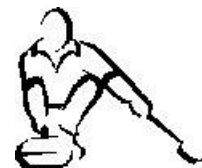


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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 84

April 2018

April 6-7	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, April 14	Junior Program Closing Party
April 24-28	Schooner Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 29	Skating Party
Saturday, May 12	Schooner Closing Banquet
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

League Play



The Old triangle Men's League has wrapped up regular season play and the first round it's playoffs. The regular season came down to the final night with three teams still in contention to win. It was Keith MacEachern who edged out Gordie Cormier and Wally MacDonald by winning his seventh straight game in the league and taking the title away from the two teams who had been fighting for first all season. The teams ended up in a three way tie, all with an identical twenty points, but MacEachern held the tie breakers that gave him the regular season crown. The MacEachern rink had started out well in this season but faltered a bit towards the end of the first half of the schedule and were sitting four points behind MacDonald and five behind Cormier who was in first place at that point. MacEachern ran the table in the second half of the season and was a perfect 7-0, vaulting himself into that tie for first that he eventually won. Wally MacDonald finished in second spot and Gordie Cormier wound up third.

MacEachern continued his winning ways in the playoffs and made it into the championship round after the first round robin decided who would play for the title. Things didn't go so well for the MacDonald or Cormier teams, neither of which got through to play for the playoff title, both being relegated to the consolation bracket. MacDonald was only able to win one game and Cormier was in a three way tie in his division at 2-1 but lost on tie breaks. Teams joining MacEachern's squad to play for the Men's League playoff title will be Brian Laughlin, Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell and Gary Landry. For Bonnell, this is a real turnaround from his regular season where he had trouble finding ways to enter the win column. That started to turn around late in the season and perhaps he is starting to play well just at the right time. The second round of play in the Men's began on March 29 when MacEachern fell to the surprising 'Bull' Bonnell rink who continue to have playoff success. Brian Laughlin was also victorious over the Gary Landry rink. The Men's championship round will finish on April 12 when a playoff champ will be crowned.

Playoffs in the Don Cherry's Team Entry league continue but all players should note a change in the Schedule. On Sunday, March 25, a number of

teams were participating in the Sydney Curling Club's Spring Spiel and all games in the team Entry League were cancelled on that day and have been rescheduled for Sunday, April 15. That moves the championship game to Sunday, April 22. There are currently two divisions playing off in a round robin format with the top team in each division making it to play off in the championship game for the playoff title. In one division, teams are tight with three of the five teams, The Gordie Cormier, Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell and Russell Fitzgerald rinks, tied with two wins and a loss. The Bonnell rink holds a slight advantage in that they have defeated the Cormier rink. They are yet to play Fitzgerald and a win in that game may be enough to push Bonnell to the final. With things so close it will likely come down to the final week before a winner is determined. In the other division the Wally MacDonald rink has all but forgotten the abysmal regular season campaign they had and have pulled off three straight wins to take control of that group. The only team left within striking distance of MacDonald is the Brian Laughlin rink who MacDonald has already won against. MacDonald needs only one more win in his final two games to punch his ticket to the championship game. As was mentioned previously, MacDonald and mate Sid Murray have won either regular or playoff titles in the Sunday league for the last number of seasons and it looks like they may be on their way to having a good chance to keep that streak alive. The Cape Breton Beverages Pepsi Mixed League has three weeks left in the second season. Keith MacEachern sits in first with 10 points followed closely by Rob Agnew with 9 and then there are three teams with 8 points each. With things this close its way to early to call a winner. Play wraps up in round two on April 18. Also in Mixed League news, we finally have a winner of the first half of the season, the Thomas Drover rink. A make-up game played on Good Friday between the Richard Lorway and Bill Farr rinks that was won by Farr has solidified the top spot for Drover. Drover, Farr and Lorway all sit tied with 18 points but Drover holds the tie breaks over the other two rinks. Drover also had two games in hand and a win in either of those would have given him the title. Congratulations to Thomas and his team Nadine Neima-Drover, Darrell Crane and Bev Young. The Schooner Junior Program will be wrapping things up in a couple of weeks after a great year that saw the number of participants grow and all of the kids have a great year. They competed in two spiels this season, one in Baddeck and, more recently, one in Sydney, that saw members of our Junior ranks team up with some Sydney juniors and take second place in the competitive division while the rest of the crew represented the club proudly on the non-competitive side. The Schooner program also hosted two successful learn to curl programs through the CBRM's Taste of Winter Festival that we hope will pay dividends with even more new junior members next season. Congratulations to all Schooner Junior members and Schooner Junior Coordinator, Nadine Neima-Drover, on a great season.

