

Schooner Curling
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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 119

December, 2023

December 14-16	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 16	Turkey Spiel Dance
December 18 - January 3	Holiday Break
January 5-6	Doubles Spiel (Single Entry)
Saturday, January 27th	Fun Night
February 9-10	Sweetheart Women's Spiel
February 16-18	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 17	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 24	Fun Night
March 8-9	Jackie Pearson Memorial Doubles Spiel
Saturday, March 16	Fun Night
March 16-24, 2024	Women's World Championships
April 11-13	John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 13	Closing Dance
Saturday, May 4	Awards Banquet and Dance

NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.

League Roundup



League play is in full swing now for the season and things are going well in all leagues after a full month of play. The story in all leagues so far this year is sparing. There has been a higher number of players missing games at the start of this season than normal for travel, work, sickness or whatever reason and we want to thank all the players who have been filling in. We want to remind everyone that the onus for finding a spare is on the player needing the spare. You can post your request in the Facebook Schooner members group but you can also call members who are on the spares list. While we refrain from posting phone numbers online, a full spares list with phone numbers has been distributed by email and is also available at the club. While we recommend using members who are on the active spares list, going off the list is OK too. If you have tried everything to find a spare and were unsuccessful, please contact your skip and advise them. Teams must have at least one roster member playing for the game to count. Skips who spare in the Mixed or Men's leagues must play either lead or skip. Any member can spare in any position in Team Entry and any member can spare in doubles. We also offer, as a courtesy, curlers from outside the Schooner membership who are former members or members of other local clubs a chance to spare a limited number of times for a fee of \$10 per game but only if there are no Schooner members willing to fill the spot. Another thing to take note of in all leagues is the adoption of the 'no tick' rule. Draw master Richard Lorway explains the rule and how it is used in a section below.

Draw Master's Musings

The Schooner Mixed League has twelve teams competing this year and things are going very well. The Bryant Cormier rink has three wins and a tie in November to occupy top spot while the Julia Cormier rink with three wins and the Anthony Boudreau rink with two wins and a tie are close behind. There are still lots of games to go in round one and there are lots of teams who can overtake the leaders at this point. After the round is done, teams will be shuffled and a second round will begin. Currently the Mixed schedule is using a staggered start with the three nightly games all being started at a different time, 6:30pm, 7:15pm and 8pm. This is to minimize the time any game is on the ice alone. There is discussion that, after the return from the Holiday break, we will change that to two games at 6:30 and one at 8:00 so we can free up a sheet of ice for 8pm to allow for makeup games. Watch the Schooner schedule for any changes.

Schooner Doubles has returned and is again a popular league. There are 20 curlers taking part this year and each person keeps individual stats for their wins and losses. At the end, points will be tallied to crown an overall winner.

The Schooner Firestop Enterprises Men's league has six teams competing this season, down from its usual eight. Parity and competitiveness among teams are the norm in Men's and this year is no different. Four of the six teams are ties with two wins with the Brian Laughlin rink the only team yet to suffer a loss and sitting in top spot with three wins. There will be three rounds in the Men's regular season given the lower number of teams and, given the parity among all teams, we are sure the standings will fluctuate a lot before the end of the regular schedule.

The Boston Pizza Team Entry league plays Sunday afternoons and is also enjoying a good start to the season. The Kevin Gouthro and Gordie Cormier rinks are leading the way in what seems to be an evenly matched field this season, all teams having registered points in the first month. There have been some close games with a few even requiring a draw to the button to decide a winner. With nine teams taking part this year there is a team with a bye each week and a free sheet of ice on the late draw at 5:30 for makeup games if required.

All members are reminded that Matinee Curling is taking place at the club every Friday from 1-3pm. It's open to all Schooner members and you can drop in any Friday to take part, no registration required. On Friday, December 8, there will be a Holiday Social as part of Matinee Curling. If you can, we ask you bring a small plate of finger food, a bag of chips, soft drinks, sweets or whatever to share with everyone. Drop by and celebrate with your Schooner friends.

We are now one month into the season, and it's time to update everyone on the latest news and observations.

NO-TICK RULE

As many of you know, this year Curling Canada adopted the **No-Tick Rule** for centre line guards. The Nova Scotia Curling Association has also adopted it, and as a member of NSCA, Schooner Curling Club is likewise encouraged to apply the rule.

Since it has become the new standard broadly, and members will encounter it in spiels, the executive has decided to adopt the rule for league play. Members can find a copy of the rule on both bulletin boards in the club and below.

If, prior to the delivery of the sixth stone of an end, a delivered stone causes either directly or indirectly, an opposition stone in the Free Guard Zone (FGZ) which is touching the centre line to be moved to an off-centre line position or to a position outside the FGZ, the non-offending team has the option to:

(i) Remove the delivered stone from play, and replace all stones that were displaced to their positions prior to the violation taking place; or

(ii) Leave all stones where they came to rest.

