



Venerables CoffeeBreak



New Year Edition – January 2015

Christmas comes to Tam Heather

submitted by Andrew Lamb

The Venerables welcomed the arrival of the Christmas season on December 10th with their annual Christmas Party. Over 100 happy party-goers gathered for an evening of music, comedy and dancing.

The evening started with a warm welcome by club President Gary Pennington followed shortly by one of Past President Ed Welch's inimitable stories. Entertainment this year was provided by comedian and motivational speaker Judy Croon. Our music as always was provided by the ever capable DJ Lester, who took care to build a number of requested tunes into his evening's repertoire. Once started the dancing was enthusiastic with old favorites being interspersed with some popular line dancing and the traditional Gay Gordons.



John and Ellen Harzenetter and John and Julie Messina did a great job selling raffle tickets. This year we received a number of excellent prizes donated by local businesses. We are very grateful to the following donors and would ask you thank them for supporting the Venerables any time you are in their establishment: *Annandale Golf & Curling Club; Extreme Auto Image; Fratelli Village Pizzeria; In the Spirit - Yoga Studio and Wine Lounge; Morningside Cineplex Odeon; the Amazing Ted's Restaurant and the Metro Golf Dome.*

A popular feature of the Party is the plants each lady gets to take home at the end of the evening. In fact these Poinsettia and Cyclamen are so popular that many are spoken for well before the festivities wrap up. Our thanks go to Dave and Donna Abrams for once again purchasing and delivering these on the afternoon of the dance. (see "Christmas Party" on page 4)

President's Remarks

submitted by Gary Pennington

Welcome back to another super session of curling & fun! In each CoffeeBreak we feature names of *new members*. In this issue we acknowledge the following:

W Group

Jim Campbell	Roy Cook	Tom Dzorevski
Jim Glynn	Rod MacIntyre	Gordon McLennan
Tom Murray	Reg Pembleton	David Shearer
Paul Tinsley		

X Group

Jim DeBoer	Dan Geary	Kerry Taylor
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Y Group

Glenn Hill	Bill Leigh	Peter Ritza
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Z Group

Bill Dickson	Don Shier	Grant Wilson
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Our new member numbers are up, thanks for referrals. Welcome to each of you, we are glad you made the choice to be part of Tam Heather Venerables. Continue to talk up membership and remember, the annual fee drops over 40% in the new year. Spread the word to friends & neighbours.

Congratulations to **Tony Damiani** who is our new Communications Chair & Newsletter Editor.

Your Board of Directors invites your **ideas and feedback** with our online survey in January and 'Suggestion Box' anytime. I urge you to sign up for **upcoming Bonspiels**. Good curling!!

Upcoming Events

tamheathervenerables.com/calendar

January 27 th	S.E.M.U.T. Sign up begins
February 2 nd	Jim Young Open/Ross Ellis
February 4 th	Fourth Euchre Night
February 6 th	VCC Finals and Banquet
February 10 th	Valentines Bonspiel
February 25 th	Eric Downer Memorial
March 10 th	Memorial Spiel sign-up
March 11 th	Fifth Euchre Night
March 25 th	Stu Wheeler Classic



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Christmas Skins Bonspiel

submitted by Gary Sampson

The Christmas Skins Bonspiel was held on Wed. December 17th. Four teams from each group participated in the bonspiel. The competition for the day took place over 2, six-end games. The winners of the Christmas Skins Bonspiel with a score of 38 were the Ron Wilson (skip) Team with Gary Mandel (vice), Ed Lee (second)



and Dave Andrews (lead).

All of the skin games were very competitive and fun. Y group had the most skins with 96. All teams received prize money. The bottom team received \$11 and the winning team \$38.

Thanks to Gary Norris, Dal Wrigley, Jack Grant, Peter Tibando and Gary Sampson for organizing a terrific spiel. Everyone in the skins bonspiel won at least one end so everyone won some money back and a good time was had by all.

What is a Skins game anyway?

submitted by Carson Klinck

Skins is a game where the scoring is different from regular curling. Here is a quick summary of how the game is played.

Each end (or skin) is a game in itself and carries points/money for winning the end. There is no problem if you lose the skin since the next end starts all over again fresh and plays for a new amount of points. Since the points increases for each skin you could actually win ends 1, 2, 3, and 4 and not win the game as skins 5 and 6 are worth more. Skins are worth the dollar amount of their respective ends so adding $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$ and $5 + 6 = 11$. Thus it matters that you win the higher point ends. No one is really out of the game until the last rock is thrown.

