

This writer had the pleasure of curling at Broomstones in the 1975-76 season. The multi-level, four-sheet facility was just a few years old, a combination of Weston and Wellesley Country Club curlers (later adding Brae Burn curlers when their facility closed). I drove three times a week through Boston suburbs, from Boxboro, near Acton and Concord, about a half-hour drive in good traffic, to a site in Wayland nestled in the woods.

A highlight was my parents' visit—we played together in the Wellesley Mixed 'spiel. Another highlight was the Monday evening Metropolitan League, in which teams from Broomstones, The Country Club, Brae Burn and Winchester played at one another's facilities. Last I heard, the forest remains and the land around the club is largely undeveloped, so Broomstones is not out of the woods!

Club president Bob Chandler updates the Curling News: "Broomstones is indeed surrounded by trees and has a beautiful surrounding still. We are in great shape physically and financially, having been operating under a strategic plan for a number of years and are well along our capital improvements and we continue to have community outreach and related curling opportunities from outside the club.

"We have no public open houses scheduled right now as we have a waiting list and are managing our natural attrition with people who come through our Learn to Curl programs and our active rental activities. We host U.S. and regional events regularly. Our youth program is very active and the kids travel and in many cases compete at higher levels across North America.

"We look forward to hosting the U.S. Mixed Doubles championships this December and the U.S. Junior National Championships in 2013."

Hackers

We wonder: in curling, "hacks" are a good thing. Why, then, are shooters not referred to as "hackers?" Speaking of hacks, back in 1980, Olson Curling Supplies of Edmonton competed for U.S. clubs' business in ice equipment and other curling supplies—Olson advertised "two hacks on a board" for \$14.95. Sounds like a sandwich order at a longshoreman's deli.

Points game as pre-cursor to mixed doubles?

In the 1970s and 1980s, the American Curling Foundation was the principle source for promotional brochures for club use. Many clubs created their own brochures. Some companies with an interest in curling also created promotional materials, including The Falk Corporation of Milwaukee, which sold shaft couplings used in refrigerating ice. Their Falk Sport Facts brochure series included "Curling—The Genteel Sport of Brooms and Rocks on Ice." This brochure was widely distributed in the curling community (at least in the Midwest) in the 1970s. The brochure illustrated the "Points Game," in which two curlers vied against one another by shooting at or around pre-arranged rocks, which in addition to a good two-person competition was also a terrific way to practice many shots, from simple draws and hits to ports, in- and out-wicks, chap and lies, and so on (note the curling terms now seldom used, to which we can add "dead end," which has become "blank"). One wonders, was the idea of modern mixed doubles, with its pre-placed rocks, sparked by memories of the Points Game?

Curling instruction in 1970s Illinois

In September 1977, Betty Duguid announced an Instructors' Curling Seminar, sponsored by the Wilmette Park District on Curtis Curling Center's six sheets of ice. The Curtis has long been out of the curling business, but Dar Curtis' legacy lives at The Chicago Community Trust, source of many grants to support Illinois curling and USCA member services programs.

Real curling hot-shots

Item for curling history buffs who like military history: The 1992 U.S. Men's Scotland Tour Team had two notable combat pilots, Jack McCann of St. Paul (WWII, Korea, Vietnam) and LaVerne Griffin of Portage (Korea and Vietnam). In January 2012, the USCA will once again send 20 men (at their own expense) to represent the USA in Scotland, the nation that developed our great game. This venerable tradition has, since 1952, been a career-capping experience for long-time curlers, men and, under the aegis of the USWCA, women. At alternate five-year intervals, the Scots' Royal Caledonian Curling Club teams tour the USA.

USWCA history item

According to the USWCA News, January, 1967 issue: New members include the (Seattle) Granite Ladies, 30 curlers, and the Philadelphia Belles, 42 curlers. The USWCA National Bonspiel sites 1967-69 were to be Saddle and Cycle (Chicago), Duluth, and Milwaukee. In 1965-66, 48 clubs and 1,808 curlers participated in the first All-American Event.

A forecast

It is hereby rumored that the Editor, *U.S. Curling News*, will leave her post to take over from Tina Brown the editorship of Newsweek. She will be replaced by the writer of the popular *Curling News* feature, Rocket Exhaust, who will proceed to fill the paper with cute Top 10 lists to reduce his pre-written backlog of 3,000 lists. Flush with success, The Rocket will leave within months to write Top 10 Lists at the David Letterman show. Ace columnist Ben Tucker will then become editor and will add a regular feature called "Curling and Crop Rotation." Tuck will also start to pay top dollar for this writer's column ("top dollar" is defined as anything more than zero—we are not greedy).

Editor's note: While *Curling News* Editor Emeritus Garber was galavanting at Broomstones in the 1975-76 season, the current editor was being brought into this world. :)