



# Venerables CoffeeBreak



Early Spring Edition - March 2016

## Presidents Tankard

The annual Presidents Bonspiel was held the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>. This year we mixed things up and ran the bonspiel in the Tankard Format. The bonspiel consists of three games and the final game is called the Tankard Day and has the following rules:

- Tankard teams are created and are made up of 8 curlers from two partnered teams
- The 1<sup>st</sup> place tankard team plays the 16<sup>th</sup> place tankard team, 2<sup>nd</sup> place tankard team will play 2<sup>nd</sup> last tankard team ... and so on
- The tankard game has 10 ends
- Each team in the partnership plays 5 ends – alternate playing 2 ends at a time for the first 8 ends, then play 1 end each for end 9 and 10
- As per any bonspiel the tankard team with the most points from all three games wins the bonspiel

Twenty four teams competed in the bonspiel. The winning tankard team was the

partnered teams of Team Griffith and Team Roden with 290 points. Bob Griffith skip, Gary Pennington vice, John Walker second and Chris French lead. Barry Roden skip, Ed Koen vice, Jim Harlow second and Gerry MacDonald Lead. In second place was the tankard team of Team Jackson and Team Cumming with 289 points. Bob Jackson skip, Ken Waddell vice, Dusan Lenghard



second and Jack Brown lead. Bob Cumming skip, Ed McGregor vice, Ed Welch second and George Brcko lead. In third place was the tankard team of Team Warren and Team Ellis. Ralph Warren skip, Doug Scott vice, Martin Docherty second and Brock Stackhouse lead. John Ellis skip, Art Parker vice, Wayne Stefanick second and Doug Bull lead.

We were fortunate to have the following eleven former Presidents in attendance:



Ed Welch, Peter Tibando, Reg Haney, Dave Abrams, John Elstone, Allan Green, Francis Sharon, Al Lee, Wes Warden, Gord Tonkin and Gary Pennington.

Current president Andrew Lamb welcomed them to the head tables. During lunch they were introduced and the membership honoured them.

(see **TANKARD** on page 3)

## President's Remarks

On Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Season-Ending Mixed-Up Tournament (SEMUT) got underway, Golf Day Application forms are now available and The Eric Downer Stick-Spiel sign up is filling up (still plenty of room for this fun event). We have generally received very positive feedback on the Tankard format used in this year's Presidents Spiel. Members particularly liked the fact that they were playing on and against teams composed from all four divisions throughout the week. Congratulations to Gary Sampson and helpers.

We have continued to emphasize the need for new members and have been happy to welcome almost twenty so far this season. However, overall our numbers are down with the total number of playing members at 248. We hope that next season a number of members who have had health issues this year will be back playing again. Your Board is actively looking at ways, and for ideas, to raise funds to offset the burden on members' fees in the future, including seeking appropriate sponsors for certain events or activities. For the last several years we have been using inherited surpluses from 2008 to equalize the fact that our fees have not kept pace with our ice costs. This year we are aiming to address this single most important factor in our financial well-being. Your Board is committed to maintaining our status as the most affordable provider of day-time curling in the GTA.

A couple of weeks ago your Board launched a comprehensive survey seeking your input on the overall governance of the club and the many activities it undertakes. If you have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to provide us with your views and ideas. There are hard copies of the survey for those who need them. I understand that the online survey is not supported by some older operating systems. Please don't let that stop you. If you fill out a paper version your feedback will be keyed into the online survey to give us the most complete results possible. Let Tony Damiani know if there are no paper versions left in the rack outside the office and he will add a further supply.

**Andrew Lamb**

## Upcoming Events

- Mar 9 Memorial Bonspiel Signup Opens
- Mar 11 TDSMCA Interclub Closing Scramble -12:00pm
- Mar 14 Eric Downer In-House Stick Fun Spiel
- Mar 23 Stu Wheler Classic Bonspiel
- Mar 25 Good Friday - club closed
- Mar 30 Memorial Bonspiel Signup Closes
- Apr 5 Day Ladies Closing Bonspiel
- Apr 6 Euchre night - season final
- Apr 11 Memorial Bonspiel begins
- Apr 15 Memorial Finals, Ceremony, Luncheon
- Apr 17 Open Club Skating Party
- Jun 6 Annual Golf Tournament (9:00am start)

For the complete calendar please visit our website: [tamheathvenerables.com/calendar](http://tamheathvenerables.com/calendar)

## Ross Ellis and Jim Young Bonspiel

This year's annual Ross Ellis and Jim Young Bonspiel took place on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup>. This year's event attracted eight teams in each division. The Ross Ellis is open to teams with a combined age of over 280 years. The Jim Young is open to teams whose members are 55 and older. The Ross Ellis Division had five teams from Tam Heather and teams from Unionville, Whitby and Bayview Country Club. The Jim Young had five teams from Tam Heather and teams from East York, Thornhill and Toronto Police. Each division plays two eight end games.

