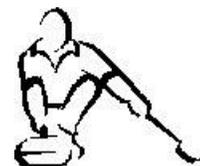


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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 87

December, 2018

Turkey Spiel	December 6-8
Holiday Break	December 21-January 3
League Play Resumes	Thursday, January 3
Two on Two Spiel	January 4-5
Wine and Cheese Reception	Friday, January 4
Fun Night	Saturday, January 12
Schooner Cash Spiel	January 18-20
Cash Spiel Dance	Saturday, January 19
Sweetheart Spiel	February 8-9
2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts	February 16-24
Two on Two Spiel	March 1-2
Fun Night - St. Patrick's Day Edition	Saturday March 16
Coors Light Spring Mixed Spiel - Sydney CC	March 22-24
Ladies Doubles Spiel	April 5-6
Closing Spiel	April 25-27
Skating Party	Sunday, April 28
Closing Banquet	Saturday, May 4
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

League Roundup



Play in all three of the Schooner leagues got underway in November and is now in full swing. The Pepsi Mixed league has a total of ten teams competing this season with two of those teams sporting perfect 4-0 records heading into December, the Robert Agnew rink and the Kevin Gouthro rink. Close behind with only one loss is the Coralie Ayre rink and there are a number of teams at 2-2. There is still a ways to go in the first leg of the season and any of these teams can push their way to the top of the standings before the schedule completes.

The Don Cherry's Team Entry League has expanded this season with the addition of two rinks, seeing the league grow from ten teams last year to twelve for this season's campaign. There were only three scheduled games in the Sunday League in November with Remembrance Day falling on a Sunday this year. There were also games missed when teams travelled to Port Hawkesbury for their annual cash spiel.

Heading into December there is really no one who is setting themselves apart in this league. Four teams, Brian Laughlin, Gordie Cormier, Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Coralie Ayre are all sitting with two wins and no losses. They were all teams who missed a game in November. The Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink and newcomers, the Rick Windsor rink, also have two wins but also have a loss as well. Given the shortened month

and the parity among most teams in the league, it's way too early to pick any favorites here.

In other news from Team Entry, Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell is still out due to an injury and there is no definite schedule for his return. Richard Lorway is handling the skip's duties and throwing third stone while Bill Farr continues to fill in and throw last rocks. Newcomers to the league this year, the Coralie Ayre rink, have added Carrie Cress, a new Schooner member, to their lineup, throwing second stones. While skip Coralie is a past Schooner member, she is joined but other newcomers Heidi Bishop and Bill Ayre. We want to welcome you all to the club. The Greg Ferguson rink has returned to Sunday play with a couple of new faces for this year. Skip Ferguson didn't return and was replaced by Robert Agnew and lead, Steve Jurcina, is out with an injury so Val MacIntyre has taken over that spot. Another skip not returning this season is Omar Roach. Former mate, Gary Landry, has moved into the skip's position and is joined by returning team mates Mike Cormier and Justin Humphrey. Added to the team to play lead is Debby Murray. While Landry is off to a slow start in Team Entry, he has a team that can win on any given week and we have to remember that last season they won the playoff title with Roach.

Other teams with at least one new face include the Wally MacDonald rink who added Chris Webb after the departure of Rick Billard, the Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod rink lost lead Matt Tubrett but have added Anthony Boudreau who is making a return to curling after missing last season and Jess Dilney has joined the Russell Fitzgerald rink as lead. Jess is another Schooner newcomer and we would like to welcome her to the club.

While a number of other teams returned intact, the Gordie Cormier rink is a team of three after the departure of Mel Windsor to join the Rick Windsor rink. The Cormier squad seem happy to play with three until a fourth comes along.

The Old Triangle Men's League is continuing its trend of being a very competitive league with a lot of parity among teams. So far this season, all teams in the league have at least one loss and at least one win, making the standings at this early point very close. Two teams, the Gordie Cormier and Kevin Gouthro rinks, have a small lead at six points but there are a number teams at four. As it has been with other years, we expect the Men's League champ won't be decided until the final week.

The Junior program has enjoyed another good start to the season as well. Numbers are good this year and they have already run a fund raiser selling Cape Breton Fudge Company products. Deadline for orders was December 1st. As in other years, plans are made to compete outside of the club at junior spiels, events that the Schooner Juniors have always done well at. We want to welcome back returning junior members and parents and extend a warm welcome to those who are joining us for the first time this season.

