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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 79

November 2017

🌸 Remembrance Day, Saturday, November 11th – Lest We Forget 🌸

Club Calendar

October 31/November 1-4	Rona Opening Spiel
Saturday, November 18	Junior Program Begins
November 18-19	Port Hawksbury Cash Spiel
Saturday, November 25	Fun Night
December 5-9	Turkey Spiel
Thursday, December 21	Last League Play before Holidays
Friday, December 22	Christmas Break Begins
Saturday, January 6th	Curling Resumes - Junior Program
Saturday, January 6th	Mid-Season Meeting and Wine and Cheese Social
Sunday, January 7	League Play Resumes
January 12-13	2 on 2 Spiel
January 19-20	Club Championship (Traveler's Playoff)
January 26-28	Ship Hector - New Glasgow
February 9-10	Sweetheart Spiel
February 16-18	Schooner Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 24	Fun Night
Saturday, March 3	Fun Night
March 8-11	Traveler's Championship (Sydney CC)
March 20-24	Schooner Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 31	Junior Program Easter Party
April 6-7	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, April 14	Junior Program Closing Party
April 24-28	Schooner Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 29	Skating Party
Saturday, May 5	Schooner Closing Banquet

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



President's Message



I would like to begin this year's message with a warm welcome to all curlers, both those that are returning to the Schooner Club and those that are joining us as new members. While my plan was to make last season my final as club president, I had such a good time last season and things went so well that I decided that I wanted to return to the position for at least one more year. I fully credit the hard work of the Schooner executive and all of the volunteers for making the club run so smoothly and making it such an enjoyable place. Without the countless volunteer hours put in by so many people, the Schooner Curling Club could not survive. Last season we held a small volunteer appreciation event and I plan on having that again this year. I would like to encourage all Schooner members to try and give some time to the club this season as a volunteer. We always need help with spiels, bartending, ice maintenance and many other areas and even an hour or two a season can make a difference. So we are ready to curl another season and, as always, we have great ice to do it on. I want to thank long-time Ice Director, Brian Laughlin, and his crew for another great job on getting things ready to go and working through the adversity caused by the problems with the dehumidifier. While the dehumidifier problem caused some grief, it was remedied quickly and didn't slow things too much. Making our ice is a huge job and there are long hours but the crew always come through for us, even when mother nature may not cooperate so much and sends us an October heat wave. Things get started with the Rona Opening Spiel and then we jump right into league play. After a big shakeup in the league schedules last season, this season sees everything stay pretty much the same. We are working with the Sydney Curling Club to see if it's possible to get a joint lady's league running this year but details are still being discussed. Along with a full season of regular league play we will also have a number of spiels throughout the year, we have Friday afternoon Matinee Pickup Curling, Schooner Fun Nights, and much more. I hope to see a number of drop in 2 on 2 curling events again this season as well as a number of socials like dances and an open mic night like the one we had last season that was so successful. The premier event of the season for the club will be the Schooner Open Cash Spiel and we are hoping to get even more participation from outside clubs like Port Hawksbury and Sydney. Whenever Schooner curlers travel to compete we always leave a lasting impression, both on and off the ice, and our club is really starting to become known to curlers around the province. A non-curling event that we will continue this season is the Tuesday Tarabish game that has been going for a few years now. It's lots of fun and open to everyone. It's a great secondary use of the club and brings in new faces we wouldn't see otherwise. I am sure I am missing some of the things that will be going on this year but, at the very least, I think it's safe to say that it looks like this will be another fantastic and busy season at the Schooner Curling Club.

I am happy to say that prices at the club will once again remain the same this season with no raise in membership rates, bar prices or spiel entry fees. This is due, in big part, to the fundraising efforts we have undertaken at the club over the last couple of seasons, mainly Chase the Ace. Our latest Chase the Ace draw was very successful and got down to nineteen cards before being won. The total jackpot was around \$6000 and the club made a pretty good profit as well. Fundraising also allows us to do some club improvements like electrical upgrades and new furniture that we did last year and to look at lighting upgrades and our new POS system at the bar this season. I encourage everyone to support our fundraising efforts as they are to the benefit of everyone at the club.

