



# Venerables CoffeeBreak



New Year Edition – January 2009

## Young team wins 2009 Presidents Bonspiel

Once again the Venerables celebrated a successful Presidents Bonspiel during the week of Jan 5, concluding on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> with the finals and a wonderful lunch. This year we had 42 teams participating in the week-long event. Gary Norris extended thanks to all those curlers who willingly played different positions when requested, or played in different groups from their normal curling group -- the spirit of fun and fellowship that the Presidents Bonspiel helps to foster was readily evident in those who switched groups and spared when needed. During the week there were many excellent games played, including several tied games.

This year we had a repeat over-all winner in skip Jim Young, who with the help of this year's team of Norm Ferguson, Mike Campolieto and Bob Spencer,

helped Jim defend the title. Does this really mean that the skip is truly the strong catalyst in a team make up, or as we all really know, just the beneficiary of a great supporting cast -- we all know that no skip knows how to sweep, and how often do they really make that clutch shot. Jim and his team came



into the finals in fourth place and defeated the team that was in first place to secure the win by nine points over George Fernandez' team of Ron Lott, Reg Haney, and Bernie Guyett, that finished in the runner-up position having started the day in third position.

Top five teams were:

1. Jim Young, Norm Ferguson, Mike Campolieto, and Bob Spencer
2. George Fernandez, Ron Lott, Reg Haney, and Bernie Guyett
3. Bob Churchill, Art Turner, Fred Hopley, and Ed Welch
4. Brian Slater, Vic Thompson, Art Parker, and Peter Tibando
5. Bill Spear, Wally Kosciejew, Dave Clutton, and Jack Sabounji.

At the luncheon The Venerables Appreciation Award was presented to Jack Grant of Z Group and Allan Green of Y Group by President Reg Haney for their many years of commitment and service to the Tam Heather Venerables (see separate article – page 2). The tradition of 'passing the Kirkaldy sweater' to introduce the 2009/2010 President-in-waiting took place as our current president, Reg Haney, helped Dave Abrams don the garment. Gary and Reg

(continued on page3)

## President's Message

It's hard to imagine that we're already well into the second half of our curling year. So many of our events are behind us, but so many are still ahead. Our Christmas Dance was one of the very best ever, and The Armstrong Tournament is being well received with teams in all groups competing to emerge as the Club champions. Euchre evenings with the Murphy's are well attended, giving members an event to enjoy as a mixed social.

We honoured two of our very finest, Jack Grant and Allan Green, at the Presidents Bonspiel, continuing our tradition of recognizing those who have made significant contributions to our Club.

It cannot be said often enough that the successes we enjoy as a club are due entirely to the volunteers that step forward to make our events happen. I'm truly appreciative of all who do, and particularly the men serving with me on the Board of Directors; they help make my role as Venerables President a pleasure. May I also commend and thank those of you that have answered our call by introducing new members to the Club – it helps us greatly.

I hope your 2009 is off to a great start and that health and happiness be yours all year long.

Reg Haney

## Thank You, Venerables

Venerables opened their hearts and their wallets to give generously to the annual Firefighters' Christmas Toy Drive. Ron Wood and Jack Grant, who deliver our donations each time the box fills, report we had 177 toys and 14 cheques donated. An excellent result given the ever more depressing economic news. Unfortunately, there will probably be an even greater need for your generosity next year. Once again: Well done!

## Members honour Allan Green and Jack Grant with Venerables Appreciation Award

The Presidents Bonspiel is our second major in-house spiel of the year, and with the current President presiding and all past Presidents invited to attend, it provides the ideal venue to continue our tradition of recognizing members of exceptional merit. This year, President Reg Haney, assisted by Past President John Elstone, honoured two men of that calibre, with the presentation of The Venerables Appreciation Award.

Allan Green joined the Board of Directors some years back at a time when there was a great need to put our house in order. His sound judgements, enthusiasm, willingness to put in huge amounts of time in spite of personal discomforts, along with his abilities to motivate and organize, is the genesis of today's healthy and well managed Club. His involvement on the Board of Directors in the executive positions of Vice President, President, and Past President, is today's model for those serving in these positions. Always willing to pitch in, Allan was active on special bonspiels, golf committees, and anything where he was called upon for help. His connection to Rothman's enabled him to acquire \$7500 in donations over the years as a benefit to our treasury. He worked along with Jack Grant, John Elstone and Curl Ontario on a senior curling project. Allan continued to perform as auditor and is always available for his



President Reg Haney presents Allan Green with the Venerables Appreciation Award watched by Past President John Elstone

(continued on page 4)

## Venerables Satisfaction Survey Results

Communications Chair Andrew Lamb introduced the first Venerables' Satisfaction Survey at the Annual General Meeting last September. Forms were handed out to those present and additional forms were available at the Tag Board. As an incentive the names of those who identified themselves and responded before October 31<sup>st</sup> were entered in a prize draw, which took place at the McKennitt Spiel. In total we received fifty three responses, of which only five chose to remain anonymous. Analysis of the results was completed in December and the major findings are as follows.

