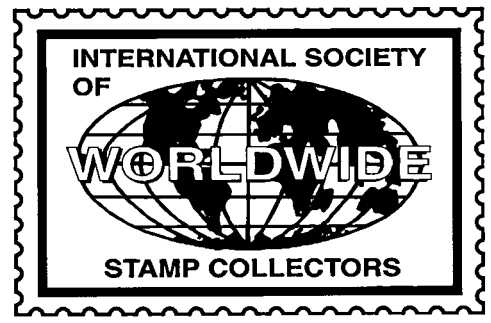


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The Circuit



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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Curling, Anyone?

by Don Plaskett (#1257)

If you want to get youngsters interested in this fascinating hobby, try sports. Sooner or later they will discover that Canada issued three stamps about curling.

Curling? What's curling? Well, it's played on ice just like hockey, which may explain why no one south of Minneapolis has ever heard of the game. We do have ice hockey in Tallahassee, but curling —well maybe some day.

If you go back to the 1500s in northern Europe, several countries had their own versions of the game. Scotland is probably the country that put it all together, as they did with golf. "Kuting" stones have been dug up in Scotland dating back to 1511.

First Rules in 1739

The first approach to any kind of rules came in 1739. Curling is a popular sport in the "cool" countries of northern Europe and curling is number one in many places in Canada during the winter months. All of the stores in small communities close up during "Bon spiel" (tournament) time.

So, exactly what is curling? If you have ever watched lawn bowling (see Australia Scott #595, #1 106 and New Zealand #551) the scoring is similar. Both are games of strategy controlled by the "Skip" or final player. From there on the similarity ends.

A bullseye or "house" in curling is the target for players to amass the greatest number of points. The strategy is whether to block the opposing team with guards or to eliminate the opposition with well directed shots.



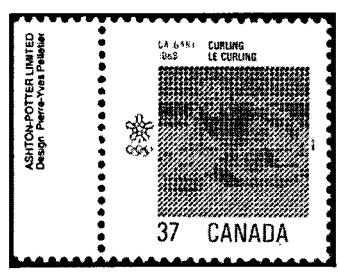
Canada Scott #490 on a FDC from the 1969 Sports Series. Both the stamp and cachet are good illustrations of the target.

Each team is composed of four players, a "Lead" who will begin the strategy, a second who will protect the Lead's shots with guards or eliminate the opposition. Likewise for the third player, but the "Boss Man" is the "Skip" who directs the strategy from the far end.

Each player gets two shots for each end and a broom to be used when he is not delivering the "stone." The broom is the kitchen variety of the corn broom, only the straw is longer. These brooms are being supplanted by "push brooms" just as golfers may use a putter with an extended shank. Curlers will swear on 40 Bibles that they can draw the "stone" or "rock" from 20 to 30 feet down the ice when called for by the Skip. And I believe them.

What is the Rock?

The rock? Through the centuries, the rock has evolved into a 44 pound rounded granite stone about



Scott #1196 shows a Curler in action

Continued on page 4

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Please remember that the Editor does not mail out The Circuit. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Randy Smith, Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:
MAY 20, 2002

President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111) – ISWSC President

The past few months have been busy ones for the ISWSC! Here's just a sampling:

Under the leadership, dedication, and just plain hard work of Tony Zollo (#856), the issue of the OMNI material lost following the sudden death of the previous OMNI manager has now been resolved. Unfortunately, much of the lost material was not recovered, however the ISWSC received a settlement check under our insurance policy. Using these funds, we were able to reimburse OMNI participants whose material was lost at 50% of Scott catalog value. The Board will continue to discuss methods to help protect ISWSC property held by our volunteers to help prevent such a loss from occurring again.

My sincere thanks to Tony, Jim Millette (#1314), and Tom Fortunato (#379) for all their work in resolving this difficult issue and to the OMNI participants for their patience and continued support of the program.

- At the February Board meeting, your directors approved entering *The Circuit* in C6NPLE, Canada's Sixth National Philatelic Literature Exhibition. Participation in such events, including the APS Stampshow 2002 literature competition, will help bring exposure to the ISWSC. Hopefully along the way, we'll even pick up a prestigious award (or two)!

- The Board also approved two expenditures for advertisements in stamp publications. Three consecutive ads will be placed in *Global Stamp News* and ads will be run in stamp publications in Australia and New Zealand. Results of these ads will be monitored to determine if these efforts should be continued and/or expanded.

- Members are encouraged to write an article about worldwide stamp collecting (or some aspect of it) for their local stamp organizations and/or *Linn's*, *Global Stamp News*, *Stamp Collector*, etc. When doing so, please include a short paragraph about the ISWSC and where to write for more information (see Tony Zollo's address on page 2). These initiatives, coupled with the continued word-of-mouth advertising of all our members will result in some great exposure for the ISWSC!

- Under the direction of John Pruitt (#121), the Whatzit? service is being re-energized. This service enables members to submit stamps needing identification. John will coordinate receiving requests for help, working with a panel of other volunteers, and sending information concerning

Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence): \$19.00*

*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US\$. Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the current expiration date.*

Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads. All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the Editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

Display Rates (Camera Ready*) per insertion:

Full page: \$75.00**

Half page: \$40.00**

Quarter page: \$20.00**

Per column inch: \$5.00

Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue.

