



Venerables CoffeeBreak



Snowblower Edition – 2009

President's Message

Our season is rolling along all too quickly and it won't be long before many of us will be hitting golf balls instead of throwing stones. So far the Venerables year has been filled with a good number of successful events. Elsewhere in this edition are items updating you on our second round of the hotly contested, and highly enjoyable, inaugural Armstrong Tournament, the Ross Ellis Spiel, our annual exchange visit with the Scarborough club, the Super Seniors Bonspiel win, our February euchre night, the Valentines Spiel with the Day Ladies, The Downer Bonspiel results, and the Lyon's mixed team victory at Sutton. And, with all that, there's still more to come before we wrap up the season.

Fun Week

Our popular three-event fun week consisting of the 'Skins', 'Stick', and 'Trophy' spiels filled up early, although there may be a few openings for the 'Stick' spiel and there may be a couple of opportunities to fill in as a spare.

The Venerables Memorial Bonspiel

This is the season's last of our big three in-house bonspiels, revamped and re-scheduled this year, to give it more importance as a major closing event in which we memorialize those Venerables who have passed away in the preceding year. The sign-up sheets are posted and we want to encourage the highest enrolment possible. The finals, closing luncheon, and memorial service for this spiel, are on the last day of the curling year, Friday, April 17.

2009/10 Membership Applications

The application forms are ready now and you'll be pleased to know that rates are the very same as last year – no increase! Thanks to Ross Oldham and Dennis Welbanks and their appreciation of the economic times, we were able to agree on a quite modest increase in ice rental allowing your Board of Directors to hold the line on fees. Please renew your membership by April 15 which avoids the late fee and helps us get organized for the following year.

Annual Golf Tournament

Vice President Dave Abrams, this year's golf committee chairman, has the sign-up sheets out early. You can enter a full 4-man entry, just yourself, or with one or two others on the form with you, and Dave will round out the entry to compose your team. Please submit a current dated cheque (no post dated) (continued on page 4)

Let's celebrate proud Venerables winners

Submitted by Chris Armstrong

The New Year started well when Tam Heather Venerables finally 'cracked the ice' winning the Seventh Annual Super Seniors Bonspiel on January 2nd at the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club. The Super Seniors Spiel is open to curlers in the 80+ age category. The Tam Heather Venerables team was skipped by Gord Haney with Monte Miller at vice; Doug Cook at second and Fred Madeley and Chris Armstrong sharing the lead position.

The win this year was particularly gratifying since it culminated seven years of participation, including two years in the runner-up position...and finally "a win".

Congratulations Guys! (see 'more proud winners' page 3)

Scarborough exchange has new winner this year

The Scarborough curlers pulled off the season's sweep of the Tam Venerables in our annual exchange visit. Following the close one rock loss suffered by the Tam Venerables playing at Scarborough last November, the Scarborough teams powered to an eight rock victory on Feb. 16, 2009 on the Venerables home ice.

The curlers all enjoyed coffee and



muffins before entering the field of battle, and following several close games the teams settled down to another of our Chef Damiano's tasty lunches.

Gary Norris thanked the curlers for their participation, and especially the Scarborough club, who for the first time brought six teams, (up from the usual four), to a bonspiel hosted by the Tam Venerables. Ian Campbell expressed thanks on behalf of Scarborough for Tam being great (and generous) hosts.

In the end, everyone expressed a desire to resume the challenge in the 2009 – 2010 season. The Tam curlers are looking for a more satisfactory outcome when the clubs meet again next year.

Scarborough VS Venerables

BELYEA - 6	GRIFFITH - 8
SMITH - 9	LYONS - 7
MAXWELL - 9	ELSTONE - 4
RHORA - 7	NORRIS - 9
KORONIAK - 9	COOK - 8
MacMILLAN - 7	ABERNETHY - 3

Tam's Al Boyle and Scarborough's Ken Uyesugi come out as draw winners at our 28th Annual Ross Ellis Bonspiel

Submitted by Reg Haney

Another Annual Ross Ellis Bonspiel is in the books. While the competition in both the Open 50 Plus draw and the Master 70 Plus draw was of the usual high calibre, the turnout this year was somewhat affected by scheduling conflicts with other spiels running in the same general time period.

As a result, the twenty team turnout was below our usual packed venue. Never-the-less, Gary Norris came up with another smoothly run effort.

Both draws were two-game contests of six and eight ends with a break between for a nice lunch served up as usual by Damiano and his staff.



Ross Ellis Bonspiel Open Winners – Ken Uyesugi Team

In the 50 Plus Draw the team skipped by Ken Uyesugi of Scarborough with Harley Williams, Dan Geary, and Fern Pilon scored 128 to take the trophy in that division.

In second spot with a score of 119 was Tony Baker of Tam, with help from Bill Goodchild, Ken Carty, and Alistair Gordon. A quite respectable third was posted by the Dixie team of John Mayes with a total of 86.