The breakdown of responses by Group was: W 12; X 17; Y 8 and Z 16.

The average number of years with the Venerables was just under 9 years but the most frequent response was 4 years showing that our newer members made up a higher percentage of those who responded to the survey.

The majority of responses to most questions indicated that members were generally very satisfied with the way the Venerables was being run. When it came to the issue of competitive play the responses broke down into three groups: a significant number of members would welcome more opportunities for in-house competition; the largest number of respondents like the balance between regular play and in-house tournaments that we currently have, and the last but smallest group would prefer to only have tag draw play. Your current

(continued on page 3)

## Great evening enjoyed by all at Annual Christmas Dance

Submitted by Reg Haney

On the evening of Wednesday December 10, Venerables, along with their ladies and their guests, turned out to celebrate the season at our annual Venerables Christmas Dance. Under the direction and efforts of Vice President Dave Abrams, with a great deal of help provided by wife Donna, an outstanding event was presented for the enjoyment of all.

Peter Cant, Jim Frandsen, Reg Haney, Ron Lott, Larry Lyons, Roger Macdonald, Francis Sharon, and Tom Stephens, helped Dave get the ball rolling by selling 130 tickets. Ron Lott with 26 tickets sold and Larry Lyons with 24, helped the cause greatly, and ironically these two were the only ones who forgot to bring their tickets

(continued on page 4)

## Good euchre turnout despite foul weather

The evening of January 7, had euchre hosts Ron and Betty Murphy quite concerned that turnout might be low for the game that evening due to poor weather conditions. They need not have worried, as surprisingly, 52 of the 56 people that signed up came out to play, filling 13 tables.

As usual, laughter and friendly banter filled the room with the spirit of the holiday season still much in evidence.

The husband and wife duo of George and Barb Fernandez figured among prize winners with George coming away as top gent and Barb taking the low lady 'accolades'.

A score of 68 gave Irene Haney the honours as the winning lady and placing second was Beth Wilmot.

The second place man was Rob McKay, and securing the crown as the low gent was Norm McFarlane when his name was drawn from a hat to snatch the prize from another who had tied his score.

A very surprised Julie Messina had her ticket pulled to win the 50/50 draw enriching her by \$38.

The next euchre evening is on Wednesday February 4 at 7:30 p.m. The sign up sheet will be posted on the tag board well in advance.

## Enjoyable Presidents Spiel kicks off the New Year

(continued from page 1)

also acknowledged the presence of several guests including one of our raffle sponsors attending from Lakeridge Golf Club; the past presidents, and Al Boyle and his team who won the Provincial Masters Championship last year. Once again we had an excellent gathering of past presidents, both those who continue to curl and those who have ceased to. We were especially pleased to welcome Tom Millar, the first president of the Venerables, who at 97 is still going strong.



Nine past presidents enjoy Damiano's excellent lunch

We were also privileged to present Al Boyle and his team with the framed Provincial Masters Championship pennant, which will take its place of honour on the ice alongside those of other past Tam Champions. Congratulations on a wonderful achievement.

Along with Dave Abrams the other members of the 2009-2010 executive taking office in May were introduced and welcomed, they are: John Davidson, Ken Holmeshaw, Fred Huggett, Tom Stephens, and Peter Tibando. A special thanks for their time served on the board was extended to Board members departing at the May 2009 change-over: Jim Christie, Ron Cowper, John Elstone, Ron Gendron and Andrew Lamb. Their contributions over the past few years have been tremendous.



Ben Petch holds the Provincial Championship pennant aloft while Al and Ray look on.

Next on the agenda the golf raffle winners were drawn and have been presented with their prizes. Gary Norris took the opportunity to thank all those within and outside the Club who purchased raffle tickets. Gary explained that all Venerables are the winners, in that the monies raised by the raffle make it possible to maintain entry fees for all in-house bonspiels at the same rate as they have been for the past three years. The funds raised have also allowed Gary to elevate the standard of the lucky draw prizes to the level of the invitational bonspiels while still covering the increased costs of the dinners. Holding entry fees is a prime concern in order to assure maximum member participation at spiels and Gary's fund raising efforts have allowed us to continue to field affordable first-rate events at in-house and invitational spiels.

Volunteers make things go smoothly, and thanks are due to Peter Tibando, Tom Stephens, Jack Sabounji and John Elstone who helped Gary put on another great show.

## ARMSTRONG Update

At the time of writing the Armstrong Tournament was nearing the completion of round one. The top four teams in each group will advance to round two. Round two will be a play-off, following the Page System. The top two teams in each group play with the winner moving to round three and the loser playing the winner of the third and fourth place teams. The loser of this game will be eliminated and join the loser of the third and fourth place teams on the sidelines, while the winner moves on to round three. The games in round two will be finished in February and the round three games will be played in March.

