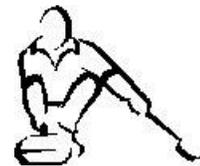


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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 91

April 2019

Doubles (2 on 2) Spiel	April 5-6
Spaghetti orders should be placed	Monday, April 8
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	Friday, April 12
Schooner Fun Night	Saturday, April 13
Closing Spiel	April 25-27
Closing Dance	Saturday, April 27
Skating Party	Sunday, April 28
Closing Banquet	Saturday, May 11
Schooner Golf	TBA
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

League Roundup



League play is wrapping up for the 2018-19 season with playoffs in both the Old Triangle Men's League and the Don Cherry's Team Entry well underway and the Pepsi Mixed League almost set to play the final games of its second leg early in April. At the end of March it looks like Kevin Gouthro will continue his winning ways this season and take the second half title in the Mixed. A game late in March against the Keith MacEachern rink that was Gouthro won has made it impossible for anyone to catch him. If MacEachern had won, he would have still been in the running for the title. Congratulations to Kevin and his team, Samantha Campbell, Bill Moss and Alicia Deagle.

The Don Cherry's Team entry saw the twelve teams split into two divisions to play a round robin within each of those divisions. Divisions were determined by placement in the standings of each team. Scheduled games wrapped up on March 31 but there are a few makeup games to play before it is decided which two teams from each division will cross over and play to determine who will compete in the championship game for the playoff title. April 7 has been designated as a week that makeup games will be played but other free ice can and probably will be used to make up missed games. There are also make up games from the regular season that need to be decided before a regular season winner can be crowned as well.

As with Team Entry, the teams in the Old Triangle Men's League were also split into two divisions for a round robin with the top two teams from each division playing to make it to the finals. The Kevin Gouthro Rink took the regular season title when they went undefeated in round two, the only blemish on the perfect record being a tie against the Brian Laughlin rink. Joining Kevin was Lonnie Howe at mate, Mike Cormier as second and lead Todd MacAulay. Congratulations to you all. What was once a close

race in the Men's League between four teams, Gouthro, Wally MacDonald, Gary Landry and Gordie Cormier, wasn't very close at the end at all with three teams faltering badly in the second half, MacDonald and Landry dropping three of seven games and Cormier dropping four, leaving the undefeated Gouthro rink well out in front. The final round robin games are set for April 4th and the semi-final and final game are set for April 11. That may change if there is ice available so as not to require teams playing for the Men's League playoff title to have to play two games in one night. Watch the club's website for that and any other potential schedule changes.

The Schooner Junior Program is set to wrap up in April with a final on ice session and year-end party scheduled for Saturday, April 20. They also have practices on Sunday, April 7 and Saturday, April 13 this month as well. On March 31, the Schooner Juniors took part in the Sydco Fuels Junior Spiel at the Sydney Curling Club. It's been a good year for the Junior program with the ranks expanding enough to require the split of the curlers into two groups. We hope to see the numbers expand even further with two successful Junior Learn to Curl events that were held at the club this season, the second of which saw around 50 kids show up, that introduced a lot of new kids to the sport of curling.

The Schooner Junior Program will be under the reigns of new coaches when it takes the ice next season as Nadine Neima-Drover and Thomas Drover have stepped down as coaches of the program. Nadine has been junior coordinator for a few years now and agreed to take the program this year for one final season so replacements could be found. With no kids in the program this year and a move from Schooner to the Sydney Curling Club for both Thomas and Nadine, there was no longer a good reason for them to run the Juniors. The Schooner Club would like to send out a huge thank you to Nadine and Thomas for all their hard work in running the program, coaching and fund raising over the last few years. You will be missed. The Schooner Junior program will continue next season under new coordinator Ceilidh Forrest.

Matinee Curling will soon be ending for the season as well. Scheduled for Fridays from 1-3 PM, Matinee curling is a great way for members who are available during the day to get a little more ice time for their membership dollar. Check the Schooner Website and watch Facebook for when Matinee Curling will be held in April.

