

HARRY & GRACE NELLIS

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada



Fastball Executive

NEW EXECUTIVE was chosen at the annual spring meeting of the Wapiti Men's Fastball League in Grande Prairie last night. They are (back row from left) Carl Gilmour of Grande Prairie, vice-president; Fred Stevenson of Beaver-

lodge air base, director; Ed LaCroix of Beauséjour, director; (front row from left) Bob Thomson of Grande Prairie, secretary; Joe Ganske of Grande Prairie, president and Harry Bellis of Beauséjour, director.

Wapiti Fastball League Swings With Possible Two-Division Loop

By STAN NEUFELD
Sports Writer

Members of the Wapiti Men's Fastball League are getting into the swing of things.

In preparation for a new season they got the ball rolling with their annual spring meeting last night in the Park Hotel. Joe Ganske, who was generally responsible for a successful season last year, was re-elected president.

Carl Gilmour was named vice-president again and Bob Thomson, secretary-treasurer.

Other members of executive include Fred Stevenson of Beaverlodge air base and Ed LaCroix and Harry Bellis of Beauséjour.

Although the number of teams won't be decided until the next general meeting, May 3 in the Park Hotel, the majority of teams from last year confirmed their entry plus another entry from the bunkers in Grande

Prairie.

HYTHE WON

Hythe Vikings won both league and playoff titles last year. They are present holders of the Park Hotel and Wally Hawkins Memorial trophies.

The league was backed by a 10 - team circuit last year consisting of four teams from Grande Prairie, and one each from Beauséjour, Wembley, Dimdale, Lyuburn, Hythe and Beaverlodge air base.

The providing of a substantial umpire system this season was discussed.

Pat Gouchie of Grande Prairie and Stevenson were appointed to look into the possibilities of acquiring umpires to cover all league games.

Last year each home team had to provide their own umpire.

A final decision of umpire coverage and fees is to be made at the next meeting plus cost

of team entry fees.

It was suggested that an umpires school be set up to better acquaint officials with correct interpretation of rules.

MORE AWARDS

To create league interest it's almost definite that four awards will be up for grabs this season.

They include: most valuable player, pitcher with the best win-loss record, best batting average and most home runs.

"To keep an accurate tab on statistics each team is to have a trained score keeper at each game," a spokesman said.

"Let's not be using cardholders as foul ball markers either." Another person stated. "Let's have each diamond marked properly."

Each team is to be supplied with an official score book by the WMFL.

President Ganske pointed out that teams wanting to enter this season should be at the next meeting.

"We can't decide anything more until the number of teams has been confirmed," he said.

"If the number of teams increase there is a possibility of a two division circuit."

DIAMOND DUST - Another reminder to all ball fans. The Alberta Fastball Association

clinic is in the Spirit River Hotel this Saturday and Sunday. Everyone in the district from pee wee to senior is invited.

Fastball in the Peace Country has become progressively popular in the past few years and if the first meeting of the WMFL was any indication, there is bound to be further increase this year.

Expansion To Two Divisions Possible As More Fastball Teams Show Interest

By STAN NEUFELD
Staff Writer

The most energetic turnout in several years took in the Wapiti Men's Fastball League's annual spring meeting here last night.

Judging from the widespread interest the league is headed for almost certain expansion.

Of the more than 40 delegates in attendance teams representing Beaverlodge, La Glace, Sexsmith and Crystal Creek showed signs of possible entry in the league as well as the regulars from last year.

The teams from last year's one division setup represented were Driedger Equipment Imperial Lumber, Canadian Utilities, Park Brothers and York Hotel, all from the city and Bezanson, RCAF, Lym-

burn and Dimsdale from the district.

Bernie Welin of the city was chosen as president replacing Joe Ganske who did a commendable job of handling the chores last season. Ed (Butch) Doerkson replaced Carl Gilmour as vice-president while Jim Bisbing from Beaverlodge took over the secretary-treasurer duties from Bob Thompson who has moved to Manning.

Other members of the executive appointed were Rod Berg, Gilmour and Bob Sharp, all of the city. They replace Ed LaCroix, Fred Stevenson and Harry Nellis who were directors last year.

TEAMS UNDECIDED

Although all likely team candidates for league play turned up the number of teams to be in the league this season was

not decided.

However, teams wishing to enter must be represented Wednesday at another meeting at which time all plans will be finalized including number of teams, schedule and other items.

The meeting is being held in room 10 of the Park Hotel starting at 8 p.m.

