

Schooner Curling Club  
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# *In The Hack*

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 100

December, 2020

Turkey Spiel	December 3-5
Holiday Break	December 20 - January 2
Curling Resumes	Sunday, January 3
Townhouse Fund Raising Spiel	January 29-30
Sweet Heart Lady's Spiel	February 5-6 (tentative)
Schooner Cash Spiel	February 12-14 (tentative)
Curling Day In Canada	Saturday, February 27
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 8 when the Don Cherrie's Team Entry League took to the ice for the first time in the 2020-21 season. That league has ten teams competing this season, many having new faces after off season shake-ups. Long-time Schooner members Jackie Pearson and Tommy Youden are back into Sunday League action and have teamed up with Bryan Cormier and newcomer Josephine MacGillivray who took over when original team member George Carew withdrew. They have proven to be formidable competition so far this season. The Gordie Cormier rink has missed a couple of games on Sunday but are looking strong and the Brian Laughlin rink, always a contender, has had a good start to the season although they dropped their final game in November to the Gary Landry rink. So far, it looks like the league will be competitive with pretty much all teams having an opportunity to win on any given Sunday. The Pepsi Mixed League also got underway in early November and sees a

total of nine teams competing in the first leg. That means there is a bye for one team each week and that the league only plays on two nights, Monday and Tuesday. There is talk of a doubles league filling in the Wednesday night opening but that will depend on interest among members. It is hoped that more members will join after the Holiday break and bring the numbers in the mixed league up to at least ten teams for the second leg. If that is the case, the third night for Mixed would be required to maintain the 7pm only draws.

The Old Triangle Men's League has also made its return to the schedule this year and has a depleted roster as well with only six teams competing. Last season, the league started with eight teams but was forced to go down to seven during the second half of the season due to a shortage of curlers on some teams. This year it was forced to six. At least with an even number we are avoiding a team having a bye each week. Even with just six teams competing, the men's league still remains very competitive and all six teams are very evenly matched. At this early point in the season it will be impossible to pick a potential front runner.

League play will continue in December until the 17th when the men's league will finish the curling schedule before we head into the Holiday Break.

Curling will resume on Sunday, January 3, when the Don Cherry's Team Entry rink will be the first to see the ice for league play in 2021.

## **Doubles League**

As mentioned above, the reduction in teams in the Mixed League has left us with an open night in the weekly curling schedule. There has been some talk of a doubles league filling that night and playing on Wednesday. There has also been talk of the format, whether it would be single entry or a team entry league. There have been mixed views on both. The doubles, or two on two curling, only takes about one hour to play a game so we could possibly run three draws on one evening allowing for twelve teams or twenty four participants. Details would have to be worked out based on the number of entries. While we had hoped to possibly get the league underway before the Holiday break, it has been put on hold until we return in January when it will be revisited.

## **Matinee Curling**

Matinee Curling made its return to the club in November as well and has been enjoying some good turn outs early in the season. Matinee Curling takes place most Friday afternoons from 1-3 pm, only being cancelled if there is a spiel or other weekend event going on. It's open to all Schooner members and no registration is required, simply drop in. Teams are set and games played by whoever is in attendance. It's a great way to get a little more out of your membership dollar so why not plan to take part.

## **Rona Opening Spiel**

The curling season officially got underway at the Schooner club on Thursday, November 5th when the Rona Stephens' Home Centre Opening Bonspiel got underway and kicked off what we know will be a great year of curling at the club. A total of ten teams took part, six competing in the Thursday/Saturday division and four on the Friday/Saturday side.

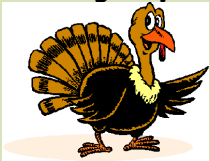
After a full day of curling on Saturday that saw all teams play two games, the overall winner that emerged was the Cal Thistle Rink. Thistle started slowly out of the gate, losing his first game of the spiel but came back with two big wins on Saturday to surpass all other teams for first place. Cal was joined in the victory by Peter MacIntyre, Barb Thistle and Keith Davies. Keith was a new curler in the spiel and has since decided to join the ranks as a Schooner member.

