



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 26, Issue 2

November 2024

RKCC to host U20 provincials

RKCC is preparing to host the Under-20 (U20) Men's and Women's Provincial Championships from January 29 to February 2, 2025.

The U20 provincials will feature the top eight men's and women's teams from across the province, each vying for a chance to represent their province at the New Holland Canadian U20 championships to be held March 22-30 in Summerside, PEI.

Over the past few years, RKCC has developed a solid relationship with Curling Ontario and a reputation for the quality of events it hosts. In addition to showcasing Ontario's best young curlers, these events provide revenue for the host club. The success of these events, of course, depends on the generosity and commitment of RKCC's own member volunteers and the U20 provincials will be no exception.

Volunteers will be needed to assist with welcome table, opening ceremonies, timers, food service, banquet serving and cleanup. To volunteer, please e-mail Murray Matheson at mcmcanuck@gmail.com. We will also be launching an "Adopt a Team" program for club members, or teams, to sponsor the participation of one of the U20 teams at the championship. Details will be out shortly.

We're also looking for local sponsorship. If you or your organization can assist, please contact Murray at mcmcanuck@gmail.com. The details of the local sponsor program are below.

Promotional Opportunities	"Naming Rights Sponsor"	"Community Partner"	"Sponsor"
Number of Sponsors in this Category	1	8	16 max
Event Program (paper and digital)	Name & Logo on Covers	Inside ¼ Pg	Listed
RKCC Lounge Table Sign	Name & Logo	1/8 page	Listed
Ice Shed Glass Posters (2 Large)	Name & Logo	Logo	N/A
Media Releases	Naming rights	Listed	Small
Social Media	Yes	Yes	Yes
RKCC Website	Large	Medium	Small
Participants Gift Bag Opportunity	Yes	Yes	Yes
Membership E-Mail Notice	Prominent	Secondary	Listing
Recognition at Opening Ceremonies	Yes	Yes	N/A
Sponsorship fee	\$2,000	\$500	\$200



John Epping delivers a rock, while Lisa Weagle prepares to sweep.

Weagle-Epping sweep inaugural Cashspiel

The Royal Kingston Mixed Doubles Cashspiel proved to be a welcome addition to the Ontario Mixed Doubles Curling Tour. Held November 9 – 10 at RKCC, the newest addition to the tour welcomed 14 teams from Ontario and Quebec, plus one from the U.S., and one from Mexico for four pools of four teams each.

Each event on the Tour provides a chance for teams to earn points on the Canadian and World Mixed Doubles rankings. The highest ranked teams at the event were Jessica Zheng and Victor Pietrangelo from Niagara Falls, ranked 10th on the World Curling Team Rankings, and Lisa Weagle and John Epping, 17th.

Also in the mix were two teams from Royal Kingston: Denise Mulville and Anthony Hale, and Melissa Wong and Corey St-Laurent.

Wong and St-Laurent met the top-ranked team in their first game but bounced back from that loss to win their next game 8-1 over Meaghan Mallett and Brendan Jackson from Ottawa. Their next qualifying game was a loss to Mackenzie Kiemele and Graham Singer from Toronto, who would go on to the finals on Sunday.

Mulville and Hale swept their pool with a 3-0 record but succumbed to Zheng/Pietrangelo in the quarter-final.

In the semi-finals, Weagle/Epping defeated Zheng/Pietrangelo and Kiemele/Singer eliminated Lynn Kreviazuk and Dave Mathers of Toronto.

Weagle and Epping took the championship with a 7-3 win over Kiemele and Singer, who conceded defeat after the seventh end.

The tier-two event at RKCC was open to 24 teams, and organizer Anthony Hale hopes to achieve that number next year. The Royal Kingston Mixed Doubles Cashspiel was the only mixed doubles event on the Ontario Mixed Doubles Curling Tour in eastern Ontario and one of only 10 Tour events in the province.

Thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to the success of the event and, in particular, to icemaker Gary Cound, who overcame some difficult conditions to ensure keen, competition-worthy ice with the help of Mada Bender and Denis Faubert.



