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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 59

December 2014



Happy Holidays to Everyone



Club Calendar

December 9-13	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 20	Coors Fun Night
December 21 – January 4	Holiday Break
Sunday, January 4th	League Play Resumes
January 16-18	Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, January 24th	Coors Fun Night
February 13-14	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 21	Coors Fun Night
February 27-28	2 on2 Spiel
Saturday, March 14	Coors Fun Night
March 20 th – 22 nd	Moosehead Mixed – Sydney Club
March 27 th – 28 th	Coors Fun Spiel
Saturday, April 18 th	Coors Fun Night
April 20 th – 25 th	Closing Spiel
Saturday, May 2 nd	Closing Banquet
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

Opening Spiel Wrapup



The 2014-15 season got off to a great start with the Opening Spiel sponsored by Stephen's Rona. A full complement of 16 teams took part in the event which ran for a total of five days, Monday to Thursday and then on Saturday with no curling Friday since it was Halloween. Teams were split into two divisions, Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday with all teams in both divisions meeting on Saturday to decide a winner. The standings were tight heading into the final day of play on Saturday with a number of teams still having a chance at first place overall. In fact, all four teams in the day's final draw at 6 pm had a chance at winning. The Martin Campbell rink faced off against the Brian Laughlin rink who entered the day in the overall lead, just ahead of the Bill Farr rink by a plus/minus rating three better. Farr was facing the Richard Lorway rink who, along with Campbell on the other sheet, were only a point or two behind the leaders. Deciding a winner came down to a draw to the button when Martin Campbell, having defeated the Laughlin rink and getting four ends, and Bill Farr, also winners on Saturday, defeating Lorway and getting three ends, ended up tied atop the standing with identical records and plus-minus ratings. A coin toss determined Campbell would throw first and he made good use of this chance, drawing his rock almost perfectly to the button, coming to rest only inches from the center pin. Farr could not match Campbell's effort, only making eight foot, and Campbell was the overall spiel winner. Joining skip Campbell in victory was Sid Murray, Debbie Murray and Kathy Gale. Joining Farr in the runners-up spot was Rick Windsor, Brickie Brophie and Amanda Windsor. Losses on Saturday dropped Laughlin and

Lorway into fifth and sixth place respectively. Finishing in third place was former Schooner member Coralie Duchemin who was making her return to Schooner ice after not curling at the club for the past few seasons. Coralie was aided by Bill Ayre, Mike Cormier and Julianna King. Rounding out the top four was the Ray Cameron Rink with Skip Cameron, Todd MacAulay, Frances Ford and Kenny Thomas. Overall it was a great week and a great start to the season. Our Bonspiel chair for this year, Laura Rafuse, did a wonderful job in organizing and running the spiel and we would like to thank her and all of the people who helped her out in any way. You all did a great job. Thanks also to Brian and the ice crew for great conditions and to all the bartenders who volunteered their time to work, to people who sold even splits and to housekeeping for keeping the club spic and span all week. Thank you to Frank Kokocki for making the delicious Turkey soup that everyone enjoyed on Saturday and to everyone else who helped out in any way to make the spiel a great success. Without the effort of all of the volunteers, events like this would not be possible. Lastly we would like to thank everyone who took part in the spiel, especially those who joined us for the first time or, at least, the first time in a while. There was some great curling during the week and, most importantly, great fun had by everyone who took part.

Coors Fun Night



The next Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, December 20th. Why not take a break from the Holiday hustle and bustle and join us for a relaxing night of curling and fun with your friends and the Schooner. And if Holiday shopping has you a little short of cash, don't worry because this is the biggest bargain on town. The fun gets going at around 7:00 and is only \$7.00 for the public and \$4.00 for Schooner Members. This gets you curling, pizza and a chance at some great Coors Light Brewing Company prizes. All the equipment you need for curling is supplied but we ask that you bring clean, dry shoes for the ice area.

