

SPORTS

A little quieter at the curling club – for now

Karen Sotvedt

Throwing rocks



Middleton Curling Club was a little quieter this week, after several weeks of non-stop activity with preparations and hosting of two bonspiels – not to mention a Big Breakfast sandwiched in between.

The volunteers were stretched a little thin in January, because many club members were actually in the events, and several folks did double duty.

Ernie Killen, the head of the ice-making crew, was at the club early and late for days at a time; and Allen Morris was everywhere, helping Killen with the ice, grabbing his camera to take the official photographs and then spending some games glued to his computer in the club room to update the on-line curling scores in real time.

Bar Manager Les Smith was curling in the second event and would come off the ice and spend some time replenishing the bar before he could take a break. Jim Sotvedt was organizing teams for the draws, getting them on the ice, and scorekeeping while he tended bar.

It is the way of a small club – everyone pitches in and multi-tasking goes with the territory.

So this last week has been a welcome break, all the curling proceeding as usual but no other pressures beyond getting to your game on time.

Next week the activity begins again: members are travelling and events are also happening at the club.

The Afternoon League will have its annual Frank West Memorial Bonspiel, held in honour of a long-time member whose social life revolved around the club. The event has two six-end games with lunch in between, and the winning team gets a trophy and bragging rights.

Just the way things turned out, the afternoon curlers are also going to Bridgetown to curl in the first game of a home-and-home. So, it is a busy week for them, because despite the winter weather, once February begins curlers feel the need to get in as much play as possible with less than two months left in the season.

On Saturday, the annual Valentine Spiel, organized since its start by Dave and Nancy Acker, takes to the ice in a wave of red. Most curlers try to wear at least the appropriate colour, but others go all out with Valentine-themed head-gear or costumes. It is not unusual to find feathers or heart-shaped sequins on the ice – certainly not acceptable in official curling, but taken in stride by funspiel curlers.

Photos of the event will be posted and information on what is coming up can be seen at www.middletoncurlingclub.com

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.