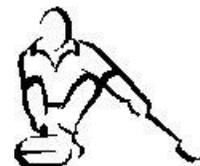


Schooner Curling Club
 61 Military Rd.
 Sydney NS B1N 3K6
 (902) 539-3992
 schoonercurlingclub.com
 schoonercurling@gmail.com

In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 70

April, 2016

April 1-2	2 on 2 Spiel
April 8-10	Open Cash Spiel
April 19-23	Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 23	Dance with DJ Jimmy 9-1
Sunday, April 24	Closing Skating Party
Saturday, April 30	Closing Banquet
Wednesday, May 11	Spring General Meeting
To Be Announced	Schooner Golf and BBQ
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

League Roundup



The Schooner men's league finished up the first round of playoffs in mid March. The first round saw teams split into two divisions to play a round robin event with the top two teams from each side advancing to play for the league playoff title and the remaining teams compete in a consolation round. Regular season winners, the Stephen Leslie rink, weren't successful in making it to the championship round as they could only muster one tie in three games. Second place finishers, the Brian Laughlin rink, were on the bubble with one win and one tie but a tie for the Sid Murray rink against the Gary Landry squad in a game that was originally cancelled and had to be made up gave Murray an identical record to Laughlin with Laughlin having the tie break in his favor as he defeated Murray in their game. The Cal Thistle rink finished third in the league but had the best first round playoff record at 3-0 to put them in along with the Gary Landry rink, also undefeated but with two wins and one tie and the Keith MacEachern rink who earned their way in with a big win over the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink in their final game of round one. Joining the Leslie rink in the consolation round was the aforementioned Bonnell and Murray rinks along with the Gordie Cormier rink who, after finishing middle of the pack in league play, was only able to come up with one tie in round one. Round two got underway on March 21st on a snowy and rainy day that threatened to force a cancellation. Luckily, the weather broke early enough to get the evenings games in. In the 'A' division the Cal Thistle rink was able to get a victory against the Keith MacEachern foursome and the Gary Landry rink was successful in defeating the Brian Laughlin rink. The 'B' division saw the Steve Leslie rink come from two down in the last end to defeat the Sid Murray rink and the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink and the Gordie Cormier rink cancel their game. Week two saw Leslie's squad once again victorious, this time over the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink. Other winners were the Gordie Cormier rink who won over Sid Murray, Cal Thistle's rink handed the Brian Laughlin rink their second loss of round two and Keith MacEachern improved to 1-1 with a win over the Gary Landry rink, who now also sat at 1-1. The final games of the Men's League 2015-16 schedule will be played on April 4. Cal Thistle will meet the Gary Landry rink in a game that will decide the playoff

champions. A win for Landry will give him the title while a win or a tie is all Thistle needs to finish off an undefeated playoff with the championship. Check the Schooner Website for updates.

In the Sunday Team Entry league we are in the midst of a round robin event that will eventually give us two teams to play in a championship game to determine the playoff champs. Team entry curlers are reminded to keep a close eye on their schedules since, due to time constraints, some games will be played during the week and not on Sunday. Once the Men's League is done on April 4 Team Entry will see some games played on Monday nights and it will also take up some other week days once Mixed is finished. So far there haven't been a lot of games played in the Team Entry round robin given the delayed start due to the Fun Spiel, one Sunday when games got cancelled due to curlers competing in Sydney's spiel and Easter Sunday falling in March this year. Regular season champs the Wally MacDonald rink has won both games they have played so far and are on their way to a possible finals berth although they still haven't played any of the league's top finishers. One upset of sort to note is the Omar Roach rink defeating the Brian Laughlin rink early on. Laughlin finished in fourth place overall and was a contender in the league all season while Roach finished in eighth place and couldn't quite live up to the potential that his rink had on paper, probably because Roach didn't curl last season and the team had some trouble getting into a groove of playing well together after getting back together this year. If Roach and his team can find that winning groove, and the victory over Laughlin may indicate that they possibly have, the Roach rink may be a contender for the playoff title after all. The Team Entry playoffs will continue until April 17 when the championship game is scheduled to be played. Check the Schooner website for final results and to see who was crowned playoff champ. Can the Wally MacDonald rink finish in top spot in both the regular season and the playoffs for a second year in a row? Only time will tell.