The group spent most of their time bickering over items such as eligibility of players and team commitments. They couldn't seem to agree on such aspects as the size of ball to use, what to do in case of a tie in league play or how league statistics should be kept.

Finally it was agreed to let the executive choose a uniform size ball which all teams would stick to. The league are order-

ing three dozen balls which will be made available to all teams.

A commissioner and statistician have yet to be chosen and will likely be other items on the agenda at the next meeting.

GOOD SEASON AHEAD

"If the interest shown at last night's meeting is any indication we are heading for a good season," Welin said shortly after receiving his post from Ganske.

He said that if any more than 10 teams join this season they would likely have to use a two-division system.

Welin, employed at the Bank of Nova Scotia, played with Park Brothers last season and intends to try out again this year.

Strongest representation at

the meeting came from Driedger Equipment and Park Brothers.

Beaverlodge, La Glace, Sexsmith and possibly Crystal Creek all showed interest in joining.

La Glace and Sexsmith played in a bush league last year with teams from Bear Hill, Bad Heart and North Kleskun while Beaverlodge and Crystal Creek were not in a league.

Wembley who dropped from the league the year before last did not have any delegates at the meeting.

Several of the items discussed such as player eligibility and team commitments took up most of the time. The matter of player eligibility was finally tabled until the next meeting.

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Nellis takes Legion mixed spiel

BEZANSON
The **Harry Nellis** rink of Bezanson won the Royal Canadian Legion mixed spiel here last night by defeating Gilbert Huber of Grande Prairie in the first event final.

Ray Boyer of Grande Prairie was third and B. Hawryluk of Bezanson was fourth.

Reg Perkins of DeBolt

won the second event over Bob Doerkson, also of DeBolt, while Howard Withers of Bezanson was third and Jack Wales, also of Bezanson, was fourth.

Don Boyd of Grande Prairie beat E. LaValley of Bezanson in the third event. John Sarmaga of Bezanson was third and Gordon Hessler of Bezanson was fourth.

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Nellis wins

BEZANSON

Bezanson rinks took two of three events at a Legion mixed spiel held here over the weekend.

Harry Nellis of the host club won the first event over Jack Mainwaring of DeBolt. Bill Loewen, also of DeBolt was third, and Nancy McDonald of Bezanson was fourth.

Margaret Moon of Bezanson won the second event over Glen Ames, also of Bezanson. Viv Johnson and M. Jobson, both of host club, were third and fourth.

Gil Huber of Grande Prairie won the third event, defeating Bruce Fenton of Bezanson. Jack Wales of Bezanson was third and Tony Doll of Grande Prairie fourth.

The next event is a Norton Brothers fastball club spiel here this weekend.

Bezanson racks D'dale in opener

By DON MOON
of our staff

The Herald-Tribune sports department received a strange phone call last night.

All the caller did was giggle.

No, it wasn't an obscene call. It was Bezanson Norton Bros. coach Harry Nellis.

Mind you, Nellis did have good reason to be a little ecstatic. Norton Bros. had just defeated the league-champion Dimsdale Lewis Haulers 11-2 in the first game of a best-of-three Wapiti Men's Fastball League "A" division final.

Between giggles, Nellis explained that the second-place Norton Bros. had hit all-star pitcher Gerald Campbell for seven runs in the first inning and that was more than enough.

All winning chucker Floyd Rosebush allowed was two in the bottom of the inning, a two-run homer by Monte Kimble.

Rosebush fanned seven and allowed six hits while Campbell and Kimble, who pitched two innings, struck out five and were tagged for 13 hits.

One of the contributing factors to the topsided Bezanson win were the Dimsdale errors. They committed 11, which the Norton Bros. took advantage of to the hilt.

Lawrence Nellis was four

for five for the winners and Kimble two for four for Dimsdale.

Next game in the playoff goes in Bezanson Tuesday night.

In the "B" division final last night at Richmond Park, the Norwood Esso Saints struck for five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and defeated the Wembley Wildcats 5-3 to even that series at one win each.

Surprisingly enough it was all-star pitcher Dick Klepper who took the loss. It was his first setback in league play in the WMFL.

