



Venerables CoffeeBreak



AGM Edition – September 2008

President's Message

The rainiest summer in the past 70 years put a damper on many of our outdoor activities, so it's nice to be looking forward to another season of curling. On behalf of your 2008/09 Board of Directors, welcome back -- may your ailments be few, your joys be many, and your stones glide true as you resume curling in the good company of your fellow Venerables.

An exciting year is on tap. Along with our usual three main in-house bonspiels, invitational spiels, mini spiels, euchre evenings, Christmas dance, and golf day, some new twists have been added. The former Armstrong Challenge Bonspiel has been eliminated to create another day of tag draw curling. In its place we are initiating **The Armstrong Tournament**, a season-long event in which those wishing to have some form of competitive curling on a set team will find enhanced enjoyment through elimination rounds during the season. At the finals one team will emerge victorious to claim bragging rights for its group. In no way will this new venue affect our tag draw or take away ice time from any group. Jim Young is spear-heading and organizing this, and teams will be formed using a formula to ensure fair competition.

This year we will be moving the previously named Venerables Trophy in-house bonspiel, which had been played in March, to become our season closing event, and in addition, it will take on new meaning and be re-named **The Venerables Memorial Bonspiel**. This change serves a dual purpose in that it allows us to close the season with a major event, and the larger gathering ensures a more appropriate commemoration ceremony for those Venerables who have passed away during the preceding year.

It's now my privilege to introduce your Board of Directors for 2008-2009:

Reg Haney	President
Dave Abrams	Vice President
John Elstone	Past President
Jim Christie	Treasurer
Ron Cowper	Secretary
Brian Steen	Membership Chairman
Jim Young	Facilities Chairman
Gary Norris	Bonspiel Chairman
Andrew Lamb	Communications Chairman
Ron Gendron	Director at Large

With sincere thanks we acknowledge the service of Bob Abernethy. After acting in the capacities of Membership Chairman, golf committee chairman, Vice President, President, and Past President, over a period of years, Bob leaves the Board of Directors having faithfully and unselfishly given of his time. We are also very appreciative that Brian Steen has come onto the Board in the capacity of Membership Chair. Thanks are also due to our returning auditor appointees, former Club Presidents Allan Green and Francis Sharon. Service on the Board of Directors, on bonspiels, golf committees, and for all other areas, is on a volunteer basis, and because all activities in our Club are volunteer activated, it's important that when you get a tap on the shoulder asking for your help that you
(President's Message continued on page 3)

Great Venerables Golf Day!

David Hansen writes: Please find attached a few digi pic memories of our "fearsome foursome" team. The pictures were taken on my old cell phone.



Don was our "star golfer" and we can still see those golf balls disappearing into lower cloud levels and hear that metallic smack wow, what a swing Don has!

Gary, Bill and I made up the rest of team. We even shot 75 overall as a team!

We like to receive your input and items
(Full Golf Day Story on Page 2)

Final three Spiels bring season to a successful close

Submitted by Andrew Lamb, Reg Haney and Ron Gendron

With the weather not yet tempting any but the most hardy golfers we had excellent sign-up for the season's final three events.

The 'Skins' tournament kicked off the week on Monday, April 7th. The Skins format is not only a different way of scoring, but requires a very different strategy. The hammer alternates on each end and skips have to decide whether having the hammer on the first or eighth end is to their advantage. The team with the hammer has to score at least two to win the end; the team without the hammer only needs
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Final Spiels end season with a bang

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to steal one. If nobody scores the skin is carried over to the next end. Just how tough can it get? Well, in one game Carson Klinck's team was skunked when after four ends went undecided Carson just missed with his final stone in the tie-breaker.



In the end it was the winning team skipped by Bob Griffith, with Tony Haslam at vice, John Elstone at second and Rick Atkinson at lead.

In second place was team Ron Wilson, vice was Norm MacFarlane and at second Alistair Gordon with the lead, Chester Pollon. Third place went to Dave

Abrams, Gord Wells, Harold Coker and Larry Lyons. In fourth were John DiPede, Ed Burnett, John McInall and Carman Chisamore.