The Mixed League playoff title will come down to the final week of play scheduled to go off early in April. Three teams have a shot at the playoff crown. The Brian Laughlin rink breezed through round one of the playoffs with a perfect record and had won their first three games in round two. It looked like they were going to cruise easily to the title until they suffered their first playoff loss to the Greg Ferguson rink which put the two rinks into a tie. Ferguson had one loss to the Sid Murray rink. A win in their final game will give Ferguson the title since he will hold the tie break against Laughlin even if he is successful in his final match. Ferguson plays the Martin Campbell rink in their final game while Laughlin meets the Cal Thistle rink. Thistle sits just one point behind the leaders but a win over Laughlin combined with a loss by Ferguson would allow Thistle to sneak into the champions spot. Ferguson's game is scheduled to be played on Tuesday, April 5 and the Laughlin/Thistle tilt is set for Wednesday, April 6. A win by Ferguson on Tuesday night renders the Laughlin/Thistle game meaningless but a loss would essentially turn it into the championship game. Once again, final results of this and all league playoffs can be seen on the Schooner website once they become available.

The Schooner Junior Program enjoyed another successful season at the club. While numbers for regular junior members were down, the number of younger Little Rock Curlers was strong. The kids had a great season, learned a lot from their coaches and competed in a couple of spiels outside the club with great success. The Juniors will cap of their season with a final day of curling and a year-end party scheduled on April 16. Thank you to all the junior curlers for taking part, to parents and coaches and especially to Junior Program coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover who did a great

job this season. We will see the Junior Program back for the 2016-17 season and we hope it will be even stronger with more kids taking part.

There has been some discussion at recent executive meetings about exploring some changes to the league structures and schedules and also about the addition of a two on two fun league that would potentially play on Friday nights. The way this league would be set up is that there would be no set teams but players would be randomly put in groups depending on how many curlers sign up for the league. Ideally there would be eight curlers in a group and you would alternate playing partners each week. Stats (i.e. wins/losses/ties) would be kept for individuals. You would play one game with each other person in your group and once a round is complete the groups could be shuffled and another round started. Games would be six ends and should take roughly one hour to play. A sheet will be posted at the club to gauge the interest in this type of league. If you might be interested, please sign the sheet before the General meeting in May so it can be added to the discussion. There is no obligation, it's just to gauge interest. Other discussion has been around possible changes to the mixed and men's leagues. Nothing has been decided re. any changes to league play and it is only in the discussion stage. Time has been allocated at the General Meeting in May to allow input by members.

Fun Night

The Schooner Fun Night schedule was shortened a bit this year with only three being held, all after the Christmas break. It was felt that the Fun Nights in November and December were always poorly attended and were not really required. The January fun night was held in the middle of a winter storm but ironically it was the best attended of the season. While winter raged outside there were around fifty people who were in curling and having fun. February and March also saw good crowds and everyone seemed to have fun. There was also some entertainment in the club when some members took in their guitars and played for the crowds.

Fun Nights are important to the club as they have been the biggest draw of new members in the last few years. We have also gotten many spiel participants from the fun nights. This year the fun nights had been run with no sponsorship after long-time sponsor Coors Brewing left. We are hoping to have a sponsor in place for next season and a number of potential companies are being considered.

Thanks to everyone who attended the fun nights this season. We hope to see you all back next year. A big thank you to Dennis Cormier and Kathy Gale who teamed up to coordinate the nights this season and also a big thank you to everyone who helped out in any way during these events to make them run smoothly. Keep an eye out for the 2016-17 Fun Night Schedule when it becomes available next season.

