



# *Between the Sheets*

*June 2022*

**Welcome** to the RA Curling Club's (RACC) Newsletter, early summer 2022 edition. We have revived an old club newsletter name, and regained a bit of club history! We hope you enjoy the new *Between the Sheets*!

*Your RACC Council*

## *In this issue:*

- *highlights of the member survey conducted this spring*
- *a short report on the April 28 Annual Meeting*
- *a brief description of some new committees recently established by the Club Council*

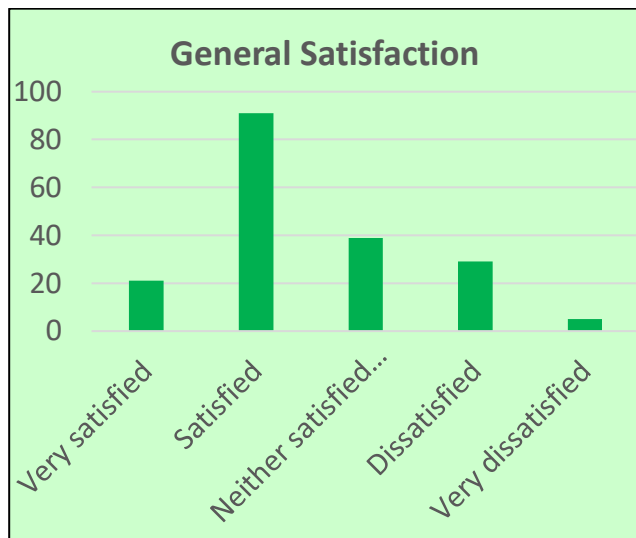
## **“We Want Your Input”** **Member Survey Highlights**

Recognizing the many changes and challenges experienced during the 2021-22 season, a survey was developed to provide members the opportunity to give their feedback on this first season with the new rocks on the new ice in the new facility. The survey was open from March 31 to April 20, and 185 members responded (a response rate of 60.7%). Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your input will help the RACC Council suggest and promote short term adjustments, as well as prioritize necessary mid and long-term improvements.



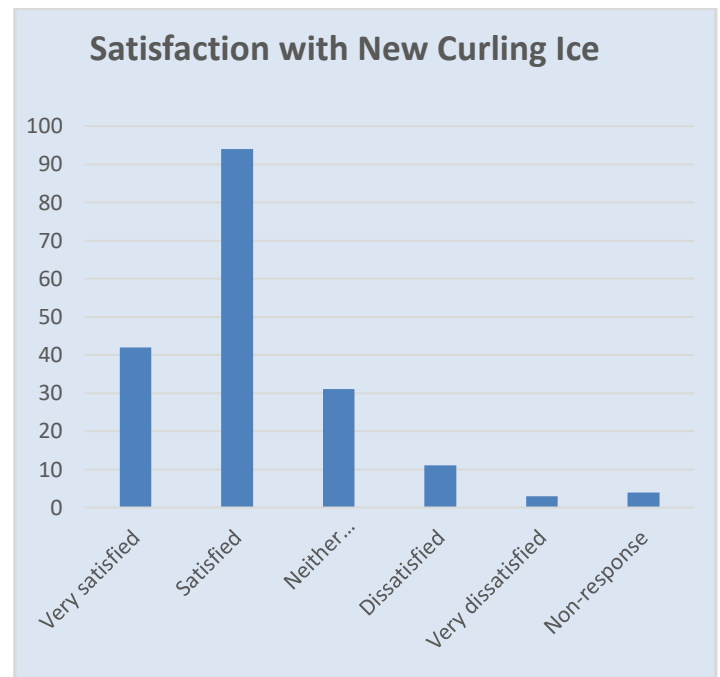
## General Satisfaction this Past Season

- A clear majority of the responding members (60.6%) were very satisfied or satisfied
- Only 34 members (18.4%) were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
  - About twice as much dissatisfaction was reported by women than men
  - Older curlers were more likely to be dissatisfied than younger curlers



