

Here's What the Sport of Curling is All About

So you don't know anything about curling, but you're planning on taking advantage of the free curling at North Halton Club?

Take heart. No game is simpler — but no game requires subtler skills.

Bolled to its basics, curling is a sort of shuffleboard on ice, with brooms to aid and abet the skippers.

It's played on a 126-foot long sheet of pebbled ice with sets of four concentric circles—four outside in, red, white, blue and white — at each end.

There are four players on each team, a skip (he's the captain and the boss), vice-skip, second and lead.

Each player in the two competing teams throws two stones or rocks (40 pounds semi-circles

of granite) alternately starting with the lead.

The object of the game is, in the words of the rule book, to score one point for every stone which is nearer the tee than any stone of the opposing rink.

The tee, of course, is the tiny inner white circle.

The throwing of the 16 rocks, two by each player, constitutes an end, and in the Canadian

championships — the famed Macdonald Brier — 13 ends constitute a game.

And there's that mystifying sweeping. Well, if you accept one curling theory, the sweepers are merely getting exercise. That theory holds that once a rock leaves a shooter's hand its course is set.

But the proponents of sweeping — and they're far, far in the majority — believe that the brooms wielded in unison can add 5 or 8 feet to a shot, particularly at the end of a stone's run where the sweeping seems to do the most good.

But one thing is beyond dispute: When the skip's cry of "Forward" rings out and the curlers lean their brooms ahead of a teammate's stone, curling is at its most colorful.

Throwing and sweeping. That is all that it takes. The outturn group requires the handle to be turned about 60 degrees to the left.

When a right handed shooter throws in turn — that is, the rock turns clockwise, outturns counter-clockwise.

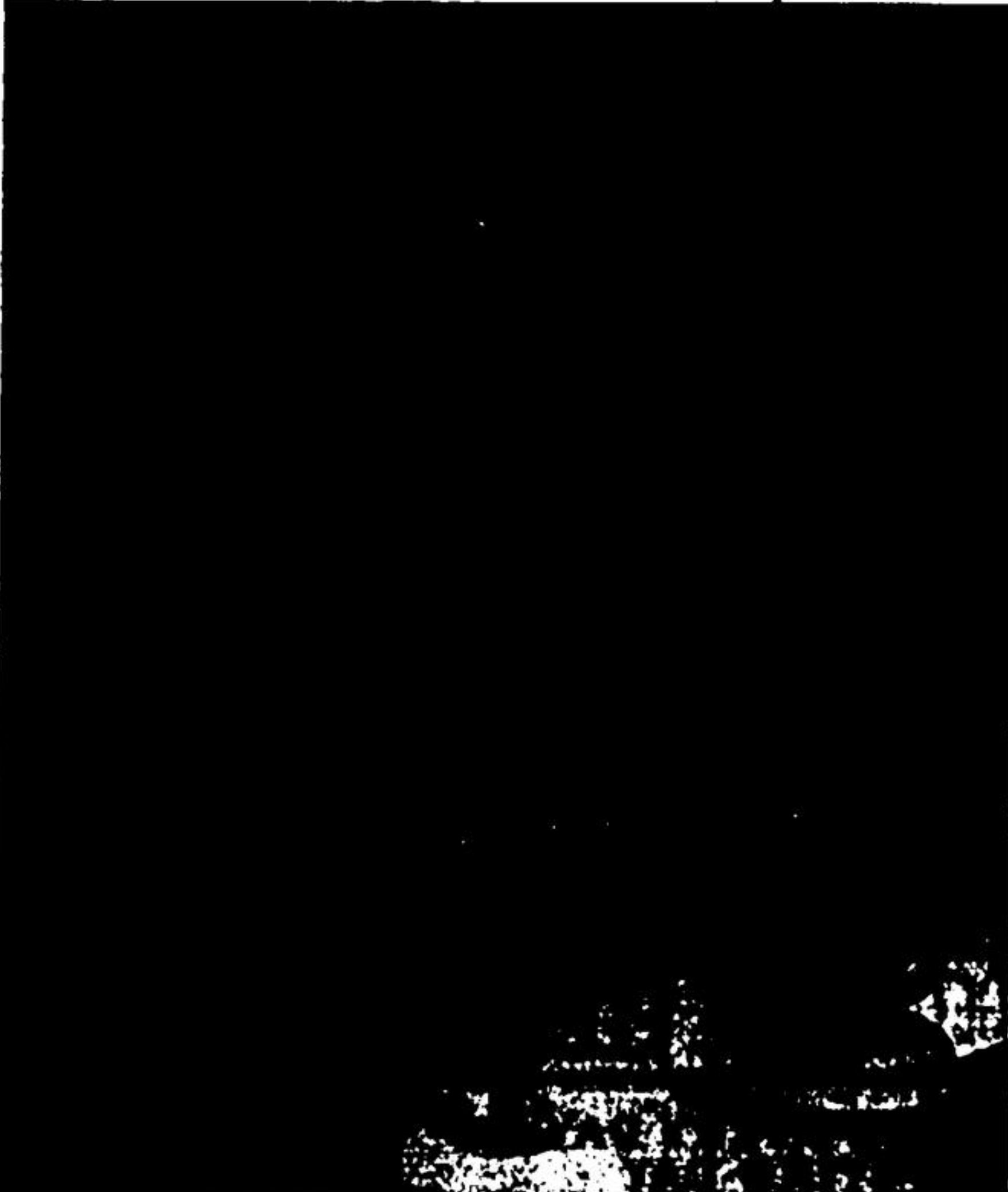
Incidentally, while curling is a team game, the skip is in command. He plots strategy and indicates with his broom where he wants each shot placed and what kind of turn he wants on it.