Thanks to Gary Norris' organizers, the icemakers and the restaurant and bar staff for an enjoyable day.

Novices admit that pushing stones with sticks isn't nearly quite as easy as it looks

Submitted by Reg Haney

The stick spiel is the second event played in our annual three-event fun week, and everyone, stick regular or not, took to the ice with sticks in hand for friendly completion. Many entrants were using the curling cue for the first time and readily admitted it presents some challenges. That being said, all agree the spiel provides three six-end fun-packed games topped off with laughter and a hearty soup and sandwich lunch.

All eight sheets were on the go with 64 curlers contesting the top spot which was eventually won by the team Griffith: skip Bob Griffith, with our outgoing President, big John Elstone delivering vice rocks, Cam Cowan at second, and Peter Cant in lead position.

In place behind them were Jim Young's gang of Barry Hastings at vice, Bill Reid, second, and at lead, Keith Allen. Alex Smith secured third spot with his team of Jim Patry, Larry Lynch, and Jim Miyazaki. Bob Pollard, Vic Cuff, Ed Lee and Doug Perkins were the fourth place finishers.

The bonspiel committee headed by Gary Norris earned well-deserved praise yet again for delivering another smoothly run event. **(Memorial Spiel - page 4)**



Gord Haney team played Provincial Stick Bonspiel

submitted by Gord Haney, Al Lee, Jack Grant, Ron Haney

April 6th. Having earned a spot to contest the Provincial Stick Bonspiel championship the Haney team proceeded to the Whitby curling rink for the registration and team meeting prior to the first game at 2.30 pm. The game format was simple: Win or Loss; no points to worry about, shake hands if the game goes out of reach. The first game pitted the Venerables against Kim Barton's Glanford team and resulted in a win for the Venerables. This game was followed by the official reception and greetings from The Town of Whitby's town crier who introduced officials and sponsors. Prior to our second game the opening ceremonies were held and all teams were "piped" to the ice and pictures taken. Game 2 at 8.00pm saw Venerables lose to Trevor Birkbeck's Whitby rink. A tired team then drove to the hotel and checked in and got some sleep to ready themselves for Monday's action.

April 7th. The first game at 9.30 resulted in a loss to the Tom Newcomb rink from Burlington. Lunch was provided at the **(Continued on page 3)**

Venerables golfers enjoy a rare day of sunshine at the 2008 Annandale outing

The weather this summer hasn't been kind to golfers, but June 2 gave Venerables duffers the gift of sunshine. 144 enthusiastic Venerables and their guests turned out to beat balls around Annandale in our usual best ball event. The golf committee is very pleased to report that everything came off extremely well, and full enjoyment of the golf, dinner, prize table, and awards was more than evident.

Golf Day Chairman, Reg Haney, had tremendous support from an outstanding committee made up of Allan Green, Ken Holmeshaw, Glen York, Bob Pollard, John Elstone, Bob Abernethy, Al Lee, Ron Wood, Gary Norris, and incoming Vice-President Dave Abrams, chairman for the 2009 Golf Day. Thanks are also due to those who helped on the actual tournament day: Jim Frandsen, Ron Gendron, Jack Davies, Ron Cowper, Jim Young, and Jack Grieve. Terry Beck and Dave Abrams donated over **(Continued on page 4)**

President's Message (continued from page 1)

consider giving of your time and input. As Past President, John Elstone has the responsibility to recruit Board member replacements. If you have a will to serve or would like to suggest a prospect, please speak to John.

A very important event each year is the recognition of those Venerables who have contributed to the success of our organization. **The Venerables Appreciation Award** is bestowed annually at The Presidents Bonspiel in January. Prior recipients are Chris Armstrong (2006), Alf Connor and Francis Sharon (2007), Alan Lee and Jim Frandsen (2008). The award is granted based on member submissions of candidate names giving reasons why your nominee is worthy. Please submit your recommendation for the 2009 recipient(s) in a sealed envelope to John Elstone.