One more league related note to pass along. With the departure of draw master Cal Thistle to the sunny south in early March, Julia Cormier took over his duties as draw master and has been doing the job for a while now. She came on to assist Cal early in the season and took on full duties for pretty much all the second half. Julia did a great job as draw master and we want to thank her for helping out and taking on such an important role.

All Schooner members are reminded that there will be a 2 on 2 spiel from April 5-6. Registration is closed and teams are picked. Originally set up as a ladies only spiel, it was opened up to all Schooner members after the cancellation of the March 2 on 2 event. Teams were made through a

Doubles (2 on 2) Spiel

random draw from those entered and all entry money will be returned in prizes. This spiel is run in a draw format and is double knockout. All teams will play their first games on Friday night. Lunch will be served on Saturday. Watch the Schooner website for rosters and first round draws. There will be eight teams competing in the weekend event and all members and guests are invited to drop by and take in some of the action.

Fun Night

The final Schooner Fun Night of the season was scheduled for Saturday, March 16 but the overwhelming success of that event along with the inquiries that were received about when the next one would be, it was decided that another Fun Night would be added on Saturday, April 13. About fifty people joined us at the club for the March Fun Night and had a great time curling and celebrating St. Paddy's day along with the birthdays of ice maker Brian Laughlin and Vice President Richard Lorway. Yes, there was cake and it was delicious.

Let's all get together and make this final Fun Night the best of the season. Fun Nights are open to everyone so round up your family, your friends, co-workers, whoever and get down to the club for a great time. For only \$7 (\$4 for Schooner Club members) you get to try curling, eat delicious pizza and maybe even get a chance at winning a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. If you haven't tried curling before or are relatively new to the sport, we will supply all the equipment you need and the instruction. You just need to have clean sneakers for the ice. Will there be cake? You'll just have to show up and see for yourself.

Closing Spiel and Dance

The Schooner Club will be holding its final curling event of the season, the closing spiel, from April 25 to 27. This spiel is open to everyone and is single entry for a cost of \$20 per player. You can choose from the Thursday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday divisions. Each team will play one game either Thursday or Friday and two games on Saturday and lunch will be provided to help keep energy levels high. Sign up is now available at the club or you can email us and we'll get you registered. Check the Schooner website and the club bulletin board for more information. After curling is done on Saturday we invite everyone to join us for the final big party of the season at the club when we will hold a dance from 9-1. Everyone is welcome (19+) and there's no cover charge. Let's end the curling season with a bang.

Schooner Well Represented

There were a number of Schooner teams playing on the road in March and representing the club well. Coralie Ayre and her foursome which also included Heidi Bishop, Carrie Cress and Samantha Campbell, made their way to Amherst to compete in the Women's Nova Scotia Club Championship, formerly known as the Traveler's Championship. While the Ayre rink didn't win the event and the right to represent Nova Scotia at the national championships, they held their own and chalked up a few wins against the strong field. That's pretty good for a team that has only been

together for a short time and didn't have a lot of time to practice as a team.

The Gordie Cormier rink made their way to the Antigonish area in early March to compete in a cash spiel at the Highlander club in St. Andrews. Cormier did well at the weekend event, dropping only one game on his way to winning the 'B' division championship. Skip Cormier was joined by Kevin Gouthro, Stephen Leslie and Julia Cormier.

The Schooner Club was again represented on the ladies side with a team from the club representing us at the Blarney Stone Women's Spiel in the Baddeck Curling Club. The Schooner club has taken part in this spiel for the past number of years. This time Lynn Kelly, Cheryl MacKinnon, Yvonne Donovan and Frances Ford carried the Schooner banner. While they didn't win a championship, they had a great time and did a fine job representing the club.

Last, but certainly not least, the club was well represented at the Sydney Curling Club's Spring Mixed Spiel held in late March. There were a few all Schooner teams taking part and there were a number of Schooner members who teamed up with other rinks to take part. Congratulations to you all.

Skating Party



After the final rocks are thrown in the Closing Spiel on April 27, the Schooner club will be holding what has become a great tradition over the last few years, our year end skate. With curling done for the season, we allow members, their families and guests to strap on their skates and tear up the ice before we let it melt away. Plan to join on Sunday, April 28, from 2-4pm and help us close out the year. Refreshments will be served and we'll have lots of fun.

