

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 104**

**April , 2021**

Good Friday - Club Closed	April 2
Easter Sunday - Club Closed	April 4
Closing Spiel	April 22-24
Closing Spiel Social	April 24

**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 nearing the end but we still have some action going on in all three leagues heading into April.

In the Don Cherry's Team Entry league only two teams remain and will play a single championship game on Saturday, April 3 at 6pm. This was due to the Easter Holiday and a schedule conflict the following Sunday. Gary Landry's rink will take on the Gordie Cormier rink to determine a playoff champ. The playoffs were originally supposed to only include a round robin within two separate divisions with the top team from each making it through to the championship game. With a week that was scheduled for potential makeup games suddenly opening up as it wasn't necessary to play any make-ups, teams involved decided to allow for a playoff semi-final where teams would cross over, meaning team one in a division would play team two in the other division. That meant division winner Gordie Cormier would face Brian Laughlin and the top team in the opposing division, Kevin Gouthro, would face Gary Landry. Landry and Laughlin both had to win their final round robin games to get in. Cormier defeated Laughlin in a game that came down to the last shot where skip Gordie had a draw for a point to avoid an extra end and win. In the other semi final, an outcome that could only be called a surprise, Gary Landry and his foursome soundly defeated the Gouthro rink in a shortened, seven end affair that had Landry well in control for the majority of the game.

While other games were scheduled in the Team Entry for the remainder of the season, some teams did not want to continue play. It was decided that the ice would be opened to members and allow anyone who wanted to come and play to do so. That will be the case for the next Sunday as well, April 11. The club is closed on Easter Sunday. There is one game scheduled between Bryant Cormier and Peter Macintyre at noon. Any other teams that want to reserve ice for a set game should contact Julia Cormier to reserve a time and have it added to the schedule. Otherwise, all members are invited for pickup curling on that Sunday.

The Old Triangle Men's League playoffs continue as well with the round robin portion originally scheduled to have been completed late in March.

The schedule was extended a week due to an ice issue on one Thursday and that means the round robin will finish up on April 1st with semi final games being scheduled for April 8 and the championship game the following Thursday. The semi final will see the first place finisher of the round robin portion play the fourth place team while teams two and three will face off. While Kevin Gouthro, Gordie Cormier and Wally MacDonald have all clinched a semi final spot, positioning of those teams and who will make up the fourth place team are still to be decided in the final week of round robin play.

The Pepsi Mixed League doesn't have a playoff and league play in round two will continue for three more weeks, finishing up on April 21, just before the Closing Spiel. There are still a number of teams in the running to win top spot in round two.

With this being the final newsletter of the season, check back in October for updates on winners in 'In the Hack' or check out the Schooner website for up to date results. It's been a great season of league play and we would like to thank everyone who took part and draw master Julia Cormier for all her hard work in organizing and running the leagues all season. Good luck to all curlers as they finish up the year.

## **Matinee Curling**

Matinee Curling will continue in April and run until through to the end of the curling season. It takes place on Friday afternoons from 1-3 and is open to all Schooner members. This is a drop in event so, if you have some from time on a Friday afternoon, drop by and take part. It's a great way to get a little bit more out of your club membership.

## **Doubles Spiel Team Entry**

The Schooner club hosted a team entry doubles or '2 on 2' spiel from March 5-6 at the club that was open to all Schooner members. Entry was limited to sixteen teams of two and that limit was quickly reached, showing the popularity of the doubles format in the club. At the Schooner Club, we don't play this format using the traditional doubles rules but a hybrid of those rules that were developed for a game known as 'Sturling'. Sturling was aimed at being more inclusive and allow both slide and stick curlers to play the same game and this seems to be popular with our members. The main differences are there are no rocks placed in play at the beginning of an end as there would be in traditional doubles, only one member of a team throws rocks in a given end where both throw in an end in doubles and there is no sweeping allowed until the rock crosses the far hog line while doubles does allow for more traditional sweeping of the stone.

To accommodate a better draw schedule, the sixteen teams were split into two divisions of eight teams each with each division acting almost as its own mini spiel. Within each division there was a championship and consolation bracket. Entry fees were returned as prize money and that money was split evenly between the two divisions, four teams from each getting in on the prizes.

Play got underway early on Friday evening with all sixteen teams from both divisions seeing their first action. Winners of these games would continue on in the championship bracket and losers would move to consolation.

