



## ***T LINE TOPICS***

***JAN 26, 2005***

### **BONSPIEL NEWS**

**EMPIRE STATE BONSPIEL** Eighteen teams took to the ice January 13-16 to vie for the Empire State Medal which is awarded for the first event. The Empire has a long tradition beginning in 1954 when Ardsley, Utica and Schenectady joined together together to sponsor this event. Beulah Fitzgerald was instrumental in founding the Empire and this year Charlene and Jack Fitzgerald sponsored a fourth event in her honor.

The **DANCING NANCIES** waltzed their way to the finals and took the first event Empire Medal and the Schenectady Stone. Nancy Clancy skipped the winning rink with, Elaine de Ryk at three, Nancy Sage at two and our own Nancy Wurth at lead. The Runner-up Schenectady Cup was awarded to the Philadelphia team of Sandra Brown, Leslie Dudd, Susie Baldwin and Maggie McMahon.

Bette Sovik skipped her rink to victory in the second event to win the Hurd Brothers Cup. She had Carol Munro, Maxine Getty and Jane Caruvana. Another Schenectady team led by Dorothy Szymaszek took the runner-up Helen Hurd Trophy. Marie Pletenik was three, Fay Navratil second and Ursula Hilborn lead.

The third event, named the Ardsley Duck, was won by Cindy Brown of Utica and the Ardsley Duckling runner-up by Donna Horoschak's team from Potomac.

The fourth event, the Beulah Fitzgerald was awarded to the Norfolk team skipped by Deborah Lane-Olsen. Broomstones won the runner-up.

Many Schenectady members put in tons of hours to make the weekend fun filled and financially successful. The Committee members were Charlotte Colton, Carol Munro Michelle Mayhew, Cathy Haag and Charlene Fitzgerald.

Volunteers included Fran Rinella, Patty Robbins, Maxine Getty, Dion Warr, Curt Becker, Joe Lisuzzo, Victor Rodreguiz, Dotty Sheehan, Bunny Allaire, Ann Hartranft, Nell Burrors, Dot Dever, Keith Munro, Judy Mc Cullough, Ursula Hilborn, Fay Navratil, Carol Kennelly, Donna Mulig, Claire Brunkhorst, Jim Ridenour, Harriet Severenko, Ellen Shupe Bell and Al Doty. Bob Mulig did the draw and Charlie McCullough the beautiful draw board. Joyce and Tim Stah put the music together for us for Saturday night. It was fantastic and saved us from having to hire a DJ.

Congratulations to the committee, the volunteers and the auction donors for making the 51<sup>st</sup> Empire State Bonspiel such a huge success!!!

Nancy Wurth, Empire State Bonspiel Chairperson

**THANKS FROM CAROL MUNRO**, Auction Chairman----A great big THANK YOU to all SCC members who contributed so many great items for the Empire Auction. The auctions were a big success. The curlers had fun with the baskets and silent auction items. There were lots of goodies to choose from! We raised \$1240 from the auctions.

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**THE MITCHELL GOLD MEDAL** The 120<sup>th</sup> Mitchell Gold Medal, curled at the Utica Curling Club since 1916, was held January 13-16. The Schenectady Curling Club rink of Dean Wadland, Paul Wadland, Gus Stants and Doug Spring defeated Navan Curling Club of Ottawa to win The Mitchell Gold Medal for the first time since 1971. After five ends the score was 8-1. Navan picked up one in the sixth but conceded.

Schenectady beat the accomplished Rideau Curling Club 8-6 with Gus Stants making a brilliant draw around a front guard to the button and then a perfect guard to take the lead and eventually the match.

In the semi-finals Schenectady defeated the defending Mitchell winner from Ottawa Curling Club. Ottawa had won the Mitchell three out of the last four years. In a very competitive game, Schenectady built up a two- rock lead through seven ends with the hammer and held off the Champs for an 8-7 win to become the new champions.

The Schenectady rink would like to dedicate our victory in the Mitchell to the memory of fellow curler Gus Brunkhorst. Gus graciously passed on his invitation to the Mitchell last year to Gus Stants who put the rink together and as they say the rest is history.

Doug Spring

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**BRYAN FINK-132<sup>ND</sup> GORDON WINNER** Sixteen teams, including six SCC rinks, competed in the Gordon-Emmett Bonspiel this past week Bryan Fink of Broomstones Curling Club captured the coveted Gordon Medal with a 9-5 win over Gordon two time winner, Stuart Graves, also of Broomstones.

Bryan curled with Jon Soares at vice, Leo Holewa at two and his dad, Dave Fink at lead. Both Bryan and Dave were active SCC curlers before moving to Franklin, MA. Bryan was a competitive Junior curler and Dave served very successfully as a two term president of SCC and as an excellent curling instructor.

