



Curling from an Umpire's Perspective

Rae Kells, International Curling Official

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International Curling Official
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Our Arch Supporters ... THANK YOU !!

Our speaker today was Rae Kells, a curling instructor for more than 32 years, a curling coach in three different provinces, the CODA representative for the Canadian Curling Association, and an official at 38 National and International Championships, including three Winter Olympics. In addition she was the recipient of the Sport Nova Scotia Volunteer Award in 1993, and the Ray Kingsmith Memorial Award for contributions to women's curling in Calgary.



Rae's presentation was to discuss a number of subjects within the curling world, covering the past and also the present. She began by noting that at the 1980 Brier, they decided to conduct a study and found that there were over 3,000 violations of various kinds. It was time to introduce Umpires to the sport, at least at National and International events.

In 1983 they came up with the idea of putting microphones on the curlers, and subsequently they introduced time clocks to speed up the events, and also electronic handles on the curling stones in order to highlight hog line violations. The handle innovation was a product of the University of Saskatchewan. These innovations helped make the games more media and public friendly which has led to television audiences increasing in recent years.

The "miked up" era has led to an interesting dilemma, as any bad language would be overheard by the audience. As any curler can attest, there are moments in the game when such words come to mind, so the Association introduced a \$500 fine for using bad language. Then the curlers would simply avoid a fine by taking off the microphone, thus reducing the "play by play" aspect to the audience. So they introduced another \$500 fine for taking off your microphone. So we can see a sort of compromise has developed.

Another issue today is the potential use of video replay in the curling game, such as is used in baseball and football broadcasts. The problem here is that only one sheet of ice is generally covered at any one time, so that while replay might be available for use on this sheet, it would not be available on the other sheets and thus an issue of fairness becomes involved.

Game and team sponsorship is another issue, as well as more involvement by television networks, as more and more events are being televised. For example the 5th end break, and brief breaks between ends for commercials, are now becoming the norm. In addition, there are many forms of advertising around the arena ... bumpers at the end of the sheets, on ice etchings,

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Rotary
Club of Calgary Chinook



March 3rd, 2015

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

Everyone was ably welcomed today by our Greeters, Norm Moro and Harry Nazarchuk, both over 35 year members of Chinook!

President Stephen started our meeting at 12:15. He introduced "Oh Canada" with Ruth Wylie on the piano, followed by Rotary Grace.

Stephen noted that Paul Gaudet was the Scribe for today's meeting so pass on any info destined for the ARCH to him. Today we had 71 in attendance which included 15 guests and visiting Rotarians, in addition to 56 of our own members. Norm was called upon to introduce and welcome our visitors. Lots of visiting Rotarians today: 6 from the South Club, 2 from Sarcee, and one each from Heritage and Downtown. Great to see them all.

Stephen called up Terry Green to introduce Joey Bleviss, representing the Calgary Poppy Fund and Veterans' Foodbank. Terry proceeded to present three donations: \$3,200 raised at the Rotary Remembrance Ceremony held last year at the Carriage House, \$3,000 raised by the Rotary Club of Calgary South, and \$1,000 raised by the Rotary Club of Heritage Park. Joey was happy to have the opportunity to thank everyone and to update us on all the good works such donations make possible. They are also proud to have met their \$3 million fundraising goal. Besides directly helping many families and individuals, they also provide assistance to other service providers such as the Dream Centre, Woman's Centre, Inn from the Cold, and many others.



John Barratt took over the Podium to announce our March Birthdays and Anniversaries. Happy Birthday to Graham Boone, Gwynneth Gourley, Linda Colclough, Stephen Pick, Rena St. Clair, and Garth Plunkett. Partners' birthdays include Guy St. Clair, Faye Green, Debbie McAuley, Margaret Langereis, and Judy Thompson. Our anniversaries for March include David and Margaret Irving (46th), Bill and Lana Worthington (42nd), Joe and Maya Jogia (42nd), and Ed and Diane McLean (27th). Best wishes to all!

Our 50-50 winner this week was Al Pettigrew, who donated the proceeds to the Club.

Peter Bickham took the podium as our Sgt at Arms and started out with a joke at the expense of blonds with questionable intelligence and a blind cowboy ... yes, an unlikely grouping but he pulled it off quite well. He proceeded to fine Hank for an etiquette violation, Ian Burgess for self advertising through having his picture in the Herald, and Dave Wiley for having the audacity of criticizing his Worship, Mayor Nenshi, by way of a letter to the Editor. Dave's reply cost him an additional loonie.

Good News/ Bad News:

John Charrett started off our News section by announcing his upcoming six week sailing trip to the U.K., Ian Burgess was proud of several newsworthy items including his picture in the paper, a winning night at Bridge and Gwen's return from the USA. Monty advised that his Past President's pin has gone missing so if anyone finds it, please let him know (this pin contains a diamond so is extra special). Hank donated to the pot to acknowledge his weekend of fun at the recent Rotary Curling Bonspiel held in Lethbridge, and George took the floor to do the same but to also announce that their team had won the Calcutta and so had a few extra dollars in their pockets. It was also announced that there was a new Interact Club being inaugurated today (sorry, I missed the sponsoring Club and school). Finally Garth Plunkett complained there was no wine on the Birthday table, an oversight for which somebody should be fined (not sure who).

Bart Dailley took to the Podium to introduce and welcome our guest Speaker, Rae Kells. However, before doing so, he told a very funny joke about a federal politician being compared to a horse. We have many a member who can tell a great joke but Bart is in a league of his own! Our speaker started her remarks by complimenting us on "having a great time".