The Winner of the Ross Ellis was the Unionville Eric Milne Team with Eric Milne as skip, George Ortani as vice, Dave Rannie as second and Paul Clodd as lead. In second place was Bayview's Art Leganchuk Team with Art Leganchuk as skip, Dick Dahl as vice, Loraine Dahl as second and Dick MacDonell as lead. In third place was Tam Heather's Tony Baker team with Tony Baker as skip, Terry Sedor as vice, Jim Tebo as second and Ross Moodie as lead.



Dave Heasman as vice, Mark Stainsby as second and Rick Chase as lead.

Thanks goes to the organizers: Reg Pembleton, Jack Grant, Peter Tibando and Ian Valentine for making this a memorable event.

*Gary Sampson*

## Valentines Bonspiel with the Day Ladies

Once again we joined the Day Ladies for the annual Valentines Bonspiel on Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>. A total of sixteen teams participated in this very enjoyable bonspiel. The teams consisted of 34 men and 30 woman.

As in the past the day consisted of two, six end games. At the end of the day the winning team was team Wilson: Ron Wilson (skip), Marion Taylor (vice), Ed Welch (second) and Cathy Sampson (lead).

Gary Pennington's team with Joan Patterson, Tony Damiani and Rick Lane took second place. Third place went to Reg Pembleton's team with Melanie Goldhar, Ken Waddell and Louise Koen. Pauline Kiely's team with George Fernandez, Margurite Allen and Chris French took fourth place. We would like to thank Pam Elliott and Debi O'Hearn, Peter Tibando and Ian Valentine for organizing another great Valentines Bonspiel.



*Gary Sampson*

## Muppets come to Tam

Group Z was recently visited by two long standing curlers, Alex Smith and Ed Burnett.

Alex has hung up his broom after his victory last year in the Memorial. Ed is making steady progress in his recovery and is itching to call the shots once more.



## Euchre

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

A forty-five player turnout required a slightly different tables arrangement than normal. We set up nine tables of four players and three tables with three players. While there was some initial confusion with the three hand rules, it all worked out in the end.

Our best card from the ladies came from Barb Welch showing a score of 60. Next highest was Donna Sutton's score of 53. Donna also had six lone hands to take that envelope too.

Lynne Bowles' card showed her to be the most honest lady, so for a reward she also won the 50/50 draw of \$47.

Rob Slater was top gent with a 59 followed by Seb Suma in second spot with a 56. There was a tie for the honour of being most honest gent between Clare Seeley and Bill Harron and Jayne Damiani picked Bill's card, so the envelope went to him.

Thanks to all who came out and joined the fun.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>

There was a good turnout for our second last euchre of the season. Our top lady on the evening with a score of 58 was Mary Raimondo and following in second place with a card totaling 52 was Helga Draper. Most honest lady was Claudette Morrison.

On the gent's side we had Grant Relf turning in the most honest score card. Al Lee took second place with a score of 58 and top man with a respectable 61 was Norm MacFarlane.

There was a five player tie between Robert McLeod, Tony Damiani, Reg Haney, Helen Sudoma and Jack Brown for most lone hands, each with a score of three. Helga broke the tie by picking Helen Sudoma's card which gave her the envelope.

Marg Daw drew the 50/50 ticket of Grant Relf sending him home \$41 richer.

The last euchre before season close will be on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>.



# 2016 Venerables Appreciation Award

Remarks given by our Past President at the recent Presidents Tankard Luncheon

"It is my honour and privilege to introduce the Tam Heather Venerables **Appreciation Award Winner for 2016**.

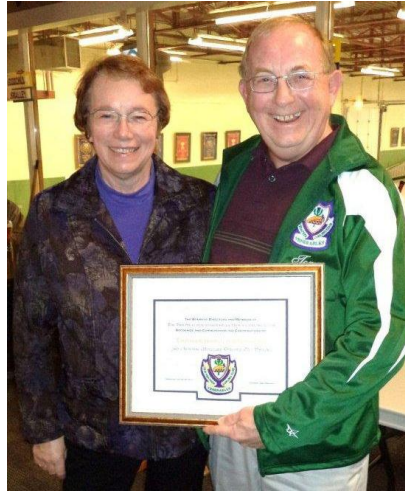
Great clubs such as Venerables don't just happen- they evolve because of the effort & dedication of individuals in our membership – year after year. One of those people is the Board of Directors' unanimous honouree for 2016 – **Mr. TOM STEPHENS** who is here today with his lovely wife Luella.

