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## VENERABLES APPRECIATION AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE PRESIDENTS BONSPIEL AND AWARDS LUNCHEON JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2013

We start the New Year with our annual Presidents Bonspiel and in so doing observe some important traditions. Presentation of The Venerables Appreciation Awards is the highlight of the event. Two recipients were named to the Honour Roll this year and both are worthy choices.



Club President Peter Tibando presents Venerables Appreciation Award to 101-year-old Tom Millar, the club's first President.

**Tom Millar** was very happy to attend last year as a 100-year-old Past President. This year we made his visit special doubly special, for him, and for us as well.

In selecting Tom as a 2013 recipient we acknowledge his importance to the Venerables not only as a co-founder of the club, author of the constitution, and as our first President, but for the fact that his initiative in starting us up has been such a benefit to the hundreds of senior men who have been able to experience the joy of curling through Venerables membership.

In accepting the award Tom commented that “so often the efforts of volunteers go unappreciated and so, after so many years, this recognition is special”. In awarding Tom the Venerables Appreciation Award we have met an overdue obligation.

**Tena Haney** filled in as Tom's date for the luncheon and as company for **Donna Abrams**, who really didn't want to be the rose among so many “old” thorns. *Elsewhere in this issue a letter that Tom sent to the Board in 2005 that details a bit of club history.*



Peter presents Venerables Appreciation Award to Dave Abrams for his numerous and continuing contributions

The second award went to **Dave Abrams**, a long-time member of the Venerables, and an active Board member for most of nine years who has contributed greatly to the success of the club . His services were freely given in organizing bonspiels, on the executive as Membership Chairman, as Vice President, as President, and Past President. As V.P. he has organized the Christmas dance and the annual Golf day.

As President, Dave guided the executive through a tough year and as Past President his experience and judgment was a valuable asset. His stint on the Board came to a close in 2010 but Dave continues to assist in assuring the Christmas Dance is a season high point (Dave's wife Donna also pitches in) and is a willing volunteer on Golf day. As a bonus on the day, Dave's team won their final game to take top honours and the Presidents Bonspiel Trophy. There will be more on that a little later.

In addition to honoring Past Presidents in attendance, we announce the in-coming Board for the next season, and pass the Kirkaldy sweater from the current President to the next.



Incoming Board President Ed Welch dons the Kirkaldy sweater



Ed, with the club's first president, Tom Millar, looking on keeps the sweater on as he settles in for the luncheon.

## Board Change-over Takes Place In May

As mentioned earlier, three members of the Venerables Board of Directors are leaving at the end of their current terms. Past President Reg Haney, Facilities Chair Ted LaCelle and Bonspiel Chair Larry Lyons all have served the club with enthusiasm and ability and have given great service to all members. Their participation at Board meetings will be missed, but their replacements promise to provide exemplary service. The three new members joining the Board at the change-over at the May meeting are: Al Gibson, Don Tyrrell and Gary Sampson.

## Here Is The Proposed New Board's Makeup

President: **Ed Welch** -- X group  
 Past President: **Peter Tibando** -- W group  
 Vice President: **Gary Pennington** -- W group  
 Treasurer: **Jim Thomas** -- Z group  
 Secretary: **Ed Koen** -- Z group  
 Membership: **Gary Mandel** -- Y group  
 Communications: **Chris Rose** -- W group  
 Facilities: **Al Gibson** -- X group  
 Bonspiel Chair: **Don Tyrrell** (pronounced Terrel) -- W group  
 Director at Large: **Gary Sampson** -- W group

## Abrams' foursome wins Presidents Spiel Main Event



Incoming Club President Ed Welch and President Peter Tibando flank skip Dave Abrams (holding trophy) with vice Wayne Black, second Richard Hannaford and lead Earl Handrahan.

The **Abrams'** W Group foursome got a run for their money from **Vic Cuff's** X Group team, but in the end **Dave**, along with vice **Wayne Black**, second **Richard Hannaford** and lead **Earl Handrahan** finished five points clear after three games with a 203 total.

**Vic** was aided by **Brian Steen** at vice, **Ed Welch** at second and **Jerry Goldhar** at lead with **Fred Huggett** sparing on Friday. They finished with 198 points.

Third place in the Main Event went to **John Harzenetter's** team from Y Group with **Sam Koyata** at vice, **Ian Daniel** at second and **Jack Sabounji** at lead. They racked up 189 points.