All members are reminded that Matinee Curling has started and is scheduled to run on Friday afternoons from 1-3. This is drop in curling and is open to any Schooner member.

Opening Spiel and Dance

The Schooner Opening Spiel, sponsored once again this year by Stephen's Rona, was held from October 29 to November 3 with a break on October 31 for Halloween. It was a great start to the season with six teams taking part in the Monday/Thursday division and a full slate of eight teams on the Tuesday/Friday side. All teams came together on Saturday to compete head to head to determine our winner.

Heading into Saturday play, six teams had distanced themselves from rest and had the best chance at a first place finish. Other teams still had an outside chance but needed both a big victory on Saturday and a loss by the frontrunners as well to be able to overtake them. At the front of the pack were the Gordie Cormier and Wally MacDonald rinks who were tied with 21 points and they were followed closely by the Kevin Gouthro rink with a two game total of 20 points. Rick Billard, Rick Windsor and John Donovan were still within striking distance with Billard having 18.5 points and Windsor and Donovan each having amassed 17 points. Saturday would see Donovan taking on Gouthro in the first draw of the day with both teams having a good chance to distance themselves from other front runners. Gouthro was the victor on that day, taking thirteen of a possible fifteen points and putting himself in a great position for a top finish. There were more clashes of the front runners in draw two when Rich Billard and Wally MacDonald faced off. MacDonald defeated Billard but came up short on points and sat one behind Kevin Gouthro who remained in first with only the Gordie Cormier rink in contention to still unseat him. Cormier was slated to take on Rick Windsor in the third draw of the afternoon but even a clean sweep of all ends by Windsor could not give him the point total he needed to overtake first. Cormier needed twelve points and to win by two points or more in order to take over first and take the title away from Gouthro. Cormier put in a good effort, taking the victory from Windsor, but only got eleven points, leaving him one short and Kevin Gouthro still in first with no one in the final draw who could catch him. The final draw was cut short a little bit due to slippery ice conditions caused by very warm weather outside and the dehumidifier in the ice shed not working at full capacity. As mentioned, none of the teams in the final draw were in a position to overtake first place anyway.

Skip Kevin Gouthro was joined in his victory by mate Greg Wall, second Georgette Sparkes and lead Anthony Boudreau. The first place winners were presented with a gift bag that was donated by Subway Restaurants. Congratulations to you all. Second place was taken by Wally MacDonald, last year's opening Spiel winning skip, who tied in points with Gordie Cormier but bested him on plus/minus. MacDonald had Joe Erickson and Chris Webb helping out while Cormier was joined by Peter MacIntyre and Justin Humphrey. Rounding out the top five was the Richard Lorway rink in fourth and the Keith MacEachern rink in fifth. Lorway's rink included Lonnie Howe and Frances Ford while MacEachern was joined by Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod, Julia Cormier and Jess Dilney. Thank you to everyone who took part.

After curling was all done it was time for DJ Jimmy to take over and provide the music for the first big party of the season at the club. There wasn't a very large crowd there but those who were certainly had a good time and partied into the night in true Schooner style.

Thanks once again to all the curlers who participated, to the spiel committee volunteers for organizing and running the event, to spiel sponsor Rona, to Subway for their generous donation, to DJ Jimmy for putting on a great party Saturday night and to everyone else who helped out in any way with running the spiel, working the bar, helping with the ice or whatever else needed to be done. It was a great start to what looks like is going to be another great season at the Schooner.

Turkey Spiel

The Schooner Club's annual Holiday tradition, the Turkey Spiel, will be held December 6th to the 8th. There is a new scheduling format for this spiel that, in the past, has been run as a week-long event. The new format will see participants play one game on either Thursday or Friday evening and then two games on Saturday. Cost to enter is \$20 and it is open to everyone. You have a chance to win your Christmas Turkey and there will be prizes for everyone. Registration is now open and you can sign up at the club or by sending an email to schoonercurling@gmail.com. For new curlers, all equipment will be provided, you just need a clean pair of sneakers for the ice.

In conjunction with the spiel there will be a food drive to help support the local Kinsmen Club's Christmas program as well. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and the club's bulletin board for more information as it becomes available. Plan to join us.