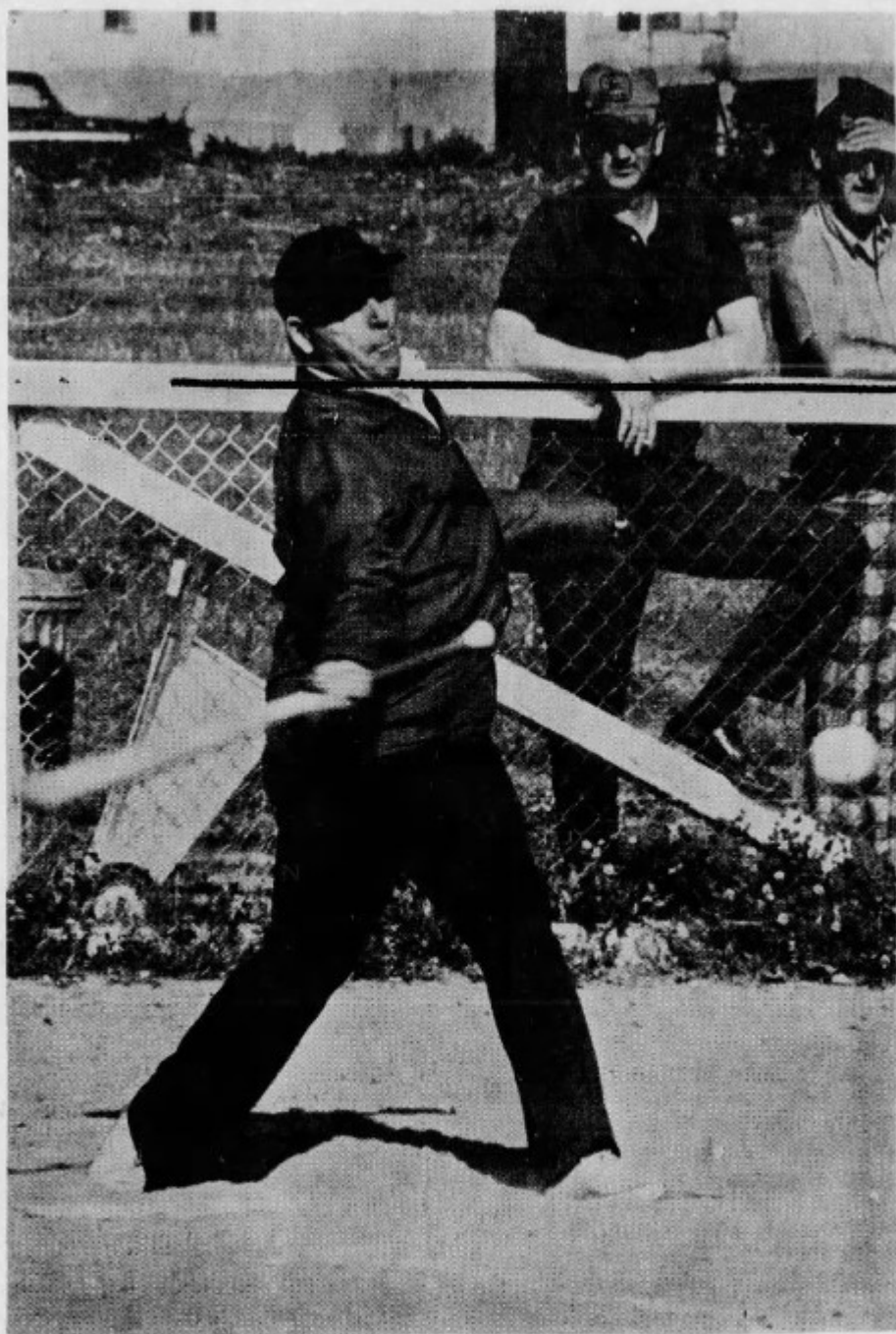
Ken Gorgichuk had started for the Wildcats and Wembley was in front 3-0 when he left the game. He allowed just one hit.

Klepper gave up hits to the first two men he faced, walked the next one and was tagged for another hit as the Saints rallied for five runs.

Curt Crough's single with two out in the bottom of the sixth knocked in the winning runs in what, at the beginning, looked like another Wembley victory.

Jim Coultres was the winner. He fanned seven, walked two and gave up five hits. The first two Wildcat runs were scored on a two-out error by Saint shortstop Rob Roy in the third inning.

The final game in the series goes in Wembley Tuesday night.



HAMMERIN' HARRY — Bezanson Norton Bros. coach **Harry Nellis** made a rare plate appearance during a recent game his team played. Nellis, with just one hand, was one of the Peace Country's top ball players in days gone by and was forced into duty when his team was shorthanded for this game. He got a hit this time up.

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Eskis vs. past

It'll be the young against the old Tuesday night at Richmond Park when the Alberta champion Grande Prairie Eskimos tangle with the Grande Prairie baseball oldtimers in an exhibition game.

