

Schooner Curling  
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# ***In The Hack***

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 120

January 2024

January 5-6	Doubles Spiel (Single Entry) Cancelled
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
March 1-2	Meals on Wheels Fundraising 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 took a break over the Christmas Holiday season but will get back into full swing in early January. The first scheduled league games of 2024 will take place on January 7 when the Boston Pizza Team Entry League will take to the ice. Other leagues will return to play that week. The Mixed league will see round one of its season finish up this month and a winner announced. After that, curlers will be shuffled and new teams formed for round two. Mixed league curlers should also note a change in start times for the games. There are now two games starting at 6:30 and one at 8:00 instead of the staggered start that was used prior to the Holiday break. This is to allow for a free sheet of ice at the 8PM draw to accommodate make up games from this or any other league. With two free sheets of ice available each week there should be less problems for teams to schedule make ups. The Firestop Enterprises Men's League will be heading into round two of its season when it takes to the ice in January. The Mel Windsor rink sits atop the standings with a slim lead over the Brian Laughlin rink. Both teams have one loss but Laughlin also has a tie while Windsor's rink has wins in all other games they've played. The six team league will likely see three rounds in the regular season. There are a few new faces on teams heading into January. Wally MacDonald will be making a return to curling and taking Cal Thistle's place on the Gary Landry rink and Benito Delorenzo has joined the Laughlin rink who previously was playing with three players. The Boston Pizza Team Entry League will be the first to throw rocks in regular league play in 2024 and there will be a new team competing as well. The Cal Thistle rink is dissolved after Cal and Barb Thistle left to go south. The team replacing them will be skipped by returning Schooner member

## **Draw Master's Musings**

Phil Edwards who will be joining us again after taking a short hiatus from Schooner membership. He will be joined at lead by his daughter, Christina Edwards, second will be Shane Langille and handling mate duties will be Brittini Delorenzo.

Schooner Doubles will be resuming its season and will see its first action of the new year on Wednesday, January 10. Jennifer Brain will be joining the Doubles roster, taking the place of Cheryl MacKinnon.

All members are reminded that Matinee Drop-in Curling has resumed and is scheduled for each Friday from 1-3 PM. Its open to all Schooner members so stop in any Friday and take part.

Happy New Year to all Schooner Curlers as we head into 2024!

### **DRAW TO THE BUTTON**

I got caught up in the Christmas frenzy and didn't get the draw to the button done as predicted, so I will be addressing that situation in the next week or so. Expect me to be lurking about as you take to the ice in January.

As a reminder, 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 distance to the pin.

### **MIXED LEAGUE ROUND 2**

Mixed players are advised to let me know asap if they wish to play in the second half, and also if they have any scheduling requirements that need to be considered before I make up the draw. Once the draw is made, I have far less flexibility to accommodate any special requests.

### **TEAM ENTRY UPDATE**

As you know, Cal and Barb have headed off for sunnier climes, so their team has withdrawn from Team Entry. However, a new team led by Phil Edwards has joined Schooner and will be taking their place in the schedule. As Phil's team is new, they have yet to record their first win and will not inherit Cal's wins. Accordingly, Cal's wins will be removed from the results. However, if another team has played Cal and won, they will still get credit for the win. I hope this makes sense.

And on the positive side, all teams will carry forward into the playoffs and have the opportunity to win the league championship.

### **PACE OF PLAY**

I would ask players to keep the pace of play in mind during your game. If you are throwing the next rock, you are not expected to help organize the rocks after an end. Nor should you wait until your opponent's rock has stopped at the far end before entering the house to get ready.

If you are up next, your job is to prepare to throw - removing your gripper, selecting your rock, getting in the hack, etc. Although it's the skips' job to manage the clock, everyone can help by avoiding unnecessary delays to play.

That's it from me this month. Good curling everyone!

