The IceBreaker

NUTMEG CURLING at Wonderland of Ice, Greenwood Park
P.O. Box 5125, Bridgeport, CT 06610
www.nutmegcurling.com
203.339.7300

Curling Rink Interior View — November 11, 2005

On the Bonspiel Trail

Pisces

Nutmeggers traveled to Cape Cod Curling Club November 12 and 13 to compete for the coveted Pisces Trophy. This was the 27th time this 'friendly' competition was held between Nutmeg and Cape Cod Curling Club.

After six games, Cape Cod had accumulated the most points to win the two-day event. Nutmeg still has the edge in overall wins for the Pisces.

Nutmeg Curlers were: Terri Allen, Gail Cosman, Tim Fenton, Carla Kelley, Laura King, Carol Mack, Dick Montgomery, Donna Purkey, Jennifer Stannard, Ed Tucker, Bobbie Stoll, Jill Owens.

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Message From the President

Nutmeggers:

I would like to extend the very best of the season to you and your families. Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring our new building at last! The latest construction scheduling suggests that we will have a completed building in February but won't have ice making capacity until April. The board will soon make a determination as to scheduling and the advisability of extending our season. Although the slippage in construction is disappointing, it will not deter the dedicated core of Nutmeg curlers.

Twenty-three curlers kicked off a Sunday Nutmeg curling league December 11 in Ardsley. Our social committee is planning exciting social events for every month of the year through our fall opening. The fundraising committee is busy making donor appeals, marketing a fabulous raffle throughout the U.S. and will shortly be contacting area businesses and corporations seeking sponsorship and advertising dollars while inviting companies to try curling in corporate leagues and as team building events. Membership and Publicity will also be working to capitalize upon the Olympic and Lowell curling coverage. The indomitable spirit, enthusiasm and resiliency of Nutmeggers lives on. 2006 will bring us the best curling facility in the region
— George Bagley

Bonspiel News (Continued)

The behind the glass cheering section of Charlie Mack, Holly Gray, Joanna & Chuck Owens was not enough to put Nutmeg on the winning side even through they never missed a shot.

Thanks to the Nutmeggers who supported this event. — Joanna Owens

Plainfield

The Plainfield Founder's bonspiel had a total of 14 teams competing for the shovel trophy. Jeff and Sally Hannon played with two friends from Plainfield to complete their team. They lost a very well played game in their first to drop to the second event. Sunday found them in the second event final where they prevailed against a Plainfield team. — Jeff Hannon

Philadelphia

The Philadelphia curling club was the site of the Harvest bonspiel, a mixed event. Sally and Jeff Hannon teamed up with a couple from Plainfield to compete in this always fun event. Sixteen teams filled up the spiel with teams from Potomac, Cleveland, Canada and even Scotland. This is the event where Sally and Jeff first met so it is always special. After a couple of close wins, the team found itself in the first event semifinal. A very good game against a Philly team resulted in a loss and dropped the team to the fourth event final. Sunday morning came early but the team showed up on fire and defeated a Potomac rink in four ends. — Jeff Hannon

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What 2006 winter Olympic sport Are you most interested in?

Choice	Percentage of 123139 Votes
Biathlon	4%
Curling	**32%**
Figure Skating / Ice Dancing	15%
Alpine Skiing	13%
Bobsleigh / Luge / Skeleton	1%
Freestyle Skiing	4%
Cross Country Skiing	17%
Speed Skating	4%
Ski Jumping	6%
Hockey	3%
Nordic Combined	2%
Snowboarding	0%

Results of wnbc.com survey as of 12/12/05

Vote for Curling

Go to the NBC link to the Olympics and vote for curling coverage. The section is on the lower right of the page where it asks you to vote for the subject you are most interested in. VOTE!!!!!!!! You can make a difference. http://www.wnbc.com/olympics2006/index.html

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

President	**George Bagley** gbagley@soundcommercial.com
Vice-President	**Donna Purkey** dbpurkey@optonline.net
Treasurer	**Charlie Mack** mackchas@optonline.net
Secretary	**Laura King** laura.king@xerox.com
IceBreaker Editors	**Terry & Pam Smith** terencesmith@smithsresearch.net pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net

In Memoriam

Jim Maher a long-time member and dedicated G.O.B. of the Nutmeg Curling Club passed away on November 25.

His daughter Pam Maher is a member of the Nutmeg Curling Club.

