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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 123

April 2024

April 18-20	John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 13	Closing Dance
Saturday, May 4	Awards Banquet and Dance
TBA	Schooner Golf
Summer 2024	Schooner Washer Toss
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 be winding down soon with only a handful of games left in all leagues.

The East Side Mario's Team Entry League regular season has wrapped up its regular season with the Kevin Gouthro's rink taking top honors. Skip Kevin was joined in the first place finish by Walter Nichols, Anthony Boudreau and Robbie Biron. Second spot was taken by the Mel Windsor rink with skip Mel, Keith MacEachern, Bryant Cormier and Bob Smith.

The playoff format for this league is a bit unique this season with a weekend tournament being run to determine a playoff winner on Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14. It will be a bracket format with a single elimination so only winners move forward. The top eight teams will compete with the ninth place team from the regular season being eliminated. Everyone is welcome to drop by the club to take in some of the Team Entry playoff action. Check online for schedule.

The Mixed League still has a couple of weeks left to play and there are a number of teams vying for top spot in the second half. There are no playoffs in this league as the season is split into two, teams being shuffled after the completion of the first half, with the best record in the round robin format taking the win in each of the halves. With a few teams being close, a winner for round two will likely not be decided until all games are completed.

The Schooner Doubles league also has two nights left in its schedule and it looks like Julia Cormier has wrapped up top spot. Doubles saw a drop in numbers this season and a few people drop out during the year. The Schooner executive will look at whether or not it's viable to maintain the doubles league when it does a re-evaluation of our league structure for next season.

Jackie Pearson Memorial Doubles Spiel

In the Firestop Enterprises Men's League we are down to the final game in the playoffs. After a 3 game round robin to determine seeding, semi final games were played to see who would go to the playoff championship game. The Gordie Cormier rink will take on the Mel Windsor rink after Cormier defeated Russell Fitzgerald and Windsor took down the Brian Laughlin rink. The championship game is slated for Thursday, April 11 at 7pm.

Friday afternoon Matinee Curling had a good season this year with lots of participation from many members. There is one more Matinee Drop In session scheduled and that will be Friday, April 12 from 1-3. Open to all members. There is no Matinee Curling scheduled for April 19 due to the John Bonaparte Memorial Spiel.

So another great season of league curling at the schooner. As previously mentioned, the Schooner Executive will be doing an evaluation of league structure at the club prior to next season to see if there are any changes to leagues and/or schedules that would benefit the Schooner membership and the club in general. Based on the findings we may see some tweaking done for next season. Thank you to everyone who took part in our various leagues this season and thank you to all curlers who stepped in to spare when someone couldn't make a scheduled game. Also, a big thank you to our Drawmaster, Richard Lorway for all his hard work in creating teams, doing schedules and making sure league play runs smoothly all season.

The Jackie Pearson Memorial Doubles Spiel was held at the club on March 8 and 9 with a total of twelve teams of two curlers each taking part. The \$60 entry fee for each team was returned in cash prizes and a portion being reserved for the Schooner Roof Fundraiser. Play got underway on Friday evening with all teams seeing their first action and some teams even playing two games that night. Winners would continue to play in the 'A' division while all teams losing on Friday would fall to play in 'B'. Once you were in the 'B' division you had to continue to win as a second loss would mean being eliminated.

After all games were played it was the duo of Julia Cormier and Robbie Biron who took first place in the 'A' Division, defeating the team of Benito Delorenzo and Shane Langille. Robbie and Julia went undefeated in the event but had a close game to start where it came down to a draw to the button to break a tie with Val MacIntyre and Justin Humphrey. They received a \$200 cash prize and Shane and Benito received \$140. In the 'B' division it was Bill Farr and Kirk McNeil running the table after an opening night loss to Delorenzo and Langille, winning four games on Saturday to take the top spot in 'B' over Brittni Delorenzo and Walter Nichols. Walter and Brittni also lost their first game to Shane and Benito to get knocked down to 'B'. Bill and Kirk took home \$160 and Brittni and Walter won a \$100 prize.

