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In The Hack



SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 63

April 2015

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| Saturday, April 11 th | Junior Closing |
| Saturday, April 18 th | Coors Fun Night |
| April 21 – 25 | Closing Spiel |
| Wednesday, April 29 | Spring General Meeting |
| Saturday, May 2 nd | Closing Banquet |
| To Be Announced | Golf Outing and BBQ |

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

Coors Fun Spiel



This year's Coors Fun Spiel was run at the club on March 6th and 7th and saw a total of ten teams, up from the previous year's eight teams, compete for prizes donated by the Coors Light Brewing Company. The teams played three, six-end games over the two day event, one on the opening night and two on Saturday. In the end it was the Wally MacDonald rink with skip MacDonald, mate Dennis Cormier, second Frances Ford and lead Greg Wall taking first place. Second place was taken by rookie skip Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod who was joined by Walter Nichols at mate, second Anthony Boudreau and lead Jeff Steele, a new curler who joined us for this open spiel. MacDonald and MacLeod met in their final draw of the event, both coming into the game with undefeated records but with MacLeod holding a small lead in points and plus minus. The game between the two front-runners was, as you would expect, a close one with the scored tied coming into the final end and with MacLeod holding the all important last rock. As the end played out there were many rocks in and in front of the house. MacDonald was lying two but MacLeod still had his two stones to come and try and salvage victory. With his first rock, MacLeod played an angle raise takeout to try and remove a MacDonald rock from the four foot. MacLeod's shot was nearly perfect but not quite perfect enough. He raised his rock onto the MacDonald stone but was just a little too thin and didn't move it far enough. He did, however, open the front up enough for a possible draw on his second stone. MacDonald tried to guard this opening with his last rock but he wound up being a little wide and the stone did not curl enough to block MacLeod's path. He would have a chance to draw for victory and just needed a piece of the four foot to score. As MacLeod's rock glided down the ice it was obvious to everyone watching that it was going to be close. With mate Walter Nichols calling line the two sweepers watched the rock closely but weren't laying a broom to it. It was again a case of not quite perfect enough as MacLeod watched his stone slide just past his target and when it crossed the T line it was swept by

MacDonald's mate, Dennis Cormier, just far enough for MacDonald to score and steal victory. The win vaulted MacDonald past MacLeod into first place for the time being but there was still one draw left to play. The final draw of the day saw only one team competing that had a chance to catch MacDonald and pass him for first place. The Gordie Cormier rink needed to win their last game and take four ends from the previously winless Brian Laughlin rink to have enough points to pass MacDonald for first. Laughlin played his role as spoiler well and soundly defeated Cormier, allowing him only two ends in the loss. With that, MacDonald had clinched first place and 'Slugger' MacLeod finished second. The loss dropped Cormier to fourth overall when the Sid Murray rink defeated the Darrell MacAulay rink in their final game and won enough points to claim third in the standings. Fifth place was taken by the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink. Bonnell won his first game on Friday when he soundly defeated the Brian Laughlin rink and took thirteen of a possible fifteen points but had things go much worse on Saturday when he couldn't find his way into the win column. He was able to ride the Friday night success to a mid-pack finish.

On Saturday, curlers were treated to pizza through the day and homemade turkey soup made by Frank Kokocki to keep their energy level up through the two draws everyone played. Thanks to Frank for making the soup. When Curling was done and prizes had been presented to everyone, DJ Jimmy took over for a dance that went from 9-1. About twenty five people were in attendance and a good time was had by everyone.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the spiel and to Laura Rafuse, bonspiel chair, and everyone else who helped in organizing and running the event.

Thanks again to Frank for the delicious soup, to Dave MacMullin and the Coors Light Brewing Company for sponsoring the event, to all the bartenders and to anyone else who helped out in any way. Without the kind donations of time and effort from everyone these types of events would not be possible.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and will join us again next year for our annual Coors Fun Spiel.

League Roundup



The story of March was once again weather as we were hit pretty hard with snow, causing a number of cancellations and postponements. Couple that with the ladies being away at the Blarney Stone one weekend and many Schooner curlers playing on Sunday in the Sydney Spring Fling and it makes for quite a job that faces draw master Cal Thistle in getting the games made up. As of the time of printing this newsletter, there were also still regular schedule games to be made up in the Team Entry that would decide a season winner.