Given that teams would be eliminated upon losing two games, a win in the first match was very important. Division one got things started on Friday and in the first draw, Bill Farr and Richard Lorway were winners along with Joe Erickson and Keith MacEachern. These two teams would meet each other for their second game. Division two got underway and saw Justin Humphrey and Greg Wall as well as Lynn Kelly and Bob Smith victorious. The next draw switched back to division one and had Brian Laughlin and Gordie Cormier as well as Kelley Laughlin and Robert Agnew taking wins while the final draw of the night, more action from division two, saw Bryant Cormier and Cal Thistle take a win as well as Julia Cormier and Robbie Biron. All winners would play their second games in the championship bracket of their respective divisions and, with a victory in that match, get to play in the championship game for top spot. Losers would drop to consolation and have to win one extra game in order to make it to a consolation final and a chance at prize money. Those teams in the consolation bracket would have to win out since their next loss would mean elimination.

Play got underway Saturday morning at 11am with the first games of the consolation bracket in division 1. Stephen Leslie and Kevin Gouthro were taking on Walter Nichols and Anthony Boudreau on one sheet while the other saw Rick Windsor and Wally MacDonald face off with Eric MacLeod and Gary Landry. Winners would play on and have one more game to win to make it to the consolation final while losers would be eliminated.

Leslie/Gouthro and Windsor/MacDonald both took the wins and would play later in the day, still not knowing who their opponent would be since a game in the championship bracket had to be played in order to determine that. Winning teams from the night before would play against each other with the winners moving to the championship game and losers dropping to play on in consolation. Division one had Erickson/MacEachern taking on Farr/Lorway and B. Laughlin/G. Cormier faced K. Laughlin/Agnew. The teams of Farr/Lorway and B. Laughlin/G. Cormier came out on top and would play in the championship game while Erickson/MacEachern would now face Windsor/MacDonald and K. Laughlin/Agnew would come up against Leslie/Gouthro, winners playing in the consolation final and losers being eliminated from play. The consolation final ended up being Windsor/MacDonald taking on Leslie/Gouthro as both teams earned victories.

The second division followed the same draw bracket as division one and got underway just after noon on Saturday with the first action of the consolation round seeing Sid Murray and Dave Boudreau and Peter MacIntyre and Keith Davies win to move on. In the championship bracket, Humphrey/Wall defeated Kelly/Smith to move to the championship game and J. Cormier/Biron were winners as well and moved to the finals to face them. Thistle/B. Cormier dropped to consolation to face Murray/Boudreau while Kelly/Smith were now facing MacIntyre/Davies to try to move into the consolation final and a chance at prize money. After these games were played, the consolation final of division two would have MacIntyre/Davies taking on Thistle/B. Cormier.

Division one would be first to play its final games with both the championship and consolation bracket finals taking the ice at 6:30. Richard

## Doubles Spiel Single Entry

Lorway was unable to play in the championship game so Robert Agnew stepped in to take his place to take on B. Laughlin/G. Cormier. Agnew and Farr got off to a quick start and built a big lead that saw the game conceded after four ends. The team of Lorway/Farr took home the top prize of \$100 and Brian Laughlin and Gordie Cormier won \$80. In the division one consolation game, Leslie/Gouthro were winners, taking an \$80 prize, while Windsor/MacDonald won \$60.

The final draw of the weekend had the division two championship and consolation games taking place. Justin Humphrey and Greg Wall squeaked out a victory over Julia Cormier and Robbie Biron in what was a close, well curled game that came down to the final stones in the last end to decide the winners. The division two consolation game was won by Cal Thistle and Bryant Cormier who defeated Peter MacIntyre and Keith Davies. The prize money payout was the same as in division one.

Overall, a great weekend and a huge success for the first doubles spiel of the season. There was lots of great curling and lots of fun. Everyone was treated to some delicious pizza on Saturday from club sponsor Kenny's Pizza. Thank you to everyone who took part, everyone who helped out in organizing and running the event and to everyone who pitched in to help with the ice, the bar and whatever else needed getting done. With the popularity of the doubles game we will surely see more of it played at the club in future seasons.