If the stone is moved from the centre line to an out-of-play position, then the FGZ rule applies.

This does not apply for Wheelchair Curling or for Doubles competitions.

DRAW TO THE BUTTON

Sometime before Christmas, all league teams will participate in draws to the button re: the third tie-breaker. This year, each team will throw two (2) rocks and the total distance in inches to the button for both rocks will be the number for that team.

Sweepers are allowed. Any two team members can be chosen to throw. Both stones cannot be thrown by the same person.

Teams can choose not to participate. If so, they will be assigned the maximum number.

KNEES ON THE ICE

The ice at Schooner takes a lot of time and effort to maintain. Something that players may not realize is how easy it is to “burn” divots in the ice surface with knees and hands.

Once a stone leaves the hand of the delivering curler, players should try to lift their knees and hands off the ice as soon as possible. I have seen players stay down on their knees to watch their stone, which essentially melts little potholes in the ice. This can cause rocks to “pick,” or turn direction when entering the house from the opposite direction in the following end. Nothing is more frustrating when you know you have thrown a great shot only to see the rock pick and to lose the line at the last second! So please try to get up off the ice as soon as possible after delivering your stone.

SPARES

On a final note, the leagues are very tight for players this year. If you can't make your game, it is your responsibility to make a reasonable effort to find a spare. I.e. you should do more than simply posting on Facebook.

Please make a few calls to people on the Spares List. If no luck, at least inform your skip so they are aware you can't make the game.

Good curling and see you on the ice

Richard

Turkey Spiel



Spots are filling up fast but we still have a few openings for the Schooner Club's long standing Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel. The spiel is slated to go from December 14-16 and is open to everyone, Schooner members and non-members alike. You don't even need to have any curling experience. We provide the equipment you need and instruction if required. It's all about the fun. And speaking of fun, plan to stick around after curling on Saturday night, December 16, to party the night away at our Christmas dance with music by DJ Jimmy. Everyone is welcome and there's no cover. So plan to join us. Register at the club, by email or on Facebook. You can choose to curl one game on either Thursday or Friday evening and then you get two on Saturday. Games are six ends. Entry fee is \$25 per player and there will be lots of prizes. You may even win Christmas dinner. Don't miss out. We would like to thank spiel sponsor Rusty's Trading Post of Membertou for their kind and generous support.

Doubles Spiel

Pencil into your calendar the Schooner Doubles Spiel that will be held on January 5 and 6. It will be shortly after the return from our Holiday break so we want everyone to be aware of it now. Registration sheets are posted at the club so you can sign up anytime. It will be single entry for \$25 per player and partners will be assigned. Doubles is always lots of fun. It will be played with the hybrid 2 on 2 rules we use at the Schooner Club. Plan to take part.

Other Upcoming Events

Once we return from our Holiday Break we really get into the heart of the curling season with lots of events happening at the club. Two to take note of will be happening in February, the women's Sweetheart Spiel from February 9-10 and the Schooner Cash Open Spiel happening from February 16-18. Registration is open for these two events so, if you want to take part in either or both, sign up soon to avoid disappointment. You can register at the club, send us an email or leave a message on Facebook. These are two premier events at the club for the 2023-24 season and we need you to help make them a success.

Club Series Competitions

The Nova Scotia Curling Association is having the Club Series provincial championships this year and it's aimed at recreational level curlers that are not looking to compete at a higher level for traditional provincial titles. You must be nineteen years or older and there is no minimum or maximum curling experience required, it's all about having fun. Delivery sticks are allowed. There is no further competition for winners, that is, there is no regional or national level event.

There are three divisions, Men's, Women's and Mixed. The mixed event will take place in Middleton starting on January 25, entry deadline of December 11 and the Men's and Women's competitions will get underway in Windsor NS on March 21, entry deadline February 5. For Further info or to register, visit the websites below.

Rules - <https://nscurl.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Club-Series-2.pdf>

Mixed Registration - <https://nscurl.com/event/2023-club-mixed-championship/>

Mens/Womens Registration - <https://nscurl.com/event/2024-club-series-provincial-championship/>

Schooner Teams Compete in SACCC Spiel

The Schooner Curling Club was well represented at the recent Strait and Area Community Curling Club's annual Cash Spiel. Three teams from the club were there to join teams from around the Province to compete. Although we didn't win any of the divisions, we did enjoy some success and the teams represented the club proudly. Team Carrie Cress with skip Carrie, Julia Cormier, Samantha Livingstone and Jennifer Haigh were there along with the Gordie Cormier and Kevin Gouthro rinks. Skip Cormier was joined by Fred Gillis, Benito Delorenzo and Dan MacDougall while skip Gouthro had Walter Nichols, Robbie Biron and Anthony Boudreau joining him. There were also a number of teams from the Sydney Curling Club competing in the spiel with the team of Sebastian Lefort, Todd Mercer, Mike Garden and Skyler Long taking top honors and winning the 'A' division while Travis Stone, Kurt Roach and Mark MacNamara won the 'B'. The Stephen Lelsie rink was also competing at the spiel representing the Sydney CC. Overall a great weekend for everyone. Thanks to the SACCC for their hospitality and for hosting this great event.