The Men's league finished up round one on March 23rd, a week later that scheduled, after that big March storm cancelled play a week previous. Going into that night, only regular schedule champ Gordie Cormier had clinched a spot in the top division in round two and most other teams needed wins on the final night to join him. The final games of round one saw John Donovan, Sid Murray and Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell win their way into the championship round while the remaining four teams will compete in the consolation round. The Championship round of the Men's league will see the Gordie Cormier rink take on the Sid Murray rink and Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell will face the John Donovan rink, both matches scheduled for 7pm on March 30th. Winners of these two games will play off on April 6th for the league's playoff title. The

consolation round will have the Brian Laughlin rink play the Lonnie Howe rink and the Stephen Leslie foursome will take on Gary Landry. These games will be played at 9pm on March 30th with winners of each moving on to play on April 6th at 7pm.

The Mixed League is well into round 2 of its playoff schedule now and is scheduled to finish up on April 16th. Vying for the league playoff title in the championship round are regular season champs the Gordie Cormier rink who are joined by Greg Ferguson, Sid Murray, Cal Thistle, Thomas Drover and Wally MacDonald. The remaining six teams are playing out the season in the consolation round.

The Sunday Team Entry league has been embroiled in a bit of controversy lately that revolves around makeup games and crowning a regular season champ. As mentioned earlier, this league is still without a regular schedule winner and will be so until the aforementioned makeup games are completed. There is some debate about what games should and should not be played. As it stands right now, the Brian Laughlin rink and the Wally MacDonald rink are both vying for the title. MacDonald has clawed his way back into a virtual tie with Laughlin, who held the first place spot pretty much all season, after MacDonald was victorious in a makeup game against the Darryl MacAulay rink and Laughlin fell to defeat at the hands of Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell in another makeup, both held on March 29th. MacDonald holds the edge over the Laughlin rink as they have defeated them in two regular season meetings between the two. It is still a bit unclear exactly how many more games will be made up from the regular season schedule so a prediction of who the first place finisher will be cannot be made but, once the whole situation is resolved, an announcement on the Schooner website and in the club will be made to let everyone know who was crowned champion.

Regardless of that situation, the playoffs have gotten underway in Team Entry. There have been a number of games missed in the playoffs so far as well with weather cancellations and missed games due to teams playing in the playoffs in Sydney's Spring Fling. So far, the Brian Laughlin, Wally MacDonald and Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rinks are off to a good start and should advance to play for the league championships. These were three of the top four finishers in the regular season. The fourth team to join them is still up for grabs. The Ray Cameron rink, also in the top four in the regular campaign, sits with one win and one loss after two games. Cameron has had an inconsistent season and has lost a couple of games where he held a comfortable lead only to see it evaporate into a defeat. This was the case again in his one loss so far in the playoffs. Cameron will need to get more consistent if he hopes to win his third Team Entry playoff title in a row. Once round one is complete, top teams will move on to play in the championship round and lower teams will finish out in the consolation. For updates on this league and both other leagues, check the bulletin board at the club or the Schooner website.

The story in league play for this season has to be the success enjoyed by our club president, Gordie Cormier. Gordie won the regular season titles in both the Mixed and Men's leagues and sits in good position to be part of the Team Entry champions as well if the Brian Laughlin rink he plays mate for can hold off Wally MacDonald for the title. Cormier is also part of the championship divisions of both the Mixed and Men's and, with the way things have been going for him, could very possibly win the playoff crown in one or both of

those leagues. And to top it all off, his Team Entry rink is also doing very well in the playoffs and has a legitimate chance at that crown, giving Gordie a shot at all six titles this season, regular season and playoff championships in all three leagues. Even if that doesn't come about, no one can argue that he hasn't already had a great season and we want to pass congratulations on to him and the teams he is part of.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Junior Program, its coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover, the coaches, parents and, most of all, the kids who took part in another successful season. This was very evident in a great showing at a junior spiel held at the Baddeck Curling Club where the Schooner Juniors did very well and placed highly in the rankings. The juniors will be wrapping up with a year-end party on Saturday, April 11th and they will also participate in the club's closing banquet on May 2nd. Local business CC Computer Solutions has made a monetary donation to the Schooner Junior's to aid in funding the end-of-year party for the group. We're happy that the Junior program is so successful and look forward to an even better year next season.

