

The Backline



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

Welcome to the new season ...

The first full week of league curling is now in the books for the 2009-2010 season, and there is already a lot on the go at the VCC.

Season-Opening Doubles Spiel on Sept 19th

Congratulations to **Aaron Thompson and Jack Holmes** (pictured above) for capturing the Season-Opening Doubles Spiel.

Aaron and Jack went undefeated throughout both round-robin play and the playoffs to capture their title. In the final, they defeated the only other team who had gone undefeated to that point - Brady & Kristin Clark, from the Granite Curling Club in Seattle.

Playing the unique doubles format (and using the World Curling Federation rules),

games throughout the day were very competitive. The rules enable lots of rocks to be in play so there were some fantastic shots made. The skilled shot-making led to many close games and one-point decisions, including almost all of the playoff games.

Each of the participating teams had a great day of curling. Everyone appreciated the efforts of spiel organizer, **Shari Cotter**, and the spiel coordination committee of **Barb Petkau & Bev Bryck**. All funds raised from the event will be donated to the **Sandra Schmirler Foundation**.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the ice for our next bonspiel - **the Harvest Spiel** - on October 23-25.

The Last Draw Lounge & New Pro Shop

To help ensure that you are ready

to go both on and off the ice, the club encourages you to check out the Last Draw Lounge and the pro shop. The lounge is fully-stocked for the start of the 09-10 season. Suggestions from the past have been incorporated to help meet our members' requests and needs.

The club also has an expanded Pro Shop. In conjunction with GOLDLINE Curling Supplies, we now have a wide variety of equipment & clothing to ensure you have a successful season.

Also in this issue...

Capital Development Fund ...	2
Junior Learn-to-Curl	2
Did you wonder?	3
Volunteer at the VCC	3
Meet the new GM	4
In the Spotlight	5
2009-2010 Key Dates	6



A fee by any other name ...

...could still be called a levy! Five years ago, VCC members were asked to pay a \$10 per year Column Levy to help pay for emergency reconstruction on the columns in the ice shed. Last season the columns were paid for and the column levy was eliminated.

So, now you're being asked to make a contribution to the **Capital Development Fund (CDF)** of \$35 at the start of the '09-'10 season. Why?

The Capital Fund Contribution of \$35 per member was approved by the membership at the AGM in April. Full details were made available in the May 2009 edition of "The Backline" and posted on the club's homepage throughout the summer.

All members are being asked to help the VCC put aside some money for the furniture, fixtures and equipment that we require to operate our new space in the Vancouver Olympic / Paralympic Centre. At present, we estimate the total costs of moving into the new facility are upwards of \$500,000.

Starting in the 2009-2010 season, members will contribute \$35 towards the CDF. Based on approximately 850 VCC members, contributions to the CDF raise nearly \$30,000 this year.

This figure will grow as we mount a fund-raising campaign and hold special events. The Capital Fund Contribution will also allow the VCC to access credit from our financial institution should it be required.

All Capital Development Contributions are being placed in a separate bank account and all monies will be spent solely on items needed for the new Legacy Facility.

Will the Capital Development Contribution carry forward to the new facility? The Board of Directors anticipates that the contribution will be required moving forward. After all, early estimates of the required furniture, fixtures & equipment for the Legacy Facility are upwards of \$500,000.

More information will become available as work on the Business Plan continues. Any future action will have to be considered by the VCC Board and communicated to the membership.

You can have your say on this matter – speak with any of the VCC Board Members, or send an e-mail to president@vancouvercurlingclub.com.

Junior Learn-to-Curl Camp ...

The VCC is partnering with Curl BC, Optimists International and the Marpole Curling Club to encourage any new our beginning young curlers to come out for an almost free curling clinic.

When: Saturday, September 26th, 2009
9:30 am registration, 3 pm finish

Where: Marpole Curling Club
8730 Heather Street, Vancouver

Who: New, never-curlled-before and beginning young curlers aged 9-11+



Includes: Skills, techniques, games and more

How Much: \$5 per curler
includes snacks, lunch and refreshments

Register: By email at manager@marpolecurling.com
or by calling 604-327-3400

Did you wonder ...

