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# *In The Hack*

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 98

April, 2020

Friday, April 3	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (cancelled)
April 23-25	Closing Spiel (cancelled)
Saturday, April 25	Closing Spiel Dance (cancelled)
Saturday, May 16	Year End Banquet and Dance (cancelled)
June 2020 (Date TBA)	Schooner Golf
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

## League Roundup



With the sudden closure of the club due to concerns of Covid 19, league play was suspended after Sunday, March 15, leaving many league winners up in the air. Given the severity of the situation that became more evident in the days after the club's closure, the overall winners of league titles is unimportant in the general scheme of things but, for anyone interested, here is how we left off.

In the Don Cherry's Team Entry League, playoffs were underway and were in the third week of a five week round robin. With makeup games needed to be played to determine a regular season winner, we currently don't have a first place team for that as well.

In the Pepsi Mixed League, Round two was well underway after the first round wrapped up in early February. Team Keith MacEachern was the first place finisher in round one.

The Old Triangle Men's League had just wrapped up regular season play the week prior to the closure with Gordie Cormier taking the regular season title, having lost only one game all season. Joining skip Cormier was Bryant Cormier, Justin Humphrey and Ray Smith. Ray had joined the team later in the season after one of the eight teams was dissolved and the league dropped to seven teams. Playoffs were set to get underway but never got started due to the suspension of play.

The Schooner Junior program was also suspended but had enjoyed a successful season up to that point. They were scheduled to compete in one more spiel for the season but that was also cancelled.

With the uncertainty that is currently surrounding this whole Corona Virus outbreak, we are hopeful that the 2020-21 season will be possible.

## Mixed Doubles Spiel

The Mixed Doubles Spiel that was scheduled for March 20 and 21 was cancelled due to the closure of the club. Interest was good for this event and there were a number of teams signed up. We hope to run an event like this next season.

## **Schooner Fun Night St. Paddy's Day**

The final Schooner Fun Night of the year was held on Saturday, March 14th and was well attended with about 25-30 people taking in the event, having fun curling and celebrating both St. Paddy's Day and a couple of club birthdays. The club was decorated and many of the attendees were decked out in green in true St. Patrick's day spirit. There was a big birthday cake for Schooner ice maker Brian Laughlin and Schooner VP Richard Lorway, both celebrating birthdays on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. It was a great night and a great way to end off the Schooner Fun Nights for the season. A Big thank you goes out to everyone who attended the Schooner Fun Nights this past season and to Fun Night coordinators Kathy Gale and Janet Gallivan who worked hard all season to make the Fun Nights great. We hope to see you both back next year looking after the events.

## **Schooner Stick Spiel**

The Schooner Stick Spiel that was to take place from March 5-7 at the club wound up being cancelled as there weren't enough participants signed up. The Club ended up holding a one day 2 on 2 event for members who had registered for the spiel and, as it would have been in the Fun Spiel, all participants had to use a curling stick, there was no slide curling allowed. A total of sixteen members or eight teams took part and all teams play three, six-end games. Even though the event was cut a bit short by some bad weather, all who took part agreed it was a fun and interesting way to curl. We will look at the possibility of a stick curling spiel again next season.

## **Team Ayre Competes at Club Championships**

A team from Schooner skipped by Coralie Ayre competed at the Nova Scotia Women's Curling Club Championships (formerly the Travelers) that was held at the Amherst Curling Club from March 5th to 8th. Skip Coralie was joined by Heidi Bishop, Patti Merigan and Marcie Bungay, the same foursome that competes in the Don Cherry's Team Entry League at the Schooner Club.

Team Ayre got off to a good start at the competition with an 8-4 win over Liz Garnet's rink in seven ends. Ayre and her squad went on to drop the next two games on Thursday, the first a 7-4 loss to Darlene Gollan and then a 6-5 heartbreaker in an extra end to Holly Sanford, a game that saw Sanford get two in the final end to force the extra and then steal the game in the ninth. Team Ayre bounced back strong on Friday, winning both games they played by big scores, a 10-1 win over Kathleen Trites in a short five end game and then followed that up with a 10-0 win over Kate Thompson in four ends. In both of those games, the Schooner foursome got off to quick starts, scoring four in the first end of each game. Ayre continued her winning ways and her quick starts on Saturday, scoring a huge six in the first end against Sharon Murray-Sellers on her way to a 12-5 victory in seven ends. That win set up a Saturday afternoon showdown against Darlene Gollan, a team that Ayre had fallen to 7-4 earlier in the event. In that game, Ayre gave up two three-enders and eliminating those bigger scores would be important to beat Gollan. Ayre did move on to play one more game that day, a game where a victory would have moved her into a qualifying game, but lost that last match and was eliminated from play. Overall, a great showing by the Schooner ladies at a very tough event.

