

# Curling Reduces Dead Time in Activity Calendar

It may help you to get through these warm days by thinking about a cool subject . . . Anyway, the rink season isn't far off — if your club is considering putting in some sheets for winter play

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**C**urling is a ready made game for country clubs. The elements of competition and good fellowship bring together many of the same participants that take part in a summertime game of golf. Curling is a team sport and has an even higher standards of etiquette than golf. Since it is best played on a club or team basis the game is a natural for country clubs.

Good ice is more expensive to maintain in humid temperatures of above 40 degrees. The target area in curling is above the Mason-Dixon line. Curling can keep the otherwise inactive golfer in good condition during the winter months as many of the same muscles are used in both games. It gives husband and wife a chance to curl together in mixed curling which, by the way, is becoming more popular each year. It offers a splendid Junior program and family curling is becoming popular at Chicago area country curling clubs. Ice in many of these clubs is being used all during the day and often in two draws at night when the men or mixed players use the ice.

## Why the Country Clubs?

An artificial ice or curling rink — usually four sheets or more — costs from \$60,000 to \$200,000. This writer has been in on installation work at a number of new curling clubs in which the cost of a two-sheet rink was about \$20,000. It took some salesmanship and persuasion to promote minimum facilities at some of these clubs. In some cases they used ice equip-



Laurie Carlson demonstrates how a player goes two ways on the rink.



ment and the installation of plastic pipe was made by the members to cut expenses.

In the case of a country club, it has borrowing power to acquire the type of curling rink desired. The lounge income in some cases equals or surpasses the cost of the ice rink. If present lounge facilities can be used, costs are cut considerably.

With all of our contacts in Canada and the United States there isn't a single case where curling has not kept the keen interest of members throughout the entire winter and added many thousands of dollars to club treasuries. Club "dead time" is effectively reduced where rinks have been put in.

Here are some examples of American country clubs that have introduced curling, according to Hugo Biersach of Pewaukee, Wis., who rounded up this information:

*Exmoor, Highland Park, Ill. —*

Curling started here in 1936. Subsequently a plan was submitted to the board, with guarantees by 85 members, covering construction of a four sheet artificial ice rink at a cost of \$40,000. Curling fees were \$60 per single person and \$470 for family. Facilities were enlarged in 1956-57 (cost \$85,000). Curling is fully established as a club activity with about 350 curlers contributing to the club's restaurant and buffet facilities. Club now has over 200 mixed curlers, 125 men and 90 children with a season that begins early in November and runs until April 1.

*North Shore, Glenview, Ill. —* Curling Section: Began curling in a small way in 1951. Facilities include a concrete block and steel girder building 60 by 150; four sheets of ice with plate glass viewing section. Curling section now has 125 men and 80 women curlers. Dues of \$120 per year plus tax and \$150 for winter curling memberships. Curling has been financially successful from the beginning. All curling facilities were paid for a few years ahead of schedule. The club recommends curling as a financial asset to any golf club.

Here are two Canadian clubs that have made a big thing of curling:

*Mississauga, Port Credit, Ont. —*

Golfing since 1905. Curling started in 1958 on 6 sheets of artificial ice.

Included in the new setup are a dining room, lounge and locker facilities. Sixty to seventy golfers curled the first season. The club's directors assumed financial responsibility of the entire building. In 1959 there were 200 curlers and today there is a total of 400 men and 200 women curlers in the club. Total cost of the ice plant and lounge was \$240,000. The entire mortgage will be paid off in a few years.

*Scarboro, Toronto, Ont. —* This club has a six-sheet curling rink with lounge attached to the clubhouse, all constructed at the cost of \$234,000. A total curling membership of 400 men and 200 women achieved during the first year has contributed to a very successful year-around operation. The clubhouse is used more in the winter than it is in the summer. Rates are moderate: A golf member can curl for \$100 per season. Mixed curling is popular, with two draws each Wednesday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoon. About one half of the members are curlers.

Coder Taylor and Associates, architects and engineers, with offices at 2500 Green Bay Road in Kenilworth, Ill. is doing a great service to country clubs in planning curling structures that are well designed. This firm has come up with some fine drawings and plans for rinks that either are connected to the clubhouse or are away from it. Taylor is an avid curler and belongs to the North Shore club.

### **USGA Junior Program**

Golf House of the USGA publishes a booklet, "A Junior Golf Program for Your Club and District." The 16-page booklet covers organization of the program and discusses age limits, instruction, conduct, playing privileges, tournaments and several other subjects. A section also is devoted to district and national programs, and the rules of amateur status are reviewed.

### **PNGA Changes Tourney Site**

Pacific Northwest Golf Assn. has changed the site of its Junior Boys' Championship from Corvallis, Ore. to the Tualatan (Ore.) CC. It will be played Aug. 26-30.