

# On the button

CAPE COD CURLING CLUB  
Falmouth, Massachusetts

Co-Editors: Artie Howe (ahowe@comcast.net) and Donna Pijanowski (donna.pijanowski51@gmail.com)

*A message from the*

## PRESIDENT



*Todd Benedict*

I hope all have had a joyous and safe holiday season.

It hardly seems possible that a new season is now before us. It has been busy with teams competing in away bonspiels, in-house tournaments, and busy at league play as well. Since I've been unable to compete this session I've seen many games from the warm room. It's been rewarding to see so many newer curlers on the ice, and more experienced curlers helping them. This is certainly what the sport is all about and we at Cape Cod do it well!

The Ice Crew will be under new leadership in the new year. Frank Balas, is stepping down after many years on the ice crew both as a worker and head Ice Man. Bill Gallagher will assume that responsibility, but Frank will remain on the crew and continue to be a valuable asset.

Frank has been on the ice crew for as long as I can remember. He has worked an incredible number of hours making great ice and making improvements inside the ice house as well. He was instrumental in getting the new scraper, replacing the walks along the sideboards, intensifying pebble & nip training, and purchasing new stones, along with countless other improvements.

Frank has served the club as a Past President, Ice Man, and Bonspiel Chairman. He was active in the construction of the new warm room, built the new bar, and made many other contributions to our club. I want to thank Frank for his continued dedication, for being a noble competitor... and my friend. Well done buddy!

Thanks to all who volunteer in the club's many activities, making my job easy and stepping forward when things need to get done. It's a wonderful feeling to observe people contributing their time. We are equal partners in the club and it takes many hands. It is this effort and pride that makes us a great organization.

Happy New Year!

Todd Benedict, *President*

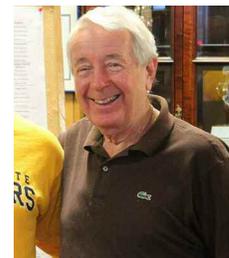
## GNCC Senior Men's Championship comes to Cape Cod

*by Frank Balas*

Our club will be hosting the 36th playing of the GNCC Senior Men's Championship Bonspiel on January 26-29 this year.

The "Seniors" is open to all men in good standing with the GNCC and 55 years of age. Players are all entered as members of a team and in most instances but not necessarily all from the same curling club. It is an annual four-event bonspiel that is rotated among all GNCC clubs.

Due to the size of the spiel, usually between 16 and 20 teams, it tends to be hosted by 2-3 sheet clubs. This year there seems to be more interest in the spiel and as of this writing, we have 26 teams participating. This would be the largest number of teams in several years.



*George Austin, Ardsley*

If you have time available, you ought to come down and watch several of the games.

Notwithstanding that it's a "senior" bonspiel, many participants have been playing for twenty years or more, with a history of playing many spiels each year. As a result, the level of play and strategy remains

high and is enjoyable to watch. For example, one of the annual participants in the "Seniors" (admittedly, with three younger studs) won the 2016 USCA Club National Championship.

One of the special things about the "Seniors" is it brings together friends who have curled against each other over the years, so it has a bit of an annual re-union flavor to it.

We generally need a few subs during the spiel. If you are not playing and want experience what it is like to play at this level, you can sign up as a sub by contacting Frank Balas (978-265-1498 or fpbalas@gmail.com).



*John McCarthy, Cape Cod*

# All about Archie Bruce

*The special relationship between Ardsley and Cape Cod*

by Geoff Broadhurst—Ardsley Curling Club—January 7, 2012

It was 10 years ago (2001) that Archie died. Time tends to muddle our memory; so I wanted to recall Archie here in black and white.

We all knew that Archie had a wonderful ability to entertain with stories, acting, jokes and his harmonica. Archie loved curling and he did much to grow the sport.

St. Andrew's Curling Club was about a mile away from Ardsley and in 1987, Jack Nicklaus bought the St. Andrew's Country Club to redesign the golf course and build condos. He asked the curlers to vacate the

rink for two years during construction. But the construction ran into building problems with the unions and Jack resold his project back to the banks who reneged on allowing the curlers to come back. Even New York Governor Malcolm Wilson, a member of St. Andrew's, was unable to reverse the bank's decision.

St. Andrew's curlers were now curling at Ardsley. Archie never gave up trying to rebuild St. Andrew's somewhere in Westchester County. He and his great pal Don McKay founded the Westchester Curling Association to find a new curling site. Architect's drawings were done by our Bill Switzer but Westchester Parks officers refused to consider a curling facility.

In 1995, I was president of Ardsley Curling Club and Archie was to be my successor but he retired from International Paper Co. and moved to Falmouth. Lots of Ardsley, Caledonian and Mahopac curlers retire to Falmouth because of the Cape Cod Curling Club. At that time, CCCC was just surviving mainly because they ran three summer bonspiels and made a handsome profit to pay the next winter's bills.

