

**Toronto Curling Association
Annual General Meeting
Weston Golf and Country Club
Thursday September 24, 2009**

Attendees: Alan Morrison, Oakville; Anne Edgar, TCA; Blair Cledes, TCA; Brian Merriman, Donalda; Chris Daffern, Oshawa; Doug Crow, Leaside; Doug Miller, Tam Heather; Elizabeth Woolnough, TCA; Gary Armstrong, Granite Club; Gordon Shepherd, East York; Janet Murphy, Mississauga Golf & Country Club; JD Etter, TCA Jeannette Miller, Tam Heather; Jim Anderson, TCA; Jim Wright, Weston; Joanne Killer, TCA Revera T & D Ladies Bonspiel; Joanne Stewart, TCA Revera Business Women's Bonspiel; Joe Corrado, TCA; Kevin Lowe, Unionville ; Kevin Morwood , Richmond Hill; Louise Germain, Scarborough Golf & Country Club; Marilyn Parsons, Melitta Bonspiel of Champions; Michael McWhaw, Donalda; Michelle Laidlaw, Brampton; Paivi Liitela, TCA; Rhonda Blanch, Dixie; Ross Anderson, Bayview; Robin Stewart, St George's; Ron Tolhurst, TCA; Ross Duggan, TCA; Ross Tousaw, Oakville; Roy Weigand, Scarborough Golf & Country Club; Sandy Becker, Annandale

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:35.
2. **Introductions – Guests, Executive** – TCA board was introduced. Greetings were extended to our guests: TCA bonspiel chairs Joanne Killer, Joanne Stewart, Marilyn Parsons; and to Marg Butler (OCA). Thanks were extended to our primary sponsors for the upcoming season: Revera; The Dominion General Insurance Company of Canada; Goldline; and Melitta. We are still looking for a sponsor for the mixed bonspiel; please contact Beth if you have some leads. The bonspiel committees are also looking for volunteers, particularly the mixed and the men (new chairperson required). New this year is the introduction of an annual report; please help yourself to a copy and share it with your club members. The report will be posted on our website.
3. **TCA Bonspiel Updates**
 - Paivi Liitela: Thanks to sponsors as well as to the bonspiel chairs and their committees, who put in many hours to run successful events last season. There were numerous highlights in 2008/09 including high participation in many of TCA bonspiels; the day ladies' 50th anniversary; etc. The primary concerns going into this season are the lack of a sponsor for mixed as well as the potential impact of the poor economy on participation in the TCA and all other bonspiels in the GTA.
 - Joanne Killer: planning well underway for this year's event. Finals will be hosted at Richmond Hill which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.
 - Joe Corrado (Heart to Heart): last year, participation dropped somewhat so we will be promoting the event much more in the next few weeks. The event runs Dec 26/27. The event has made generous donations to the Heart & Stroke foundation.
 - Joe Corrado (Bantam/Junior): We have more ice this year, so event will begin Friday night, and run December 28-30. 104 teams entered last year. The committee would like to have as many as 116 teams this season; in particular, it would like to see more entries from bantam boys. Chair is Dave Thomas.
 - Joanne Stewart (Business women): The dates are November 21-22, 2009. Teams will play at Dixie on Saturday and at East York on Sunday. Entries are already coming in. The committee has decided to return to a 24-team format. Entry fees are unchanged. Prize purchases are well underway.
 - Joanne Stewart (Mixed): Thanks are extended to Bayview who hosted last year. The dates for this season are February 24-28, 2010. The host club is Weston; dinner dance will be held on Saturday evening. Due to the size of the venue, entry will be limited to 72 teams. The entry fee is unchanged from last year. Thanks to the various sponsors. The mixed poster will be distributed in October. Thanks to Donna Rutz for her efforts in designing the business women and mixed posters. The mixed committee could use a couple more members.
 - Paivi Liitela (on behalf of Men's Committee). All teams are encouraged to sign-up on line. There is a new sponsor for the bonspiel – Goldline Curling Supplies. An elimination draw for those who sign up by the early bird deadline.
 - Marilyn Parsons (Melitta): The finals will be held at Cricket. Clubs must enter their bonspiel information onto the TCA website. Two bonspiels in each division can serve as Melitta qualifiers. Please ensure the bonspiel chairs get the Melitta bonspiel report forms. Please put up the posters and rules' sheet.

