

UNITED STATES Curling News

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USA's Blake Morton rink finished 6th at the World University Games in Turkey. Pictured at right is Morton, 19.

Photo by
Leslie Ingram-Brown



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Growth Spurt



by Terry Kolesar,
Editor

It has become a common theme: Olympic coverage of curling creates curling craze across the U.S. As NBC embraced curling on its networks and aired every draw of action from the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, the sport once again was

a winner in the hearts of newfound fans eager to pick up a broom and throw a stone.

The problem for some, however, is finding a place to curl when no club even exists in your entire state. The eager folks in Atlanta, embraced that challenge.

Please see **GROWTH** on Page 4.

Sandra Takata (left) instructs Patrick O'Neil (l-r), Dixon Freeman, Jeff Williams and Bob Zasowski at a curling camp in Knoxville this summer. The Great Smoky Mountains Curling Club assisted the Atlanta members with a camp to get them ready to curl. The Atlanta club is now an official USCA member and searching for local ice. To learn more about the new club in Atlanta, see story on Page 3.



2011 USWCA Scots Tour a roaring success

by Nancy Wilhelm,
U.S. Women's Curling Association

During the month of January, 20 Scottish women from the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in Scotland toured the United States from Boston to Seattle. It has been 10 years since the Tour has been here. They traveled nearly 2,000 miles by air, more than 3,200 miles by coach, visited 22 USWCA-member curling clubs and played 121 games.

The Scot Tour began in Boston, where they curled at Broomstones and TCC curling clubs. They then played at the Cape Cod, Nutmeg, Potomac and Mayfield clubs. From there they traveled to Cleveland, Detroit, Exmoor and Chicago. Next up was Wisconsin as they curled in Milwaukee, Kettle Moraine, Madison, Portage and Green Bay. From there they traveled to the USWCA West Region playing games in Duluth, Curl Mesabi, Fargo-Morehead, and St. Paul. Traveling farther west, the Scot Tour ended with games and closing ceremonies in Seattle.

A running total score is kept for the games. The Scots prevailed in the competition with a final

Please see **SCOTS TOUR** on Page 4.

Continental Crush



Team North America dominated this year's Continental Cup in St. Albert, Alberta. Teams skipped by USA's Erika Brown and Pete Fenson were part of Team NA. See story on Page 11.

Photo by
Michael Brian Jr.



USWCA NEWS

Winning attitude is greatest asset



By Nancy Seitz,
USWCA President
president@uswca.org

"What would you try if you knew you could not fail?" Definitely that triple takeout comes to mind; or signing up for the regional and then for the national playdowns and then – of course – the Olympic Trials.

The phrase is not my own, and it doesn't pertain only to the aspirations of curlers. But the expectation of finding success in what you choose to do is something that creates a winner, and fuels the determination that makes it a reality. When it comes to curling, that winning attitude on the

Building relationships, mentoring new curlers is USWCA backbone

ice flows from strategy to teamwork to execution.

For women of the United States Women's Curling Association, that same attitude runs through our passion for the sport off the ice as well. Building stronger alliances with other clubs, winning the respect and friendship of curlers wherever we go and winning new devotees of the sport in the most unexpected places; how could we fail to grow

support for curling if we spread the word? USWCA exists to develop, nurture and promote the sport of curling among today's women and youth. Our members love the sport and know that the stronger the programs, the greater the opportunities and the broader the network of curlers, the more certain we can be that curling will remain a strong and vital sport for the future.

For the past year, I have had the pleasure of witnessing that winning attitude on an almost daily basis. Undaunted by the challenges and inspired by the opportunities, we have continued our traditions, broadened our programming and tackled the modernizing of our organization to better serve the new curling generation. I turn the gavel to new leadership this month, and it is with confidence that when it comes to building opportunities for women and youth in curling, these women will never stop trying and they will not fail.