League Roundup



League play began on Sunday, November 2nd, when the Team Entry league got things underway as far as regular season schedules were concerned. The Team Entry is sporting a new sponsor this season after Colbourne's Sport and Trophy bowed out at the end of last year. This season the Sunday league is sponsored by Don Cherry's Sports Grill. We wish to thank them for their support. There will be ten teams competing in the Team entry, up slightly from last year's eight teams. One reason for the expansion in numbers is that there is another brand new team this season started by a player who broke away from their original Sunday rink to strike out on their own and test the waters as skip. Last season saw Wally MacDonald break away from the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink and start his own rink and this year it's Rick Billard leaving the lead position on the Brian Laughlin rink and starting his own team as skip. Billard is joined by three brand new curlers on Sunday so one can imagine that expectations are not that high for the Billard rink in the competitive Team Entry league. They struggled out of the gate, losing their first four games, some by some pretty high scores, but each week there was noticeable improvement. After a strong effort in week four against the Thomas Drover rink, Billard finally broke into the win column with a monumental victory over the previously undefeated MacDonald rink in what can only be described as a huge upset. MacDonald was forced to play the game with only three players when mate Sid Murray was sidelined with an injury. Missing Murray definitely played a part in the loss but, even down a man, MacDonald was still the favorite going into the game. For MacDonald, the devastating loss drops him out of sole possession of first place and into a tie for first with the Ray Cameron rink with four wins against one loss. For Cameron, his only loss of the year was also a bit of an

upset when he was crushed by the Gary Landry Rink in a shortened game. Cameron was missing a player in that match as well when Russell Fitzgerald was unable to play. For Landry, this was one of his two victories this year so far, the other coming against the upstart Billard rink. Close behind the leaders are two other teams, the Brian Laughlin rink and the Keith MacEachern rink, each with three wins against one loss and one less game played than the leaders. Laughlin's only loss came against the MacDonald rink and MacEachern's loss was against Laughlin. The Laughlin rink sees a new player at the lead position this year in Dennis Cormier who has taken the place of Rick Billard. Keith MacEachern is joined by new Schooner members but experienced curler Andrew Trites at mate while Lynn Kelly and Bernadette Cormier make up the front end. Joining Billard in getting their first win of the season on the last day of November was the John Bonaparte rink. Skip Bonaparte has been forced to step aside for now due to health issues and mate Stephen Leslie has been running the team and getting spares until Bonaparte's future for this season is more clear. We wish John all the best and a speedy recovery and we hope to see you back at the reins of your team soon. Rounding out the Sunday league teams are the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink, the Greg Ferguson rink and the Thomas Drover rink. Drover's lead, Ethan Kent is a member of the Schooner Junior program and is permitted to play in one regular league this season. Ethan is certainly holding his own as lead for Drover and has had some great games thus far this season. Both Ferguson and Bonnell enter this season with identical rosters to last year and both are off to mediocre starts, Ferguson with two wins and Bonnell with just one victory. Bonnell started slow last season as well before turning in an undefeated record in the second half to vault him up the standings and almost catch the regular season winners, the Wally MacDonald rink. Last year, Bonnell was playing with a mostly new team after his split with MacDonald and the slow start could possibly be chalked up to getting familiar with his new players. This year, playing with the same roster, Bonnell doesn't have that excuse and it will remain to be seen if he can indeed repeat the turnaround we saw last year or if the Bonnell rink is victim of a sophomore slump. With only one month behind us and lots more curling ahead, it's way too early to make any predictions about the outcome of the season.

The Men's League took to the ice for the first time this season on Monday, November 3rd. This season sees an eight team contingent competing in the Coors Light Men's League, back to normal after a dip to six teams last year. The Men's League, as has been the case for the last few seasons, looks to be very competitive and evenly matched with many close, well-curling games played this year already. Things are usually tight atop the standings in this league with this season being no different. After the first month of play we see the Gordie Cormier rink and the Stephen Leslie rink tied atop the standings with three wins and one tie, the tie coming for each when they met head to head. Close behind the front runners is the Brian Laughlin rink with three wins against one loss. This early in the season it's still anyone's league to win and only time will tell who will come out on top. Once again we want to wish John Bonaparte well after also having to give up his team in the Men's League due to health issues. Bill Farr has taken over skipping duties for Bonaparte but has not had much success as they remain winless so far this year. Rounding out the teams in the Men's this year are the Lonnie Howe rink, the Sid Murray rink, the Gary Landry rink and the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink.

