end of the Brier final so that his team could take two in the tenth for the win - as opposed to stealing one for the win or forcing the extra end. Quick recap... Ferbey's team had a rock in the rings and was down one point in the ninth end. It was clear that they were not going to score three to put the game away so they went with their team decision (made in advance I am assuming) to control the 10th end for the win rather than give up the hammer and give the other team more control.

How many of us would do that in our league games? My guess is just about none of us because that decision was based on an incredible level of confidence backed up by an incredible level of skill and a team that had been through the wars of curling together for many years.

What can the average curler learn from this situation? In a nutshell, it is a great thing if teams have at least a basic game plan every end so that they know what they are trying to do and make decisions based on the desired outcome. I am guessing that every one of us has given up a big end when we saw what we thought was an opportunity for a big steal. I encourage you to change your plans if you see an opportunity; but you must also acknowledge the risk you are taking.

The most fundamental question to ask in making a shot selection is: **What is the risk vs. the reward?** It is great if the risk can be kept minimal while the reward remains high but the opposing team will have something to say about that.

Teams that are very successful tend to play it tight until they see a real opportunity and then they go for it. They tend to have patience and realize that what looks like a big opportunity to score may very well be

a big opportunity for the other team to score as well. Teams without the hammer often make this error as they count up the number of their rocks in the rings and start to get excited. Then... along comes a house-cleaning shot that takes all of your color out of the rings. Now you see how many opposing rocks are actually in play and it is not pretty.

How do we ensure that we are making good decisions?

- First, set a goal for the end you are playing before the first rock of the end is thrown and stick to it until you assess that it is worth changing. You will need to take the scoreboard into consideration when making this decision. I have seen many teams coming home tied with the hammer and they throw up corner guards as if they want to score 2 points! If your goal for the end is to score 1 and you have the hammer, the game-winning point is going to be on the button so you do not need to play in the wings. Many teams react to the rocks as opposed to planning the rocks. If you already have a plan, it takes less time to call the game and there is less work to do in assessing the end.
- Second, if you do decide to change your end goal part way through an end, ask yourself: What are the risks associated with my decision? and what will the reward be? Is it worth a large risk if it would only give you one point in the middle of the game? It may be worth it if the alternative is that the opposing team will score 5 if you do not switch your tactics.

The bottom line in all of this is that successful teams tend to know what they are going to do in advance and will stick with their plan until the game is over. This is often the difference between a Novice team and an Intermediate team. One of the problems for Novices is that these concepts are not talked about in the lounge because curlers really love to talk about the shots they see and what they would do differently. It is part of who we are and I must admit that I love that part of our sport. Good curling! -- Ken MacDonald

Mid-Season Intermediate Clinic ...

Are you looking for ways to increase your skill level?
Well, early in the new year will be the time to get your
game on!

Stay tuned for confirmation of the revised date and
session topics for the Mid-Season Intermediate Clinic.

Do you want to connect at the club ?

Do you have a laptop? Do you want to get to the club early ... maybe beat the traffic and enjoy a bite to eat before your game? Well, now you have the chance to get connected whenever you visit the club.

The VCC has just introduced a WiFi connection at the club and you are welcome to surf the 'net or check your email the next time you are at the club.

When you establish your WiFi connection, the password is 6048740122. And please note that the club is not able to assist with any access difficulties.

Upcoming Events ...

As 2007 comes to a close, there are many exciting events planned at the club for 2008...

Monday, Dec. 17

Last day of league curling - 1st half

Friday, Dec. 21 to Tuesday, Jan. 1

VCC closed - Happy Holidays!

Thursday, Jan. 3

League curling resumes - 2nd half

Friday, Feb. 1 to Sunday, Feb. 3

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

Saturday, Feb. 9

Mixed Doubles Bonspiel

Saturday, Feb. 16

Sandra Schmirler Day / Open House
- VCC Playdowns for the BC Challenge Cup
- Team Dynamics Clinic

Thursday, Mar. 6 to Sunday, Mar. 9

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

Sunday, Mar. 30

Last day of league curling - 2nd half

Monday, Mar. 31 to Wednesday, Apr. 2

Club Championship

*For more information on any of the events scheduled at the VCC, please contact the
Club Manager - Jason Rowland - at 604-872-0122 or manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com.*



Vancouver Curling Club

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