



Venerables CoffeeBreak



Season Opener Edition - October 2015

A Good, Dry Golf Day

submitted by Andrew Lamb

The last days of May seemed like the start of the great Flood, but Monday June 1st dawned dry with some blue sky showing through the light overcast...and it stayed dry! The Annandale course had thirstily sucked up all of the rain in all but a few patches.

By 10 am the registration was busy and raffle sales were vigorous.



With everyone in place the players headed out for the 11 am shotgun start. As the day progressed play was moving quickly either because of the temperature or the rules for faster golf or both. There were few of the usual hold-ups at 13 and 17 and almost all players were off the course a little after 4 pm.

Once everyone had a drink and scorecards were handed in, Andrew Lamb invited Gary Pennington, our outgoing president to say a few words. Gary welcomed the players



and summarized the variety of summer social activities being hosted by various Venerables this year. Gary was a vigorous proponent of these new additions to our calendar of social events and the response has been excellent. A number of prizes had been generously donated including a two screen rear passenger DVD set, two rounds of golf with cart at Annandale and a number of new medium, small, and child size jackets from Tam Heather Curling and Tennis. In addition we had a range of LCBO and Tim Horton's certificates and some cash prizes.

After the first round of prize draws Jim Glynn said a thoughtful Grace and tables were called for dinner. (see *Annual Golf Day* page 4)

President's Remarks

submitted by Andrew Lamb

Welcome to a new season of curling with your Tam Heather Venerables. NEW is the key word of this message. This past summer saw a whole range of new social events in addition to our traditional Golf Day. I'd like to thank Past President Gary Pennington as well as those individuals who stepped forward to host these events for this highly successful addition to the Venerables' social calendar.

The traditional December Christmas Dance will be replaced by a 50^s-60^s Party on Dec.9th featuring the winner of the Collingwood Elvis Festival and celebrating the great music and events of that era. More information and tickets will be available after curling starts.

We are also stepping up the pace at the Presidents Bonspiel in January with a new format that will keep everyone engaged until the final game. The rules for this new format will be announced before sign-up begins.

This year we have specifically designated two days for inviting potential **NEW** curlers. These days are Fri. Oct.30th and Fri. Nov.27th both at 1:45. Any new member can come out three times for free while they decide to join. We want to make an extra effort to ensure these events are both welcoming and fun for any potential new members you bring to them.

Our regular Friday clinics for beginners start on Oct.16th led by Jim Downs this season (see *Remarks* page 4)

Upcoming Events

- Oct 23 Curling Clinic (1:45pm)
- Oct 26 Fall Classic sign-up closes
- Oct 30 Curling Clinic & Bring a Guest day (1:45pm)
- Nov 3 Day Ladies Fall Classic
- Nov 3 First Euchre night of the season
- Nov 6 Curling Clinic (1:45)
- Nov 10 Veterans Appreciation Day (Y Group)
- Nov 11 Veterans Appreciation Day (W,X,Z Groups)
- Nov 13 Curling Clinic (1:45)
- Nov 17 Christmas Skins Spiel Sign-up opens
- Nov 20 Curling Clinic (1:45)
- Nov 27 Curling Clinic & 2nd Bring a Guest Day (1:45)
- Dec 1 Second Euchre Night

For the complete calendar please visit our website: tamheathervenerables.com/calendar

Memorial Bonspiel

submitted by Gary Sampson

The final event of the 2014/2015 season was the Memorial Bonspiel. The winner of the **Main Event** was team Smith: Skip Alex Smith, Vice Jim Thomas, 2nd Steen Thuresen and Lead Charlie Richards. Alex Smith is the oldest curler to win a Venerables



Bonspiel. This was a final moment of triumph capping off a lifetime of curling. At the beginning of this season, Alex dropped by and Past President Gary Pennington presented him with a plaque (designed by Steen) to commemorate the victory.

In second place was Team Cuff: Skip Vic Cuff, Vice Bob Russell, 2nd Doug Muir and Lead Dal Wrigley. In third place was team Warren: Skip Ron Warren, Vice Murray Hedges, 2nd Robert McLeod and Lead Gary Wolff.

The winners of the **Consolation Draw** were the Belyea team: Skip Bryan Belyea, Vice Tony Damiani, 2nd John Wills and Lead Vic Thompson. In second place was the Weber Team: Skip Ryk Weber, Vice Don Hills, 2nd Jim DeBoer and Lead John Brittain. In third place was the Roden team: Skip Barry Roden, Vice George Roffey, 2nd Gary



Mandel and Lead Morgan Dever.

Gary Pennington introduced the special guest at our head table. This year's special guest was Morley Lumby. Morley was recognized for his many years participating in the Venerables league. Morley joined the Venerables in 1996 after spending many years curling at Avonlea. Morley, at the age of 96, was the oldest curler in the Venerables. Morley has retired from curling.



