

Schooner Curling
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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 118

November, 2023

November 2-4	Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel
Sunday, November 5	League Play Begins
December 14-16	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 16	Turkey Spiel Dance
December 16 - 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.



Remembrance Day Saturday, November 11 - Lest we forget



President's Message



I would like to start out by welcoming all returning and new members to the club for the 2023-24 season and by saying how excited I am to be the Schooner President this year. I am very happy to be joined by so many wonderful people on the executive and on the committees and I am looking forward to another fantastic season at the club.

And we have all been very busy already this year. Brian and his ice crew have worked so hard and have had to overcome so many issues but, as always, have provided us with two wonderful sheets of curling ice again this season. Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to help with ice making and to all those who brought treats and snacks to keep everyone fed and energized during all the hard work. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers on the housekeeping committee for making the club look shiny and new for another season. Thanks to Draw Master Richard Lorway who is hard at work making teams and schedules, to the spiel committee for your work on the Ray Cameron Memorial spiel, to Lynn Kelly for your work on membership and to everyone else who helped out in any way to get the club ready for the season, there are too many to list. Without the hard work of

our volunteers the club could not exist. I encourage everyone who has some free time, and has not done so already, to consider volunteering some time and help the club flourish.

We have a great year planned for the Schooner club. There will be lots of events, starting with the Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel, lots of curling in league play that gets underway very soon and lots of good times and parties. We are also looking forward to the Women's World Curling Championships that will be taking place in March of 2024 at Sydney's Centre 200. What a great event to have in our area. The Scottie's Tournament of Hearts in 2019 had very positive effects on the sport of curling in our community and on our club and we hope this event does as well, even more so. While membership numbers are down just a bit from the previous two seasons, our membership is still strong and I encourage all of you to get out and participate in as many events as possible at the club to help make this the best season it can be.

And so it begins, another great season of curling and fun at the Schooner Club. I am so looking forward to it and I hope you all are as well. If, throughout the year, any of you have any concerns or suggestions, please feel free to bring them to my attention. Have a wonderful year everyone and good curling.

Julia

League Roundup



League play is scheduled to get underway on Sunday, November 5th when the Team Entry League will take the ice and deliver the first stones of league play for the 2023-24 season. It looks like we will have nine teams competing on Sunday so far.

Big news on Sunday this year is the departure the league's last year's regular and playoff winners, the Stephen Leslie rink, leaving the top spots open for new winners this season. Skip Gordie Cormier will be throwing his hat in the ring to vie for one of those spots with a brand new team that includes Fred Gillis, Dan MacDougall and Benito Delorenzo. This team was put together with hope that they will someday challenge for a provincial championship in the senior men's category. Skip Brian Laughlin will also return with a new look to his team. Returning is Joe Erickson and Bruce Devoe but word is Laughlin has added fiery veteran Wally MacDonald to his foursome. MacDonald has enjoyed success in the Sunday league before and he looks to carry that success with him to the Laughlin rink. Another new look team for this season will be MacDonald's former squad. Walter Nichols, Anthony Boudreau and Robbie Biron are being joined by skip Kevin Gouthro. Gouthro played on last year's championship Leslie rink in the previous season and now, with yet another team change, may have surpassed NHL'er Lee Stempniak for most teams played on in a career. That aside, Gouthro is one of the better skips and, unlike Stempniak, has enjoyed success on most of the teams he has played on. Keep an eye on this squad to be competitive and towards the top of the pack. Long-time

Draw Master's Musings

Sunday skip, Peter MacIntyre, will not be icing a team this season in this league, leaving Cheryl MacKinnon and Val MacIntyre available for new opportunities. Val has found a home with Carrie Cress, joining her and husband and wife duo Eric and Colleen LeBlanc for the coming season. MacKinnon has also found new digs on Sunday with the Thistle rink, joining Cal, Barb and lead Frances Ford. The Mel Windsor rink returns to pitch stones on Sunday with one new face. Bob Smith will join Windsor, Keith MacEachern and Bryant Cormier as a replacement for non-returning member Tommy Youden. The team of Greg Wall, Bev Young and Yvonne Donovan are in search of a new skip to replace departing Robert Agnew while the Russell Fitzgerald and Gary Landry rinks will return intact and unchanged from last season. All in all it looks like another great lineup of teams in the Sunday league and everyone should be competitive. The club's other leagues will see their first action during the week after the start of Team Entry. Mixed will begin on November 6 and play on Mondays and Tuesdays, Doubles is slated to begin Wednesday, November 8 and Men's starts on its Thursday night schedule on November 9. Check the Schooner Website for updates on teams and schedules as they become available. Also, watch for the start date of Friday Matinee Drop In curling coming soon.

So it is shaping up to be another great season of league curling at the Schooner. Enjoy your seasons everyone and Good Curling!

Welcome once again to the start of a new curling season at the Schooner Curling Club!

I'd like to welcome back our wily veterans extend a warm welcome to our new curlers. I hope everyone has a fun year and makes lots of great memories.