So here we go, the start of another great season. I want to wish you all the best for this year, have a lots of fun and *Good Curling Everyone.*

League Play



League play is scheduled to get underway on Sunday, November 5 when the Team Entry league takes to the ice. Mixed League will get underway on Monday, November 6 while Men's League is scheduled start on November 9th.

There isn't expected to be any major shakeups in the teams this season in Team Entry. The Gordie Cormier rink, last year's Team Entry schedule champs, will have a change at second where new Schooner member Kevin Gouthro will be joining Cormier, mate Stephen Leslie and lead Mel Windsor. Last season the Cormier rink started out with Rob Agnew in the second spot but after he left because of work commitments, Bill Farr finished the season for the team. Gouthro has come to Schooner after playing a number of years at the Sydney Curling Club and will be a strong addition to the Cormier foursome.

Many of the team's that competed on Sunday last year are expected to return for this year's campaign, although not are all confirmed. Last year's playoff champs the Wally MacDonald rink along with the Brian Laughlin, Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell, and Keith MacEachern rinks are all expected to be icing teams on Sunday this year. They should all be mostly intact from last season with the exception of the Laughlin squad who will see Kelley Laughlin return to the team after a short absence last year. Other teams we expect to see are Omar Roach, Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod, Greg Ferguson and John Donovan. Some of these teams may see roster changes, we will have to wait and see. One team that will not be playing on Sunday this season is the Martin Campbell rink. Campbell is bowing out of Sunday play and longtime mate, Russell Fitzgerald, hasn't committed to Sundays yet. Second Kristal Coffin hasn't confirmed she is returning to the Schooner this season, leaving the only remaining member of the team looking to play in Team Entry this year, Samantha Campbell, searching for a team. If Kristal Coffin does return we may see Russell Fitzgerald also play and the team will remain active. We will have to wait and see on this as well.

Mixed League play will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights again this year and we will once again play a split season after a successful trial last year. There will be a first half and second half season with winners being crowned in each and there will be no playoff rounds. This format worked well last year and was very popular with Mixed League Curlers.

The Schooner Men's league made a move from Monday to Thursday nights last year and it proved extremely popular with everyone who took part. Men's will continue to play on Thursday and is once again to be a very competitive league just as in the past. Overall, things are looking good for league play again this season and we look forward to a great year.

Junior curling will be back at the Schooner this season as well with the juniors taking the ice for the first time on Saturday, November 18th from 1-4 when there will be an open orientation, fun and registration day at the club. This day is open and free so any kids who might be interested in curling can come and try it out. Basic equipment will be supplied but all curlers will need clean, dry sneakers for the ice are and little rockers (under 11 years of age) will need to bring a helmet as well as knee and elbow pads. Anyone who knows of any kids who might be interested in trying curling and possibly participating in the junior program are encouraged to bring them to the club on the orientation day. Juniors take the ice regularly on Saturday afternoons and also compete in a spiel or two throughout the season. For more info and pricing for the junior program you can check out the junior's page on the Schooner website or contact junior coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover.

Junior Program Fundraiser



The Schooner Junior Program is holding a fundraiser to raise money to help cover yearly costs like travel for spiels and their year-end party. This year they have gone back to the very popular fudge sale that they had two years ago. Last year they missed out on an opportunity to hold the sale and went with movie passes. This season they have once again partnered with the Cape Breton Fudge Company to sell their delicious product. Order forms are available at the club and will soon be available on the Schooner website. Pick your favorite flavors and place your orders. The pre-boxed fudge makes for great Christmas Gifts, especially for friends and family far away. Send them a taste of Cape Breton. Get your orders in soon and help support the Schooner Juniors.



Opening Spiel

The Rona Opening spiel is now underway, just as the November edition of In The Hack is hitting the streets and will run from October 30 to November 4 with a break in the week for Halloween. There are at total of twelve teams vying for the Opening Spiel Title, six playing in the Monday/Thursday division and six are in the Wednesday/Friday. All teams will come head to head on Saturday to determine an overall winner. We would like to welcome all curlers and thank everyone who is taking part. We would also like to send a big thank you out to spiel sponsor Stephen's Rona. This will be the first spiel we have run with the new Bonspiel Committee in place and it seems to have gone very well. Check the Schooner website or next month's newsletter for a complete summary of results.

