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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 94

December, 2019

Sunday, December 1	649 Entries Due
Wednesday, December 4	649 Draws Begin
December 5-7	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, January 4	General Meeting and New Years Social
January 10-11	Doubles Spiel
Saturday, January 18	Fun Night
February 7-8	Sweetheart Women's Spiel
Friday, February 7	Open Mic Night
February 14-16	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 15	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 22	Fun Night
March 5-7	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 7	Fun Spiel Dance
Saturday, March 14	Fun Night
April 23-25	Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 25	Closing Spiel Dance
Saturday, May 16	Year End Banquet and Dance

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

League Roundup



League play got underway on Sunday, November 3rd, with the Don Cherry's Team Entry League being the first to take the ice. The Pepsi Mixed league followed with its first games taking place on November 4th and finally, the Old Triangle Men's League got underway on November 7th. The Don Cherry's Team Entry League has twelve teams competing this year, the same as last season, but there are some changes to the rinks taking part. Last year's regular season winners, the Gordie Cormier rink, have two new members in Phillip Edwards and Chris Glibota, who joined Cormier and returning member Stephen Leslie. Gone from the Cormier rink is Kevin Gouthro who is now throwing fourth stones on the Brian Laughlin rink. Coralie Ayre has made a return to Sunday play along with mate Heidi Bishop but they are joined this year by Marcie Bungay and Patti Merrigan who have displaced Carrie Cress and Bill Ayre. Cress has taken on skip duties with her own team, joined by Schooner newcomer Josephine MacGillivray as well as Ceilidh Forrest, who played last year for Rick Windsor, and Alicia Deagle. Bill Ayre has joined up with Richard Lorway, Bryant Cormier and Todd MacAulay, formerly the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink. The Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod rink is back on Sunday but, so far, MacLeod has not played a game. For now, Rick Windsor will be filling in when available. Windsor did not re-enter a team on Sunday due to another commitment but will play in MacLeod's place periodically until his return.

The Wally MacDonald rink also has a new member this year with Mel Windsor joining MacDonald, Sid Murray and Dave Bourdreau after the departure of Chris Webb from Sunday play. Mel was part of the Rick Windsor rink that did not return to the competitive league this season. Rounding out the field on Sunday are the John Donovan, Russell Fitzgerald, Keith MacEachern, Gary Landry and Robert Agnew rinks, all returning with rosters intact from last season.

Heading towards the end of November, there were three teams in the Sunday league that were yet to lose a game, Kevin Gouthro, Gordie Cormier and Coralie Ayre. That number was guaranteed to go down on the first Sunday of December when the Kevin Gouthro Rink and the Gordie Cormier Rink were set to go head to head to see who would be able to keep that undefeated string alive. Cormier jumped out to a 4-0 lead but Gouthro's rink, being skipped by Brian Laughlin in Gouthro's absence, fought back and tied the game up with hammer in the eighth end, forcing an extra frame to decide the winner with Cormier holding the all important hammer. The game came down to the final stone when Cormier had a draw for the win but saw his rock over curl and allowed Laughlin to steal one and complete the comeback for a win, keeping the Gouthro rink perfect on the season and handing the Cormier squad their first defeat. Coralie Ayre's rink, the only other undefeated team so far, was able to keep that intact with a win over the Richard Lorway rink in a later draw, dropping Lorway to 2-2 with a few other rinks. The Wally MacDonald rink is curling well this season and is also at the top of the pack with only one loss so far. MacDonald seems rejuvenated this year, possibly due to the addition of Mel Windsor to the team, after struggling in the regular season of Team Entry for the last couple of years. It is, of course, early in the season with a lot of curling left to go so things can change for any of the twelve teams on Sunday.

Heading into December in the Pepsi Mixed League, the Keith MacEachern rink holds a slim margin over the Philip Edwards rink, the only difference between the two undefeated rinks being that Edwards has a tie while MacEachern has won all of the games he has played. Close behind the two front runners are Coralie Ayre and Carries Cress, each with only one loss blemishing their records and there are a number of other teams still well within striking distance at this point. The twelve team league plays a round robin with a winner being crowned at the end and teams being shuffled for the second half of the season, another round robin. With lots of games left to play in the first leg, any team still has a chance.