The round three games will be held on Friday March 13 at 8:45, Friday March 20 at 1:30 and Friday March 27 at 11:00. A wrap up luncheon will be held after the game on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a winner declared. The format for this competition will be a two team total score event, with both teams from a group, playing two teams from another group. This format is similar to the old Governor General's competition and should provide for some interesting games. Dates for each game are subject to change as they may conflict with other competitions, so watch the tag board announcements for up-dates.

## Venerables Satisfaction Survey (continued from page 2)

and future Boards will have to try and maintain a suitable balance between these groups to motivate and retain a healthy membership. Interestingly, about twelve percent of the respondents had had occasions catered by the restaurant, and most people were very happy with the lunch provided at bonspiels. Four respondents added additional comments and all of these were discussed by your Board at its December meeting

The overwhelming majority of the respondents felt that this type of survey was useful and would like to see similar surveys in the future.

Our thanks to those who took the time to respond.

**Anything to contribute to the next issue of CoffeeBreak?**

**Contact Andrew Lamb, Peter Cant or Reg Haney**

## Venerables show appreciation of exceptional service

(continued from page 2)

counsel and for a good story or two. The Board and membership applaud the selfless dedication of this very special Venerables member.

Jack Grant is familiar to all, and although his many contributions to the Club are often unseen, his efforts have not gone unnoticed, so it was with a unanimous vote that the Board approved the nomination of Jack to receive the Award. In addition to his years as dedicated board captain in the Z group, Jack has given freely of his time to handle many of the day-to-day needs of the Club. He took responsibility to maintain the historical records and to keep the Club trophies in his care until we acquired storage space on the Tam



Jack Grant holds the Appreciation Award presented by President Reg Haney and Past President John Elstone

premises. Many of the invitational spiels would not have been the success they were without Jack's involvement and indeed Jack was a vital cog in the organizational aspects of the Provincial Stick Bonspiel. He has consistently taken part in outside bonspiels and has been an ambassador for the Venerables through these events. His initiative to create a memorial bell and his generosity in purchasing it are examples of his care for our Club. Each year Jack works with Ron Wood to ensure Venerables fill the toy box with gifts for needy children. As a volunteer Jack has few peers, and tasks that he takes on are handled reliably and fast. Congratulations Jack and a well deserved thank you for all you do.

Soon we will be seeking members' nominations of candidates to receive Appreciation Award(s) in 2010. We hope you'll give this some thought and assure that your choice is submitted.

## Turkey Shoot is a popular seasonal event

One hundred and forty one curlers in total paid their two dollars to participate in the season's pre-Christmas Turkey Shoots. The break down by group was as follows: Group W 30 curlers; Group X 38 curlers; Group Y 31 curlers, and Group Z 42 curlers. The lucky winners were as follows:

- Group W , 1<sup>st</sup> place team John Gibson \$9.00 per member
- , 2<sup>nd</sup> place team Ben Petch \$4.50 per member
- , High individual Larry Lynch \$6.00
- Group X , 1<sup>st</sup> place team Gord Haney \$11.40 per member
- , 2<sup>nd</sup> place team Ryk Weber \$5.70 per member
- , High individual George Fernandez \$7.60
- Group Y , 1<sup>st</sup> place team John Harzenetter \$9.30 per member
- , 2<sup>nd</sup> place team Cam Cowan \$4.65 per member
- , High individual Rick Nishakawa \$6.20
- Group Z , 1<sup>st</sup> place team Ron Wood \$12.60 per member
- , 2<sup>nd</sup> place team Bill MacRae \$6.30 per member
- , High individual Bob Jones \$8.40

## Christmas Dance Success

(continued from page 2)

to the dance.

After a welcoming speech from Dave Abrams, Francis Sharon took on the role of MC, conducting the draws for door prizes and the drawing of tickets for the prize table. As in years past Ellen & John



Dance organizers Dave and Donna Abrams

Harzenetter and Julie & John Messina were on hand to sell the raffle tickets for the prize table draws. The prize table was loaded with super gifts this year as a result of numerous shopping forays by Donna and Dave Abrams.

It was a white tablecloth affair with each table having a bottle of red and a bottle of white wine, a cheese and fruit tray, and a beautiful plant for a centre-piece. As a thoughtful remembrance of the evening, every lady in attendance took home either a potted poinsettia or a cyclamen.

Music provided by disc-jockey Lester Moseley hit all the right notes with danceable tunes (at age appropriate volume), and the dance floor was well used all night.

After coffee and deserts many lingered to spend time with friends before heading home after a truly enjoyable night. Where else but in the Venerables can there be so much fun for \$40 a couple?

## Upcoming Events:

Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Sign-up closes – Scarboro visit  
Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Ross Ellis Open Invitational  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Euchre Night  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Valentines Bonspiel  
Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Scarboro Visit  
Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> Sign-up starts – Memorial Spiel  
Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Eric Downer Memorial Open Stick Spiel  
Visit us online at  
[www.tamheathervenerables.com](http://www.tamheathervenerables.com)