

PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Oct 19/84

During the last week or so the upper course has had a veritable deluge of falling leaves and this has rendered it almost unplayable, so much so in fact that the Retirees Curling Club of Rossland which has been policing its use and collecting green fees, has seen fit to pull its members off the job down there.

So we say goodbye to our grand old course for another year. I hope the executive of the club will take a close look at the course before another season starts and realize that a little thought for those member who play here rather than the ball park at Birchbank get the kind of treatment they deserve. All the course needs is a break to make it once more a mecca for local golfers and tourists alike.

As a concerned member of the RTGC put it: "The Retirees took in a fair amount of money on the upper course since its closure but had to give up when the leaves started falling as they had been warned the club had no intention of picking them up. Hopefully the money turned over to the club will be gainfully spent at the upper course."

When the snow started coming down over the past weekend our Retirees in Rossland turned their thoughts to our winter pastimes, some to skiing and others to curling. At a meeting held on Tuesday morning the members heard what has transpired so far in the efforts of the city to turn over the curling facilities in Rossland to the four clubs which have formed an association.

The Men's Club, the Mixed, the Afternoon Ladies and the Retirees are putting up money to get the association off the ground and will hire an ice maker to run their business for them. A certain amount of the mundane chores like

cleaning and pebbling will be done by the club members as well as some minor janitorial jobs. The Monday night Business Girls Club was unable to put up the required amount of money but will go along and work with the association and hopefully get in on any benefits that accrue.

The other clubs in the area who have followed the same pattern seem to be making a success of it and we in Rossland are going to give it a try.

At the meeting we were told the dues structure will have to be maintained at the same level as last season and the vote showed this was a satisfactory arrangement. A new executive body was elected and we are now as ready as we'll ever be to swing into another good season of curling. Angus Popplewell was returned as president, Dan Burnett will be vice-president and Cleve Cowland will be the alternate director on the newly-formed association of clubs.

Bart Dudley will replace Dick Cotton as secretary-treasurer and this writer will continue as drawmaster with the able assistance of a classification committee composed of Rich Watkinson, Joe Rosse, Russ Broughton and Bernie Ferrey. Serving on the entertainment committee will be Gordon Brennan, "Doc" Halladay, Joe Bielli and Cleve Cowland. "Sweep!"

During the past months the Retirees obtained a grant from the New Horizons project and undertook to have the curling rocks refurbished, a job that needed doing badly. The balance of the money will be spent on visitations and the acquisition of curling sweaters for members of the Retirees to wear when travelling to out-of-town bonspiels.

Quite a good meeting was held at Nakusp over the weekend according to the members of Branch No. 14 who attended. Wayne Delio brought back a good resume of a sports work party that was held regarding darts and curling. District Darts will be held at Nakusp, March 9, 1985 starting at 11 a.m. and registration is \$10. Prizes of cash and trophies will reward the successful players. The Nelson branch's bid for the 1986 Darts extravaganza was accepted and the provincial tourney will be held at Kitimat on Easter weekend 1985.

Castlegar will play host to this year's Legion Zone bonspiel. Entries and fees should be sent to Harry Vate, Box 3131, Castlegar. Fees are \$100 per rink.

Tonight, the Warriors play host to Spokane Flames. The home team handled the Flames pretty

easily in a pre-season exhibition. Their next game is at Grand Forks on Oct. 24 and then another big weekend with a home game with Cranbrook before taking a trip to Trail on Saturday and one to Spokane on Sunday.

Clyde Nyman told me a little anecdote that will bear repeating here. At an exhibition hockey game in Vancouver which Clyde attended the score was Edmonton 7-0 in the late going and two fans behind Clyde were having a discussion. Said one to the other, "Just think, pal, if we had of paid a couple of bucks extra, maybe we could have got seats facing the other way!"

And, with that we'll say, "Till next time then!"

Oh, wait a minute! The Retirees Curling Club (Rossland) will hold open house Tuesday and Thursday of next week.

Ta, Ta.