Some of Tom's contributions:

- Lowest club fees in the GTA – we can thank Tom for careful management of our finances as our Treasurer for 3 years & then 2 years on the Financial Review Committee.

- However, Tom's perspective was always broader than just finance. He has the gift of insight & clarity in drafting policy documents, for example, the VCC initiation agreement & others.

- He is a superb collaborator & team player who helped with our charitable giving programs for years – e.g. the Food Bank donations.



And for me the most admirable quality of Tom is his sense of fun – he is a creative chef who cooks with beer, loves word puns and outrageous & humorous costumes, for example for the Fifties/Sixties party recently – he came as a dashing, daring Elvis – black wig all!

There is much more but suffice to say this year's honouree is one terrific and lovable guy - help me welcome **Mr. Tom Stephens**"

*Gary Pennington*

## The Memorial Bonspiel

During the 2000/2001 season **Francis Sharon** and I planned a one day spiel as a memorial to Venerables who had passed away during that season. Francis was a retired school principal who had a school bell presented to him when he retired. I furnished the trophy.

The service on that initial ceremony was basically the same as it is now, that is the reading of a short poem written by **Ivan Notter** (club historian for many years) followed by a reading of the names of the departed and the ringing of the bell. We honoured six Venerables in that first ceremony. The winning spiel rink was skipped by **Bob Pollard**, vice **John MacInnall**, second **Clare Seeley** and lead **Paul Clymer**. In the 2004 season following the death of **Stewart Wheler**, the trophy was re-plated to the "Stew Wheler Memorial" in his honour.

After the 2008 ceremony I talked to Francis about acquiring a Ship's Bell for the ceremony. **Jim Young** agreed to create a mount and over the summer the bell was purchased from the Lunenburg Foundry in Nova Scotia. The Foundry also inscribed it for us. I had the lady owner of The Rigging Shop make the lanyard for me. The bell was presented to the club at the AGM in 2008 and was first rung at the November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day ceremony.

*Jack Grant*



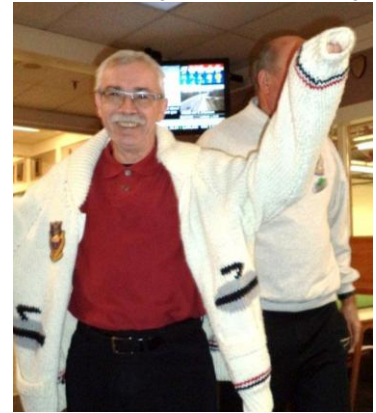
## Tankard (from page 1)

The Presidents Spiel is always the occasion to recognize the exceptional contribution of certain individuals to the ongoing good governance and stability of the club. This year the club deemed Tom Stephens worthy of this special distinction. A Venerable Appreciation Award was presented to Tom Stephens for his dedication and sustained contribution to the club. **(see previous column).**

Another tradition at the Presidents Spiel is to fit the incoming Presidents with the Curling Sweater. Although it lacks the charm and prestige of a Green Jacket, it is a cherished tradition not to be overlooked. Our incoming President for next season is Jim Thomas. It seems like our outgoing President stretched it a wee bit.

Many thanks go out to Jack Grant, Peter Tibando, Ian Valentine and Carson Klinck, who created the Tankard format, for a great bonspiel.

*Gary Sampson*



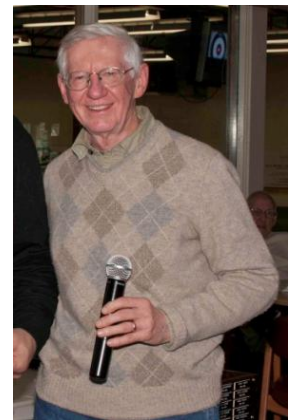
## Club Traditions

With so many new members joining the Venerables Club over the last few years it is time to highlight some of our traditions. I contacted our club Archivist **Jack Grant** of Z group who is a fount of information about our traditions. I asked Jack for the background of the Curling stone trophies.