Each year at our Memorial Bonspiel we pause to remember friends that died during the prior year. Jack Grant, with assistance from Francis Sharon to sound our Memorial Bell, conducted the ceremony at our closing luncheon on April 17th. Jack called on all to rise and remember each in his own way as he read the name of the departed member. After the reading of each name and with a brief pause, Francis Sharon sounded our Memorial Bell. Jack Grant then acknowledged the unknown Venerables member that passed without

our knowledge by calling on Francis to sound the bell one last time in memoriam. Our curling friends no longer with us are:

- Rick Nishikawa (Y group) died May 21st, 2014
- Fred Monaghan (Y) died Sept. 22nd, 2014
- Donald LeMarquand (X) died Nov. 17th, 2014
- John Meredith (W) died Dec. 23rd, 2014
- Robert Sproule (Z) died Dec. 29th, 2014
- John Brockest (X) died Jan. 29th, 2015
- Richard Hannaford (W) died Feb. 13th, 2015
- Richard Purves (Z) died April 13th, 2015

A Memorial Book maintained by Jack Grant listing the names of members that passed over the years was on display for all to see.

Our thanks go to **Gary Norris, Jack Grant, Peter Tibando** and to all those who made this such a memorable occasion, not forgetting the ice makers, Damiano and the kitchen staff, the office staff and Danny at the bar, and all who contribute so greatly to our enjoyment.

Stay Connected Activities

submitted by Gary Pennington

Special recognition to over one hundred Venerables and guests who participated in our summer **stay connected** events:

- Grand Slam of Curling
- Speedway races
- Blue Jays game
- Cooking with Beer
- Pub lunch
- Golf challenge (see page 3)
- Woodbine Races to name a few.

Thank you to organizers Jim Downs, Peter Cant, Tony Damiani, Al Gibson, Reg Haney and Fel Raimondo.

Based on interest shown we might try to repeat some activities next year – these were fun and build friendships! If you have ideas contact Gary Pennington, Past President.

50^{is} - 60^{is} Dance Party

submitted by Jerry Goldhar

Don't miss the social event of the fall curling season. **FUNFUNFUN** bring your relatives and friends.

- Wednesday December 9th
- Elvis tribute artist
- DJ
- Coffee, tea, munchies and desserts
- Beer and Wine
- Trivia contest
- Door prize
- Spot dance
- 50/50 draw

Tickets will be available in your group starting Mon. Oct. 26th. \$22.50 a person (special 2 for \$45.00)

AGM clincher sees Blue Jays Win

submitted by Andrew Lamb

Who knew that our Annual General Meeting would coincide with the game our boys in blue would need to clinch their place in the play-offs. Despite that conflict some 85 gallant stalwarts and a few welcome new members came out to attend the meeting. The usual pre-meeting conversations were somewhat sidetracked by the game on television. However, our Jays were kind enough to deliver the goods at 7:28 pm and Secretary Ed Koen called the meeting to order on time at 7:30. Ed introduced this season's Board whose appointment was confirmed by the meeting.

Past President Gary Pennington reviewed the past year's accomplishments including the success of the SEMUT tournament and a variety of summer social events (see page 2) drawing over 100 participants. Recruitment of new members and finding new Board members will be Gary's priorities this coming year.

Chef Damiano provided an update on his forthcoming 11th season providing the food catering services. He expressed appreciation for our support throughout the year.

As this year's Vice-President and Treasurer Jim Thomas recognized Alex Smith's achievement in winning the Memorial Bonspiel in his final game last April. Jim went on to note that the financial affairs of the club were sound and the financial review committee had completed its annual examination and found all in order. The meeting approved Gord Maunder and Carman Chisamore to the Financial Review Committee for the coming year. To maintain our financial health member fees must match closely with the major source of our expenses (ice rental). We have accomplished this by gradually increasing fees (still the lowest in the GTA) and maintaining a membership of at least 250 curlers. Jim presented Doug Miller with the first installment of next year's ice rental expense. Doug advised that over the summer, improvements were made to the locker room and the carpeting leading to the ice area. New security cameras and a monitor over the bar were installed, as well as new sheet dividers.

Membership chair Fel Raimondo reported that applications processed to date include 208 returning members and 6 new members.

Facilities Chair Al Gibson reviewed the 2014-2015 curling schedule and recognized the Board captains for their important contribution to the smooth running of each section. Curling clinics, coordinated by Jim Downs will run Fridays from Oct. 16th to Nov. 27th.

TDSMCA Interclub curling coordinator John Wills said additional participants are always welcome. Tam Heather will host the Police Provincial Playdowns the last week of January.

Bonspiel Chair Gary Sampson thanked all the bonspiel committee for their efforts last year. Ian Valentine will be the new bonspiel coordinator. The Eric Downer Bonspiel will change from an invitational to an in-house fun spiel providing non-stick curlers an opportunity to try out the Stick. The Presidents Tankard Bonspiel will try out a new format to keep more curlers engaged until the last rock.

Communications Chair Tony Damiani reviewed his responsibilities as Coffee Break editor, Email and Website coordinator.