League play starts with team entry on Sunday, November 5th. I urge everyone to please get their membership forms in asap so I don't pull out the remaining hairs on my head trying to get the schedule ready with incomplete information.

I would also like to remind everyone about rule changes made last year re: spares, postponing games, and league tiebreakers.

As in the past, teams are still allowed a maximum of two spares per game. The rule change is that only one original team member is required to play the game. I.e. If only one original member can make the draw, a team can still play with three curlers and the game will count.

If a team can't make a scheduled game, the offending skip shall contact the opposing skip to see if he/she is amenable to reschedule. It is the other skip's option to say yea or nay. If nay, the game is forfeit.

NOTE: If there is less than 24 hours notice, then the game shall be automatically forfeit with no exceptions.

If a postponement is agreed to, the game must be played within 2 weeks of the originally scheduled date. Otherwise, the game shall be forfeited by the offending skip.

The Drawmaster must also be notified of postponed games, the new draw date, and the final results.

The final rule change is to the 3rd tiebreaker for league play. The first 2

tiebreakers stay the same, as follows:

- Tiebreaker 1: Most wins (vs. total points).
- Tiebreaker 2: Wins between tied teams involved.
- *Tiebreaker 3 (NEW): Draw to the button. **

** On a regular league night TBD, teams will participate in a draw to the button. Each person on each team will throw one rock. Sweepers are permitted. The cumulative total will be recorded by the Drawmaster and used in the event that the 3rd tiebreaker is required.*

Links to the complete Rules of Play document can be found on the Schooner website at the bottom of every league page.

Good curling everyone, and we'll see you on the ice!

Richard

Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel

The Ray Cameron Memorial Spiel is set to kick off the 2023-24 curling season on November 3. The spiel schedule was shortened by a day and will now be a two-day event. A total of eight teams will be taking part, playing one game on Friday and two on Saturday. Everyone will be treated to lunch on Saturday. Good luck to everyone taking part and a big welcome to all the new curlers who are joining us for the first time or the first time in a while.

Turkey Spiel



Plan to join us for a weekend of fun and Holiday joy at 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. Watch the Schooner website and Facebook for registration opens. 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.

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. It will be single entry 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.

Holiday Break

The Schooner Club will be on Holiday Break from December 16 to January 3. Watch the Schooner website and the Facebook page as there may be free ice for members over this time. Ice maintenance will also be done during the break. Happy Holidays.

Membership

The Schooner Club's membership numbers are down just a bit from the previous two seasons but are still at a respectable and manageable level. This year, so far, we have 66 members. All members are reminded that payment in full of your membership fees are required before you can play in any league games. A regular adult membership \$299 hst included and anyone qualifying for the new member promo pays \$113.85. You can pay with cash, cheque or debit at the club's bar or you can etransfer payment to Schoonertreasurer@gmail.com

Fall General Meeting

The Schooner curling club held its fall general meeting on Wednesday, October 18 with a good crowd of 27 people in attendance. New club president, Julia Cormier, called the meeting to order at 7pm and we got underway with a review of the minutes from the previous general meeting. There was one correction required to the minutes but, after that was noted they were accepted and we moved on.

President Cormier was the first to give her report and started by thanking everyone who was there. She went on to say that there has been lots of work going on at the club to get it ready for the upcoming season and that the ice crew had been working hard and dealing with issues that were getting resolved and ice making was progressing. She finalized her report by wishing everyone a good season.

Next up was the treasurer's report from Lynn Kelly. Lynn provided some financial reports for people to look through and reported that things were pretty good for the club from a financial perspective. Advertising revenue from the shed signs was starting to come in and membership fees had also started to be paid by some early applicants. With the raise in membership fees this season, Lynn felt we would be better off and more able to sustain the club but that fundraising and bar sales would also play a big part and that we would still need to be frugal in order to stay afloat.

The next report was from the ice maker but was given by Julia Cormier as Brian Laughlin was unable to attend. She said that there was a lot of extra work required this year as there were numerous issues that cropped up. There were more leaks in the cooling pipes than normal, a fan motor had to be replaced on the condenser and the dehumidifier was acting up and needed attention. Even with all of these issues, ice making had progressed relatively well and we were ready for painting soon. Julia said we needed some volunteers to help out with painting.

Lynn Kelly was up again next with membership. She said that some money had come in for dues. She also mentioned the increase in the price of a regular membership to \$299 HST included. Butch MacLean commented from the floor that maybe we should consider taking the fee in installments to make it easier on people to pay. Gordie Cormier commented that, when we have done that in past years, it was always an issue to get some to pay

and they had to be chased. Julia said the executive may still consider it in the future.

Carrie Cress was next to speak on behalf of the bar committee. She said prices at the bar were not increasing this year and also added that if anyone had a preference for something not carried to let them know and they would look into getting it. She also said they would be keeping a closer watch on tabs and there may be notifications going out to those who owe. She suggested paying your tab off nightly or at least once a week.

