



A New History of the Chicago Curling Club, Part Three

Elizabeth Demers has spent many, many hours researching the history of the Chicago Curling Club for the wonderful articles that have appearing in this and recent CCC newsletters. Thank you, Elizabeth.

Voices from the Past

23 January 1948

Dear 'Dar':

I went away from Indian Hill the other night feeling that we think too seldom of the men behind sports. You are an unusual man of strong personality engaged in a labor of love for a new sport—curling. You will make possible great progress of that game, especially because you are helping curling when it needs all the help it can get. You are certainly supporting it in a royal measure and your enthusiasm for the game is infectious. Moreover you can depend upon the merits of curling itself to make your efforts wonderfully successful with the passing of the years.

There are many reasons in my humble mind, why curling should increase in popularity. I think it is the ideal game for the average person in the wintertime. The worst feature of the American business man's exercising is that he chops it off so abruptly when the cold weather starts. It is most important that we all should take up some sport to keep our bodies from missing their accustomed summer exercise. In curling the constant breathing of the clean cold air will keep those germs so prevalent in winter from the respiratory organs. The snappy stepping around required in the game tires you very pleasantly; you get the wonderful refreshment of fine recreation as well as the benefits of bodily exercise.

Another advantage is that curling is not a spectacular game. One can curl in any comfortable, warm clothing. Also, all phases of the game are quite simple, yet exceedingly enjoyable. I recommend it strongly to everyone seeking outdoor amusement in the wintertime.

In places this gain of favor for curling may be accompanied by some ridicule. This should not be discouraging. I can easily recall when many golfers were ashamed to be seen anywhere except on the golf course when in their golf clothes or when carrying golf clubs!

I found my first game of curling a joyous one. A fresh beginner, like myself that night, fully enjoys it, yet can see that it offers an opportunity develop skill and grace in a big way. I want to thank you for your slow and careful instructions before we started. You were a wonderful teacher and a wonderful player! You certainly made an expert "Skip". You are graceful and rhythmical, you plan the strategy well and you direct the plays excellently. Moreover, you look ahead to the shot that is coming.

I liked the balanced swing delivery with the short follow through better than the other types. One of the most interesting parts of the evening and an unique part of curling to me is the "sweeping in" of the stones.

Yes, I fully enjoyed the game in all ways - - even the ice at Indian Hill was true and straight and I just admired the club house!

Thanks again for a most enjoyable time and one that I will long remember.

Best wishes to you and the gorgeous game of curling !

Sincerely, *Chick Evans*

Source: Happy Curtis Scrapbook vol. 2

Charles E. "Chick" Evans, Jr. (July 18, 1890 – November 6, 1979) was a leading amateur golfer of the 1910s and 1920s. Evans was the first amateur to win the U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur in one year, a feat he achieved in 1916. Evans went on to win the U.S. Amateur in 1920, while finishing runner-up three times. Selected to the Walker Cup team in 1922, 1924, and 1928, Evans competed in a record 50 consecutive U.S. Amateurs in his long career. All this was achieved with only seven hickory-shafted clubs. In addition to his golf career, Evans is known for sponsoring a college scholarship for qualified caddies, known as the Evans Scholars. In 1960, he was voted the Bob Jones Award, the highest honor given by the USGA in recognition of distinguished sportsmanship in golf." —Wikipedia

Miller, Mack, & Fairchild
First Wisconsin National Bank Building
Milwaukee 2

Mr. Hughston M. McBain
25 East Washington Street
Chicago, IL
May 21, 1951

Dear Mr. McBain:

I have delayed writing you further concerning your donation to us of the David Hogg medal, pending an opportunity to check our old records regarding that competition.

By a striking coincidence, our historical records are exceptionally complete on that competition. Our 1897 minute book contains newspaper clippings showing that on January 30, 1897, our rinks were defeated 140 to 125 on the Chicago ice. The clippings show complete personnel of the rinks and score by ends. Games were a rugged 21 ends each. On the return game February 11, 1897, Milwaukee won 139 to 115 on its own ice (then the Warren Avenue Rink). The newspaper report indicates the weather was mild, the ice soft, "and the surface so sticky that the curlers were obliged to exert themselves to their utmost in sending the stones to the tee." A Chicago curler was reported to remark that out of eight times he had visited Milwaukee, four of the games had been played in a flood and four in a snow-storm. This story reports that the February 11, 1897, game was the 31st annual contest between the two clubs, the first match of which had been played in 1865 on the Milwaukee River below the East Water Street bridge. The names of the Milwaukee rink in the 1865 game are given. Again this newspaper article sets forth the full names of the rink personnel and the score by ends of each of the 21 end games.

Finally, a third game was played at Chicago to decide the tie. Milwaukee lost 141 to 95, thereby declining permanent possession of the Hogg medal. Milwaukee apparently had to be satisfied with the consolation, as reported in this final newspaper story, that the Hogg medal and another one captured in 1895 were the only ones which Milwaukee had lost in the long competition. It has been very interesting to me to check up on the Hogg competition, and I thought you might be interested too. We will be most happy to add this item to our collection of nineteenth century medals, and I want to thank you again for sending it to us.

Very truly yours,

Theodore C. Bolliger

cc: Mr. Joseph R. Carson
Mr. Homer P. Sell

Source: Happy Curtis Scrapbook vol. 2

*It is always good to hear from
curlers. To my mind, the ice sport
is one of the best."*
—Ford Frick

2 November 1951, letter to Dar Curtis.

Source: Happy Curtis Scrapbook vol. 2

Ford Christopher Frick (December 19, 1894–April 8, 1978) was an American sportswriter and executive who served as president of the National League from 1934 to 1951 and as the 3rd Baseball Commissioner from 1951 to 1965."

—Wikipedia



Greetings! I read with interest the article on women's curling at CCC in the current newsletter. It was very interesting! But imagine my amazement when I saw my name listed as one of the original "instigators" of the Gloamin' Gaels. I joined the club as a wife because, in 1985 when I moved to the Chicago area, there was no member designation for single women, except widows of members. So, when I married the guy who curled, I could curl too. It was the year after we married that the Club opened itself to women members.

I must admit that I did much to promote curling for women curlers. I chaired the Gloamin' Gaels and assisted with whatever bonspiel the club was running that needed to have someone in charge. It was on my "watch" that we held the first Gloamin' Spiel (15 years ago?) and I was also honored to co-chair the Miss America Heather Bonspiel. So, I put my time in, but there are a few others who were really our Founding Mothers: Margot Mack, Jean Roge, Elise Covey, Corky Murray, Alison Jones. Current Heathers should kiss the ice and thank these women! As for thanking me, just raise a glass and clink the ice in it!

Don't know if you can put corrections in the next newsletter, but at the very least, add the names of the women I listed above as important organizers of the Gloamin' Gaels. Margo & Corky will smile on us from above...

Good curling!

Sally Macnamara