

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 116

April 2023

April 20-22	John Bonaparte Memorial Spiel
Friday, April 21	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Friday, May 12	General Meeting
Friday, May 12	Closing Banquet and Dance
June ??	Schooner Golf
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

League Roundup



League play will soon be wrapping up in all leagues at the club in April, most just before the John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel. The Firestop Enterprises Men's League playoff final will be held on Thursday, April 13. The Gordie Cormier rink will take on the Walter Nichols rink at 7pm. Cormier also won the regular season along with team mates Kirk MacNeil, Dave Deveaux and Terrance Nicholson.

The Boston Pizza Team Entry League is also down to its final two teams, the Stephen Leslie rink and the Gordie Cormier rink. The game time and date is still to be determined since last Sunday was missed do to it being Easter.

The Schooner Doubles league will wrap up on April 19, leaving a couple of games left for all participants. There are a few players who are still vying for the top spot so these final weeks may make a difference in the overall winner.

Finally, the East Side Mario's Mixed League is now playing some makeup games that were caused by weather and power outage cancellations and these games may make a difference to some teams. There are a number of teams that are close at the top and still in contention to take second half honors. Also in this league, we finally have a winner for round one. The Bryant Cormier rink defeated the Gary Landry rink in a winner-take-all game that was held in March, a game caused by a tie between the two rinks that needed to be broken. Joining skip Cormier was George Plumridge, Rose Gale and Pamela Conohan.

Last, but certainly not least, Matinee Curling will play its final stones on Friday, April 14. Open to all Schooner members, you simply need to drop on Friday afternoon form 1-3.

For wrap ups of final results from all leagues you can check at the club or on the Schooner website.

Doubles Team Entry Cash Spiel

The Schooner Curling Club hosted a Doubles (2 on 2) Cash Spiel on March 10 and 11 at the club that was very successful and saw a full slate of sixteen teams take part. Entries fees were returned as cash prizes with a portion, \$10 per team, being donated to the Whitney Pier Boys and Girls Club in honor of former long-time Schooner member, Jackie Pearson. Along with the entry fees, donations were accepted from individuals and the club committed to making a \$250 donation as well. In the end, the total donation to the boys and girls club was \$1260 that was presented to them when a group of kids came to the club for a day of curling.

Due to the large number of teams, two divisions of eight were formed so the schedule would be manageable. Play got underway on Friday night with all teams seeing their first action. Winners would stay in the top bracket of their respective division and losers would drop to a lower bracket to continue play. Any one team could not lose more than two games without being eliminated. After a full day of curling on Saturday we were left with two teams in each division vying for the championship and two for the consolation. Both consolation games were cancelled when teams decided to split prize money rather than play the games. Consolation teams were Bob Smith/Bill Farr and Janet Gallivan/Butch MacLean in one division and Kevin Gouthro/Val MacIntyre and Brian Laughlin and Gordie Cormier in the other. The championship games saw the team of Brittini Fernandez/Walter Nichols take on Julia Cormier/Robbie Biron in one division and in the other Leo Fraser/Adam Vassallo were pitted against Benito Delorenzo/Shane Langille. Winners were Fernandes/Nichols and Fraser/Vassallo.

Thank you to everyone who took part, to all who helped organize and run the event and a big thank you to everyone who donated additional funds to the Youth Club in honor of Jackie Pearson. We hope to do this again next season.

March Fun Spiel

The Fun Spiel that was scheduled for March 24th and 25th at the club was cancelled due to lack of participants. We apologize to those who did sign up to play. We hope that next year we will bring the event back and make it some unique format that will generate the interest of everyone at the club.

Team Cormier wins 'C' division in Sydney Mixed

The Sydney Curling Club held its annual mixed spiel, sponsored this year by The Nova Scotia Spirit Company, from March 31 to April 2. Gordie Cormier skipped a team representing the Schooner Club and took home top honors in the 'C' division. Joining Gordie was Carrie Cress, Robbie Biron and Val MacIntyre. A team skipped by Russell Fitzgerald also took part in the event. Russell was joined by Lynn Kelly, Marnie MacDonald and Paul MacDonald. Kevin Gouthro also competed alongside Julia Cormier, Anthony Boudreau and Samantha Livingstone. There were other Schooner members who were also competing on various teams. Congratulations to Gordie and his team and all the curlers who took part.

Townhouse Glace Bay Meals on Wheels Fundraiser

The Meals on Wheels Fundraising Spiel, brought to you by Townhouse Glace Bay Citizens Service League and the Schooner Curling Club, took place at the club on March 3 and 4. There were ten teams competing in the two day event, each team playing a four end game on Friday and one six end and one more four end game on Saturday. There were new curlers in the event including a team that came from a recent Fun Night at the club. The Schooner Club provided equipment and instruction to anyone that needed it. Entry fee into the spiel was \$100 per team with all proceeds going to the Meals on Wheels program. In addition, there was a silent auction and donations were accepted to help bolster the fund raising for this worthy cause. The overall winners of the event and recipients of the Meals on Wheels Forkin' Spoon Trophy was the foursome of Gary Landry, Lynn Kelly, Cheryl MacKinnon and Bev Young. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all who took part and/or helped out in any way. Overall, close to \$2500 was raised during the spiel.