Overall a great weekend spiel with lots of great curling and good fun. Congratulations to our winners and thanks to everyone who took part. Thank you also to everyone who helped organize and run the spiel and to Kenny's Pizza for providing lunch on Saturday. See you all next year.

John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel

The John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel will take place from Thursday, April 18 to Saturday, April 20. This spiel is open to everyone, no curling experience is necessary. Entry fee is only \$25 per player and you will play three games, one on either Thursday or Friday, your choice, and two on Saturday. For new curlers, we will provide the equipment and instruction you need. Lunch will be available on Saturday. We really are hoping to fill this spiel to the max of 16 teams which is 64 curlers. Members are encouraged to participate and bring a friend or two along. There will also be a dance from 9-1 on Saturday night that is open to everyone 19+. Plan to join us and help us finish off the season with a great spiel and a great party.

Sydney Spring Mixed Spiel

The Sydney Curling Club hosted its annual Spring Mixed Spiel, this year sponsored by Canadian Tire, from April 5 to 7. A total of twenty-four teams took part, all made up of two men and two women curlers in a true mixed format. There was lots of Schooner representation in the event as well with many members taking part. Brittni DeLorenzo and Shane Langille (both dual club members) were part of the 'A' division championship team. Fred Gillis and Dan MacDougall (also both dual club members) won 'C' defeating team Cress from Schooner with Carrie Cress, Walter Nichols, Jenn Haigh and Justin Humphrey. Team Cress had defeated Schooner's Kevin Gouthro rink in the semi final to get to that 'C' championship game. Schooner's Gordie Cormier rink and Phil Edwards rink were also competing on the weekend. It was a great weekend of curling and fun with entertainment provided on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Thanks to the Sydney Curling Club for hosting another great event and congratulations to all the winners.

A Division:

Amanda Skiffington, Nick Burdock, Brittni DeLorenzo and Shane Langille

B Division:

Travis Stone, Marie Young, Todd Mercer and Joan Latimer

C Division:

Fred Gillis, Deborah Zorychta, Dan MacDougall and Brenda MacDougall

D

Division: Kathleen MacAulay, Camden MacNeil, Sara Black and Todd MacAulay

Closing Banquet, Meeting and Dance

The Schooner Curling Club will hold its Awards dinner and dance as well as it's spring general meeting on Saturday, May 4 at the club. The evening will get underway around 6pm with the Spring general meeting taking place, then we will move onto dinner and awards and then we have a dance with music by DJ Jimmy. The general meeting is open to everyone, the dance is open to everyone 19+ but the dinner and awards is for Schooner members only. Any member who wants to take part in the dinner must pay a \$10 deposit at the club bar prior to the end of the season. The \$10 deposit will be refunded upon attendance at the dinner. If you don't show up your deposit will not be returned. This is to prevent the club from having to purchase meals for people who don't end up attending and being stuck paying for them.

So plan to attend the Schooner closing awards dinner and dance, have your say on the future direction of the club at the general meeting and celebrate another great season at the Schooner Club. See you there.

Women's Clinic

The Schooner Club held a clinic for its female members on Good Friday where they could come and learn sweeping techniques, strategy, etiquette and more. Brittni Delorenzo, Shane Langille, Gordie Cormier and Carrie Cress lead the general discussion and Leo Fraser was there to add some pointers for stick curlers. It was well attended with around 18 of our women members taking part. We certainly hope it was informative and everyone got something from it. Thank you to all who attended and thank you to everyone who helped out as instructors. Good Curling ladies.

Club Computer

The Schooner Club has a new, at least new to us, computer that was donated by Bill Farr and Compu Clone Computer Solutions. It is an all in one Lenovo computer. The computer we had, also donated from Compu Clone, had run its time and was using an old version of Windows. It was time for a replacement. The computer will be used for looking up information, possibly updated score and helping with draws for spiel. Thank you to Bill and Compu Clone for the donation.