Junior Learn To Curl

The final Learn to Curl at the Schooner Club as part of the CBRM's Taste of Winter Festival was held on Thursday, March 21, during the March break for students in Cape Breton. It was open to kids under the age of sixteen and took place at 11am. The event was a tremendous success with somewhere in the vicinity of fifty young people taking part, all learning and enjoying the sport of curling. Hopefully we will see some of them in the Schooner Junior Program next season. A big thank you goes out to the Schooner members who volunteered to come up and help out and to the CBRM who sponsored the Learn to Curl events at the club this season to help introduce curling to everyone and show them how much fun it can be.

Scotties 50/50

The two Sydney-based curling clubs, the Schooner and the Sydney Curling Club, entered into a joint provincial lottery license to sell 50/50 tickets during all draws of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts that was held in February at Sydney's Centre 200. Volunteers were recruited from each club and from the community to sell the tickets using an electronic system that was supplied and setup by a company called 5050 Central Ltd. The system worked very well and was very easy to use. Tickets sales went very well with total sales for the week in the \$135,000 range. That total included sales for the final game that exceeded \$20,000

for that one draw alone. Estimated total sales before the event were only in the \$75,000 range, a mark that was well exceeded. After prizes were given out and costs, such as the charge by 5050 Central for the setup and use of the terminals, printers and system, and taxes were deducted the overall profit was somewhere in the \$50,000 range, an amount that the two clubs would split.

It was suggested by Thomas Drover, representing the CBRM Curling Assoc., that there may be an opportunity to grow that large sum of money into an even larger sum by leveraging it and trying to get grants from government and other organizations that may have money available for projects proposed by organizations like ours.

Meetings were held in March to explore options and get a feeling for what the two clubs wanted to get out of the whole process. As part of one of these meetings, a special guest, Jodie McDavid, was brought in to speak. Jodie is a consultant that specializes in grant availability and writing for non-profit organizations and offered some suggestions as to how to proceed in seeking out money and applying for the grants. Jodie also talked about what she can offer and what that might cost. After she left the meeting, there was more discussion on what she had talked about and whether it would be worthwhile to hire her to help us in our search for money. Given that the cost was relatively low compared to the potential funds she could access for us, it was decided that we would retain her services.

Also in that same meeting, Todd Mercer of the Sydney Curling Club reported that he had a conversation with someone as ACOA and that he was told there was no more opportunity with them in the current fiscal year that was ending in March 2019 but he said that the new Federal Budget should have some more money that we may be able to tap into. Todd also said that he felt that the ACOA representative was upbeat about our potential chances and encouraged our efforts.

Moving forward, the members of the committee that will be charged with the task of working towards applying for and getting the grant money must be finalized. It will include three members from each club as well as two members from the CBRMCA, Thomas Drover and Richard Lorway. They will work with Jodie McDavid to identify and go after any opportunities. Also, the group will be tasked with drafting an agreement that will lay down the rules and guild lines under which it will operate. A deadline date for which the grants must be reasonably attainable, September first is being discussed, will be set and an understanding of how funds will be distributed must be agreed upon. Also, an emergency clause may be written in so that either club can access all or part of their share of the existing principle if something unforeseen occurs and necessitates the need for a large sum of money quickly.

The Schooner Club representatives for this committee will be Gordie Cormier, Lynn Kelly and Frances Ford. As mentioned, Richard Lorway will also sit on the committee but as a representative of the CBRMCA.

The Scotties 50/50 was a tremendous win fall for both clubs and we now have a golden opportunity to grow that large sum of money even more to benefit both organizations and go a long way to making sure both facilities and curling programs in the area are strong for years to come.



Fundraiser

The Schooner Club is holding a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, April 12. We hope everyone has been out getting lots of orders. Orders should be submitted by Monday, April 8. Volunteers will be required for Thursday night, April 11, for prep and on Friday morning, April 12, for plating and delivery. If you have time to help out please sign up at the club. The more people we have to help, the smoother everything will go. Dinners are being made by Tommy Young and are \$10 each. The club will receive half of the proceeds from each dinner. Tommy's spaghetti is very good and very well know in the community. Please try to sell as many dinners as possible. We are hoping each member will come up with at least two or three sales. The money raised will go directly into the club and benefit all members.