Curling provides a real challenge to anyone who wants to play well, but even a first-time spectator can appreciate the skill when a "double" takes out two opposing rocks, or some the tension when the game hinges on a single shot on an extra end.

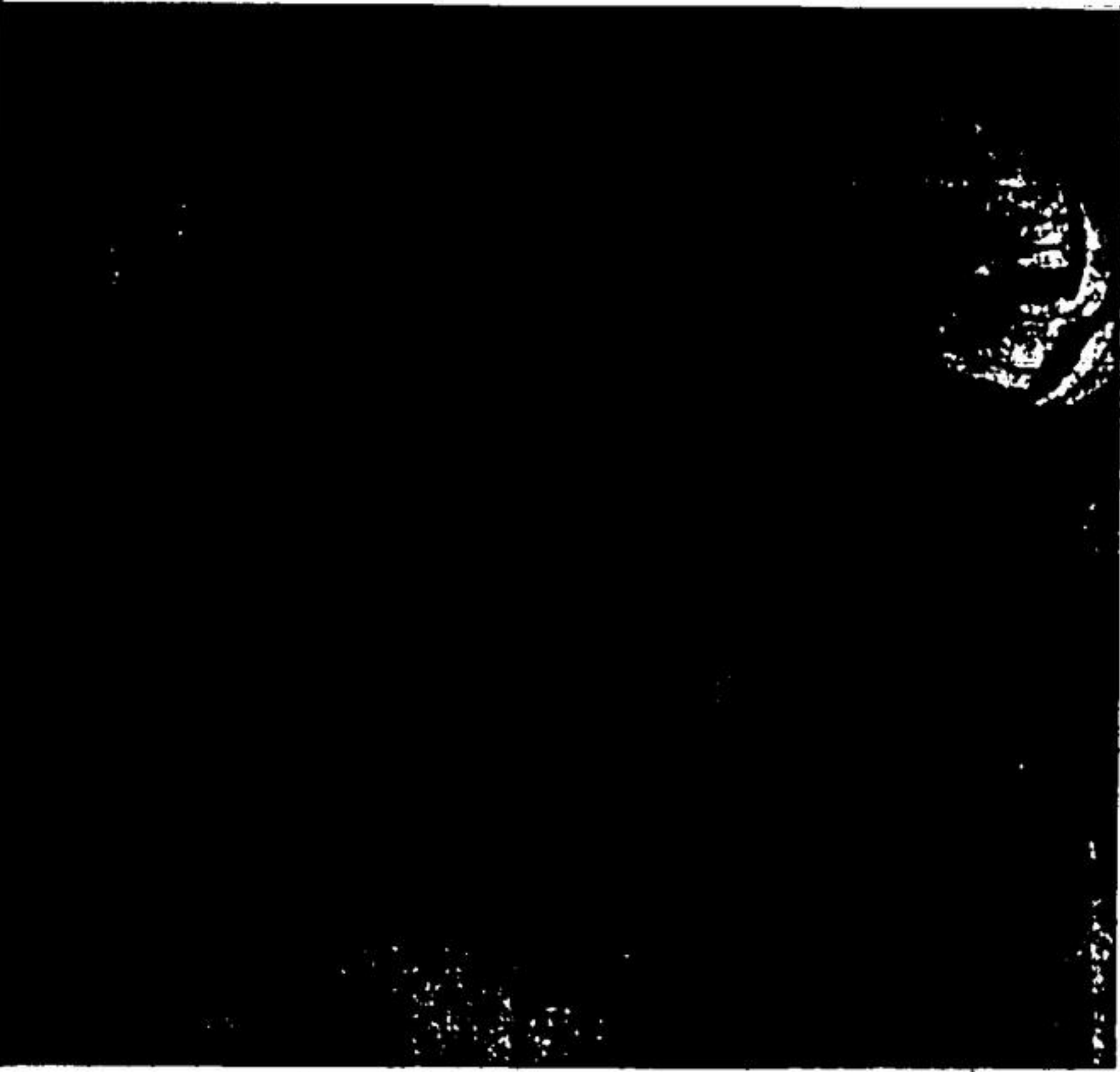
Curling is a simple game, but its simplicity is part of its appeal. And it has a real appeal as attested by its status as Canada's fastest growing game.