*Richard*

## Turkey Spiel



It was a great way to head into the Holiday season with a near full capacity Turkey Spiel and a great party to finish off the weekend. A total of fourteen teams, a full slate of eight on Thursday and six on Friday, competed with many new faces joining the ranks and taking part. All teams played one game on their designated start day, either Thursday or Friday and everyone played two games on Saturday. Given the large number of teams taking part, even though there was an early start on Saturday, play went well into the evening before a winner was crowned. After all the rocks were thrown and the clock almost struck midnight on Saturday, Keith MacEachern and his foursome made up of Kirk McNeil, Terrance Nicholson and Chris MacAulay were crowned winners and took home the turkey. Keith was a perfect 3-0 for the weekend and was the only team to crack the 30 point plateau. Second place was taken by the Gordie Cormier rink, winning Christmas hams for the runner up spot. Skip Gordie was joined by Robbie Biron, Douglas Fewer and Ashley Foster. Cormier was also a perfect 3-0 for the event but, in his first game, saw his opponents, the Richard Lorway rink, pull off the "Perfect storm of curling" when they actually accumulated more spiel points than their opponent, eight for Lorway against seven for Cormier, and still got a free beverage for losing the game. Peter MacIntyre and Mel Windsor rounded out the winners, taking home Holiday chocolates. Joining skip Peter was Val MacIntyre and Colleen and Eric MacLeod while skip Windsor was aided by Adam Vassallo, Jennifer Brain and Joey Bonnar. Congratulations to all of our winners.

On Saturday, all curlers and guests were treated to some delicious soup, compliments of Frances Ford and Yvonne Donovan, and sandwiches. Also, as part of the weekend competition, there was an even split won by Terrance Nicholson, who generously donated part of his winnings back to the club, and a bar tab that was won by Kathy Gale. The lure of twenty seven bar vouchers was enough to bring out her rarely seen brother, the late (tardy not dead), great Wally MacDonald, a sighting that these days is about as rare as seeing the mythical Samsquanch (TPB credit). Wally's mere presence and the melodic mastery of infamous DJ Jimmy elevated the party atmosphere to a level that hasn't been seen at the club in a number of years and a large crowd danced and partied the night away into the wee hours, much like it used to be in Christmas past at the Schooner Club. Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to everyone who took part, especially those from outside the Schooner ranks, to everyone who helped organize and run the spiel, to Frances Ford and Yvonne Donovan for making the delicious soup that was enjoyed by and fueled the curlers

through a grueling day of curling Saturday and to everyone who helped out in any other way. We also would like to thank our generous spiel sponsor, Rusty's trading post of Membertou, for their support of the event and their ongoing support of the club.

## **Doubles Spiel**

The Single Entry Doubles Spiel that was scheduled for January 5th and 6th, 2024, was cancelled due to a lack of participation. The Schooner Executive hopes to reschedule the event for another time. Sorry for any inconvenience.

## **Schooner Teams to Compete in Sydney's Mercer Fuels Cash Spiel**

The Sydney Curling Club will be hosting its annual Mercer Fuels Cash Spiel from January 19-21. A total of four Schooner rinks will be part of the twenty team field with Team Gouthro, Team Fitzgerald, Team Cormier and Team Cress all carrying the Schooner banner proudly. The competing teams are divided into five divisions of four and will play a round robin within that division with top teams making it through to the next round. Team Gouthro will be the first of the four Schooner rinks to take the ice with their first match in Pool 'A' against Sydney's team Xidos at 4:30pm on Friday. The remaining three Schooner entries will start play at 6:30 on Friday with Cormier taking on team MacAulay and Fitzgerald up against team Merigan in Pool 'B' while Carrie Cress and her foursome will face the Drover rink out of Sydney in a Pool 'C' match. After pool play is complete, the top eight teams will move to the championship round, teams nine through sixteen will move to consolation and the bottom four teams will be eliminated. The consolation round offers an opportunity of \$500 for winning and \$200 for runners-up. Each of the top eight teams making it through to the championship round is guaranteed at least a \$200 prize. Winning your first game and making it to the semi finals increases that guaranteed money to \$500 and, if they make it to the championship game, teams will play for the \$1200 top prize with runners-up getting \$800. Lots of money being given away.