On the Social front Gary Pennington reported for director at large Ray Cockburn that this year's December event will be a 50s/60s Nostalgia and Fun Night. John Cigan, a past winner at the Collingwood Elvis festival, and celebrity DJ Victor Shim have been booked. This will be a great chance to put your 50s/60s **glad rags** on

and celebrate two great decades of music with dancing and laughter. Speaking for director at large Jerry Goldhar Andrew said we would probably be changing the start time of the annual Golf Day.

Questions from the floor were raised on the proposed start time of 9 am for the golf day; on the pre-season practice ice times allocated by Tam Heather and on prorated fees for new members joining later in the season. After all questions the meeting adjourned.

Summer Fun - Golf Challenge

submitted by Reg Haney

The Scarborough Seniors Golf Club challenged the Venerables to a total team score golf match. The players representing the 12 man Venerables team were Captain Peter Tibando, Dave Abrams, Chet Bula, Jim Campbell, Peter Cant, Ron Cowper, Tony Damiani, Mike Dionne, Al Gibson, Duane Richards, Wayne Stefanick, and Vic Tromba.

Captain Reg Haney and his Scarborough Seniors crew of Brian Booth, Roy Dunlop, Jim Gillen, Jim Glynn, Tom Heffron, Tom Kerr, Aiden Maher, Bill McGrath, Gord McLennan, Fel Raimondo, and John Walker won **bragging rights** by topping the Venerables team by a 30 stroke margin.



The match took place at Tam O'Shanter on Mon. Sept. 14th which turned out to be a beautiful day. After the game all 24 participants gathered at Legion 614 to socialize, make excuses for their score, have a drink or two, and enjoy some pizza. Prizes were awarded for the nearest to the pin winners on the par 3 holes; Peter Tibando on the 3rd, Mike Dionne on the 6th, Tom Heffron on the 14th and Peter Cant on the 16th.

There was a cash draw based on the player's greens fee stub number and Chet Bula's number was drawn by Gary Pennington. Gary came to enjoy the social aspect at the Legion. Everyone had a good time and excess funds were given to Chet for the food bank.



Venerables CoffeeBreak



Season Opener Edition - October 2015

Annual Golf Day *(cont'd from page 1)*

As always, Chef Miguel and his staff handed out plentiful portions of chicken, roast beef and vegetable lasagna with roast potatoes and various salads. Nobody was going home hungry. After dessert we took a moment to acknowledge Pierre Lemieux's dedication in driving down from Quebec for the tournament for the second year in a row.

Then another round of draw prizes followed by Carson Klinck, our scorekeeper, reading the names of the winners of the "longest putt, closest to the hole and longest drive" holes. The prizes were as follows: Longest Putt at Hole #1: Norm McFarlane; Closest to the Hole at Hole #9: Chris Sylvestre; Longest Putt at Hole #11: Dave Hampton; Closest to the Hole at Hole #15: Pierre Lemieux, Longest Drive at Hole #18: Kevin Cahill.

Next the teams with the lowest scores were announced. There was a tie for third place with three teams posting a score of even par. The winner of third prize per the tournament rules was based on which team recorded the most birdies. Third prize went to Fel Raimondo's



second ticket drawn, and the first prize of an amazing \$530 went to Jim Thomas.



We thank the following people, Annandale's Organizer Christine Cassidy, Professional Rob Frost and Chef Miguel and their respective staffs for making the day run so smoothly.

And above all thanks to the following Venerables, who volunteered their time both before and during the day. They are: alphabetical order they are: **Tony Damiani, Al Gibson, Jim Glynn, Jerry Goldhar, Al Gordon, Reg Haney, Carson Klinck, Ted Lacelle, Larry Lyons, Gary Mandel, Gary Pennington, Duane Richards, Gary Sampson and Peter Tibando.**



team of Frank Ferris, Gord Chapman and Bill Fitzpatrick. Second prize went to John Davidson's team of Cam Cowan, Fred Huggett and Grant Barrett with a score of minus 1, and in first place our tournament winners with a score of -2 were Tom Powell's team of Leo



Prosperi, Mac Burrell and Chris Burrell. The final event of the evening was the raffle prize giving. Thanks to Reg Haney and Jim Glynn for the spectacular sales job they did: the largest raffle

revenue we have ever taken. \$210 for first ticket drawn, \$320 for

Remarks *(cont'd from page 1)*

Speaking of beginners as always we need **New Members**. Our age limit is 50, so check out your family, friends and neighbours to see who has reached that magic number. We advertise our club strategically with ads, articles, brochures and posters, but we know **word of mouth** is the **proven way** to bring in **new members**. Our annual fees are about half those of other clubs and we get considerably more ice time. So go out there and beat the bushes to find men over 50 who are just waiting for the opportunity to enjoy the fun and exercise that we all get from curling.

Anything to contribute?

Please forward items of interest to coffeebreak@tamheathvenerables.com