



**CRESTON CURLING CLUB**

December 2024

Welcome to

# The Curling Sheet

*“Success in curling is not measured by the number of wins, but by the memories created on the ice and the friendships formed off the ice.”*



## Curling is very special



Every Thursday evening, our team of Special O athletes with cognitive exceptionalities come out to the club to curl. Jonathan, Art, Claire, and Patrick, have been working steadily on their curling skills with Coach Ed Hager. On November 28th these four athletes competed in the 4th annual Special Olympics Virtual Curling Competition, held across BC. There were 43 teams registered in all, and our Creston DrawCats finished fifth in the A/B Division. Congratulations to these exceptional curlers.

In a virtual competition, the ends are set up the same for all participants based on a pre-determined layout. The aim is to score as many points against the virtual team as possible. A skip still calls shots and rocks are swept as usual. Although the team scored 3 points that night, they followed the same layout the following week and won more points than the first place team!

Special Olympics BC says “Athletes are the heart of Special Olympics.... They are finding success, joy and friendship as part of our global community. They're also having lots of fun!”

Ed and his team of volunteers work with our Special O curlers looking for each person’s strength and encouraging them to use that strength in their curling. If you know someone who would like to be a Special O curler, contact Ed at eahager63@gmail.com

If you want to see people working hard and having fun on the ice, come out and watch this exceptional group one evening. You’ll be rewarded with lots of ear to ear smiles!

## Mark your calendars

### Leagues:

- Registration for winter leagues is opened on November 25 and runs to December 25. Early registration ends December 11.
- Winter curling leagues begin Friday January 3, 2025 and end March 21.

### Bonspiels:

- Wild Chicken Bonspiel  
Jan 11-12, 2025
- Ladies Valentine’s Bonspiel “Boot Sweep & Boogie”  
Feb 7-9, 2025
- Men’s Butterfly Bonspiel  
Feb 27-Mar 2, 2025

### Clinics:

- Watch this space for new clinics in 2025!

Wind up banquet – March 22, 2025

## Tips for registering

Registration is now open for the winter 2024/5 season. We have our usual line up of leagues and one change. Thursday nights will be an open drop-in league – you can read about it in the article called Thursday Scramble on page 6.

Curling will run from Friday January 3 until Friday March 21. We've made a few changes in the registration process. You'll see some new questions and we talk about them below.

Registration is open until December 25. You can register on <https://creston.curling.io>. When you register:

- If you have a team:
  - include your skip's first AND last name
  - communicate with your other teammates so you're all on the same page about who's curling on whose team
- If you don't have a team, you can still register. Just type "no team" and say what position(s) you prefer to play. We suggest you also contact our Registration director, Diane, directly or send an email to [crestoncurling@gmail.com](mailto:crestoncurling@gmail.com). We will do our best to get you on a team.

You can pay by credit card, cash, personal cheque, or e-transfer to [crestoncurling@gmail.com](mailto:crestoncurling@gmail.com). Remember you must pay before the season starts.

There are three new questions on the registration form. You must answer them before you can complete the process. If you register for multiple leagues, you can simply type "see above" or something similar after the first league registration.

### READY FOR 2025?

Have you registered for the new year? Remember to pay all curling fees before the curling session begins (i.e., before Jan 3, 2025). Curlers whose payments have not been received by Jan 2, 2025 will not be allowed to curl until payment has been received and will also be charged a late fee of \$50

- **Sparing availability:** If you are available to spare, please include the league(s) you would be available to spare for and the position you prefer.
- **Volunteering:** Our club runs because we have a dedicated crew of volunteers but we always welcome fresh faces! If you can help out in any aspect, please offer to volunteer. Include the area(s) you would like to help with, for example, bonspiels, clinics, youth curling, bartending, League rep, novice clinics, etc. If you are unable to volunteer simply type "none".
- **Do we have your permission to share your contact info with other league members and to use your photo(s) for marketing purposes:** This is mostly self-explanatory but your phone number and email address may be shared for things like sparing, or communication between teams in case of cancellation. Pictures would generally be posted on our website or Facebook to showcase events at the club.

See you on the ice! In the meantime, from your board to all of you we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.