Along with the great curling action you will be sure to see, there will be a social on Saturday night with live music. It's open to everyone. There is a full list of teams, a full schedule for pool play and a playoff bracket posted on Facebook. Plan to attend, take in some great curling and cheer on our Schooner teams at the Mercer Fuels Cash Spiel.

## **A Busy February is Ahead**

February will be a busy month at the club for sure with two of our premier events, the women's Sweetheart Spiel and the Open Cash Spiel, taking place on back to back weekends and a Schooner Fun Night happening at the end of the month. The Sweetheart Spiel is scheduled for February 9-10 and is open to all women curlers. Entry fee is \$25 for Schooner members and \$35 for non-members and you can enter as an individual or as a team. There will be a wine and cheese on Friday night for all curlers and guests and dinner will be served on Saturday for all curlers. Three games are guaranteed.

The Schooner Open Cash will take place from February 16-18 and is a

team entry event with entry fees being \$220 per team. Teams can be made up of any combination of male and female curlers and will be guaranteed three games. There will be a casual social on Friday with snacks and a meal for all curlers on Saturday. There will also be a dance from 9-1 on Saturday night with music by DJ Jimmy that will be open to everyone. The party bar has been set pretty high this year already after the Christmas dance but, with a good effort and with enough liquid encouragement, maybe we can push it even higher.

Even if you are not taking part in either spiel, we encourage all Schooner members and friends to come to the club and support the curlers and take part in the social festivities. We will also need help from volunteers to make these events all they can be. If you have any time to help out at the club with the bar, the ice, make and bring a dish or some treats for the social events or pitch in and help with whatever, we appreciate all your time. We also encourage all members to support our Schooner Fun Nights. Gather family and friends, bring them to the club and introduce them to the great sport of curling.

All of these events are very important to the club and your help is also very important to us and much appreciated.

## Fundraising



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 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.

The club also does periodic fundraisers that are important to our financial well being. Recently we ran a 6-4-9 that was very successful. Sales were even better than expected and we want to thank everyone very much for taking part. Two club members, Millie Detcheverry and Lynn Kelly, split the overall prize of almost \$800. Congratulations to them both. A great win, especially coming just before Christmas.



## Sport NS "Sportsweep" Fundraising Program

Soon, the club will start participating in the Sport Nova Scotia 'Sportsweep Fundraising Program'. More info is below in the following section. We are also considering doing another spaghetti dinner this year in conjunction with Tommy Young. This is still in the planning stages and has not been confirmed as going ahead. If it does, dates and other details will be announced.

We want all members to know that we truly appreciate your participation in any of our fundraising events. With the ever rising cost of running the club, these fundraisers have become more and more important for the financial well being of the club and even for its overall survival. Without the participation of the members and all of the club's outside supporters we could not exist. Thank you all again.

The Schooner Curling Club will be participating in the ready-made fundraising program from Sport Nova Scotia call 'Sportsweep'. SportSweep is a turn-key, low effort and low risk ticket campaign designed to raise money for sport teams, sport clubs and sport organizations throughout Nova Scotia. Sport Nova Scotia handles the lottery license, solicitation of prizes, and printing of the tickets. All we need to do is sell the tickets! Tickets sell for **\$5.00 each** and we retain **\$3.75** from each ticket. That's **75%** of the profit! We can sell for as long we like, there is no time commitment, until the end of the event which will run until March 29, 2024. All tickets must be returned to Sport NS by April 5 and the draw will take place on April 12, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Sport NS office in Halifax. The winner will be contacted by Sport NS by phone or email. In the event the prize is unclaimed within 90 days, a second draw will take place on June 7, 2024 at 11am and another winner announced. The club has ordered 1000 tickets to have on hand but we just sell what we can with any tickets that are unsold simply returned back to Sport Nova Scotia. All tickets that are sold are also returned to Sport NS for the draw along with their \$1.25 per ticket fee. The only risk we really take on, and it's very minimal, is that we will have to pay the \$1.25 fee for any tickets that are lost.

