The IceBreaker

Nutmeg Curling Club
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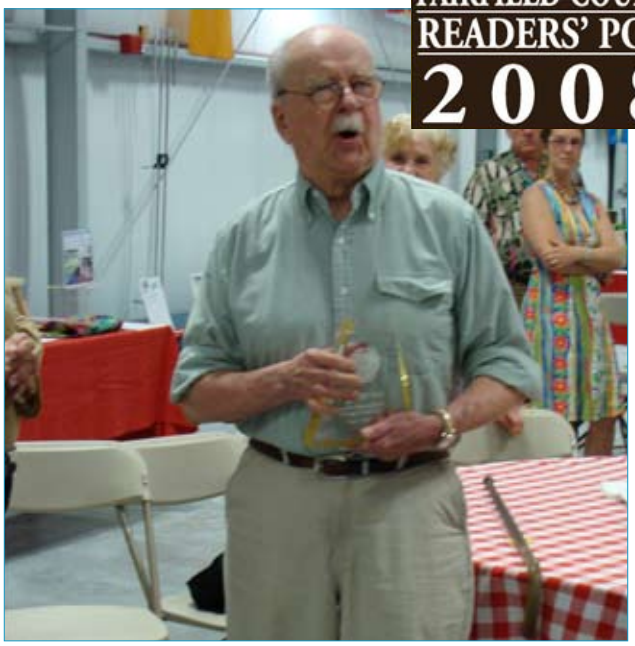
WEEKLY ★BEST★ OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY™ READERS' POLL 2008



A. Roland 'Bob' Will was awarded the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award at Nutmeg. See Page 7

On the Bonspiel Trail

Cape Cod Mixed
Nutmeg 1- Joseph Smith, Dianne Muldowney, Don Nicholson and Lorraine Waybourn (CC of Boston) represented Nutmeg well in the spiel winning the finals of the 3rd event.

Nutmeg 2- Jim Meinhold, Jennifer Stannard, John Tarleton and Pam Smith had the highest scoring points game in the 'spiel this year. Unfortunately, it was not enough to get them into the finals (what about those other scores???). They enjoyed the sights, the beach, the lobster and the camaraderie; though John and Eileen were kept very busy with young John who accompanied in his parents once again and enjoyed 'sweeping the warm room'! Still of concern is Jim's lack of winning at the dice game for two years in a row!

Cape Cod Women's
Nutmeg fielded 2 womens team for the Cape's Annual Womens Summerspiel. Nutmeg 1: Kathy Morley, Pam Smith, Naida Leslie

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Message From the President

Dear Nutmeggers-

It is a beautiful summer's day outside and yet, I have just come from seeing Sally & Jeff Hannon and their crew at work and our cement floor is once again covered by that frozen white stuff- curling ice! As you are reading this, the ice will be 'in and ready'! BRAVO!

Great excitement at the Ice House as the Ice Crew made 'Early Ice' with a grant from the USCA. We think this is the first time that this has happened in the East and kudos to Jeff & Sally Hannon who worked with the GNCC to pull this off. Ice-making training for area icemakers was held last week as well as a select GNCC curling camp to be held here as part of that proposal. The focus of early ice is that curlers from throughout the East can practice early- this is particularly important for those on the competitive circuit as a number of Canadian clubs retain ice over the Summer or begin in August. The USCA 'funded athletes' take priority but you too can schedule time. See inside for details!

Nutmeg's volunteers have risen to the top since we 'pulled the plug' in April. The Social Committee did a bang-up job hosting our first ever Annual Meeting in the ice house- it was a blast! Many of you donated items and events for the Silent Auction- greatly appreciated and great fun- especially the parties. Thanks to all who

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President's Letter (Continued)

contributed items, time and $$! The club's coffers benefited from your generosity. Don't miss our next event- the Lobster Bake set for Sep. 21st details are in this Icebreaker edition and, flyers were mailed to all curlers at home.

Shortly you will receive a membership questionnaire asking for your thoughts. Please complete and return as soon as possible. It will be followed by League sign-ups so be sure to be prompt on both requests.

With the ice available on the early side we are scheduling a Mixed Doubles League for the month of October as well as some fun curling events. This is in addition to our Open Houses which take precedence as this is the time of the year we have to bring new folks into the club. We need new members! Please, consider your friends, coworkers and acquaintances who might be interested and, get the word out! We will also try our first weeknight Green Horn for new curlers this season.