Favourable terms for the 2008/09 ice rental agreement were negotiated with the main club and also for a long term agreement on our Venerables sign. With careful Board stewardship of our funds, I'm pleased to report that the Club remains healthy financially; however, our membership is down slightly and this presents a concern that must be addressed. Please take every opportunity when in the company of friends and relatives to tout the advantages of Venerables membership. Prospects can be found everywhere, and sometimes most unexpectedly. As an example, while attending the funeral service for former President Reg McKennitt, I met a fellow who curled years ago, and when I told him about our Club he asked for an application. Every member is encouraged to **"Bring a guest prospect to curl"** (see *October 30 and 31 on your Curling Schedule*). Remember, guests may come out any time and curl three games at no charge to try it out.

Over the course of the last year we have made amendments to our Constitution in order to more accurately define our Club and its goals since becoming independent of the main club. Those interested may acquire a copy of the Constitution by speaking to any Board member.

Safety is your personal responsibility. Why not take the opportunity to start the year with a new gripper if yours is worn? A worn gripper is unsafe and could cause a fall. The choice to wear protective headgear is a personal consideration, and also, if you are at all unsure of your balance, then a curling stick may be a solution.

Finally, we try hard through our Communications Director, Andrew Lamb, to keep you informed with the CoffeeBreak, e-mail notifications, and our web site at www.tamheathervenerables.com. You can help by keeping us informed of member deaths, illnesses and operations, but remember, items of good news about Venerables members are most welcome as well.

With wishes for a great year of curling and camaraderie,

Reg Haney

President, Tam Heather Venerables, 2008/09

New Goodwill Register system is working well

The new system of having individual Venerables send a card to those Venerables who are ill seems to be working well. Anyone can send a card; just remember to update the register at the tag board with the information on the recipient and the sender, the kind of card and the date, so we don't have duplications. Remember you can also send congratulations.

In the event of the death of a current or former Venerables member, or one of their immediate family, a condolence card signed by the President and Vice-President is sent on behalf of all Club members.

Anything to contribute to the next issue of CoffeeBreak?

Contact Andrew Lamb, Peter Cant or Reg Haney

Good Showing at the Provincial Stick Bonspiel championships (continued from page 2)

Whitby Seniors Centre where the town crier again introduced dignitaries. Whitby mayor Patricia Perkins made us welcome followed by George Cooke president of The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company, who outlined their company's commitment to the "stick curling" sport and assured us that they were going to continue their sponsorship in the years ahead; welcome news for this fledgling bonspiel.

Draw # 4 in the afternoon was a match-up with Peterborough's Harold Peltzer team who gave the Venerables a lesson that ended the game early. Jack Grant, still not fully recovered from a bout of flu, decided that he could not continue and the drawmaster was asked to provide a spare. Into the team stepped George Lavigne from the Whitby club who filled in for the remaining three games.

April 8th. The morning game saw the Venerables take the win from the Unionville rink of Del Hicke (last year's Provincial winner) and the afternoon game was a win over the Navan (Ottawa area) Doug Titus rink which boosted the Venerable to a 3 win 3 loss record. A banquet followed at which more speeches were made and copious amounts of wine were consumed. (Have you ever noticed that when it's free you tend to drink more?) During this "Happy Time" the winners of the Provincial Stick Bonspiel Puzzle Booklet were announced as being the Venerables. This win was in large part due to the sharp mind of Ron Haney who came up with answers to the more challenging aspects of the puzzle, when not busy playing bridge.

April 9th. The Venerables' last game was with Charley Warner's team from Brantford, which the Venerables won to see them end up with a 4 and 3 record.

Meanwhile Whitby and Peterborough had recorded 5 and 2 records to put them into a tie breaking afternoon game. Peterborough won the game and took home the banner.

Our thanks go to The Whitby Curling Club, Dick Sandrelli and his organizing committee for a well run event and to the sponsors and The Town of Whitby for their support and hospitality.