## Satisfaction with the New Curling Ice

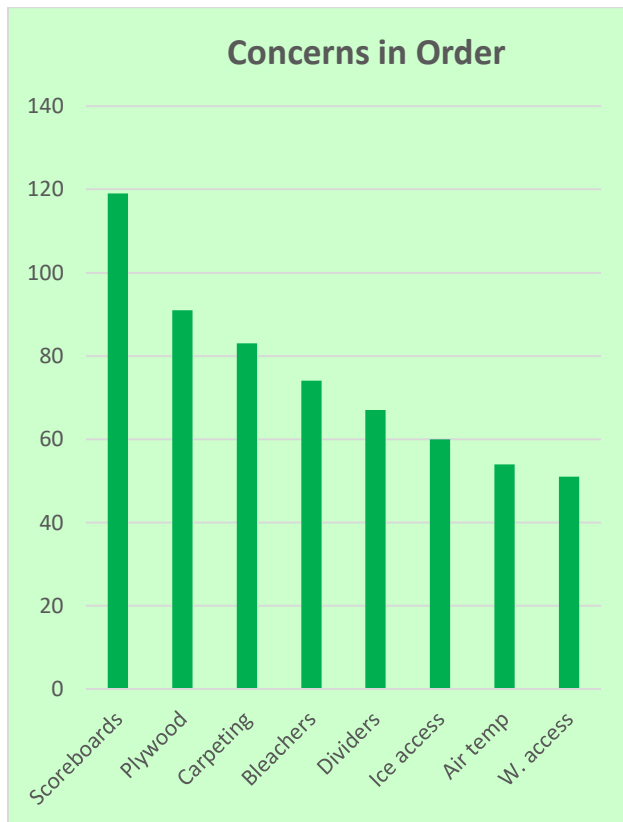
- A large majority of the responding membership (73.5%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with the curling ice in the 2021-2022 season
- Less than 10% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied



## Concerns about the New Curling Environment

- 64.3% of respondents identified the scoreboards as the item of greatest concern (based on summed responses of "very concerned" and "moderately concerned")
- The plywood backboards and walkways (49.2%) and the blue carpeting on top of the plywood (44.9%), both of which have been identified as safety concerns, were rated as of slightly less concern



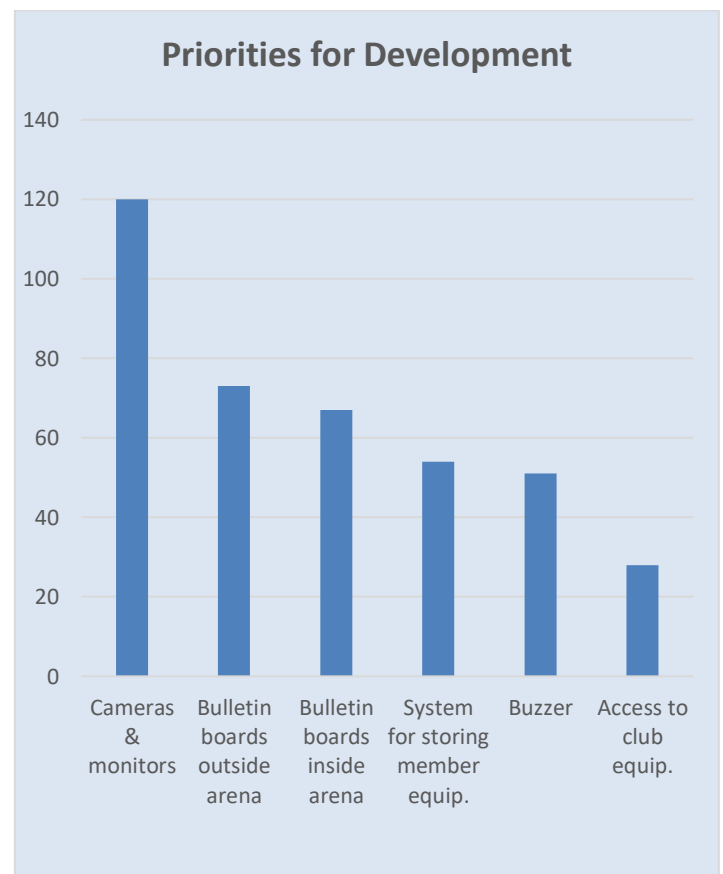


## Lockers and Showers

- Approximately 45% of respondents are either very likely or somewhat likely to rent a locker
  - Just over half of those would rent a locker even with broom storage within the arena
  - Women are significantly more likely than men to rent a locker, and the likelihood of renting a locker generally increases with age
- Over 95% of respondents are unlikely to make use of showers at the RA either before or after a curling game

## Priorities for Development

- Almost 65% of the respondents identified having monitors and above-house cameras as being a high priority
- Having bulletin boards outside and inside the arena followed at slightly less than 40%



## Importance of Social Spaces

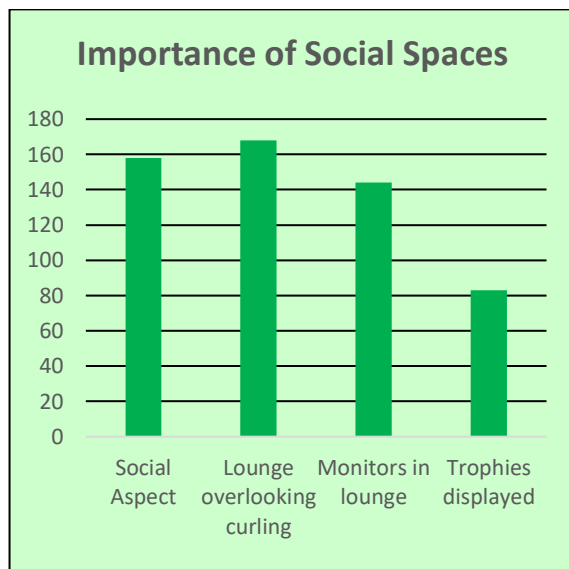
- An overwhelming majority of respondents (85.4%) identified the social aspect of curling as either very important or somewhat important



