

In memoriam

Charles “Chuck” Ruelle, 80, died January 11 in Wisconsin Rapids. Chuck, his spouse Marian and his son David were active curlers at the Stevens Point Curling Club from 1974-1989.

Tales from Sheet Nine

Jan 2010

By David Garber

Remembering Doug Bogue

In the 1960s, the arguably the toughest bonspiel in Wisconsin was the “State Men’s,” held the first weekend in December (in those days, the first big event of the season). It was an honor to win any event—the winners’ names were affixed on brass plates and traveled every year to the next host site. In a singular feat, Portage curler Doug Bogue skipped the winning team four years running, from 1967-1970. Doug was a keen competitor, fine strategist, a finesse shooter and a great team player.

Over the years Bogue, originally trained as an attorney, focused on booking rock bands to earn a living, eventually becoming an icon in Wisconsin as a curler and as a person. His home club, Portage, had long produced curling excellence and curling characters, from Rogers to Woodside to Rhyme to Griffin and Curtis. Doug, like the hero of Never-Never land, never really seemed to grow up—he preferred to delight people and to be delighted with those around him. Bogue also belonged to the Madison and Lodi curling clubs.

Jeff Hemer of Medford knew Bogue well for many years. Hemer characterized Doug as a “longtime curler, bonspieler, curling coach.” Hemer was expansive in his praise: “The man was a true ambassador for the sport of curling. A real character, in that everyone who knew him or came across him was touched by his genuineness. I will miss him but we all have the memories. He has one son, Cam, living in Jupiter, FL. His car bumper announced, ‘ex-wife on board’ and a rubber hand protruded from the trunk of the ‘boogie mobile.’” (In those days, that humor was more innocent than it would be in today’s context.) “Doug never drank or smoked, but rather got his kicks from dancing, rock music, curling, bonspieling, playing cards and eating cookies. He never played cards for money—just ‘units.’”

G. Douglas Bogue died at age 87 on November 20, 2009.

Curling Clergy to the Friars’ Briar!

Chris Schwanz is a curler and a clergyman who is interested in developing interest among American clergy-curlers in participation at the annual Canadian Clergy Curlers’ Championship, aka the Friars’ Briar (www.friarsbriar.com). Chris writes:

“Two years ago I was invited to Winnipeg to curl in the Friars’ Briar with a team from Calgary (the Friars’ Briar always runs concurrently with the Tim Horton’s Briar). Last year I returned to curl in Calgary with another team. The event organizers refer to it as the Canadian Clergy Curlers’ Championships. Curlers from various provinces come for a week’s worth of great curling. We’re guaranteed 8 games, so for me it has made the trip worthwhile.

“So far as I know, I am the only American clergy curler who has participated. The organizers have encouraged me to recruit more Americans to represent the US. Here’s the catch: at least three of the curlers must be clergy or professional clergy workers; one may be a lay person.

“The next Friars’ Briar will be held in Salmon Arm, near Kelowna, British Columbia, March 8-12, 2010. If any *Curling News* readers are eligible and interested, please contact me! I’m happy to act as a source of information for would-be clergy curlers, whether for this year’s event or for future events.” Readers may contact Chris Schwanz at:

PO Box 326
Marshfield, WI 54449
715-340-9070
revcs@wi-net.com