Sydney CC Cash Spiel

The Sydney Curling Club will be holding the Mercer Fuels Cash Spiel January 19-21. Entry fee is \$240 per team and you are guaranteed a minimum of three 8-end games. Top prize in the spiel will be \$1200. There will be a social with entertainment on Saturday night, open to everyone. If you want to enter a team you can contact the Sydney Curling Club, sign up at the club or message them on Facebook. There will be a few Schooner teams taking part so anyone with some time can go and cheer on our teams and take in what is sure to be some great, high quality curling.

Tuesday Tarabish and Social

The Schooner Club's Tuesday Tarabish and Social has returned to the schedule but so far has been struggling to attract enough people. Tarabish is open to everyone (19+) and members or friends of the club who don't want to play cards are encouraged to come up and have a drink, play some shuffle curl or darts or just sit, relax and take in some curling action. The more people we get at the club and patronizing the bar, the better off the club will be. Cards starts at 7pm but if you want to play please show up a little early to register. Hopefully the numbers will increase after the Holidays and we can continue to operate this event.

Snowball



All Schooner members are reminded of the nightly fundraiser we have at the club, the Schooner Snowball. During each regularly scheduled night of curling, members can sign in and pay the \$2 entry fee for a chance to win the Snowball jackpot of half the money taken in. Every Schooner member is assigned a number at the club and at the end of the night, a number is drawn to determine a winner. If the number drawn belongs to a member who is signed in for that night's draw, they win the prize. If the member is not signed up for that night, the jackpot is carried over to the next draw and "Snowballs" into a bigger prize. We've already had a prize this year grow to almost \$300.

While you don't need to be in the club for the draw, you do need to sign up

Schooner Fun Nights

for each draw personally, no one else can do it for you, and you must sign up on the night of the draw, no signing in ahead of time. Draws are made Monday to Thursday nights and on Sunday afternoons at the end of league play for that given day. Matinee curlers can sign in on Friday afternoon for Sunday's draw but there is no draw made during Matinee curling.

The Snowball and other fundraisers that are run at various times through the season are very important to the club to help run the place and keep fees in general down for all members. We strongly encourage everyone to do what they can to help make these fundraisers as successful as possible. So next time you are at the club for a league game, drop your toonie in the Snowball box and sign your name. You could be out next big winner.

Schooner Fun Nights will be making their return to the club again starting in January. Fun nights are social nights at the club that are open to both members and the general public. They are designed to introduce more people to the sport of curling and all members are encouraged to attend and bring some friends. They get going at 7pm and curling takes place all evening. There's pizza for everyone and maybe even a few prizes to be given away. The cost is currently \$7 for the public and \$4 for Schooner members but is subject to review. There's still no better deal in town for a night of fun. Participants must be 19 years and older. We supply the equipment, you just need clean, dry shoes for the ice.

Schooner Fun Nights are a great way to get out of the house with family and friends and enjoy a night out for just a few bucks. Fun Nights are scheduled for January 27, February 24 and March 16. Plan to join us.

Club Rental

Don't forget!! The Schooner club is available for rent. You can rent the ice for curling and use the club house as well or just rent the clubhouse alone. It's a great venue for family gatherings, birthday's or office parties. Bar service will be provided if required. You can bring your own food but, due to liquor licensing laws, you cannot bring alcoholic beverages to the club, they must be purchased from the Schooner Bar. The rates are reasonable too. For more information, available dates or to book your rental, inquire at the Schooner bar or contact Julia Cormier.

Happy Holidays

The Schooner Curling Club and its executive committee would like to wish all members and friends of the club a safe and happy Holiday season. We will be celebrating the Holidays at the club with a Christmas dance on Saturday, December 16th with music by DJ Jimmy and we will celebrate the new year with a social on Saturday, January 6th as part of the Schooner 2 on 2 spiel. We hope you can join us.

The final day of league curling before the Holiday break is scheduled for Sunday, December 17 and the Schooner Club will be closed for the Holidays from December 18, 2023 to January 2, 2024. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and Facebook as there may be ice available for members during the break. There will also be ice maintenance done over that time.

The remainder of the season will be busy with league play and lots of spiels and other special events. We can't wait.
Have a safe and merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year everyone. All the best.



