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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 73

December 2016

December 13-17	Turkey Spiel
Thursday, December 22	Final Day of Curling Before Christmas
December 23 - January 1	Holiday Break
Monday, January 2	League Play Resumes
Saturday, January 7	General Meeting and Social
January 13 and 14	Two on Two Spiel
January 20-22	Ship Hector - New Glasgow
Saturday, January 28	Fun Night
February 11-12	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 18	Fun Night
February 24-26	Schooner Cash Spiel
March 2-6	NS Traveler's Championships
March 7-11	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 18	Fun Night
March 24-26	Sydney Spring Fling Mixed Spiel
April 2-8	Sydney Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 15	Fun Night
April 18-22	Schooner Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 23	Skating Party

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



League Play



League play got started on Sunday, November 6th when the Team Entry league took to the ice the day after the opening spiel ended. Team Entry has ten teams competing again this season with a lot of familiar faces and teams but a few new ones as well. The Brian Laughlin, the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell, Greg Ferguson and Keith MacEachern rinks are all back intact, while the Gordie Cormier and Omar Roach rinks have one new face each. Cormier welcomes Rob Angnew at second to replace Dennis Cormier who did not return this season and Roach has Matt MacPherson at lead replacing Todd MacAulay. MacPherson played with the Thomas Drover rink last season but that team did not return to Sunday play. Another team not making a return is the Darryl MacAulay rink. MacAulay and lead Agnes Harriss have not returned. New teams taking to the ice in Team Entry this year are the John Donovan rink and the Martin Campbell rink. Donovan makes a return to curling this season along with Yvonne Donovan who plays second on the team. Greg Wall is mate, coming from the

now defunct MacAulay rink and Bev Young, a Sunday newcomer, plays lead. Martin Campbell is making a return to Team Entry along with mate Russell Fitzgerald. They were long-time league competitors with the Ray Cameron rink. Joining Campbell and Fitzgerald will be Samantha Campbell at second and lead will be handled by Schooner newcomer Kristal Coffin.

The big news in Team Entry is, as previously reported, the splitting of the ranks of the Wally MacDonald rink. Two new teams have been formed with skip MacDonald and mate Sid Murray taking on a new front end in Rick Billard and Anthony Boudreau while joining up with Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Walter Nichols, who have now formed their own skip/mate duo, is Scott Deveaux and Jeff Steele. Billard has skipped his own team for the past few years in Team Entry after breaking into the league with the Brian Laughlin rink as a lead. Billard brings Anthony Boudreau along from his old team. Deveaux and Steel are both new members at the club this season although Deveaux has a lot of curling experience while Steel is just getting his start.

With four weeks in the books there have been a number of surprises in the team entry league so far, one of which is the undefeated record of the Keith MacEachern rink. MacEachern has started the season 3-0 with one postponed game this month. Maybe even more of a surprise is the slow start of two other teams, the Brian Laughlin rink who are 0-3 and the Martin Campbell rink who are 1-3, both teams who were expected to contend for top honors in the league this season. While it is still early in the year, teams who have had slow starts will need to turn things around quickly if they want to keep pace in the standings. Joining MacEachern with undefeated starts are the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink and the Gordie Cormier rink, both at 3-0. Both Cormier and Bonnell were contenders in the Team Entry race last season along with the Wally MacDonald rink who have also gotten off to a good start with a 3-1 record. Play in the team entry league has been marked with a number of close games including some that have gone to an extra end so it's way too early to make any calls on who will come out on top this season. With good parity among most teams, anyone can win or lose on any given day.

In the Mixed League, now playing on its new nights of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the Sid Murray rink is the only team still boasting an undefeated record. Peter MacIntyre and his foursome are close on Murray's heels however with a 3-1 record and then there are a large number of teams at 2-2. With a new format this season of having two league winners, one for round one and one for round two, and no playoff, Murray and MacIntyre have given themselves a good chance at becoming first half champs. There are only nine games in the schedule for round one, five of which remain. After the completion of round one and the crowning of a champion, teams will be disbanded and new teams formed for round two.

The Men's League is also playing on a new night this year as a result of the pre-season league survey conducted by the club and now takes the ice on Thursday nights, changing from Monday were the league has played for the last number of seasons. That change has apparently not had any adverse affects on the league as it still boasts eight teams and, arguably, has the most parity among teams of any of the Schooner leagues. The Brian Laughlin rink is the only team still without a loss but have one of their games to make up so they sit with a 2-0 record. There are a number of teams at 2-1 indicating that any team is capable of defeating any other team in this league. Unlike the Mixed League, the Men's will continue throughout the season with the same rosters and will have a playoff round as well. As it is with other leagues it's too early to make any predictions as to who may end up on top and take home the season title or the playoffs.