Jack recalls:

"I got a call from Gord Wareham in 2008 inquiring if I would like 2 old stones from Crawford Smyth of the Stouffville area that were used as door stops. I took them home to clean them up and got **Ed Welch** of X group to make new handles for them with a brass end cap. The rarest thing in curling is an "eight rock end" and we needed something to commemorate it when it happens – so we now have the **Crawford Smyth 8 End Stone** trophy. The other stone became the **Gord Wareham President's Stone** which has all of our Presidents names on it (26 so far). Ed Welch created the box in which the stones sit and the stands underneath."

*Gary Pennington*



## Application Forms (2016/17)

Venerables Application Forms for next season will be available for pick up in the Venerables rack just outside the Tam Office the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Online forms will also be available on our website at [tamheathervenerables.com/apps](http://tamheathervenerables.com/apps).



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## Annual Golf Tournament 2016



**MONDAY, JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNANDALE GOLF CLUB**  
Scramble format, Shotgun Start **9 am**  
(Note the new start time) Arrive by 8:15 am



- We encourage you to use this opportunity to bring out guests and introduce them to the Venerables
- Price (same as last year): Venerables \$85, Guests \$90: includes Green Fees, Golf Cart, Golf Cart Package and a full Lunch at 2:30 pm
- Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis for Venerables, Past Venerables and Guests – limit 144 players
- Each team must contain at least one current or past Venerable
- Guests must be fifty or over
- Prizes for winners (first, second and third) and a chance at a Draw Prize
- 50:50 Draw
- Sign-up as a full team, threesome, twosome or individual and we'll fit you in
- Rules and marshals to help speed play

**Look for Application Forms in the Venerables rack outside the Tam Office.**

Register Early to avoid disappointment – Sign-up ends on Memorial Spiel Friday (April 15<sup>th</sup>) or earlier, if all positions are filled.

Completed applications should be deposited in the envelope marked "Golf Applications" outside the Tam Office together with a current dated cheque (payable to Tam Heather Venerables) for the full amount of the number of individuals (Venerables and/or guests) being entered.

**Entries will not be considered until full payment is received.**

For more info contact Jerry Goldhar at:  
[mgoldh1073@rogers.com](mailto:mgoldh1073@rogers.com) or 416 724-7628

## INTERCLUB (TDSMC) Standings (17 of 18 games)

Teams	G	W	T	L	Total	Average
Richmond Hill	17	13	0	4	43	2.5294
Scarborough Golf	17	8	2	7	35	2.0588
Leaside	17	8	2	7	35	2.0588
East York	17	8	0	9	33	1.9412
Donalda	17	7	1	9	32	1.8824
Tam Heather	17	4	1	12	26	1.5294
SKILLS ROLL OFF	G				Total	Average
Tam Heather	17				422	24.8235
Leaside	17				420	24.7059
Richmond Hill	17				415	24.4118
East York	17				411	24.1765
Scarborough Golf	17				396	23.2941
Donalda	17				332	19.5294

## Satisfaction Survey Update

By now most of you have either heard of or participated in our Member Satisfaction Survey for the current season.

This survey is intended to help your incoming Board of Directors plan for the future, continue to serve the memberships needs, and understand how to attract and retain members.

The survey is online and will remain open until April 13th, 2016. As of this writing, 77 surveys have been successfully completed and submitted. There is plenty of room to add comments and several members have taken full advantage of that feature. Be assured that your Board will review ALL submissions, whether anonymous or not.

Several members have experienced problems with the survey online. Some members do not use the internet at all. For these members, hard copies of the survey are available in the Venerables racks outside the Tam Heather office. Kindly return your completed survey to Janet (or whomever is there) in the office. As the supply of hard copies runs out, more will be added.

If you did not get an opportunity to complete the survey and have since lost the email, send an email to [info@tamheathervenerables.com](mailto:info@tamheathervenerables.com) and another link to the survey will be sent to you.

## Cars and Beer

**Woman:** Do you drink beer?

**Man:** Yes

**Woman:** How many beers a day?

**Man:** Usually about 3

**Woman:** How much do you pay per beer?

**Man:** \$5.00 which includes a tip.

**Woman:** And how long have you been drinking?

**Man:** About 20 years, I suppose

**Woman:** So a beer costs \$5 and you have 3 beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would be approximately \$5400 ...correct?

**Man:** Correct

**Woman:** If in 1 year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation, the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000, correct?

**Man:** Correct

**Woman:** Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought a new Ferrari?

**Man:** Do you drink beer?

**Woman:** No

**Man:** Where's your Ferrari?

## Anything to contribute?

Please forward items of interest to

[coffebreak@tamheathervenerables.com](mailto:coffebreak@tamheathervenerables.com)