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- An even higher percentage (90.8%) indicated that ultimately having a lounge that overlooks the curling rink is very or somewhat important
- Having monitors in the lounge (77.8%) was considered to be much more important than having the curling trophies in a space frequented by curlers (39.8%)



## Returning for 2022-2023

- Over 75% of responding members are planning on returning to the RACC for the 2022-2023 season
- Slightly more than 20% of respondents are currently unsure about returning

## Communication with Members

- Over 85% of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the frequency, timeliness, content, and information of the communications from the RACC
- Similarly, over 83 % of respondents indicated that they are very satisfied or satisfied with the frequency, timeliness, content, and information of the communications from the RA

Have you seen the **Meet the Member stories** that we have been producing this past year? They have been posted on the arena wall and are on the Club website ([click here](#)). See the latest on Frances Enns. Thank you to our journalists in residence – Susan Murray and Dianne Clarke – for the articles!



## New RACC Committees

With the continuing pandemic and the move of curling to the arena, it was a busy year. The Club Council has established several new committees to help address some of the issues that have arisen:

- **Scoreboard Committee** – looking at two options to replace the small problematic scoreboards for the start of the 2022-23 season:
  - designing and building new larger and more durable scoreboards
  - repurposing and building frames to mount the old scoreboards
- **Ice Committee** – to provide information to the RA and ice techs on the ice (speed, curl, runs, falls, cleanliness/debris) and contribute to ice maintenance and improvements
- **Camera and Monitor Committee** – to develop/design installation and costing options for cameras over the house at each end of each sheet and associated monitors in the arena and Fieldhouse lounge, with a view to purchasing and installing these for the start of the 2023-24 season
- **Governance Committee** – to develop new Individual Curling Club Rules to replace the old Curling Club bylaws, as required by the RA bylaws and Management Framework, and under the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act.

***We are always looking for keen and talented volunteers to join our committees. Do you have communication, social media, finance, governance, events/bonspiel planning skills? Let us know. Contact one of the members of the Council.***

## Curling Club Annual Meeting – April 28, 2022

Some 40 members attended the Club's Annual Meeting. All RACC members were subsequently sent copies of the presentations made by the RA and RACC Council. A few highlights of the meeting follow.



Kelly Shaw-Swettenham, Director of RA Recreation, Sports and Fitness, opened the evening with a very thorough presentation on the development of the Curling Centre of Excellence and the upcoming renovations to the changeroom and washroom area outside the arena. A rendering of the hallway/changeroom renovations was shared (copied at the end of this newsletter), and there were numerous questions for Kelly, with members providing important feedback on many of the issues and concerns that arose this past year relating to the ice, lockers, social spaces, and food and beverage services.

RACC Council reported on the events of the last few years. Details of the changes in membership and finances were outlined, with membership this past year at only 64% of pre-pandemic levels while revenues were down 9% from 2 years ago. The Club's Learn to Curl participation is back to pre-pandemic levels, and Youth participation has continued to grow. The RA has set ambitious revenue targets for the club for the 2022-23 season. The recent member surveys and new committees were discussed, and the work ahead for the Council and the associated challenges were outlined. Finally, the new Council for 2022-23 was acclaimed (see the box on the next page for the full list of officers).

A collective big thank you was given to all the club members who had volunteered over the past couple of years, whether on the Council, on other committees, or as convenors.

### Coming in our next issue:

- Key dates for the 2022-23 season
- News about leagues
- Fees for 2022-23

*If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter or have suggestions for future articles, feel free to send us your ideas.*



## Your 2022-2023 Club Council

Chair	Margo Burgess	<a href="mailto:margo.burgess.racc@gmail.com">margo.burgess.racc@gmail.com</a>
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### The RACC Council is supported by ex-officio members of RA's Recreation, Sports and Fitness Services:

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Kelly Shaw-Swettenham	<a href="mailto:kshawswettenham@racentre.com">kshawswettenham@racentre.com</a>

### Other key club contacts:

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Youth Curling	Margo Burgess	<a href="mailto:margo.burgess.racc@gmail.com">margo.burgess.racc@gmail.com</a>



Near-final rendering of renovation to changeroom / washroom area as shown at RACC Annual Meeting – NOTE THIS IS NOT THE EXACT FINAL DESIGN