Schooner Fun Spiel

The Schooner Fun Spiel was held at the club from March 2nd - 5th and stretched into Sunday, March 6th after a winter storm forced curling to be postponed on Saturday and moved to Sunday. A total of twelve teams took part, six in each division that saw teams play either Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday. Play got underway on Tuesday evening with a much anticipated matchup between spouses Brian and Kelley Laughlin who were each skipping their own teams in this spiel. Those who were expecting a close game were disappointed however when Kelley jumped out to a lead early, taking the first four ends and a seven point advantage before Brian could even get on the board. Brian got three in the fifth and was trailing 7-3 heading home without hammer. Kelley just need a single point with

hammer in eight to solidify the victory and take thirteen of fifteen points from her beau. Brian wasn't going away quietly however and was lying four at one point in the end, enough for a tie, with a large traffic jam of rocks in front of the house. Kelley was able to make a great draw through the pile up out front and landed for second shot to squash any chance of losing the victory. She wasn't, however, able to get the end and had to settle for eleven out of a possible fifteen points, Still an excellent start for Mrs. Laughlin. Another team with a great start in game one was the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink who were able to grab all but two of the available points in their first contest and took an early lead into round two. Kelley Laughlin and Bonnell met in their second game of the spiel and it was once again Laughlin dispatching her male opponent with ease and getting another eleven of fifteen points. The Russell Fitzgerald rink and the Peter MacIntyre rink also won their first two games and were only two points behind Kelley heading into the final day. In what was probably the biggest surprise of the spiel, the Gordie Cormier rink were winners of their first two and also sat tied for second, two points out. What made this so surprising was that Cormier was playing with three brand new curlers, three guys whose only experience came from attending a couple of fun nights. The three rookies were playing like seasoned curlers and were certainly holding their own. The final day of the spiel was supposed to be Saturday, March 5th, but bad weather that day forced the club to postpone curling until Sunday, March 6th. Team Entry playoffs, scheduled to get going on that day, were rescheduled to allow us to finish the spiel.

On that final day we saw Kelley Laughlin, sitting in first by two points, take on the Rick Billard rink who had one win and one loss so far. Laughlin got off to a good start but ended up giving up one big end and trailed heading into the sixth by two points. She did however have three ends in the bank and needed only one more end and eight total points to out count the Peter MacIntyre rink for first overall. MacIntyre had finished his spiel earlier in the day on a winning note against the previously undefeated Russell Fitzgerald rink in a well played affair that saw the teams split the ends and MacIntyre take victory by one point. Kelley Laughlin had hammer in the last end and needed to outdraw two opponents stones to get the end and take over first. Laughlin decided that she was not only going for the end but also for the tie and played a split on a rock she had sitting on the front of the house. A great shot gave Laughlin two points to tie and an additional 1.5 points that were important as there was still one rink to play that could possibly catch her. The Gordie Cormier rink went into the final day with 20 points and would now need to get five ends and a win to pass Laughlin for first place where they would have only needed four ends if she hadn't made the split to tie. Cormier was taking on the other Laughlin rink in the final draw of the day. While Cormier had a good chance to beat the winless Laughlin if his rookies performed as they had in the first two games, getting five ends was certainly a monumental task. Turns out that Cormier and his rookie squad were up to that task and did take the thirteen points they needed to edge Kelley Laughlin's rink into second place. With the win and five ends, Cormier's rink ended up with a spiel high 33 points and first place overall. Kelley Laughlin finished second with 31.5 points and the Peter MacIntyre rink dropped to third with 29 points. Joining Cormier in victory was Matt Tubrett, Matt Smith and Brandon McSween. Kelley Laughlin was joined in second place by Robert Agnew, Eric Boutilier and Georgette Sparkes while third place was shared with skip MacIntyre by Richard Lorway, Val MacIntyre and Tyler Coolen. Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell was able to rebound from his loss to Kelley earlier in the week and won his final game,

giving him 28 points, good enough for fourth place overall. Bonnell had Lynn Kelly, Walter Nichols and Laura MacRae in support. Fifth place was taken by the Russell Fitzgerald rink who had won their first two games but were defeated on Sunday by the Peter MacIntyre foursome. Russell was joined by Mel Windsor, Dave Boudreau and Bernadette Cormier. In sixth place was former Schooner member and returning skip Kevin Bates. Kevin was joined by his wife, Ann, along with Dennis Cormier and his wife, Natalie. After dropping their first game, the Bates rink came on strong to get two wins. It was great to have Kevin and Ann back in the Schooner club and it was also great to have Natalie Cormier join us for this spiel. We hope you enjoyed it and will come back again soon.

