

CURLING

Stick curling league may be introduced next year

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Throwing Rocks



Social and curling events mingle nicely to keep the Middleton Curling Club active. Several regular and special events have been held the past two weeks. The Big Breakfast on Feb. 22 was a big hit as usual. The last breakfast for this year will be held Saturday March 21. Be sure to mark it on your calendars.

In addition to the regular roster of Little Rock and Junior games during the week, students from Annapolis East Elementary School have all taken a turn being on the ice.

Under the tutelage of youth coordinator Dawn Spidle, the youngsters were introduced

to curling with first some off-ice instruction and activities. Then the real fun began: the slipping, sliding and laughter that happens when you mix kids and ice.

Also last week, the volunteer firemen held a social curling afternoon involving a few ends of curling, a break for lunch and then back onto the ice. Middleton Fire Department invited Kingston Department but in the middle of the second game pagers began to go off and everyone streamed off the ice to answer the call. It turned out to be a simple grass fire but the spell was broken. They plan another game this month.

On Tuesday, Dan Praught from Berwick Curling Club hosted a clinic on stick curling. The introduction of the stick into curling has extended the playing years of many curlers who can no longer bend down into the hack. Most leagues accept stick

curlers without any change in rules. However, there is an "official" stick curling game with its own rules.

The session covered the rules and techniques of stick curling and then games were played. The games are quite different. Teams are composed of only two curlers, and only six rocks are used. There is one player in each house to hold the broom, so there is no sweeping until the rock reaches the opposite end. Games are much faster, taking about an hour to play.

MCC has a lot of stick curlers and it is hoped to introduce a stick league, perhaps as early as next year.

There are still a few individual entry spaces for the annual Spring is Here Funspiel on March 14. Family, friends and new curlers are always welcome. For information check our homepage at www.middletoncurlingclub.com or follow us on Facebook.