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SPORTS

# Masters a big success at Middleton Curling Club

BY KAREN SOTVEDT

The last game of the Provincial Masters Championship was played at Middleton Curling Club on Tuesday, February 2nd. Medals were awarded, thanks were made and two hours later the club seamlessly resumed league play with the Western Draw. The work of many willing volunteers meant that there was no unfinished business and all that was left was the satisfaction of a job well done.

Jan. 31 was the hardest day, with the first draw going on the ice at 8 a.m. and the last draw not beginning until after 10 p.m. In between there was a lot of good curling, and spectators from up and down the Valley filled the clubhouse so there was standing room only as the games progressed. Teams were eliminated on Sunday and so the competition between Valley teams heated up because both Wolfville and Glooscap (Kentville) wanted to represent their club in the National event, this year co-hosted by the two clubs. "Rock the Valley," the Canadian Masters will be held April 4 to 10.

The Glooscap team of Alan Marshall made it to the final, played on Tuesday afternoon, but in the end, the Provincial Men's Championship went to the team of Steve Ogden. Both teams are eligible to play in the Maritime Masters in St. John, NB, at the St. Andrews Curling Club.

The Women's Championship did not require all the scheduled games to be played.

Margaret Cutcliffe's team won sufficient games in the round robin to progress directly to the finals, and played against Leona Williams's team from Highlander CC in Antigonish. The Cutcliffe team won and will proceed to the Canadian Championship and both teams will also be eligible for the Maritime Masters.

Middleton played host to 13 of the 16 competing teams once again. Local teams come from their homes but most teams arrive early, check into local accommodation for the duration of the five-day event, and make Middleton their home. MCC has hosted this event before and all the curlers have their local routine - where to stay, where to eat, where to relax. This year was no different and all participants were pleased with their time in the Heart of the Valley, even if it did not include winning. Many teams stayed on even after eliminations, to watch another game or two, and enjoy the atmosphere of the competition.

Meanwhile the club activities continue. Jean Fry and the afternoon league held the 18th annual Frank West Memorial on Wednesday, Feb 3 and the trophy was awarded by Frank's son Karl. Photos of winners are on the MCC homepage at [www.middletoncurlingclub.com](http://www.middletoncurlingclub.com). Also coming up is the annual Valentine Spiel, hosted by Dave and Nancy Acker and a great social funspiel that includes all ages and levels of curlers. Check here next week.

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.

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