

CURLING

Greenwood team wins January Thaw bonspiel in Middleton

Karen Sotvedt

Throwing Rocks



The 35th annual January Thaw Mixed Bonspiel at Middleton Curling Club really was true to its name this year as temperatures Jan. 11 soared from below freezing, to plus 15 and green grass started to show up.

However, it did not last - not even for a day - and by Sunday morning a combination of sleet, freezing rain and ice pellets held the province in its grip and made the "thaw" a tricky proposition.

On Saturday, a dozen teams met for this very social event, most being return entries, knowing that the weekend would be a combination of competitive curling, good food and lots of laughter. Curlers from as far as Windsor played three six-end games for points, which would establish their relative standing for the playdowns on Sunday.

Winner in the "Dressed for Success" category was team Litsas from Greenwood, who curled as the Dr. Seuss characters Things One to Four on Saturday, and then in traditional kilts and tams on Sunday. Home teams got lots of local support but the teams from Glooscap and Greenwood also had their own cheering sections.

When play finished on Saturday, the final showdown for the top spot was to be between Team Greene from Middle-



Jeff Coleman, Tracey Coleman, Dave Ronaldson and Julie Morley were dubbed winners of the January Thaw Mixed Bonspiel hosted at the Middleton Curling Club Jan. 11-12. **CONTRIBUTED**

ton and Jeff Coleman's team from Greenwood. But the big news was the weather and everyone's eyes were on their devices and the weather watch - it was still mild but the temperatures were plummeting. By Sunday morning the rain had just started and the curling continued, but within two hours conditions had deteriorated to the point that a couple of teams from farther away had to withdraw. The playdowns were adjusted and the games went on. MCC has often been hit with dreadful storms during bonspiels, and somehow the curling does not get interrupted.

The finals in the afternoon had home teams Reesor versus Spidle in "C" division, Greenwood's Winters against Glooscap's MacEachern in "B" and

MCC's team Greene competing with Coleman's Greenwood team for top spot in "A". Everyone agreed that weather notwithstanding, it had been a good weekend and spots were booked for next year.

The MCC curling calendar continues with the Provincial Club Mixed being held the weekend of Jan. 24-26. Teams from around the province will be competing and as always community members are welcome to come and view the games. Curling is great on TV, but nothing can beat live curling where you can see the expressions on all the curlers' faces.

And don't miss the Big Breakfast, Jan. 18 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Updates on what is happening can be found at www.middletoncurlingclub.com, or follow us on Facebook.