Since play in all leagues will not wrap up until sometime in April, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate all winners and thank everyone for a great season. Keep an eye on the October Newsletter for a full wrap-up of all league winners from this season.

Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights wrapped up for the 2017-18 season with a final event held on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17 and it was a great night. There was a large crowd of over sixty registered and many had come decked out in their best green to celebrate St. Paddy's Day in style. We even had a birthday celebration, the second time that has happened during a Fun Night this season. This time it was for resident ice maker Brian Laughlin who's birthday just happens to fall on March 17, Saint Patrick's Day. There was a big cake that was enjoyed by everyone who attended along with some delicious pizza. Everyone also had the fun of trying curling and there were even a few prizes given away to some lucky winners. It was a fitting way to wrap up the Fun Night schedule as all the events held this season were very successful. That was due in no small part to the hard work of Fun Night coordinators Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale. Kathy and Janet did a fantastic job again this season in both planning and running the events. A big thank you also goes out to everyone else who helped out both on and off the ice at the Fun Nights this season. Without all the help, Fun Nights couldn't happen. And a huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Fun Nights this year. We hope you enjoyed them and will join us again next season.

Watch for Fun Nights to make their return for the 2018-19 season and make plans to attend. These events are very important to the club as they bring new faces through the doors to try the great sport of curling. We generate many new members and spiel participants from these nights. They are also a great source of revenue for the club. The last Fun Night generated sales of over \$1200 at the bar. We hope to see you all back next year for Schooner Fun Nights.

2019 Scotties in Cape Breton

Tickets for the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, being held in Sydney from February 16-24, 2019, remain on sale but, as of now, there are still only full event packages currently available. They are \$399 (plus applicable taxes and fees) each and will include all round robin draws as well as any tie breakers required and all playoff games as well. All Event packages also include access to the Heartstop Lounge that will be located at the Joan Harris Cruise Pavilion. There will be live music and dancing as well as food and beverage services available. There will also be special events and opportunities to meet the curlers there. Other packages will go on sale later, probably in late 2018 or early 2019. They will include individual draw tickets. Get your tickets early by calling or visiting the Center 200 box office or go online at www.curling.ca/tickets.

Volunteer opportunities also exist for the event. Recently, a volunteer information booth was setup at the Mayflower Mall to get information on opportunities out to the public and try to spark some interest. All volunteers must be 19 years of age or older as of February 16, 2019 and commit to pay a one-time \$100 fee to help cover expenses. Volunteers will receive access to all games when they are not working however seating is not guaranteed and will be determined by the amount of tickets sold for any given event. Volunteers will also get full access to the Heartstop Lounge for all entertainment, volunteer clothing, A limited edition volunteer pin not available to the general public and a volunteer handbook. To

Nova Scotia Traveler's Club Championship



Travelers
Curling Club Championship

become a Volunteer for the 2019 Scotties or to get more info visit the website

www.curling.ca/volunteer

Keep up to date at the Cape Breton Scotties webpage at <https://www.scottiescapebreton.com/> or Curling Canada at www.curling.ca/2019scotties

The annual Nova Scotia Traveler's Club Championship was held in Sydney this year with nine teams from across the Province taking part in the four-day event that ran from March 9-12. Joining local teams Kurt Roach of the Sydney CC and Gordie Cormier from our own Schooner Club was Ben Blanchard of the Chester Curling Club, Kevin Saccary from Berwick, Tony Moore of CFB Halifax, Mike Callaghan from the Mayflower in Halifax, Ryan MacIver from the Halifax Curling Club, Pierre Fraser from Truro and rounding out the field was the Ralph Jacob rink from the Dartmouth Curling Club. Each team was vying for the right to represent our Province at the National event that will be held in November of this year.

