

# NOTES FROM THE ICE

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## WELCOME, CURLERS!

We're thrilled that you're joining us for each edition of our club newsletter!

There have been some changes made to the draws for the 2021-22 season.

Monday evenings will now be our Open Social, with combined men's and ladies' play. Teams will have a balance of men and ladies weighted according to registrations for the draw.

Thursdays will be a Mixed League, with two ladies and two men playing in alternating positions.

Friday evenings are also changing, with another open league being created. However, couples may register as a pair and will be able to play together. Teams will be balanced and assigned based on registrations.

Details will be posted on the website soon, so please stay tuned!



## MEMBER PROFILE: MARTINE PILON, ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Martine was in the market to pick up a winter sport, so was happily recruited by Amy Cruickshank and Pam Lalonde when they were encouraging colleagues to consider the Learn to Curl program and she's been hooked ever since.

The Learn to Curl program meant that Martine had time to work on her technique with some great coaches before diving straight into a game, which was important because, as Martine noted, "It's much harder than it looks on TV!"

The program gave her time to work on her sliding out and balance skills, and the repetition helped build confidence as Martine transitioned from stabilizer to broom. Among the many helpful drills learned during the program,

Martine found that learning to visualise a clock for reference when releasing the rock was particularly helpful.

When asked what Martine would tell anyone thinking of joining the sport, her answer was genuine: "DO IT! I met the nicest people through curling. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming. At the beginning, I was scared and intimidated to curl with new people, but everyone makes you feel comfortable and they're willing to help you with your game (even if they aren't on your team). Also, don't be scared to join the bonspiels as they are a ton of fun."

Martine told us that she got a little more than she expected by joining the club. "I enjoyed learning a new sport, of course, but most of all I loved meeting new people. Also, for the first time, I didn't mind losing as losers get a beer to soften the blow!"

Welcome to the club, Martine, and congratulations on your successful first year!

(Pictured above: Martine, Pam Lalonde, Amy Cruickshank)



UPCOMING EVENTS  
**CurlION Beginner Curling Clinics**  
 Sept 26  
 Oct 16



Thank you to The Benson Group for their ongoing support!



**MEMBER PROFILE:**  
**IAN BYBERG, ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

Ian took an interest in curling because of the 2010 Olympics, but it wasn't until eight years later, when the new university graduate moved to Cornwall and was looking for ways to meet people in his new city, that he found our club and tried out the sport.

A longtime hockey player, he thought curling would be an easy transition. He found out the hard way that he was very wrong. "The game is not, in fact, as easy as those Olympians made it look," he admitted.

Ian played in the Opening Bonspiel before starting the Learn to Curl program and loved playing in the other bonspiels last year, but it was in the

Learn to Curl program where he got comfortable with the different pieces of equipment, strategies, and details of the game.

He commented, "The Learn to Curl program provided a great foundation to teach the details of the game so that I could work my way into league play while feeling much more confident on the ice. Learning alongside other new curlers means there's less embarrassment about making mistakes. "It helps eliminate any nerves with starting out. The errors, wipeouts, wasted stones... they're all embraced and shared between the group, rather than owned by one person."

Like Martine, Ian also appreciated that the program instructors were both very helpful, as well as very experienced, and credits them with his development. "I want to send out a special thanks to Bill and Janice Sobering, and the late Lew Stanley, who worked with me every time they saw me on the ice to help me under-

stand the game better!"

He also credits the Learn to Curl program for teaching about good and bad misses, which helped him gain perspective about how a missed shot can still be valuable to your team. "This tip really changed my attitude and understanding of the game, because as most curlers know, beginners miss a lot of shots!"

As for advising anyone considering joining the sport, Ian said, "Without hesitation I would tell them to do it, and to join the learn to curl program! The beauty of the game is that it is so welcoming to everyone. It doesn't discriminate against age or gender either, or skill level for that matter. It can be played competitively or socially! There is no pressure to be a pro and in the right leagues it really is just about having a good time!"

While Ian had plenty of fun out on the ice, the members made a big difference for him, whether he was playing alongside them or sharing a drink afterwards (and occasionally before).

Congratulations and welcome, Ian!

**CURLING TERMINOLOGY**

**Double:** What you order at the bar when you're on the losing team.

Sign you're having a bad game: your skip consistently says, "Nice try!"

**CURLING FACTS**

Curling made its Olympic debut 74 years before it became an official sport!

**CURLING ETIQUETTE**

Not everyone has been lucky enough to benefit from our Learn to Curl Program, so we're going to be including some etiquette notes for those members who have to learn on the fly (or slide).

This month's note is part rule and part etiquette. Sportsmanship can be just as important as the rulebook when interpreting certain fouls, so we're highlighting one such situation this month.

A "burned rock" is a foul that occurs when a sweeper touches his or her teams rock while sweeping.

When a rock is burned, the opposing team has three choices:

- a) Ignore the foul;
- b) Rearrange the stones into whatever position the team thinks they would've finished in had the rock not been touched;
- c) Remove the burned rock from play.

**MEMBER NEWS**

We were saddened to hear word of the passing of three of our senior members earlier this year. We're remembering Dan Dubé and longstanding club members Wayne (Bummer) Macintosh and Don Lamorie, as well as honouring them with a donation to Hospice.

We realise that, in a year when gathering has been limited, news can be slow to travel. If you know of any member news that should be shared with the club, please feel free to submit it to us for inclusion.

**UP NEXT.....**

We're looking forward to working with our club historians to share some newsworthy details about our club's past.



Thank you for your support,  
RONA Cornwall!