There have been assurances that the event will continue to be held in the future, but the format is still not known.

Team Weber wins the Memorial Bonspiel; barely

Submitted by Ron Gendron

Once again we had eight full sheets to contest the Memorial Bonspiel. This one day event, with three six-end games, was a popular final event to end our final fun week and the season. Long time members, Jack Grant, Jack Montgomery, Al Lee, Francis Sharon, and Chris Armstrong were invited luncheon guests. Ross Ellis was also invited but was unable to attend.

A memorial service was conducted prior to the final game, consisting of a moment of prayer, and a reading by President, John Elstone of the names of those who had died during the past year. Francis Sharon sounded a single ring of the muted bell after each name, with an additional one for any fellow curlers who may have passed without our knowing. While soft bagpipe music played in the background while all attending stood in silent observance.

This year we remembered;

Vince Kudjerski,	Y Group,	July 3, 2007
Earl Williams,	Z Group,	November 1, 2007
Nigel Baillie,	Z Group,	November 12, 2007
Ted Gorman,	Y Group,	November 17, 2007
Allan Markwart,	W Group,	December 14, 2007
Fred Clarke,	W Group,	March 12, 2008

At the end of play Ryk Weber's team made the grand total of 47¼ points,



by John Gibson, vice, Gary Norris, second, and Cliff Johns at lead. Hoping to make a 'hat trick' of the week's events, Bob Griffith saw his team stumble in their third game.

As this was the final session, Bonspiel Chairman, Gary Norris, thanked his team of volunteers; Ron Cowper, Barry Hastings, and Peter Tibando, for their support in making the games for the year a major success. In turn, John Elstone thanked Gary for his significant contributions to the bonspiels throughout the year. It was a great season.

How are we doing?

Our new survey is designed to get your input

With the start of a new season we are conducting a survey of our members to find out what works and what we could do better. Clearly, we expect a diverse range of responses, sometimes views that directly oppose each other. What we need is to be able to understand the balance. We want to be sure we are doing all we can to provide our members with the best curling experience possible. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it to the Tam office by Friday, October 31st. If you have comments beyond the survey or great ideas for improving our recruitment efforts, please attach a separate note. You can remain anonymous, but if you add your name, you will be entered in a prize draw; **first prize, a \$50 voucher for dinner at Damiano's at the Tam Heather, and second prize of a pair of curling gloves.**

Sun shines on great annual Golf Day

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300 golf balls between them, and each golfer received two for starters.

Taking 'Most Honest Team' honours were the foursome of Bob Abernethy, Gord Underdown, John Scott, and George Arnold. Third place overall was the team made up of Ian Daniel, Keith Liddle, Doug Scott and George Welsh. The second place group was Ron Miki, Jim Miyazaki, Sam Koyota, and Don Eto.



Winning the day and claiming top team honours were Bob Pollard, Peter Cant, Jim Watling and Robert Finlay.

A trophy presented for the first time this year, designed and made by Gary Norris, was awarded to the team, and each of the four also received a gift certificate to Sisters Restaurant and a Molson golf shirt. Other winning team members also got a prize. A round of golf at Annandale was presented to each of the closest to the hole winners on the par 3's.

New this year was a cash draw replacing the 50/50 draw of previous years. This new approach spreads the wealth, giving cash to three winners instead of just one. The first ticket drawn received \$200, the second ticket drawn won \$300, and the holder of the third ticket picked went home \$500 richer.

Golf Day is a Venerables premier event, so be sure to sign up early for 2009 to ensure your participation.

Upcoming Events:

October 14th Curling begins 'Y' Group
October 14th McKennitt sign-up starts
October 15th Curling begins 'W', 'X' & 'Z'
October 31st McKennitt sign-up ends
November 3rd Scarboro sign-up starts
November 4th First Euchre Night
November 5th Art Harland Invitational Spiel
November 10/11th Veterans Appreciation
For more visit us online at
www.tamheathervenerables.com