Tony Baker Team – Runners-up

Despite having a lower than usual turn-out for this tournament, Gary Norris managed to keep the prizes and prize table up to our usual high standard. Gary was ably assisted throughout the day by Peter Tibando, John Elstone,
(continued on page 4)

Day Lady skips shine at the Valentine's spiel

Submitted by Gary Norris

On Tuesday February 10, 2009 the annual Tam Heather Day Ladies and Tam Heather Venerables Valentine's Bonspiel was held, and for the first time it was mainly organized and run by the Venerables. The 33 ladies and 31 men enjoyed a wonderful day of curling. Many of the games were very close and some excellent curling was exhibited by both the ladies and gents. The tables were festively decorated for the occasion and each lady



The winning Nancy Hedley team received a small box of chocolates. A light lunch of chicken-al-a-king was served with rice and salad, with vanilla caramel cake, tea, and coffee, for dessert. Teams skipped by the ladies took 3 of the top five positions following the throwing of the final rocks for the day.

The winning teams were:

- 1) Nancy Hedley, Don Leslie, Joan Neilson, Frank Moir
- 2) Diana Ranken, Gary Norris, Martha O'Neill, Sandra Johns
- 3) Bob Griffith Gail Slocum Bob Newman Nancy Jemmett
- 4) Vickie Gervais, Rudy Vangel, Gary McKellar, Pierre Lemieux
- 5) Bob Abernethy, Mary Lee, Frank Warren, Billie Griffith

Everyone participating had a great time, both on and off the ice, and was looking forward to next year's Valentine's Bonspiel.

Anything to contribute to the next issue of CoffeeBreak?

Contact Andrew Lamb, John Davidson or Reg Haney

More proud winners: Lyon's team takes the trophy at the Sutton Groundhog Bonspiel

On the morning of Wednesday February 4, two teams from Tam Heather travelled to Sutton to participate in the Annual Groundhog Day mixed spiel. In total, 16 teams from the surrounding area were entered in the two draw event contested on Sutton's four sheet rink.

Skip Larry Lyons guided his team of vice, Shirley Bowles, second, Cam Cowan, and lead, Donna Sutton, to wins over their opponents in both games to claim the trophy as winners of the second draw. Larry's crew pulled 'the rabbit out of the hat' in the late going of each game with a last rock win in one of the games and a comeback from a nine to six deficit to score four in the last end of the other.

The Tam entry skipped by Norm McFarlane and assisted by vice, Betty Fitz, second Dave Abrams, and lead Irene McFarlane, ran into a bit of tough luck, losing on the last rock of the first game (to the team that Larry's team beat on the last rock in his second game), and coming up against a four-man stick team from Whitby in the second contest.

Adding to the enjoyment of the day, Donna Sutton had her prize draw ticket pulled, winning a bottle of wine. Norm McFarlane and Betty Fitz went in together on tickets with one being pulled winning them an expensive basket of wine and assorted goodies.

Congratulations to the Larry Lyon's team for the win, and thanks to both Tam teams for representing us at outside venues. Other clubs are more likely to reciprocate by entering our invitational spiels when we participate in their events.

Britten couple take it all at the Venerables February euchre

It was unusual to say the least! With a contingent of 40 sitting down to play euchre on the evening of February 5, two players were the undisputed top of the heap winners on the night. Jim Britten bested all contestants to lead the men with a score of 67, while wife Donna was besting the ladies with a nice total of 65. To put icing on the cake, Jim Frandsen drew Donna's ticket making her the winner of the 50/50 draw and adding another \$33 to the family fortune. Placing second in the ladies group was Irene Haney with a score of 61, and the most honest lady turned out to be Judy Montgomery after her scorecard was drawn from 'a hat' to break the low score tie.

Ross Ellis turned in a nice score of 59 to be the second high man, and handing in the low scorecard to be lauded as the most honest man we had Ted Walsh.

...and thanks to hosts

Ron and Betty Murphy

We'd like to have a good turn-out for the game on Wednesday March 4 at 7:30 p.m. as it's the last euchre evening this season. The sign-up sheet will be up well in advance.

Again, thanks are due to Ron and Betty Murphy for the efforts they make to assure everyone has a good time and from all reports everyone did.



Ron and Betty Murphy

Armstrong finals are set to start March 9

Round two of the Armstrong Tournament has now been completed and on March 9 the surviving teams start round three -- the play downs -- to determine which group will emerge as the Club champions.

At the end of round 2, teams points were;

Group W

Dave Abrams	358 pts.
Larry Lyons	256 pts. (advance to finals)
Al Boyle	251 pts. (advance to finals)
Ben Petch	163 pts.

Group X

Dennis O'Leary	293 pts (advance to finals)
Ray Moffitt	281 pts.
Dave Wilmot	239 pts (advance to finals)
Gary Norris	176 pts.

