

Day Men Update

The Day Men include some of Carleton Height's longest and most loyal long-term members. Out of our total membership of 76, we boast 22 curlers that were born in the 1930s or 1940s. At the other end of the age spectrum, we have roughly the same number that are not yet 65. Our membership represents a huge range of skills, ages, and physical abilities. Some players are mainly wishing to remain physically active and to maintain generation long friendships; many others remain amongst the Club's best curlers in our most competitive leagues.

The Day Men programme, up until this past year, has had three distinct but integrally linked parts. Those three parts have varying degrees of competitiveness and, as an integrated package, have successfully delivered a programme that can accommodate a wide variety of ages, fitness, and competitiveness levels. It allows us to remain one of the best landing spots for new curlers to transition into – both from a competitiveness and a social perspective.

What does our “normal” programme look like? Firstly, we host a weekday morning “off the board” curling – a format where nothing is scheduled in advance - new teams are formed each week based on who shows up. A significant subset of our day men preferring slightly more competitive fixed teams (skip's choice) usually play Wednesdays at noon. Our Friday trophy series, has always been a hybrid of the two approaches, where teams are formed for 7 or 8 weeks at a time to “compete” for trophies. The Friday trophy series, which is more social than competitive, is probably the most important of the three events from a league growth perspective as it is the primary opportunity for broader social interaction across the entire membership.

What has our programme looked like this year? We were able to continue with “off the board” curling and, at a separate later time, the slightly more competitive skips choice games. We were not able to run the trophy series or continue with any of our normal social events. With ice time being severely limited, curlers were only allowed one game per week. Despite these challenges, our membership actually went **UP** this year by about 5 members. It has been far from ideal ... but it kept us together. Huge thanks to Hunt Club and our executive for finding this alternative but **temporary** home.... and to our membership for their patience, loyalty and continued good spirit. The social part will come back!

Challenges: Expected intake from (retiring) club curlers over the next 5-10 years will be reduced (the baby boom has mostly already retired). We need to continue our active cooperation with learn to curl programmes to support future growth.