Snowball



Don't forget to play the Snowball anytime you are at the club. It's open to members only and runs during any regularly scheduled curling league event. It only costs \$2 to play and we have already had a few big winners, most recently when the jackpot grew to over \$250.

All members are assigned a number on the membership list posted at the bar. On any night that the Snowball is running, members can sign in and pay the \$2 entry. While you don't have to be present to win, you must be at the club on the day of the draw to sign in, you can't have someone else sign you in on your behalf or sign in for any future draws ahead of time. If the number drawn belongs to a member who is signed in for that draw, they win the jackpot. If the number drawn is for a member who is not signed in, the jackpot carries over and "snowballs" into a bigger jackpot. Each entry means \$1 more toward the total prize while \$1 goes to the club. Do don't forget to sign in for the Snowball the next time you curling and you may win a great cash prize!

Tuesday Tarabish

Tuesday night tarabish continues at the club and continues to be popular. The games are open to everyone and are single entry. Partners rotate throughout the evening and points and wins are tallied on an individual basis. Once the designated number of games are played, the points are added up and the winners determined. These games are lots of fun and the bar is open to purchase refreshments. Take a chance at the even split and enjoy some free snacks. Join us any Tuesday. The games get going at 7pm and are planned to run throughout the summer.

Club Elections

As it is with the end of every season, the Schooner club must elect a new executive and group of committee heads for the upcoming year. All positions are open, even if the person holding a position is reoffering for it. If more than one person signs up for a position on the executive or as a committee head, a vote will be held at the closing general meeting to determine who will hold the position. A date for the Spring General Meeting has yet to be set. A registration sheet will be available at the club

Closing Banquet and Awards

for this interested to sign up for any executive or committee head position. Check the club's bulletin board or the Schooner website for more information as it becomes available.

The Schooner Curling Club's closing banquet and awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 4th at the Sydney Pensioner's Club on the corner of Inglis and Prince streets in Sydney. The evening will start with a cocktail hour and meet and greet from 6-7pm and dinner will be served at 7. Awards will be presented to all league winners as well as to the Junior Program curlers following dinner. There will be a dance from 9-1 with DJ Jimmy. All members and their guests are welcome as well as junior members and parents. All members are asked to pay a meal deposit at the bar that will be refunded at the banquet. Guests are welcome for dinner but must be prepaid and this amount is not refundable. Guests (19+) are also welcome at the dance and there is no charge for that. Watch the club bulletin board and club website for more information as it become available. Please pay your dinner deposits and for guest's dinner at the bar when registration is open. It's going to be a great night and it's a great way to end off a wonderful curling season. Please plan to join us.

Schooner Golf and BBQ



With the end of another curling season drawing near, the temperatures outside climbing and the days getting longer, many of us are starting to turn our attention from curling and look toward the summer and its activities. For many, one of the favorite summertime activities is golf. With that in mind, the Schooner Curling Club will once again be holding its annual Golf Outing and BBQ. It's a little early for an exact date yet but it's normally held in mid to late June. Your entry fee, last year set at \$35, gets you nine holes of golf and a delicious steak BBQ back at the club. There are also other games played at the course and at the club and there are lots of great prizes to be won. Watch the Schooner website and Facebook for more information as it becomes available. Once registration is open you can do so at the club most during regular activities and on Tuesday evenings during Tarabish once curling is done or you can send us an email or message on Facebook. This event enjoyed its best year ever last season so let's try and make this year even better. Again, this event is open to everyone so call your family, friends, co-workers, whoever likes to golf and bring them along. For those non-golfers, dinner only is also available.

