



BCIMCA 2015 FALL NEWSLETTER

Pres: Vacant **Past Pres:** Vern Ronmark, Creston **Sec/Treas:** Linda DeBelsler, Vernon
Zone 1 Director: Paul Beattie, Grand Forks **Zone 1 Asst. Director:** Bill Maslechko
Zone 2 Director: Lorne McIntosh, Kimberley
Zone 3 Director: Vacant
Zone 4 Director: Bill Gawiuk, Vernon

Our 2015-16 Masters Curling Season is off to another start. Hopefully, you all had a wonderful summer. This edition of our Newsletter will focus on a number of issues including membership numbers, Zone Playdowns, recap of the 2015 Combined Championship, the upcoming 2016 Combined Championship, use of “filler teams” in combined championship, vacant executive positions, affiliation with the BC Stick Curling Association, BCIMCA constitution changes, priorities for 2015/2016 to name a few.

MEMBERSHIP

This past year our membership declined slightly from approximately 1,365 in 2013-2014 to about 1,287 this year. This can be attributed to several factors including the Kelowna senior ladies and Penticton senior curlers declining to join the BCIMCA. For the upcoming season, the Cranbrook senior curlers have advised that they will not be members of the BCIMCA. On a brighter note, last season a senior league with the Kamloops Curling Club opted to join the BCIMCA, resulting in 80 new members (74 men and 6 ladies). A warm welcome and thank you to the Kamloops CC senior curlers.

The BCIMCA executive will continue to encourage non-members curling clubs to join the BCIMCA. Further, the BCIMCA executive is requesting those curlers who participate in spiels at non-member clubs to encourage their senior curlers to consider joining the BCIMCA.

2015 BCIMCA ZONE PLAYDOWNS

Last year we had 33 teams competing in Zone playdowns. This is down from 48 the previous year. A total of \$4,630 was collected through team entries and ALL of these monies were re-distributed to teams advancing to the Combined Championships to help off-set travel costs. On a positive note, the zone entries in Zone 4 remain strong, however, a decrease was noted in the

other three zones, including no mixed teams from zones 2 and 3 and no ladies teams from zones 1 and 2. As we all know, any team can beat another and every team is capable of winning the zone. On that note, curlers are encouraged to form a team and participate in the playdowns. Talk to any curler who has participated in the Combined Championship and they will say it was a wonderful experience.

Zone Playdown dates for the 2015-16 season are being finalized. Posters will be prepared and distributed to clubs indicating the locations and dates of the zone playdowns in the fall.

2015 COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **Richmond Curling Centre** hosted last years Combined Championship **March 31 – April 3, 2015**. Thank you to Dale Gregory and his team for putting on a wonderful event. For the first time this event included 60+ mixed and 60+ ladies categories. Following is a summary of the results of each category:

Ladies 60+

In this event, the Karin Host team from Richmond won both the PCMCA and the combined championships. The Kate Peirlet team from Osoyoos won the BCIMCA championship while the Ann Johnson team from Vernon, consisting of Ann, Agnes Sakakibara, Irene Houle and Shirley Sawchyn was the runner-up in this event.

Mixed 60+

The Jack Holden team from Comox won both the PCMCA and the combined championships. Winning the BCIMCA event was the Guy Schmirler team from Vernon comprising Guy, Mary Carr, Bill Carr and Linda Schmirler. In addition to the Schmirler team, teams skipped by Jim Skrenek and Ron Heuman from Vernon rounded out the BCIMCA field.

Men's 60+

The Jack Feltham team from Qualicum won both the PCMCA and the combined championships. Winning the BCIMCA championship was the Ron Robinson team from Osoyoos while the Erich Breitzkreuz team from Salmon Arm was the runner-up.

Men's 70+

As Zone 2 of the BCIMCA could not field a 70+ team, the Bruce Lonsbery team from Langley rounded out the BCIMCA complement. The Lonsbery team went on to win combined championship. Team Seebach from Vernon, comprising Doug, Harvey Gee, Gerry Sawchyn and Hubert Houle won the BCIMCA championship and Clem DeGobbi won the PCMCA championship in a shoot-out.

Karin Host from Richmond won the Sandy's Heart award which is awarded to the lady curler who, in part, supports and encourages the vision of the BCIMCA/PCMCA, adheres to and respects the rules for competition and displays sportsperson like conduct on and off the ice.

Congratulations to all curlers!

2016 COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIPS

The combined championship this year will be held at the Kelowna curling club March 15-18, 2016. Peter Ellison and his team have already commenced with arrangements.

Consistent with last season, the Kelowna combined championship will include all four categories (i.e., men's 60+, ladies 60+, men's 70+ and 60+ mixed). As with the combined championship in Richmond last year, participants can anticipate an enjoyable time.

