

CURLING

Team Willsey successful as Middleton Curling Club hosts provincial mixed bonspiel



Karen Sotvedt
Throwing
Rocks

It was a hectic three days of non-stop curling at Middleton Curling Club last weekend and for once, no one had to drive through blizzards, freezing rain or snow drifts to get there.

In the past, the weather has often created havoc for curlers travelling to provincial events in Middleton or left them marooned when the roads closed. This year many curlers from around the province stayed locally and for those with some travel, conditions were fine for the Provincial Mixed Bonspiel. The first draws went Friday morning, and from then on, it was one great game after another, for curlers and spectators alike.

The star of any bonspiel is always the ice, and the three Middleton icemakers – Ernie Killen, Ian Reesor and Allen Morris – were on duty all weekend, with the ice getting a complete overhaul between every game. It was early mornings and late evenings for MCC's volunteer ice crew



Team Willsey of Berwick. CONTRIBUTED

and the games could not go on without them.

Many teams had been to MCC before and were at home in the club and the town, heading out between games to their favourite restaurants, or enjoying meeting up with friends from past events.

The format of the provincial event was a double knockout, so after two losses, a team was off the roster. Losing a game meant playing

against additional teams in order to stay in contention.

The silver medal team of Scott Anderson lost an early game which meant that they had seven games over the three days, including three games on Saturday. The eventual winners, team Willsey, avoided an early loss and only played five games in the same time frame. For some teams it was a very busy and tiring weekend, and spectators dropped in to

watch games of friends and acquaintances and some came just to see a little live curling in a club atmosphere. There was plenty of discussion about the calls being made on the ice and lots of second-guessing from the armchair quarterbacks in the gallery.

Early Friday afternoon a group of MCC curlers from the Afternoon League met at the club to travel to Bridgetown together for the first installment of their home-

and-home. Their travels were overshadowed by the provincial curling at the club, but more next week about what other club members were doing over the weekend.

The final went early Sunday afternoon with Team Anderson from Glooscap and Team Willsey from Berwick playing a hard-fought game that was only settled at the very end. The gallery was cheering for everyone, all good shots were applauded and the end seemed anticlimactic, when the curling had to stop. Andrew Willsey and his team, with Lisa Willsey, Cody Spidle and Emily Neily captured the trophy and, of course, bragging rights for Berwick. However MCC shares some of this as Spidle and Neily are club members.

Photos of all teams are on the MCC homepage along with the winners, or check us out on Facebook.



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