On Sunday, all curlers and guests were treated to sandwiches and delicious turkey soup that was made by Georgette Sparkes. Thank you Georgette. Thank you also to everyone who took part in the Fun Spiel, especially those who joined us that aren't Schooner members, at least not yet. Thanks to everyone who helped organize and run the spiel, those who helped out with prizes, to everyone who helped out as spares when curlers couldn't make their games, to the bartenders, housekeeping and ice crew as, without their efforts, we could not run events like this. Congratulations once again to Gordie Cormier and his team of 'New' curlers who certainly didn't play like they were relatively new to the sport. We hope you will join us again for future events.

Open Cash Spiel



The annual Schooner Open Cash Spiel, originally scheduled for the end of January but forced into cancellation this year by a severe winter storm, has now been rescheduled and will take place April 8-10. Registration for the event has been open for a while and there are a number of teams signed up to participate already. Bonspiel Chair Stephen Leslie was hoping to see twelve teams sign up to compete but as of the end of March there were a total of fourteen teams signed on, the same number of teams signed up originally back in January. That leaves two openings still available before the spiel is filled to capacity. There are a number of teams from outside the club coming in to take part. The Open Cash Spiel has, in previous years, been the premier event for the season and we are hoping that, even though it is being run late in the season this year, it will enjoy the same or better success as previous years. Play gets underway on Friday, April 8 and continues all day Saturday and into Sunday. Curlers will be treated to dinner on Saturday evening catered by Tommy Young. Drop by the club on Cash Spiel weekend and take in some of the great curling that will be going.

Closing Spiel and Dance



The final curling event of the season, the Schooner Closing Spiel, will be held from April 19-23. This spiel is single entry and is open to everyone at a cost of \$20 per player. Curlers can choose to play in the Tuesday/Thursday division or the Wednesday/Friday division with both division going head-to-head on Saturday before we crown a winner. Everyone is guaranteed three games and winners will be decided by a point system. There will be snacks throughout the spiel and lunch served for curlers and guests on Saturday. Please join us for our final curling event of the year and help us finish off the 2015-16 season with a bang.

After curling and prize presentations on Saturday you can swap your curling shoes for dancing shoes and spend the night with us and everyone's favorite DJ, DJ jimmy. There will be dancing from 9-1. Sign-up sheets are posted at the club for both divisions. Hopefully we will fill this spiel up.

Power Issues Update

We are all set to go on the upgrades to the electrical in the compressor room and the contractor, Greg Peter's Electrical, is going to get back to us with a schedule to do the work. It is expected that all work will be completed in late April or early May, depending on the contractors schedule. Cost of the work has been estimated around \$3000 total. This work is essential to the club since we cannot function without our ice making plant and also to protect the safety of the people who work around it.



Fundraiser

Chase the Ace was won in March when Samantha Campbell drew the Ace of Spades on the March 15th draw. The total Ace Jackpot was \$1979 so coupled with the nightly prize Samantha took home over \$2000. Samantha's card was only the seventeenth card drawn from the deck. Congratulations Samantha.

The club is planning on restarting the Chase the Ace draws in the fall when we return to curling next season. Please watch the club's website and bulletin board for more information on when the draws will begin again. All club members are encouraged to support this worthwhile fundraiser for the club as it raises necessary funds to help maintain and improve the club while still keeping costs low for club members.

