



From the Board of Directors

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To help the Board with decision making, a member questionnaire was put on the website this past summer. It was made available in paper format early this season. There were 79 responses. More than a few took the time to respond at length to some of the open ended questions.

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There is a lot of information in the results. The Board will be considering that information over the next few months, in order to put together appropriate responses. We'll be sharing the questionnaire's numerical results in graphical form early in 2008 for all members to see.



Some general observations about the responders:

- Age distribution shows about 70% over age 45.
- About 2/3 were male and 1/3 female.
- Most have many years of curling experience.
- Most ranked themselves at club level rather than basic or competitive.
- Most plan to stay curling at YCC for many years.
- About 84% participate in YCC spiels and 68% in YCC social events.
- Most are happy with the current range of activities offered. About ¼ would like to see more activities such as ice clinics, strategy clinics, fun events, competitive events and social events.
- About 88% visit the website during the season, with half viewing it weekly or more often. Most use it for schedules and standings.
- 2/3 would like to see a spares available page on the website.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR HOUSE



Lise Carriere and Diana Elliott
are the
LUCKY WINNERS
of the Personalized Parking Spots
(so no parking!!)

New Year's Eve Party

Come Celebrate the New Year at the Curling Club.

\$20 per person and a pot luck dish.

Tickets available at the bar before Dec. 20.

Come and enjoy a pot luck dinner at 10:30 pm, and an evening with friends. Dancing, Cards, Special Egg Nog.



Battle of the Sexes—Saturday, January 5, 2008—9 to 5 pm
A chance for the two genders to challenge each other on the ice and in the lounge for bragging rights.
Spaces are FULL!

Please pay at the bar before Christmas to keep your space.

Men's Club Spiel—Saturday, January 12, 2008

Sign up on the Events Board downstairs.



**There is one practice ice available on Sunday's between 11 am and 3 pm.
This sheet of ice is to be booked through the Club Manager.**

**VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CLUB ACTIVITIES
WWW.YORK.CURLINGCLUB.CA**

Excerpts from...

STRATEGY – IT’S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE OR BRAIN SURGERY

by Bill Tschirhart (True North Coaching)

I don't personally know of any single topic that has been the focus of more discussion, consternation, frustration and salt & pepper shaker maneuvering than curling strategy. But, please notice the title. It's not rocket science or brain surgery!...Consider this. If your team shooting percentage is less than 50%, you don't make enough shots to worry about strategy. You need to focus on getting some technical assistance. If your team makes in excess of 85% of its shots, then you make so many shots, strategy again is of little consequence since I have yet to see a skip call a shot which is not going to improve the situation! But, if your team shooting percentage is between 50% & 85%, you need to make the most of those shots...Let's say that the opposition has a stone just biting the eight foot circle on the center line (which in essence means it's in front of the tee line). It's a lead stone and it's the only stone in play. Your plan is to deal with that stone. To ignore it and place your stone in another location would be a different plan and therefore different "strategy". I can think of six different "tactics" for the chosen "strategy" of dealing with that stone...Hit and stay, tap it to a position behind the tee line, hit and roll out (peel), freeze (i.e. draw to the stone), split the stone off the tee line keeping it and the shooter in the house, hit and roll to a position in the eight or twelve foot circles...Now try the tactics for the strategy of ignoring the stone...draw to the side of the house, place a corner guard, place a center line guard, deliver the stone purposefully through the house...Some of you keeners out there are rolling your eyes with some

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*From home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another.
The warmth and joy of Christmas brings us closer to each other.*
- Emily Matthews

Merry Christmas to you and yours from

Chisamore* & Johnston*

ROYAL LEPAGE
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* sales representatives, and curlers too! Contact us at 905-836-1212



"Happy Holidays"

At Christmas, play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year. Wishing you and yours all the best over the Holiday Season. Winning has always meant much to me, but winning friends has meant the most. See you in the New Year.

Brent Marks

Sales Representative

Royal LePage York North Realty, Brokerage



2005

www.brentmarks.com

Phone: 905-836-1212

Email: bmarks@rogers.com

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of the tactics...And that's precisely the point. There are factors that mitigate against one strategy over the other and one tactic over the rest...there are three that clearly stand out. They are END, SCORE and LAST STONE ADVANTAGE...But, to be sure, there are other factors...ice conditions, stone conditions, opposition skill level, your team's current skill level (you don't always bring your "A" game!), number of stones to be played in the end, fatigue, momentum, time of day. These factors will shuffle in importance. They constantly change as the game progresses. Being aware of the factors that are at or near the top of the list is a skill onto itself and clearly is one of the characteristics that sets one person apart from others as skip material. And, since we're on the subject of responsibility, let's get one item off the table right away. All members of the team should be aware and participate in the strategies and tactics a team employs. That does NOT mean that there's a committee meeting on the ice prior to the calling of every shot. Yikes no! But all members of the team, as you'll see, will play a key role in the process that goes into creating the strategic plan and the tactics to be employed. It's a simple four step process (this is the user friendly part)!

Go to http://www.curling.ca/learn_to_curl/adults_curl/intermediate/strategy.asp or watch for the next newsletter.

The Board has discussed having newsy type articles about members and their curling club experiences. If you are interested in submitting articles, please let us know.

The York Curling Club Newsletter is published four times yearly.

**READ THE NEWSLETTER ON-LINE AT
YORK.CURLINGCLUB.CA**