

Middleton club in a class of its own

Sometimes being the member of a small club can seem like being part of a family. The club is a source of social interaction and positive moments but there can be a lot of hard work involved too. Certainly that is true in small town Nova Scotia and Middleton Curling Club is no exception. As membership ages and young people leave the Valley, all area clubs are feeling the strain on the energy of those who keep these institutions going with less money, fewer resources, reduced funding and a shortage of helping hands.

In the world of curling, Middleton has always been known for its hospitality and every year has hosted at least one provincial championship. If this was

the world of boxing, you could say Middleton was fighting above its weight. Pulling off an event that has the eyes of the provincial association on it, with

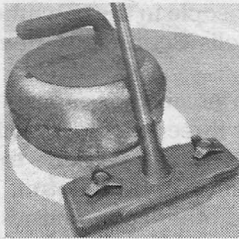
greater stringency in the rules and formats required, takes a lot of teamwork within a club. When the size of the organizing team is shrinking, it means each person has to shoulder greater responsibility in bringing off the event.

All this is not news to the many service clubs with the same issues and worries. This year the Middleton Curling Club is hosting the Provincial Combined Masters for the second time. Past success in hosting provincial events gives weight to the club's hosting

bid. The hospitality and amenities of the Town of Middleton add to the attractiveness of the club as a venue, and the reputation of the club makes curlers happy to attend an event in the area.

Once again the membership will be asked to rise the occasion and the club will produce an event that the town can be proud of. In larger catchment areas, or in the cities, members of clubs pay their dues and curl and go home with no responsibility in keeping things running. In smaller towns, members pay their dues, curl, and then put in hours of work besides, to keep their clubs alive. This is not unique to Middleton, but the curling club is definitely in a class all its own.

The Provincial Combined Masters will be in Middleton from January 21 to 25, 2012. For more information check www.middletoncurlingclub.com



Throwing Rocks

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