

SPORTS

# Spidle rink takes Middleton Curling Club's January Thaw

**Karen Sotvedt**  
Throwing rocks



The weather did not co-operate with Middleton Curling Club's annual January Thaw Mixed Bonspiel last weekend. Instead of the balmy temperatures hoped for and often experienced for this event, MCC got snow, wind, and what the weatherman termed "some of the coldest windchills so far this year."

However, in the club, cold weather did not interfere with the warmth of the hospitality and the hot competition on the ice.

Four teams from Middleton curled on home ice Jan. 12 and 13 with eight other teams from around the Valley. In this popular mixed event all teams played



CONTRIBUTED

Winner of the Middleton Curling Club's January Thaw Mixed Bonspiel Jan. 13 was club president Cody Spidle with his team of Dawn Spidle, Bruce Johnson and Emily Neily. The annual event drew teams from across the Valley.

three games on Saturday, so it was a busy day of non-stop curling – a real workout. Everyone played again Sunday morning to decide the qualifiers for the afternoon finals. Each game was three

sheets - and there were six draws on Saturday - so there was lots to watch for armchair coaches in the hospitable atmosphere of the MCC clubroom.

The format of the January

Thaw came to MCC from a curling club in northern Ontario. They were delighted to share their adaption of the weekend bonspiel, eliminating the Friday draw which is difficult for those still working and time-consuming and expensive for those travelling any distance. The two-day format allows for just as many, or more, draws except the first day is six-end games; an excellent compromise and one that seems to agree with returning curlers.

At the end of the first day, points accumulated in the three games played by each team decide whether they are playing in the A, B, or C division on Sunday morning. In addition to lots of curling everyone had dinner and shared snacks and social time together during the day. Even so, there was not much lingering after the final Saturday draw as everyone had to play on Sunday morning. Six teams of the 12 were eliminated

in those games and the final in the three divisions included two home teams, one from Wolfville, and three from Greenwood. In the A division the overall winner for the weekend was club president Cody Spidle with his team of Dawn Spidle, Bruce Johnson and Emily Neily. Photos of the winners and all the teams are available on the club website at [www.middletoncurlingclub.com](http://www.middletoncurlingclub.com)

The club did not even have time to cool off and the first evening of the Sunday Western Draw league took place. This league is the place to learn to curl or come back to the game after years away. And the Valentine funspiel on Feb. 9 also welcomes novice curlers. The club's Big Breakfast is Jan. 19 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. It is a busy time for the club – keep up with the news on the club website.

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.