The Mixed League is back to twelve teams this season after having spiked to sixteen rinks competing at the start of last year. The mixed league was delayed in starting this year when a power outage at the club on November 4th, the start date of this league,

forced the cancellation of curling. With power restored and the ice crew getting the ice back into shape, the Mixed league got its season started on Wednesday, November 5th. So far this season there have been a lot of well played games in the league and there's no one team that has distinguished itself as the top team. Currently there are four teams out of twelve tied with three wins. With lots of season left to go, anyone can come out on top. One notable change in the teams of the mixed league is Richard Lorway taking over skipping duties from John Bonaparte who stepped away from this league for now as well. John hopes he can make a limited return to curling after the Holidays. We wish him the best and we do hope he can return to finish the year. The Junior program makes its return again this season at the club with the goal of the organizers to grow the program once again, this time with a target number of 15%. The Junior Program has some new equipment this year as they received some grant money in partnership with the Sydney Curling Club and the CBRM Curler's Association. Our Junior program gets better and better each season and that's due in no small part to the efforts its coaches and coordinators. We want to thank you all very much, especially Nadine Neima-Drover who is back running the program again this year as coordinator. A testimony to the success of the program is that one of its members will again be playing in a regular league this year. As mentioned earlier, Ethan Kent is playing lead for the Thomas Drover rink in the Team Entry League. Congratulations to Ethan and the entire Schooner Junior Program. Keep up the good work.

So now that one full month is behind us and the year is well underway, we look forward to a long, successful and enjoyable season of curling at the Schooner. Check the website for league updates and check back here in the newsletter next month for another league round up. *Good curling everyone.*

Canadian Mixed

Sydney was well represented on team Nova Scotia this year at the Canadian Mixed championship as two curlers who got their start at the Sydney Curling Club, Christina Black and Kris Granchelli, joined skip Brent MacDougall and lead Jane Snyder to compete at the event held at the Granite Club in North Bay Ontario. The MacDougall rink, curling out of CFB Halifax, started the week-long event strong and finished the round robin portion with a 4-2 record, good enough to make it to the playoff round. Losses in the second round to Jamie Koe of the North West Territories and to Tom Wharry of Quebec eliminated the Nova Scotia Rink from further play, ending their run towards the Canadian Championship and the right to represent Canada at the World Mixed Championships. The winner of the event was the Max Kirkpatrick rink from Saskatchewan who defeated Jamie Koe in the final game. They will represent our country at the Worlds in Sochi Russia in 2015. The MacDougall rink didn't leave North Bay completely empty handed as mate Christina Black was named to the tournament all star team after completing the round robin with an 85% shooting percentage. Congratulations to Christina and all of her teammates and thanks to the MacDougall rink for representing Nova Scotia very well on the national stage.

Schooner Takes it on the Road

Schooner was represented at the Strait Paper Open Cash Spiel held at the Strait and Area Community Curling Club in Port Hawksbury from November 21-23. Club President Gordie Cormier threw skip rocks for the Schooner foursome while Wayne "Bull" Bonnell threw mate rocks and worked the house. Second was Rick Windsor and Dennis Cormier rounded out the team at lead. The boys had a tough schedule, playing all three of their preliminary games on Saturday starting at 8:30 am. After losing a close game in the morning that came down to last rocks for each team, they

649 Fundraiser

had to wait until late afternoon for their second match. A loss in that game and then again later in the evening dropped them from further play. Even though there wasn't much success on the ice, the guys partied the night away at the club in true Schooner spirit, showing that curling is not just about winning but about having fun and socializing with your fellow curlers. Congratulations to the boys for a good effort and thanks for representing our club.

Given the success of the 649 fundraisers last season, the Schooner executive decided to give it another go to start this year and try to raise much needed operating capital for the club. With a strong effort from the membership, the prize for this fundraiser was pushed to an estimated \$1150, up over 75% from the prize money in the 649 draw held at this time last year. The draw is being coordinated by club treasurer Laura Rafuse and we want to thank her and anyone else who helped out for their hard work in making this such a success. We also want to thank everyone who participated by both selling and buying entries. With the demise of our very important spaghetti dinner fundraiser, the 649 funds fill a big gap in the clubs yearly operating budget and go a long way to help keep membership rates and other costs to members through the season at a reasonable level. The 649 draw is ongoing and we are still waiting for our winner or winners. You can track your progress on the Schooner website by clicking '649' link on the main header bar and then clicking the 'Results' button. The results are updated on Thursday for the Wednesday night 649 draw and on Monday for Saturday's draw. Good luck everyone.