The Board has worked hard over the Summer and, a result of those efforts is that we have been able to modify the dues structure. We have balanced the costs of the club with the need to retain curling members. Curling is still the best deal around as far as Sports Clubs but, we heard you and have reacted. Now, load up those Open Houses with prospective members so that we can quickly rise to the full membership quota!

See you on the ice! - Jennifer

WEEKLY ★BEST★ OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY™ READERS' POLL 2008

The Best Kept Secret

Nutmeg won the "Best Kept Secret" Category in the The Fairfield County Weekly newspaper's annual "Best Of" poll.

The club was awarded a plaque by the newspaper, which will be displayed at the club.

In August, the Bridgeport City Council recognized the Bridgeport winners. Jennifer Stannard received honors from Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch.

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

President	**Jennifer Stannard** jenniferstannard@hotmail.com
Vice-President	**Rob Reihl** robreihl@cox.net
Treasurer	**David Hirx** david.hirx@gmail.com
Secretary	**Pam Smith** pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net
IceBreaker Editors	**Terry & Pam Smith** terencesmith@smithsresearch.net pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net

Women's Opening Dinner

The women curlers will be kicking off the start of curling season by getting together for a casual dinner at Nutmeg Curling Club starting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8th.

Come sign up for events, help with planning our first Women's Bonspiel, and catch up with everyone. Contact Kathy Morley at edward_b_morley@sbcglobal.net or 203 966-1763.

The price of admission? A few great recipes for our cookbook!

Bonspiels!

Have you ever been to a bonspiel? If not, now is the time! There are a number nearby this Fall. As much fun as curling at Nutmeg is, bonspiels are like 'icing on the cake'. If you are interested there will soon be a schedule and sign-up on the bulletin board and we'll help put teams together.

Corporate and Group Events!

Did you know that Nutmeg runs on-ice teambuilding corporate and group events? We do and, they are a great success. Contact Kathleen Blaine rwingsfanct@aol.com for additional information and, think about having your company or group have a gathering at Nutmeg!

Upcoming Club Dates

Sunday, September 27	Nutmeg Lobsterbake
Saturday, October 4	Level 1 Instructors Class
Wednesday, October 8	Women's Opening Dinner
Saturday, October 11	Season Opening Party
Saturday, October 18	Tune Your Techniques With Spot Curling
Fri.-Sun., October 24-26	Hot Shots Curling Camp
Saturday, November 1	Halloween Party "Curl In a Costume"
Sunday, November 2	Sweeping Clinic

Be sure to visit www.nutmegcurling.com and click on calendar for more activities!

Early Ice

The ice crew installed Ice early this year!! September 2nd we started cooling down the plant and ice is ready September 8th.

The USCA has granted us our early Ice application which means that Nutmeg has been chosen as one of the 4 sites in the US (the only GNCC Site) to provide competitive athletes and other curlers with early training ice.

Ice availability will be made to all competitive and recreational curlers at no charge, with priority given to USCA funded athletes. Times of operation open to Nutmeg curlers will be announced once the scheduling has been confirmed for the USCA athletes that will be using our facility for training.

Volunteers Needed!

Nutmeg is a volunteer club and we need volunteers to run smoothly- ice helpers. Kitchen helpers, everything! I am still looking for someone to help with presenting to area Senior Clubs and to learn about instructing wheelchair curlers. If you are interested, please contact me at: jenniferstannard@hotmail.com

Nutmeg Board Structure

The Nutmeg Board is charged with managing the activities of the club, who are we and what do we do? This year, a photo board of every board member will be in the Warm Room so that you can identify them. Also, the Board structure as to oversight and resources for the various committees is being put in place and that will be available as well.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of our friend, Herb Lester, who passed away on August 18. Herb was a long-time member of the club and was Head Instructor for many years.

In addition to Nutmeg, Herb was also a member of the St. Andrew Curling Club. Herb and his wife Carol curled in Canada, Scotland, U.S. and Switzerland — winning many national and international curling awards along the way.

Herb was the owner of Lester Electric Company in Darien. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years during the Korean War, the last two years aboard William M. Wood, DDR 715 as an ET First Class.