## New to curling?

This fall we held two events for people interested in learning to curl: a novice league held over three weekends, and one day rookie curling clinic.

Between the two events, we had 25 new people on the ice learning the sport. The rookie curlers also joined us on Thursday evenings to put their new skills to good use.

If you know someone new to curling encourage them to come out to future clinics. In the new

year, the Thursday night league will be a drop-in night and we anticipate a mixture of new and experienced curlers. Teams will be formed each night in a random selection so it will be a great way to integrate into the club and curling.



### Etiquette tips of the month:

- When your opponents are preparing for delivery, stand to the side of the sheet, single file and between the hog lines. Move only after the rock has been released.
- If you are throwing next you may stand on the backboard, but remain quiet and out of sight of the opposition thrower.

## Welcoming future curlers

Many of you remember our successful junior and youth curling programme. Our high school teams curled in the playdowns and often went on to the Provincials. The programme was paused, mostly due to COVID and we're working hard to bring the joy of curling back to our local youth.

Our volunteer coaches are slowly rebuilding the foundation, beginning with invitations to elementary and high school students to come and try out curling. Even with the limited classroom time (one hour) we're getting great feedback so far that the students are really enjoying their short time on the ice! We look forward to this working towards this building a thriving junior league.

Not only does this take time, it also takes

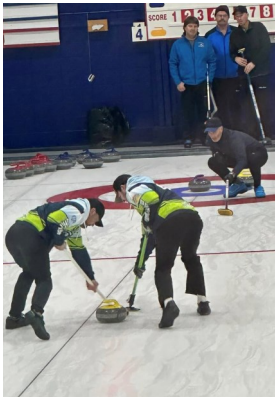
volunteers! If you have any spare time, our program can use your help even if only for an hour or two a week. You don't need special skills. We may only ask that you hold a broom! We especially welcome and encourage our seniors to help. Many young curlers will look up to you as a role model. This program will likely run until March. Let's all work together to nurture our future curlers!

Curling is "a game and culture with profound physical, mental and social benefits, that we want young Canadians to embrace." (from Curling.ca)

Our youth programs offer the opportunity to experience the joy of curling, to make new meaningful connections, and to be challenged in a supportive, engaging and fun environment.

# It's bonspiel season!

## Bothamley bonspiel



Those of us who stopped by the curling club over the November 29 to December 1 weekend, were treated to some great curling at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Doug Bothamley Memorial Open Cash Spiel. This was the third year The Creston Curling Club hosted the Bothamley.

The bonspiel was named after Doug who was born in Creston and was an avid curler and advocate for the sport all his life until his death in 2015.

We welcomed teams from Castlegar, Trail, Kimberley, and Nelson as well as 14 local teams, all competing for a purse the totalled \$12,500. Most teams received a cash prize and team payouts ranged from \$200 to \$1700 (not including \$800 in Calcutta payouts).

The prizes were hard-earned. From the first draw to the last, we watched some nail biting games with ties decided by exciting groundhog finishes.

It was wonderful to have the diverse team make-ups. We had nine men's teams, six mixed teams, two senior teams, one ladies team and two junior teams. The C Final was fun to watch Not only was it an exciting finish, but a junior team played a senior team. Congratulations to the Reynolds team who finished second in C. It's always special to see young people curling. For more about our efforts to encourage youth, read Welcoming future curlers on page 3 and Welcome to curling in Canada on page 6.

Remember that there are still tickets available for the raffle. First place prize is a 65 inch LG Smart TV and second place is a Hamilton Beach compact refrigerator. Funds raised support the bonspiel. The Bonspiel committee also thanks the many sponsors and volunteers who made the weekend possible.

## Bonspiel Results

### Senior's bonspiel

#### A EVENT

- 1st place Team Drennan
- 2nd place Team O'Connor
- 3rd place Team Easton

#### B EVENT

- 1st place Team Jones
- 2nd place Team Haberstock
- 3rd place Team Morrison

### Bothamley bonspiel

Event	First place team	Runner-up team
A	Team Ducharme	Team Cutler
B	Team Devine	Team Fahselt
C	Team O'Connor	Team Reynolds
D	Team Salviulo	Team Plante
E	Team Drennan	Team Dreher

## Creston celebrates its 34th Senior bonspiel

The Creston Seniors Open Bonspiel continues to be a popular event in the Kootenays. From November 18 to 20, the Seniors Mixed league hosted its 34<sup>th</sup> annual bonspiel. Twenty five percent of the teams travelled in from Cranbrook, Crawford Bay, Riondel, and Kimberley to join our Creston teams.

