

Schooner Curling  
Club  
61 Military Rd.  
Sydney NS B1N 3K6  
(902) 539-3992  
schoonercurlingclub.com  
schoonercurling@gmail.com

# ***In The Hack***

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 117

October, 2023

| Calendar                                                                                                                 | Coming Soon                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                                                                                                          |                             |
|                                                                                                                          |                             |
|                                                                                                                          |                             |
|                                                                                                                          |                             |
| March 16-24, 2024                                                                                                        | Women's World Championships |
| 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 likely to get underway early in November as usual. There are no changes currently in store for any league at the Schooner Club. Monday and Tuesday will see the Mixed League hit the ice with six end games and 6:30 start times remaining. This may change based on the number of participants and teams. Schooner Doubles will be once again playing on Wednesday with one hour games starting at 6:30pm and Men's will play on Thursdays. Rounding out leagues will be the Sunday Team entry and we will also be holding Friday afternoon Matinee curling again this season. In last year's league play, most things got wrapped up in April, after the final edition of the newsletter was published, so here is a recap of our winners. The East Side Mario's Mixed League saw Bryant Cormier's foursome come out on top for round one and round two had Gary Landry garner top spot. Bryant was joined by George Plumridge, Rose Gale and Pamela Conohan while skip Landry was aided by George Plumridge, Bernadette Cormier and Bill moss in his victory. Special congratulations goes out to George Plumridge for being part of both championship squads. In The Firestop Enterprises Men's league, Gordie Cormier's rink took both regular schedule and playoff titles. Gordie was joined by Kirk McNeil, Terrance Nicholson and Dave Deveaux. In the Boston Pizza Sunday Team Entry we had another double winner with the Stephen Leslie rink taking both the regular schedule and playoff crowns. Stephen's rink also included Kevin Gouthro, Shane Langille and Ryan Ferguson. In the final league to report, the Schooner Doubles league was won by Julia Cormier. The Schooner Club is looking forward to another great season of league play this year and we ask all returning and new members to get their applications in as early as possible so teams and schedules can be formulated. Also, remember that all membership fees must be paid in full before you can curl in any league.

## **John Bonaparte Memorial Spiel**

The final curling event of the season, the John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel was held at the club from Thursday, April 21 to Saturday, April 23. It was a great success with a full slate of teams competing in each of two divisions. Play got underway on Thursday evening with the first group of teams seeing action and continued on Friday when the remainder of the teams competing got to play their first games. Each team played two games on Saturday. After all the games were played and points tallied, the Julia Cormier rink emerged in the top spot, followed close behind by the Peter MacIntyre rink in the runners up position. Skip Julia was joined by Robbie Biron, Douglas Fewer and Ashley Foster. Skip Peter had George Plumridge, Sean MacPherson and Marnie MacDonald helping in his success. Third spot was garnered by the Andy Pyke rink with Skip Andy, Kirk McNeil, Terrance Nicholson and Bernadette Cormier. Rounding out the top five were the Richard Lorway rink in fourth and the Kevin Gouthro rink in fifth. Skip Lorway was joined by former Schooner alum Nadine Neima-Drover and Kat and Trevor O'Hagen. Skip Kevin's squad included Miranda Fitzgerald-Bullen, Kristen Bell and Roddie Young. A big thank you to everyone who took part, especially everyone who joined us from outside the Schooner ranks.

As everyone knows, the closing spiel isn't just about the curling but also about the fun, food and good times that are enjoyed by all to give the curling season an appropriate send off. This spiel certainly checked that box. After curling on Saturday we were treated to a huge party spearheaded by Schooner's favorite DJ, Jimmy.

This spiel is also about remembering a long time lover of the game of curling and long time Schooner member, John Bonaparte. John's contributions to the club and to the game of curling locally over the years were numerous and we are happy to take this time to recognize that.

A big thank you goes out, again, to those who took part and also to everyone who helped in any way to organize and run this event. We also want to thank local business, Rusty's Trading Post, for coming on as a sponsor. The support of local businesses like Rusty's is very important to the financial well being of the club and we really appreciate it.

Overall, a fantastic way to end an absolutely wonderful curling year. We hope to see everyone back next time.

## **Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel**

Keep an eye on the Schooner website and Facebook page for more details about the upcoming Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel. Typically held the last week of October, depending on ice readiness, this spiel is open to everyone 19+. It's a great kickoff to the curling season so plan to join us.

## **Membership**

The Schooner Club's membership drive is now on and we are hoping to equal or even surpass the great numbers we had last season. Due to rising costs at the club, membership fees had to increase and this season will be \$299 including HST. Still a great deal for a winter filled with fun. If you are a new curler or a curler who has been away from the game for a while and looking to make a return, you can take advantage of our \$99 (plus HST)

## **Spring General Meeting and Closing Banquet**

intro offer. You can't beat that. Plan to join us and see how much fun curling at the Schooner Club can be.

The Schooner Club held it's spring general meeting in conjunction with it's closing awards ceremony, dinner and dance on Friday, May 12. A total of 46 people were in attendance for the meeting which was held prior to other events.

Outgoing club president, Gordie Cormier, called the meeting to order, asked for approval of the minutes of the previous general meeting and got things underway with his opening remarks. He thanked everyone at the club for making his time as president very enjoyable and said, although he was sad to see it come to an end, it was time to let someone else take over. He thanked the others on the executive and those holding committee head positions during his presidency for making his job very enjoyable and easier to do.