Fun Nights

This year will see Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale taking charge of running the fun nights once again and we wish them all the best. They did a great job last season and the fun nights were very successful. The Schooner fun nights are a great way to introduce new people to the sport of curling in a fun and low pressure environment. It's a great night out, you get to curl, you get pizza and you may even have a chance to win a prize, all for just a few bucks.

The first Fun Night will be on Saturday, November 24 starting at 7pm. The next one is in February on Saturday the 24th and the final Fun Night Scheduled for the season will be on Saturday, March 3. Plan to attend a Schooner Fun Night and bring your friends.

Volunteers Needed

The heart of the Schooner Curling Club beats in our volunteers. Without the work done by Schooner members who donate their time, our club could not exist. We are looking for bar tenders to fill shifts on league nights, fun nights and during spiels and other special events. There is also a need for people to help out with spiels, ice maintenance, housekeeping and other jobs. So please, we really need the membership to pitch in and help. Even if you can only give us an hour or two a month, every little bit helps.

We want to send out a big thank you to everyone who pitched in to help get the clubhouse ready for the coming season. There was lots of work done to the clubhouse this season with painting and sprucing up of the bathrooms, bar and kitchen area. Thanks also to Trevor Billard of Chandlers who came in to wax the clubhouse floor. It looks great.

Fall General Meeting

The Schooner Curling Club held its Fall General Meeting at the club on Wednesday, September 27. There were 17 people in attendance and everyone participated in a good dialogue about many important issues at the club and many decisions were made and votes passed during the evening.

The meeting got underway with a call to order followed by Gordie Cormier delivering the President's report that included a summary of what had gone on at the club over the summer. He talked about things like the success of off-season events such as the washer toss tournament and the Chase the Ace Fundraiser. He also spoke of the new season and informed attendees that the club's calendar was a work in progress and that membership dues would be remaining at the same level as the previous season. Gordie closed his report saying that he felt that this was going to be a great season and that he had a lot of confidence in the people who were in place to run the club this season.

Next up was the Treasurer's report delivered by Thomas Drover, He gave a brief summary of the clubs financial condition and told everyone that that the club was in a strong position. Thomas also reported that Chase the Ace had netted the club somewhere in the \$9000 range but since the fundraiser had just ended there were details to be worked out to calculate exactly how much we made. Cal Thistle was next with the Draw Master's report and simply told everyone that there were no real changes to league play this coming season and that he was waiting on applications from members that he expected would start to come in by October.

Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale will be handling Schooner Fun Nights this year again and reported that they were ready to go when they were scheduled to start. They had people in place to help out but, as of yet, there was still no sponsor. A Fun Night early in the season is still under discussion and a possibility.

Brian Laughlin was next up with the Ice Director's report. Since the meeting was a bit early this year, ice making had not started but Brian reported that they were hoping that Jimmy Donoldson, the refrigeration person that looks after the plant, would be up to get it going by the first of October and that they would begin ice making around then. He went on to say that the ice making budget would be smaller this season as it was an off year for the water tanks to be serviced and only a small amount of other supplies were needed. Lastly, he reminded everyone that painting day was the one time they required a lot of volunteer help and put it to the attendees to come up and help out.

The Bar report was scheduled next and it was delivered by Gordie Cormier. He informed everyone that the bar was once again to be run by committee, a system that had worked well for the last couple of seasons, and various people would take on certain duties pertaining to the running of the bar. He noted that prices would remain the same with no increase, that the new POS system would be used this year in place of the cash register, that summer sales had been good due to events like Tuesday Tarabish and Chase, Schooner Golf and the washer toss tournament.

Lynn Kelly reported for Ways and Means and said that invoices had been sent out to all of the ice shed sign customers and she was waiting for the payments to start coming in. She said one cheque had already been received. She also stated that some of the companies whose signs we have in the ice shed have stated that they are cancelling and won't be paying. Some haven't paid in a while. It was discussed that we should remove the signs but it's difficult to replace the empty space. Bernadette Cormier and Georgette Sparkes were on hand to deliver the Housing report and said that everything was going smoothly and that they had been cleaning all summer at the club since it was still in use. They also reported that the floor in the club house was

due for a waxing and that we should look at doing that before the start of the season. Also, the new vacuum cleaner that was purchased the previous season wasn't really doing the job and suggested that we look at getting a better one.