Important Club Dates

December 16, 2005	Christmas Party
December 31, 2005	New Year's Eve Gala
February 25, 2006	Nutmeg Raffle Drawing at Wonderland of Ice

Nutmeg Raffle Update

After a long, complex and bureaucratic process, the raffle permit was finally obtained from the Bridgeport Police Department. The raffle is to raise needed funds to support our operation costs, debt reduction, purchase curling equipment (brooms, grippers etc.) and to develop programs for the youth of the greater Bridgeport area. The goal is to sell 2,000 Raffle tickets at $25 each. This will net us $40,000, after spending $10,000 for prizes, permit fee, ticket printing etc.

We need all members to sell the tickets to make it a success. You can help by selling to your friends, coworkers and help man the booth that will be set up at the Wonderland of Ice. Call Charlie Mack to volunteer at the Wonderland of Ice.

The prizes are great! First prize is a week-long trip for two in the spring to Paris, France. You choose the date. The trip includes a stay at a Four Star hotel, air transportation plus some meals and tours. This trip is arranged by Travel World of New Canaan. Second and third prizes are trips for two to attend the final games of the Men's World Curling Championship in Lowell, MA this April. It is more than just curling, there is entertainment every night at the "Rock Garden" in a large tent next to the arena and tours arranged to the historic sites in nearby Boston. These prizes include stays at local hotels in the Lowell area. Second Prize is for 5 nights and third prize is for 3 nights. Fourth and fifth prizes are for hockey and skating lessons at the Wonderland of Ice donated by Lisa Fedwick who runs the facility.

The raffle was kicked off with an ad in the current issue of Curling News and a article in the GNCC newsletter. Tickets are being distributed in packs of 20 to Nutmeg members, If you have not gotten yours yet, give Charlie a call- 203-966-4636. — Charlie Mack

Nutmeg Curling Club is hosting a RAFFLE to raise funds for our new facility!

PLEASE HELP US and **ENTER TO WIN!**

1st Prize – One Week in Paris, France

($6,500. value)

A fabulous trip for two people in the spring, your choice of dates.
Prize includes six nights stay at a Four ★★★★ Star Hotel including Air Transportation, tours and some meals.

2nd & 3rd PRIZE –

Attend the 2006 Men's World Curling Championship in Lowell, MA

2nd PRIZE – Five-Night Stay for two people from April 5-10. Gold end zone seating, closing banquet and closing ceremony. Shuttle bus from Hotel/Arena. Pin and Program included.

3rd PRIZE – Three-Night Stay for two people from April 7-10. Gold end zone seating, closing banquet and closing ceremony. Shuttle bus from Hotel/Arena. Pin and Program included.

Raffle tickets are $25. each –
Drawing will be Held on February 25, 2006

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

For more information on how to obtain raffle tickets go to www.nutmegcurling.com or call 203-339-7300

Send your check made out to Nutmeg Curling Club, with your name, address, phone and email address to:

Nutmeg Curling Club
P.O. Box 5125
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Raffle tickets will be sent to you by return mail.

The new Nutmeg raffle ad will appear in Curling News and is being mailed to every curling club in the U.S.

Sunday League

On Dec. 11th, six teams kicked off the first of eight dates for the Nutmeg Sunday League.

Skips are the "Curling Owens" (Chuck, Joanna & Jill), David Feldstein, Diane Muldowney & Anne Wiggins. In all we have 25 curlers, ranging from grizzled veterans to first year curlers. Of special note, Phil & Evie Carmichael made a glorious return to the sport after more than a 10 year hiatus .... and curled like they barely missed a day!

As this was the first time on the ice for many of us this season, the curling was a bit ragged. But, as you would expect, a good time was had by all.

Although we have several curlers who are interested in being subs, we need a few more. The remaining dates are December 18th, February 12th & 19th and March 5th,12th, 19th, & 26th. If you are willing to sub, please contact Jim Meinhold at 203-761-9305 or jmeinhol@optonline.net
—Jim Meinhold

Below is a list of items needed by the Instruction Committee and Warm Room Committee. If you have any of the following items to donate to the curling club, please contact Donna Purkey at dbpurkey@optonline.net.

Grippers
Sliders
Shoes
Brooms in excellent shape (preferably fabric)

Glasses
Silverware
Mugs
Plates
Serving Plates/Bowls
Serving Utensils
Knives

Dish draining rack
dish towels & Cloths

Bonspiel News (Continued)

Inaugural Bonspiel at Potomac

A gaggle of Nutmeg curlers made the trip to Potomac for the Inaugural. Hal and Donna Purkey completed their team with Cleve Cleveland and Jennifer Stannard. Jill Owens and Laura King competed with two curlers from Potomac. Jeff and Sally Hannon curled with two members from Plainfield CC. A total of 24 teams were entered in the event, which featured five events.