In the Old Triangle Men's League, the Gordie Cormier and Sid Murray rinks sit atop the leader board, both sporting unblemished records so far this season. Gary Landry holds down third place with two wins and a tie against one loss and the Wally MacDonald rink are next with a 2-2 record. The Men's League is struggling a bit this season with a number of teams only sporting three players. Spares have been helping out and things have been moving along. It is hoped that this trend will continue.

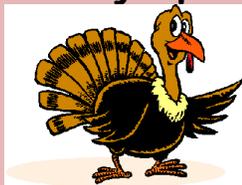
The Schooner Junior Program is once again underway and is going well under new coordinator Ceilidh Forrest. Ceilidh recently attended coaching training offered by the Nova Scotia Curling Association and was joined by Schooner member Julia Cormier who will be helping out with the program this season when she can. Numbers have dipped slightly from last season

but Ceilidh is hopeful the program can grow with new members coming in as the season progresses. The Juniors are taking the ice on Saturdays at 1pm with the time being moved to Sunday at 10am if there is a spiel or other event that is going on Saturday. The program will celebrate with a Christmas party on Saturday, December 14.

Matinee Curling, normally held each Friday from 1-3 pm, has been suspended until after the Holidays. Matinee Curling is planned to make a comeback in January and it is hoped that members will make more of a commitment to it once the Holidays are over and things have settled a bit. Matinee Curling is open to all members and is a great way for everyone to get some more curling time for their membership dollar. Keep an eye on the club bulletin board, the Schooner website and the members Facebook Group for the return of Matinee Curling in January.

League play finishes for the Holidays on December 19 when the Men's League will wrap up 2019 at the club. League Curling resumes on Sunday, January 5th when the Don Cherry's Team Entry League starts us off the new year.

Turkey Spiel



The Schooner Club's annual Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel, will be held early in December from the 5th to the 7th. Teams will play one game on Thursday or Friday and two on Saturday. Entry fee is \$20 per player, there will be lunch provided on Saturday and there will be prizes for everyone taking part. You even have a chance to win your Holiday Turkey. Teams were formulated late in November with a six competing on the first night and four competing on Friday. All teams will come together to play two games each on Saturday with draws starting at 10am and going throughout the day until a champ is crowned. Everyone is welcome to drop by anytime during the spiel and take in some of the action.

Doubles Spiel

The Schooner Club will be holding a Doubles (2 on 2) spiel on January 10 and 11, 2020. Due to limited time between the end of our Holiday break and the start of this spiel, watch for registration to possibly begin in December before we break for the Holidays. Check for more info on the club bulletin board and on the Schooner website.

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 thirty two curlers (sixteen teams) so sign up early.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights began in November with the first one of the season taking place on Saturday, November 16th. There were about fifteen people who attended, a number from outside of the Schooner membership, and everyone had a good time curling and socializing. There is no Fun Night scheduled for December but they will return with one a month for the remainder of the season starting in January. The January event will take place on Saturday the 18th at 7pm and go until everyone has had their fill of curling and pizza. The February Fun Night will take place on the 22nd and run in conjunction with Curling Day in Canada and in March we will have our St. Paddy's fun night on the 14th, an event that has always been popular in previous years. Members are encouraged to gather up friends, family, co-workers, whoever and support Schooner Fun Nights by bringing them along.

Fun Nights are important to the club as they introduce new people to the sport of curling and to the club itself. Many of the new members that have joined the club over the last few years have gotten their start at a Schooner Fun Night. Everyone is welcome and for only \$7 per person (\$4 for Schooner members) you get to curl, get some delicious pizza and maybe even have a chance at winning a prize. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. We supply the equipment needed except for a clean pair of sneakers for the ice. Plan to join us for a Fun Night this season. Once you try curling, you'll be hooked.

Schooner Opening Spiel Wrap-up

The Schooner Opening Spiel started on Wednesday, October 31 and, after a break for Halloween on Thursday, finished up on Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2. This spiel was run in the abbreviated format of three days instead of the more traditional week long spiel as it was found that there was less interference with the regular curling schedule and that people found it easier to commit to a couple of days rather than having it spread over the week. A total of twelve teams took part, four on the Thursday/Saturday side and a full complement of eight on Friday/Saturday. The Rick Windsor rink was the early leader after the opening night after taking eleven points in his first game while a tie between the Brian Laughlin and Richard Lorway rinks left them with seven and a half points each. Windsor had a bad second game and ended up with no points after he and another member of the team couldn't make it for the first game on Saturday. The Laughlin rink benefited from that and, with all fifteen available points, now had twenty two and a half. Lorway also had a good second match, taking thirteen of a possible fifteen to keep pace with Laughlin and sit just two points behind.