Bonspiels was next on the agenda to report. This season will see not just one person looking after spiels but a whole committee, similar to how the bar is run, and each member of that committee will be responsible for one spiel and the remaining members will give support. Stephen Leslie, last year's Bonspiel Chair, is on that committee and will handle the Cash Spiel while other members, Lynn Kelly, Frances Ford, Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale, will also each take a spiel. Lynn will still be doing the Sweetheart Spiel in February. Next was the Newsletter and website. It was reported that the first edition of the newsletter for the 2017-18 season, The October 2017 edition, had just been made available that day and there were copies available at the club and online and that email copies had been sent out to those that subscribe. It was also reported that Facebook had been used more to report news and events to members and the general public on a more timely basis and that our Facebook presence had grown, hitting and surpassing the milestone of 200 likes. We have been reaching well over 1000 people on a regular basis with our posts. While there had been some discussion on using paid advertising on Facebook, this had not yet been done. Bill said that there were no major changes planned for the website since feedback from users had remained mostly positive but tweaks would happen as they were required. He also said that the online application form would once again be made available along with the printed form.

The final committee report was from Junior Coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover. She said that they program was looking forward to another successful season and that she was encouraged about getting new members based on last year's CBRM sponsored 'Learn to Curl' event for kids. She also reported that the Junior Program would be running their very popular Cape Breton Fudge Co. fundraiser again this season and that sales sheets would be available at the club. Lastly, Nadine talked about looking into a coaches clinic based on a request from the floor.

The meeting then moved forward to cover some existing business that needed to be finalized. The first item discussed was the new POS system in the bar that was going to replace the old cash register we currently used. It had been tested a bit over the summer and everyone who used it was enthusiastic that it would be a good solution for us and found it easy to use. On Thomas Drover's recommendation, it was decided that the new system be made live on October 1, the start of a new month. Training for the bartenders was scheduled to go on after the conclusion of the meeting. Next, Gordie Cormier spoke on the volunteer appreciation party that was held at Thomas and Nadine's home in August. He said he felt it was a worthwhile event, one enjoyed by those who were there even though it rained. He also said it was something he would like to carry on with in the future. The topic of discussion then turned to the Schooner parking lot and the repairs that had been done thanks to the time and machinery volunteered by Stephen Leslie. The club had purchased a load of gravel and Stephen came up with his machine to spread it and fill in the pot holes that had become quite problematic in the lot. Stephen was thanked for his efforts.

The purchase of some new equipment, approved at a previous meeting, was the next topic and it was reported by Lynn Kelly that she had received the items that had been approved and ordered. They included a new pebble can, a new measuring device and a new sheepskin used for cleaning the ice. Brian Laughlin, Ice Director, spoke and requested that the executive strongly consider a new blade for our ice king as well. It was agreed that the blade would indeed be considered. The next agenda item was the

ongoing light replacement project that was being run through Efficiency Nova Scotia. Gordie Cormier reported that the club was working with an electrician, Mike Peters, to get pricing to present to Efficiency NS in hopes that they would supply funding to offset some of the cost involved in changing the old lighting in the ice shed and clubhouse to newer, more efficient LED lighting. Gordie said that they had hit a bit of a roadblock in the project with the amount of technical information that Efficiency NS was looking for. That part of the project was handed to the electrical contractor in hopes that he could provide the required information to them. While we had hoped to get this done for this season, the roadblocks that were hit will delay it and it may not happen before next year.

The meeting then moved on to a discussion regarding spares during a spiel. There has been some discussion and some discontent when curlers get to spare in a spiel and not pay anything to play. It's an unfortunate reality that we need spares in a spiel to complete the games and they are usually taking a paying participants place so the club is not losing any money. In some cases, when people back out, spares are put in place to fill up a team and the registration fee is lost. One suggestion from the floor was to select spares from the paid spiel participants first so they can get a little more for their money. No solid resolution to the issue could be decided on so it was handed over to the Spiel Committee for further discussion and to come up with a policy on how to handle spares in a spiel.