## **Team Cormier at St. Andrews Cash Spiel**

The Gordie Cormier rink took part in a cash spiel at the St. Andrews Curling Club just outside of Antigonish from March 6-8. This was the second trip to this spiel for Cormier in as many years. Joining skip Cormier this time around was Chris Glibota, Stephen Leslie and Julia Cormier.

Team Cormier played their first game on Friday evening and came out with a tie. They took the ice again on Saturday morning, winning in a shortened, five-end game. Cormier's rink continued their winning ways on Saturday and finished in the top spot in 'A', making it to play the fourth seed in a semi final on Sunday morning. Another win put them into the 'A' final where they met up with the Wayne Sangster rink. Sangster took that game and the 'A' title with Cormier and his foursome having to settle for second place. Congratulations to Gordie, Chris, Steve and Julia on another great showing at St. Andrews.

## **649 Fundraiser**

The Schooner Club ran another 649 Fundraiser in March with draws getting underway on Wednesday, March 11. Rules were the same as in the past with all participants choosing six numbers between 1 and 49 for each entry. Entries were \$5 each or three for \$10. A total of \$1195 was collected, making the 50/50 first prize \$597.50. In the end there were two winners, Pat Moore and Lisa Mayich. Congratulations to you both. A top seller prize of \$50 was also awarded and this time was taken by the Schooner Junior group. Way to go Juniors and thank you for a great effort to help the club. Thank you to everyone who sold entries and also to everyone who purchased them. Thanks to the Schooner Juniors for your great effort and a big thank you to Lynn Kelly for organizing and running the fundraiser. We hope we can do it again next season.

## **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

After the great success we had with our spaghetti dinner last year, the Schooner Executive had decided to go ahead with one this year as well. Tommy Young was lined up to prepare the dinners for Friday, April 3, but, with the early closure of the club and all the restrictions put in place by government, the dinner fundraiser had to be cancelled. It's disappointing but certainly understandable and unavoidable. The club hopes to get Tommy involved again next season and make another attempt to run the fundraiser.

## **Tuesday Tarabish and Social**

With the sudden closure of the club and the suspension of all activity, the weekly Tuesday night tarabish game and social were also cancelled. Given that they ran year round, continuing beyond the curling season itself and throughout the summer and fall, if restrictions get eased in the future, we may be able to restart the Tuesday night events. That will certainly be dependent on the situation that evolves. You can keep an eye on the Schooner website and Facebook for news about these and other events that happen in the off season and get updates on those events as they become available.

## Facebook

Schooner Curling Club's presence on Facebook continues to grow and we are now up to over 710 likes. Facebook is being used more and more to get information to both club members and the general public and we have seen a slight decrease in traffic at the Schooner website since that has taken place. The website is still the main place to find all club related information but Facebook is being used more to deliver info and in a timely manner. The Schooner members Facebook group seemed to work pretty well this year with a good number of members taking part and using the group to share information and request spares when they couldn't make games. Overall, the experiment was a success and it looks like we will continue to use the group in the future.

If anyone has any suggestions or feedback regarding the Schooner Facebook site or in relation to our online presence in general, please feel free to leave comments or send us a message or email with your thoughts.

## Year-end Banquet and Dance

The Schooner Club's Year-end awards banquet and dance has been cancelled due to the ongoing social issues with the Covid-19 virus. The Schooner executive felt that this was the best course of action given the current situation and it is looking like it will be quite likely that we will be seeing rules regarding social gathering and distancing continue to be enforced for the foreseeable future. For now, we are just in a wait and see situation but if things change over the coming months it is possible a gathering to celebrate the 2019-20 season and honor our winners will be planned.