4. Financial Report 2008-09 (Blair Clemes)

- Page 4: Overall bonspiels netted out at \$827 last season. The expenses include some corrections from 2006/07.
- Special project fund: the amount in this fund is the interest on the TO2009 monies being held by the TCA; once the event is held, the balance of the TCA funds will be moved here.
- Lottery fund;
- Youth development expenses include donations to Goldline league; bantam league; lite rock purchases, and bussing costs.
- Page 5: the revenues include interest earned on GICs held by the TCA. Some of the expenses include laptop repairs and website maintenance. Promotional costs include sponsorship dinners, money to the icemakers' spiel, financial support to Oshawa, Breakfast TV, advertising in the OCR, plus other miscellaneous costs.
- Page is the overall statement of financials. The primary difference between last year and the previous year is the TO2009 funds. These are shown as a liability until the event occurs. We also show the advance from the CCA for the survey

5. TCA Lottery

- The prize structure has been reformatted. We are also changing the price structure (\$5 for 1; 3 for \$10).
- The tickets will be distributed at a later date.
- Clubs will need to account for tickets received and sold.

6. Youth Development

- Thanks were extended to Jim Wright who is spearheading a drive to promoting curling to the high schools
- Bayview is serving as host for the OFSSA curling finals.
- Discussion from the floor: Scarboro has ice available in the early afternoons but most of the schools only offer after school programs (ie. Curling is not part of the curriculum). York is running a very successful high school program.
- Bantam league will continue in same format as last year. Participation has ranged from 24-42 teams. Thanks to Al Sutherland who convened the program the last 3 years. Joanne Thompson will be taking over .
- Goldline league is underway. There are 12 teams so far that play Sunday afternoons. All the bonspiel forms are on line.

7. Marketing & Promotion

- Study on diversity in curling: Dr Heather Mair at the University of Waterloo is helping us with the study. Thanks to Tam Heather and Brampton for their support. We're hoping to have the final results by the end of the year. Objective is to understand the obstacles that prevent visible minorities from getting involved in curling. One of the challenges is to pull together focus groups from the community; this will be easier now that summer is over.
- CNE "Celebrate the Olympic Spirit" – Thanks to Tam Heather for directing BaAM productions to the TCA. We were happy to run the interactive curling display. We had 6 youth and 1 adult who ran the booth for us. We had 250 surveys completed; the University of Waterloo is compiling the results for us. The majority of people who completed the survey were under 18. Thanks to the various clubs and OCA who gave us pamphlets. Thanks were also extended to Sherri Middaugh and Brent Laing who made appearances to the booth. Thanks were extended to Abbey Darnley for all the items she supplied to the display.
- 2010 Olympics: the TCA would like to work with clubs to find ways to promote the sport in conjunction with the Olympics. Marilyn Parsons commented that open houses held by TCA clubs the week before and after the 2000 Olympics were well attended.
- TCA website was refreshed over the last year. Please ensure your bonspiels are entered. We also have a twitter account on the site.

- The Don Mills Civitan Group has been trying to get an arena built. We hope that we can convince the city to include curling sheets. It appears there may be a curling facility constructed in Stouffville. Marg Butler informed us that there will be a new curling club in Schomberg, likely in 2011.
- Toronto 2009: TCA appreciates the understanding of the clubs due to the disruption caused by the change in venue.
- Ron Tolhurst: Event is now the Grey Power World Cup of Curling. 14 men's teams will compete. There will also be 4 women's teams. The complete draw will be released next week. The playoffs will be broadcast on CBC and Bold. The School of Rock has been moved to Dixie Curling Club on Monday October 5; Mike Harris will be participating. Advertising has started in the local community. There is a poster in the packages for posting at TCA clubs. A free shuttle service will be provided. Members of the Howard team are doing promotional appearances at Leaside and Cricket. There will be a TCA table at the Hershey Centre; clubs are welcome to provide flyers from their club to Beth. We are looking at holding 50/50 draws; volunteers are required. Some will be posted at the entrances and will also circulate through the stands. 50% of the proceeds will go to the TCA clubs who provide volunteers.

8. Election of Board of Directors

- Elizabeth Woolnough - President
- JD Etter
- Ross Duggan
- Ron Tolhurst – past president
- Ann Edgar - treasurer
- Joe Corrado – youth development
- Jim Anderson – junior lottery
- Paivi Liitela – secretary and bonspiel chair

No additional nominations were made from the floor. The motion to accept the slate of officers was made by Marg Butler and seconded by Jim Wright.

9. Appointment of Auditors

The motion was made by Blair Clemes that we appoint Murphy and Chung as are auditors for the 2009/10 season. The motion was seconded by Joanne Stewart and carried unanimously.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Beth Woolnough and was seconded by Marg Butler. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.