Tickets will be available for sale at the club's bar once we receive them. Any member who wants to take tickets to sell to family, friends, co-workers, etc. can do so as well. Your name and the number of tickets you take will be recorded. When you bring them back, the sales will be recorded as well as the number of unsold tickets. Please note that anyone taking tickets will be responsible for payment unless the tickets are returned unsold.

Participation by members is completely optional but we do hope that members will help out. Sport Nova Scotia has arranged for a great grand prize package for the winner that includes **\$2000 CASH** plus an Oak Island Resort & Conference Centre Getaway (two night stay in a two bedroom chalet with a \$500 food and beverage credit). We hope members will buy tickets themselves and possibly sell them outside the club. For every \$100 worth of tickets we sell we will make \$75. If we sell out of the 1000 tickets we have ordered that means a \$3750 profit to the club, all for little effort and little to no risk. Every ticket we sell helps our club so please participate. Watch for tickets to be arriving soon.

## Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights are back! The first Schooner Fun Night of the season will be Saturday, January 27 with the fun getting started at 7pm. 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. There's no set time to arrive, just stop by anytime throughout the evening after 7pm. 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. Future Fun Nights are also scheduled for February 24 and March 16. Plan to join us.

## BKT Women's World Curling

As pretty much everyone in the Cape Breton Curling Community knows already, the BKT Women's World Curling Championships will be held in Cape Breton in 2024 at Sydney's Centre 200. The draws are set and the event will span over a week, running from March 16-24. Many people, not just from the curling community but from the community in general, have signed on to volunteer at the event. Tickets packages have been available at different levels for a while and, as of January 11, 2024, single draw tickets will also be available. Single draw tickets will be available starting at \$15 and topping out at \$45 while full day packages for three draws on one day are being sold at \$60 each. Opening weekend (March 16-17) tickets are \$80-110 for all draws on Saturday and Sunday and Championship weekend (March 22-24) are \$196-217 and includes seven draws including the championship game. Full event passes are starting at \$396. All prices are plus taxes and fees.

As part of the weeks festivities there will be the Original 16 Patch where everyone is welcome (under 19 until 8pm) to relax, take in some great entertainment and play some of the games like cornhole, giant Jenga and street curling that will be offered to both ticket holders and the general public. There was talk of having the Patch located at the C200 site this time, unlike with the Scotties where it was located at the Big Fiddle Cruise Pavilion, but the Curling Canada website lists the location as 'To Be Announced' so we will have to wait to find out for sure it seems.

This is a huge event for Cape Breton and gives everyone a chance to see live curling action as the highest of levels. The 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, also held at Centre 200, was a great success and very well supported by fans and we hope the Worlds will be just as or even more successful. For full event details and news as it becomes available, draws and schedules and for ticket information, pricing and purchase, visit the Curling Canada website at <https://www.curling.ca/2024worldwomen/>



## A.E.D. Machine

This item was also published in last month's newsletter but, given the importance of the information, it could literally mean life or death for someone, it is being repeated this month as well.

The Schooner Club now has an Automated external defibrillator, or A.E.D. for short, onsite at the club. Normally costing well over \$1000, the club was lucky enough to get this one on a loaner program from NS Health EHS at no cost. This device can mean the difference between life and death in certain situations and we are lucky to have been accepted into the loaner program. Former club secretary Frances Ford, worked with EHS on the application by the club and played a big part in getting the us in and getting the device for Schooner. While there is no formal training required to use the device, it will walk you through the steps in the case of an emergency requiring its use, here are a few things to keep in mind and a link to a couple of short videos to familiarize yourself with what to do in an emergency.

- The AED is in a protective case and should be left in that case.  
Please open it to ensure you know the contents and ask questions.
- The AED must be in temperatures above five and below 50 degrees.  
It cannot be left in the cold for prolonged periods.
- Although no one needs training before using an AED, we recommend that everyone at the facility watch a brief video online.

CPR: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml6FweqA\\_7U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml6FweqA_7U)

AED: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkVRqpQbQCY>

Let's all hope we don't need this device but be thankful we have it if we do.