

Marathon curling crowns champions in King Curling Club

By Shellee Morning

It took three hours including an extra end to determine this year's Thursday Mixed Team Entry League Champions.

Seventh-ranked Team Barber played against fourth-ranked Team Gorsline last Thursday in a tight match that had Gorsline up by only 1 point in the 7th end.

The previous 6 ends were played with an unhurried format between both teams as each shot was so vital and more importantly, what to leave for the opponents next shot.

Approaching skip rocks in the final end, Skip Dave Barber and his team of Sandra MacDonald as 3rd, Dan Steenhoek 2nd and Anne Jessop as Lead were facing a tough double for the tie to force an extra end. Sweepers Steenhoek and Jessop got their skips stone passed the guard to peel the counting stone and count one. During the extra end, both lead stones were heavy, but the seconds were able to place their guards and set up the house. Fellow curlers who completed their own games now gathered to watch the marathon game and began to wager (all in fun) who would claim victory.

Vice Kathleen Gorsline threw her first stone as a biter on the top 12 foot ring, but Barber's vice Sandra MacDonald, hugged her stone to the centre line on the top 8 foot ring to count one. Kathleen came back with a beautiful hit on the counting stone and rolled gently behind her first stone for cover.

Down to skip stones and nearing the 3-hour mark of play, Barber drew his first around the Gorsline rock for a piece of the red ring in counting position. Skipper Bruce Gorsline could see a piece of the opposition stone for a light tap and sat above the T-line pushing Barbers stone to the back 8 ring over taking the counting rock.

After a lengthy discussion on where to put the broom and the exact weight, the final rock for Team Barber was a heavy draw to return the favour and tap Gorsline's stone back and sit for 2.

In true championship curling, the final throw of the night for skip Bruce Gorsline was a draw to the button for the win and the title. The broom was placed, sweepers Greg Switzer and Heather Rutledge brushed the final stone in the dead of silence while Gorsline watched the granite reach its final resting spot, on the button for the win. The 7-6 win will go down in the history books as the longest championship game to play for its winner.

The consolation championships were awarded to Team Petersen who consisted of Skip Karl Petersen, Vice Deb Petersen, 2nd Gino DiFebo and Lead Sue DiFebo. Their game was against Team Kolb Skipped by Dan Kolb, Laura Oakes as Vice, Dave Kolb as 2nd, and Teresa Bennitz as Lead. Petersen was in control for most of the game, but a double in the 8th end by Debbie Petersen sealed the win, and eventually running team Kolb out of rocks for a score of 8-4.

Comeback win

In Friday Mixed

The Friday night mixed league held their final playoff game this past week and the top 4 teams playing for the title were ready and excited for their match ups.

Team Morning on sheet one playing against Team Groombridge gave up 4 in the first leaving her team of Anne Jessop (spare for Mary Dove), Don Smith and Wilf Robinson (spare for Dennis Schuller) shaking their heads as to what went wrong. Groombridge carried the lead and the adrenaline into the 2nd end stealing another 2 for a game lead of 6-0.

Team Morning seemed to redeem themselves with great guards by Jessop and Smith who followed with well-placed stones and setting the house up with multiple rocks. Robinson and Morning kept the house in control collecting 4 and bringing the game within 2.

Skip Doug Groombridge played the next end with caution as his team of Margaret-Ann Smith, Richard Engelhardt and Kyle Reid counted one for the 7-4 lead. The Groombridge team had all played very well with some great take outs and well placed stones for their skip. Groombridge also had an outstanding game with top quality strategy and continued the game of chase.

During the 7th and down by one, Vice Robinson for team Morning threw a timely draw behind great cover allowing Morning to just throw the extra guard for the tie and with no chance for removal by Groombridge.

Having run out of time to play the 8th end, the skips had to throw one rock each to the button to determine the game winner. Anne Jessop held the broom for Skip Morning and called the line, while sweepers Robinson and Smith who nearly swept the pebble off the ice, dragged the stone magically to the red 4 foot ring close enough to add some pressure.

Skip Groombridge left the hack perfectly on the broom but gave it a bit too much weight as his rock slid passed the Morning mark and giving up the 8-7 win. After calculating the top 4 team's game results it was declared that team Morning was this year's League Champions.

Consolation winners were Skip Jim Powers, Dawn Levine, Chris Barfitt and John Zaina.