The final item on the agenda under previous business was discussion and updates on the CBRM bid to host the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. At the time of the meeting, no decision had been reached but a site visit had been completed by Curling Canada. We were told that there was another 'mystery' city that was also in the running to host the event. Regardless of that, Thomas Drover, Lynn Kelly and Stephen Leslie, who had all taken part in the site visit, said they all got positive feedback from the Curling Canada rep and that they felt there was a good chance we would get it.

The meeting moved on to cover new business and that started with a discussion about the Schooner calendar for the year. Vice President Lynn Kelly said the executive was still finalizing the calendar and it would be done in the next few days. Gordie Cormier then spoke on the possibility of a German film crew coming to the club to film a curling session for a documentary they are making for German TV. The date would be October 27 and would depend on ice readiness. Gordie said he would like a number of people there to curl and to fill the club as spectators so we could give them the best experience possible. He also said he would provide more details as the date got closer.

The final agenda item for the evening was other new business and, under this, club President Gordie Cormier announced that Rona had come onboard again this season to sponsor the Opening Spiel. He also discussed a project that would renovate part of the clubhouse to create a changing area. He was hoping to have a contractor look at the project, make some recommendations and give us a price. Thomas Drover was next to bring some new business to the floor which was to deal with budgeting. Thomas suggested that we consider creating operating and capital budgets to control spending when it comes to these areas and the extra money the club sees from fundraisers like Chase the Ace. He said it is very easy to overspend when the bank accounts swell with extra money and this would help control that. He also suggested that we have a budget for each spiel so we have an idea how much we will take in and how much we will spend so we don't end up losing too much money on running any spiel. As it is now, decisions on spending for spiels are made on the fly and, in some

Ice Making Report

cases, we end up losing money.

The final order of new business had to do with the possibility of a dual membership option for both of the local curling clubs. In cooperation with Sydney, the hope is that it may, at some point, be possible to pay an extra amount of money to the club you are not a primary member at and play in at least one league there. It would be similar to a system that is being employed at some local golf courses. This idea has grown out of the possibility that the two clubs, us and Sydney, would combine on a lady's league this coming season. That is still under discussion and the dual membership has not yet been discussed so it would definitely not be on the table for this season.

After all the discussion had completed and the decisions made, the meeting was adjourned. It had been a very informative and productive evening. Some people stayed around for training on the new POS system and some stayed around to continue discussion on the coming season. Overall, a great meeting.

It was certainly a tough season for the ice crew this year as they were delayed by both warm weather and an ongoing problem with the ice shed dehumidifier. The first issue was with the compressor that was replaced but the dehumidifier still wasn't working properly. Another part was required and needed to be ordered. While ice making was able to continue with light floods, painting the ice had to be delayed. With the dehumidifier still questionable when it came down to crunch time to get the painting done, temporary industrial dehumidifiers were brought in to rid the shed of humidity, stop the dripping that was caused by it and allow for painting to progress. The temporary units were obtained from club sign sponsor Service Master who traded the use of the units for three years of sign rental space. Painting of the ice took place on the weekend of October 21 and 22.

The other required parts for the dehumidifier finally arrived and it was repaired. A third issue cropped up when the dehumidifier started to drip shortly after it was fixed and then suddenly sent a shower of water down onto the ice. It turned out the drain hose that was in place was plugged a bit but also had gotten shifted and was no longer angled properly. This caused the water that the dehumidifier was taking from the air was backing up in its tank and eventually leaked on the ice. The drain hose was cleared and reconfigured and since then there have been no further issues. The delays didn't stop then however when the outside temperatures soared for this time of the year during the day and stayed warm through the night. Our ice plant just isn't up to functioning well in those types of conditions so it was decided to take things slow and not overtax it. Unfortunately that meant that the ice would not be ready for the film crew scheduled to shoot on October 27. It was decided that it was too dangerous to put water on the ice when it was so warm and that we could jeopardize the start of the season if we did. In the long run it was the best decision and we were able to start on schedule, get the Opening Spiel underway on time and we ended up with great ice once again this season.