Second place was taken by the Keith MacEachern rink, also with a 2-1 record but with a lower overall point total. Skip MacEachern was joined by Josephine MacGillivray, Bill Moss and Dave Boudreau. Rounding out the top three was the Kevin Gouthro rink with an equal point total to the second place MacEachern but with a lower plus minus. Kevin was aided by Justin Humphrey, Bernadette Cormier and Gerard Polegato. Congratulations to all our winners and a big thank you to everyone who took part, especially the new curlers who joined us to try the sport out. Some of them have even decided to become members.

A big thanks goes out to the bonspiel committee for another great job organizing and running the event. A testimony to the competitive equality of all the teams in the spiel was that everyone had at least one victory in the three games they played. We also want to say thanks to everyone for doing their best with all the new Covid rules that are in place and thank you to the housekeeping committee and everyone else who helped out with cleaning and other tasks to maintain a safe environment for all curlers and guests. Thank you to our community minded spiel sponsor, Rona Stephens' Home Centre of Sydney for their continued support, thank you to the ice crew for great conditions, to the bartenders and all others who volunteered their time and, last but certainly not least, thank you to Bernadette Cormier for the delicious cookies.

So here we go. It promises to be a great year and we encourage everyone to get out to the Schooner Club and take advantage of it. Have a great season!

## Turkey Spiel



The Schooner Turkey Spiel, a Holiday tradition at the club, will be getting underway on December 3rd and running to December 5th. Rosters and schedules are to be setup on December 2 and will be posted on the Schooner website when available. As always, participants will have a chance to win their Holiday Turkey as a top prize. Everyone will be playing three games for their \$20 entry fee, one either on Thursday or Friday evening and two on Saturday. There will be lunch on Saturday as well. In conjunction with the

## Glance Bay Townhouse Fundraising Spiel

The Schooner Club is pleased to be hosting the second annual Glance Bay Townhouse Fundraising Spiel in aid of their Meals on Wheels program. We hope to build on the success of the inaugural event that was held at the club last January. This year's event is scheduled for the last weekend of January, being held on the 29th and 30th of that month. The two day spiel is open to everyone with an entry fee of \$25 per person or \$100 per team of four. A maximum of sixteen teams can take part with each team getting to play

three, four end games. There will be food and prizes throughout the event, a silent auction, a 50/50 draw and more. Last year saw a number of teams sponsored by local businesses and organizations. If anyone wants to sponsor a team or if you know of a business who might be interested in a sponsorship, please let us know. For more information or to enter as an individual or team, contact Peter MacIntyre at 902-849-7935 or by email at [peter.macintyre@gmail.com](mailto:peter.macintyre@gmail.com) .

Along with team and individual entries, we are also looking for donations for the silent auction as well as cash donations to go towards the Meals on Wheels program and help provide hot, nutritious meals to seniors all year long.

Townhouse Glace Bay has over 50 years' experience serving the community, administering fourteen programs, supported by approximately 200 volunteers, for children, adults and seniors including a low cost nursery school, summer camps, pre-employment programs, a clothing depot, seniors contact, and meals on wheels. More information can be found on Townhouse's Facebook page.

So check out the Schooner website and Facebook page or contact Peter to register your team or make a donation to this worthwhile community cause. Let's work hard to make the second annual Meals On Wheels fun spiel a great success.

## Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights will be returning to the schedule this season but aren't expected to get underway until the new year with the first Fun Night taking place sometime in January. We'll publish specific dates once they are set. Fun Nights will look a little different this season as all Covid protocols will be followed and masks must be worn when entering and moving around inside the club house. We will also be taking precautions with all loaner equipment and when everyone is on the ice.

Even with all the new rules and precautions being taken, we will still have lots of fun and hope to introduce lots of people to the great sport of curling. Schooner Fun Nights will be a great way to get out of the house with family and friends and enjoy a night out for just a few bucks. Keep an eye on the Schooner Website and our Facebook page for more details and dates for upcoming Fun Nights.

## Snowball



The Snowball 50/50 has returned to the club once again this season. It is 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 means \$1 more toward the total prize while \$1 goes to the club. The Snowball jackpot has already crept up pretty high a couple of

times this season so don't forget to sign in for the next time you curling and you may win a great cash prize. It would be a nice early Christmas present.