Scots Tour has long, rich history

This article was written by Shirley P. Elwell of the Milwaukee Kilties and printed in the United States Women's Curling Association Historical Review 1947-1997

Tours to Scotland:

1955 – United States of America and Canada: Eight ladies from each country
1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 – A tour team of 20 USWCA members

Tours to the United States:

1958 – A team of 16 ladies
1963 – Three teams East, three teams West
1971, 1981, 1991 – A



The 2011 Scottish Ladies USA Tour pin

tour team of 20 Royal Caledonia Curling Club Ladies' Branch Members

These unforgettable exchange curling tours had their beginning when a joint team of eight Americans and eight

Canadians visited Scotland for a month in 1955. The opportunity to reciprocate some of the famous Scottish hospitality came in 1958, when 16 Scottish ladies arrived to spend one week in Montreal, one week in Ontario and two weeks in the USA from Illinois to Massachusetts. It was at the Winchester Country Club that this first team to visit America had their farewell dinner, Feb. 8, 1958.

The first tour that was held exclusively in the USA was participated in by 24 Scottish ladies when they returned in 1963. All six rinks flew into Chicago

and curled against members of the area's eight clubs. From there the team was divided, three rinks curling in Wisconsin and Minnesota, three rinks traveled east to curl in New York and Massachusetts all were reunited once again in the Boston area.

It was in 1966 that the first exclusively American Team toured Scotland when 20 USWCA members curled at all eight of the curling centers existing at that time. As a result of this successful tour, the USWCA became the first associate member of the RCCC Ladies' Branch in October 1967.

At that time a definite schedule for these exchange visits of an alternate five-year program of three-week tours was agreed upon.

As Jean Gow, captain of the 1958 Scottish Team, said in her speeches here:

"The primary purpose of these exchange tours is the fun of curling and the international goodwill engendered by the friendly matches. And as both associations have always fully subscribed to this purpose, there has never been a trophy to compete for and it is hoped that that will always remain the case: to true curlers "winning" new friends is reward enough!"

SCOTS TOUR

Continued From Page 1

USA to tour Scotland in 2016

score of 1,072 for the Royal Caledonian's and 672 for the USA. Needless to say – even with the rigorous schedule, the Scot women prevailed.

For complete details of the Tour, for photos and the itinerary, and to learn more about the women of the tour, please go to www.uswca.org. Click on USWCA Tours, Scot Tour 2011.

The USWCA will be sending a Team of USA women to Scotland in 2016. You can learn more about becoming part of that tour by talking with your club's USWCA representative, or by visiting the USWCA website. Another Scot Tour will be back in the United States in 2021.

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GROWTH

Continued From Page 1

They went to Facebook and created an interest group and then traveled to Knoxville, Tenn., and held a curling camp. Even more excited now, they went back home and formally started a club, got accepted by the Grand National region and became USA Curling members.

Since the flame was snuffed in Vancouver, 14 new clubs have formed across the U.S. and become official USA Curling members. The sport has now found a home in 39 of 50 U.S. states. The new total membership is not yet known (dues are collected each January but some clubs file late, and typically the total membership number is revealed months later, so please stay tuned).

In 2002, USA Curling had 11,510 members. By

2006, we had 12,231. Just two years later we had climbed to 14,395. As of Feb. 8, 2011, with 117 of 167 clubs reporting dues and rosters, we have 14,478 members. Some of those missing clubs are some of our larger ones in Minnesota, which should take us well over the 15,000 mark. Of those 117 clubs that have reported membership numbers so far, 90 percent have shown an increase in curlers.

The Grand National region has added the most clubs since Vancouver, with seven new sites and several more in the developmental stages.

Now, I'm no mathematician, but I know that means growth. How much growth will the Sochi 2014 Olympic Games bring? We can't wait to find out.

Member Services

Your contact: Bev Schroeder, beverly.schroeder@usacurl.org; 1-888-287-5377, Ext. 203

Curling for Charity at Cape Cod nets over \$20,000

by Russ Lemcke,
Cape Cod Curling Club

Cape Cod Curling Club hosted its sixth Curling for Charity event in November. Twelve teams from local organizations, such as

police departments, research institutes, churches and area businesses participated. It is a requirement that players have not previously curled, so club members were busy training more than 70 wannabes for

the event.

Each team was required to raise \$1,000 and the event sponsor contributed \$2,500. Club members sold raffle tickets, and donations were taken at the door, which resulted in \$20,500

being raised. Friends and family members came to cheer on their friends, resulting in a packed house for the entire day.

These events not only raise needed funds for charitable organizations, but

they also increase awareness and position the club as a force for good in the community. Moreover, several participants ultimately join the club. Charity and curling – a winning combination.