For Team Roach of Sydney, this was sort of a title defense of the Nova Scotia crown they won in 2016. Teams who win the Travelers at their Provincial level are excluded from play the following year so Roach wasn't there to defend the title he won in 2016 in last year's event. Roach and his team, Mark McNamara at third, Travis Stone at second and Robin Nathanson at lead, were up to the task of defending that title and were once again victorious at the event and have earned the right to represent Nova Scotia at the National level for the second time in three years. Last time Roach played for the Travelers Canadian title he finished third. Roach stumbled a bit out of the gate at this year's event, dropping his first match on Friday to Tony Moore of CFB Halifax 8-2, but went on to be a perfect 7-0 following that loss. Many wins were in convincing fashion, the only game that was close was the final against team Mike Callaghan from Mayflower that Roach won 6-5. Roach had previously defeated Callaghan earlier 7-4 in a shortened game.

Schooner's team Gordie Cormier didn't find the win column at the Travelers but expectations weren't high as teams at this event have a level of commitment that we just don't have at our club. Teams play and practice together for a long time before being successful at this type of event. Skip Cormier was joined by Stephen Leslie, Thomas Drover, Mel Windsor and fifth Robert Agnew. Even though they didn't win they still represented our club proudly both on and off the ice.

It was recently announced that the Men's and Women's Travelers National Championship will be held at the Miramachi Curling Club, a six sheet facility in Miramachi New Brunswick, from November 19-24, 2018. There will be fourteen teams in both the men's and women's events. Each team is allowed only one player who has played in a provincial/territorial Juniors', Men's (Brier), Women's (Scotties) or Seniors' championship in the current or previous four curling seasons, or participated in a Grand Slam event in the current or previous four curling seasons. As well, no player on the teams can have played in a Canadian Juniors, Men's,

Women's or Seniors national championship in the current or previous four seasons. This marks the third time the Travelers Curling Club Championship has been staged in Atlantic Canada. In 2010 at Charlottetown, Saskatchewan won men's gold while Alberta claimed the women's gold medal. Four years later in Halifax, Saskatchewan (men) and Ontario (women) won gold medals. Last year in Kingston, Ont., B.C. won the men's championship while Manitoba captured the women's title. Good luck to Team Roach as they take their second crack at bringing a national title home to Cape Breton.

Schooner Teams Return to Blarney Stone

Two Schooner teams made the trip to Baddeck in March to compete at the Blarney Stone Women's Spiel that is held every year around St. Patrick's Day. Lynn Kelly, Cheryl MacKinnon, Yvonne Donovan and Frances Ford made up one team while Samantha Campbell, Bev Young, Georgette Sparkes and Bernadette Cormier were members of the second team. While neither team made it to the playoffs, it was a good showing by the Schooner rinks both on and off the ice.

Junior Learn to Curl



The Schooner Curling Club hosted a second free learn to curl event in March as part of the CBRM's Taste of Winter Festival. The first was held on February 3rd and saw around twenty kids take part and have a great time. The second session, held during March Break, was a huge success with over sixty kids taking part. It was open to junior curlers age sixteen and under that wanted to give curling a try. There were lots of kids who travelled a fair distance to attend this time and there was a large group who came from the Whitney Pier Youth Club as well. Snacks and refreshments were provided by the Schooner Club.

A big thank you goes out to CBRM Recreation and the Taste Of Winter Festival organizers who sponsored two of these events at the club, to Nadine Neima-Drover who organized and took the lead on teaching the kids at these events and to all the members and junior program parents who pitched in to help out, especially at the second event when so many kids took part. We hope that the kids had fun and will continue to pursue the sport of curling in the future.