John Bonaparte Memorial

The John Bonaparte Memorial Spiel will be the final curling event of the 2022-23 season and will be held on April 20-22. Open to all curlers, entry fee is \$25 and you will get three, six end games, one on either Thursday or Friday night and two on Saturday. All curlers will also be treated to dinner on Saturday. No experience is necessary to take part and we will provide the equipment and instruction for those that need it. As of now, there are only a few spots remaining in the event so sign up quickly. After curling is done on Saturday, plan to stay around and party the night away with us at the Closing Spiel Dance. DJ Jimmy will be there to play the tunes to keep everyone dancing all night long. Open to everyone 19+ and there's no cover. Help us end the season with a big party.

Closing Banquet and Meeting

The Schooner Club's annual closing dinner, awards and dance will be held at the club on Friday, May 12. We will get underway at 6:30 with drinks and then dinner will start at 7pm. After dinner we will be holding our spring general meeting and elections and will also be handing out awards. Starting at 9pm there will be a dance. As it was last year, dinner is open to Schooner members only. The meeting and dance are open to everyone. Please check at the club for more details and to register for dinner.

Club Elections

As part of our General Meeting, the club will also be electing a new slate of officers to help run the club for the 2023-24 season. All positions are available, even if the current position holder is reoffering. If more than one person is vying for a position, an election will be held at the general meeting on May 12. A signup sheet with all positions is now posted at the club. There are already a few position holders that have made it know that they will not be reoffering so we are in dire need of some new people to step forward and help the club go into the future. If you have some free time in your schedule, please consider taking on a position.

Schooner Fun Nights

The final Schooner Fun Night of the season was held March 18th and was our special St. Paddy's day edition. It was very well attended and there were two birthday celebrations, one for Brian Laughlin and one for Richard Lorway. There was a really good crowd and they all got to enjoy curling, some delicious pizza and some birthday cake. Overall a huge success. The previous two Fun Nights, one in January and one in February, were both well attended and successful as well, generating lots of interest from new people in attendance in both the sport and the club.

Thanks to everyone who attended fun nights this season and to our Fun Night coordinators. Fun nights will be making a return to the schedule next season and we hope they are even more successful than this year.



Fundraiser

The Schooner Curling is holding a very important fundraising event, a spaghetti dinner, on Friday, April 21. With costs at the club skyrocketing this year, we need additional funds to help pay the bills. Dinners will be selling for \$12 each and the club will get \$6 from each dinner. Tommy young will be making them and is well known by many for the quality of his dinners. Pickup will be available from 11-12:30 at the French Club on the corner of Dolbin and Ferry streets in Sydney or delivery will be available for orders of five or more dinners. Orders must be in by Monday, April 17. Volunteers will be needed to help on Friday with packing and delivering dinners so, if you have some time, please plan to help out.

Again, this is very important to the financial health of the club and we strongly encourage all members to take part and sell as many dinners as possible.

Schooner Golf



Fast becoming a spring tradition, the annual Schooner Golf Day and BBQ will be making a return this year. Final dates are still being determined but we expect it to take place sometime towards the middle to end of June. Watch the Schooner Facebook page and website for more info as it becomes available. Participants will play nine holes of golf at Alderdale Greens and then return to the club for a steak BBQ. There will also be lots of games to play and prizes to be won. Always a great day so plan to take part.

Schooner Tarabish and Social

While in previous years we have continued to hold our weekly Tuesday tarabish game and social even after the season has come to and end, that will not be the case this year. The final night for tarabish will be on Tuesday, April 18. The weekly event will make a return next season when we start up again.

New POS System in Bar

The Schooner bar is now sporting a new POS system, replacing our aging system that we have had for a few years and was getting a bit slow. The new system is by Square and is an all in one solution that included the point of sale hardware and software and debit and credit card processing all in one. So far, it's been working very well. Thanks to Jenn Haigh for getting and implementing the new POS.

Another Season Comes to an End

I am always surprised at how fast a curling season at the Schooner Club seems to go. When the weather turns cool in the fall we get the anticipation of another curling year. At the Holiday break we look ahead and there seems to be so much time left in the year and so much curling to be done. But then, in what seems to be a blink of an eye, the weather is turning warmer, the snow is all but melted away and we are in the final week or two of the season and planning the closing spiel and the awards banquet. Where did the time go?

It was another great season at the club, all be it a hard one. Rising costs of running the club weighed on everyone's minds but we made it through pretty well. Equipment and ice issues had to be dealt with and were. As always, the Schooner Club prevails due in no small part to the hard work and perseverance of Schooner volunteers. Without that hard work and the dedication of our volunteers we could not survive. Thank you to all who give their time in any way.

So now we are almost through with the 2022-23 season. A few more league games and then the closing spiel and we will be done with curling. But don't put the Schooner club out of your mind completely for the summer months. We will be holding our Schooner Golf in June and there are washer toss tournaments planned for July and maybe August. There could be a few other off season surprises as well so stay in touch with the Schooner Club's Facebook page and website.

This will be the final edition of In the Hack for the season and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for reading and for providing comments. I truly hope you all found it both entertaining and informative. It's hard to believe that I have been doing it for seventeen seasons now and have well over 100 editions published. Where did that time go?

Anyway, I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy summer. I hope to see you all back in the fall and that we are joined by many new faces that will be wishing each other good curling and raising a glass after each game to toast the winners. Take care everyone.