He was a member of 3905 Century Club, Inc. Amateur Radio Club. He received his amateur radio license at age 19 his call sign is W1SYZ and continued radio communications throughout his life. He held a Connecticut Real Estate brokers license; Boy Scouts of America leader for troop #54, and a member of the Housing Authority for the Town of Darien. He was a certified master Nantucket Lightship basket craftsman, and also taught Nantucket basket making. He was a skilled woodwork furniture craftsman.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; two children, Christopher Lester and his wife Monica of Willington, CT; Claudia D'Iorio and her husband Marc of Darien, CT; and four grandchildren.

A group of former curlers came up with the idea of creating an annual award in Herb's name for 'Instructor of the Year'. Those who knew Herb and would like to make a donation, please send to the club indicating it is a donation to the Lester Memoriam. This award will be presented at our opening party in October.

HOT SHOTS CURLING CAMP FOR ALL LEVELS!

Nutmeg has been chosen as the only US site for the Hot Shot's Adult Curling Camp.
You need not fly to Canada for expert training but rather, will have it in your own back yard! The groups are separated by ability from novice to expert.

David Gravelle of Penetanguishene, Ontario and his team- some of the best instructors and coaches in the world, provide instructional sessions on all aspects of delivery including balance, line of delivery, release and rock rotation. Off-ice sessions focus on team communication, strategy, mental preparation and team building. Video analysis and more comprise the camp which runs from 1pm Friday through 3pm Sunday, Oct. 24 – 26. The cost of the Camp is $729 which includes Friday and Saturday dinner and lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Join 'campers' from Texas, North Dakota, Maryland and New England as they convene in Bridgeport!
www.hotshotscurling.com

2008 Open House Schedule

Sunday, October 12	**2:00 - 5:00pm**
Tuesday, October 14	**10:00am - 12:00pm**
Wednesday, October 15	**7:30 - 9:30pm**
Friday, October 17	**7:00 - 10:00pm**
Saturday, October 18	**2:00 - 5:00pm**
Tuesday, October 21	**7:00 - 9:00pm**
Thursday, October 23	**7:00 - 9:00pm**
Sunday, October 26	**6:00 - 8:00pm**

Practice Time

Practice time will be available 30 minutes before league play as that matches the usage pattern of last year. Members wanting additional time should contact the League Chair.

Competitive League

Many questions have been asked about the competitive league, how does one get in? What are the criteria, etc. League Chair Jeff Hannon will be circulating information on this league and, the expansion for the 2008/2009 Season. If you are interested or, just always wondered- your questions will soon be answered! Watch your e-mails!

IMPROVE YOUR GAME with New Shoes, Broom, stopwatch...

Goldline Pro Shop — coming Oct 23-25, Thurs-Sat

This year Goldline is bringing a fully equipped, heated, lighted and air conditioned 24 foot trailer! (pic attached) Our new Goldline rep is Kenny Thomson who lives in Weymouth, MA and curls out of Cape Cod.

The Goldline Pro Shop will be with us from Thursday night 5-9, all day Friday starting at 8am and all day Saturday. This schedule overlaps with the HotShots Clinic.

Come take a look try out the equipment. (Equipment cn be tried out on the ice only when Hot Shots is not in session)

In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear of the passing of long time club member Dick McFarland.

Richard Macomber McFarland, Sr of Westport CT died peacefully at his home July 24 at the age of 84.

Memorial Service will be held on Sat Sept 13 at the Universal Unitarian Church, 10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport. 4-5pm.

Early Ice Availability

Nutmeg members interested in using Ice at Nutmeg Curling Club for practice during the months of September and October, please contact Sally MacKenzie at smackenzie46@gmail.com or 203-858-8914 (cell) to schedule a time. **ALL members must schedule a time to use the ice.**

We would like to request that Nutmeg Members try to schedule during the week nights since the weekends are pretty booked with outside teams and funded athletes. Nutmeg members must inform Sally of the times they want to use the ice and sign the log book in the warm room. (USCA Requirement)

Ice schedule can be found on Google calendars at the Nutmeg Early Ice Schedule link on www.nutmegcurling.com

Ice time must be scheduled with at least 48 hours advance notice.

Curling Clinics at Nutmeg

Saturday, October 4, 2008, 9:00-3:30

USA Curling Level 1 Instructor Certification

Level I Instructors are trained to work primarily with new curlers. Level I Instructors work mainly within their own clubs, helping beginners learn the game and novices to improve basic skills using delivery techniques identified as best practices by USA Curling. There is a $50 fee for the class; registration will be through an on-line system.

