

CURLING

Lots to look forward to midway through Middleton season

Karen Sotvedt

Throwing Rocks



The winter may seem endless but for curlers at the Middleton Curling Club, it is not quite long enough.

We are more than halfway through the curling season, and while the bad weather may go on until spring, curling has less than two months left. The club's larger events are over, and the league co-ordinators are busy re-organizing teams for the last succession of draws.

The Learn-to-Curl group are now curlers and absorbed into the Western Draw leagues. One couple even won the Friends and Family Funspiel with their daughters, who are student curlers at the club. And the Tuesday Western Draw will start on their last



Bob Smith, Daria Armstrong, Ken Kirkey and Bill Crocker won the recent Frank West Bonspiel, a friendly event that honours the life of a longtime Middleton curler. **CONTRIBUTED**

six-week grouping of teams. Co-ordinator Bob Clattenburg changes the teams and within each, curlers can change their positions as their confidence in the game grows. It allows for trying out the different strategies and skills that each position requires before going into a more competitive game.

Both Western Draw Leagues use this system. On Sunday night the teams are changed every week by co-ordinator Dawn Spidle, so curlers can get to know new members and build on their growing familiarity with the game.

The Afternoon League recently held the annual Frank

West Bonspiel, an in-house competition with six teams. They play six ends in the morning then stop for a lunch provided by several members who curl in the league. Another six-end game in the afternoon gives each team an aggregate of points.

Top of the day was Bob

Smith's team with Daria Armstrong, Ken Kirkey and Bill Crocker. The Frank West is in honour of a long-time curler and club supporter, who lived across the street and for many years was integral to club life. His friends felt it would be a suitable tribute to have one day dedicated to friendly curling in his honour and the trophy was inaugurated. In past years, his son Karl West, retired principal of Annapolis East Elementary School, has been on hand to make the presentation to the winning team.

Coming up this weekend is the annual Valentine Funspiel, a full day of curling in celebration of the season. Spectators are welcome to drop in and there are usually more than a few outfits adorned with hearts to keep things on the light side.

Then, on Feb. 22 is the Big Breakfast, as always, open to all and a great favourite in the community.

Check out details at www.middletoncurlingclub.com or follow us on Facebook

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