Many of the converts may not know it, but they're taking up a game that's rich in tradition. It was played in Scotland as far back as 1500. And in Canada, after the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, Gen. Wolfe's highland troops melted down cannon balls for curling stones.

And probably blamed their bad shots on the St. Lawrence river ice.



skip MacKinnon's broom shows where he wants shot — his arm indicates kind of turn.



Sweeping is colourful part of the game. Harold Schenk and John Minters show how.



Bruce Walker plays an in-turn to make it curl to the right. —Peter Jones, Georgetown

rock — the rock closest to the centre — by making a screen of guard rocks to protect it from the assaults of the opposition.

Sweeping the guard rock and breaking that screen pose problems in high strategy and skill. And that's where the shooting comes in. Most of the shots that a curler makes are not intended to be straight; they are intended to curl or curve behind an opponent's rock.

Given as in or outturn, a rock reacts somewhat the same as a baseball does when a pitcher puts stuff on it. The handle should turn two or three revolutions on its way down the ice to its target.

Ye thrower, as in turn the shooter twists the handle of the stone a little to the right — less than a quarter turn of the wrist is all that it takes. The outturn group requires the handle to be turned about 60 degrees to the left.

When a right handed shooter throws in turn — that is, the rock turns clockwise, outturns counter-clockwise.



The Curling Scoreboard Just Looks Complicated

It may sometimes look like an atomic equation, but a curling scoreboard isn't really hard to read.

Even first time spectators at the North Halton Curling Club can easily read the scoreboard if they keep this explanation in mind.

The board is designed to show at a glance not only the total score but the number of points scored by the two rinks on each end.

This is done by dividing the board lengthwise into 3 sections, the centre one with a row of numerals running from one to 15 to 20. Names of the competing rinks are in the top and bottom sections.

Metal markers numbered from 1 to 12 are used to indicate the ends.

The centre row of figures show the score of both rinks

at the completion of each end. To do this, a metal marker is placed opposite the name of the rink scoring and above or below the number of points scored.

Thus if a rink in the top section scores 3 points on the first end, the metal marker bearing the numeral one is placed above the figure 3 in the centre section and opposite the name of the rink scoring.

Should the rink in the bottom section score one point on the next end, the numeral two is placed opposite the rink's name and below the figure one in the centre section.

Thus the scoreboard at this stage would show that the rink in the top section is leading 3-1 after two ends.

The method continues throughout the game, which accounts for the irregular

spacing and lack of sequence in the upper and lower rows of figures. In the case of a blank end — that's when neither rink scores — the numbered marker for that end is placed at the side of the scoreboard.

In addition to name, rinks are also identified by colors, in regular club or bonspiel play, this is done by the color of the handles on the rocks, black and white or red and blue.

In the Canadian Curling Association championships — the Macdonald Brier — the identification is made even easier. The upper half of each rock is painted a solid blue or red.

Thus, to learn how the rocks are lying and which rink is counting, all that you have to do is glance at the scoreboard to see which color is assigned to each rink.