## Schooner Elections

Given the sudden end to Schooner's season and all of the current restrictions in place regarding gatherings and social distancing, it will be impossible for the club to hold elections for executive members and committee heads. Election of these positions normally would have taken place at the club's spring general meeting. For now, the current slate of members for all positions is still in place and will continue to act on the club's behalf in their respective roles. If the current situation re. Covid 19 virus subsides and rules are relaxed, elections could possibly be held at the fall general meeting. Anyone wishing to offer for a position on the club's executive or as a committee head will have opportunity to run at that time. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and Facebook page for updates re. this situation.

## Off Season Events

As with most things, the uncertainty of our current situation has brought into question whether we will be able to hold any of our usual off-season events like Schooner Golf and our annual washer toss tournament. For now, we remain hopeful but as restrictions on social interaction mount and the timeframe grows longer, we cannot say anything for sure. We will try to provide updates on the Schooner website and Facebook page so we encourage anyone who is interested in these events to check there for information as it becomes available.

## End of Another Season

Typically, the April edition of In the Hack is the final one for the season. That has not changed. It recounts what has recently gone on at the club but doesn't cover what happens in the final month of the season, information that is normally included in the first edition of the following season in October. Well, this season is not at all typical, or normal or anything even close to that.

The season started out pretty normally with the ice crew working hard to make ice from the end of September to roughly the third week of October. Actually, ice making went extremely well this year and was ahead of schedule. Schooner's members got back to curling with the Opening spiel and then the start of league play and, even though we lost a few members from the previous season as we always do, even more new members stepped up this season and our membership ranks grew even larger than the previous year. Things were off to a great start. We had lots of money in the bank thanks to the windfall from the Scotties 50/50 of the previous year and the club itself was in great shape thanks to a number of improvements and upgrades carried out over the last couple of seasons. The season progressed well, league play was carrying on and spiels were running successfully. There were a few hiccups along the way but nothing that couldn't be overcome and have the season carry on successfully. February was a great month with two very successful spiels, the Sweetheart and the Open Cash, and we had a great Schooner Fun Night that month as well. Throughout most of the season, no one would have guessed that we would have everything come to a screeching halt in mid-March and have to completely shut down and cancel not only all remaining curling events but pretty much all scheduled events for the foreseeable future. No one would have guessed that a deadly virus would be let loose in China and spread around the world so quickly that the only way to slow its progress would be to bring life to a near standstill for most people, to cancel our everyday routines like school, work, pretty much all social activities and to require us to change our lives so dramatically in hope to slow the progress of the disease and buy time for the medical world to try to come up with a solution. But that is what happened. On Sunday, March 15th, 2020, the club's executive made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel the remainder of the season and, after the final rocks were thrown in the Don Cherry's Team Entry League on that day, the club was closed and the season and all remaining events were cancelled. The ice plant was turned off and the melting of our beloved curling ice was started, a month earlier than what we expected.

No one can disagree that this was the correct decision and that this was the necessary course of action. The time since has certainly showed us that, with more restriction being implemented by government and the time frame for the restrictions being extended. Covid 19 has spread across the world and across our country with few, if any, places remaining untouched. People continue to become infected and, unfortunately, some die.

While I usually take the opportunity in this final newsletter to wish everyone well as we go our separate ways, that I hope you all have a great summer and that I look forward to seeing everyone in the fall as we make our way back to the Schooner Club for another season, this year I cannot do that. I do wish you all well, I do hope you all have as good a summer as can be

expected in these uncertain times but, most of all, I wish you all safety and good health as we navigate through this situation. I wish I could say that I look forward to next season with certainty, but, quite frankly, things are so uncertain right now that we may not be able to go back to our normal lives and routines by the fall, even though that seems so far away right now. So to all Schooner members and friends of the Schooner Club, stay safe and stay healthy. Together we will get through this and hopefully be able to put it behind us soon. I hope that, by the time the days grow short and the leaves turn color in the fall, we can look back on this as if it was just a bad dream and that we can look forward to everything getting back to normal again. That we will once again be able to gather at the Schooner club, wish each other good curling, raise a toast at the end of the game and be able to live our lives without fear of this sickness. Stay safe everyone and stay hopeful.