The Schooner Club held another 2 on 2 spiel in March, this one being played on the 26 and 27 and, this time, it was a single entry format and teams were made from those curlers who signed up to play. There were a total of sixteen players making up eight teams in the event and they played three games, earning points for wins and ties as well as every end they won. Rules were once again the traditional hybrid doubles rules that the Schooner Club normally uses for these events, allowing a more level playing field for both stick and slide curlers to compete together. Play got underway on Friday evening with all eight teams seeing their first action in one of two draws that night. Saturday, play continued, starting at 11am, and on this day, each team would play two more games before points would be tallied and a winner decided.

Three teams began to stand out after the first two games, each of them winning their first two and garnering 11 of the available 15 points. Two of those teams would meet in their final match, a good chance the winner would take home at least a top two finish. Brian Laughlin and Leo Fraser would meet Eric MacLeod and Lynn Kelly in the second to last draw of the day, each having 22 points at that time but with Laughlin/Fraser holding a slight advantage in plus/minus. Laughlin and Fraser won the game, winning a total of 11 of a possible 15 points and were now in first place. The only team in the final draw with an chance to overtake them was the father/daughter duo of Benito Delorenzo and Brittani Fernandez. They would face Gary Landry and Janet Gallivan who had a record of one win and one loss thus far. Landry and Gallivan won that matchup and took home eleven more points to add to their total, good enough for second spot overall. Delorenzo and Fernandez finished third, edging out MacLeod/Kelly

## Schooner Cash Spiel



by plus/minus and forcing them into fourth spot while Laughlin and Fraser took home first place, the only team to go through the event undefeated. Congratulations to our winners.

A big thank you goes out to all who took part and to everyone who pitched in and helped in organizing and running the event. The doubles or 2 on 2 game is very popular at the club and we are sure we will see more of it played in the seasons to come.

The Schooner Club's annual Cash Spiel ran at the club from March 12-14, and this year was sponsored by Disco Tirecraft. There were a total of ten teams taking part this year and came from the Schooner Club, the Sydney Curling Club, the Strait and Area Curling Club in Port Hawkesbury and there were even curlers who made the trip again this year from Halifax to take part. The teams we could host this year were limited due to time constraints imposed by the Provincial governments Covid restrictions. Play got underway early on Friday with the first draw of the day starting at 4pm. This was necessary in order to get all the games in before our government mandated closing time of 11pm. There was only one game in this draw that saw two Schooner rinks face off, Kevin Gouthro and Sid Murray. Gouthro would win that game to stay in the 'A' division while Murray dropped to 'B' for his next match. The next draw at 6pm saw a full slate of Sydney Curling Club teams face off with Robert Black facing Sebastian LeFort and Kenny Keogh's foursome facing off with the Yvon LeFort rink. The two LeFort rinks would prevail and stay in the 'A' division with Sebastian now facing Kevin Gouthro in his next game, the winner moving on to face Yvon who's draw moved him directly to a semi-final. The final draw of Friday had Kris Granchelli of Halifax against Schooner's Gary Landry rink while Donnie McCuspig of the Strait and Area Community Curling Club would face Schooner's Gordie Cormier. Granchelli, who lives in Halifax, teamed up with a couple of curlers from Sydney to compete in the Spiel. The McCuspig and Granchelli rinks would win and face each other in another 'A' division semi that would take the winner directly to Sunday's final. The losing rinks dropped to 'B' to face off against each other there. On Friday, curlers and guests were treated to Subway subs. Play in the 'B' division got underway on Saturday and was the first draw of the day at 10am. Landry would play Cormier in one game, the winner moving on to play the Kenny Keough rink in a semi final to get to the 'B' championship while the other game, Murray versus Black, would see the winner advance directly to Sunday's 'B' final. Cormier won his game and stayed in 'B' to face the Keogh rink later that same day and Murray was also victorious, moving him to Sunday, and would not have to play any more games on Saturday. Gary Landry and Robert Black would play on in the 'C' division, still with a chance at prize money. The second draw on Saturday would have action return to the 'A' division teams and saw Kevin Gouthro defeat Sebastian LeFort and Kris Granchelli best Donnie McCuspig, moving Granchelli's rink into the Sunday final and McCuspig to compete in 'C' while Gouthro had to play again right away, taking on Yvon LeFort, the winner facing Granchelli for the top spot overall. Gouthro would win that game and move his rink into the 'A' final. Also

during that draw there was action in the 'B' division where Gordie Cormier defeated Kenny Keogh to move to the 'B' final against fellow Schooner rink Sid Murray while Keogh would face Sebastian LeFort in the 'C' bracket. After a short break so the curlers could enjoy dinner, spaghetti and meatballs provided by Tommy Young, play resumed at 5pm on Saturday with the first game in the 'C' division that saw Sebastian Lefort face off against Kenny Keogh, winner moving directly to the division final and the loser being eliminated. The LeFort rink came out on top and moved on to play in Sunday's final, their opponent yet to be determined.