Weekly Tarbush Games

Members are reminded that the weekly tarbush games on Tuesday nights are still going on at the club and they will continue after the curling season has ended and through the summer. They get started at 7pm and are open to members and guests so you can bring a friend. Pre-registration is recommended but not required and you can get more info at the club. Anyone wishing to play is asked to be at the club no later than 7pm so games can start in a timely manner. These games have been very successful in bringing new people into the club and have been a great benefit at the Schooner bar. We want to thank everyone who is taking part. Even if you don't want to play cards, everyone is welcome to drop by the club any Tuesday evening, enjoy a beverage and relax with your Schooner friends.

Blarney Stone Spiel in Baddeck

The annual Blarney Stone Women's Spiel took place at the Baddeck Curling Club on March 12 and 13. A total of four Schooner teams made the trip to take part once again this year. The team skipped by Schooner's Amy MacPherson had the most success at the spiel and made it to the 'B' division finals on Sunday afternoon. Joining Amy was fellow Schooner curler Nadine Neima-Drover and two curlers from the Sydney Curling Club, Tanya Duffy and Andrea Cullen. This isn't the first spiel that this foursome has played in together. They were teamed up in the Schooner's Sweetheart Spiel and were very successful together, taking home the Sweetheart Championship. Joining the MacPherson rink in Baddeck was the Samantha Campbell rink that included Debby Murray, Georgette Sparkes and Bernadette Cormier, a team with Lynnette Chiasson, Jolene MacLellan, Laura Rafuse and Charlene Kokocki and rounding out the Schooner contingent was the foursome of Lynn Kelly, Yvonne Donovan, Janet Gallivan and Frances Ford. The ladies all had a great weekend on and off the ice. Thank you all for representing the Schooner Club proudly.

2 on 2 Spiel

There will be 2 on 2 spiel getting going at the club just as this newsletter is released. It runs on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2. Curlers enter as teams of two with an entrance fee of \$40 per team. Each team is guaranteed three games and all entrance money taken in will be returned in prizes. There will be a draw format where the wins and losses will determine who and when you play. There was already a similar 2 on 2 spiel held at the club in early November that was a big success. We hope that this second event will be just as successful, especially from the perspective of participation by the women curlers. In the November event, nine of the total twenty four participants were women. The 2 on 2 game is one that can be played by anyone and anyone can be successful at it. Most Schooner members are now familiar with 2 on 2 game but, for those that aren't, here's a quick rundown. Members of a team play at opposite ends of the ice and are not permitted to cross the half way point to go down to the other end during play. Players alternate between skipping and throwing rocks. Each team delivers six rocks per end, the first three of which cannot be removed regardless of their position. There is no sweeping in 2 on 2 curling until the rock crosses the hog line at the skip's or target end. Games are six ends each and normally take about an hour to play. Scoring and other general rules of play are much the same as regular team curling. This format can really help improve a curlers delivery as well as their ability to call line and judge weight as they will have to do both for three ends of each game. This format is also conducive to both stick and slide curling and teams can be made up of either or a combination of both. We hope that members will consider taking part and that we can exceed the twelve teams we had in the first event back in November.

Sydney Curling Club Coors Spring Spiel

The Sydney Curling Club's Spring Mixed Spiel was held in March from the 18th to the 20th. This year the spiel was sponsored by Coors who provided the prizes for the winners of the various divisions. There were a total of seven Schooner teams taking part this year. Once again, Schooner rinks enjoyed some success at the Sydney event with six out of the seven teams competing making it to Sunday play and two being successful in winning their divisions. The Russell Fitzgerald rink was victorious in the 'C' Division championship and the Wally MacDonald rink won in the 'D' division. Joining Russell in victory was Martin Campbell, Samantha Campbell and Lynn Kelly. Skip MacDonald was joined by Kathy MacDonald, Chris "Slugger" MacLeod and Janet Gallivan. Congratulations to you all. Other teams making up the Schooner contingent included the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink with Cheryl MacKinnon, Rick Windsor and Eilleen Bonnell, the Sid Murray rink with Debby Murray, Walter Nichols and Georgette Sparkes, the Gordie Cormier rink with Kelley Laughlin, Stephen Leslie and Laura MacRae, the Bill Farr rink with Jolene MacLellan, Joe Erickson and Laura Rafuse and rounding out the Schooner entries was the Thomas Drover rink with Amy MacPherson, Matt MacPherson and Nadine Neima-Drover. Also taking part in the Sydney event was Frances Ford and Bernadette Cormier who both filled in when teams needed a player. We want to thank all the Schooner members who played and represented the Schooner club well. Thanks to the Sydney Curling club for their hospitality and for all the delicious food they supplied during the weekend. The Chili for lunch Saturday was very good and the Stuffed chicken dinner on Saturday night was also delicious. There were refreshments for curlers and fans available all weekend. On Saturday night, when the curling rink lights went dark, the party got going with a large crowd, many of them Schooner faithful, there to dance the night away with