In the other division, Keith MacEachern and Wally MacDonald were opening night winners, both collecting eleven points, while Coralie Ayre and Cal Thistle won and gained nine points respectively. While both Thistle and MacDonald lost their second games, MacEachern and Ayre continued to win, both getting thirteen points in game two and pushing them to be among the frontrunners.

With all teams having two games under their belts it looked like four teams had distanced themselves from the pack and would be fighting it out for first place. The Lorway rink was the first of them to take the ice for the third time

and, with another win and another eleven points, they set the bar for the others. The Ayre and Laughlin rinks both were in action in the next draw against different opponents and both came out winners. Laughlin matched Lorway's eleven points in game three, pushing him ahead, but skip Ayre was a little better, getting thirteen of fifteen points and surpassing Laughlin in the standings. The only team left to play that had a chance to overtake Coralie was the Keith MacEachern rink. MacEachern was up to the challenge, handing his opponent, Wally MacDonald, his second lopsided loss of the day, taking all but one end and thirteen points, good enough to vault passed the Ayre rink and into sole possession of first place. Congratulations to skip MacEachern who was joined by Bryant Cormier, Josephine MacGillivray and Bev Young. Next in the standings was Coralie Ayre who had Mel Windsor, Bill Ayre and Bernadette Cormier as part of her rink. Brian Laughlin fell to the third position and was joined by Peter MacIntyre, Kelley Laughlin and Val MacIntyre. and Richard Lorway wound up in fourth place with his rink who was also made up of Phillip Edwards, Justin Humphrey and Alison Grapes. The fifth and six place finishers, the Cal Thistle rink and the Rick Windsor rink, both had bad second games and would have otherwise been able to challenge for a higher spot. Thistle was joined in fifth by Cheryl MacKinnon, Barb Thistle and Steve Jurcina. Windsor was aided to a sixth place finish by Stephen Leslie, George Plumridge and Frances Ford. Congratulations to all of the winners. First place finishers, the Keith MacEachern rink, got gift bags that were generously donated by Subway Restaurants and all participants won gift cards from various club sponsors.

On Saturday, all curlers were treated to a delicious lunch of Subway Sandwiches and homemade soup that was brought up by various Schooner members. Thanks to Subway for helping out and a big thank you to everyone who made soup. After curling was done for the day, everyone was fed and the prizes were handed out, a small group stayed around to socialize and party at the club that night.

Congratulations, once again, to our winners and a big thank you to everyone who took part in the Opening Spiel. Also, thank you to everyone that helped out in planning and running the event, the ice crew for great conditions even though it was early in the season, to the bartenders, housing for getting the club in such great shape and to everyone else who helped out in any way.

So here we go, underway and with another big year ahead of us at the club. Have a great season everyone.

Matinee Curling

Due to poor attendance in the opening weeks, Matinee Curling has been suspended until after the Holiday break. Matinee Curling is normally held on Friday afternoons from 1-3pm and is a great way for all Schooner members to get a little more curling in for their membership dollar. In the month of November, only one session saw enough people show up so a game could be played. Cheryl MacKinnon is looking after the Friday afternoon curling and says that, in the new year, they will try to get it going again and hopefully build up the numbers to make a go of it. She is asking people who might be interested in coming on Fridays to let her know so she can gauge

Schooner Rinks Compete in Port Hawkesbury

the interest of the members. Watch the club bulletin board, the Schooner website and the Schooner Members Facebook Group for more information moving forward.

The Strait Area Community Curling Club (SACCC) held their annual cash spiel from November 22-24 and there were two Schooner rinks that made the trip to compete. Gordie Cormier skipped one rink and was joined by Stephen Leslie, Chris Glibota and Phillip Edwards while the second team, skipped by Kevin Gouthro, also had Brian Laughlin, Joe Erickson, Kelley Laughlin and fifth Bryant Cormier. Both rinks had strong efforts and both made it to Sunday play. Cormier won two games on Sunday, the first by a draw to the button and in the second defeated Kurt Roach of the Sydney Curling Club in five ends. That put his rink into the 'B' Division final against a strong Wayne Sangster rink. Cormier lost that game and settled for the runner up spot in 'B'. The Gouthro rink lost their first game on Sunday after a draw to the button was required to break a tie and didn't go any further. It was a great weekend and a good showing for both teams. Thanks to everyone who took part for representing the Schooner Club proudly.