*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra.

**Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p. 2) for special rates.

Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and ZIP code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1.

NOTE: State abbreviations = one word; "P.O. Box 1234" = two words; ZIP code = one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor. All addresses can be found on page 2.

Continued on page 6



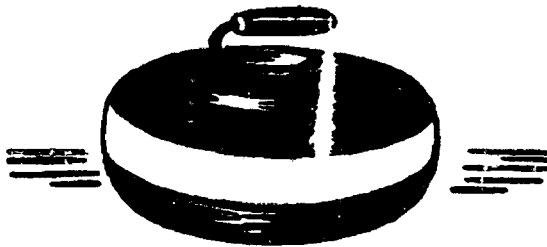
Good curling form is a joy to behold — as the above illustrations show.

Curling, Anyone?

Continued from page 1

six inches thick. The original stones had holes drilled in them for the fingers — much like a bowling ball — but the Scot's got smarter around 1775 and attached a handle to the stone. This handle allowed the curler to direct the stone exactly where the Skip wanted it according to his strategy plan. This seems to be the reason for giving the Skip a broom.

Each player throws two stones toward the "house" at the other end of the ice — a distance of 126 feet. Although it may sound like a feat of strength, if the ice is keen the curler doesn't have to lift the stone very high to make it slide toward his target.



The Rock: a "stone" sprouting the handle

Enter the "Sweepers"

The curler depends on the other two members of the team to sweep his stone into the target, or wherever directed by the Skip. The stone has to make it over the "hog line" or the stone is eliminated. "Hog line?" Naw, you don't even want to hear about that!

Got the idea? When all four members of the team have thrown their two rocks each, the score (which you will never believe or figure out) is recorded on a score board at one end of the rink. "Cliff hangers" develop when Skips are faced with that crucial shot which makes or breaks the game.

On a cold winter's night in Canada, curling is a most popular sport for service clubs, senior citizens,

social groups, neighborhoods or anyone else who wants two hours of fun and exercise. You are guaranteed to keep warm.

It all comes together when a "Bon spiel" is organized and teams will travel for hundreds of miles to participate and bring home the prizes. The pinnacle of curling is to participate in the "Golden Broom" — similar to what the Masters is in the golfing world.

I watched teams compete in the Golden Broom held at Duluth, Minnesota, a few years ago. What a sight to watch curling teams from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Germany and — of course — Canada, USA and Scotland.

A team from Hibbing, Minnesota, won the world championship, although this news wasn't covered by ESPN! Every shot was thrown so smoothly, swept in perfect rhythm coming to a stop precisely were the Skip called, making it a day I shall never forget.

Later in the week I dropped into a shoe store in Minneapolis to inquire if they had any "curling shoes." The shoe is light weight, rises above the ankle and has a smooth sole which slides great distances on ice. The clerk asked: "Curling shoe, what's that?"

To the best of my knowledge, Canada has issued three stamps illustrating curling: Scott #490 shows the Curlers moving their stones towards the target; Scott #1647 which looks like two curlers drawing a guard to protect the stones in the house; and Scott #1196, which is indistinct because of the stamp design, but the curler has delivered a perfect shot that should put a smile on the Skip's face!

So why not try to stimulate some youngster to collect sports stamps?



Scott #647: players guarding the stones



Minutes Of ISWSC Board Of Directors February 2002

by Joanne Berkowitz (#98)
ISWSC Secretary

*The ISWSC Board met via e-mail over
a two week period Feb.15-28, 2002.*

The January minutes were moved and approved. The following action items were moved and approved by the full vote of the board:

1. An advertisement for the organization will be placed in Global Stamp News to run in three consecutive issues for a cost of \$216 for a 1/2 page ad.
2. ISWSC will contribute \$395.74 to the amount from the insurance for the OMNI loss, which will allow the owners of the missing stamps to be reimbursed at 50% of catalog value.
3. The executive committee and secretary (currently Randy, Tom, Tony and Joanne) will be designated as signatories on the checking account and the signature card will be updated to reflect current position holders.
4. ISWSC will contribute \$30.00 for advertisements in stamp publications in New Zealand and Australia.
5. It was voted to spend \$20.00 to enter *The Circuit* in the Canadian 6th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition.

Other Business:

1. We will ask our insurance carrier whether we are covered for loss due to irradiation damage in the mail for items such as circuits and mail sales. The problem of irradiation damage was discussed and the consensus was to wait to see what the USPS plans to do.
2. It was felt that an article published in Linn's would be an effective means of promoting the club. We could take an article from the circuit and send it along with a press release in the hope of getting it published.
3. The entire board expressed its appreciation to Tony Zollo for all the work he has done on the OMNI loss.
4. A treasurer position for the society was discussed. It was generally felt that having a treasurer with some financial expertise is a good idea.
5. Plans for Washington 2006 were discussed. A table seems too expensive unless we can share it with another group, which is currently not allowed. We will definitely have a meeting for members

and continue to discuss other ways to promote society membership at the show.

