

Rutland Rocks Curling Club

Minutes of the Third Annual Meeting

The Rutland Rocks Curling Club, Inc. (the Club) held its Third Annual Meeting at 1 Hill Pond Road, Rutland, Vermont on Sunday, March 28, 2010. Fourteen members attended the meeting: Bill Anderson, Linda and Nate Dansereau, Glenn Deruchie, Dianne Lyver, Nancy Murphy, Bruce Jenson, Matthew Gibbs, Barbara Ebling, Glenn Campbell, Don Lajoie, Artie Oken, Andrea Coppola and our newest member, Mary Lou Webster. We also had two guests joining us.

A social time preceded the meeting, which began at about 5:45. Thanks to all for providing a very delicious dinner! The Annual Report, Financial Statement and the 2010/2011 has been distributed to all by e-mail previously.

The meeting began with words of thanks and encouragement at how the 09/10 season had gone from Club President Bill Anderson.

The minutes from the Second Annual Meeting, held April 5, 2009 were accepted, as written, by the membership.

Nancy Murphy, Club Secretary/Treasurer then presented the Secretary's Report, reviewing the enrollment in the club, the attendance at the two Open Houses, eight Learn to Curl sessions and the weekly club curling sessions. Nate Dansereau once again received recognition for the best attendance at our regular club curling nights. We currently have twenty-seven members, eighteen of whom returned from the 08/09 season with nine new members to the club. We averaged ten curlers per club curling session, and had thirty-four people participate in our Learn to Curls.

In addition to regular Club activities, the RRCC participated in several other activities: two Open Houses at the Riley Rink in Manchester, where over 100 participants were introduced to the sport of curling; a group from the Boys & Girls Club of Rutland came during their winter break to experience curling and finally, we hosted a charity event with the two Rutland Rotary Clubs sending a total of sixteen Rotarians to compete for bragging rights – one of the Rutland South teams took home the curling honors, and Team One from the Rutland City Club won the fundraising award (a total of \$1,106 was raised).

Four Club members participated in the Rutland Halloween Parade ~ following a RRCC banner and Halloween-themed trailer handing out candy to somewhat rain-soaked on-lookers. Five members are working towards their Level I Instructor certification, and two are working on their Level II Instructor certification.

The Treasurers Report followed. As of March 22, 2010 the Club had a balance of \$271.29 in the checking account and \$725.34 in the savings account for a total of \$966.63 cash on hand. Ice fee paid by members brought in \$291 to help support the Club, and the 10% surcharge on Goldline orders brought in an additional \$38.85 in revenue. After all additional revenue from 50/50 tickets, RRCC Gear sales and pre-season memberships are included, it is expected that the Club would have realized a gain of approximately \$100. (A final Financial Report will be sent with these minutes, at the close of our Fiscal Year, which ends on April 30th.)

There were seven items on the agenda for discussion by the membership:

- 1) *Board of Directors* – Bill Anderson and Glenn Deruchie announced their intention to step down at the end of the 09/10 Season. Volunteers were asked to consider being on the Board of Directors. Nate Dansereau and Don Lajoie volunteered and were approved by the members present. The appointment of Officers followed, below is the Board of Directors for the 2010/2011 Season:

Dianne Lyver, President
Linda Dansereau, Vice-President
Nancy Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer
Nate Dansereau, Matthew Gibbs and
Don Lajoie, Board Members