Group Y

Cam Cowan	334 pts. (advance to finals)
J. Harzennetter	305 pts. (advance to finals)
Guy Elliott	253 pts.
Francis Sharon	137 pts.

Group Z

Jim Frandsen	227 pts. (advance to finals)
Carson Klinck	222 pts.
Bob Griffith	187 pts. (advance to finals)
Alex Smith	123 pts.

In round two, the four teams in each group surviving from round one, played off against each other using the Page system of elimination in order to pare down to two teams from each group that would advance to the finals. Emerging from the W group were the teams of Al Boyle and Larry Lyons. The X group saw Dennis O'Leary and Dave Wilmot come out on top. From the Y group Cam Cowan and John Harzennetter led their guys through, and the Z group has Jim Frandsen and Bob Griffith taking their crews into the finals round.

In the finals, both teams from each group will play against both the teams of each of the other groups. The first games will take place on Monday March 9 at 11:15 with the X teams playing W and the Y teams playing against Z.

On Wednesday March 18 at 1:45, X vs. Y and W vs. Z.

In the wrap-up on Friday March 27 at 8:45, W plays against Y and X plays Z. There will be a lunch and trophy presentation on the final day and all players who entered the Armstrong Tournament and paid the nominal \$10 fee are entitled to the lunch.

Unionville's Hicke rink qualifies at the 4th annual Eric Downer Stick Bonspiel

On Wednesday morning February 25, fourteen teams met to participate in our Eric Downer Memorial Stick Bonspiel. The Venerables pay tribute to Eric Downer annually with this spiel in recognition of his contribution to the game through the introduction of the curling stick, an innovation that has extended the curling life of so many men and women.

There were 10 teams in the Open Draw, four of which were ladies teams, one mixed, and five men's entries. On the day, Trevor Birbeck's team from Whitby were the over-all winners of the bonspiel with a nice tally of 140. Bill McCowan (brother of Venerable, Bob McCowan) and his team placed second with 132, and Hugh Chesser of Humber Seniors were third with 128.

In the Qualifier Draw, four teams were entered, including a ladies team from Whitby. Following the second game the Del Hicke team from Unionville emerged with a total of 127 points to qualify for the Stick finals in Peterborough. The foursome of Bob Griffith, Cam Cowan, Wes Warden and Peter Cant, representing the Venerables, finished with a score of 92. The Bob Griffith crew will be the alternate team.



Vera Downer with daughters Lori and Lesley

As in years past, we were again pleased to have Vera Downer and daughters Lori and Lesley on hand to make the trophy presentation to the winning team. Lunch was the usual Damiano treat, and spiel organizer Gary Norris, assisted by Peter Tibando, kept things moving very well, presenting all an enjoyable day.

Boyle wins Ross Ellis Masters (continued from page 2)

and Tom Stephens.

The Master 70 Plus Draw was a win for the home club. Al Boyle led his team of Ben Petch, Doug Penziwol, and Norm Hart to score 133 and claim the trophy in that division.

Posting 130 points, the Don Allison team of Unionville was in hot pursuit. Another team from Unionville was skipped by Del Hicke and came through in third with a score of 94.

There was the usual good sportsmanship on display, and camaraderie was much in evidence. All had a fine time catching up with old friends; telling stories of shots made and opportunities missed, and parting with hopes that we can all do it again



Ross Ellis Bonspiel Masters Winners - Al Boyle Team

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

cheques will be accepted) to cover all names on your entry form. The tournament date is Monday June 1, -- it's always a great day, with the green fee, cart, dinner, and prizes included in the price. The limit is 144 players, so plan to get your form in early.

We need members!

Please continue your efforts to talk to your acquaintances about our wonderful sport. Each year our membership slips a bit and bringing someone out as your guest can often result in a recruit, helping us to maintain our numbers and our reasonable rates.

Remember also, that your input is always appreciated and I'm glad to hear your thoughts and ideas any time.

As the season winds down it's a good time to check the wear on your grippers, sliders, and broom heads, and plan on getting worn equipment replaced before the start of next season. Your safety is our concern, but it's your responsibility.

Good curling to all,

Reg Haney

Upcoming Events:

Mar 4th Euchre Night

March 19th Sign-up ends - Memorial Spiel

March 25th Stewart Wheler Classic Spiel

March 30th Fun Week Skins Spiel

April 1st Fun Week Stick Spiel

April 3rd Fun Week Trophy Spiel

April 7th Day Ladies Closing

April 8/9th 1st draws - Memorial Spiel

April 10th Good Friday Kurl for Kids

April 14/15th 2nd draws - Memorial Spiel

April 16th Tam Seniors Mixed Closing

April 17th Memorial Spiel Finals Day

June 1st Annual Golf Tournament

Visit us online at

www.tamheathervenerables.com

- Don't forget to sign-up for the June 1st Annual Venerables Golf Tournament while there are still spaces available.
- Get your 2009/10 Membership Application in before April 15th and save money.