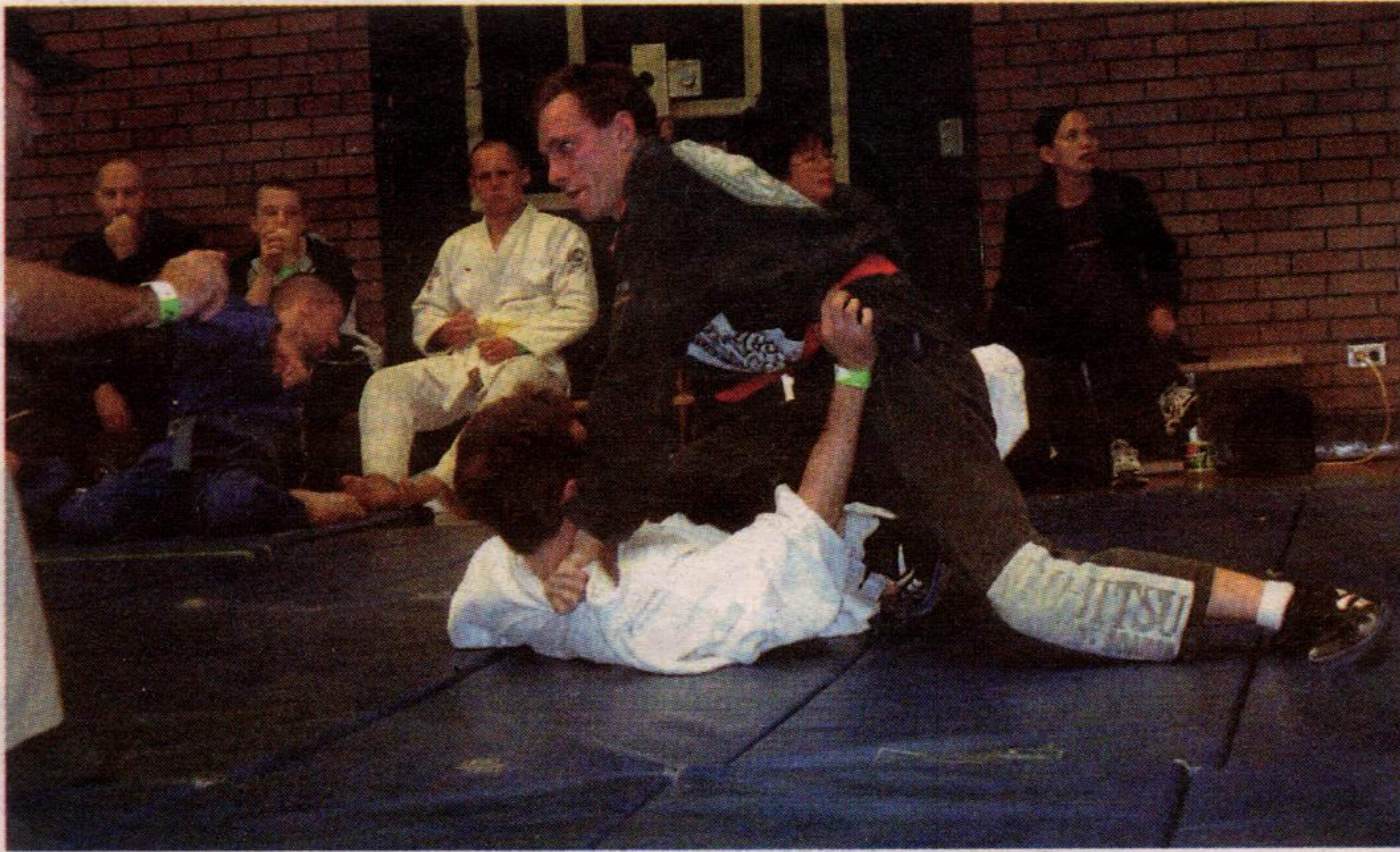


# Sports & Leisure

Friday, November 21, 2003

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Tim Dixon pins an opponent on the floor on his way to victory at the Joslin Canadian Open Grappling Championships in Hamilton. Dixon, a member of the Boreland Combat Team, won all four of his matches to claim first in the intermediate 142-pound and under division. Submitted photo

## 'Oldtimer' Dixon grapples way to Canadian open championship

His competition may be younger. They may be quicker. But they're not better.

Even though Tim Dixon qualifies for what he calls 'the oldtimers division', the 38-year-old continues to compete and excel against younger foes. Dixon once again showed that he's not ready for senior tour just yet by winning the Joslin Canadian Open Grappling Championship in Hamilton last weekend.

"I figure anyone my age who is doing this is crazy and I don't want any part of them," Dixon said. "Sometimes I'm competing with guys who are 18. There's no way I can keep up physically, but mental toughness can help you beat them."

Dixon called on that mental toughness to win all four of his matches on his way to claiming the gi intermediate title.

Although no gi more closely resembles the style of wrestling Dixon first competed in when he won a provincial high school championship, he enjoys the gi division much more.

"No gi lends itself to the younger, faster wrestlers. Gi is more technical. You can get ahold of a piece of clothing and hold on to them," Dixon said. "It's more like a chess match that hurts."

Dixon returned to the mat just over

two years ago, joining the Boreland Combat Team after more than a decade away from competition. He said in a short period of time, under the instruction of coach Chris Boreland, the team has had a great deal of success.

"A few years ago we were just a bunch of tough guys who knew a few moves. We were nobodies. Now we go to competitions and we're the team to watch."

Dixon said he has also benefited from kick-fit classes, which have improved his cardio. That has paid off in the fast-paced tournaments, where competitors may have as little as two minutes between matches and as many as four matches in half an hour.