Junior Curling Fundraiser



The Schooner Juniors got underway in November as well with an open fun and orientation day on Saturday, November 19th. While coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover was a little disappointed with the initial turnout, the kids who are involved with the program are eager to learn and have fun and she said there is hope the program will expand over the season as more kids join up. There is a plan to do some marketing of the program over the next while with brochures that will be distributed in the local schools. The Junior Program takes the ice regularly on Saturday afternoons and also competes in a couple of spiels throughout the season. If anyone has children, grandchildren or knows of any kids who may be interested in trying and learning the game of curling, please contact Nadine or any of the coaches involved in the program. Little Rocks are kids aged 7-11 years old, Junior age starts at twelve and full juniors need to be high school age. More info and pricing for membership is available on the Schooner Website or at the club.

After the huge popularity of the fudge sale last season, the Schooner Junior program looked forward to running that same fundraiser again this year. Unfortunately, the company that provided the fudge last year, the Cape Breton Fudge Company, was unable to accommodate them this year and a new project needed to be found. Not deterred, Junior program coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover went on the hunt and found a great replacement. The Junior curlers will be selling Cineplex items that include a "Night at the Movies" for two at the local Cineplex. For the low price of only \$35 you get two theatre tickets to the movie of your choice along with refreshments for two people. Other items include single admission tickets, kids adventure packs and gift cards. Gift cards are sold at face value with a small donation to the Junior program added on to each denomination. Order sheets are available at the club or you can get the packages from any junior curler, parent or coach. These will make great Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers or just use them yourself. Everyone loves a night at the movies so make your list and get your orders in soon.



Opening Spiel

The Schooner Opening Spiel, sponsored by Stephen's Rona, was delayed slightly this year due to a power outage in October that pushed back ice making at the club. It did get going on November 1 and had twelve teams compete, six in each of two divisions, Tuesday/Thursday and Wednesday/Friday, with all teams coming together to play head to head on Saturday. The winners were the Wally MacDonald rink in the Tuesday/Thursday division and the Brian Laughlin rink in the Wednesday/Friday slot. MacDonald cruised to victory in the three game event with a 3-0 record, twice taking thirteen of a possible fifteen points while maximizing his plus minus at five, and finished with a total score of 35 +13. Laughlin finished with a 2-1 record but with two big wins of 11 points and mustering 6 points in his one loss, was able to come out on top and just edge out second place finisher Cal Thistle on plus minus. Thistle was also 2-1 in the event, his only loss coming to the first place Laughlin Team. Thistle also amassed 28 points but was only a +2 while Laughlin was a +5. Second place in the Tuesday/Thursday division was taken by the Keith MacEachern rink who finished with a 2-1 record and a total of 26 points.

Skip Wally MacDonald was joined in his first place finish by mate Bryant Cormier, second Greg Wall and Lead Kenny Thomas. Brian Laughlin was aided in his division's first place finish by mate Kelley Laughlin, second Allen Young and lead Bev Young. The Thistle rink had skip Cal, Ed MacNeil at mate, Dave Boudreau as

second and Barb Thistle at lead. Finally, skip Keith MacEachern was joined by Rick Windsor, Bernadette Cormier and Todd MacAulay. Congratulations to all our winning teams.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part in the spiel, especially long time Schooner members who made their return to the club after an absence, Bricky Brophy and John Donovan, and to all the new faces who weren't past members, Julia Cormier, Matt Tubrett, Jeff Steel and Justin Humphrey. It's worth mentioning that four of the six people listed here have joined as full members of the club for this season. We're happy to have you at the Schooner Club.

We also wish to thank everyone who worked hard and helped out in organizing and running the spiel. Spiel Coordinator Stephen Leslie spent a lot of time getting participants involved, getting prizes and organizing teams and schedules and, given the good games and the close finishes, did a great job overall. Thank you to Georgette Sparkes for making the delicious soup that all curlers and guests enjoyed on Saturday, to Brian and the ice crew for keeping the ice top notch all week, to the bartenders, the housing committee and to anyone else who helped out in any way. Last but certainly not least, we want to thank Stephen's Rona for once again sponsoring the spiel.

Sponsorship from local businesses is important to the club and we are very grateful. We encourage all members, whenever possible, to try and give your business to these community minded companies.