Roof Project

The Schooner roof project has taken some good steps forwards in the last month or so with proceeds from our spaghetti dinner fundraiser, the Sportsweep tickets and our block draws as well as money from the Jackie Pearson Memorial all building the fund and getting is closer to our goal. We are still waiting to hear on whether or not we were successful on our grant application and a total of money we will get as our share of the Women's World Curling Championship 50/50 draw. We may also be eligible for some of the gate money as well from that event.

With the end of the season close at hand we will be slowing our efforts and taking stock of what we do have and what we can count on. If all goes well, we are hoping to have the project funded in the next year or so or maybe even sooner. The Schooner executive encourages all members to participate in the fundraisers for this project as much as possible since without a roof over our heads we will have no club to curl in.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Schooner Curling Club held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Friday March 8 and it was a good success. Dinners were \$12 each with the club getting \$6 from each one sold. Dinners were prepared by Tommy Young at the French Club in Sydney. Total sales were up a bit this year with 275 dinners being sold. After some expenses we still made a tidy profit of around \$1500. Thank you to Tommy and his crew for another successful event, thanks to those who sold dinners and helped out on Thursday and Friday getting things ready and delivering and a big thank you to everyone who supported the club by buying dinners. We hope you enjoyed them and we hope you will be back next year.

Sport NS "Sportsweep" Fundraising Program

The Schooner Curling Club recently participated in the ready-made fundraising program from Sport Nova Scotia call 'Sportsweep'. SportSweep is a turn-key, low effort and low risk ticket campaign designed to raise money for sport teams, sport clubs and sport organizations throughout Nova Scotia. Sport Nova Scotia handles the lottery license, solicitation of prizes, and printing of the tickets. All we needed to do was sell the tickets! Tickets were **\$5.00 each** and we retain **\$3.75** from each ticket. That's **75%** of the profit! Ticket sales ended on March 29, 2024 and all tickets were returned to Sport NS by the April 5 deadline The draw will take place on April 12, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Sport NS office in Halifax. The winner will be contacted by Sport NS by phone or email. In the event the prize is unclaimed within 90 days, a second draw will take place on June 7, 2024 at 11am and another winner announced. Sport Nova Scotia has arranged for a great grand prize package for the winner that includes **\$2000 CASH** plus an Oak Island Resort & Conference Centre Getaway (two night stay in a two bedroom chalet with a \$500 food and beverage credit).

In total, the club sold 674 Sportsweep tickets which means we will make just over \$2500. A very good return for a little effort and no risk. A big thank you to Lynn Kelly for coordinating the project and organizing the ticket distribution and sales and thanks to everyone who sold tickets. Sport NS is starting another Sportsweep draw with sales running from April 15 to August 23, 2024 and a draw date of September 6. The grand prize is the same. Since this is off season for us it is likely not worthwhile for us to participate but we hope they do a third draw next winter.

Block Draws

Block Draws are being held at the club now. Boards are posted and you can simply put your name in any block that is not taken already. Blocks are \$5 each and there 100 blocks to choose from. Prizes are half of the proceeds raised. Once all blocks are sold in a draw, a winner will be picked and then another draw will start. Proceeds are going to the Schooner roof fund. Please help out and buy a block today.

Women's World Curling Championship

It was a great week at the BKT Women's World Curling Championship with big crowds, lots of great curling and excitement and lots of spinoffs for the downtown Sydney and surrounding communities. At to top it all off we saw Canada's Team Homan take home the gold medal with a dramatic win over Switzerland in the final on Sunday. And what a great crowd cheering them on in that final game. Congratulations to Skip Tirinzoni and her team on their silver medal and to team Korea on their Bronze medal finish, defeating Italy to take the medal home. The Women's Worlds will be held in Korea next year so that will go a long way for creating some buzz about the team and the event.