Joyce Meyer's Trust Fund

music compliments of everyone's favorite DJ, DJ Jimmy. As always, Jimmy kept the dance floor full and the party going late into the night.

Overall it was a great weekend for both the Sydney Curling Club, who enjoyed a successful event, and for the Schooner club as well who's members got to participate in the event, curl some great games, enjoy good food and friendship and have loads of fun at a wonderful party. See you all next year and the Sydney Curling Club's Spring Mixed Spiel.

Closing Meeting and Club Elections

The trustees of the Joyce Meyer's Trust Fund have created a special Capital Acquisition Fund to help curling clubs in Atlantic Canada with special projects that are not related to the day to day operation of the club. The grant is meant to assist clubs in attaining new curling equipment, repair or replacement of a part of the facility such as a roof or the repair or replacement of a major asset such as an ice plant. In order to be eligible, the club must belong to Curl Atlantic by being members of their Provincial organization. The amount of the grant is \$1500 and there is only one grant awarded per Atlantic Province. The deadline for the application is May 15th. The Schooner executive is applying on behalf of our club to help pay for the electrical upgrade in the compressor room. This project falls within the criteria and, since we are a member of the Nova Scotia Curling Association, we are eligible for the grant funding. If we are successful, the \$1500 will cover about half of the total cost of the project we are applying for.

The Schooner Curling Club's closing general meeting will be held at the club on Wednesday May 11 starting at 7pm. Members and guests are welcome. We encourage everyone to attend to get a summation of our past season and also to hear and be part of what direction the club will be taking moving forward. Some topics of discussion will include updates to our financial position, upgrades to the club's electrical system and possible changes to league play including the addition of a casual two on two league. Also as part of the meeting we will be installing executive officers and committee heads for the coming season. Any and all positions are open and any member can offer for any position. If there are two or more members offering for the same position, an election will take place by secret ballot at the general meeting. A poster is now on the club bulletin board listing all positions that are available and the person holding that position currently. If you wish to offer for any position you simply need to sign the sheet. Anyone who has some time to give is encouraged to participate.

Closing Banquet

The Schooner Curling Club's annual closing banquet will be held on Saturday, April 30th at the Sydney Pensioner's Club on the corner of Prince and Inglis Streets. There will be a cocktail hour from 6-7 pm and dinner will be served at 7:00. This year the meal will be roast beef. All members who plan to attend are asked to register themselves and any guests that they are bringing to dinner as soon as possible. A \$10 deposit for members is required and will be refunded when you attend the dinner and the cost for guests is \$13 per person. Registration is now open at the club and your payments can be made at the bar when it's open. Following dinner and presentation of awards there will be a dance from 9-1 with music provided by DJ Jimmy. The dance is open to all members and their guests and there is no charge for this part of

Family Skating Party

the evening. We hope you will join us for this final event of the 2015-16 curling calendar. The food is always delicious and Jimmy always keeps the party hoping and the dance floor full. See you there!

