



Annual Newsletter
2023/24

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Welcome Back!

A Message from the President

The Deep River Curling and Squash Club (DRCSC) had a very successful season last year with the return of events such as rentals and our Open Bonspiel. Your 2023/24 executive was confirmed at the Annual General Meeting last spring (see below).

Also the good news is our bank balance is still healthy after last season and we will hold membership fees at the same level as last year - **i.e. no fee increases.**

We will be having our traditional Wine and Cheese/sign up night/Fall General Meeting on Friday Sept 29th at 7 PM.

We will also have an open house planned for potential curlers and squashers on Friday Oct 27 and Saturday Oct 28 - times to be announced. With many new people in town over the last few years we are hoping to widely publicise this event and attract interest in our club. With Junior Curling and Squash programs and our Adult Learn-to-play both Curling and Squash we ask our members to invite friends and neighbours to try our sports out on those dates.

As far as registration is concerned you can either email and e-transfer your membership, use snail mail or come to the wine and cheese Fall Meeting on Sept 29. We plan to start the ice making on Oct 10 and with a little luck it should take about 2 weeks to have playable ice!

Chris Knight

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Facility

An updated application to the Ontario Trillium Capital Grant program was submitted in June to facilitate pro-active replacement of two ageing ice plant components and upgrade of the rink lighting to LED fixtures. A response to our application is expected in early fall.

The leaking 19-year-old rink heater at the scoreboard end was inspected by a qualified HVAC contractor late last spring and found to need replacement. A new unit was installed in September.

Ice plant start up is planned for October 10th. Included in the ice making process this year will be a pest-control step. Hopefully this will address the fly infestation experienced the last few years during the first months of the curling season.

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Club Finances

Although we ran a small deficit last year, we completed the financial year in fiscal 2022/2023 in a very good financial position. This is due in large part to the many Covid relief grants received over the last couple of years. The club also benefited from the donations of many generous members that contributed to the club enhancement fund.

For the third consecutive year, there will be no increase in membership fees for FY 2023/2024. Again, our reserves can tolerate a small loss. This improved financial position will also allow us to continue with much needed capital improvements.

We narrowly avoided one significant cost increase last year. Our long time insurance broker (Brokerlink) provided us with a renewal that featured a 30% increase in premiums, reduced insurance coverage and promises of further increases. Luckily we were able to find a new provider (Co-operators) where we were able to get the same coverage for a premium that was actually slightly cheaper than what we paid the previous year.

Payment of Fees

Fees can be paid by cheque or e-transfer. For e-transfer, send payment to the Treasurer, chris.moore4245@gmail.com. Members who pay by e-transfer should send their completed membership form in a separate email along with the answer to the security question to chris.moore4245@gmail.com. The Waivers that were completed previous years will remain in force. For new and returning members who have not joined since we introduced waivers, please include a completed copy of the Waiver with your registration forms.

We ask that registrations be completed and sent by October 20th to allow time for processing (4 days sooner if sent via Canada Post).

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Bar Operations

Due to a change in regulations, SmartServe now has a 5 year expiry. As the bar relies on volunteer bartenders with a valid SmartServe certification, if insufficient members re-certify this will have a significant impact on our ability to operate. As such, the club continues to encourage members to obtain SmartServe training and recertification. To assist with scheduling while members obtain SmartServe training, the membership form will have a field to identify whether you have a valid SmartServe certification.

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Evening Curling

Another September is upon us and it won't be long before we are throwing rocks again. Soon it will be time to dig out your curling gear and make sure that it, and you, are ready for the 2023/24 season.

The Club will offer opportunities to curl on every weeknight this year.

The Monday and Tuesday League will consist of balanced teams. As we have done for the past three seasons, we will try to schedule a single 8 end draw on both of these nights. Scheduling for this season will depend on the level of interest expressed by the membership for these two nights. When signing up for this League, please indicate which evening you are available to play. If your schedule is such that you can play on Either night, please indicate this (it makes scheduling much easier). New teams will be drafted on 2 or 3 occasions over the course of the season to promote social interaction between members.

The "doubles" league will return on Wednesday evenings. Because doubles curling requires each team to throw 5 rocks per end, the games take less time to play than conventional curling. Scheduling will depend on how many people express interest in playing doubles. Last year this League got off to a slow start, but eventually grew to 7 teams.

Also on Wednesday nights, the Club will run a "Learn to Curl" program. This is a great chance to learn the game. This program runs for 10 weeks and is taught by several experienced curlers in the Club.

For the Thursday League, members will be able to enter a set team (or partial team) at the start of the year. If you wish to enter a team, please list your team members on your membership form. Please note that team entries will only be accepted after the start of the season if it can be done without disrupting the league. Members are also able to sign up individually for the Thursday League and will be placed on a team. Last season, The Club had 9 teams playing on Thursday nights.

Friday night will operate on a drop in basis for members and non-members. This is a great time to introduce your friends to the game. Social members, guests and “Once perWeek: members can play on Friday with payment of a \$10 fee

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Morning Social Curling

For those interested in curling during the day, games are played every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 AM. This league operates on a drop in basis, so there is no team commitment. Each game is normally 6 ends. The monthly mini-spiels occur with daytime curlers who volunteer in organizing this event.

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Learn to Curl Program

We will be offering a LTC program this season. It will be on Wednesday evenings 7 PM to 9 PM for 10 sessions starting in November. The price is \$189 and includes a free broom. If you know of someone who is interested please have them contact Chris Knight (knightcurler@hotmail.com) or Bill Shorter (tbshorter@sympatico.ca).

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Little Rocks and Junior Program

Our junior program this year will take place on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 PM. We will be offering the Little Rocks (7-10 year olds) and Junior Curling (11 and older) programs together at 4:00 pm. If you are interested in assisting us throughout the season, safety is our top priority and you need not be an experienced coach or curler to be of great help in running the program, please contact Mike Moore (michael.christopher.moore@gmail.com) or Wendy McCauley (wendy.mccauley@hotmail.com)

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Squash

Squash this season will build upon participation and court usage from the past few years.

We will continue to offer regular play to all members as well as promote day use within the community as a whole. This season Adult programming is aiming for two offerings of the Learn to Squash course as well as follow up mini tournaments to help facilitate member social interaction.

Junior programming will hopefully make a resurgence this season with the formatting to be decided later on based on interest and volunteer availability.

To get involved in Squash please contact Mike Moore (michael.christopher.moore@gmail.com).

Club Executive

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Deep River Curling and Squash Club

DRCSC-Deep River Squash Club

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