

■ CURLING

Throwing Rocks

Good things continue to happen at Middleton Curling Club

BY KAREN SOTVEDT

Entering the final month of the curling season, good things continue to happen at Middleton Curling Club. Last weekend's Chase the Ace was approaching \$900 and this weekend could see it near or at the \$1000 mark. The Afternoon League hosted three teams from Bridgetown for lunch and an eight-end game as part of their annual home and home. Next up for them is a return visit to Bridgetown March 11.

Best news of all was for Dawn Spidle and the Little Rock and Junior leagues she coordinates. The Annapolis County "Active Kids, Healthy Kids Society" has given her student programs a grant for the purchase of four helmets and six stabilizers for use during practice. The young curlers are asked to bring protective headgear when they come to practices, but occasionally equipment is forgotten and sometimes students don't have bike helmets. With the increased scrutiny of head injuries and the long-term effects of concussion, the helmet is very important on the ice. The

ability to have protective headgear available at the club means no one has to be in the position of just watching if they want to be playing.

The stabilizers are held in the hand which would hold the broom if you are watching curling on TV. Often they look like they are made out of PVC pipe or they can be wooden of a slightly different shape. When learning to slide out of the hack balance is one of the most difficult elements and for younger curlers especially, managing this with a broom can be unwieldy. In fact many adult curlers prefer stabilizers and they are used even in some levels of competitive curling. MCC's young curlers are delighted to have these aids to delivering rocks and to see their rocks really come into play. They are very grateful to the society for the grant that has given some the chance to curl when otherwise prevented and for the stability on the ice when they do curl.

Last week the Juniors had a visiting team from Greenwood during their practice time. It is always good to be able to curl against dif-

ferent teams giving the students the experience of a full game format and real competition. It helps with team-building but also in learning sportsmanship and reinforcing rules of game play. Afterwards, everyone had snacks and hot chocolate and some time to socialize. Just as with the Afternoon League home-and-homes,

the MCC students plan to go to Greenwood in a few weeks for a return match.

Dawn is planning a season closing family/friend funspiel near the end of March when all her students plus parents, grandparents, siblings and friends are all invited to come out, try curling and play a game. The day includes

pizza, snacks and a great time for everyone.

This week, Saturday, March 12, is the last Big Breakfast of the year, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Check us out at www.middletoncurlingclub.com

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.