What has become a Schooner year-end tradition, the family skating party will take place at the club following the final day of curling. Members and guests get to strap on their blades and cut up the Schooner's ice before the plant is shut down for the summer and melting begins. As always, there will be hot dogs, snacks and treats for everyone provided by the club. The party will run from 2-4 pm on Sunday, April 24, the day following the finally of the Closing Spiel. All members are welcome as well as any guests you would like to bring along. So gather up the kids, dust off the blades and make your way to the Schooner Club to help us finish off the year, and our ice, right!

Schooner Golf



Now that spring is in the air many Schooner members see their thoughts turning toward a second passion some of us have, playing golf. To feed the passion of some and the curiosity of others, the Schooner Curling Club has its annual Golf Day and BBQ. Lynn Kelly will be coordinating this year again and, while details aren't available at this time, she will soon be asking for registration of anyone interested. The last few years the event has been held at Alderdale Greens where participants play nine holes of golf and then head back to the club for a steak BBQ. The actual date isn't decided yet and we'll have to wait for the golf clubs to open before we can schedule it but normally the event is held in late June.

The golf day is open to anyone, Schooner member or not, and previous golfing experience is not required. It's all about the fun. Last year we had the golf portion of the event rained out but we still got together at the club and had a great meal and lots of fun. Let's hope for sun this year so we can get the golf in as well. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and the club's bulletin board for more details and to sign up. This is always lots of fun.

End of Another Season

It doesn't seem like that long ago we were just getting ready for another year of curling, making ice and throwing the first rocks of the season in the opening spiel. Now we are preparing for the closing spiel and talking about skating on our precious curling ice to tear it to pieces before we start to let it melt. As it is every year, once the days get longer, the weather gets warmer and the ground appears from underneath it's blanket of snow and ice, our thoughts turn away from curling and move towards summer activities. But as we look back on the season of 2015-16 at the Schooner Club we can say that it was nothing but successful. I would like to commend club president Gordie Cormier, all of the Schooner executive and the committee members for doing a great job once again this season. They work countless hours to make sure league play is running, the club is clean and tidy, spiels are organized and scheduled, they operate the Schooner bar and do just about every other job to make sure the club is running and running well. Thank you to everyone who has donated their time to volunteer at the club this season. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Schooner Curling Club and without them we could not exist. Thanks to the guys on the ice crew who work hard every year to make and maintain the great curling ice we enjoy all season. I'm sure everyone will agree, especially

those who played on sheet three at the Sydney Curling Club this year, that our ice is pretty darn good.

The club has been enjoying a strong financial position for the past two seasons, due in no small part to our Chase the Ace Fundraiser and, to a lesser extent, increased revenue from the bar. Some of the results of the extra cash can be seen in improvements to the club like the new carpet and the tables and chairs. Fundraising is important to the Schooner Club so we can make these kind of improvements, keep costs to members down and have a cushion of money in case of emergency. Thank you to everyone who helps out with our fundraising efforts and to everyone who takes part in them by buying tickets. We are also thankful to all of the local businesses and organizations that are sponsors of the club.

While the end of the season is near that doesn't mean there isn't still lots of activity in April. We have the two on two spiel starting April 1, the Open Cash Spiel from April 8-10, the Closing Spiel, the Closing Spiel dance, the skating party, the closing meeting and the Closing Banquet. Still lots going on. And don't forget to keep an eye out for the Schooner Golf Day.

This is the last edition of "In the Hack" for this season. I hope everyone who has read it throughout the year has found it both informative and entertaining. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow Schooner members for helping to make the club such an enjoyable place to come for both curling and socializing. Without such a great group of people the Schooner Club would not be what it is. I always enjoy my time at the club and I always look forward to coming back the next time. For now, we'll go our separate ways for the summer. I hope to see you all back next year but I know some familiar faces will not return and some new faces will take their place, just like every new season. Enjoy your summer everyone but once the days of fall arrive, the wind turns cold and the daylight grows short, turn your thoughts back to curling and the Schooner club where we will once again shake each other's hand, throw our stones, raise our glasses and wish one another "*Good Curling*". For now, I'll wish you all a "*Good Summer*".