649 Fundraiser

The Schooner Club will be running a 649 fundraiser that will see draws begin on Wednesday, December 4th. Sales have been ongoing for a couple of weeks with all entries due on Sunday, December 1. As in the past, one set of numbers was \$5 and three sets on the same entry was \$10. Each entry consists of six different numbers from 1-49 and the first entry to have all six numbers drawn in the Lotto 649 weekly draws, Wednesday and Saturday, will win the prize, 50% of sales. If more than one entry completes on the same draw, the winners will share in the prize money. Numbers used will only include the main winning numbers drawn in the 649 lottery, not the bonus number or numbers drawn in any subsidiary games associated with the 649. Updates will be available on the Schooner website and at the club. Fundraisers like this one are very important to the club and its financial health. Money raised goes directly into covering daily expenses and helps to keep costs to members down. Good luck to all participants. Someone will be winning a nice cash prize just in time for Holiday shopping.

Snowball



The Snowball 50/50 is up and running and all members are asked to support the club by playing when they are there. One jackpot has already gotten over \$200 and was won by Dave Boudreau. Draws are open to Schooner full members only and will run during all scheduled league play. 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

Tuesday Tarbish

means \$1 more toward the total prize while \$1 goes to the club. So don't forget to sign in for the Snowball the next time you're curling and you may win a great cash prize. You don't want to be the one who missed out on that big prize because you didn't sign in when you were at the club.

For the last number of years, the Schooner Club has hosted a Tarabish Game at the club on Tuesday evenings starting at 7pm. The game is open to everyone and draws both club members and people from outside of the Schooner membership. The game offers a big benefit to the club as it brings in more people on Tuesdays and it introduces the club to people outside of the membership. If you want to take part you don't need to pre-register, you just show up. You don't even need a partner as partners rotate throughout the evening with individual wins and points being tallied to determine an overall winner. It's a lot of fun and it's a great night out. Plan to join us some Tuesday evening and give it a try. Even if Tarabish isn't your game, drop by any Tuesday and relax with a drink and have a game of shuffle curling on our custom table. During the curling season you can also take in some of the action in the Mixed League. The Tuesday Tarabish games and Social run all year long. Hope to see you there.

Schooner Facebook Members Group

The new private Facebook group for Schooner members only is growing and currently stands at around forty members. We are hoping that all Schooner members who have a Facebook account will join the group and share information or questions more directly related to the club and its leagues. If you haven't become part of the group yet, simply visit the Schooner Facebook page and click on the group to ask to become a member.

So far, the group has been working quite well. One of the main focuses of the group was to make it easier for individuals to find spares to fill in for games when they can't make it. Indications are that is happening more often than not and spare requests are being filled within the group. While this is one of the best courses of action for finding a spare to fill in for you, it shouldn't be the only one. Each member was emailed a spares list and a nominal role of all members with phone numbers. Please use this as well. We will also use the group in other ways such as finding volunteers for specific events like when a bartender is needed on a particular night. The more members we have participating, the better the group will work. As always, we are open to suggestions and input that will make our online presence better for everyone. Don't hesitate to contact the club any time.

General Meeting and New Year's Social

Right after the Schooner Holiday Break we will be holding a mid-season general meeting on Saturday, January 4th starting at 7pm. This is a great opportunity for members to learn how the club is getting along in the season so far and what's in store for the remainder. It's also a good opportunity for concerns and issues to be brought forward so they can be dealt with during the season. The meeting is open to everyone. Immediately following the meeting there will be a New Year's social. It's a

Holiday Break

great way to ring in the New Year and kick off the remainder of the curling season at the club. Finger foods and other snacks will be served and everyone is welcome. Plan to join us.

The Schooner Curling Club will take a break for the Holiday season starting on Friday, December 20 and we will resume regular league curling on Sunday, January 5th when the Don Cherry's Team Entry League will throw the first rocks of 2020. 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.