There were many Schooner, Sydney and Strait Area curling club members that volunteered along with many from the community in general. Everyone did a great job and made the event that much better. The 50/50 draws will again be shared among local curling clubs as it was in the 2019 Scotties when it was held in Sydney. This time around, the Strait and Area Community Curling Club (SACCC) will also be sharing in the proceeds. Unlike the Scotties 50/50, this time proceeds will not be shared equally but rather split by percentage based on membership. That means Schooner receives 16%, SACCC receives 17% and the Sydney Curling Club gets 67%. Expenses such as bank fees, fees to the fundraising company that provided the equipment, etc. are all also shouldered by each club at the same percentage as they share. These are important funds for all clubs as we are all in need of roof repairs to our buildings. We are also hoping to share in some of the profits from ticket sales but that hasn't been fully decided yet and the way it is split between the three clubs is also not decided.

The success of the Women's World championships and the crowds that it attracted in Sydney make a good case for the area to win another opportunity to host a high level curling event. The next goal will be a Brier, the Canadian Men's Curling Championship event, but the requirements for that are slightly outside of our capacity right now. Possibly an exception will be made after we have proven that the area will support the event after having two successful women's events in Centre 200. Time will tell. Fingers crossed.

End of another Season

I am always surprised on how fast the season seems to have gone by once we are close to the end and look back on it. At the start, we have the whole year ahead of us, Christmas comes and goes but the bulk of the curling for the season is still ahead of us and the winter seems to be so far from over. Then February hits and we are so very busy with spiels and other events that it goes by in the blink of an eye. March brings more events and league playoffs and then, before you know it, we are planning the closing spiel, the awards banquet and we are watching our ice melt away into the summer.

This was another great season at the Schooner Club. We had a strong membership with many new faces and we had a great year of curling in both league play and spiels. Sadly, we saw a few of our long time members unable to compete with us this season due to injury or illness. Members who contributed as much or more to the club off the ice as they

did on. I think of them often, I miss them and I wish them all the best and a speedy and full recovery, as I'm sure you all do as well.

We have a new lease that has given the club life for at least an additional five years and that means we can start planning for the future by taking on projects such as our roof repair. We have good leadership at the club and a dedicated group of hard working volunteers. I want to say a big thank you to you all for the work and dedication you give to the club. Without it, it could not survive. Overall, I think things are looking promising for the Schooner Club moving forward.

Even though things are coming to an end for curling at the club this season, don't forget about other upcoming events like our awards banquet and dance and summertime events like Schooner Golf and our summertime washer toss tournaments. All great summer fun.

As I'm sure most of you are aware, April's edition of 'In the Hack' is always the final newsletter of the season. It is with great regret that I want to let you all know that this will be the last newsletter I will be writing as, after eighteen years of penning In the Hack, I have made the difficult decision not to reoffer for the position next season. I will also be giving up doing the website and other online duties. I certainly hope someone will pick up the position and keep the newsletter going. I am more than willing to help out in any way that I can but, with other commitments taking up more and more time, I cannot take it on myself. For a little nostalgia, I am including an image of the very first newsletter I ever did. It was written in October of 2006. I can't believe it was that long ago. It certainly looks quite a bit differently from what it is now. I have greatly enjoyed writing the newsletters all these years and I hope people who took the time to read them found them both information and entertaining. Now, 123 editions in, I am writing my last.

So now, as the weather starts to get warmer and we will soon turn in our curling brooms for golf clubs or garden rakes, I want to wish everyone a great summer and let you know I look forward to seeing you all again in the fall, wishing you good curling and enjoying a beverage afterwards while we discuss the game and all the shots we could have made. I think next year will be another great season at the Schooner Club and I hope to see you all there. Have a wonderful summer everyone.

Bill

The End!



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SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 1

October 2006

Registration and Social Night

Club President, Janet Confiant, along with the executive committee for 2006-07, would like to invite both returning members and new members alike to a social evening from 7-10 on Friday, October 20, 2006. Registration forms will be available for those who would like to sign up for the 2006-2007 season. Meet this year's executive, enjoy some snacks and find out what's going on at the club for the coming season. The bar will be open with *Happy Hour Prices* all evening.