Also, as part of the maintenance and preparation for this year, the ice crew "Sharpened" our rocks. It's a maintenance routine that should be performed every once in a while and involves turning the rocks over some sandpaper while they are in a jig that keeps the rock positioned correctly. We borrowed the jig from the Sydney Curling Club and we thank them for that.

So now that we are underway once again we owe our ice crew and all those who helped them out this season a big thank you. You don't ever realize how much work putting the ice in can be until you have been a part of it. Thanks to Brian, Wayne,

Dehumidifier Problems

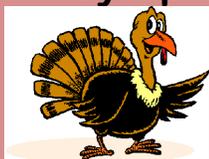
Rick and everyone else who helped out with spraying, flooding, painting, sealing and everything else it takes to get the great sheet of ice we enjoy.

As mentioned in the Ice Making Report above and in various Facebook posts over the last few weeks, the ice shed dehumidifier broke down in October, right in the middle of making ice. This was especially problematic given the warm temperatures that caused excess moisture to build up in the ice shed. A repair person was called to troubleshoot the issues and said we needed a new compressor. The compressor was ordered and installed but problems still persisted. Another service call or two and another new part got the unit functional again. That, however, wasn't the end of our problems. The drain hose was plugged a bit and had also shifted some so the water wasn't draining outside properly. Once the water built up in the reservoir it eventually started to come down onto the ice. A repositioning of the drain pipe solved this issue and we were back in business again. Total cost of the repair was over \$2000 but it was money that had to be spend.

Bar Update

Bar prices will remain the same for the 2017-18 season. Along with the usual things you would expect at the bar like beer and liquor, members and guests can also enjoy soft drinks, coffee, hot chocolate, subs and pizza burgers from Paul's Food factory and other snacks. The big change in the bar this year is a new point of sale system that will be in place of our aging and increasingly problematic cash register. Nadine Neima-Drover was tasked with finding a system that would be inexpensive and easy to implement and use and she came through with a great new system called Square. It's easy to use for the bartenders and gives us the information we need to make life easier for those on the bar committee and the treasurer as well. And best of all, the software was FREE.

Turkey Spiel



As much a Holiday tradition as hanging the stockings and mistletoe, the Schooner Curling Club's annual Turkey spiel will once again be on the calendar just before Christmas running December 5-9. This spiel is open to any and all curlers for an entry fee of \$20 which gets you get three games in your choice of either the Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday or the Wednesday/Friday/Saturday division. The best part of all is you get a chance to win your Christmas dinner as the prizes for top teams is a Christmas Turkey. Please check the Schooner bulletin board for sign-up sheets or you can email the club and we'll get you signed up. Everyone is encouraged to sign up early for this popular event.

Don't forget, as it is every year, the club will be holding a food drive during the Turkey spiel to collect items for the Kinsmen Christmas Food Drive. Everyone is asked to bring non-perishable food items and drop them in the donation box that will be setup at club during the spiel.

German TV Crew Cancelled

Due to delays in ice making caused by warm October weather and a problem with the ice shed dehumidifier, the filming of the TV documentary that was supposed to be done by a German film crew at the club had to be cancelled. We just couldn't quite get ready in time for them. The plan was to have two people come to the club with a film crew to learn to curl and try out a game and have the event recorded for German TV. Club president Gordie Cormier had asked members who were available on that Friday

Weekly Tarbish Games

morning to come to participate in the game or to just be spectators in the clubhouse to give the place a lively feel for the filming. Thanks to everyone who had planned to show up but it looks like we missed our fifteen minutes of fame this time around.

The weekly Tarbish games will continue to be held every Tuesday evening at the club. Play gets underway around 7pm. The way it is setup is that everyone is entered as an individual, not a team. Depending on the number of players on a given night, you are designated to play a designated number of games, sometimes within a group, and after each game, individual wins and scores are recorded and then you move on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member has played the number of designated games, scores are tallied and winners determined. The games are well attended and are a great boost to the club and our bar. The games are not just club members so you can bring a friend if you like.