CURLING HATTER

by Bob MacArthur from the

North Halton GOLF and COUNTRY CLUB

Has the old liniment bottle taken a beating this week? Those that were out early in the week to the club had stiff muscles after the first game, but by the time a couple of more games have been played the stiffness will have worn off.

There has been a good sheet of curling ice since Monday. The last flood was applied on Sunday morning and only light sprays will be applied from now on.

The whole ice surface was painted white last Thursday before the flooding was completed. Friday and Saturday the rinks were painted and the ribbons laid down that divide the ice.

Russ Kelly and his gang have been hard at work bringing the ice up to playing standard under the supervision of Oliver Hunter. These men are the ones who are responsible for the good ice, with assists from Mac MacKinnon, Jim Burns and Nort Nelson. Thanks fellows, for a difficult job well done.

This week the rink has held open house for all who wish to try out the game of curling whether you have curled before, or this is the first time you have ever thrown a stone. So, if you want to try out the fastest growing winter sport in Canada, get out there this week and try your luck. It is easier than you think. It is a lot like golf, when you think you know something about the game, that is when you find out that you know very little.

There will be senior members on duty all this week to offer assistance to new curling members. So why not take advantage of the free curling?

Mac MacKinnon and his committee have lined up a special supper for Saturday evening from 7 to 9 o'clock — the annual Pig Tail dinner. Special music will be available and understand that dancing will take place after the supper. So, better take the little woman out for a treat and give her a few whirrs on the floor, because it is just as well to start off on the good side of the spouse.

A meeting was held Friday evening with the skips of the club and the games committee under the chairmanship of Bob Costley. They went over the club rules under which the games will be played this year, so that the protests will be cut to a minimum when play starts next Monday in the league curling. If you are not familiar with the rules better brush up on them now so that you will not inadvertently break them.

See you at the rink.

North Halton Bowers

October 20th, 1962

Team Standing	
Pinpointers	12
Strikerites	7
Drifters	5
Pleatwoods	4
Weekly High Triples (Handicap)	
M. Sanderson	874
S. Henley	632

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

Thursday, November 1st, 1962

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J. Freeman	628
(Flat)	
S. Henley	566
M. Sanderson	536
J. Freeman	511
Weekly High Singles (Handicap)	
M. Sanderson	255
S. Henley	248
J. Freeman	
S. Henley (Flat)	227
J. Freeman	200
M. Sanderson	200
Season's High Triples (Handicap)	
M. Sanderson	674
J. Shortill	660
S. Henley (Flat)	632
S. Henley	366
E. Fobert	544
M. Sanderson	536
Season's High Singles (Handicap)	
J. Shortill	270
S. Henley	261
D. Young	250
(Flat)	
S. Henley	236
J. Shortill	228
D. Young	223
Averages	
S. Henley	177
E. Fobert	165
A. Ewen	153

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Bob Liptrott, Mrs. Marchmont Golf Trophy Winners

Members of Georgetown Golf and Country Club, their wives and husbands, rang the curling down on their third complete season of golf at their closing day dinner Saturday.

Following a turkey dinner, some eighteen awards winners received their trophies.

Club president Dave Morgan chaired the affair and introduced those making the presentations.

Receiving the silverware in the men's section were Bob Liptrott who capped the club championship as well as the B Flight title and the Binger Board competition. Runner up for the club title was last year's winner Ted Warvall. Bill Kirk was C Flight champion and Paul Lewis was runner up. Paul Lewis and Stan Hill took the

men's two ball trophy, Don Walker, the Directors Trophy, and Jack Kennel, the Brier Improved Gutter Award. The Junior champion was Wayne Dorr.

The trophies were presented by club vice Dave Brown, golf captain George Inch, president Dave Morgan, Binger Board chairman Bill Kirk and Binger Board member Mrs. Cliff Hightower, and Bill Kirk presented the awards to the ladies' winners.

Mrs. Marie Marchmont is this year's ladies section champion and Mrs. Jack McKay the runner up. Mrs. Irv Choyce captured the directors' trophy, and Mrs. Dave Morgan the runner up, and in the competition for the Junior title, Marlene Kennel took the winner over runner-up Barbara Choyce. Mrs. Marchmont was also the winner of the ladies' Binger Board.

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