Sunday, November 2, 2008, 2:00-4:00

Swee—eeep! With Charrissa

Those who know me well, know that I am passionate about sweeping. Why? First, it is often overlooked and underrated as people focus on the "glory" of shooting. Second, being a great sweeper has a tremendous impact on the success of your team. I know this both from being a front-ender and knowing that my ability to judge the rock and sweep the heck out of it gives my teammates more leeway on their shots and I know it from throwing skip's rocks where having great sweepers gives me more confidence and helps me to shoot better. Heck, you sweep 6 rocks and only shoot 2 every end – why wouldn't you focus on this part of your game?

So – what makes a great sweeper? That's exactly what we'll be talking about on November 2nd from 2-4pm at our sweeping clinic. I believe that it takes a combination of mechanical effectiveness, judgment, communication, and knowledge of the game. We will cover all four of these aspects including taking a look at your sweeping "posture" or technique (we'll even videotape you so you can see yourself). If we have time, we'll get to the nuances of interval timing; if not, we'll look to cover that another day.

Join me on November 2nd – share my love of sweeping, become a better sweeper, and help your teammates make more shots – what could be more fun?

Sunday, December 14, 2008, 9:00-3:30

USA Curling Level 2 Instructor Certification

Level II Instructors are trained to work with intermediate and advanced curlers to improve their performance, and train aspiring Level I and Level II Instructors.

Being a Level II instructor is also a prerequisite for become a certified coach.

Level II Instructors provide training to experienced curlers on topics that bring their game play to the next level, including power generators, sweeping techniques, strategy, timing, etc. Level II Instructors are also trained to conduct video taped delivery analysis. . There is a $50 fee for the class; registration will be through an on-line system.

Watch for additions to this list...

Annual Meeting and Auction

Nutmeg hosted 68 members and their guests at the 2008 Annual Meeting & Silent Auction. This was the first time Nutmeg hosted the event at our new club — on the rink during the off-season. The old fashion Texas BBQ was a huge success. The dinner and silent auction brought in over $10,000 to the club.

Many thanks to Nutmeggers who helped organize the event and a special thanks to those who kept the bidding going higher!

Some of the Silent Auction Winners:
left - Sailing Aboard the Flying Cloud
below - The Follin's Garden Party

Lifetime Achievement Award

An Honorary Lifetime Award was presented to Bob Will.

A. Roland 'Bob' Will was awarded the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award at Nutmeg. The following is excerpted from his award presentation:

Bob was a founding member of the Nutmeg Curling Club. We owe much to him but first, a bit of how he, and we, got here-

Bob began his curling career in Schenectady, New York after graduation from Union College (just down the street from the Schenectady Curling Club). He was a founder and charter member of the Albany Curling Club and, luckily for us, General Electric transferred Bob and his wife Connie to Fairfield where he aligned himself with the CROC's (some will recognize this as the name of the Sunday afternoon League event). The CROC's were the first organized curlers in our area and, curled at the Crystal Ice Rink in Norwalk- hence CROC's or: Crystal Rink Original Curlers Society. The CROC's was the root from which the Nutmeg grew. Bob was instrumental in creating the Nutmeg Curling Club from the CROC's. When Bob became the President of the Nutmeg Curling Club he moved the club from the Crystal Rink to a new dedicated curling facility in Darien and curling blossomed in our area. That was 1963 and there the Nutmeg crew grew into a family of curlers recognized throughout the region for their competitive spirit, love of the game and friendship (some will note early relationships with the Cape Cod Curling Club and others, with which Bob was involved).

Bob has friends throughout the world directly attributed to his curling activities. He and Connie attended many World curling events in the US and abroad. Bob represented the United States on the 1982 Scots Tour Team that brought home the Herries Maxwell Trophy for the first time. An active participant in numerous competitions in Eastern Canada, most especially the Gordon International and the Ross Tarlton. The trustees of the Ross Tarlton Curling Competition awarded Bob the Collie Campbell Memorial Award "in recognition of his sportsmanship, leadership and devotion to the game of curling." Bob is well known throughout the Grand National Curling Club of America, serving as it's President from 1980 to 1982. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the GNCC in 2005 where, it was proclaimed, "A. Roland 'Bob' Will is a true ambassador of curling." You can see just how special a man Bob Will is.