Lynn Kelly was next to give the treasurer's report. She handed out some financials that attendees could review and stated that things were better for the club financially than they were the previous year. Bank balances were good due in big part to the success of the Schooner bar and to some successful fundraisers that were held throughout the year. She finished her report by asking anyone with a bar tab outstanding to get it paid.

Jenn Haigh followed Lynn with the bar steward's report. She reported that the Schooner bar had done very well for the season, partly due to increased prices and increased sales that were spurred on by the expansion of the bar's offerings that season. Total sales exceeded \$50,000 and total profit was in the \$30,000 range. Very important revenue for the operation of the club for sure. She closed by thanking everyone who helped with the bar operation for the season, especially the bar tenders who gave so much time to the club to keep the bar running and make it successful.

Georgette Sparkes and Cheryl MacKinnon spoke next on behalf of housekeeping. They said everything went well and they didn't need anything but suggested that more care be taken during ice making to cover the carpet to keep it cleaner and safer from stains.

Ice director, Brian Laughlin, was next to report and thanked all who helped with the ice all season, especially Russell Fitzgerald who was his right hand man all year. Other committees declined a report or their heads were absent. Gordie Cormier did mention Rose gale, Ways and Means, who was out of town and couldn't attend the meeting, and said he wanted to thank her and congratulate her on her efforts that raised a lot of much needed money for the club throughout the season.

The meeting then moved on to new business. There was some discussion on the possibility of getting a heat pump for the clubhouse. Gordie mentioned that the electrical system in the building was at its max and that adding a heat pump may also require its upgrade. We would have to get approval from our landlord, New Dawn, as well. There was also some discussion on the lease we have with them and how much longer it runs. There was also some concern voiced as to whether or not New Dawn will want to renew that lease when it comes to an end. Richard Lorway agreed to look into the concerns and report back.

The next discussion was with regard to bar tabs, some issues with mistakes on some tabs and the fact that some tabs were getting too large. The executive was to look into ways to remedy the issues and the discussion was tabled and scheduled to resume at the fall meeting.

The final order of business for the meeting portion of the evening was the election of a new slate of officers and committee heads for the coming season. Here are the results:

President - Julia Cormier - Replaces Gordie Cormier

Vice president - Gary Landry - Replaces Julia Cormier

Treasurer - Lynn Kelly returning

Secretary - Jenn Haigh - Replaces Frances Ford

Draw Master - Richard Lorway returning

Bar Steward - Run By Committee - Replaces Jenn Haigh

Ice Director - Brian Laughlin returning

Bonspiels - By Committee as it was last season

Housekeeping - Georgette Sparks, Cheryl MacKinnon, Bernadette Cormier

Membership - Lynn Kelly returning

Public Relations - Vacant

Fun Nights - Vacant

Ways and Means - Rose Gale returning

Website/Newsletter - Bill Farr returning

After the election, the meeting was adjourned and the evening continued with dinner, awards and a dance with music by DJ Jimmy. A great night and a great way to bring the 2022-23 season to an official end.

## Ice Making

As it is every season, ice making at the Schooner Club on its sand base is a big chore. The ice crew has been working hard for a while already, getting the base ready and fixing leaky pipes in preparation for the start of making ice. Add on some issues with the warm weather in late September and early October playing havoc with the plant and we have already run into delays. Not to be deterred by these setbacks, the crew is forging ahead and preparing two great sheets of pristine curling ice for us to play on. The job is not yet done. Anyone with some free time is more than welcome to drop by and help out. All help is needed to get the ice ready on time and get out season started. A big thanks goes out to Brian, Russell and all the members who make up the ice crew for your hard work and dedication.

## World Women's Curling Championship

It is almost certain that most people in the local area that are part of the curling community, and even most who are not, have heard that Sydney is the location for the 2024 Women's World Curling Championships. The dates of the event are March 16-24 and it is being held at Centre 200. Ticket packages are available to purchase and volunteer positions may also still be available. Keep an eye on the monthly newsletter and the Schooner website for updates and info or you can visit the official website at

<https://www.curling.ca/2024worldwomen/>

## 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. Plan to join us.

## Schooner Golf



The annual Schooner Golf Day was held at Alderdale Greens on June 17th and was another great success. Fourteen teams of golfers took part and played nine holes of golf and then returned to the club for a delicious steak BBQ. There were a number of others who joined us just for dinner. There were also some games at the course and back at the club to add to the fun. The big winners of the day were Stephen Leslie, Wes Stafford, Benito Delorenzo and Shane Langille who recorded a record low score of eight under par. A big thank you to everyone who took part and to Lynn Kelly, Gary Landry and all the other volunteers who helped plan, organize and run the event. It was a great day and we look forward to next year.

## Looking Forward to a Great Year

We would like to welcome all new members and welcome back all returning members to the Schooner Club for what we expect to be another great year. There will be lots of league play, spiels, special events, parties and fun. keep an eye on the Schooner Website, Facebook page and the monthly newsletter for schedules, info on upcoming events, wrapups of past events and news from the local curling community, especially regarding the upcoming Women's World Championships in March. Welcome back and *Good Curling Everyone!*

# *Happy Halloween*