## Membership

It was really an unknown heading into this season as to whether or not the Covid situation would help or hinder membership at the club. Would people stay away because of all the fears or would they be looking for something to do that would be fun as well as safe and help to pass the winter months. It turns out that the club's membership numbers are down a bit this year with only fifty eight full members currently registered at the club. Add in the loss of the junior members and we are down a bit of revenue. There have been a few people interested in joining the club after the Holiday season which would help push our numbers up a bit. The club offers those joining mid-season a prorated membership rate. That is what happened last year and we ended up finishing the season with a membership total of around seventy full members. Anyone who is interested in joining the club through the season can contact us for more info. The Pepsi Mixed League will be shuffled after the first round and there is the potential of the doubles league on Wednesday night. Along with that, there are always teams looking for spares to fill in for all leagues. There will be lots of curling left for anyone looking to join in January.

## Schooner Club Upgrades

The last of the club's upgrades are getting done these days. The new side exit door has been installed and there has been more work done in the back. There have been a number of things done over the last few seasons that have made the club more efficient and we are starting to see that pay off now with lower heating and electrical bills, not to mention that the club looks better overall. The money for the upgrades was largely thanks to funds we got from the Scotties Tournament of Hearts that was held in Sydney a couple of years ago but there has also been some grant money that came our way and is due, in no small part, to the effort of members of the club's executive. Also, these upgrades would not be possible without the enormous amount of labor put in by club volunteers. Thanks for everyone's effort in helping make these upgrades and improvements possible.

## Dehumidifier

The club's new desiccant dehumidifier still isn't working quite as well as we hoped. The unit was recently purchased used from an arena in Halifax. After installation it had to have some work done but not everything could be completed. We still need to have someone come back to finish it before it will be working at full capacity. As a result, the ice shed is a bit more humid than we would like and that results in some dripping on the ice, a buildup of frost on the ice at times and the rocks getting wet and sometimes having ice on them. We hope that, once all repairs are completed, the unit will be working at full potential and these issues will disappear. While there are some inconveniences and there will be some additional costs, we need to remember that this unit was about one tenth the cost of a new unit and we have a long way to go in repair costs before we even come close to what a new one would have set us back. We also have to keep in mind that the

## Liquor License Update

outside temperatures have been extraordinarily high, also contributing to the added humidity in the ice shed. We hope to get the final repairs done over the Holiday break and, coupled with colder winter weather in the coming months, we should see a reduction in the humidity issues.

Most members, especially those who like to enjoy an adult beverage while they play, know that the club recently found out that our current liquor license does not permit anyone to take alcohol outside of the club room, including the ice shed. This put a stop to anyone taking an alcoholic beverage such as beer, spirits or a cooler into the ice shed to enjoy during game play. We were informed that we could apply for a license extension to allow for alcohol to be consumed in the ice shed as well as the club room. We have since applied for that license but the wheels of bureaucracy turn slowly and we still are waiting for approval. One delay was, because of the changes on the Schooner executive, that some of the new representatives had to be authorized on the license and needed to get a police check. We were also waiting for a new fire inspection. Once that is done, the license extension should proceed. On the upside, the whole licensing process doesn't cost us anything. The Sydney Curling Club had to go through the same process. Hopefully we will be approved soon.

## Schooner Covid-19 Protocols

The club has completed its first full month of running under Covid rules and things, for the most part, went pretty well. People are pitching in to help clean the rocks and score board prior to all games and wearing a mask when required. The actual playing of games isn't really that much different as masks, although required to be on your person, are not required to be worn while playing. Members have also been good to follow the sign in procedure and to follow the entry and exit door rules. One area that is not being followed as well as hoped is the change area. Members are reminded that they should stay in the change area to the left just after you enter and use this area to change your shoes and organize your gear. All outside equipment and clothing such as jackets should be left in this area and not brought into the club room's main area. Please refrain from placing personal items you bring from outside, such as tote bags or brooms, on tables. Members are also reminded to take all personal belongings with them when they leave. Personal items should not be left at the club. Overall, a pretty good first month. It is a learning experience for everyone but we must all remain diligent and try to follow the rules as best we can for the safety of everyone who uses the club and to help avoid any unnecessary shutdowns so we can all continue to enjoy curling for the entire season. Here are, once again, a list of the rules and protocols to follow at the club as they were printed last month.

