



In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



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Schooner Curling Club

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Sydney CC to Host Scotties Qualifier



The Sydney Curling Club will host the Scotties #1 Qualifier from December 13th-16th. Thirteen teams are currently signed up including last year's NS champion Heather Smith-Dacey. Drop by the Sydney Curling Club to take in some of the exciting action of ladies championship curling and cheer on local entry Coralie Duchemin and her squad as they try for the Nova Scotia title and a trip to the national event, the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

Coors Fun Nights



We all know Christmas is around the corner and will be here before we know it. Why not take a break from all the hustle and bustle of the pending Holiday season and join us at the Schooner Curling Club for a night of fun and relaxation. The Next Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, December 15th. The fun gets going at around 7:00 and is only \$5.00 for the public and \$2.00 for Schooner Members for curling, pizza and prizes. Please bring clean, dry footwear for the ice area. So drop your shopping bags and head on over to the Schooner for some fun with your friends. See ya there!

Turkey Spiel



The annual Schooner Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel, will be held from December 3rd through the 8th. As always, curlers have a choice of the Monday/Wednesday/Friday division or the Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday Division. The Turkey Spiel is open to both members and non-members so talk to friends and family and bring them along. Entrance fee is \$20 and you get a great week of curling and a chance to win great prizes. No matter what you win, turkey, ham, chocolates or even bologna, the Turkey Spiel is lots of fun and a great way to get into the Holiday Spirit.

Food Drive



A food drive is currently being held at the club in support of the Kinsmen Club Christmas Program. Members are asked to bring non-perishable food items and deposit them in the box provided at the club. Thank you.

Club Calendar

December 3 rd -8 th	Turkey Spiel
December 13 th -16 th	Scotties Qualifier at the Sydney Curling Club
Saturday December 15	Coors Fun Night
December 18 th	Christmas Break Begins
Saturday, January 5 th	Coors Fun Night
Sunday, January 6 th	League Play Resumes
January 11 th -12 th	JDRF Spiel
January 18 th -20 th	Open Cash Spiel
January 23 rd -27 th	Grand Slam National in Port Hawksbury
January 25 th -27 th	Ship Hector Spiel in New Glasgow

NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.

Membership Dues



All Schooner members are reminded that the first payment of \$115 toward your 2011-12 membership was due on November 15th. Those that have not paid are **PAST DUE** and you are asked to pay as soon as possible. Second payments are due January 31st. Anyone joining after the Christmas break can pay \$125 plus HST for the remainder of the season, also due on January 31st. Overdue membership fees can result in your membership being revoked.

Open Cash Spiel



The annual Schooner Open Cash Spiel will be held January 18th – 20th 2012. Open to any teams in any combination of men and women curlers. Entry fee is \$180 with entry fees returned as prize money. Get you team together and get ready for the cash.

Fundraising Spiel



Mark your calendar and get your team ready for the annual JDRF Fundraising Spiel in support of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation being held January 11th and 12th. Team or single entry available. Check the club or our website for more information.

Grand Slam Returns to Port Hawksbury Civic Center



The big guns of curling are returning to the Port Hawksbury Civic Center this year to compete in the Grand Slam of Curling National event. The men's Grand Slam is a four-event series of marquee bonspiels reserved for the top rinks on the World Curling Tour. The purses for these tournaments are \$100,000 each, making them the richest on tour thanks in part to new owner and major sponsor of the tour, Rogers Communications. The Grand Slam series opened with the Masters that was played in Brantford Ontario in November where Kevin Koe of Alberta defeat Jim Cotter of BC for the championship and will continue with the Canadian Open of Curling in Kelowna, B.C. (Dec. 12-16), The National in Port Hawksbury (Jan. 23-27) and the season-ending Players' Championship in Toronto (April 16-21). Last season saw Ontario's Glenn Howard dominate the series with two wins and a trip to the finals of a third of the four events. This season sees more international competition, the retirement of Randy Ferbey freeing up players on his squad and some shuffling of players on some of Canada's other top teams, all adding up to more competition and new faces vying to be in the winner's circle. Tickets for the Port Hawksbury event are currently on sale through the box office of the Port Hawksbury Civic Center. Full event passes are available for \$100 and included access to the Grand Slam Pub onsite featuring nightly live entertainment. No information on tickets to individual draws was available at this time. Broadcast partner CBC Sports will televise the games along with Rogers Sportsnet and CBC will stream the games on the internet.



The Snowball Even Split is back again!

This is a major fundraiser for the club and all members are asked to participate. The Snowball is run for all scheduled league games and club only events such as Senior Pickup Curling on Friday afternoons. Since the Snowball will only be drawn once per day, if Senior curling is rescheduled from Friday to another day with other league curling, the draw will be made at the completion of all curling for that day. To play the Snowball you simply need to sign in when you are in the club and pay the \$2 entry. Each club member is assigned a number and, at the end of curling for that day, a number is drawn randomly. If it is your assigned number and you are signed in for that day's draw, you win. Prize money is a 50/50 split of all entry fees collected since the last Snowball winner. While you don't have to be in attendance to win, you must personally sign in for each Snowball draw. You cannot be entered by someone else or call in your entry, you must enter yourself. If the number drawn belongs to a member who is not signed in to that day's draw, there is no winner and the prize money is carried over and "snowballs" into a bigger prize each time it is not won. One of the recent winning draws this season had snowballed into over \$200, another was in the \$100 range and prizes last year got pretty high as well. Remember, it only costs a twonie to enter and money raised helps with club expenses and keeps or membership fees low. So don't forget to sign up for the Snowball the next time you are in the club.

League Wrap-up

League play is now in full swing at the club with the Team Entry, Mixed and Men's leagues all getting underway early in November. In the Sunday Team Entry League, last year's regular schedule champs, the Ray Cameron Rink, who went undefeated in regular play last year, is off to another great start at 3-0 and is tied with the Omar Roach rink, also 3-0, atop the standings with 6 points. Close behind with identical 2-1 records are John Donovan and Brian Laughlin. Last season's playoff champ John Bonaparte and last year's rookie sensation Wayne "Bull" Bonnell are both off to slower starts at 1-2. After a strong showing last year there are high expectations for Bonnell who has been hampered with health issues early in the season. In the Monday night Men's League, Skip Brian Laughlin remains undefeated with 3 wins and a tie for 7 points and first place. Gary Landry is in second with 3 wins and a 6 point total and they are closely followed by a number of teams at 4 points. In the Mixed League, John Bonaparte enjoys an undefeated record and first place overall with 4 wins and 8 points. He is followed by two rinks; Martin Campbell and Greg Ferguson each have 5 points each. Two rookie skips are making a few waves in the Mixed League so far. Wally MacDonald and Lynnette Chiasson have each taken the reigns of a team this season for the first time and each have 2 wins and 4 points early in their first campaigns, good enough for a tie with a number of other teams also with 4 points. Wayne "Bull" Bonnell, last year's regular season champ in his rookie year, is off to a slow start with only one win in four tries. With MacDonald getting a taste of the skip spot and Bonnell struggling, the Bonnell Team Entry rink mate may have his sights set on icing his own team next year in the Sunday league, only time will tell. At this early juncture in the season it's almost impossible to predict what will happen in any league. The Schooner Junior Program is back again this year and is held on Saturday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:00. Some of the junior members are progressing quickly and will be taking part in some of the regular spiels and club curling this year. Congratulations to the coordinators and the members of the program. Friday afternoon Pickup Curling is also underway again this year every Friday at 1pm, open to all full members.

There's lots of curling left in the season so I want to wish everyone well and a hearty "Good Curling".



Happy Holidays to Everyone