Now, with the Opening Spiel in the books, the 2016-17 season is officially underway and off to a fantastic start. We look forward to another good season of league play, spiels, fun nights and other social events and hope everyone has a great year and wish you all Good Curling. The next spiel on the Schooner Calendar is the Turkey Spiel being held from December 13-17. Mark the dates and keep an eye on the Schooner Website, Facebook page and the club bulletin board for more information as it becomes available. Hope you can make it.

Fun Nights

Members are reminded that there will be no Schooner Fun Night held in December but that Fun Nights will make their return in the new year with the first one being held on Saturday, January 28th. These nights are open to everyone and are a great way to introduce new people to the sport of curling and show them how much fun they can have at the Schooner Club. Members are encouraged to promote the fun nights and, if possible, attend with friends, family, co-workers or whoever. For only a few bucks you can get to curl, eat some delicious pizza and you may even have a chance at winning a prize. It's a great way to spend a Saturday night. So mark your calendar on January 28th and plan to attend the first fun night of the season. The fun gets going around 7pm. If you can't make it in January, a full schedule of Fun Nights for the season is available on the Schooner website.

Turkey Spiel



As much a Holiday tradition as hanging the stockings and mistletoe, the Schooner Curling Club's annual Turkey spiel will once again be on the calendar this Holiday Season. This spiel is open to any and all curlers for an entry fee of \$20 which gets you three games in your choice of either the Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday or the Wednesday/Friday/Saturday division. The best part of all is you get a chance to win your Christmas dinner as the prizes for top teams is a Christmas Turkey. Please check the Schooner bulletin board for sign-up sheets or you can email the club and we'll get you signed up. Everyone is encouraged to sign up early for this popular event.

Mid-Season General Meeting

Don't forget, as it is every year, the club will be holding a food drive during the Turkey spiel to collect items for the Kinsmen Christmas Food Drive. Everyone is asked to bring non-perishable food items and drop them in the donation box that will be setup at club during the spiel and through to the Holidays.

There will be a mid-season general meeting held at the club on Saturday, January 7th starting at 7pm. Afterwards there will be a wine and cheese social to help us ring in the new year. The meeting is open to everyone and is a good opportunity to find out what has been going on at the club for the first part of the season and to participate in the discussion and decision making on topics that will affect the club moving forward. Some potential topics of discussion include a fundraiser for the new year and feedback on the new league structure. Plan to join us and help shape the future of the club and then enjoy the social to follow. Hope to see you there.

Snowball



The snowball fundraiser makes a return to the club once again this season and is going on now. It runs during every regularly scheduled curling event and is open to all Schooner members. Each member is assigned a number that is listed at the bar. To enter, you must sign in personally and pay the \$2 entry, one dollar going into the jackpot and one dollar going to benefit the club. At the end of the evening, one number is drawn and if the member who is assigned that number has signed up for that night's draw, they win the accumulated jackpot. If the number belongs to a member who is not signed up, the jackpot is carried over and 'SNOWBALLS' into an even bigger jackpot for the next draw. We haven't had any really large prizes so far this season but we have seen jackpots in past seasons go well into the hundreds of dollars. Remember, while you don't need to be curling on a given night to enter the snowball, you do need to sign in and pay yourself for each draw, no one else can sign you in and you can't pay in advance for upcoming draws. We have been running this fundraiser for a few years now and it has played an important part in the financial health of the club. So the next time you are in the club remember to play the snowball because it not only helps the club but you also don't want to be the one who missed out on a great cash prize.

Weekly Tarbish Games

The weekly Tarbish games will continue to be held every Tuesday evening at the club. Play gets underway around 7pm. These games were started a couple of summers ago as a way to utilize the club during the off times and to bring new faces in, even if it's not to curl. The games proved so popular that they continued into last year's curling season and have been going on ever since. The way it is setup is that everyone is entered as an individual, not a team. Depending on the number of players on a given night, you are to play a designated number of games, sometimes within a group, and after each game, individual wins and scores are recorded and then you move on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member has played the number of designated games, scores are tallied and winners determined. The games are well attended and are a great boost to the club and our bar. The games are open to anyone, not just club members, so you can bring a friend if you like.

649 Fundraiser

The club is currently running a 649 fundraiser. The entries are being sold now and the draws will begin on Wednesday, December 14th and run until there is a winner. Each entry allows participants to pick six different numbers between one and forty nine. Each time there is a 649 lottery draw, either on Wednesday or Saturday, the numbers drawn get ticked off. The first entry to tick off all six number will win the jackpot which is 50% of the money taken in throughout the sale. If more than one entry ticks off all their numbers on the same 649 draw, they will split the jackpot equally. Numbers used are from the 649 draw only, not any subsidiary games like Tag or Atlantic 649 and the bonus number is not included either. The cost of a single entry is \$5 or you can get three sets of numbers for \$10 on the same entry form. More information and printable entry forms are available on the Schooner Website. Everyone is asked to submit all entry forms by December 11. You can drop them off at the bar. If anyone has any questions they can contact Lynn Kelly. Fundraisers like these are very important to the financial well being of the club and allow us to keep costs to members at a minimum. Everyone is encouraged to sell as many entries as possible to help the club out.