To have such a renowned gentleman curler as a founder and continuous benefactor, Nutmeg truly has been blessed. And Bob Will is just that- a gentleman curler from the brim of his trademark hat to the tip of his well polished shoes used for curling. Bob has curled everywhere that Nutmeg held ice; Norwalk, Darien and Bridgeport. He began contributing to the Nutmeg Curling Club before there was a facility and, has buoyed us now through two facilities. He monitored the progress of this building with weekly visits to the site and was here to assist as we placed the handles on the rocks for our first season. Bob has delivered many a grace at Nutmeg with his heavy Scottish brogue ready at a moments notice. It required no discussion that when we opened our doors in Bridgeport, Bob would of course give the opening grace and hold the broom on Sheet A for the ceremonial 'first rock'.

For his love of the game, his love of Nutmeg, and our love and gratitude to him for all that we are today the Board of Directors is proud to name A. Roland Will as the first Honorary Life Member of the Nutmeg Curling Club. I ask you now to raise your glass in toast to a true gentleman curler: A. Roland Will, noting that in the spirit of curling, he donated these very glasses!

Ice Prep for Game Play by the AIG

It is summer, you are at the beach so you are probably thinking about the ice at the curling club right? No, just me then? Well here is a topic that comes up on a regular basis throughout the curling season, ice prep before a game. I will try to keep this simple and straightforward.

There are three steps to get ready for a game to be played: Pebble, Drag and Mop. The pebbling is done by someone who has been trained or tested by the ice committee. Anyone can be trained for this task and this season the ice committee would like to train a lot more people. This makes it easier for the pebbling to get done as there are lots of able people available. Look for pebble training sessions to be scheduled early in the season. Dragging of the rocks is just a bit of manual labor and no training is required. This can be done by anyone that is there to curl in the next draw. Simply get the rocks lined up, get the wooden rack out and place it over the rocks. A diagram of how to set up the rocks is on the wall just above the wooden rack. The wooden rack is in the corner by sheet C. Then pull the rack up and down each sheet based on the diagram on the wall. Dragging the rocks can be started once the pebbler is finished with the second sheet. The final step is mopping up the ice debris that is left after the drag. Again, this is just a bit of manual labor, simply go down to the end of sheet A and pick up one of the mops and walk up and down each sheet. When finished mopping, clean off the mop with the brush provided, sweep up the pile of stuff and put the mop back. If three people are involved in the ice prep this whole process can be done in less than 5 minutes.

If you are unsure about how any of the processes are performed, simply ask someone. There are lots of folks that have helped in the past and they and the ice committee would certainly appreciate any more help that is offered. Remember, we are an all volunteer club so take a couple of extra minutes to make a contribution by helping with the ice prep.

Ice Committee – Jeff Hannon, Sally Hannon, Bobbie Stoll, Jim Meinhold, Bill Brautigam

Little Rockers

Nutmeg will be offering a junior curling program for youths ages 7 through 11 from 4:15 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays starting November 5th.

Members children and their friends are invited to participate. Cost will be $75 per child for the season.

To sign up or to volunteer with the league please contact Kathy Morley at 966-1763 or by email at edward_b_morley@sbcglobal.net

Tuesday Night Competitive League

This league is intended for experienced curlers. The league is an open format, meaning teams can be all men, all women or a combination. A team can change the position of its players from week to week. A team is created by the skip for entry into the league. Each team must have someone designated as skip to “captain” the team.

Individuals interested in playing in the league should contact the League Chair. The League Chair will pass their interest on to the league skips. Those skips needing players will contact the individuals. The league chair will not create teams or designate individual players to existing teams.

League play will be broken into two pools of teams, A and B. This season will start with a complete round robin. Following completion of the round robin, teams will be placed into the A and B pool based upon the results. Once the pools are established after the round robin, play will continue within the pools. Teams will move up or down between the pools based upon pool play. For instance, the bottom A team will move to pool B and the top B team will move to pool A.

For the 2008/2009 season, the league is expanding to 12 teams. There are 7 returning teams from the prior season. There are 5 available spots for teams to enter. If more than 5 teams are interested in joining the league there will be a playoff to determine the 5 teams. Initially, teams will be ranked based upon total years of curling experience on the team. Playoffs will occur amongst the lower ranked teams if necessary.