Some of the golden oldies — like Vern Hawkes, Oeb Crough, Jim Patterson, Roy Wright, Arnie Kjemhus, Oscar Blais, Bob Rigler, Marv Johnston, Rudy Cepela, Bill Murray, Greg Walker, Simon Haakstad, Pete Wright, Harry Nellis, Don Swanson, Ken Head, Lou Chrenek, Stump Flohr, John Boyle, Buster

Brown, Jack Crummy and Mel Rodacker — will be asked to play and or manage the Oldtimers, in the exhibition contest.

Part of the fun of the benefit game will be a gala fireworks display put on by Harold McKay. He plans to entertain the fans with a fantastic series of explosions on the diamond following the game.

Proceeds from the game will be used to help cover the cost of the Eskimos' trip to Manitoba for the Western Canadian Bison championship. Game time Tuesday is 7 p.m.



WMFL president Jim Boyd (centre) presents league trophy to Norton Bros. coach Harry Nellis while team

captain Lawrence Nellis holds championship hardware.

Bezanson wins playoff title

By DON MOON
of our staff

BEZANSON

Another season of fastball for Wapiti Men's Fastball League teams ended last night here and for the Bezanson Norton Bros. it was another successful year.

The Norton Bros. did what was expected of them by winning the WMFL championship final in straight games.

They downed the visiting Norwood Esso Saints 5-2 here last night in the second game of the best-of-three A-B final. Originally the series was to have been a best-of-five affair but the two teams agreed upon the best-of-three set-up before the playoff began but kept it a secret until yesterday.

A three-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning

proved to be the winning stroke for the Norton Bros. as they romped to their second championship in two years.

Les Nellis, with his first hit in six trips to the plate in the series, was the hero of the night. He slammed a one-strike pitch over the left field fence with two runners on to pull the Norton Bros. out of a 2-2 deadlock and knock in the winning runs.

Going into the inning the Norton Bros. were trailing 2-1. Ed Nellis opened the Bezanson half of the inning by striking out. Lawrence Nellis was the first Norton Bros. player to get on in the inning when he beat Saint second baseman Alfie Stephenson to the bag on what should have been a routine put-out.

Norton Bros. third baseman Dennis Maxwell followed up with a single

and moved to second after an attempt was made from the outfield to pick Nellis off as he made his way safely to third.

Rod McLaughlin drove in the tying run with a follow-up single setting the stage for Nellis' all important homer that tucked away a victory for the "A" division Norton Bros.

As was the case in the Bezanson 1-0 win in Grande Prairie Tuesday night, Norton Bros. chucker Floyd Rosebush became stronger with a lead to protect.

After the fifth inning outburst by Bezanson, the strong-armed chucker struck out five and had one player ground out in the next two innings.

In all Rosebush fanned eight, walked none and allowed six hits. Losing pitcher Jim Coultres struck

out eight, walked one and was tagged for seven hits.

Both pitchers were very impressive in both games. Rosebush never walked a batter in 14 innings of ball and it was the general agreement of most if it had not been for one bad Coultres' pitch — the homer to Nellis — the series could have gone either way.

As it turned out it was the only bad pitch he threw in two games, but a very costly one.

Norwood had opened up with a run in the top of the first inning. With two down Al Reid tripled and was knocked in via a Coultres' single.

Bezanson tied it up in the bottom of the inning. Lawrence Nellis walked, moved to second on a sacrifice and was knocked in by a McLaughlin single.

The Saints took the lead once again in the third frame. Sam Tislington doubled with one out and came home when Norton Bros. third baseman Maxwell fell down fielding a hard-hit Reid drive.

Lawrence Nellis was two for two and Rod McLaughlin two for three for the winners. Coultres went two for three for the Saints.

New faces abound in annual WMFL all-star clash

By DON MOON
of our staff

The site of the game hasn't changed but many of the faces in the two line-ups for tomorrow's fifth annual Wapiti Men's Fastball League All-Star game have.

Again this year, the game — which starts at 7 p.m. — will be held at the home of the CFS Mountainmen, the radar base outside Beaverlodge.

While the site remains the same the players in the two line-ups, the league's "A" and "B" divisions, have changed drastically.

Only 10 of the players that appeared in the 1973 All-Star game will be back again. And seven of those are the "A" division team.

RUBBER MATCH

This year will be a rubber match to determine who's the best in the WMFL. Last year the "B" division won it; in 1972 and 1971 the "A" were winners; and the first year, 1970, the "B" came up with a 3-0 upset.