Club Contact Information

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Janet's Email: jconfiant@helixstadio.com

Website: www.schoonercurlingclub.com

2006-07 Membership Fee

The registration fee for the 2006-07 season remains the same at only \$150 which includes the HST. You can pay your registration in full when you register or in two installments of \$75 each. The first installment must be paid no later than November 15, 2006 and the final installment must be paid no later than January 31, 2007. Your membership fee allows unlimited league play. Members who pay in full by Dec. 18, 2006 will be entered into a draw for a great prize. Pay Early!

Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Schooner Curling Club. Without them the club would not survive. If you have any time to contribute we would be more than grateful. Work is now underway most evenings to prepare for the upcoming season and we could use your help with ice prep, building maintenance, cleaning, painting etc. Through the season we need people for bartenders, maintenance, helping with spels, etc. Contact anyone on the executive for more information on how you can help.

Curling Clinics

Curling clinics will be held the week of October 23-27 and the week of November 13-17. Times are 7pm to 8:30pm. New curlers who want to learn the game or returning curlers looking for pointers or a little practice for the coming year are all welcome.

Misc. Business

The Newsletter - This is the first edition of our new monthly newsletter. Any suggestions are welcome and feel free to contribute anything you would like to see in the newsletter as well. Email bfarr@comu-clone.ca or see me at the club

Opening Spiel - The opening spiel will begin Sunday, October 29 with a registration fee of \$25. Sign up early. There will be no curling Tuesday, October 31 because of Halloween.

Equipment - Anyone wanting to order new gear for this season can see Lynn Kelly and she will look after it for you.

See you on the ice!!

2006-2007 Executive and Committee Members

President	Janet Confiant
Vice President	Winnie Burt
Treasurer	Mary Foley
Secretary	Elaine Arsenaault
Bar Stewart	Mel Smith
Ice Crew	Brian Laughlin, Frank Kokocki, Brian Zillman, Russell Fitzgerald, Rob Agnew
Bonspiel Coordinator	Kevin Bates
Housekeeping	Tom Youden, Wayne Confiant
Legal	Dave Muse
Ways and Means	Bill Jessome
Membership	Russell Fitzgerald, Frank Kokocki
Public Relations	Lynn Kelly
Coors Fun Night Coordinators	Tom Drover, Rob Boudreau
Website	Kelley Laughlin
Newsletter	Billy Farr

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Wednesday, September 27	General Meeting 7:00pm
Friday, Oct. 20	Registration and Social Night 7-10 PM
October 23-27	Curling Clinics 7-8:30
Oct 27	Dream Team Game
October 29-November 10	Opening Spiel
Friday, November 10	Opening Spiel Purty 9-1
November 13-17	Curling Clinics 7-8:30
Saturday, November 18	Coors Fun Night
Sunday, November 19	League Play Begins
December 4-9	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 9	Spiel Social 9-1
Saturday, December 16	Coors Fun Night
Monday December 18	Last night of play before Christmas

Subject to change. For a full year's schedule see our website or check the club.

Winners from last year

For those who don't know but are interested, here is a list of league and individual award winners from last season

Team Entry League	Mike Gillis Rink
Monday Men's League	Beno DeLorenzo Rink
Mixed League	John Donovan Rink
Thursday Men's League	Kevin Bates Rink
Rookie of the Year M/F	Walter Burt / Lisa Marks
Volunteer of the Year M/F	Tom Youden / Anne Farr
Most Spirited Curler M/F	Russell Fitzgerald / Janet Confiant
Best Sweeper M/F	Mel Smith / Kelley Laughlin
Most Improved New Curler	Doug Marks / Shannon Odo
Most Improved Veteran	Fr. John / Robina Boudreau
Best Form M/F	Ray Cameron / Kelley Laughlin
Men's Dream Team	Brian Laughlin, Russell Fitzgerald, George Carew, Mike Gillis
Ladies' Dream Team	Robina Boudreau, Elaine Arsenaault, Kelley Laughlin, Janet Confiant