On the Bonspiel Trail (Cont'd From Page 1)

and Karen had a number of great games but alas, found themselves with time to sightsee during the finals. GoreNuts (skipped by Donna Purkey's sister Sandy from Gore Bay, Ontario), Jennifer Stannard, Bobbie Stoll and Jayne Beattie reunited for a great time on and off the ice but, were among the viewers in the warm room for the finals. As bad as it feels to lose- the Cape in July is a great place to drown your sorrows!

Tropicurl Bonspiel Pittsburgh July 3 – 6

The weather the week before July 4th was beautiful Summer weather. So why, I asked myself, was I preparing to travel to Pittsburgh with 47 other teams to be cold? It seemed like a good idea way back in March, but as it got close I wasn't so sure.

I put together a team of people who had never curled together. I played skip, Stephanie Torta of Broomstones was Vice, Karl was Second and Emily Morris of Potomac was Lead.

Our first game Thursday night was against a Potomac team skipped by Sandy McMakin. Luckily I didn't remember she had taught a clinic at Nutmeg or I would have been nervous. We blew them away and prepared for our next game against Ardsley skipped by John Noble. We won by 9 in 7 ends - two down. Then came the Canadians! When all was said and done, they didn't beat us by much and we played 8 full ends and were very proud of ourselves.

Saturday night we played a team from Mayfield. The two women on the team had played in the Nationals. Winning that game we found out we would have to play another Canadian team on Sunday morning. The Canadians were just not on their game since they didn't even score. That put us in the Finals. Our fairy tale came to an end in the Finals. But, we achieved the Bonspiel goal of coming home with Jewelry.

I would highly encourage anyone who wants to go to a bonspiel in the Summer to go to this one next year. Everyone had a great time. The food was great and abundant, the people couldn't have been nicer, the ice was amazing, and there was even a covered deck where you could sit and watch the river. But next year we will plan to leave on Monday just in case!!! — Elly Bockley

Nutmeggers Support Triathlon Raising Funds for Bridgeport Youth

Nutmeggers Chuck, Joanna & Jill Owens, Syl Aulenti, Maura Cockey, Sharon Giese, Joel Leneker & Jennifer Stannard rose early on a Saturday morning in June to hand out water, direct traffic and cyclists, prepare food and otherwise help to make the Health Net Triathlon a superb event!

Team Haggis at the Cape Cod Men's

Team Haggis lives! A rejuvenated Team Haggis took to the ice for the Men's Summer Spiel at Cape Cod. Turlough was the skip for a team consisting of Chris Conley at lead, Matt Bertonica at second and Sean Mayne at Vice. We stayed at the Team Haggis USA summer HQ in Mashpee. The Grand Haggis, Charlie Mack, was delayed due to previous obligations, so the new members of Team Haggis were kept busy cleaning the house and cooking meals and listening to stories told by Turlough.

The lads from Team Turlough were all wearing white T-shirts, kilts in the Smith Tartan, along with blue kilt socks and red flashes.

It was a rocky start against Broomstones One. Turlough is recovering from a mysterious illness that produced vertigo. He decided to throw lead stones and skip. The results were predictable -- Stewart and Broomstones 1 crushed the Haggis. After a night of deep reflection, Turlough decided to throw skip stones. Against Cape Cod 4, Team Haggis posted a win. There was much, much celebration on Friday night.

The 6:30 AM departure on Saturday almost proved to be the undoing of Team Haggis. Once again, Team Haggis had a rocky start. Tied in the eighth. Team Turlough was able a guard its stones at the inside edge of the eight foot on either side of the button. Turlough threw a stone to the button -- CC3 took it out and stuck. Turlough took out CC3 and rolled clear, forcing the opponent to draw to the button. It took all four sweepers to make CC3's stone a winner.

"Obviously, they cheated," Ken Donnelly said upon learning the news. "It's the only way they could have beat Team Haggis; you were too sporting to call them on it."

Say Good-Bye to Summer at Nutmeg's New England Lobsterbake

Catered by Swanson's Fish Markets

When?

Sunday September 21st
4:30-7:30 p.m.

Where?

Fayerweather Yacht Club
51 Brewster St., Bridgeport, CT

How Much?

$32.00 per adult, $ 7.00 per child. Cash bar.

RSVP & payment MUST be received no later than September 12th.

Name:_____ # Attending_____

Amount Enclosed: $_____

Choice Of: _____ Lobster _____ Steak _____ Chicken _____ Swordfish

Kiddies will have a hamburger, hot dog & chips.

Please send to: Jayne Beattie, 313 Foxboro Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851