Closing Spiel

The Schooner Club's Closing Spiel, the final curling event of the season, will be held from April 21st to 25th. This spiel is open to both Schooner members and the general public for a cost of \$20 per player. You will get three, six end games and have a choice of playing in the Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday division or the Wednesday/Friday/Saturday division. Watch the club's bulletin board and the Schooner website for more information and for signup.

Closing Meeting and Club Elections

With the end of another season coming close, executive and committee head positions are once again up for grabs for the 2015-16 season. All positions are available, even if the current position holder is reoffering for next year. In the event there is more than one person interested in a particular position, an election will take place during the spring general meeting being held at the club on Wednesday, April 29th, starting at 7pm. This meeting is open to all Schooner members as well as the general public but only current Schooner members in good standing will have the opportunity to vote on executive positions and other motions that may be introduced during the meeting.



Chase the Ace is still ongoing with an Ace Jackpot that now stands at over \$1530 and will grow to well over \$1600 as of the next draw. Everyone is reminded that there will be no draw on Easter Sunday, April 5th and that the next draw will be Sunday, April 12th. The winner of the weekly draw gets 20% of daily sales and a chance at that jackpot. We hope that all Schooner members will spread the word about the draw in order to build up weekly sales. The draw is held every Sunday with ticket sales going between 3:30 and 5:30 and the draw taking place at 5:45. Everyone is also reminded that the Chase the Ace draws will continue until the Ace Jackpot is won and may go beyond the curling season. The day and time of the weekly draws may be changed if it continues past the curling schedule.

Coors Fun Night



The final Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, April 18th starting at around 7pm at the club. Once again Coors Nights have been very successful this season after overcoming a slow start early in the year. We hope that the final Coors Night of the year will be the best one so plan to join us and bring your family, friends, co-workers, whoever for an evening of fun curling, pizza and prizes, all for just seven bucks. Equipment and instructions if required are provided by the club, you only need clean, dry shoes for the ice area. Coors Fun Nights are very important to the club as a large number of our current members have been introduced to curling and the Schooner Club at these open fun nights. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Schooner members who helped out at Coors Nights this season and also those who brought up friends and family to experience curling. We would like to thank Dave MacMullin, Moosehead Breweries and the Coors Light Brewing Company for their continued support of these events and last, but certainly not least, we want to thank everyone who came up to take part in the fun nights this season and we hope you will join us again for a fun night, spiel or even as a member of the club. So mark April 18th on your calendar and join us for the fun of the final Coors Night of the season at the Schooner Curling Club.

Club Computer

In March it was noticed that the club's computer was acting up and was sent in for an evaluation and service. Turns out that the issues were serious and that repair of that unit would not be justified. That computer, along with the monitor, keyboard and mouse, had been donated to the club a while back by Compu Clone Computer Solutions. At this point in the season it doesn't make much sense to replace the computer but Compu Clone has committed to donating a replacement to the club for next year. Thank you to them for that and we look forward to having a computer back in service for the 2015-16 season.

Closing Banquet



The Schooner Curling Club's closing banquet will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the Sydney Pensioner's Club located at the corner of Prince and Inglis streets in Sydney. The evening gets going around 6pm with cocktail hour and dinner will be served at 7pm. This year the meal will be roast beef. Following dinner there will be award presentations and then there will be a dance from 9-1 with DJ Jimmy. It's sure to be a great time. All members who plan to attend must pre-register at the club and pay a \$10 deposit that will be refunded to you when you attend the banquet. Members are welcome to bring guests to dinner at a cost of \$12 per person. All guests must be pre-registered and pre-paid and the payment is non-refundable. A sign-up sheet is now posted at the club and all payments can be made at our bar. So plan to join us on May 2nd for a great meal and a chance to party with your Schooner friends one more time this season.

649 Fundraiser

The 649 Fundraiser that was started in late February and ran into March was won after five draws. This time there was an amazing eleven winners of the prize which totaled \$680. Each winner got a \$61.80 share of the total prize. One person won two shares when two sets of her numbers came in. The club benefited a total of \$630, the \$680 share of total sales less the \$50 prize to the seller who sold the most entries. The winner of this prize was Eric Boutilier

Blarney Stone Spiel in Baddeck



Spring Fling at the Sydney CC

Two on Two Spiel

who sold almost \$200 worth of tickets himself. A big thank you to Eric and to everyone else who sold entries. Also, a big thank you to Laura Rafuse who once again organized and ran the event and thank you to everyone who took part by buying entries. In total the club has benefitted roughly \$1700 from the two 649 fundraisers held this season, money that goes a long way in the overall financial well being of the club and in allowing the executive to keep costs to members at a minimum. Watch for another 649 fundraiser early next season.