To win a skin, if you have hammer, you have to score two or more points. If you do not have hammer, you have to steal one or more points to win the skin. If the team with hammer scores only one point or the end is blanked, then the points for that end are put into the

bank and the next team to win a skin collects the points for the current end plus anything in the bank.

The real fun is trying to score both ways (stealing one or scoring two). At the beginning of the game teams choose to have hammer in either the odd or even ends. This pattern continues for the six end game and overtime if necessary. This format means you have to win ends by both options. Since choosing hammer (or not) is very important, a draw to the button is made (one per team), and the winner gets the choice of what their team wants to do throughout the game.

Annual Turkey Shoot

submitted by Gary Sampson

The annual Turkey Shoot for W, X, and Z group was held on December 15th. There was a large turnout and a good time was had by all. The cost of participating was \$2.00 per curler. All money collected was returned as prizes. The winning team received 60%, the runner-up team 30% and the individual high point total on a non winning team received 10% of the prize money.

The maximum score for a player is 16 and for a team is 64. The winning team for W Group (34 points) was Dave Hampton (skip), Tom Kerr (vice), Chet Bula (second) and Roy Cook (lead). The runner-up team with 30 points was Ted Lacelle (skip), Wayne Black (vice), Doug Dies (second) and Kevin Cahill (lead). Ron Cowper was the individual with the high point total.

The winning team for X Group (35 points) was Gord Haney (skip), John Dipede (vice), Ed Welch (second), Ray Cockburn (lead). The runner up team with 30 points was Vic Cuff (skip), Murray Hedges (vice), Alistair Gordon (second) and David Crichton (lead). Al Gibson was the individual with the high point total.

The winning team for Z Group (28 points) was Ed Burnett (skip), Don Sommerville (vice), Norm Ferguson (second) and Brock Stackhouse (lead). (see "Turkey Shoot" page 4)



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Ice Techs Report

submitted by John Elstone

We are going to start introducing themes to these articles, based on the different aspects of ice making that we think are most relevant to the curlers. First up is “pebble”.

Pebble is by far the most important tool in our ice making craft. Those that have ever thrown on a flat sheet of ice know that without pebble, you would never be able to get the rock down to the other end of the ice. Let's look at a few aspects of pebble in order to help you determine whether or not the pebble is good for your particular sheet of ice.

First, and foremost, everyone needs to realize that a pebble is just frozen water and can therefore be worn down by a number of different things. Hence we keep stressing that you keep your hands and knees off the ice as much as possible. It only takes approximately three seconds for your body heat to melt the pebble and create a flat spot which will cause any rock running over that surface to perform drastically different compared to a rock going over pebble. We also stress that you cool down your slider before your game starts. If you take a practice slide without cooling your slider, you will just melt all the pebble under your foot and rocks will run differently down that path. Also, you will notice the ice beside the hacks go flat because of warm sliders.

The second aspect of pebble we will look at is its temperature. The general rules are the warmer the pebble, the faster the ice and the more curl you will get. These rules work to an extent. If the pebble is too warm, it will be soft and break down easier, in turn creating flat spots as we mentioned earlier. So, this creates the first part of what we call “The Ice Technician's Dilemma”. We want to make the pebble water as warm as possible to maximize speed and curl, but not so warm that it breaks down.

The third aspect of pebble we will look at is its size. Again, the general rules for pebble size are the smaller the pebble, the faster the ice and the more curl you will get. If you get the pebble too small, the pebble will break down easier. So, this creates the second part of “The Ice Technician's Dilemma”. We want to make the pebble as small as we can to maximize speed and curl, but not so small that it breaks down.

The final aspect of pebble we will look at is amount of pebble. The general rules for amount of pebble are the less pebble you have on the ice, the faster the ice and the more curl you will get in the ice. If you have too little pebble on the ice, it will break down easier. You are probably getting the pattern by now. This creates the third and final part of “The Ice Technician's Dilemma”. We want to put down as little pebble as possible to maximize speed and curl, but not so little that it breaks down.

These are the main aspects of pebble. We hope this provides some insight into what our jobs entail and now you are better equipped to make observations about the pebble on your sheet. Keep in mind that every club is different. What works at Tam Heather, probably won't work at another club and vice versa.

Please don't hesitate to talk to any of us if there is a certain theme you would like presented in the next article. We look forward to hearing your opinions!

Tam Heather Ice Technicians: Nick Samoy, Jason Leneeuw, Luc Barber

Board Captain Profile

submitted by Al Gibson

George Roffey, Y Group Board Captain

Being a relatively new Board Captain, George has a very simple personal philosophy on how to handle the duties of this job---his answer to anyone who complains about the way the Tag teams are comprised---“If you don't like it---then you do it”.