6. The question of having an internet sales program was discussed briefly. While there is interest in this idea, it will take someone with time and knowledge to do it.
7. Joanne Berkowitz reported that she has begun sending membership renewal cards to those whose ISWSC membership has recently expired.
8. The budget was discussed and the plan is to do quarterly updates as many income and expense items do not change frequently enough to warrant monthly updates.
9. A discussion was held concerning changing the title of the VP for Charitable Services position. At a future meeting, the board will make a recommendation to the membership concerning a new name for the position. Any name change will require a change to the ISWSC bylaws and, therefore, approval of the membership.



INEXPENSIVE ALBUM PAGES

A group of stamp collectors have gathered on the Internet to create album pages for every stamp ever issued. They have already created pages for almost all small countries, and most of the larger ones, such as France, Germany, the US and Canada. There are album pages for over 300 countries; over 25,000 pages in total! Visit my web site at www.albumpages.net for a complete list of the countries and time periods currently available.

As the exclusive US distributor for printed StampAlbums.com pages, I am authorized to print any of the pages on heavyweight 8 1/2 X 11 paper OR on paper which matches Scott International or Specialized pages in weight, color, and size (and has the holes in the right places).

I can print you pages for an entire country, a particular range of years, or even just the air mail or semi-postal issues! And the cost per page, including the paper, is just 20¢ per page for the 8 1/2 X 11 and 25¢ per page for the International or Specialized-sized. Send me an LSASE and I'll send you the complete list of pages currently available. Sorry, pages are available only to US addressees. Please add \$2.95 shipping for any quantity of pages.

Richard Simpson
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Rsimpson@141.com

Swap Circuit Manager Changes

By Randy Smith (#1111)
Swap Coordinator

Participants in the Regular (J-Z) circuits will be saddened to hear that Jack Searles (982) has decided to step down as circuit manager, effective immediately. Jack has been an excellent manager and has served in that capacity for over eight years. My sincere gratitude goes to Jack for his efforts as manager and for all of his suggestions and assistance over the years. Thank you!!

Because of Jack's "retirement", I will now be managing the Regular (J-Z) circuits and William Silvester (1058) will manage the Super circuits. Thank you, Bill, for agreeing to manage the Super circuits in addition to managing the CTO circuits. The transition of responsibilities is already underway and should be almost completed by the time you receive this newsletter.

Swap Circuit members are asked to note these manager changes so that notification of extended absences, etc. are sent to the proper manager(s). Outstanding circuits can be returned either to the new manager or to the manager listed on the routing sheet accompanying each circuit.

Members having any questions, or ISWSC members who would like information about joining the Swap Circuit program, should contact me by mail at P.O. Box 21115; Eagan, MN 55121 or via e-mail at rasmay4@earthlink.net.



President's Column

Continued from page 3

identified stamps back to the submitters. Some of the items submitted will also wind up in the newsletter so the rest of us can learn to identify the stamps, too. (For more information on the Whatzit? program, please see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Thank you, John, for stepping forward to fill this role!

Finally, I want to thank all of the many ISWSC volunteers who work so diligently on behalf of the society. You'll find many of their names listed on page 2, but I'm sure there are many more who make valuable contributions without ever being recognized. For all of your efforts, I'm extremely grateful!

Until next time - Happy Stamping!



Yugoslavia May Be Changing Postal Policies

by Miloie Chastven (#1429)

I wish to inform our members about a change in Yugoslavia Issue policy for 2002 year and up. Recently, I was in contact with a person that has direct contact with a government office, and according to information from there, Yugoslavia will restart to use postage like payment for service.

From 1992 and till 2001, Yugoslavia issued small quantity of issued set, (approx. 50-60,000 of each common set) and just for popular thematic like "Europa" they printed approx. 100,000 of each. This result of this policy is that post canceled material from Yugoslavia, for this period, is hard to find. Especially with envelope, where existed two kinds of postage:

- a) sticker with value paid - no stamp in all,
- b) stamp, canceled, with added cancel "franked by sender" - which mean that sender is philatelist subscribed for new issue, directly from official post office.

CTO (cancelled to order) material will not be difficult to find because enough sets are sold abroad for "cash" purpose, but it is not point for philatelist who collect postally used material.

According last information, new policy of Yugoslav Post Authority will be: "back with stamp use on post office", BUT again we have "pop" in style:

They will issue set/s with large quantity printed stamp (value for domestic and worldwide service), and high value stamp from same set will be low as possible, which will again cause trouble for philatelist.

I wish to say, that I have this information second-hand, not from an officially authorized person. I hope that it is correct information. We will see it in near future.

MORE NEWS ABOUT STAMPS FROM YUGOSLAVIA

By new information from Yugoslavia, this country changed its name and now officially, Yugoslavia DOESN'T exist, that means we have one more "dead country" in topic.

By a new agreement between two republics, the new name for the federation is "Serbia and Crna

Continued on page 8