X Group's **James Weatherup** took the Consolation Final with a total of 149 points. He was aided by vice **James Long**, second **Don Chalmers**, with **Bob Russell** as lead and **Fred Sandford** sparing in Friday's last game.

Second place, with 147 points, went to skip **Ed McGregor** of W Group with **Ted LaCelle** at vice, **Reid Thomas** at second and **Bob Finlay** playing lead.

Third spot went to Y Group's **Wally Kosciejew** at skip with vice **Ed Lee**, second **Dusan Lenghardt** and lead **Glenn Holmes**. They finished with 142 points.

## In the “This Just In” Category

Tony Baker’s team from Tam Heather won the Goldline Senior Men’s title with a come-from-behind 3.2 victory over Doug Furness of Chinguacousy. Baker was trailing 2-1 going into the seventh but took singles in each of the seventh and eighth ends to win.

Doug Miller of Tam won the Senior’s Consolation final with a 7-6 victory over Hector Hickey of Richmond Hill.

In the Senator Division, the Baker rink from Tam was an 11-5 winner over Barnes of Oakville in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Event final.

## Preparing For The Big Night



Santa and host Ed Welch discuss proceedings as guests are about to arrive for the annual Venerables Christmas dance, held this year on December 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a great evening of fun and laughter for the 105 members, spouses, partners and guests in attendance. More pictures are to be posted on the Venerables website: [www.tamheathervenerables.com](http://www.tamheathervenerables.com).



## Another member lost to cancer

It was with deep regret that we announced the death of Melvin John Peck. He died peacefully at Sunnybrook Hospital surrounded by his family on Saturday evening, January 12th, at the age of 82. Mel had curled with the Venerables since 2006 and was a skip with Z Group.

He is survived by his wife Marcia, daughters Sandra (John) and Jennifer (Greg) and son Russell (Sharon). Interment was at Highland Memory Gardens. Donations in his memory can be made to the Odette Cancer Centre at Sunnybrook hospital.

## Fun Spiel Produces Mixed Results

The Fun Week Spiel was held between December 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and wound up with a closing luncheon and awards ceremony. There was a bit of grumbling on team makeups, especially with those who haven't played with a stick before.

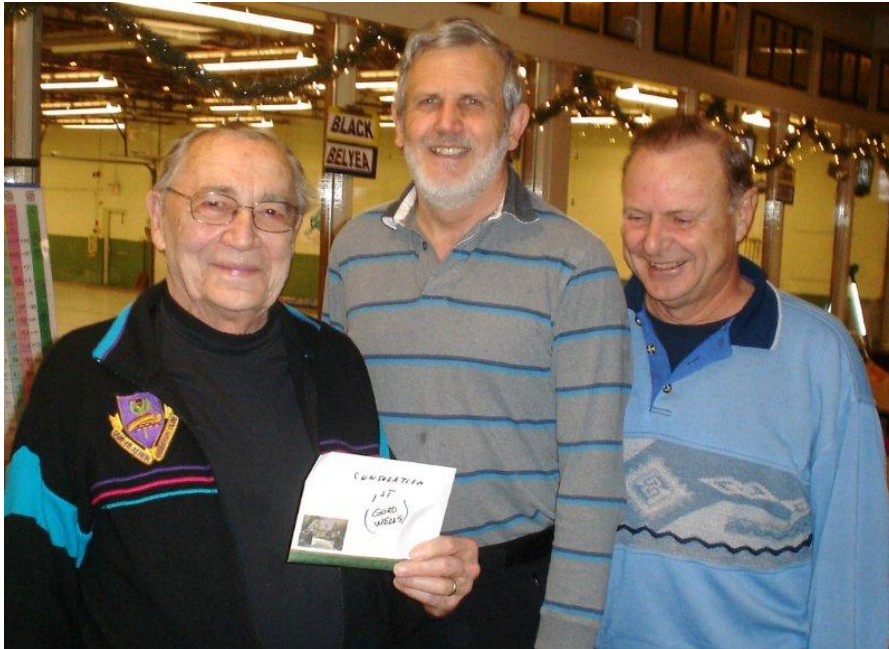
But there already has been some discussion about a more equitable distribution of stick players and that should be worked out before the 2013 Fun Week Spiel. In our normal tag draws, about one-third of Venerables curlers play with a stick on a regular basis.