But, this year it looks like the "A" will be fielding one of its best teams ever.

Returning for the second year in a row will be Dimsdale Bulldogs' Stan Dombrova as the "A" 's first-string third baseman. Again this year Dombrova will be backed up by Dennis Maxwell of Bezanson Norton Bros.

Returning to the "A" outfield again are Denis Prefontaine of the Bulldogs, Ray Lacroix of the Norton Bros. and the Lymburn Aces' Finn Sharkey.

Sharkey and Prefontaine along with Dimsdale's Ray Stokke are all first-string fielders. Lacroix and Len Ames of the Norton Bros. along with Joe Quinn of the York Imperials will be back-up fielders.

ROSEBUSH AGAIN

Norton Bros. pitcher Floyd Rosebush will make another appearance in the All-Star game. This year he's the number one choice after being second last season.

Other selections to the pitching staff include the Bulldogs'

Ray Prefontaine and Ken Gorgichuk of the Norwood Esso Saints.

The remaining "A" returnee is Jack Barton of the Beaverlodge Blues. Last year he was number one utility player. This year Barton will play second fiddle to Sam Tissington of the Saints.

The other "A" all-stars include the Norton Bros. Lawrence Nellis backed up by Ken Bruno as catcher, Wayne Johnson of the Blues at first with Les Nellis of Norton Bros. and Elroy Fredrickson of the Imperials tied for second choice, Monte Kimble of the Bulldogs at second with Barton of the Blues as backup and Rick McLaughlin of Bezanson at shortstop with Curtis Crough of the Saints number two.

Coach of the "A" all-stars will be Harry Nellis of Norton Bros. He will be helped by the Saints' head-man.

A DIVISION

Catchers - Lawrence Nellis, Bez. - 10. Ken Bruno, Dims. - 9. Sam Tissington, Nor. - 4. Sonny Hryniuk, BL - 1.

First base - Wayne Johnson, BL - 13. Elroy Fredrickson, York - 4. Les Nellis, Bez. - 4. Murney Nellis, Dims. - 2. Adrian Zazula, Nor. - 1.

Second base - Monte Kimble, Dims. - 5. Jack Barton, BL 5. Alfie Stephenson, Nor. - 5. Merlin Jenner, Lym. - 3. Don Moon, Park - 2. Lawrence

Robideau, Bez. - 2. Brad Balderston, Lym. - 2.

Shortstop - Rick McLaughlin, Bez. - 11. Curtis Crough, Nor. - 5. Gary Clement, BL - 3. Reg Sallows, Park - 3.

Third base - Stan Dombrova, Dims. - 13. Dennis Maxwell, Bez. 4. Darcy Funk, Lym. 4. Dallas Kyle, BL - 2. Dave Thompson, Nor. - 1.

Fielders - Finn Sharkey, Lym. - 12. Ray Stokke, Dims. - 10. Dennis Prefontaine, Dims. - 10. Ray Lacroix, Bez. - 8. Len Ames, Bez. - 6. Joe Quinn, York - 4. Don Peterson, Park - 3. Merv Dombrova, BL - 3. Murray Gummer, Dims. - 2. Gary Nellis, Dims. - 2. Gerald Campbell, Dims. - 2. Jack Robertson, Lym. - 2. Angus Sutherland, York - 1. Merlin Jenner, Lym. - 1.

Pitchers - Floyd Rosebush, Bez. - 20. Ray Prefontaine, Dims. - 15. Ken Gorgichuk, Nor. - 4. Merv Dombrova, BL - 2. Rob Cunningham, York - 2. Dave Willsey, Park - 1. Merlin Jenner, Lym. - 1. Monte Kimble, Dims. - 1. Bob Veale, York - 1.

Utility players - Sam Tissington, Nor. - 14. Jack Barton, BL - 7. Bob Baun, Nor. - 1. Lou Ryan, Dims. - 1. Doug Cook, BL - 1.

Coach of the year - Harry Nellis, Bez. - 13. Sam Tissington, Nor. - 6. Murney Nellis, Dims. - 2. Orest Pruss, Lym. - 2. Norm Kyle, BL - 1.

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Blues, Norton Bros. hook up in final game

The Wapiti Men's Fastball League spotlight is focused on Bezanson tonight where the host Norton Bros. take on the Beaverlodge Blues in the final game of a best-of-three "A" division semi-final.

And unlike every other game involving the Norton Bros., tonight's game won't automatically be conceded to the **Harry Nellis**-coached Bezanson team.