The Schooner ladies hit the road in March and took part in the Blarney Stone Spiel held at the Baddeck Curling Club March 13th-15th. A total of twelve women curlers, most of them Schooner members, made up three teams that took part. Lynn Kelly, Cheryl MacKinnon, Georgette Sparkes, Frances Ford, Yvonne Donovan, Bernadette Cormier, Jolene MacLellan, Laura Rafuse and Nadine Neima-Drover were the Schooner ladies. They were joined by former members Lynnette Chiasson and Amy MacPherson and Charlene Kokocki who has been a part of many events and spiels at the Schooner club. While the main focus of the weekend is getting away and having fun, the ladies also represented the Schooner club well on the ice and had lots of success this year, success that was capped off with a Division championship. The Lynnette Chiasson rink with skip Lynnette, mate Jolene MacLellan, second Laura Rafuse and lead Charlene Kokocki won the C Division. Congratulation to the winners and a big thank you to all the ladies for representing our club proudly.

The Spring Fling Mixed Spiel (formerly the Moosehead) was held at the Sydney Curling Club March 20th - 22nd. There were a total of six teams representing the Schooner Club this year and they all did so in fine fashion, lead by the Stephen Leslie Rink who won the D Division championship and the Thomas Drover rink who were runners-up in that same division. Joining skip Leslie in victory was mate Lynn Kelly, second Joe Erickson and lead Frances Ford. Aiding in the efforts of skip Thomas Drover were mate Amy MacPherson, second Matt MacPherson and lead Nadine Neima-Drover. Congratulations to you all. Joining the Leslie and Drover rinks in the spiel were the Brian Laughlin rink with skip Laughlin, mate Kelley Laughlin, second Gordie Cormier and lead Cheryl MacKinnon, the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink with Bonnell, third Laura Rafuse, second Rick Windsor and lead Eileen Bonnell, the Sid Murray rink with skip Murray, third Jolene MacLellan, second Walter Nichols and lead Debbie Murray and finally the Wally MacDonald rink with skip MacDonald, third Kathy Gale, second Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and lead Janet Gallivan. Also playing was Georgette Sparkes who filled in for a game with the Sid Murray rink on Saturday. In all, five of the six Schooner rinks that competed made it through to compete in Sunday's playoffs. A great showing from our club. Thank you to all who competed and represented our club so well and congratulations to you all for a great showing.

The inaugural Schooner two-on-two spiel was held at the club on March 27th and 28th. A total of 12 teams took part and played off for a chance at the cash prizes available. Play got underway on Friday night with teams one to eight taking the ice in the first two draws with the final four teams, Stephen Leslie

and Russell Fitzgerald, Jossé Montpellier and Bill Inkpen, Darrell Crane and Greg Wall and Rick Billard and Todd Fraser, all waiting for results as they were lucky enough to be granted a bye in round one. In the first draw of the evening Gordie Cormier and Brian Laughlin defeated Dennis Cormier and Peter MacIntyre and on the other sheet it was Joe Erickson and Brian Bernier defeating Laura Rafuse and Jolene MacLellan in a close game that came down to the last stone. The second draw saw Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell and Rick Windsor beat Walter Nichols and Anthony Boudreau and Wally MacDonald and Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod were victorious over Sid Murray and Cal Thistle. The winners in the first two draws would play the remaining teams who had the bye for the first round. The early winners continued to win as all four games were won by teams who had played previously that night. Brian and Gordie, Brian and Joe, Bull and Rick and Wally and Slugger were all again victorious and would stay in the 'A' division to play at 3pm on Saturday. All the other teams, who now had suffered one loss, would play in the 'B' division on Saturday and would have to win their remaining games to get into the money as one more loss would mean elimination.