### Overall Spiel Winners



John Walker, Ray Cockburn, John DiPede and Gord Haney

## Consolation Winners



Gord Wells, Wayne Black and Don Tyrell

## Stick Spiel Winners



Tom Carroll, Dal Wrigley and Bob Freckleton

## Skins Winners



Sam Koyota, Glenn Holmes, John Harzenetter, Dusan Lenghardt

## Turkey Shoot Produces Fun For All

The Pre-Christmas Turkey Shoot competition produced lots of frustration but an equal measure of fun across all Venerables divisions.

In **Group W**, **Norm Hart's** team took top spot with 37 points. He was accompanied by vice **Roger Macdonald**, second **Bob Finlay** and lead **Earl Handrahan**. **Bob Jackson** skipped his 3-man team including **Wayne Black** and **Bob Everist** to second place with 33.3 points. **David Hallam** was the high curler in W group with 12 points.

In **X Group**, **Duane Richards** led **Art Turner**, **Ed Welch** and **Murray Hedges** to top spot with 38 points. **Ron Warren's** team of **John Dipede** and **Bob Frecklton** finished second with 30.7 points. **Alex Lyons** took high curler honours in the group with 14 points.

**Z Group** was led by **Wayne Sumsion's** team, also scoring 38 points. He had **Don Summerville** at vice, **Tom Powell** at second and **Robert McCowan** at lead. Second spot went to **John McInall's** foursome with **Ed Koen**, **Jim Britten** and **Oral White**. **Mike Dionne** was top individual curler in the group with 13 points.

And **Wally Kosciadjew** led **Art Corby**, **Norm Sudoma** and **Bob Hicks** to first place in **Group Y** with 34 points. **John Harzenetter's** team with **Ian Daniel**, **Dusan Lenghart** and **Derek Arbuckle** finished second with 32 points. High curler honours went to **Chris French** with 12 points.



# Holiday season euchre draws big turnouts

By Reg Haney

It was a surprise to organizers when 64 players turned up the evening after New Years for the first euchre session of 2013. And they came with lots of leftover holiday spirits.

**Billie Griffith** took the women's top prize with a score of 77 with **Beth Wilmot** in second, just ten points behind. **Irene MacFarlane** posted a qualifying total as most honest woman player.

The men were led by **Don Chalmers**. He is new to the group and says he hasn't played much over the past while. However, his score of 67 took top honors. **Dave Stanley** took second prize money with a 62. Our most honest gent was **Grant Relf** who was able to laugh off the misfortune his cards dealt him.

Six players each scored three lone hands and had their score cards put into a bowl with **Al Walker's** drawn as the lucky winner.

Ticket sales for the 50/50 draw were good and the winners share was \$63. The lucky recipient was **Leah Wood**.

**Bert Tate** surprised us with a very generous gift of brand new playing cards that will enable **Ron and Betty Murphy** to put out good quality decks on each table for the February game. A special thank you to Bert for the much needed and thoughtful present to the games -- it's much appreciated.

## December's game

Some 60 players were on hand December 4<sup>th</sup> and filled the downstairs lounge with fun and laughter. Included were a number of players joining the games for the first time.

The ladies division saw two players tie for top spot with 69 points each. **Susan Rabbier** and **John (Joanne) Walker** then picked cards to settle first place with the honour going to John as the top lady. **Irene MacFarlane** was the evening's most honest lady.

On the men's side, a score of 62 was enough to send **Norm Rhora** home the winner. **Al Walker** finished second with **Al Lee** claiming the most honest gent honours.

With five lone hands **Marg Turner** was the winner and claimed that prize while the popular 50/50 draw prize of \$62 was won by **Donna Britten**.

While we are at it we'd like to acknowledge the Tam guys who set up the tables and chairs for us and put the room back together when we're done. Thanks, **Luc** and **Nick**.

### Why curling is better than sex:

With curling, there are only four positions to learn and you only have to be good at one of them.

## Food and Toy Drives

By Jack Grant

Letters of thanks have come in from the Salvation Army's Scarborough Citadel Corps and from St. Mark's United Church for our members' contributions to the annual food drive.

