

CLUB REPORT

COVID-19 cuts season short at Middleton Curling Club

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Throwing Rocks



Last week, the 16th annual Spring is Here Funspiel at Middleton Curling Club really did feel like it was heralding the start of a new season. Then the responsibilities of social distancing began to make themselves felt.

The funspiel was a small enough event that it did not contravene any provincial mandates at that time, but a number of MCC curlers were playing in the Provincial Club Curler Championships, this year being held in Wolfville. Both the men's and women's events were being held together at the Wolfville club and the numbers of curlers, volunteers and spectators put the attendance numbers above the guidelines for safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. The play had actually begun



Bob Smith, Susan Coulter, Donna Parsons, and John Chafe won the 16th annual Spring is Here Funspiel at Middleton Curling Club. **CONTRIBUTED**

on Friday and several games were complete when the decision was made by the Nova Scotia Curling Association to cancel all championships immediately. The event halted and curlers went home.

The Spring is Here continued with its usual high

spirits and colourful costuming on ice. There was a lot of green in honour of St. Patrick, a few flowered shirts and leis in honour of spring, and even face-painting in honour of the spirit of the spiel. This was the final funspiel for organizers Nancy and Dave Acker,

who have run the Valentine Funspiel and the Spring is Here event for 16 years. They are retiring from the coordinating side and looking forward to just curling in the years ahead. The curlers at the club were appreciative of all the things that make these

days so much fun: everyone gets two six-end games, there is a soup and sandwich lunch, door prizes, a ticket draw and after the last game, prizes for everyone. Before the day was ended, several volunteers came forward to express interest in running the funspiels next year, so hopefully the 17th annual will continue the tradition. Winners for this year were Skip Bob Smith with his team of Susan Coulter, Donna Parsons, and John Chafe.

In the interests of social responsibility, the MCC board of directors has made a decision to close the club effective immediately, based on the latest provincial mandate around social gatherings. The Big Breakfast this week, March 21, is cancelled. Another event to cross off the calendar is the March 27 social and silent auction. The upcoming season will begin in late October and, in the meantime, information about MCC and its leagues is always available at www.middleton-curlingclub.com