...about the colour of the rings this year? And did you figure it out? The twelve-foot rings have been painted the colours of the rings on the Olympic Flag. Congratulations to our Head Ice Technician, Don Swann, for his creative ideas to constantly liven up the ice.

...about the dividers being gone this year? Based on the advice of the world-class ice technicians at the 2009 World Wheelchair and World Junior Curling Championships - the removal of the dividers will create more consistent ice throughout the entire season. It is expected to ease the heaving on the ice that has plagued us every spring.

...about the four foot lines on sheets 1 and 2? You'll notice that these are not exactly at the edge of the four-foot ring in the house. This is to accommodate wheelchair curling at the VCC and pre-Games training by teams who will be competing in the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. The hash marks painted near the hog line are also for wheelchair curling – this is where the rocks are delivered from.

September is Volunteer Month at the VCC ...

In an interview with Art Hawkins, Chair of the Membership and Communication Committee, we ask some questions that might prove insightful for you and your teammates this year.

With the curling season just underway, what can we expect as VCC players?

There are many things going on this year so first of all we want to make sure that our curlers have everything they need to ensure that their leagues run well. Second, we want to work hard to fill all of our special events and make them a success. And, of course, with the Olympics and Paralympics coming to our neighbourhood, we want to see that the club presents itself well. The common thread connecting these things is our need for volunteers.

What can our members do help out this year?

There are so many different things they can do. Check to see if your league rep needs assistance with the running of your league. Helping to coach and teach beginner or intermediate curlers in our clinic series in the fall or winter months, or becoming a volunteer coach with our Junior Development Program are ways to get involved. Joining any of our club's committees, even if it's only on a part time basis, is always valuable.

What committees are there at the VCC?

The club's committees include the Building, External Affairs, Education, Finance, Human Resources, Membership & Communication and Special Events committees. All of them have board representation and, following last year's expression of interest at the 2009 AGM, a few them already have club members involved. However, each committee could benefit from some extra support and assistance.

Are there specific roles or tasks that I could help out with as a volunteer?

Please be sure to check out the display board on the viewing lounge level for a complete listing of the different tasks that the club's Board of Directors and staff have identified. Whether you have a professional edge or even just a special interest, all are welcome to lend a hand.

How does someone volunteer?

You can speak with a board member, e-mail the board directly (at volunteer@vancouvercurlingclub.com) or contact the General Manager to find out the best way to help support the club this year.

Meet Chris Daw, the VCC's new manager ...

Chris kindly offered up some of his time during his busy pre-season preparations to answer some questions with interviewer, Victoria Gray, so we could all get to know our new General Manager a little better.

What did you do before your new position as General Manager of the VCC?

I was the Director of Program Development for the Easter Seals, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the CCA Development Coordinator for grassroots development in Canada.

And you lived where?

We lived in Torbay, Newfoundland, which is about 3 minutes north of St John's.

So, what do you think of Vancouver?

It's a little too early to tell but I do like the diversity and opportunity it offers. There's so much to do here. For example, there are so many different restaurants to try out. In Newfoundland, you see it all in the first few days and then that's it.

Well, what do you miss about Newfoundland?

The lack of traffic and the slower pace. It's so much more relaxing in Newfoundland, you feel like you have time to breathe.

I read the press release when you were hired and noticed that you used to be a Forensic Analyst with the RCMP. Is there anything you learned from that job that you found valuable & have applied to other things in life?

Yes, "pay attention to detail." As a manager, of a curling club or otherwise, people often strive to create a big impression. But it's the little things you do that will make the difference to others.

Let's move on to curling now - what position do you play?

I've always been a skip.

What do you like most about curling?

I love the social interaction. When I first started curling, I was really competitive. But, whether you're competitive or not, you can get so much out of the sport. With curling, there's something for everyone.

Do you have any words of advice for the Canadian team in the upcoming Paralympic games, as they defend the gold medal your team won in 2006?

I do – don't let your passion outweigh your patience, because it can bite you in the butt.

What are you looking forward to the most in the 2009/2010 season?

I can hardly wait until we've finished standardizing everything in the club so that we can deliver the experience that our members expect. Then we can move forward and start exceeding those expectations.

And, finally, what's your number one goal as the GM for this upcoming season?

It's to bring everyone together - everyone in the curling family that makes up the Vancouver Curling Club.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

For a complete summary of Chris' background and experiences, please [click here](#) to read the club's announcement of Chris' hiring from July 2009.