Weekly Tarabish Games

The weekly Tarabish games will continue to be held every Tuesday evening at the club even after the curling season has ended. To help get games going at a reasonable time, registration is now being cut off at 7pm. Games will begin shortly after that. The way it is setup is that everyone is entered as an individual, not a team. Depending on the number of players on a given night, you are designated to play a set number of games, sometimes within a group, and after each game, individual wins and scores are recorded and then you move on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member has played the number of designated games, scores are tallied and winners determined. The games are well attended and are a great boost to the club and our bar. The games are not



just club members so you can bring a friend if you like.

The Schooner Chase the Ace draw is still ongoing as no one has picked the Ace of Spades yet. As of the last draw in March, the jackpot stood at \$1757 and eleven cards have been picked from the deck, leaving forty one cards left, one of which is that all-important Ace of Spades. The estimated jackpot for the first draw in April will be around \$1900. Tickets are available at the club until 8pm on draw nights and all week at the club's bar. They are also available through the week at Disco Tirecraft, CC Computer Solutions and Cape Breton Glass.

Sales have been a bit slower for this round of Chase the Ace. At this point in the previous Chase the Ace fundraiser, eleven cards drawn, we were at a jackpot of over \$2200 and we had sales that were over \$2000 more than what they are for this draw. That's approximately \$1000 less that the club has made. Last time we had sales of \$600-700 for the first number of weeks and only dropped under \$400 in sales three times throughout the entire draw. This time around we have only exceeded \$400 three times so far. While we do have community partners that sell tickets on our behalf, we rely mainly on members to both purchase and sell the tickets to benefit our club. Chase the Ace in the past has helped fund projects at the club like electrical improvements, new furniture, a new bar fridge and our new LED lighting. Without the proceeds from Chase the Ace, these projects very likely could not have been done. They are essential in the viability of the club moving forward. Proceeds also help keep membership costs down and that benefits everyone. Our membership is \$220 plus HST or \$253 total. That gets you unlimited access to league play. In comparison, Sydney Curling Club's rate is \$385 and the Mayflower Curling Club in Halifax is \$575. There aren't too many places you can spend so little and get a winter full of fun. Next time you are at the club remember to get your tickets at the bar. After curling is done for the season, tickets will be sold on draw nights from 7-8 pm or you can drop by the places listed above throughout the week. Take a few extra books and try to sell them to family, friends, co-workers, whoever. Every dollar earned in this fundraiser directly benefits the club and its members. Who knows, you could win a great prize. Last time the jackpot reached almost \$6000 before it was won.

Sydney CC Spring Spiel

The Annual Sydney Curling Club's Spring Spiel, Sponsored by Coors, was held March 23-25 at the Sydney Curling Club. Teams that play in this spiel are a true mixed team, that is they need to have two men and two women and they need to play alternating positions. This spiel is always a great time and the Schooner Club normally has a number of teams competing and representing our club. This year we had six teams representing Schooner. There were also some individuals from Schooner who were competing with other teams. John Donovan skipped one of the teams and was joined by Cal and Barb Thistle and Yvonne Donovan. Another was the Russell Fitzgerald rink who represented Schooner but had Russell's daughter, Jill and two of her co-workers join Russell to compete. Four of the six Schooner rinks made it to Sunday play. The Wally MacDonald rink and the Gordie Cormier rink met on Sunday morning to see who would challenge for the 'C' division title with Wally coming out on top but later

dropping the championship game. Wally was joined by Kathy Gale, Brian Laughlin and Bernadette Cormier while Gordie had Lynn Kelly, Stephen Leslie and Julia Cormier. The Thomas Drover rink with Thomas, Nadine Neima-Drover, Matt Tubrett and Samantha Campbell played in the 'B' Division semi-final but lost that game to the Robert Black rink from Sydney. The Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink had the best showing of all Schooner rinks as they were crowned 'D' division champs after winning two games on Sunday. Wayne was joined in victory by Cheryl MacKinnon, Bryant Cormier and Frances Ford. Two Schooner members, Georgette Sparkes and Kenny Thomas, joined the John Penney rink to compete in the Spring Spiel. Like Thomas Drover they competed in the 'B' semi-final on Sunday but lost by one to eventual 'B' division winners Yvonne LeFort. Congratulations to the Bonnell foursome and thank you to all Schooner curlers who represented the club proudly.