The top six teams within the A and B Divisions won cash prizes. Congratulations to all the curlers! The bonspiel finished up on Wednesday afternoon with a large buffet lunch. This year's luncheon featured a number of local vendors along with a celebratory cake.

The Seniors honoured a special guest, Terry

Webster. Terry was our club President for eight years. What a wonderful way to thank him for all his work and years of dedication and commitment to the Club. So nice to see his smiling face back at the club.



Did you know you can join the Seniors league if you're 50 years or older? You don't need a team. Just register on [curling.io](http://curling.io) and tell us what positions you prefer to curl.

**"In curling, the real skill is convincing yourself that yelling at a rock will make it do what you want."**

*(quote by "unknown", but probably hoarse from all that yelling!)*

## Chickens are going wild in January



Chickens will be going wild at our inaugural January mixed/open bonspiel!

Get your team together and

register for what promises to be a fun-filled weekend but hurry hard, because the bonspiel is limited to the first 16 teams. It's taking place over two days – Saturday January 11 and Sunday January 12. You're guaranteed three six-end games the first day and at least one eight-end

game on Sunday, not including the finals.

What does mixed/open mean? It's not a true mixed bonspiel but you do need at least one man and one woman on each team, and the third and skip must not be the same gender.

Dress up in your best chicken-wear or fancy pants and join us. Oh, and while it's not mandatory, pluck a poultry-related team name out of your imagination! Registration is \$240 per team and includes lunch both days, draw to the button, and fun prizes, including cash. You can also play chicken bingo – but you have to come out to find out about that fun event!

## Welcome to curling in Canada



Curling is rapidly becoming popular in so many new countries, world-wide. This month, Creston played a small part in that growth! Nine international students from Germany, Belgium, Mongolia, Japan, Mexico, and Spain who are being hosted in town, had a chance to get out on the ice and throw some rocks. None had curled

before, but they had nothing but interest and enthusiasm. And even some natural ability! Despite a few nerves at the start of the day, by the end they were flying up and down the ice.

While language wasn't a barrier, there was some confusion about the meaning of certain of the curling terms, for example, why is it a "hog line"?

For some of the students, this may be their one and only chance to curl but others are planning to tell their friends at home and perhaps even look up where they can curl in their home countries. We're happy to welcome these young people to Canada and to curling.



### Thursday Scramble

Introducing Thursday Scramble! It's Open drop-in night of fun curling and will begin at 7:00 on Thursday January 9. It's open to everyone: men and women, new and experienced curlers. You don't need a team to play. We'll organize teams based on who arrives to curl each week. Curlers who are willing to skip will be teamed up with a randomly selected team of curlers.

You must have paid your Curl BC fees to play. Curlers who haven't paid the fees this year can pay them

on [curling.io](http://curling.io). Just choose Thursday Scramble League Winter 24/25. Otherwise, it's \$10 a game, payable when you arrive each night.

If you have a friend who would like to try curling, bring them along. They can curl once without paying the Curl BC fees, however, they will need to register in the visitor book, and pay their \$1.00 insurance for the night.

This will be a fun night of curling, and we hope to see many familiar faces along with lots of enthusiastic new curlers from the fall clinics!

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The Creston Curling Club was established on Dec 1 1925 and started curling in January 1926.
- We have three bonspiels planned for the new year
- Three Creston teams who curled in the hard-fought Bothamley, turned around and played in the Cranbrook senior's bonspiel the next day.
- We welcomed 25 enthusiastic new curlers between our one day Rookie Clinic and three week Novice League. If you see their smiling faces at the club stop and say "hi".
- For the high school curling programme we need more men's shoe grippers - size 10 and up - so if you have any to spare, please consider donating them to the club.