Archie and Shirley joined Cape Cod which was started by Dr. Dave Dewees in 1974. It was Archie's charm and friendly persuasion as the new club president to slowly change the ways of the old guard, and the Cape Cod Curling Club boomed.

Archie and Russ Lemcke became team "Frick & Frack" to advertise and grow Cape Cod Curling Club. Before Don McKay died in 2004, he created the *Archie Bruce Friendly* bonspiel. The competition alternates each year between Ardsley and Cape Cod. This two game event pits three teams from each club to count the most stones. The club with the highest stone count would win the *Archie Bruce Stone Trophy*. The team from either club that counted the most stones in one game would win an *Archie Bruce Pin*. You can honor Archie Bruce by taking part in his bonspiel.

Save the date:  
**Archie Bruce  
Friendly**  
January 7,  
2017

## Wheelchair USA Team Red Wins Gold at Utica

by Tony Collachio

### 11th U.S. Open International Bonspiel

The Utica Curling Club in Whitesboro, NY hosted the 11th US Open International Bonspiel on December 2-4. Six US teams and five Canadian teams participated in the event. In the final gold medal round, team USA Red was matched against Canada's Team Nova Scotia and came away with an exciting victory!!

Congratulations are also due to team USA Blue for their performance finishing third and securing the bronze medal after winning their final game against Canada's Team Lenoxville from the Province of Ontario. Our USA Blue Team was comprised of Steve Emt, Cape Cod; Kirk Black, Madison WI; Penny Greely, Green Bay WI, and Pam Wilson, Denver CO.

Our congratulations to all of you on a great performance by these USA Wheelchair Teams!



Seated from Left: Justin Marshall, Madison WI; James "Jam" Joseph, Utica NY; Mathew Thurs, Wausau WI; and Meghan Lino, Cape Cod. Standing in the rear is USCA National Wheelchair Coach, Steve Brown.

## Can you guess who this person is?

Some might consider him "dashing," a great member and volunteer for our club. During his past, in addition to his career position, he has held more jobs than one might imagine: fireman, ambulance driver, pilot, concrete truck driver, bulldozer operator, roofer, EMT, union official, printer/die cutter, driver ed instructor, and most recently, a gas station attendant. Can you guess who this is?

(answer on page 4)

# Chris Mix 2016

by Kenny Thomson

The 2016 Chris Mix in house bonspiel was held Friday, Dec. 9 to Sunday, Dec. 11.

The Tuesday 4pm League and Friday Mixed Doubles league were responsible for this spiel, chaired by Kenny Thomson and co chair Eric Thunberg, assisted by a team of about 30 volunteers.



The sign up for the bonspiel closed in just 3 days with 14 teams and a healthy sub list. Team names were created on the theme of Merry Christmas from 14 languages around the world including Afrikaans, Somali, Danish, Irish and Welsh to name just a few.

We began with a first draw double hit Christmas box.

Saturday saw the return of the Ugly Sweater competition, a keenly contested competition with lots of delightful Christmas combinations. The field was narrowed down to the best or worst three sweaters of the bunch, and saw John McCarthy, Nathan Adams and Paul Ketchum paraded in front of a busy warm room. The winner by pop vote was Paul Ketchum in a lovely light blue and pink Christmas number supplied by his Vice Cathy Uhl. His prize was a bottle of Prosecco.

Meanwhile back on the ice some good curling was taking place, and a marvelous lunch of 3 choices of Chilli, Reuben sandwiches, cold cuts and cookies was served up by a team of volunteers .

Sunday began with the 3rd sheet 4th event points final. Then the main event followed with Piper Lou

leading the finalists onto the ice, where all three matches were keenly contested.

It was a great weekend of curling, with lots of fun had by all the participants. Thanks to all who volunteered and members who cooked and baked food and goodies for the meals.

Winners were as follows:

**1st event winner:** Team Gesendee Kersfees skipped by Rich Lousararian

**1st event finalist:** Team Sretan Bozic skipped by Meghan Lino

**2nd event winner:** Team Joyeaux Noel skipped by Paul Ketchum

**2nd event finalist:** Team Glaedelig Jul skipped by John McCarthy

**3rd event winners:** Team Nadolig Llawen skipped by Coco Wellington

**3rd event finalist:** Team God Jul skipped by Bob Ottaviano

**4th event winner:** Team Nollaig Shona skipped by Paul Soufolis

**4th event finalist:** Team Nollas Chridheil skipped by Barbara Enos

## Late Breaking - Iron Man Curling Results!

A one-day bonspiel! Fun it was, as conceived and organized by Gabby Bruce. Eight teams competed all day with Team Barzilai- Chuck Branes, Phil Bruce, James Newton, and Scott Fernandez winning first event. Age range of competitors... 14 to an amazing 87!