The final game was close until the eighth end when Bryan made a delicate angle rise takeout to score four against Graves. Graves was unable to make up the deficit in the last two ends.

Broomstone's Keith Dropkin team won the Rally Reid fourth event over Albany's Dave Ryan, Jr. The Dropkin rink will represent the GNCC in Chicago at the USSCA Men's Championship.

Ardsley's Bill Stopera, who curled with Jack Stopera, Dan Machold, and Chuck Deshaies prevailed in the second event Emmett over Pete Sheehan. Pete curled with Dave Spencer, Jim Colton and Dean Robbins.

Craig Mackinlay of Philadelphia defeated the SCC team of Tim Brooks, Victor Rodriguez, Dan Navratil and Jim Jordan to win the Mohawk Medal.

As Chairman of the Gordon I would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success! Breakfasts: Dotty Sheehan; Lunches and Snacks: Charlotte Colton; Friday Dinner: Curt Becker and Judy McCullough; Saturday Dinner: Joe Lisuzzo, Jim Colton, George and Kat Curtis, and Pete Hilborn; Gordon Book, Pete Sheehan; Ice Committee: Jim Ridenour and Pete Sheehan; Lead of the Year Spiel: Bob Mulig and Club Team Signs: Fred Mackintosh and Al Doty.

Charlie McCullough, Chairman 132<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Emmett bonspiel

COMING EVENTS -CRUE BONSPIEL - January 29<sup>th</sup>. This women's bonspiel is for Junior Skips. The first game will commence at 10AM. Lunch at 12PM and curling again at 2PM. Medals will be awarded to the winners.

COLTON-KERR-SZYMASZEK-HILBORN - This is our only women's weekend bonspiel. We are hoping to field eight teams. The bonspiel is traditionally held over Valentines Day weekend and begins February 12<sup>th</sup>. Lunch, dinner and lots of fun are included in this spiel. Don't miss it!!!! Carol Munro is chairing this event.

GNCC SENIORS – We will be hosting the GNCC SENIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP on February 3-6. Twenty- two teams from the Grand National will attend. The teams include Triangle, Philadelphia, Weston and four teams from SCC. Skips from SCC are Bob Mulig, Jim Holmblad, Charlie McCullough and Pete Sheehan.

Thursday evening there will be an opening cocktail party and we will serve substantial hors d' oeuvres. Saturday evening there will be an Italian Buffet. You are all invited to attend these events. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Draws on Thursday evening and all day Friday and Saturday with the finals on Sunday. Feel free to come and see how the "Old Timers" deal with curling surprises.  
Pete Sheehan, Chairman GNCC SENIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

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## ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

**VERIZON CELL TOWER – SCC** has been approached by Verizon with an offer to rent space behind the club to put up a cell tower.

After consulting with the board, members who are also members of Mohawk Club, and several attorneys, it was recommended that the board seek an early approval from the Mohawk board to avoid any entanglements associated with language attached to our deed related to erecting structures on our property.

Jim Colton carried our message to the Mohawk Club with an offer to attend any meetings and answer any questions. The Mohawk responded by indicating that the outgoing board felt that the membership would not support the erection of a tower and so disinclined to seek their approval. A new board will be seated with the new year.

We have contacted the company working on behalf of Verizon and have advised them of our activities to date. We also advised them that the SCC board supports this proposal, that we wish to continue to pursue it and that any potential concerns on the part of Mohawk Club will be more fruitfully addressed as a part of the permitting process than by bipartite discussion. We will keep you apprised of any additional developments as they occur.

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**CURLING STONE HANDLES** - You may have noticed that our handles come loose from time to time. The Ice Committee has been working on acquiring new rock bolts. We use “Kay Bonspiel” handles. These handles have a different type of bolt than the more standard “Curlex” handles that most clubs use. While we have been trying to identify a source for new bolts, a group of members has suggested that we replace these handles with the “Curlex” type. “Curlex” handles come with sheet and rock numbers permanently engraved. We can acquire these handles for CDN \$32 per handle. This group of members has offered to purchase two handles each, amounting to 16 stones. If the rest of us are like-minded, and the three remaining sheets can be similarly acquired, the board has consented to ordering the new handles with the donor’s name engraved. We have yet to receive a final cost estimate for the engraving, but it should be marginally above the \$32 price.

If you are interested in donating a handle, a subscription sheet will be posted in the warm room. This is an all-or-nothing proposition.

**THESE CHAIRS ARE NOT FOR ROCKIN’** - Many of our members have purchased new chairs for the warm room. They are functional, beautiful and not inexpensive. PLEASE be respectful of the chairs and try to refrain from leaning back on two legs. This motion puts undue torque on the spindles and legs which causes them to come unglued or break. At least one of these donated chairs has been damaged in this way.