End of Another Season

It always surprises me, even after curling at the Schooner for a number of years now, how fast a curling season can go by. When I look back at the 2018-19 season, it seems like such a short time ago that Brian and the crew were putting the ice in and we were throwing the first rocks in the Opening Spiel. Now, we are getting ready to soon throw the final rocks in the Closing Spiel and finish the year with our annual skating party. It was a great season at the Schooner Club and it was a great season for curling overall in Cape Breton. The 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts

brought some of the best women curlers in the country, if not the world, to Cape Breton and not only entertained us all with some great action but also generated a lot of new interest in the game of curling in general. Cape Breton really stepped up for the Scotties with a high level in interest, great hospitality and a huge level of commitment that was more than evident by the large number of volunteers who worked so hard to make the event the great success it was. The legacy that the Scotties left behind will help curling in the area and especially the two local curling clubs with not only new interest in the sport but also with the large amount of financial benefit that came from the event. There will be some money from Curling Canada from a legacy fund but there is also the big win fall that we will share that came from the 50/50 draws that were held at the event. Even though the sum of money available now is large, the two local clubs are working together and have formed a joint committee with the CBRM Curlers Association to try and leverage that money with further grants so the benefit can be even bigger. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make the Scotties a great event and helped put Cape Breton on the curling map.

The Schooner Club certainly enjoyed another successful year with lots of great curling at the club and lots of social activities too. League play went well this year with minimal interruptions from mother nature. Cal Thistle and Julia Cormier shared the duties of draw master and did a great job together. Thank you both. Congratulations to all the winners and soon to be winners.

We also saw a lot of success this year with other events like fun nights and spiels. Fun Nights were very popular and the March event was so well attended that an additional Fun Night was added in April. A big thanks goes out to Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale for all the work they put into these nights. Spiels were also very successful this year, once again being run by committee rather than by just one person. The Schooner Cash Spiel was again filled this season as was the Women's Sweetheart Spiel, both signature events on the club's calendar for sure. From the opening spiel to the upcoming closing, everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who took part, especially those who joined us from outside of the club and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make them such a success.

A season can't be complete without sending out a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who put in countless hours and work so tirelessly to make the club the great place it is. Without the effort that you all put in, the Schooner Club could not exist. A big thank you to the Schooner executive committee, Gordie, Richard, Lynn, Frances, Cal and Julia who spend so much time to not only make the club run smoothly and keep the bank account balanced but also put in so much more to make the club better each year with upgrades and additions that benefit us all. To Brian and the ice crew who always give us fantastic curling ice to play on, to Kevin and all the volunteer bartenders who keep us all "hydrated", to Georgette and Bernadette who do so much to keep the place neat and clean, to all the other committee heads and members who put time in to plan and run events and to everyone who pitches in throughout the season to pebble, nip, hang a door, clean a sewer line or whatever else

needs to be done, your efforts do not go unnoticed. A special thank you goes out to Nadine Neima-Drover who took on the position of Junior Program Coordinator and to Thomas Drover who helped coach, even though they weren't Schooner members this season and had no kids in the program, to help us out and give us time to find a replacement to look after the program next year. Ceilidh Forrest has generously volunteered to do that.

Thanks you also goes out to all of the community minded businesses that support the club with advertising and sponsorship and to everyone who plays the snowball, buys an even split, a spaghetti dinner, a chase the ace ticket or a 649 entry, every little bit helps.

Even though this is the last edition of 'In the Hack' for the season and the year is coming to a close, there's still lots to look forward to in April and even beyond. The 2 on 2 spiel, the Closing Spiel and Dance and the year-end banquet are all coming up soon. Keep an eye on the Schooner website for other upcoming events throughout the summer like the Schooner Golf Day and BBQ and a washer toss tournament and don't forget that every Tuesday we will still have our weekly tarabish game and we will also have our Tuesday Summer Socials, both open to everyone. Have a great summer everyone. Enjoy the long evenings, the warm weather, sitting on a beach or enjoying a cold beverage on the deck. We may not always realize it but we live in a fabulous place and Cape Breton has so much to offer us, go and enjoy it all. But when the evenings turn cool and the days grow short, remember the Schooner Club and plan to join us again for another winter filled with fun. Take care and stay safe and I hope I can see you all again in the fall when we will once again wish each other *"Good Curling"*.

Happy Easter