President Stephen thanked our speaker and closed the meeting by wishing everyone a wonderful week.



Manon Mitchell, President of the Sarcee Club, and her husband ... they are chartering a new Interact Club at Tom Baines High School, with its focus being International Service.

Photos courtesy Ian Burgess

Proposed New Member

At the last Board meeting, the following new member proposal was accepted by the Board for membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook:

MAGGIE CHEN

Classification: Business Consultant

In accordance with Club Bylaws, Article XI, Section 5:

Method of electing New Members

"If no written objection to the proposal, stating reasons, is received by the Board from any member (other than Honourary) of the Club within seven (7) dates following publication of information about the prospective member, that person, upon payment of admission fee (if not Honourary membership) as prescribed in the bylaws, shall be considered to be elected to membership. If any such objection has been filed with the Board, it shall vote on this matter at its next meeting. If approved despite the objection, the proposed member, upon payment of the admission fee, shall be considered to be elected to membership."

Stephen Pick, President
403-938-2876 • stephen.rotary@ontheridge.ca

Literacy Month

March 10th
March 17th
March 24th
March 31st

Classification Talks
Syed Soharwardy, Founder, Muslims Against Terrorism
Dylan Jones, CEO, Canada West Foundation
Ken Keelor, CEO, Calgary Co-op

Magazine Month

April 7th
April 14th
April 16th
April 18th
April 21st
April 28th

Classification Talks
No noon meeting — April 16th meeting in lieu
Youth Services — **Thursday evening meeting**
Roadtrip to Rosebud — bus, lunch and "The Miracle Worker"
Adam Legge, President/CEO, Calgary C of C
John Gulak and Cindy Radu — Breaking the Silence on Mental Illness



Promote RI Convention Month

May 5th
May 12th
May 16th

John Hufnagel — 12:45 @ **McMahon Stadium** — **no lunch / no charge**
Andrew Hart, Ornithologist
President's Dinner @ **McKenzie Meadows Golf Club**
— **Saturday evening meeting**
No noon meeting — President's Dinner in lieu

May 19th

Rotary Fellowship Month

June 6th - 9th
June 16th

RI Convention, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Gregor Sprenger, Exchange Student 2014-15



Curling from an Umpire's Perspective

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various signs, etc. These often have to be removed or changed at various times throughout the game depending on the sponsor's agreement. Umpires constantly are on alert for anything which obstructs any of these signs as sponsors are paying for them to be seen. A Starbucks coffee cup had better not show up on air during the Tim Horton's Brier!

The sponsors' crests which are often on jerseys, hats and pants are all regulated as to size and locations permitted. A team must have the same patches in the same places and they must be approved up front. Any sponsorship must not conflict with local or current sponsors. For example a team couldn't wear a Mercedes crest on their clothing during the 2015 Brier as Ford is a major sponsor today.

To encourage young people to the sport, school classes are invited to major events so that they are introduced to the game and also to inject some youthful enthusiasm. While this has been a great idea, it has caused the Umpires some angst as on occasion some drinks were spilled onto the ice (thus the classes are now generally seated high up from the ice surface), and paper airplanes have been known to make unofficial landings in awkward places. All in all however, their enthusiastic attendance has been successful.

The Olympics are different however, as there are no commercial ads permitted at the event site. Also the number of Umpires is doubled as they cannot work an event where their own country is involved. Rae advises that Curling as an Olympic sport has been achieving strong television numbers so the future looks bright.

The new Brier format featuring a type of play-off between the Yukon, PEI and NS (only one of which would advance to the full tournament), was due to the new teams invited this year (Yukon and Team Canada, Nunavut declined) as the format can only accommodate 12 teams. Unfortunately both the Yukon and NS did not get to play further.

The presentation ended with a brief Q & A :

- Have players ever been ejected?
Yes, at the junior level for use of bad language.
- What differences have you noticed?
 - Used to have the players brought in to the sound of bagpipes; now they use rock music in an effort to attract a younger fan base.
 - More entertainment is now presented at events between ends and draws.
 - The 12 foot ring is now colored grey due to a branding effort by Curling Canada.



The walls in my flat, says Murphy, are so thin, that every time I ask my wife a question, I get three different answers...

O'Connell was staggering home with a small Paddy in his back pocket when he slipped and fell heavily. Struggling to his feet, he felt something wet running down his leg. "Please, God," he implored, "let it be blood!"

We had 9 Rotarians and 6 students in attendance at the March 6th Group Mentoring session at Fairview High School.

After a group circle discussion, the students led us through a stretching exercise to get us ready for the second half of the meeting. This was a "dance day"! Lucky for me I was still recovering from surgery so could sit out and just take photos for the Arch and other blackmail needs.

Bob Montgomery brought in his friend and square dance instructor Palma Heming. She led us through 16 different moves, and then the test at the end was a session with all the moves thrown in a varying sequence.

After this "old folks" dance session, one of the students, Brooklynn, led us through a "Hip-Hop" session. Another series of moves to learn and then combine at the end in a continuous routine. Not sure who was best at this among the Rotarians, but Hank stood out as perhaps the most innovative.

There will be a few weeks off before the next session due to exams and spring break. Next meeting will be on April 10th. Patricia presented each of the students with an "exam preparation kit" so they could all breeze through theirs as they came up. Thanks Patricia for organizing another great session.



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