

Toronto Curling Association
Minutes -Annual General Meeting
Tuesday September 16, 2008 – Leaside Curling Club

Present:

Toronto Curling Association:

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| Beth Woolnough | Blair Clemes | Paivi Liitela |
| Ron Tolhurst | Joe Corrado | Anne Hebron |
| Jim Anderson | Ross Duggan | |

Club presidents/managers/TCA representatives

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|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Doug Crow, Leaside | Gord Shepherd, East York | Dennis Akerley, Unionville |
| Jackie Horner, Bayview | Jim Wright, Weston | Cindy Bishop, Weston |
| Roy Weigand, Scarboro | Louise Germain, Scarboro | Bob Thomson, Tam Heather |
| Ross Amos, Mississauga | JoAnn Inouye, York | Bruce Orrell, York |
| Debbie Gates, Brampton | Chris Daffern, Oshawa | |
| Val Nash, Tam Heather | Brian Nash, Tam Heather | |

TCA Bonspiel Chairs / Drawmasters

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|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Marilyn Parsons (Melitta) | Marg Butler (Melitta) | Mike Butler (Juniors) |
| Bill Baker (Mens) | Joanne Stewart (Business Women, Mixed) | |

Guests

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Pat Reid, OCA | Bernice Collins, OCA | George Karrys, WCF |
| Chad McMullan | Wendy Kane – Insight Sports | |

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Minutes of 2008 AGM were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Marilyn Parson; seconded by Louise Germain; motion was carried.

2. Introductions – Guests, executive

Beth Woolnough recognized the bonspiel chairs and drawmasters in attendance, as well as Wendy Kane, George Karrys, Bernice Collins, and Pat Reid. TCA executive was introduced.

3. Financial Report (Blair Clemes)

- Copy of financials was provided to club reps in attendance.
- Page 5: Statement of revenue and expenditures: This includes monies given to TCA by member clubs (\$9300). Ice fees are remaining constant for this season. Dues and fees represent CCA dues, audit fees, office & general expenses (e.g. Website maintenance, move of TCA trophy case), and promotion (monies donated to clubs for bonspiels). Overall revenue exceeded expenses by approx \$1000.
- Page 4: Bonspiel funds: Revenues includes entry fees and sponsorships. Men have a large surplus due to an oversight by Rogers (did not run ads as required). General bonspiel expenses arose due to changes in sponsors (e.g. redoing trophies). Special project fund was eliminated for website improvements. Youth development contains the proceeds from the

junior lottery. Outflows are the amounts paid out to the clubs for youth programs. We had some overruns due to expenses for renting vans in Switzerland and CurlTV.

- Page 3: Net assets amount to \$36000.
- Page 6: Cash flows: These are the monies we have collected for Toronto 2009 but which we have not yet paid out (advance ticket sales are accounts payable). Approximately \$40K was paid out to TCA clubs.
- Will funds be allocated to member clubs for OCA level events, given the current financial position of the TCA? TCA has decided not to sponsor provincial and national events as its goal is to support grass roots development. TCA will provide leads to sponsors if at all possible.
- Motion made by Blair Clemes to accept the financial statements; seconded by Deb Gates; motion was carried unanimously.

4. Appointment of Auditor

A motion was made by Blair Clemes that we use Murphy and Chung be appointed as auditors for upcoming season; seconded by Louise Germain; motion was carried unanimously.

5. Event reports

- Paivi Liitela: thanks were extended to the bonspiel chairs and committees for their volunteer efforts. Thanks extended to returning sponsors: Revera, Johnson Controls and Melitta. Melitta will be extending its contract for another 3-year term. Dominion of Canada is our new sponsor for the junior bonspiels.
- Joanne Stewart – Business Women: thanked TCA executive and club managers for their support. Revera is continuing as the sponsor. Event is November 7-9. Thanks to Granite and Unionville for Friday night ice; to Leaside for Saturday ice; and to East York for hosting finals on Sunday. The entry form is on the web; there are already 19 entries (maximum 32).
- Joanne Stewart - Mixed: Dates have been pushed back to February 25 – March 1. This will allow people more time to get their entries in after the Christmas holiday; this will also ensure no conflict with the new Family Day holiday. One small rule change: entry fee will not be returned if less than 48 hours notice is given for withdrawal. Thanks to Bayview for hosting the finals and banquet.
- Bill Baker - Men: Event is January 10-17; date was pushed back to avoid starting on January 3. Mississauga, which is celebrating its 50th year of curling, is the host club. Committee is looking for a host club for next season. Last year there were 300 teams; the goal for 2009 is 330 teams. With respect to the additional \$5000 from Rogers, the committee is looking to find a way to be able to give something back to the clubs; committee welcomes all suggestions for how to use the extra funds. Johnson Controls is continuing as sponsor. Amsterdam Beer has returned for another season as well. Revera is sponsoring the Senators event. Teams are encouraged to enter on line. Rogers will televise the finals live.
- Mike Butler – Juniors: Thanks to Dominion of Canada for supporting the juniors. Host clubs are Leaside, Tam Heather and Oshawa. Goal is 112 teams. To date, they have 35 junior entries, 17 bantam teams.