The Purkey team and the Owens/King crew wound their way to the fifth event called the hanging chad. This is a non-traditional scoring final held late Saturday night for the entertainment of the crowd. Hints are given before each end on how the end will be scored such as the Bush Supreme court. In that end only rocks on the right side of the house will count. Six teams were involved in the event and after the final (re)count, the Purkey team was declared the winner.

The Hannon team took a couple of games to hit their stride and figure out the lineup. Dropping to the fourth event left a daunting task of winning three in a row to make the final including the dreaded early Sunday morning semi-final. A knee injury to Sally left the team down to three curlers in the Saturday night game but the team prevailed. Gaining a Potomac sub for Sunday morning, the rink won a close game in the semifinal. In the final, the Hannon team prevailed over a Potomac rink to win the fourth event. — Jeff Hannon

SAVE THE DATE

Two Brooms - January 16, 2006

The ladies annual Two Brooms event - a competition between the Ardwicks and Nutmeg Women - will be held on Monday, January 16, 2006 (Martin Luther King Day). Curling will start at 11 am followed by lunch provided by the Ardwicks.

No-Nut - March 4, 2006

Hold Saturday March 4th for the No-Nut Competition at the Norfolk Curling Club. Nutmeg and Norfolk will once again play for the Connecticut State Championship. There will be three games. Depending upon the interest you could play one or two games.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Joanna Owens at 203-322-1922 or jcowensct@aol.com More information to follow. — Joanna Owens

The latest in curling equipment

There have been several improvements in shoes and brooms in the last few years. Technology has entered the world of curling with manufacturers trying to find ways to improve their products. If it has been awhile since you were on the ice, here a few of the recent improvements.

In the world of shoes it is all about balance. Several manufacturers now make shoes that improve your balance when sliding. Goldline, BalancePlus and Asham all have a model of shoe that removes some of the teflon from the sliding shoe. From Goldline there is the perimeter model which only has teflon around the outside edge of the sole. BalancePlus has a model with holes cut into the teflon under the ball of the foot and the heel. The most radical design comes from Asham with their slam model that uses discs of teflon on the front and back of the sole. The idea behind all of these shoes is to make the sole of the shoe flatter there by increasing the surface area and improving balance.

In the world of brooms there is only one thing to know, carbon fiber. This lightweight space age material is now used for handles and greatly reduces the weight of the broom. The advantage is less effort is needed to move the broom back and forth. This makes sweeping easier and less demanding. Of course, this improvement comes with a hefty price tag. Brooms that used to cost $30 are now in the $150 range. However if you are curling in a bonspiel with 5 or 6 games in a weekend your arms and shoulders will thank you.

On the web:
Goldline — http://www.goldline.ca/shop/customer/home.php
Asham Supplies — http://www.asham.com
BalancePlus — http://www.balanceplus.com/homepagemain.htm

Asham's "Slam" model shoe

Check out some of these items on internet. Goldline, BalancePlus and Asham all have websites where you can order some of these wonderful products.
— Jeff Hannon

Kay Sugahara Named Honorary President of 2006 World Championships

Kay Sugahara was named Honorary President of the 2006 World Men's Curling Championship by the Board of Directors. Kay has been a friend of curling in the U.S. and internationally for over thirty years.

In other news, Australia and Japan have qualified for the 2006 World Men's Curling Championship. Australia took the gold medal and Japan the Silver medal last week in the Pacific Curling Championship.

Corporate Marketing

After the first of the year, we will be launching our direct mail program to business and corporate entities in Fairfield County. A Nutmeg Curling Club DVD called "Sweeping Connecticut" has been created to present the opportunities that curling offers companies such as promoting community relations, youth program sponsorships, employee participation, corporate events and team building exercises. We will be offering score board and ice advertising.

The participation of our membership is important in making this mailing successful. We would appreciate receiving the names of contacts in companies that you are familiar with such as a Bank Manager, CEO, Human Resource Manager or Sales Manager. The more revenue that we can generate through companies, the easier it will be to reduce debt and hold down membership fees.

The DVD will be available to view at the Christmas Party or I can arrange a viewing for you. Just call!

Thanks to all the members who have so generously donated their time and talent to this project.

Diane Muldowney
Chairperson, Fund Raising Committee