The champs, from left, Kerry Johnson, Eric McLean, Bob Grant (skip), Dan Lahey.

Sponsored by Chartwell Conservatory Pond Retirement Home

Team Grant takes 37th Annual Limestone Senior Men's Invitational

By Dave Leeson and John Whitaker

Being close to Hallowe'en, perhaps no one should have been surprised to see a Team Frankenstein in the Limestone Senior Men's Invitational Bonspiel, held October 26. Due to Gananoque's last minute cancellation because of COVID, Team Frankenstein was pieced together with players from Napanee, Cataraqui and RKCC.

But Team Frankenstein (and the rest of the field) was no match for Team Grant from RKCC who won the event. Congratulations to skip Bob Grant, vice Kerry Johnson, second Eric McLean and lead Dan Lahey.

Terry Zarichny from Cataraqui (with Tyler Rider from RKCC) skipped his hybrid team to a second-place finish and Wayne William from Cataraqui took the bronze.

We were delighted to have had two teams from the Ottawa Curling Club and several hybrid (by choice) teams.

Chartwell Conservatory Pond Retirement Home rejuvenated their sponsorship by providing a delicious sandwich bar lunch, and they also donated a couple of beautiful (and scrumptious) gift baskets that were raffled off as part of the 50/50 draw.

With more clubs opening later due to warmer October weather, we hope to move the Limestone to post Hallowe'en in future years. But Team Frankenstein will always be welcome.

Come join in the fun!

Inter Club Friendlies 2024-2025

The Inter Club Friendly series is comprised of RKCC and the three curling clubs to our West - Napanee District Curling Club (NDCC), Quinte Curling Club (QCC) in Belleville and Picton's Prince Edward Curling Club (PECC). Each club provides two teams to curl in the series. The team can be any combination of players. Games are at 1:30 on Fridays and snacks will be provided after the conclusion of the game. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the men's bulletin board 10 days prior to each of the league games. RKCC hosted on October 25 and will host again on January 10.

The remaining ICF dates for 2024-2025 are: November 29-QCC, December 13-PECC, January 10-RKCC, January 31-NDCC or QCC, February 21-PECC, March 14-QCC



Enjoying the 'Friendlies' – A Participant's Perspective (by Jim Rayner)

On October 25, RKCC hosted the first games of the 2024-25 Inter Club Friendlies. Once again, the participating clubs were Royal Kingston, Prince Edward Curling Club from Picton, Napanee Curling Club and Quinte Curling Club from Belleville. Excitement was evident amongst the players as they arrived at RKCC to once more run into old curling buddies that they had not seen since last spring at the end of the 2023-2024 Inter Club Friendly series. Each club attending sends two teams to each of the eight events planned for the year, so we always have four full sheets of play at each event. The games this year are planned several weeks apart and each club hosts two events.

The teams were set up by each club prior to attending and the host chair made sure the draw was ready, and sheets assigned in advance, so no time was wasted and the games got under way right on time. The draw is always random, and no team plays against the other team from their own club. The main goal of the friendlies is the social aspect of this great game. Getting together with other curlers from our neighbouring clubs is a great way to meet new people, enjoy a lighthearted "friendly" game on ice and partake of that great social aspect of curling after a friendly game. The scoreboard is only used to let everyone know how far along they are in their game. The only things that matter in our friendlies is that we all have fun, get to meet new people, renew old acquaintances and get some exercise while enjoying the day. After the fun, and exercise, we all retire to the warmth of that lounge and have a refreshing drink, some pleasant chatter and perhaps a snack put on by the host club.

All in all, our first event was certainly a success and if you have not played in on of these events, you should give it a try. All RKCC members are welcome to participate and ideally, the teams we send will be different from event to event so everyone can join in on this fun experience. The signup sheet is usually put up on the "men's" bulletin board about two weeks in advance of each event. Just sign up and note your desired position. You will be contacted and advised of the team makeup in advance of the game date.