In an effort to raise more operating funds for the club, the Schooner executive have started a 'Chase the Ace' event at the club being held every Sunday evening. Similar events held by other organizations in the area have proven very successful and have seen jackpots grow well into the thousands of dollars. Each Sunday there will be tickets sold from 6-8 pm. At 8:15, one ticket will be drawn as the winner for that night. The ticket holder will get 20% of the daily sales automatically. The winner will also get to cut a deck of cards in hope of finding the ace of spades which would win them the accumulated jackpot which is 30% of that day's sales plus any funds that were carried over from previous draws where the ace of spades was not drawn. The club input \$100 to the Ace Jackpot to get it started. If, in the event the ticket drawn is not claimed in the allotted time specified in the house rules, the ticket will be declared forfeit and another ticket will be drawn. While you don't have to be in attendance personally to claim your ticket, the ticket must be present and someone has to claim it on your behalf. If you have entrusted someone to claim your ticket on your behalf, the club will assume the ticket holder in attendance and in possession of the ticket to be the winner and it will be up to them to forward the prize money to you.

The first draw was held on Sunday, November 23rd where there were \$190 worth of ticket sales. The winner, Laura Rafuse, won \$38 or 20% of \$190 and had a chance to draw the ace to win an additional \$157, \$100 from the club plus \$57 or 30% of the daily sales. The second draw, held Sunday, November 30th, saw 30% of the days sales added to the \$157 to make up the total jackpot for that day, With total sales of \$250, the jackpot grew to \$232 and we saw a draw winner prize of \$50. The second daily winner for Chase the Ace was Brian Laughlin who split his prize with Frank Kokocki. The next Chase the Ace event will be on Sunday, December 7th when the estimated jackpot will be in excess of \$300. The winning ticket holder will also receive the 20% of daily sales.

The club keeps 50% of each days sales less a small fee to the lottery commission to

cover the lottery license and taxes. If the ace of spades is not drawn, the card that is drawn, in Laura's case the three of diamonds and for Brian the three of clubs, is discarded from the deck and then the deck is sealed in an envelope until the next draw. As the jackpot grows your odds of drawing the ace get better since there is one less card each week. Results of each week's draw will be posted online. For more information on 'Chase the Ace' you can [visit the Schooner website](#). It is hoped that as the jackpot increases so will interest in the draws. While participation by Schooner members is appreciated we also hope you will help promote the event to friends, family, co-workers, etc. in order to build awareness and, in turn, help build the jackpot. If you know people who want to participate but may not be able to make it to the club in person, you can collect money and buy tickets on their behalf. Again, the ticket must be present at the time of the draw with someone there to claim it.

Turkey Spiel



The annual Schooner Curling Club Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel, is scheduled to be held from December 9th to 13th. The spiel is sponsored by Tamarind Optical of Sydney. This spiel is open to all curlers at a cost of \$20 per person, single entry. Sign-up sheets are now available on the club bulletin board. Each curler gets three games and has the choice of curling on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday or on Wednesday/Friday/Saturday. Come out and take a chance on winning your Christmas turkey. It's the last curling event of 2014 and it's always lots of fun. In conjunction with the spiel, the club will be holding a food drive in support of Kinsmen's Christmas programs. All curlers are asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item for the drive. Your generosity will be much appreciated.

Snowball



The Snowball fundraiser is back again this season. Enter for \$2 and have a chance to win the prize pot for that night. If the prize doesn't go then it carries over and "Snowballs" into a bigger prize. In November, one Snowball prize hit almost \$200. The Snowball is drawn at the end of each regular club league event, Men's League, Mixed League and Team Entry. Curlers taking part in Senior Pickup on Friday can sign in during that time for the draw that is held on Sunday after team Entry. You don't have to be curling and you don't even have to be present to win but you must enter for yourself, in person at the club. No one else can enter for you. Each member has a designated number assigned to them and, if your number is drawn and you are signed in, you win the prize. All members are encouraged to participate in the snowball when they are at the club because it raises much needed funds to help pay overhead costs and upkeep cost on the club.

Food Drive



All members, even those not participating in the Turkey Spiel, are reminded of the food drive now underway at the club in support of the Kinsmen Club's Christmas programs. You are asked to bring non-perishable food items to donate to this worthy cause. The donations will be used by the Kinsmen to help people in need during the Holiday season. A donation box is now located at the club where you can place your items. Thank you for your support for this worthy cause and Happy Holidays.

Holiday Break

All curlers are reminded that curling will finish up for the Holidays on Saturday, December 20th when the Junior Program will take the ice in the afternoon and there will be a Fun Night in the evening. Curling will resume on Sunday, January 4th, 2015 when the team Entry League takes the ice. Have a safe and happy Holiday Season.