But that frantic pace doesn't worry Dixon.

"I aspire to be doing this into my 60s. As I'm getting more technically strong, I'm finding it less physically demanding."

Dixon wasn't the only member of the Boreland Combat Team to make it to the podium. Shaun Krysa was second in the advanced no gi under 142 division and third in the gi division. Gram Quirk placed second in the gi youth division and Andy Burns was second in the no gi beginner 142-162 division.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

## North Halton curling club uses unique fund-raising plan to pay for rink expansion

Faced with having to raise more than half a million dollars, the North Halton Golf and Country Club's curling section has come up with a unique way to finance a new facility at no cost to its members—at least those who act fast.

The curlers are raising \$600,000, which will allow the club to expand to six sheets from four when a new golf clubhouse and curling rink is built in two to three years.

To raise their share of the money, the curling board is selling \$3,000 founding membership deposits (FMDs). For anyone signing up prior to March 31, the money will be refundable. Those joining after March 31 will have to pay a \$3,000 initiation fee but it will not be refundable. In fact, 60 per cent of it will go towards paying back members who join before the deadline.

There are currently 411 members with room for 650 after the rink expansion. Total cost of the curling rink expansion is pegged at \$2.4-million.

"Really, we're borrowing from the curling membership," said David Ashbee, the curling liaison on the club's board of directors. "If we took the money as initiation fees, we would have to pay taxes. Instead of \$600,000 we would have to raise \$1.2-million."

The FMD's can be paid in one installment, over a three-year period interest-free or over five years with interest.

The opportunity to have the money returned has proven to be quite the incentive. A half-hour presentation was made to the curling membership and before it was over \$12,000 had already been collected. In the six weeks since the fund-raising began, \$388,500 has been raised.

As an added bonus for current members signing up before December 1, they will be entered in a draw for free membership for life. At the same time that draw is held on Dec. 17, there will be another draw to



Gerri Dryden moves the marker over the halfway point after contributions broke the \$300,000 mark in the North Halton Golf and Country Club curling section's fund-raising drive. The curlers are raising \$600,000 to help finance a six-sheet curling facility when the club builds a new clubhouse.

determine the order members will be paid back.

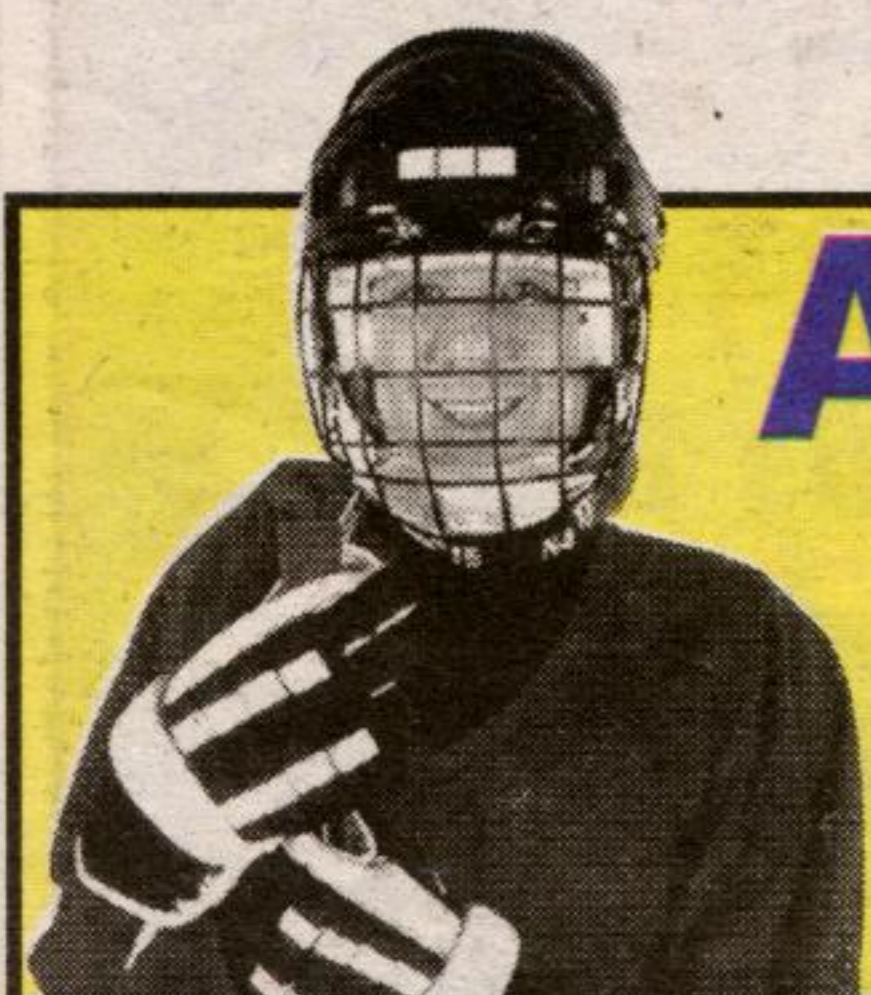
Not only is the fund-raising method unique, but it comes at a time when most golf clubs are closing their curling facilities because they don't generate nearly as much revenue as golf.

"If we can sell this, I can see other clubs using us as a model," Ashbee said.

Even though the new curling rink isn't even out of the planning stage, it has already received its first honour. The Canadian Curling Association has designated the new facility as one of its three regional curling development centres, making it a training centre for national teams as well as a training ground for ice makers.

The club will hold an information open house regarding its fund-raising efforts on Wednesday, Nov. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the club.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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