### - In the Clubhouse:

- Masks are required to enter the clubhouse
- Social Distancing should be maintained whenever possible in both the ice shed and clubroom.
- Sanitizer stations will be setup both in the clubroom and ice shed.

## In the Hack Turns 100

- All members must sign in each night they are curling. A binder for sign in will be provided on a table near the bar. These records will be used for contact tracing.
- Tables and chairs will be setup with social distancing and reduced capacity limits in mind. Tables will be designated for each sheet for teams to sit at after games.
- No storing of personal belongings at the club. Players MUST take their personal items and equipment home. Players should arrive as ready as possible to play with only needing to change shoes at the club.
- A designated area with benches will be setup near the entrance for changing shoes.
- Players will enter through the regular way, using the door at the end of the building near the furnace room. Signage will be posted
- Everyone will leave through the side door. Signage will be posted.
- There will be no smoking near the entrance door. A designated smoking area will be setup at the side of the club. Smokers must exit through the side exit door and come back in through the entrance door. Masks will be required to re-enter the club.
- Door handles and tables and chairs should be disinfected regularly. We ask members to help out with this and not leave the entire burden on the Housekeeping committee.

### - Rules During Play

- The rock handles and scoreboard numbers should be sanitized before each game. Please assign players from your team for each task. Sanitizing wipes will be provided on the shelves inside the ice shed.
- The wheel that is spun to determine hammer before each game will be moved inside the club. Mates from each team should perform the spin to determine hammer before entering the ice shed.
- Wearing a mask is not required during game play but everyone must have a mask with them on their person in case of an emergency and to re-enter the club house.
- No shaking hands prior to or after a game. Elbow bumps or nods are appropriate. Wish everyone good curling.

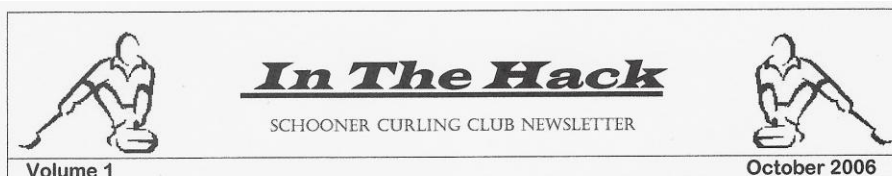
### - Bar Area

- The bar will be enclosed in plexiglass or some other form of protection with space left to conduct business, take payments and serve products.
- Only one person is permitted to be at the bar being served at one time. No line ups. Please wait your turn before approaching the bar. A number system may be devised to better accommodate service at the bar.

Thank you to everyone for doing their best to follow them and to everyone who has been helping out at the club with the extra cleaning and sanitizing.

For those who didn't notice the volume number at the top of the newsletter, This is the 100th edition of In the Hack. The very first edition came out in October of 2006 at the start of the 2006-2007 curling season and consisted of a single 8.5x14 inch page. It's hard to believe that it's over fourteen years later. Thank you to everyone who has read and supported the newsletter over the years. I hope you all have found it and continue to find it both

informative and entertaining. There are some similarities of content but, these days, there is much more. Not sure if there is more to talk about or if I have just become more long winded. I'm happy and a little proud that our little one page newsletter has come this far and, while I'm not sure if we'll make it to edition number 200 but we'll carry on and see what happens I guess. For a little nostalgia, here is what volume one looked like.



**Registration and Social Night**

Club President, Janet Confiant, along with the executive committee for 2006-07, would like to invite both returning members and new members alike to a social evening from 7-10 on Friday, October 20, 2006. Registration forms will be available for those who would like to sign up for the 2006-2007 season. Meet this year's executive, enjoy some snacks and find out what's going on at the club for the coming season. The bar will be open with *Happy Hour Prices* all evening.