Casual 2 on 2 Evenings and Matinee Curling

The first of what we hope to be many casual 2 on 2 evenings was held on a Friday night in November. These events will be held when there is free time at the club and members can sign up for each event individually. Teams are chosen from those in attendance and the number of games played will depend on how many members show up. At the first night there were eight members who took part and each played two games. In between and afterwards, members enjoyed socializing with a beverage. Keep an eye on the Schooner Website, Facebook page and on the club bulletin board for when the next 2 on 2 evening will be.

Members are also reminded that Matinee curling has started again this season and is regularly held on Friday afternoons from 1-3 pm. Sometimes it will change to Thursday to accommodate ice maintenance for spiels but a schedule is available on the Schooner website. Matinee curling is open to all members.

These two 'Bonus' events are a great way to stretch your membership fees a little further and get more for your money.

Team Roach Competes at the Travelers Championship

Late last season skip Kurt Roach and his team from the Sydney Curling Club won the Provincial title at the Nova Scotia Men's Travelers Club Championships. That earned them a spot at the National event that was just held in November in Kelowna, BC. Competing alongside Roach for the Canadian Club Championship was mate Mark MacNamara, second Kevin Gouthro and lead Robin Nathanson.

While many expenses to attend the event were covered by The Travelers Insurance Company or various curling bodies, the team still needed to raise some funds to help cover costs and to participate in the For the Love of the Game fundraising program sponsored by the Travelers in aid of youth curling. The team that raised the most money for the cause would win \$6000 for their home club with four additional \$1000 prizes being drawn for from the teams who participated. Team Roach had a washer toss tournament this past summer and held a silent auction and barbeque along with that. The washer toss crown was won by our own Schooner faithful Russell Fitzgerald and Brian Laughlin. During the tournament in Kelowna there was also a silent auction held with teams asked to bring and donate items that were unique and representative of their home area.

Port Hawksbury Cash Spiel

On the ice, team Roach got off to a strong start with two victories to begin the event 2-0. They first defeated New Brunswick 9-3 and then bested the Yukon 7-6. Two losses followed, one to eventual champions Ontario 8-3 and one to Newfoundland 5-4, which dropped the Nova Scotia team to 2-2. They rebounded to finish the round robin strong with two more victories, beating BC and the North West Territories by a single point each. That 4-2 record was good enough to make it to a quarter final game on Friday night against Alberta who had to win a tie break game earlier that day to gain a spot in that same quarter final. That game was being streamed on the internet so a group of people got together at the Schooner Club to watch it. It was an exciting game that went back and forth all night but saw Roach down two going into the final end. Roach had a chance to get two to tie when Alberta flashed a shot that left the door open for him but it wasn't to be however and Alberta ended up winning the game to advance and eliminate Roach from the event. The eventual winners of the event and Canadian Club Champions were the Ontario rink who defeated Saskatchewan in the finals while Alberta were the bronze medalists after defeating British Columbia in the consolation game. It was a great overall showing for the Nova Scotia rink however and one that they can certainly be proud of. Congratulations to Team Roach.

Schooner was represented once again this year at the Strait Area Community Curling Club's annual cash spiel. The rink, skipped by Gordie Cormier, also included Stephen Leslie, Rob Angnew and Brian Laughlin. The Schooner rink started out with a win on Friday night but then dropped their second game to a very strong Wayne Sangster rink on Saturday morning. The Schooner foursome suffered their second loss on a draw to the button that saw Schooner skip Gordie Cormier catch about a third of the button only to be bested by the opposing skip who made a perfect shot and covered the pin with his stone. A third loss was also heart breaking when a missed shot by the opposition took a favorable turn for them and gave them the victory, finishing the weekend for team Schooner. Overall it was a good weekend and the club was well represented. It is hoped that by attending some of these out of town spiels that clubs will reciprocate by sending teams to our Open Cash Spiel being held later this season. Schooner teams will be hitting the road in January as well when an estimated six teams will make the trip to New Glasgow to compete in the Ship Hector Spiel. Good luck to everyone.



**To the Members and Friends of the
Schooner Curling Club
All the Best for this Holiday Season
And
A Very Happy New Year.**