2018 Travelers Club Championship

The Kurt Roach rink from the Sydney Curling Club was the men's Nova Scotia representative at this year's Travelers National Club Championship that was held in Miramichi, New Brunswick from November 19-24. Joining skip Roach at the event was mate, Mark MacNamara, second, Travis Stone and lead, Robin Nathanson. For Roach, it was the second trip he has made in three years to the National tournament. His first was in 2016 when the event was held in Kelowna, BC, where he made the quarter final game but was eliminated by eventual bronze medalists, Alberta.

This year got off to a good start for Roach's foursome with a victory over the Yukon on opening night. A loss to PEI the next morning left Nova Scotia with a 1-1 record but they shook that off and won later that same day by a 9-6 score over Quebec. After that, Roach ran the table in the round Robin, not losing again and capping off the preliminary round with a 7-4 win over a very strong Manitoba team. The 5-1 record put Roach in first place in his pool, edging Manitoba, who also sported a 5-1 record, into second. The top finish meant Roach and his Nova Scotia rink would move directly into the semi final game and would face the winner of a quarter final game between Saskatchewan and Quebec. The other quarter final game was between Ontario and Manitoba who were playing for the right to face British Columbia who had sported a perfect 6-0 record in the round robin.

Roach ended up facing Saskatchewan in the semis after they had defeated Quebec in their quarter final match and BC ended up facing Ontario who had gotten by Manitoba. Team Roach got down early in the semi final game, giving up two in the first end, but bounced back in the

Schooner Competes in Port Hawkesbury Cash Spiel

second with three points of their own. The teams traded singles in the third and fourth, giving Nova Scotia the lead at the half way point. A big deuce in the fifth end and another in the seventh, after giving Saskatchewan a single in the sixth end, wrapped up the game and Nova Scotia was off to face BC in the championship after they defeated Ontario 5-3.

British Columbia came out strong in the championship game, jumping to a 3-0 lead after two ends with two in the first with hammer and then a steal of one in the second when Roach's final stone over curled, missing an opportunity to score three in that end. Roach did answer with a single in the third but a big three spot for BC in the fourth gave them a commanding 6-1 lead at the break. Roach mounted a bit of a comeback with a deuce in the fifth end and some pressure in the sixth, but a draw for a single in the sixth for BC against two Nova Scotia counters and another single in the seventh put the game out of reach and resulted in handshakes. That made the undefeated BC rink the Travelers Canadian Club Champions for 2018 while Roach and Team Nova Scotia had to settle for silver, still a huge accomplishment at this level and a good improvement on his showing from 2016.

The Women were also in Miramichi that week competing for their own national club title and again, Nova Scotia did very well. The Michelle Williams rink out of the Lakeshore Curling Club in Sackville were the provincial representatives on the women's side and finished first in their pool with a 4-2 record in the round robin. Skip Williams was joined by Mary Porter at mate, second, Abby Miller and lead, Kathleen Porter. The first place finish in the round robin vaulted team Nova Scotia into the semi finals where they eventually met team Ontario who had earned their way there by defeating Saskatchewan in the quarter final. The other semi final saw pool winner Northwest Territories play Alberta who had defeated Manitoba in another quarter final matchup. Nova Scotia defeated eventual Bronze medalists Ontario and Alberta defeated NWT to set up the championship game. Once again, Nova Scotia had to settle for silver when Alberta stormed out of the gate to build a 5-1 lead at the break and cruise to a 7-3 win to take the National Women's Club Championship. Overall, a great showing by Nova Scotia on both the men's and women's sides. The teams who compete at an event such as this are all high caliber and to have both Nova Scotia rinks win their pools and make it to the championship games is a great accomplishment. Congratulations to you all and thank you for representing our Province so well and so proudly.

Two Schooner rinks made the trip to Port Hawkesbury on the weekend of November 23-25 to compete in the Strait Area Community Curling Club's annual cash spiel. The Gordie Cormier rink, with skip Cormier, Stephen Leslie, Kevin Gouthro, Brian Laughlin and Kelley Laughlin as a fifth player, were joined by the Coralie Ayre rink who had Coralie, Heidi Bishop, Carrie Cress and Bill Ayre.

Both teams got off to a good start, winning their opening games but then came together head to head in their first match on Saturday. After a well

played and close game ended in a tie after eight ends, a draw to the button was required to decide a winner. Coralie drew to the pin and bested Gordie Cormier's effort as his rock ended up in the back four foot. A great game and an exciting finish. It's too bad a Schooner rink had to lose. Another win for each team later on Saturday meant both would play on Sunday morning with a chance to go to a final and be in the prize money. More success in the early Sunday games meant the Ayre rink would play in the 'A' final and the Cormier rink would compete for the 'B' title. Skip Coralie ended up victorious in her game and took top honors, winning the 'A' division, but skip Gordie Cormier lost the 'B' final and settled for the runner-up position in that division. Overall a great showing by the Schooner representatives. Congratulations to you all on your success and thank you for representing the club so well.