Our convenor is Linda Lott and she can be reached at spyderlott@sympatico.ca

Come join in the fun and enjoy playing in a "friendly"

Stick Section Update

By Kathy Jackson, Convenor

The two-person stick league wrapped up the first draw on Wednesday, November 20. Updated standings for this draw are posted on the Stick bulletin board. The second draw will see some teams moving up or down based on standings and the groupings within the B division will be shuffled so that people play different teams in the second draw. That draw will run from November 27 to December 11, break for the holiday period, and resume again on January 8 for a few more weeks. The final draw for the season will start at the beginning of February.

The four-person stick league is halfway through the first draw. At present, David Townsend's team sits atop the standings with an undefeated record. Three teams are tied for second with a record of four wins and two losses.

As is the case in many leagues, spares are needed on a regular basis, especially with the flu and COVID making their presence felt at the Club. If you are interested in sparing in either stick league, please put your name on the spares list on the website.

Takeout Speed - Safety First at All Costs



The directors of the Canadian Stick Curling Association held their annual general meeting April 17, 2024 during the national 2-person Stick Curling Championships at the Leaside Curling Club in Toronto. At that meeting, a motion was passed to limit the weight of takeout shots. It was determined that the minimum time between hog lines would be set at eight seconds with a margin of error of a minimum of seven seconds.

The motion by the Director, Rules and Events, noted that "extreme weight takeout shots put competitors at risk". Extreme weight takeout shots also send rocks careening on to adjacent sheets, endangering curlers and disturbing stones in play.

This decision is for the 2025 championships only at this time, but it was recommended that curling clubs across Canada consider proposing this to their stick leagues.

At its fall meeting in early October, the RKCC Stick Section decided to implement this speed limit in both 2-person and 4-person stick play. So far, everyone seems to be adhering to this recommendation and successfully removing rocks from the house even with less speed. With safety a primary concern, we believe that this change is in the best interest of all curlers.

First draw in the books for Evening Women's Club and Flight Leagues

By Karen Matheson, Evening Women's Leagues Convenor

Evening Women's curling started out slowly as we all got back in the hack and got used to being indoors on such beautiful fall days.

Evening Women's flight has 75 members making up 17 teams. We are having a full round robin as we have many new teams this year. Our Evening Women's team of Laura Brown, Kaitlyn Welch, Vanessa Cooper and Eric Simpson represented our club at the 2024 Everest Provincial Curling Club Championship in October.

Evening Women's Club started out strong with 10 teams competing in the first draw. The winner was the team of Donna Smith, Tish Lavallee, Karen Peters and Pat Wideman (pictured at right). The second draw is only 8 teams, but expect the fun to continue.

Good curling to all as we head into the winter.



2024 Four-Person Stick *Festive* Funspiel

Everyone had such a good time last year, it's back for a repeat performance!

Join us for a fun, friendly afternoon of stick curling. All participants will use a stick to deliver their rocks.

Teams to be comprised of experienced and less-experienced stick curlers.

Two four-end games with lunch between the games. Dessert, beverages & fun prizes to finish.

Wednesday December 18, 2024 from 11:00 to 4:00pm

Red & Green Theme

Sign-in commencing at 10:45am. Short mini-clinic to demonstrate and practice stick delivery at 11:15am.

Registration details:

- \$20.00 per person
- Register as an individual (teams to be formed by the convenors)
- Maximum 48 curlers + waiting list
- Registration & payment deadline: Wednesday December 4, 2024
- Register online at RKCC Events
- Submit payment to the RKCC manager's office or by e-transfer. If paying by e-transfer, send email to rkcc.payments@gmail.com and include the name of the bonspiel in the notes.
- Event Refund Policy applies.



Contact Person: Kathy Jackson

kj1@queensu.ca

Returning for a second year

The Four-person Stick Festival Funspiel

After a very successful inaugural event last December, the Four-Person Stick Festive Funspiel is returning for a second year on Wednesday, December 18. This event will be the final event on the stick league schedule for the fall. All RKCC members are invited to participate ... but you must deliver your rocks with a stick, regardless of whether this is the way you usually deliver your rocks. Last year about half the participants in the Funspiel were new to throwing with a stick. We hope to see a similar turnout again this year.

This social-focused event will feature two four-end games with a delicious lunch served between the games. The day will wrap up with dessert and some fun prizes.

