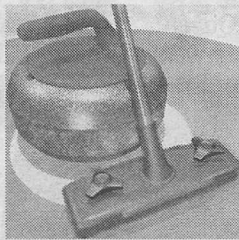


Hearts in evidence at annual MCC Valentine Funspiel

Curling is good for your heart, and hearts were much in evidence this past weekend at Middleton Curling Club for the annual Valentine Funspiel. Open to all members of the club, and their family and friends, the event often fields members from all leagues from Juniors right through to Seniors, as well as a few first-time curlers and friends from other clubs.

This past weekend was no exception. Run for many years by Nancy and Dave Acker, the bonspiel gives curlers two six-end games, a lunch, treats, and prizes for everyone. The club is decorated with hearts and so are some of the curlers. This year's "best dressed" went to Wayne and Liz Schurman, wearing heart-print silk boxers over their curling gear. "Most tasteful" went to Gwen Merriam who had a flashing red heart which she activated when her team made a particularly good shot. The activity on the ice was very eye-catching as many participants wore red in some form, and hats and other



Throwing Rocks

Karen Sotvedt
Middleton
Curling Club

special gear also made an appearance.

Winner of the 2012 Valentine Spiel was the Eric Marshall team, pictured here with co-chair Dave Acker, accepting the trophy. Eric's team embodied the spirit of the day, as it included Senior League coordinator Jean Fry, Kathy Mackay who curls in several leagues, and Cathy's husband, who had never curled before. A winning combination!

The spirit of the event was not limited to the curlers, as spectators came in and out during the day to watch friends and family curl in the competition. Much of the club's league activity takes place at night and so young families don't get to see many games. A funspiel like this one brings people during the day as they drop in to see how the competition is going and it all adds to the sense of occasion.

The next funspiel is the "Spring is Here" spiel, being held on March 17. This also happens to be St. Patrick's Day and so there is sure to be as much



The Eric Marshall team, pictured here with co-chair Dave Acker, accepting the trophy. Contributed

green on the ice that day as there was red on this one. Social events like this are a great way to get back into curling if you have been off the ice for a while.

Anyone interested in the next funspiel should check on www.middleton-curlingclub.com and get in touch with the club.