World
Mixed Doubles
Curling Championship
SAINT PAUL 2011



Volunteers needed at World Seniors, Mixed Doubles in St. Paul

The St. Paul Curling Club is looking for four experienced – at least Level 1, preferably level 2 certified – individuals to work as game umpires at the 2011 World Senior Championships and World Mixed Doubles Championship in St. Paul in April.

Volunteers would work directly with the head umpires for each event to provide assistance and relief to the head umpires. The positions would be volunteer with no financial compensation; meals would be included.

This is a great opportunity for people looking to gain international experience. Event dates are April 16-23. There are other volunteer opportunities available as well.

If you are interested in finding out more or signing up to volunteer, contact Mike O'Neil at mocurl59@gmail.com.

Curling Camp 2010 kicks off Atlanta Curling Club



Eric Kortebein (left) of the Great Smoky Mountains Curling Club assists David Corbin, Dan Weddermann and Maxwell Williams at a camp held for the Atlanta club members.

Submitted by The Atlanta Curling Club

The Atlanta Curling Club recently held Curling Camp 2010, its first official event, in conjunction with the Great Smoky Mountains Curling Club at the Ice Chalet in Knoxville, Tenn. Since no one in the Atlanta club had curled before, they relied on members of the Knoxville curling club to teach and coach them through many drills, strategy sessions and practice games.

A lot of focus was placed on training the leadership of the Atlanta club, since they will need to be the trainers back in Atlanta. Currently the ACC is obtaining equipment and looking for an ice rink in the greater Atlanta area that they will be able to call home.

ACC members enjoyed the practice ends they played in Knoxville. Many members found that curling is a bit harder than they realized it was going to be, and that it really is a game of both skill and strategy. However, sometimes it just clicked and some quite good shots were made.

Jeff Williams, ACC vice president and curling beginner, made a nice button shot in one end, ultimately scoring

his first curling point. "It really felt good as I released it, and I was amazed how it looked like it would be spot on when it got to the other end," he said.

Encouraged and excited, the Atlantans returned to the south, working out the next steps toward getting their curling club up and running. Many members are also seriously considering signing up for the next Rocky Top Bonspiel in Knoxville, scheduled for June 2011.

Founded in February 2010, while watching curling during the Winter Olympics, the Atlanta Curling Club was first formed as an online community on Facebook, intended to gather together curlers, curling enthusiasts and people who just wanted to try curling together.

The ACC still has a sizable presence on Facebook where there have been many brainstorming discussions about forming the curling club, and where articles and links have been published to curling resources.

Visit the Atlanta Curling Club at their new website, <http://atlcurling.org>. Also, visit the Great Smoky Mountains Curling Club's web site at <http://curl-knoxville.com>.

Eight-Enders

Kettle Moraine

On Dec. 3, 2010, during the Friday Night Mixed League at the Kettle Moraine Curling Club, Hartland, Wis., an eight-ender was laid by the Larry Maier rink. The eight-ender happened on Sheet 2 in the seventh end. Curling with Maier were Cyndy Seitz, Jeff Moylan and Katie Carrera.

Nutmeg

An eight-ender occurred during the in-house Achilles Bonspiel held on Jan. 15 at the Nutmeg Curling Club. It is a new-member bonspiel at the club and the teams are comprised of three new curlers from the last Olympics or more recently, and one experienced curler. Curling on the team were Charissa Lin, John Larson, Andy Vojt and Mary Reilly.

St. Paul

On Nov. 19, 2010, at the St. Paul Curling Club, St. Paul, Minn., an eight-ender was laid by the Loni Strassman rink during league play. The eight-ender happened on Sheet 8 in the fifth end. Curling with Strassman were Rachel Orvik, Michael Gerba and Erin Gerba.

Superior

It was a Monday night league game, on Feb. 2, 2009, at the Superior Curling Club, Superior, Wis., when an eight-ender was laid by the Jim Bradshaw rink. The eight-ender occurred on Sheet D in the third end. Curling on the team were Jim Bradshaw, Todd Malpass, Patrick Plys and Dave Strang.

Mankato

An eight-ender was laid on Jan. 12 at the Mankato Curling Club, Mankato, Minn., during the Wednesday evening open league. Curling on the team were Mary Maidl, Russ Weingartz, Jake Palmer and Anna Martin.

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