



# **In The Hack**

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



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## **Schooner Curling Club**

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The Schooner Club's annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held on Friday, March 23. It was another success as club members sold approximately 325 dinners, helping to raise important funds for the club. Thank you to all who sold dinners and to all the volunteers who helped organize, prepare, package and deliver the dinners. And thank you to Tommy Young who prepared the dinners to sell. They were delicious.

### **Coors Fun Nights**



The Coors Fun Nights held monthly at the club wrapped up another season in March. Fun nights were again popular this season and introduced a lot of people to the sport of curling for the first time. As always, we hope to gain some new members next season based on their experience at the fun nights. We would like to extend a big thank you to Abbie and Robena Boudreau for organizing and running the events again this year and also a big thanks to Dave MacMullin and the Coors Light Brewing Company for returning as sponsor. Our fun nights could not happen without your help and we hope to see you back for the 2012-13 season.

### **Schooner Golf Day**



The organizers of the annual Schooner Golf Day, Lynn Kelly and Mary Foley, would like to gauge the interest in having the event again this year and have posted a sheet on the club bulletin board to find out how many people want to take part. The event is open to both Schooner members and guests and will be held sometime in June at the Alderdale Greens golf course in Point Edward. Anyone interested in taking part should sign the sheet or tell Lynn or Mary you want to take part. Include anyone from outside the club who will participate with you as well. The Schooner Golf Day is always a lot of fun so let's keep it going. Sign up today. Check the website for updates.

### **Skating Party**

The final event of the season is always the skating party when members and guests get to strap on their blades and take to the ice. It will be held on Sunday, April 15 at 2pm. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you all there.

### **Club Calendar**

April 9-14	Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 15	Skating Party
Wednesday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting
Saturday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Closing Banquet
June 2012	Golf Outing
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

### **General Meeting and Club Elections**

It's election time at the Schooner Club. All executive and committee head positions are up for grabs regardless if the current position holder reoffers. Any position being contested for by two or more members will be voted on at the closing general meeting. A sign-up sheet is now located in the club for anyone interested in offering for a position so throw your name on the ballot and give something back to our club.

Members are reminded that the Closing Meeting will be held at the club on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All members are encouraged to attend as, along with any required executive elections, many important topics will be discussed and decided on for the 2012-13 season.

### **Ladies Compete in Baddeck.**



Some of the Schooner ladies took to the road in March to take part in the Blarney Stone Bonspiel being hosted by the Baddeck curling club. Schooner ladies were part of two teams in the annual event that's held each year around St. Patrick's Day. As always, lots of fun was had both on and off the ice by the ladies. Congratulations to you all and thanks for proudly representing the Schooner Club. Check out the photos from the Blarney Stone on the Baddeck CC website at the link below:

<http://baddeckcurlingclub.com/#/blarney-stone/4532221938>

### **Closing Banquet**



Make plans to attend the closing banquet on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Things get rolling at 6pm with a cocktail hour and then dinner starting at 7:00. Dinner is \$10 for non-members. Schooner members are asked to make a \$10 deposit which will be returned when you attend. Sign up and pay at the bar. After the award presentations are made the party gets started with live music provided by husband and wife duo "Savanna" who are currently very hot on the local club scene. So join us and party the night away at the last big event of the season at the Schooner Club.

## Coors Open Fun Spiel



The Coors Light Open Fun Spiel, held the weekend of March 16th and 17th, saw 10 teams compete for a chance at great Coors prizes. The battle for first place couldn't have been any tighter with a number of teams still in the running heading into the final games of the day and a draw to the button being required to decide our overall winner. After all the rocks were thrown, the Brian Laughlin rink and the Gordie Cormier rink were still deadlocked and the skips took to the ice for one final shot to break the tie. Each skip had one stone and the benefit of two of his teammates as sweepers. Gordie threw first and saw his rock come to rest in the twelve foot, just not quite biting eight. Brian threw next and with the help of a gallant effort from his team saw his rock swept inches past Gordie's to bite the eight foot and take the victory. Brian was joined by mate Barry Smith, second Matt MacPherson and lead Amy MacPherson in the victory. Gordie had mate Brian Bernier, second Rick Windows and lead Georgette Sparkes. Third place was taken by the Ray Cameron rink who actually finished with the same point total as Laughlin and Cormier but was edged out on plus/minus. That's just how close things were. Ray was joined by mate Albert Chiasson, second Dave Boudreau and lead Lynnette Chiasson. In fourth place was rookie skip Wayne "Bull" Bonnell and his rink made up of mate Reid MacInnis, Linda MacNeil at second and lead Eillean Bonnell. The top five teams were rounded out by skip Tom Drover's rink with mate Elaine Arseneau, second Everett Dickson and lead Lauchie MacLean. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all who took part. Thanks also to everyone who volunteered and helped out to make this year's Coors Spiel a great success. Following the exciting finish to the curling there was a St. Patrick's Day Dance and a celebration for Brian Laughlin on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The dance was well attended and fun was had by all. Music was provided by DJ Jimmie.