- Joe Corrado - GoldLine, Heart to Heart: Joe thanked Dave Dalton for his help. There is a 24 team limit. Money raised last year broke records. 14 teams are entered in GoldLine league so far; limit of 16. Online registration is available. If there is lots of interest, may look for additional ice. The games will start in Oakville.
- Marilyn Parsons – Melitta Bonspiel of Champions: Bonspiel was renamed last season and the main prize was changed to cash prize of \$4000 instead of a trip. Changes were well received. Thanks were extended to the host club, Tam Heather, and to the support clubs (Unionville, East York and Mississauga). Please ensure that you distribute the bonspiel reports to your bonspiel chairs. The committee wants 2 bonspiels in each of women's (BW, ladies), men's and mixed categories. Fee is only \$6 per team. Please forward information on your qualifiers to TCAmelitta@rogers.com. Many clubs have yet to provide the info. Contact Marg Butler or Marilyn with any questions.

6. TCA Lottery (Ann Hebron)

Books of tickets have been provided to each club as well as a letter detailing the contents of the package. Every dollar above \$120 is shared directly with the clubs. Proceeds of the lottery support junior programs. First prize is cash; second prize is GoldLine certificate. Question: why sell just part of a book?

7. Youth Development

- Joe Corrado: In the last two years, TCA has hosted an orphan's weekend in the spring for youth curlers to meet and learn. We generally connect about two-thirds of the curlers which results in about 30 teams. Similar with Bantam interclub.
- Jim Wright: High School Curling League: Idea for such a league was prompted by a round table a few years ago when TDSB would only fund competitions that led to OFSSA championship. How do we provide ice to the school boards and find a way to promote curling in the high schools? One: we need to provide school boards with inventory of ice available. Second: we need to develop a program to provide curling instruction to teachers. Cost should not be an inhibitor to increasing interest. Question: what is objective? Is it to get leagues set up that kids enroll in for the year? Scarboro had program last season whereby students were invited to come curl 6 times during the year; the club gave instruction provided discipline was handled by the teachers. Kids who offer to teach can earn community points. York has also had interest from schools and has identified individuals who can assist with school events.

8. Marketing and Promotion

- Chad McMullan, Rock Solid Productions Inc.: Chad distributed brochure designated for club managers. Chad can bring corporate groups into the clubs for team building and corporate incentives. He is looking to meet with clubs in the weeks ahead.
- Beth Woolnough: Based on recent survey, we know new immigrants come to the GTA and want to integrate into Canadian culture. TCA is looking at partnering with University of Waterloo to do a survey to explore images of curling held by new Canadians in the GTA. We also want to understand what is preventing new immigrants from joining curling clubs. Beth will keep member clubs apprised on developments

9. Past Accomplishments and Future Goals

- Beth Woolnough: Website has been revamped. All TCA bonspiels will feature live scoring for the finals. Bonspiels can be uploaded by each club. If there are any problems, contact Beth. We will not be issuing the bonspiel poster to save paper; all of the information can be found on line including whether the spiel is a Melitta qualifier.
- Wendy Kane - Toronto 2009: A lot of the advertising is starting to roll out. Rob will finish up with all of the clubs who have not been contacted yet. Schedule is being worked on by the drawmaster (Tuesday - Sunday). They are still planning for 9 international teams, 6 Canadian men's teams. A ladies event is also planned. There will be a second phase of ticket promotion with the TCA clubs. The discounts provided will not be as large as those in the first phase. Hope to have media blitz when program launches in the fall. Tickets will be issued once all the final payments are in and TicketMaster has established its processes with platinum ticket holders (expected late this fall). Thanks were extended to Ron Tolhurst and Bill Baker for all their efforts. 1700 tickets were sold by the TCA clubs in phase 1. Bill will be coordinating volunteers from the clubs. More information to be provided at a later date.

10. Other Business/Open Discussion

- Gerry Hawkins: Leaside Curling Club will be hosting the provincial colts and trophy. Leaside will be sending out flyers that they'd like the clubs to post. All clubs are invited to participate. Gerry would like to chat with some of the local clubs about emergency contingency plans.
- Bill Baker is looking for someone to take over as chairman of the Men's Energizer committee.
- Questions and discussion from the floor: How can we more teams involved in the mixed? Could we modify the event format to encourage more club teams to participate? How many of the clubs cancel their mixed curling during the Energizer to encourage their mixed teams to participate? Some do, some don't. It was recognized that there is great effort put forth by the men's reps to promote the event, by going club to club to encourage participation. The mixed event is constrained by the fact that it is assumed that all will go to the banquet, so not all clubs can serve as host. It was suggested that we could introduce novice division/divisions graded by total years of experience.

11. Election of Board of Directors

Beth Woolnough made motion to accept the slate of officers. Motion was seconded by Cindy Bishop; motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Beth Woolnough made motion to end the meeting; seconded by Margaret Butler. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 for refreshments.