Cheryl MacKinnon and Georgette Sparkes spoke next on behalf of housing. They said they would need extra volunteers to help with cleaning before the start of the season and suggested a cleaning party date be set. They also asked members to take their gear home and not leave it around the club. Next was Bonspiels, again handled by Julia. She said the opening spiel was set and registration had begun. She listed dates for other spiels and said that we would be making our doubles spiel in March a memorial for long-time Schooner member, Jackie Pearson, who had passed away recently. Next up was Fun Nights but, since this committee is currently empty, it was just reported that three fun nights had been scheduled, one in January, February and March.

Website/Newsletter was next and attendees were told that the first newsletter of the year, the October edition, was now available. It was also reported that our new member promo had been advertised on Facebook and they the response wasn't quite as good as it had been in previous years. All members were told to keep an eye on Facebook and the Schooner site for information regarding the upcoming season and events as it became available. It was also reported that our Schooner Curling Club domain had been renewed for another year.

Draw Master Richard Lorway was next and simply asked everyone to get applications in as early as possible so teams and schedules for all leagues could be formulated. That finished the committee reports and we moved on to other business.

The next topic of discussion was the upcoming Women's World Championships being held in Sydney in March. The club will be closed for the week of the championships. Julia mentioned that volunteer opportunities were still available and that there was a cost involved. That cost does include some clothing you get to keep, a collectable pin and access to the arena for games while you aren't working. Meeting attendees were also told that Curling Canada was willing to do an event with the championship trophy at the club and possibly supply swag that could be used as a fundraiser. There will also be a meeting regarding the 50/50 draw at the event. During the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in 2019, Schooner and Sydney split the duties of selling the tickets and also shared in some of the proceeds. That was very lucrative for the clubs. It was said that the organizing committee isn't as forthcoming with information as the one for the Scotties. Sydney President, Ryan Ferguson, is on board with a similar deal as we had for the Scotties but more info from the organizers will be required and, hopefully, provided at the meeting.

The next order of business discussed was the Club's lease with New Dawn and our future tenancy in the building after the lease expires. Richard Lorway reported that we have two years remaining. He is worried that, given

all the work going on next to the club to construct a new solar farm, New Dawn may have other plans for the site and the building. He also said that, even if they are willing to let us stay, we don't know much they might want to increase the rent. A big increase in that cost could be unsustainable for the club. He said he would follow up with New Dawn and see if he could get some info.

Frances Ford was the next speaker and talked about the status of the club obtaining an AED machine. She said she was contacted by someone at EHS and he said there was a possibility that we may qualify for a loaner. Frances said she answered some questions for him but, as of yet, hasn't gotten confirmation of whether we are eligible or not. For now, we will carry on with the plan to share the AED at the guest home across the street in case of emergency.

The next topic of discussion, one tabled from the spring meeting, was regarding bar tabs. Last season there were some issues with members thinking they were charged for products they didn't purchase and that entering sales needed to be tightened up. The new bar committee of Carrie Cress and Bob Smith have looked into ways of making things better. They will make sure bartenders are all trained on the POS system, make more frequent reports to customers who carry tabs and be more proactive on collection. Tabs are meant to be for a short term so you don't have to run a debit transaction for every purchase. Members are asked to pay tabs at the end of the night or at least, weekly. Email or text reports are being looked into so that everyone can get a total of what they owe more often. It was also said that, if anyone had any questions or concerns, they could bring them to Carrie, Bob or Julia.

The next topic was league sponsors and Gordie said he said some from last year had committed already and was hoping the remainder would return. Next there was some dates given for events and spiels. It was mentioned that spiel schedules should concentrate on trying to mix participants together more so to make for a more social atmosphere. The final order of business from the floor was a suggestion for informational pamphlets that could be handed out at the Women's Worlds to promote the club. We had done that at the Scotties and it was agreed that we should do it again and it would be looked into.

With everything discussed it was moved the meeting be adjourned. It was a great meeting with lots of good discussion of important topics and with lots of decisions and plans made for the upcoming season. Thank you to everyone who attended.

New Ramp

As most people who have been at the club since the summer have noticed, the club has a new wheelchair ramp at the side door. The ramp was build over the summer when a club rental had some people who would be attending a function that were in wheelchairs. A local contractor who was a friend of the renter stepped up and build the ramp for free, donating the labor and part of the material while the renter also contributed towards the material. All wanted to remain anonymous. We do want to send out a big thank you to those involved. This new ramp makes the clubhouse much more accessible for those who have mobility issues.

Tuesday Tarabish and Social

The Schooner Club's Tuesday Tarabish and Social will be returning this year. 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.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights will be making their return to the club again this season. 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. The 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.



Curling Etiquette

Curling is a very social game. Curlers all try to get along and treat each other with respect and sportsmanship. Even in these much different times 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 early. Always try to be a ten to fifteen 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.
- While we can no longer start the game with a handshake, an elbow bump or simple nod and a wish of good luck or good curling is still encouraged.
- 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 congratulations to the winners. Winners always offer to buy the first round of drinks. Losers reciprocate.