## League Wrap-up



League play is pretty much wrapped up at the club now that we are into April. The Men's League Playoff will finish on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> when the league playoff champs will be crowned. Competing for top spot in the round robin of four is the Brian Laughlin Rink, the Cal Thistle Rink, the Russell Fitzgerald Rink and the John Bonaparte Rink. Play also continues in the consolation round of the Men's League. Check the website for results when they are available.

Playoff surprises abound in the Sunday Team Entry League. Not one of the top four finishers in the league's regular season were able to make it to the final round of four to compete to be the league's playoff champ. The regular season winners and previously undefeated Ray Cameron rink stumbled out of the gate in the playoffs losing their first two games and could not make up the ground they lost early, even though they ended up with three victories, and missed the top four.

The Brian Laughlin rink, last season's playoff champs and runners up in the 2011-12 regular season, started well with a victory but dropped their second game in an extra-end decision to the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink and then had a second loss to the Mike Gillis rink and finished round one with a record of 2-2, not nearly good enough to move on, guaranteeing a new champ for this season. The four rinks making it to the Sunday Team Entry playoff were the John Bonaparte rink, the Wayne Bonnell rink, the Mike Gillis rink and the John Donovan rink. Making it to the final round of four marks a huge turnaround for skip John Donovan and his squad as they finished last in the regular season. It goes to show the parity and high caliber of all teams in the league and the ability for everyone to win. Donovan continued to have playoff success and played his way to a head to head showdown with an undefeated John Bonaparte rink to decide playoff champs on the final Sunday of the season. The matchup saw the Bonaparte rink take the win and the Team Entry playoff title. Joining skip John Bonaparte was mate Richard Lorway, Second Bryant Cormier and lead Everett Dickson.

More playoff surprises in the Mixed League with only one team of the top six regular season finishers playing in the final four for playoff champs. Second place finisher Kevin Bates led his team towards a playoff championship and was joined by the John Bonaparte rink, the Greg Ferguson rink and the Abbie Boudreau rink in the top four. Regular schedule winner, rookie skip Wayne "Bull" Bonnell only dropped one game in round one but two ties hurt him and he didn't make the cut to play for the league playoff title. In the end it was Kevin Bates and his rink who took the Mixed League playoff title going undefeated at 3-0 in the championship round. Skip Bates was joined by mate Leo Fraser, second Lynn Kelly and lead Ann Bates.

John Bonaparte enjoyed more playoff success than any other skip in the club as he has made it to the top four in all three leagues and had a chance to win an unprecedented three league playoff championships. He ended up winning the Team Entry title but fell short in the Mixed League. He is still in the running for Men's League honors. Lynn Kelly also enjoyed playoff success this season, winning the mixed league as second for skip Kevin Bates and also playing second for skip John Donovan who played in the final game to decide Team Entry Champs. Congratulations to everyone and thanks for a great season.

## End of Another Season



Summer is just around the corner and we are almost to the end of another great season at the Schooner Curling Club. It has been a season filled with great curling and, of course, great fun at the club but, as we do every year, we go our separate ways for the summer months and forget about curling until the cool fall breezes blow again. I thoroughly enjoy my time at the Schooner and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members who help make it such a great place and to wish you all well for the summer. It won't be long until we all meet again and offer each other a handshake and a wish of "Good Curling". Take care everyone.