A brief introduction to delivering the curling rock with a stick in the form of a short mini clinic before the games commence will be incorporated for 'first-time' and novice stick throwers.

Registration is now open on the RKCC website. We hope you will consider joining us.

For further information, contact: Kathy Jackson, David Townsend or Tom Sephton
Stick League Committee

RKCC BOOK CLUB

**IF YOU ENJOY
READING, RKCC
HAS THE CLUB FOR
YOU!**



**OUR BOOK CLUB MEETS ONCE A MONTH. JOIN
US FOR INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS AND TREATS.**

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 12.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

rkccbookclub@gmail.com

Curling Club Membership by the Numbers

By Peter Coughlin, Chair, Communications Committee, communications@royalkingston.com

When you think about the member profile and curling clubs across Canada, RKCC is no exception. The business of curling means knowing who your members are, understanding how they participate and using effective strategies to bring in new curlers to enjoy the sport. Others have described how it is important to build upon the social aspect of the game and continue to recruit new members, who can financially support the club. Curling Canada has prepared several documents focused on membership and recruitment and if you are interested, these are available on line often under the topic of “the business of curling”.

This short article brings some of our local membership data into focus.

RKCC’s total membership has slowly increased in the last three years, as noted here:

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
564	581	588

In 2024-25, our membership by age grouping (for the 588 members) is here:

Age Category	# of Members
5-10	17
11-20	37
21-29	18
30-39	49
40-49	41
50-59	89
60-69	182
70-74	77
75+	74
Not reported	4
Total	588

A couple of notes here – there are six social members included in the 75+ category, who do not participate in curling. You may also recall that the club no longer collects information on gender when members register, so we are not able to describe age groupings by gender.

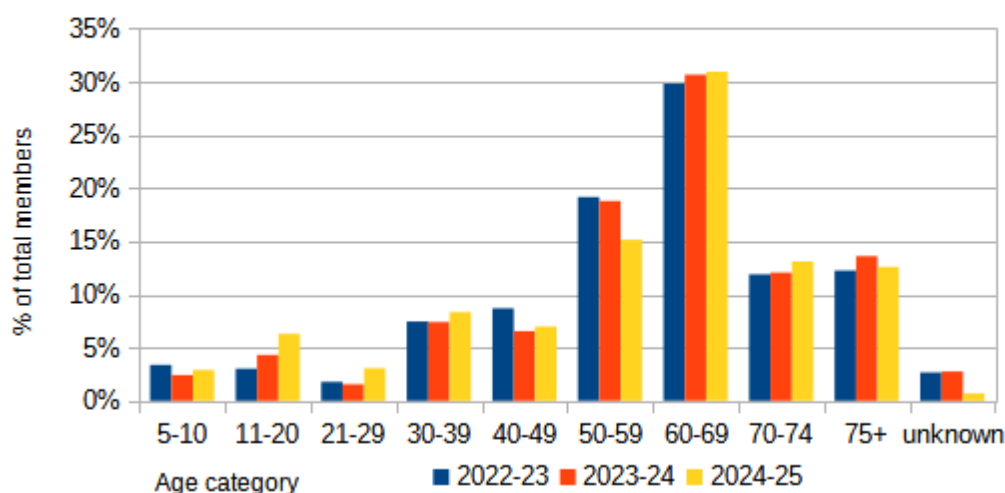
To drill a bit further into the question of age groupings of our members, we have a graph illustrating the age cohorts of our membership base, with a comparison over the last three years from 2022-23 until the current season.

Continued on page 9

Membership, continued from page 8

We notice that the age grouping including all membership categories, has not shifted too much. The 60-69 being the largest group in the club and this is probably no surprise to members. However, if you add up the three age categories from 60 to 75+ years of age, that combined “cohort” is 56.6% of the total club membership. This might lead you to some observations and next questions.

Member by Age Category comparison
of last three years



- boomer” adults make up a large percentage of our general population; so in some instances this aligns with our demographics of our country;
- This group often has more recreational time and financial resources available;
- They usually prefer not to curl later in the day
- Older members might be more willing/available to volunteer to help the club
- Would older curlers be willing to curl early in the day? Maybe curling schedules are different than securing an early morning tee time or an early morning exercise class at the gym.