The Spring Spiel is about more than just curling. There's lots of social activity and great food all weekend as well. Friday night there was some curling trivia, Saturday there was a dance at night after curling with Gary Chew and John Kendall providing the music. It was a great time and Schooner was, as always, well represented. Curlers were treated to lunch and dinner on Saturday and there were snacks, coffee, muffins and cookies supplied all weekend. No one went hungry. New this year, there was even a prize for best team uniforms, or maybe they should be called costumes, on Friday. Thank you to the Sydney Curling Club for the great hospitality and for running such a great event. I'm sure Schooner will have plenty of teams taking part next year.

2 on 2 Spiel

The club will be holding its second 2 on 2 spiel of the season on April 6 and 7. This spiel is already filled to its sixteen team capacity and has been for some time which shows just how popular this format is. The spiel is run in a draw format with play getting underway Friday night and continuing all day Saturday. Entry fee is \$40 per team and will be returned as prizes. A previous 2 on 2 spiel was held in January and was won by Cal Thistle and Rob Angnew. That duo is back again to defend that title and try to make it two in a row. Rules used in our 2 on 2 game differ slightly from the rules of doubles curling that you may have seen on TV during the recent Olympics. We don't have any sweeping if the rock until it crosses the hog line at the target end, there are no rocks in play to begin an end, all six stones are delivered by the team member at the throwing end and players are not permitted to cross center so you can't go down to look at the house at the other end when you are throwing. It makes for a great game that anyone can play and enjoy. All games are six ends and take roughly an hour to play.

Even if you aren't taking part in the spiel why not join us and take in some of the great action at the Schooner 2 on 2 Spiel in April.

Closing Spiel

The final curling event of the 2017-18 season, the Schooner Closing Spiel, will be held from April 24-28 and registration is now open. The spiel is open to everyone for an entry fee of \$20 and that gets you three games, lunch on Saturday and there will be prizes for all who take part. Choose

from the Tuesday/Thursday or the Wednesday/Friday divisions. All curlers will play on Saturday. If you have any special scheduling requests please make them known when you sign up. We provide all the equipment and instruction if required. Join us for the Schooner Closing Spiel and help us end our season off right. After the final rocks are thrown in the closing we will be shutting down for the summer. Don't miss your final chance to curl at the Schooner this season!!

Club Executive and Elections

Everyone is reminded that, as we approach the end of the season, we also approach the time when we pick a new club executive and committee heads. While we hope most current members will re-offer, anyone interested in any position is encouraged to make that known. A sign up poster will be posted on the Schooner Club's bulletin board and members can put their names in for any position they would like to hold. If two or more people offer for the same position, an election will be held at the end of season general meeting.

We would like to express our gratitude to Gordie Cormier, club president, as well as all of the executive members and committee heads who have served for this season and have given their time and effort to make the 2017-18 season a great one. We hope you will all consider re-offering for your positions.

Any member who has some free time to give is asked to consider joining the team that helps make the Schooner Club the great place that it is.

Skating Party



The Schooner Curling club will once again be holding what has now become an end-of-season tradition, the annual skating party. The closing spiel will finish up on April 28 and the skating party will be held on Sunday, April 29 from 2-4 and begin the demise of our curling ice. Members and their families are invited to bring their skates and have a different kind of fun in our rink. Refreshments for everyone will be provided by the club. Plan to join us for this final on ice event of the 2017-18 season.

Closing Banquet

The Schooner Curling Club will be holding its closing banquet, awards night and dance on Saturday, May 12 at the Sydney Pensioner's Club on the corner of Inglis and Price Streets. There will be a cocktail hour starting at 6pm with dinner being served at 7pm. Prize presentations for all leagues will follow and we will wrap up the evening with a dance with music by DJ Jimmy. The banquet is open to all members and guests including junior members and parents. There will be a pre-registration at the club for dinner and a deposit for all members must be made. Members make a \$10 deposit that will be refunded when you attend. The cost for guests is \$12 and is non-refundable. All deposits and payments must be made before the event. See the club for more information.