In the Spotlight ...

In the Spotlight is where we 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.



Team Mathews

are the VCC's newest Golden Boys as the Pac Rim League's team won Gold at the 2009 World Outgames.

One does not equate "Denmark" and "July" with curling but it added up to a Gold Medal in curling for Team Mathews (skip Bryan Mathews, third Jason Diduck, second Armand Yousif and lead Michael Blackwell).

The 2nd Annual World Outgames were held in Copenhagen, Denmark July 25th to August 2nd. Curling was among 38 other sports along with a variety of cultural events and a human rights conference that made up the Outgames experience.

"Curling in an international event and getting the chance to meet and play against the Danish Olympic team was an absolutely amazing experience," said Bryan Mathews, team skip. "Winning the gold medal is a bonus and an honour."

Sanctioned by the Danish and World Curling Federations, this was the first time curling was included in an international Gaygames or Outgames.



Played on arena ice prepared by world-renowned Ice Technician Jorgen Larsen, the competition included six Canadian teams (including Team McNichol from the VCC – skip Ray McNichol, third Chris Chapman, second Cam Carruthers and lead Daryl Prentice) and two Danish teams - including a team composed of members from the Danish Olympic mens team and an elite Danish mens team – both entered the competition for practice and fun.

The 8 teams were placed into two pools of four for the round robin portion of the competition played on the first day. Teams played the quarter, semi-finals and finals on the second and concluding day.

Team Mathews captured the Inaugural Outgames Gold Medal for curling with a difficult heavy draw through a port to move the opposition shot stone far enough to score two points and claim an 8 – 5 victory over Team Svensgaard of Denmark.

The Silver Medal was awarded to Team Ernst of Calgary. Team Girdler of Toronto won Bronze.

Team Mathews will get the opportunity to defend its Gold Medal in 2013 when the World Outgames is held in Antwerp, Belgium.



All photos are courtesy of Carsten Svensgaard

2009 - 2010 Season Calendar

The following list of events highlights what is happening at the VCC from mid-September until the end of April. Please note that there may be additional events, clinics and more that will be hosted throughout the season, so be sure to visit www.vancouvercurlingclub.com/events for a complete event summary.

2009

Wednesday, Oct. 7

60th Anniversary of current facility (opened in 1949)

Sunday, Oct. 11 and Monday, Oct. 12

VCC closed - Thanksgiving

Friday, Oct. 23 to Sunday, Oct. 25

Harvest Bonspiel

Wednesday, Nov. 11

VCC closed - Remembrance Day

Saturday, Nov. 14

Pink Broom Bonspiel

Saturday, Nov. 21

Sandra Schmirler Day Open House

Saturday, Nov. 21, 28 & Dec. 5

Club Challenge Playdowns

Tuesday, Dec. 22

Last day of league curling - 1st half

Wednesday, Dec. 23 to Friday, Jan. 1

Happy Holidays! Special events planned for the holidays - more details coming soon

2010

Sunday, Jan. 3

League curling resumes - 2nd half

Thursday, Jan. 7

League Reps meeting: 7:00 pm

Friday, Jan. 22 to Sunday, Jan. 24

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

Monday, Feb. 8 to Tuesday, Mar. 2

League hiatus due to 2010 Olympics (club will still be open - more details coming soon)

Thursday, Mar. 25 to Sunday, Mar. 28

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

Friday, Apr. 2 to Monday, Apr. 4

VCC closed - Easter long weekend

Sunday, Apr. 11

Last day of league curling - 2nd half

Monday, Apr. 12 to Thursday, Apr. 15

Club Championship (VCC Members only)

Thursday, Apr. 15

Past Presidents' and Honourary Life Members' Dinner

Upcoming Bonspiel: Harvest Spiel - October 23-25

[Click here](#) for more details and to register

For more information on any of the events scheduled at the VCC, please visit www.vancouvercurlingclub.com/events or you can contact Chris Daw, club manager, at 604-872-0122 or manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com.



Vancouver Curling Club

4460 Dinmont Ave • Vancouver, BC • V5Y 2M2

604-874-0122 • 604-874-2865 (fax) • manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com

www.vancouvercurlingclub.com