Nearly 44% of our membership are under sixty years of age, this means some different planning and programming to help grow this number.

In the “business of curling” a key group are curlers between 30-49 years of age. At RKCC over the last three years, this group makes up only 7.5% of our total membership. Most business analyses identify the 30-49 year old group as a prime demographic target – they are looking for a sociable, healthy, fun sport that fosters a sense of community. Their time is valuable and curling clubs are competing for their recreational funds. This group may not have the same time pressures of younger curlers in their 20’s who are starting careers and perhaps have small children at home.

Maybe our planning needs to create more curling opportunities for this group, with shorter games, a focus on a sense of belonging and enjoyment of the sport.

This short article is a catalyst to get you thinking about ways that we might grow our membership in new directions. Talk this over with your curling friends after the next game, watch for an opportunity to volunteer and if you have suggestions, we are glad to hear from you.

The Royal Kingston Curling Club invites you to a

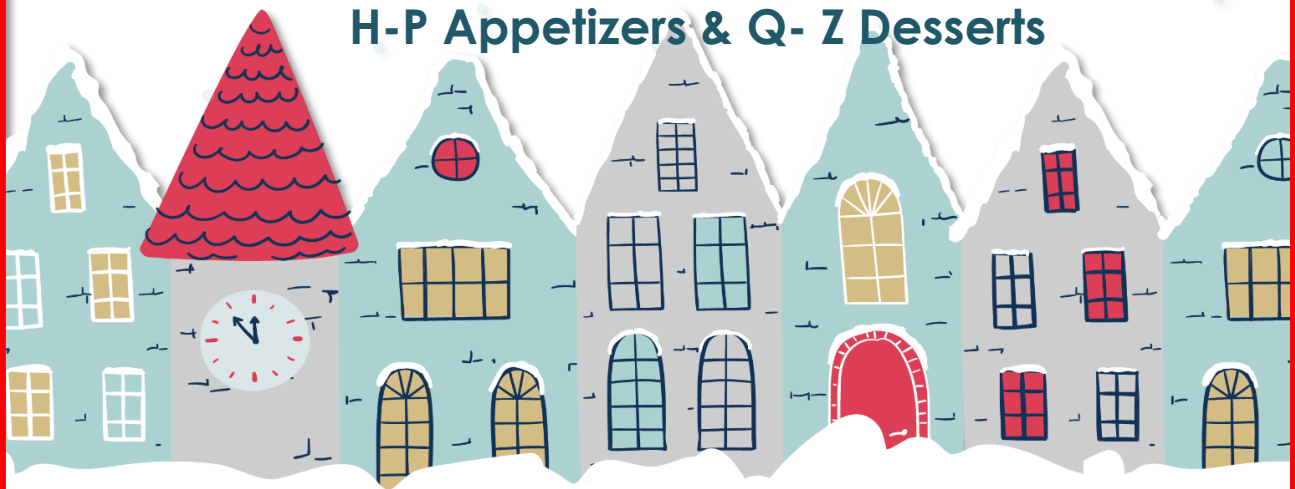
Holiday Potluck

Sunday, December 15, 5:30 pm,
RKCC Lounge

**Celebrate the Season with Friends and Teammates.
Please bring your own cutlery and plates**

Surnames A-G Mains

H-P Appetizers & Q- Z Desserts



The RKCC Social Committee invites You to an

International Wine & Cheese Tasting

Saturday, January 11 at the RKCC

7:00 - 9:00 pm

4 wines and 3 cheeses

Cheeses from Cooke's Fine Foods

The tasting is hosted by **Ian Nicholls**,

Sommelier with County Sips

Members and Guests are to
register online by Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Cost \$45 per person

Questions: rkccsocialclub@gmail.com



RKCC SPECIAL EVENT

IMPROVE YOUR CURLING SKILLS WITH LISA WEAGLE

Save the date for

Saturday February 8 2025



**MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON**