

■ SPORTS

Curlers catch the Christmas spirit in Middleton

Karen Sotvedt

Throwing rocks



Saturday was a wonderful start to the holiday season at Middleton Curling Club, with a family-and-friends funspiel that finished with duelling Santas.

The one-day bonspiel ended with the skips for the teams competing for first place both appearing in full Santa Claus outfits to curl the game. With a packed house watching from the clubroom, it was hard to tell who was cheering for whom with everyone yelling "Come on, Santa."

Team Reesor and Team Johnson battled it out right until the last rock when the honours went to Ian Reesor's team with Doug Whynot, Ank Burke, and Mike McKinnon. It was good to know that Santa prevailed!

There was plenty of hilarity during the game and the Norwegians and their flashy curling pants were nothing compared to the flashing lights, loud sweaters, and general glitziness of the Middleton curlers. Dawn Spidle's team of Little Rocks sported enough glitter, flash and facial hair to make

any Christmas elf jealous.

There was also the annual Holiday Ticket Auction. Curlers enjoyed the auction and the auction participants often stayed to watch a little curling.

The event relies on volunteers and many club members found at the end of the day that they had not only curled but also cooked, cleaned up, tended bar, or run some part of the auction.

Once the bonspiel was over there was still Draw to the Button, and many curlers had a bite at the canteen and stayed right through to watch the draw for the auction prizes. MCC's own "Vannas" Marcy Gaul and Nancy Acker changed from their bright and sparkly curling attire to something else bright and sparkly to run the draw. If the winner was not present there was always much discussion over who it was, who they lived near, and who could deliver the prizes.

Chase the Ace will not be held on Dec. 9 as the club is closed for a private party. But join us again on Dec. 16 when the Ace will be worth over \$1,600.

And don't forget the Big Breakfast the next day, Dec. 17 from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

All events can be seen on the club website at www.middletoncurlingclub.com

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.