## More Arena Curling Clubs in the Planning Stages

by Russ Lemcke

Given increasing popularity for the sport and high costs of building a dedicated facility, it is logical for curling clubs to form at ice arenas. We have several nearby, in Cranston RI and Bridgewater, Hopedale, Marlboro and Nantucket MA.

We have been approached by the Charles Moore arena in Orleans and a planned sporting complex in Hyannis about getting clubs started there. The Charles Moore arena has set Saturday, February 18 for their first learn-to-curl session with plans to begin curling in the fall of 2017. The Hyannis facility will come later.

We are helping them get going and will need eight trainers for the full day Saturday, February 18 to help out. So if you are interested, please e mail me at russlemcke@comcast.net.

Just as several members at Ocean State and South Shore also curl here, we have told both arenas they may expect some members to want to curl here, on dedicated ice. It will be no surprise if that happens.

Starting next fall, we plan to help a group start a club at the Steriti rink in downtown Boston.



## The Scot's are Coming!

Russ Lemcke and Committee

As an update on the last newsletter and recent e blast, plans are being finalized to welcome the US Scot's Men's tour here Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4. They will arrive around 9:00 pm on Friday, when we will give them a Cape Cod welcome.

Members are invited to come down and socialize with them. We have arranged with members to host them and are finalizing team selection for Saturday. There will be two games, one starting at about 9:00 am and the second about 1:30-2:00 pm. Club members and friends are welcome to come and cheer all on during the games. A lunch will be provided for the Scots, our curlers, our hosts and their spouses. Unfortunately we won't be able to accommodate other members at lunch, as this represents a full house for us. The Scots will head off later that afternoon to Broomstones and TCC for final matches and a closing banquet on Sunday. The last newsletter which is viewable online has more historical information on the tour.

# Curling for Charity

raises \$19,000 for the Falmouth Food Pantry

by Steve O'Neil

On Saturday November 19th, ten teams of novice curlers gathered at Cape Cod Curling Club to raise money for the Falmouth Service Center. Team's represented the Falmouth Fire Department, East Falmouth School, Recovery Champions, Longfellow Builders, a Religious group, Jill Neubauer Architects, Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, Kinlin Grover, local politicians and Woods Hole Yacht Club.

Four teams began the competition at 9:15 after our excellent ice crew prepared the ice. The teams played shortened games of three ends for their first game and four ends for their second game in a points competition. Each team was asked to throw one stone for a closest to the button in case a tie breaker was needed. The Politicians came the closest with the rock settling twenty-three inches from the button!

The finals entered the ice at 3:15 with the traditional bagpiper and a hearty toast of Drambuie followed by a rousing hip hip hooray cheer to Falmouth Service Center led by Tony Colacchio.

On sheet two playing for the championship were Woods Hole Yacht Club, Three Sheets to the Wind against the Religious group, Holy Rollers. At the end of the day Holy Rollers claimed bragging rights and will have their names engraved on the Curling for Charity trophy.

The real winner of the day was Falmouth Service



Center who were presented with a check in the amount of \$19,000! The warm room was filled with excited players and spectators for the day and several of the novice players are expressing an interest in becoming members of our club.

The Curling for Charity Committee of Steve O'Neil, Coco Wellington, Jeanie Yaroch and Russ Lemcke want to thank all the members that helped make the day so successful, trainers/coaches, ice crew, bar crew and all who sold and bought raffle tickets. *Thank you to all!*



Bob Reed & Kathy Devlin-Reed

## Restocked and Ready to Go!

We have restocked our diminishing supply of long sleeve tees, hoodies and zip hoodies in preparation for the new season. The long sleeve tees now come in white as well as blue. Plus we have added standard crew neck sweats. And of course we have our usual supply of brooms, shoes, grippers, gloves and other items to make your time on the ice safe and enjoyable.

## Washashore Results

by Joe Tamucci

The Washashore bonspiel was held on December 17th. This is a special club curling event where the primary purpose is to introduce newly graduating 'learn-to-curl' entry level members to our club and its members. This year we fielded 12 teams, along with 23 beginners. All teams played two, six-end games. One only had to walk into the club to see the large number of people having fun on both sides of the glass to see this event was a great success. It was a points spiel and the winners got trophies, but the big winner was the club, with a great crop of new curlers planning to join.

Congratulations to Kathy Colgan and her team of instructors, and Tony Colacchio with several wheelchair members that graduated among these promising new curlers. Thanks to the hosting Monday 4 pm League for keeping everyone fed, and the hard working ice crew too.



37 Highfield Drive, P.O. Box 396  
Falmouth MA, 02541 USA • Tel: (508) 540-2414  
email: [webmaster@capecodcurling.org](mailto:webmaster@capecodcurling.org)

*Answer to "Can you guess who this is?" – Dick O'Connor*