The day got underway Saturday with draws at 12:30 and 1:45 to see who would continue to play for the prizes in the 'B' bracket. At 3PM, winners from Friday night would take the ice in the 'A' Division. Winners of this draw would move on to the championship game in this bracket while losers would drop to 'B' and play for the chance to get into that championship. In the 'A' semi-finals there was Brian Laughlin and Gordie Cormier taking on Brian Bernier and Joe Erickson while on the other sheet we saw Rick Windsor and Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell take on Wally MacDonald and Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod. Both Laughlin/Cormier and Windsor/Bonnell were victorious and earned themselves a spot in the championship game and a chance at the top prize while the losers would have to play at 5:30 to try and get into a money game. The 'B' semi-finals saw MacDonald/MacLeod take on Sid Murray and Cal Thistle while Bernier/Erickson would face Peter MacIntyre and Dennis Cormier. Winners of this game would play for the 'B' championship while the losers would be eliminated from further play. Murray/Thistle defeated MacDonald/MacLeod in a game that came down to the last stone and Bernier/Erickson were victorious over MacIntyre/Cormier, both winners earning a chance to play for prize money.

The finals for both divisions took place at 7pm on Saturday with the 'A' final on ice one having Laughlin/Cormier facing Windsor/Bonnell and the 'B' final On ice 2 seeing Bernier/Erickson face off with Murray/Thistle. In the 'A' game, Windsor/Bonnell jumped out to an early lead thanks to some steals and missed opportunities by Laughlin and Cormier. Windsor and Bonnell continued to play a strong game from start to finish while both Laughlin and Cormier struggled all evening and were never able to mount any kind of comeback. Windsor and Bonnell took the game easily and the \$180 top prize. Laughlin and Cormier got \$140 as runners up. Sheet two saw a well-curved, back and forth game where the lead changed hands a few times before the duo of Brian Bernier and Joe Erickson took we have throughout the season the victory and the \$100 prize money. Cal Thistle and Sid Murray won \$60 in the consolation.

Overall, it was a great inaugural two on two spiel and we hope that this event will continue to show up on the Schooner calendar for years to come. Many of

End of Another Season

the participants had played the two on two format before but those that hadn't all said that they enjoyed it and would do it again. Thank you to all who took part, to bonspiel chair Laura Rafuse for setting things up, to Brian Laughlin and the ice crew for providing great conditions and to everyone else who helped out in any way.

The days are getting longer, the temperatures are getting warmer and, while it seems like it will take forever, the snow is disappearing. These are all sure signs that spring is just around the corner. And with spring comes the end of another curling season at the Schooner club and the final edition of In the Hack for this year. I hope you all enjoyed reading it and found it both informative and entertaining.

While we all look forward to the warm weather, sipping drinks on our decks, golfing, gardening or whatever summertime activity you enjoy, we all need to take a look back at another successful season and be thankful for all the people who work so hard at the club to make it happen. A big thank you to Club President, Gordie Cormier, who, along with all of the members of the executive committee, Lynn, Laura, Cal and Frances, put out a huge effort this season to make sure things ran well at the club. It's never easy to be part of the executive and do a good job but this season was especially hard since we had no full time bar steward and the bar was run my committee with members of the executive adding on duties to make sure the bar ran smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to all the committee heads who make sure all the jobs around the club get done. Brian and the ice crew for a great playing conditions all year, to Georgette and Bernadette for keeping the club looking great, to Laura for organizing and running all the great bonspiels we have throughout the season and for the fundraisers she looked after that raised important funds for our club, to Frank in membership, Nadine and the junior coaches for helping to bring along the curlers of tomorrow, to Richard for promoting our club so well, to all the bartenders who volunteered time all season and to anyone else who helped out in any way, thank you. Without the efforts of everyone who help out through the year, our club cannot exist. I would also like to send a thank you out to all of the community minded businesses and organizations that sponsor our club and help us to keep things running. Lastly, I would like to send out a big thank you to all of the Schooner membership who make our club such a great place to curl and so much fun to come to. Without that, all of the effort would be wasted. Even though we are close to the end, there's still lots left in this season. The end of league play and the crowning of the champions, the closing spiel, the spring meeting and the closing banquet are all to come. And don't forget about the Schooner Golf Day which will hopefully happen early in the summer.

While my season has come to a slightly premature end, in a few short weeks we will all be heading our separate ways to enjoy summer time activities in this beautiful place we call home, but a small part of me, and I'm sure a small part of most of you also, will be longing for the time when the days become shorter and the breeze becomes colder and we will once again turn our thoughts to curling at the Schooner, look forward to a handshake and the opportunity to wish one another 'Good Curling'. Have a great summer everyone.