**Club Contact Information**

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Address: 61 Military Rd,  
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Janet's Email: [jconfiant@helixstudio.com](mailto:jconfiant@helixstudio.com)

Website: [www.schoonercurlingclub.com](http://www.schoonercurlingclub.com)

**2006-07 Membership Fee**

The registration fee for the 2006-07 season remains the same at only \$150 which includes the HST. You can pay your registration in full when you register or in two installments of \$75 each. The first installment must be paid no later than November 15, 2006 and the final installment must be paid no later than January 31, 2007. Your membership fee allows unlimited league play. Members who pay in full by Dec. 18, 2006 will be entered into a draw for a great prize. Pay Early!

**Volunteers**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Schooner Curling Club. Without them the club would not survive. If you have any time to contribute we would be more than grateful. Work is now underway most evenings to prepare for the upcoming season and we could use your help with ice prep, building maintenance, cleaning, painting etc. Through the season we need people for bartenders, maintenance, helping with spiels, etc. Contact anyone on the executive for more information on how you can help.

**Curling Clinics**

Curling clinics will be held the week of October 23-27 and the week of November 13-17. Times are 7pm to 8:30pm. New curlers who want to learn the game or returning curlers looking for pointers or a little practice for the coming year are all welcome.

**Misc. Business**

**The Newsletter** – This is the first edition of our new monthly newsletter. Any suggestions are welcome and feel free to contribute anything you would like to see in the newsletter as well. Email [bfarr@compu-clone.ca](mailto:bfarr@compu-clone.ca) or see me at the club

**Opening Spiel** - The opening spiel will begin Sunday, October 29 with a registration fee of \$25. Sign up early. There will be no curling Tuesday, October 31 because of Halloween.

**Equipment** – Anyone wanting to order new gear for this season can see Lynn Kelly and she will look after it for you.

*See you on the ice!!*

**2006-2007 Executive and Committee Members**

President	Janet Confiant
Vice President	Winnie Burt
Treasurer	Mary Foley
Secretary	Elaine Arsenaault
Bar Stewart	Mel Smith
Ice Crew	Brian Laughlin, Frank Kokocki, Brian Zillman, Russell Fitzgerald, Rob Agnew
Bonspiel Coordinator	Kevin Bates
Housekeeping	Tom Youden, Wayne Confiant
Legal	Dave Muise
Ways and Means	Bill Jessome
Membership	Russell Fitzgerald, Frank Kokocki
Public Relations	Lynn Kelly
Coors Fun Night Coordinators	Tom Drover, Abbie Boudreau
Website	Kelley Laughlin
Newsletter	Billy Farr

**Upcoming Dates of Interest**

Wednesday, September 27	General Meeting 7:00pm
Friday, Oct. 20	Registration and Social Night 7-10 PM
October 23-27	Curling Clinics 7-8:30
Oct 27	Dream Team Game
October 29-November 10	Opening Spiel
Friday, November 10	Opening Spiel Party 9-1
November 13-17	Curling Clinics 7-8:30
Saturday, November 18	Coors Fun Night
Sunday, November 19	League Play Begins
December 4-9	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 9	Spiel Social 9-1
Saturday, December 16	Coors Fun Night
Monday December 18	Last night of play before Christmas

Subject to change. For a full years schedule see our website or check the club.

**Winners from last year**

For those who don't know but are interested, here is a list of league and individual award winners from last season

Team Entry League	Mike Gillis Rink
Monday Men's League	Benito DeLorenzo Rink
Mixed League	John Donovan Rink
Thursday Men's League	Kevin Bates Rink
Rookie of the Year M/F	Walter Burt / Lisa Marks
Volunteer of the Year M/F	Tom Youden / Anne Farr
Most Spirited Curler M/F	Russell Fitzgerald / Janet Confiant
Best Sweeper M/F	Mel Smith / Kelley Laughlin
Most Improved New Curler	Doug Marks / Shannon Odo
Most Improved Veteran	Fr. John / Robina Boudreau
Best Form M/F	Ray Cameron/ Kelley Laughlin
Men's Dream Team	Brian Laughlin, Russell Fitzgerald, George Carew, Mike Gillis
Ladies' Dream Team	Robina Boudreau, Elaine Arsenaault, Kelley Laughlin, Janet Confiant