As Don Halsey, Family and Community Services Coordinator with the Corps put it: “the food contributed will go a long way in supplementing the needs of our clients who are either from low-income families or have met with a financial crisis due to loss of employment and other unforeseen circumstances. May you be richly blessed for your kindness.”

Thanks also came in for our donations to the toy drive that helped brighten what otherwise could have been a disheartening Christmas for some deserving children.

## Story of the founding of the Venerables

excerpted from a letter written by Tom Millar to the Tam Heather Venerables Board, March, 2005

“There exists some misconceptions about the origin of the club and I thought you might like to have a factual account of events leading up to its inception.

Originally, a small group of about 30 retired school teachers (calling themselves the Venerables) rented ice from the Tam Heather Curling Club. As members of the Tam Heather club retired, a gradually increasing number, Chris Armstrong and myself among them, started curling with the Venerables until there were a total of about seventy.

One afternoon after curling, Chris asked why we didn’t apply for a grant from the New Horizon program to buy some brooms for the group. Being a native-born Scot, this appealed to me and I said I would look into it.

I met with the Field representative of New Horizons and was informed that in order for a grant to be considered a club must

- be formally organized with a constitution.
- have 10 directors who will accept responsibility for the proper disbursement of the funds and the care and preservation of items purchased.
- submit a form signed by those directors acknowledging that responsibility.
- submit details of the project for which funds are to be used.

I related my findings to Chris and I believe six others and a discussion arose out of which it was decided that we should suggest to the group that we form an organized club and apply for a grant on the basis that we wanted to increase our numbers from the current seventy to a hundred and also add social activities.

A group meeting was called and that suggestion was put to them. A few of them were against the idea, but the majority were in favor and it was agreed that a club should be formed and as it would consist of members of Tam Heather and the Venerables group it would be called The Tam Heather Venerables. I volunteered to draft a constitution for consideration.

When the draft constitution was ready, a formal meeting was held at which time

- the name of the club was confirmed.
- the constitution was approved.
- ten directors were elected.
- submission of a request to New Horizons was approved.

And that, gentlemen, is how The Tam Heather Venerables club came into being. Its subsequent success is due to a large number of dedicated members who served so well on numerous committees.

### **Another Why is curling better than sex?**

Because with curling, at our age, a really good time still can last two hours.

## Contributions Encouraged

If you have something you'd like to see in "Extra Ends" or an item you would like developed, please feel free to pass the information to Chris Rose via email at: [chrisrose@rogers.com](mailto:chrisrose@rogers.com) or leave written material in the Venerables file folder in the Tam Heather office under the "R" and we will see what we can do.

## Upcoming Events

- Because **Mini-Majors** are playing at Tam Heather on the morning of Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, our games are only 6 ends with the first start time at 12:30p.m.
- Sign-up for **Valentines with the Ladies** continues until February 5<sup>th</sup>. The Spiel is set to take place February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- And the **Eric Downer Memorial Open Stick Spiel** is set for February 27<sup>th</sup>.

And from Gary Norris

We are proceeding with the Jim Young and Ross Ellis Bonspiels on Monday February 4, 2013.

Due to a reduced number of entries I have revised the draw to be only a single draw with 2 eight end games with an on ice time of 9AM for the first game, lunch at 11:30AM and on the ice for the second game at 1PM. Expect to get you back on the road home by 4PM. **All teams will play the 1<sup>st</sup> game at 9am and the 2<sup>nd</sup> game at 1PM.**

We will still have the 2 sections playing at the same time but they will still only play against teams within the section the registered for (the open – Jim Young or the grand masters – Ross Ellis).

Please advise your teams of the change in draw time and we look forward to seeing you at Tam on Monday February 4 with coffee and muffins at 8AM prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> game at 9AM.

Teams Registered are;

**Jim Young – Open section**

**Ross Ellis – Grand Masters – Team total age 280+**

Carson Klinck – Tam

Ray Moffitt – Tam

Bill Goodchild – Toronto Police

John Wilson – Tam

Jim Downs – Tam

Gord Rawsley – Leaside

Tony Baker – Tam

Cam Cowan – Tam

Gordon Barry – Unionville

Mike Vince – East York

Ryk Weber – Tam

George Smith – Uxbridge

Ron Cowper – Tam

Bill Fitz – Tam

David Findlay – Dixie

Bob Griffith – Tam

Many thanks to the teams that have entered this year. If you have any questions, please contact Gary as soon as possible.