USE OF "FILLER TEAMS" IN COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIP

As previously indicated in this newsletter, there were no ladies and/or mixed entries for a number of zones. The respective zone directors did their utmost best to encourage teams to participate in the combined championship, but to no avail. To ensure that all categories had eight teams (i.e., 4 from the BCIMCA and 4 from the PCMCA), filler teams from zone 4 of the BCIMCA and the PCMCA were used. Use of "filler teams" at Richmond resulted in concern being raised and discussed at the spring meeting of the BCIMCA. In coordination with the PCMCA, the following changes will be implemented:

- 1. Zone directors will do everything they can to fill teams in all 4 categories.*
- 2. If they do not have a team in one category, they will field a team from their zone.*
- 3. Failing that they will field a team from one of the other zones. Only a runner up team from another zone may be considered as a fill in.*
- 4. The zone runner up must have the complete team he played with in that particular zone.*
- 5. If that is not possible, the remaining teams will be drawn from the zone by lottery with the Directors approval.*
- 6. There will be **no** cross-over between BCIMCA and PCMCA to fill team spots.*

In conclusion, if a category in a zone is still missing a team, the round-robin will proceed with the remaining teams.

VACANT BCIMCA EXECUTIVE POSTIONS

President - This past summer, Jim Skrenek resigned the Presidency to attend to personal matters. Thank you Jim for all your efforts advancing/promoting the BCIMCA, including affiliation agreements with CurlBC and the BC Stick Curlers Association, establishing a web site (www.bcimca.ca), implementing a brochure which has been very well received, etc. In the interim, Vern Ronmark (Past President) has stepped in to fill the responsibilities of the President. Vern has indicated that this will be his final year serving on the executive of the BCIMCA.

Zone 3 - As of this spring, the Director of Zone 3 resigned and relocated to the coast. Efforts to encourage someone to fill this position have been unsuccessful.

Zone 4 – After serving four years as the Director of Zone 4, Bill Gawiuk has indicated that this will be his last year.

In summary, volunteers are needed to fulfill these positions and to ensure the continued success of the BCIMCA. Interested individuals are asked to contact any of the BCIMCA executive members.

AFFILIATION BETWEEN THE BCIMCA AND BC STICK CURLERS ASSOCIATION (BCSCA)

This past curling season, the BCIMCA and the BC Stick Curlers Association signed an affiliation agreement, recognizing that the two organizations share similar goals and interests and that mutual benefits could be realized including:

- 1. Promotion of stick curling to those curlers who have limited strength and/or flexibility. And to provide more opportunity for those conventional curlers who just want to use the stick or participate in a stick spiel and/or championship.*
- 2. Stick curling is a growing sport and has allowed more curlers to stay in the game longer and provides seniors with exercise and the opportunity to socialize. This benefits the BCIMCA by retaining /increasing its over-sixty members.*
- 3. The BCIMCA allows the use of delivery sticks in all competition play and benefits from providing input to rules the Canadian Stick Curling Association may adopt.*
- 4. The BCIMCA and the BCSCA support local curling centers in providing 50+ Curling Clinic's.*
- 5. Together, the two organizations share a stronger voice as it relates to all matters that affect Master and Stick Curlers in the province of BC.*
- 6. There may be benefits realized through acquiring outside sponsors by representing a larger curling demographic.*

*On the subject of stick curling, this past season saw the Vernon curling club, for the first time, host the 2015 BC Open Provincial Stick Curling Championship. This event drew 32 teams from across the Province and was won by the Gord Duplisee team from Salmon Arm with runners-up from Vernon comprising Jim Burns and Cliff Bryanton. **The Vernon curling club stick curlers are proud to announce that they have secured the 2015/2016 National Open Stick Curling Championship to be held on March 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2016. Watch for details on the VCC website.***

BCIMCA CONSTITUTION CHANGES

By-law #15 - Annual Meeting. It was proposed at the last meeting of the Board of Directors that the words "within six months of the fiscal year end" be removed and replaced with the words "within the fiscal year". This change was accepted.

The rationale for the change was to provide clarity when the Board is to call its AGM and to give flexibility in where and when the AGM should be held to allow maximum opportunity for broad BCIMCA membership opportunity for representation.

By-law #2 – Membership – The subject of allowing all individuals who are 60+ years of age, regardless of whether they play in a daytime league or not, to participate in zone playdowns will be discussed at the fall meetings of the PCMCA and BCIMCA. Subsequently, the item will be an agenda item at the combined PCMCA/BCIMCA meeting that will occur in conjunction with the Combined Championship in Kelowna March 15-18, 2016.

BCIMCA PRIORITIES FOR 2015-16

The priorities for this year include:

- *Assisting the Kelowna organizing committee to ensure for a successful combined championship in March.*
- *Striving to encourage individuals to step up and fulfill existing and future executive positions.*
- *Increasing team participation in the zone playdowns.*

We are interested in your feedback - please contact any member of our executive with your constructive feedback, comments, suggestions. We are committed to make your organization the best it can be in the interests of serving our daytime/retiree curling membership.

Look for our Winter (mid-season) Newsletter in early January