The final games on Saturday were scheduled for 7pm and were more action from the 'C' bracket. In those games, Donnie McCuspic defeated Robert Black and Yvon LeFort won over Schooner's Gary Landry in an exciting game that was tied after 8 ends and was decided by a draw to the button. Losers of these games were eliminated and the winners would move on to face one another on Sunday morning to try and earn a spot in the 'C' championship. After play was finished for the day, a number of curlers and fans stayed around the club for a while to socialize and listen to some music played by a couple of the curlers, Schooner's Gordie Cormier and the Strait's Mike McNamara. They did a fantastic job.

Play got underway on Sunday with the 'B' final and the 'C' semi-final taking place first. The 'B' championship game saw two Schooner rinks compete and, in what some would call a bit of an upset, had Sid Murray defeat Gordie Cormier for top spot. Murray opened up a big lead and Cormier conceded after the seventh end when he missed a difficult double take out that would have scored him multiple points to get back into the game.

Sunday afternoon's 'C' final would turn out to be a family affair after Yvon Lefort took out Donnie McCuspic to move into that game against his son, Sebastian. In that match it was the younger LeFort that would prevail with Sebastian defeating his father, Yvon, to win the 'C' title. At the same time, the 'A' final was taking place with Schooner's Kevin Gouthro facing Kris Granchelli in what proved to be a very close and entertaining game. The score was close all the way but Gouthro took advantage of one of the few mistakes the Granchelli rink made late in the game to go ahead and ended up on top, winning the game and the 'A' championship in front of a good crowd of supporters.

Congratulations to all of the winners, thank you to all of the curlers who took part and a big thank you to spiel sponsor, Disco Tirecraft, for your support. Subway restaurants also contributed to the club and we thank them for that as well. Thank you also to everyone who helped out in planning and running the spiel, the ice crew for all the work to keep the ice in top shape all weekend, the bartenders for keeping everyone hydrated, to Tommy Young for a delicious dinner and to everyone who helped serve food and clean up all weekend. Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who visited the club to take in some of the spiel action. It was a bit different this year and certainly a bit more difficult with all the Covid protocols being followed to keep everyone safe but, overall, it was a very enjoyable and successful Schooner Cash. We hope to see everyone back next year to compete and cheer on the curlers.

## Schooner Closing Spiel

The dates have been set for the Schooner Closing Spiel and it will take place from April 22-24. Everyone is welcome to participate. Entry fee is \$20 and you will get three games, one on your choice of either Thursday or Friday evening and finish up with two games on Saturday. No curling experience is required and we will supply equipment and instruction to anyone who needs it. There will be lunch on Saturday and lots of prizes up for grabs. We will also be hosting a casual social after curling on Saturday evening so plan to stick around and have some more fun. Join us even if you weren't part of the spiel.

Registration is open and spots are filling up fast so get your name in soon for the final curling event of the season and help us end the year off right.

## Sydney Curling Club's Spring Mixed Spiel

The Sydney Curling Club will be holding its spring mixed bonspiel, The Spring Fling, from April 9-11. There will be a few Schooner teams taking part so why not plan to drop by the club through the weekend and cheer them on. There will be a social evening on Saturday from 8-12 as well. Best of luck to all curlers and we hope it's a great weekend for the Sydney Club.

## Schooner Fun Nights

It was a somewhat sad end to the Schooner Fun Night schedule for the year as the final event on March 20th had to be cancelled due to an issue with the ice. There was still some fun had though as the St. Paddy's day celebrations and the birthday party for ice maker Brian Laughlin and club president Richard Lorway still went ahead. Around twenty members and guests showed up and enjoyed socializing and birthday cake.

Thank you to our Fun Night Coordinators, Kathy Gale and Janet Gallivan who organized and ran the Fun Nights again this season. Fun Nights will return to the schedule next season and we hope you will both be back to look after them. Hopefully next season we will be post-covid and things will go back to being more normal.