Schooner Golf and BBQ



With curling season coming to an end we now start looking forward to summer time activities. For many, that means golf. To that end, the Schooner Curling Club has held a golf outing and BBQ for the last number of years that has proven to be very popular with golfers and non-golfers alike. While no official announcement has been made regarding the event, we are hopeful that Lynn Kelly will once again take on the organizing and running of our annual golf outing with the assistance of Gary Landry who has worked hard along with Lynn to make the event very enjoyable the last few years. Watch the club's website and bulletin board for more information and registration sheets. This has always been a great event that has grown in popularity over the years so we certainly hope it will go again this year.

The End of Another Season

It's been another great season at the Schooner Curling Club, one that seems like it started just a short time ago but one that is now almost at its end. League play has been fun and competitive again this season and the favorable winter weather meant that there were minimal cancellations, much to the enjoyment of draw master Cal Thistle. Congratulations to all league winners and a big thank you to all our league sponsors, Cape Breton Beverages, The Old Triangle and Don Cherry's Sports Grill. The club saw more improvements this year with the addition of LED lighting in both the ice area and clubhouse, improving the quality of light as well as providing us savings on our power bill. We also saw the implementation of a new point of sale system for our bar that improved inventory management and made it much easier on our treasurer to get reports and do his job.

The season also saw a lot of great spiels held and a lot of new faces take part. The Women's Sweetheart spiel is always one of the most anticipated events of the season and it was, once again, a huge success. The Schooner Cash Spiel was also a very popular event that, this year, filled up early and wound up being one of the most successful Cash Spiels in many years. Two on Two curling at the club remains popular as well which was evident in the waiting list to get in on the two on two spiels that were held in January and early April. Schooner members also took to the road to compete with teams from our club taking part in the Port Hawkesbury Cash Spiel, the Ship Hector in New Glasgow, the Blarney Stone in Baddeck and the Sydney Coors Light Spring Spiel. Fun Nights returned to the club as well this season and were very well attended, bringing important new faces to the club to try the sport of curling. The Schooner Junior Program was active at the club again this season and, like regular membership, also saw some better numbers in those taking part. All the kids had a good year and learned a lot. They also competed outside the club in spiels at the Baddeck and Sydney curling clubs.

We wish to thank all of the club's sponsors for helping to support us as without these local businesses and organizations we would be hard pressed to survive. Another way we maintain a healthy financial position is through fundraising and that is why the current Chase the Ace promotion is so important to us. Please don't forget to participate after the season has ended. While money is very important in keeping the doors of the club

open, volunteers are really the heart and soul of the Schooner Curling Club. Without the countless hours that are given by all of our volunteers, we would never be able to maintain the club as we know it. The executive and committee heads, the bartenders, the ice crew, those who help with fundraising, those who help with spiels and other special events, the list goes on. Thank you all.

As our time at the club grows short and we look forward to our summer time activities, I encourage you all to keep the club in mind for upcoming events like the Schooner Golf outing and BBQ, Chase the Ace that will continue every Tuesday until the elusive ace of spades is caught and our weekly tarabish game, also held on Tuesday evenings all year. Keep an eye on the Schooner website for other events that may crop up over the summer like a washer toss tournament or a kids fun day during Action Week.

As I finish this last 'In the Hack' for the season I want to thank everyone who takes the time to read it and I hope you find it both informative and entertaining. The same goes for the Schooner website and Facebook. I also want to thank all Schooner members for helping to make the club such a great place to spend time. We'll go our separate ways for the summer and enjoy the season but I always look forward to when fall is in the air and the days grow shorter because that is the time when we make our return to the Schooner Curling club for another season, raise our glasses and wish one another '*Good Curling*' once again. Have a great summer everyone. See you again next season at the Schooner Curling Club.