

CURLING

Barrington curling club on the upswing

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BARRINGTON

With Saturday night fun nights back on the schedule and solid interest in the revamped junior program being offered, things are looking pretty positive this year at the Barrington Regional Curling Club, says president John Langille.

“The club has had its ups and downs, but I think we’re on a real upswing with interest and getting the word out there,” said Langille in an interview.

“One of the things I felt was important was just being open, having things going on. Our recreational club leagues have been relatively stable,” he explained, but the junior program had kind of faded over the past three years. “Another thing we thought would be beneficial to the club was having an entry point. Something for people who aren’t league curl-



KATHY JOHNSON PHOTO

People enjoy a game of curling during the Barrington Regional Curling Club’s Boxing Day Fun Spiel on Dec. 26. The BRCC has a multitude of events coming up in the new year including a Stickfest on Jan. 19, the Lobster Spiel Open on Feb. 1 to 3 and the Sweetheart Spiel on Feb. 16.

ers who could just drop in, so we started up Saturday fun nights” (7 p.m. start) which are open to everyone experienced or novice.

“I’m finding the club’s been around long enough now there’s a lot of people who have a curling broom and a pair of shoes tucked in the back of their closet who

have curled in the past and aren’t a regular curler now and are looking for a reason to come back and try it,” said Langille.

The Club has also adopted the Nova Scotia Junior Curling instruction format for its junior program, he said, likening it to swimming or skating instruction

programs where the participants earn badges or certificates once achieving certain abilities and skills and can advanced through the levels.

“We just finished the first eight-week session for the youngest group, the Ice Cubes (5 to 8-year-olds),” said Langille.

“I think its been pretty successful. January 5 will be first week of second session,” he said, adding youth up to 18 are welcome to join the program at any time throughout the season.

Over the next two months the BRCC will be hosting a number of events including their signature Lobster Spiel Open on Feb. 1 to 3. The event is capped at 24 teams and is open to both male and female curlers. Last year which was the first year for the open format, seven women participated.

“It was a good start,” said Langille. “As we get the word out this year, maybe it will start to become something more women curlers are interested in.”

Just for women are the Sweetheart Spiel on Feb. 16 which is a Valentine themed, one day fun spiel aimed at getting new women curlers interested in the sport, and the Sea Spiel on March 2

The BRCC has also been hosting afternoon Stickfests during the season. “We usually try and run three during the year,” said Langille. “It’s just an afternoon event with stick curling rules. Usually there’s a pretty good turnout. We have a Wednesday afternoon stick curling league. A lot of curlers from that come out plus we draw from Yarmouth and a few local clubs. Usually some come down from Liverpool.” Two more Stickfests are on the schedule for Jan. 19 and March 16. The Club wraps up its season with the Mixed Doubles Closing Spiel on March 30.

For further information about the Barrington Regional Curling Club visit <https://barrington-curlingclub.weebly.com/>