## 649 Fundraiser



The Schooner's 649 Fundraiser got underway in late February with the first draw taking place on Wednesday, February 24th. After five draws we ended up with a single winner, Schooner member Bruce Devoe. There were a number of entries that were waiting for one or two numbers heading into what proved to be the final draw but Bruce was the only one lucky enough to get the numbers he needed. Bruce took home the full prize alone, \$742.50. Congratulations Bruce. Thank you to everyone who sold entries and to everyone who took part. We hope we can have your support next time.

## Provincial 50/50



The Schooner Club took part in a province-wide 50/50 draw that was run online through a service called Rafflebox for the better part of the season. Draws have now finished and will return next year during the 2021-22 curling season. There were a number of clubs involved with the club administering the draws being the New Caledonian Curling Club of Pictou.

## **Club Executive and Committee Elections**

It was a decent money maker as we would get a percentage of the sales that were designated to our club and there was very little effort required on our part, we basically just had to promote the sale of tickets that were handled by the website Rafflebox.com. We would like to thank everyone who took part and bought tickets as well as the organizers or the raffle. While a final total of what was raised on our behalf isn't yet available, given that there was basically no cost to the club, every dollar raised went straight into our bank account. All money raised this year was important given the uncertainty and lower revues brought on by Covid. Watch for the startup of the Rafflebox draws again next season and plan to support the Schooner club.

With the end of another season upon us, we are at that time of year when we will be electing our club executive and committee heads for the next season. All positions are available including those where the position holder is re-offering. In the case where two or more people are offering for the same position, a vote will be held at the spring general meeting to determine who will hold the position. For positions where there is a committee rather than a single spot, multiple members can sign on and no election is required. The date of that meeting is yet to be determined. While the meeting is open to everyone, only Schooner members can vote in the election. A nomination sheet will be posted at the club for anyone with interest in a position to sign up. If you have some time to spare, please consider taking one of the Schooner executive or committee head positions and help us keep the Schooner club running smoothly. Without the time and effort given by volunteers, the club could not operate.

## **Off-Season Events**

The Schooner club, in past years, has tried to offer some off season activities to its members and guests but, given the current Covid situation, these events did not happen last off-season and are up in the air for this coming one. The Closing Banquet, the Schooner Golf Day and BBQ and the Schooner washer toss tournament have proven pretty popular over the last few years and we would love to be able to schedule them again. All we can say for now is that you can keep an eye on the Schooner website and Facebook and, rest assured, if we can find a way to have them again this summer, we will. Fingers crossed.

## **The End of Another Season**

To say that this has been a strange year is somewhat obvious with Covid setting the world spinning and government restrictions on sports and gathering in general changing at a moment's notice and leaving an air of uncertainty over everything. Even given all of that, I think we can say that the 2020-21 at the Schooner Curling Club went pretty well. We didn't really lose much time on the ice. The weather this winter was really good so we hardly had any cancellations and, even though we didn't have the same social atmosphere that we usually do, we still got together when we could to socialize and have some fun. And while this may not have been the best year the club has ever seen, it may have been the best year we could have

hoped for given the current situation. For that we have to be grateful to all of the people who worked hard to make this season the best it could be, the Schooner executive and committee members, the ice crew, bartenders and all the volunteers who are the heart and soul of the Schooner Curling Club. Thank you to those on the Covid Committee who navigated us through the ever changing rules and protocols and helped keep us all safe while we enjoyed our season and thank you to all the Schooner members for joining us again this season and making the club a warm, inviting and fun place to be.

It seems like not that long ago we were holding our opening spiel and now we are preparing for the closing. The time has passed so quickly. As we enter the month of April we still have a bit of curling ahead of us but soon we will be swapping our brooms for golf clubs, garden rakes and BBQ tongs as we head our separate ways for the summer. This is the final edition of In the Hack for the 2020-21 season and I would like to say that I hope everyone who reads it finds it both informative and entertaining. I also want to wish all of my Schooner friends all the best and I hope you have a great summer. Let's all hope that by the time the air turns cool next fall and we are making our way back to the Schooner Club for another season that Covid is behind us and there are better days ahead. Take care everyone, have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you all again next fall.



*Happy Easter*