2 on 2 Spiel

The first of three 2 on 2 curling events will be held at the club in early January, shortly after we return from Christmas break. This spiel will be run on January 4th and 5th, is open to anyone who wants to take part and teams can be male, female or mixed. Another open event is scheduled for March 1st and 2nd while a ladies only doubles event is scheduled for April 5-6.

Due to the lack of time between our return from the Holiday break to the start of this spiel, registration will be started in December before we break for Christmas. Curlers should enter as a team of two and registration will cost \$40 per team. This event will be run in a draw format with play beginning on Friday night and going all day Saturday. Games are six ends and it will be a double knockout. Watch the Club bulletin board for registration and watch the Schooner website for more info as it becomes available. On Friday Night the club will be hosting a New Year's celebration with a wine and cheese reception for all curlers, club members and guests.

Rules for this event are based on traditional doubles curling but with a few modifications. We generally don't place rocks in play at the start of an end. Each team member will be designated an end at the start of the game and will play that end for the duration of the game, not being permitted to cross the half way point of the sheet. Each team delivers six stones per end and there is no sweeping of a stone until it crosses the hog line at the target end. Full rules will be made available prior to the start of play. This game has certainly grown in popularity at the club over the last couple of years and everyone who plays it really enjoys it. The spiel is limited to sixteen teams so sign up early.

649 Fundraiser

The Schooner Club relies a lot on fundraising to cover costs while keeping membership rates and bar prices as low as possible. To that end, the club is running a 649 fundraiser to help build up the bank account. All members are encouraged to sell as many entries as possible.

Cost is \$5 per entry and three for \$10. for each entry, the buyer picks six different numbers from 1-49, just like in the regular 649 lottery. When your numbers are picked in the regular 649 draw, you tick those numbers off.

The first entry to tick off all of their six numbers will win the jackpot, 50% of total sales. If more than one entry ticks off their six numbers during the same draw, the prize will be split equally among all winners. Only regular draw numbers will count, no bonus number, tag numbers or Atlantic 649 will be used in the contest. We will start with the 649 draw on Wednesday, December 5th. All entries should be turned in to the club by Sunday, December 2. Please help with this important fundraiser



Fundraiser

Chase the Ace came to a somewhat early conclusion when the Ace of Spades was found in the deck of 44 remaining cards on Tuesday, November 13. Alicia Deagle was the lucky winner and took home a total prize that night of \$975. We want to congratulate Alicia and all of our weekly winners up to that point and we want to thank everyone who played Chase the Ace at the Schooner this time around. We would also like to thank our community vendors, Hunted Treasures on Victoria Rd., DC Auto Electric on Upper Prince St., Disco Tirecraft on Disco St., Cape Breton Glass at 19 Mitchel Place and CC Computer Solutions at 235 George St. for selling tickets on our behalf and we want to thank everyone who helped out, especially Lynn Kelly and Frances Ford who sold tickets and ran the draws every Tuesday at the club.

The benefits to the club from proceeds we have gotten from Chase the Ace draws are huge. They have gone a long way in keeping member's costs down and in doing improvements and repairs to the club that benefit everyone.

Snowball



All members are reminded that the Schooner Snowball Draw is underway again this year. It's open to members only and runs on any regularly scheduled curling league event. It only costs \$2 to play and we have already had a few big winners, most recently when the jackpot grew to well over \$200.

All members are assigned a number on the membership list posted at the bar. On any night that the Snowball is running, members can sign in and pay the \$2 entry. While you don't have to be present to win, you must be at the club on the day of the draw to sign in, you can't have someone else sign you in on your behalf or sign in for any future draws ahead of time. If the number drawn belongs to a member who is signed in for that draw, they win the jackpot. If the number drawn is for a member who is not signed in, the jackpot carries over and "snowballs" into a bigger jackpot. Each entry means \$1 more toward the total prize while \$1 goes to the club. Do don't forget to sign in for the Snowball the next time you curling and you may win a great cash prize just in time for Christmas!

Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights made their return to the schedule in November with the first one of the season taking place on Saturday, November 24. While this event wasn't as successful as we would have hoped, every Fun Night is important to the club as they introduce new people to the club and the sport of curling and, even if there are only a few people attending, they

Tuesday Tarabish



are still a success.

Fun Nights are open to everyone so round up your family, your friends, co-workers, whoever and get down to the club for a great time. For only \$7 (\$4 for Schooner Club members) you get to try curling, eat delicious pizza and maybe even get a chance at winning a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. If you haven't tried curling before or are relatively new to the sport, we will supply all the equipment you need and the instruction. You just need to have clean sneakers for the ice. There is no Fun Night in December due to the shortened month but Fun Nights return in January with the next one scheduled for Saturday, January 12. All members are asked to try and support Fun Nights and make them a success.

Tuesday night tarabish continues at the club and continues to be popular. Good turnouts in November filled the club with card players. The games are open to everyone and are single entry. Partners rotate throughout the evening and points and wins are tallied on an individual basis. Once the designated number of games are played, the points are added up and the winners determined. These games are lots of fun and the bar is open to purchase refreshments. Take a chance at the even split and enjoy some free snacks. Join us any Tuesday. The games get going at 7pm.

All ticket options for the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts are now on sale online and at the Center 200 box office. Full event packages are on sale for \$399 plus fee and get you access to all draws for the event including tie breakers and playoffs. Mini packages include opening weekend for \$99 and Championship Weekend for \$189. The Opening Weekend package includes all five draws for Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17 while Championship Weekend packs start on Friday, February 22 and will include any tie breakers and playoff games, including Sunday's championship game. Day packs will get you all draws on any given day and are priced at \$49-59. Single draw tickets are also available, ranging in price from \$17.50 to \$37.50 per game depending on the day and time of the draw. All prices include HST but not facility fees. All tickets to the event are also good for access to the Heartstop Lounge that will be located at the Joan Harris Cruise Pavilion. If you would like to plan your ticket purchases around the draws for team Nova Scotia, their preliminary round draws have been assigned – draw 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13. Final preliminary round match-ups will be determined once all of the provinces and territories teams are declared via the provincial and territorial play downs.

There was a ticket open house November 14th at C200. Individuals who had already purchased full event and mini packages were able to pick up their hard copies and were given the exclusive opportunity to purchase single draw tickets before the general public sale started on November 16th. The Scotties trophy was on display and five time Canadian and two time World Champion curler, Kim Kelly, was on hand signing autographs and talk about her experiences as a champion curler. Even Santa made

and appearance, taking names of all the good little curlers who wanted Scotties tickets in their stockings this year. On November 15th the Scotties held a media day at the Sydney Curling Club. Local media, media partners, and sponsors of the tournament came out and got a lesson in curling from instructors that included Kim Kelly, Christina Black, Robin Nathanson, and Kurt Roach. The Vice Chairs discussed how excited and ready Sydney is to host the 2019 Scotties. As a thank you to the 2019 Scotties volunteers they are all being offered an exclusive \$10 promo code for the Screaming Eagles home game Dec. 28th versus the Moncton Wildcats. Tickets can be purchased at the Centre 200 box office or online using promo code 'Scotties'. The 2019 Scotties volunteer uniforms have been ordered and will be ready to be picked up January 17th at Centre 200. There will be more details to come as the date gets closer. The kit includes a volunteer pin, accreditation pass, volunteer handbook, and volunteer uniform. Volunteers are advised that, by now, you should be informed about which committee you will be a part of at the 2019 Scotties. Any questions surrounding your committee can be answered by your director. They will be in touch very soon to start scheduling your shifts for the event. The Scotties organizing committee is looking for bilingual singers to sing the national anthem at various draws. The dates are February 16 to February 24, 2019, at Centre 200. To participate, you would need to be available afternoons and evenings. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please send an audition clip to scottiesingers2018@gmail.com

For more information and up to date news you can visit the Official Scotties 2019 website at <https://www.curling.ca/2019scotties/>

Holiday Break

The Schooner Curling Club will take a break for the Holiday season starting on Friday, December 21 and we will resume curling on Thursday, January 3rd when the Old Triangle Men's League will throw the first rocks of 2019. You can keep an eye on the Schooner website and Facebook to see if there will be any free ice available over the break. To all Schooner members and friends, have a joyous Holiday season and a very happy and safe new year.