- 2) *How to promote the RRCC next season to increase awareness, participation and membership?* We discussed many ways to promote the Club and curling: the Rutland Halloween Parade, a booth at the Friday Night Live during the summer, the Rutland Herald calendars (print and on-line), regional papers, Vermont Sports, the Rutland Rec Department calendar and web-site. Andrea Coppola volunteered a display window at the downtown branch of the Lake Sunapee Bank. We discussed the possibility of offering an “in-kind” membership to a PR expert so that the club would have access to more media outlets and be able to benefit from a more professional approach to marketing. We will continue to work to take advantage of the Olympic “bump” in interest that we experienced at the end of this past season. The Board will meet in the next month or so to develop a marketing/promotion plan and will communicate the ideas and needed resources at that time. We also discussed possible special events, using the Rotary Curling event as a model for future fundraising opportunities, perhaps an early season event to benefit Giorgetti Arena. Nancy will approach the Rutland Rec Department to explore the possibility of securing additional ice time so that special events can be planned with sufficient lead-time.
- 3) *League play and member practice time* - The discussion centered on creating league play to help foster continuity and team building. Once again, the number of participating members is an issue. We will look at a possible league during the second half of the season. Dianne suggested that it would help to start with a league of even three teams to get league play off the ground.

- 4) *Volunteerism*: Now that we have completed our third season, several volunteer opportunities have been identified, and members have stepped up to fill these positions: Web Master – Dale Christie, Bonspiel Coordinator – Nate Dansereau, Open House Coordinator – Linda Dansereau, Non-Club Special Events – Nancy Murphy. Thank you to all !! The final item under Volunteerism has to do with providing snacks each night. While Nancy has enjoyed providing snacks thus far, we will be sharing this task as well, part of the sign up sheet will include the “Snack Fairy” line so that members can sign up to bring something to share. (after the meeting, Artie suggested that we have a special award for the favorite/most memorable snack at the end of the year)
- 5) *Open House and Mini-Lessons*: Discussion regarding the on-ice experience for participants in Open Houses and our “mini-lessons” arose from feedback from one of our members, whose family attended a “mini lesson”. The comment was made that they wished they had been able to throw a stone the full length of the ice. We reviewed the new “station” format for our Open Houses, and it was agreed that we could arrange the experience to include delivering a stone the full sheet. The mini-lessons were introduced this year as a reaction to the fact that we have limited opportunity to offer Open Houses and these would allow people to experience curling without waiting for an Open House. The mini-lessons were intended to be a quick on-ice experience where by anyone that came at 5:00pm on a Sunday would have the opportunity to get on the ice and experience curling. We felt that we needed to have a specific structure and format for both the Open House and mini-lessons so that participants would know exactly what to expect from the experience (i.e. you would not be playing a game after a mini-lesson). The Board will work on this through the summer so that we will have something in place for next season. Instructors and assistants will also be scheduled to spread the work.
- 6) *Old/New Business*: Three additional “jobs” were identified during this part of the meeting: Ice Master – Glenn Deruchie volunteered for this position, Skill Building Coordinator – Dianne Lyver volunteered to work to bring more experienced curlers to the club to hold clinics to further our skills. The third position, Equipment Coordinator – no volunteer for this position, which would work to assure that all equipment is in good working order, to identify needed equipment and to acquire such equipment as is deemed necessary by the club.

Nancy discussed the need for club members to consider purchasing their own equipment to preserve club equipment for the use of new members and others participating in Learn to Curls, mini lessons and Open Houses. Orders placed through the Club for Goldline products not only save members approximately 30% off of retail prices, but also allow the club to see some additional revenue. The possibility of charging members a rental fee for taking club equipment to outside events was also mentioned.

Glenn Deruchie made special mention of the contributions made by Mike Gauthier this year. Mike provided the Club banners, used in the Halloween Parade and at other events, as well as the new bumper stickers that were distributed to all members as well as Learn to Curl participants. Nancy also thanked Glenn for all of his efforts this season. He and Mike were also instrumental in getting the www.rutlandrocks.com website up and running through their contact with Jackson Whelon. Thank you Mike and Glenn!

The season-long Fifty/Fifty Raffle ended with the drawing of the winning ticket. Thank you to all for participating, and especially to Artie Oken, the winner! Rather than taking his winnings, Artie donated the money back to the Club, so that the total revenue from the 50/50 this year was \$102!!! Thank you Artie!

Dianne Lyver presented a gift and card to Bill and Nancy from the members. Thank you!

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted, Nancy L. Murphy