George was born and raised in Toronto and is 7th of 8 kids (5 girls and 3 boys). He and Lorraine were married in 1956 (the math works out to 59 years



married this year). They have 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Along with other great and probably even more important attributes, Lorraine appreciates George's ability to see and fix almost any problem that may arise around the house---he is a keeper.

George spent his work career in the soap making industry, retiring in 1992 as a foreman in the actual soap making aspect of the production line. He also spent some years dealing with soap manufacturing feedstocks (see “Board Captain”, page 4)



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Euchre Results

submitted by Reg Haney

December 2nd

It was a dark and stormy night...well, not exactly, the roads were bad, but 61 of the 68 that signed-up made it. We thank those who braved the poor conditions to get there.

Donna Sutton defended her November top lady title with a score of 61. Judy Montgomery a close second with 59 and, as we must always have a most honest lady finisher, Fay Burnett took the prize.

The top gent was Ross Ellis's grandson, Aaron Ellis, with 66. Bob Finlay finished second with 58. Tom Heffron most honest gent.

Sal Generoso's card was drawn from three players reporting 4 lone hands. Later it was discovered that Aaron Ellis had 5 loners. Ron Murphy awarded him with the prize amount as well.

The 50/50 draw (\$49) winner was Sal Generoso. Big night for Sal.

January 7th

Coupled with extreme cold and colds & flu our turnout for the January game was 48. As usual, a good time was had by all.

We had a tie-breaker draw to determine top lady with both Mary Raimondo and Barb Welch scored 58. Barb's card was drawn which gave her first place and Mary the runner up. Our most honest lady was Jean Key.

Art Turner posted a 57 to earn top gent, and close behind taking was Robert McLeod with a 56. Al Lee was most honest gentleman.

There was a four-way tie for most lone hands (3) prize between Marg Turner, Barb Welch, Alex Smith, and Don Hills. We drew for winner, and much to his surprise Alex Smith had his score card chosen. Seems like Alex has upped his game!

50/50 draw tickets were so popular, the lucky winner Barb Welch topped off a pretty good night with an envelope of \$48 with her ticket.

Thanks go to those who called to let us know they would be unable to attend – it helps us keep costs for refreshments under control.

The Kitchen in Movember

submitted by Damiano Satar

Our annual prostate cancer Movember fundraiser yielded \$875. The Venerables did a great job donating and without your generous support I never would have reached my goal.

Prime Rib Sunday will continue this year on Jan 18 & 25, and Feb 15 & 22. Valentine's Day celebration is Sunday Feb 8th so be sure to reserve a table as we usually book up early.

On a sad note, we lost a dear friend of the club. Robert Steele passed away before Christmas. Robert made many a great friends at the club and he always had a friendly smile and laugh for everyone. I'm sure many of you have your own stories to tell. He will be missed by everyone at the club.

"Christmas Party" (from page 1)

Thanks also go to our ticket sellers Al Gibson; Francis Sharon; Gary Pennington and Ed Welch and to our welcoming committee of Tony Damiani; Gary Pennington and Peter Tibando. Lastly, our thanks go to the kitchen staff; to Luc for the set-up; to the tireless Karen on the bar and the constantly patient Janet in the office: all of whom contributed to make this a special evening.

"Turkey Shoot" (from page 2)

The runner-up team also with 28 points was Vic Tromba (skip), Jim Hills (vice), Roger Davidson (second) and Al Johnson (lead). Wayne Stefanick and John Wills were tied for high point total (15).

Unfortunately, the Y Group turkey shoot had to be cancelled because of unforeseen circumstances. Thanks to the Y Group for their understanding.

"Board Captain" (from page 3)

like glycerin. He is an above average sports participant featuring **3 hole-in-ones** at the Remington Parkview Golf Club, several 200 point bowling games and we all know about his curling skills. He was somewhat reluctant to join the Venerables after retiring in 1992 (thinking curling was not for him). Being cold while standing around on the ice was not particularly appealing. This is his second year as Board Captain and although he believes he was *gently persuaded* into the job *to help out in a pinch*, he says he has realized a great deal of personal satisfaction in the role. He feels good about making a contribution to the level of success and enjoyment being experienced by so many of us Venerables.

Anything to contribute?

Please contribute items of interest or results of bonspiels, etc. to Tony Damiani either by email to antoniodamiani@rogers.com or by envelope to the CoffeeBreak folder by the office.