The Blues, who finished third behind the league-champion Norton Bros., were the first team to down the defending

WMFL champions in more than a year of WMFL play.

Beaverlodge took the Norton Bros. 5-3 in Beaverlodge last Thursday after dropping a 12-inning 3-2 squeaker a week ago.

Despite a 13-4 loss to the Norton Bros. in the CFS Beaverlodge tournament final Sunday the Blues are expected to put up a much tougher fight tonight.

Winner of the semi-final will meet the Dimsdale Bulldogs in the "A" division final which is expected to begin Thursday.



OLD TIME TEAM — They're not the Oakland A's but in 1954-55 this group of ball players was one of the top clubs in the Peace. South Peace "B" division baseball champions, the Bezanson Eagles, included (left to right front) Fred Ames, coach; Earl McLaughlin, pitcher; Lloyd Nellis, pitcher; John Beilman, pitcher; Irving Ames, shortstop and (back left to right) Norman Berg, third; Henry

Diederich, second; Ted Nellis, first; **Harry Nellis,** pitcher, Dick Hayworth, left field; Russel Ames, centre field; Lyle Berg, centre field and Elmer McLaughlin, catcher. All the players are still residents of the area with the exception of Hayworth. Some of the players have sons on the Bezanson Norton Bros. Fastball team of today.

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Majestic Tire wins spiel

The Majestic Tire rink of Les Nellis skip, Les Gudlaugson third, Bill Kluyt second and Harry Nellis lead captured the first event of the 32-rink city commercial league bonspiel on the weekend.

The Grande Prairie Denture Clinic rink skipped by Ron Chrenek was second in the first event, Cutbank Trucking skipped by Larry McGuire was third, and the Elks #1 rink skipped by Butch Robideau was fourth.

The Trumpeter Pontiac Buick foursome of skip Tom Pylypiuk, third Bruce Horte, second Eric Ashbee and lead

Gene Forsyth took top honors in the second event.

The Tissington Homes rink skipped by Alex Hurst was second, Dick Moore was third, and the Nelson Distributors rink skipped by Lorne Nelson was fourth.

The GP Muffler rink consisting of skip Gerald Campbell, third Donna Campbell,

second Kerry Sandboe and lead Donna Stark won the third event.

The Hosford, Impey and Welter rink skipped by Hugh Impey was second, the B.J. Drilling rink skipped by Bill Scammell was third, and the Morley Nelson rink was fourth.

Bell Heasler takes high hand

By Bea Fells

BEZANSON — We held a whist drive on Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 20, with a very small attendance of only five tables. Winners were: Bell Heasler first high, Lorice Stark second high; First for men was George Lavrick, with Gordon Heasler second. Paul Schau won the door prize, Willie Monroe and Frances Goodland won travelling prizes.

February 26, we had a potluck supper with just our regular bunch showing up, but had lots of delicious dishes. Afterward, we had a few games of carpet bowling and a few tables of cards of your choice. Then our card party started, with seven tables. Prizes went to Sis Arnold, high for ladies; Edna Schau low. Men's high first was won by Gordon Edgerton and low by Gordon Heasler. Travelling prize to Bea Fells and Lloyd Nellis.

Our monthly meeting was held Feb. 28 with 20 members in attendance. There was much

discussion on the recreation grants, but no decisions until we know more about it. Edna and Phyllis Stewart told us about their trip to Lethbridge concerning the club.

It was decided to have a tea and bake sale at the Legion Hut on Saturday, March 30, but that has since been changed to April 20 at the Legion Hut at 2 p.m. Everyone welcome.

After the meeting, there were several games of carpet bowling and three tables of cards.

The VON nurse was there to take blood pressure checks, and also showed how to do a foot bath and cut toenails properly. She will be out once a month, the second Thursday of each month. If there are enough people interested in foot care, she will come for that too.

Winners at the March 5 card party, with 7 tables, were: Elsie Ames, high; Armyna Menard, low; Gordon Heasler, high; George Lavrick low. Lloyd and Lorna Nellis took the travelling prize.

The March 12 card party saw Elsie Ames,

Lloyd Nellis and Harry Nellis all in attendance for their birthday cake. There were eight tables and winners were: Elsie Ames, high; Gladys Rees, low; Orvil Nellis, high; Bob Arnold, low. Travelling prizes to Bob Arnold and Sis Arnold.

Card parties are held every Tuesday at 8 p.m. and carpet bowling or fun day every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

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