CBRM 2019 Scotties Bid

We are still waiting on the news as to whether the CBRM's bid to host the 2019 Scotties was successful. Confidence in the bid was running high after a site visit by Curling Canada had gone very well and it was thought that an announcement was to be made in October. It turned out that the date for the announcement was set to be November 3. The Schooner Curling Club recently received an invitation from Robin Nathanson, Curl Nova Scotia Representative for our region, to a media conference to be held at Centre 200 in the Buchanan room on Friday, November 3rd at 11:00 am. It's to make an important announcement regarding the sport of curling and the CBRM. Lunch and refreshments will be served following the announcement. Sounds like it's going to be good news. If you would like to attend this media event and partake in the free lunch, please RSVP to Paul MacDonald at pmacdonald@cbrm.ns.ca. Fingers crossed!!

Club Rentals

Members are reminded that the Schooner Club is available for rentals. The cost of renting the club for curling is \$50 per hour per sheet (\$100 minimum). You will also get the use of the clubhouse and we will provide the bar services as well. If you want to just rent the club house area and not the ice, the cost is \$50 plus a \$50 cleaning deposit (non-refundable) and, again, we will provide bar service for the event if required. Renters are permitted to bring in their own food and snacks. The Schooner club makes a great venue for birthday parties, showers, Christmas parties, etc. If anyone is interested in renting the club for an event, contact the club or see Lynn Kelly to book you time. There are already a couple of Christmas parties booked so don't delay, book today!

Membership Fees

Everyone is reminded that your membership fees must be **PAID IN FULL** before you can start the curling season. Full adult membership is only \$220 plus tax (\$253).

Curling Etiquette

Curling is a very social game. Curlers all try to get along and treat each other with respect and sportsmanship. There are certain rules of etiquette and common courtesies that we should all follow that will make the game move along quickly and smoothly and ensure good feelings between curlers, win or lose. These are just a few general rules that new curlers may not know and experienced curlers may have forgotten.

- Be on time. Always try to be a few minutes early for a game and be ready to play at the scheduled time. If you cannot make a game, notify your skip in plenty of time for them to get a replacement.
- Start the game with a handshake and a wish of good luck. The Mates will toss a coin for choice of hammer.
- Be ready to play. Always be ready to play when it is your turn to throw your stone or sweep a teammates stone. Avoid leaving the playing area unless absolutely necessary. **Don't hold up the game.**
- Keep the ice clean. Make sure you wear clothing and footwear that will not leave debris on the ice. Also, if you notice debris, always remove it for you and your fellow curlers.
- Never disturb a player when they are in the hack. Be quiet and avoid excessive movement when a fellow curler is delivering a rock. Never cross the ice just before a delivery and always try to be in position along the side as quickly as possible. **Never intentionally try to distract a curler.**
- Don't crowd into the house. Only the skip and the mate are permitted to be in the area of the house to discuss strategy or count up points at the completion of an end. **Leads and seconds should always stay between the hog lines** in the middle section of the sheet during play unless it is your turn to throw or sweep a stone.
- Don't be in the way. Stay as far to the sides of the ice as you can when walking back after sweeping a stone so you don't block the view of a player that is trying to see their skip and position of the skips broom to deliver their stone. Keep yourself and your equipment as far to the side of the ice as possible leaving the playing surface clear for the opposing team and never get in the way of opposing sweepers.
- If a game is taking place on an adjoining sheet, afford them the same courtesy you show any fellow curler. Don't allow stones from your sheet to enter their area of play.
- Always play by the rules. You are responsible to report when you have burned a rock, moved a stone in play or have broken any other rule of the game.
- Skips and mates who are in the area of the house while the opposing team is delivering a stone should avoid excessive movement and noise so as not to distract the opposing team.
- Mates are the only ones who decide scoring and perform measurements. All other players should stay away from the house until opposing mates have decided the scoring for an end and have completed any required measurements. **NEVER** move a rock until scoring has been decided or until you are told to do so by your mate.
- Skips are the leaders of their team and are responsible for making sure they and their players follow both the rules of play and the rules of good etiquette. Correction by the skip is warranted if a player breaks either.
- Always end a game with a handshake and congratulations. Winners always offer to buy the first round of drinks

