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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 106

December, 2021

December 9-11	Turkey Spiel
Friday, December 10	Open Mic Night
Saturday, December 11	Turkey Spiel Dance
December 20 - January 3	Holiday Break
January 6 - 8	2 on 2 Spiel - Single Entry
Saturday, January 8	Wine and Cheese New Year Social
January 14-16	Sydney CC Cash Spiel
Saturday, January 22	Fun Night
January 28-29	Townhouse Fundraising Spiel
February 4-6	Ship Hector New Glasgow
February 11-13	Schooner Open Cash Spiel
February 18-19	Sweetheart Lady's Spiel
Saturday, February 26	Fun Night
March 10-12	Schooner Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 19	Fun Night
March 25-27	Sydney CC Spring Fling Mixed Spiel
April 7-9	2 on 2 Spiel - Team Entry
April 21-23	John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel

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 early in November and the club has been very busy on league nights since. With the influx of new members, the mixed league, men's league and Sunday team entry are all at the maximum for teams. We are also excited to have a new league sponsor join the club this season with East Side Mario's agreeing to come on board and sponsor the mixed league.

Speaking of the mixed league, changes have been made this year to the length of games and the schedule in order to accommodate the new

doubles league. Mixed games are now six ends each and are scheduled for an hour and a half as opposed to two hours. That allowed two draws on both Monday and Tuesday, freeing up Wednesday night for doubles. The changes seem to be popular with curlers who are taking part in the league. As it has been the last few seasons, the mixed league will play a round robin style schedule for the first half, seeing all teams play each other once, and then a winner will be crowned and teams shuffled up to compete in the second round for the season. The start to the mixed was a bit confusing with teams being added and players shuffled early on to accommodate all the new members who were joining us this season. Things are settled down now, teams are set and, after a the first month of play, we have three rinks, Leo Fraser, Philip Edwards and Lonnie Howe, who have not yet lost. There's still lots of curling ahead in mixed before we crown a first round winner.

The new Schooner doubles league is proving to be popular with its 24 participants in its inaugural season. Doubles, or 2 on 2 curling, has always been popular at the club with a number of spiels being run over the last few seasons and lots of pickup games being done when there was free ice. However, this is the first time we are able to actually run a league after talking about doing it for the last few seasons. As mentioned above, changes to the mixed league that opened up of a free night made the league possible. Initially, the league was thought to accommodate up to 48 curlers but only 24 can play on any one night, meaning that there would have been a bye every second week. The 24 curlers that are taking part can now all curl every week. A unique twist in this league sees players matched with a new partner each week and points for wins and ties are being kept on an individual level. This makes things more fair for everyone and it also allows you to play with and enjoy games with a wider range of people. Georgette Sparkes, Julia Cormier and Lynn Kelly had the best starts in the league, all going 3-0 to start the season but Georgette sits alone on top with seven points after a tie while both Julia and Lynn dropped their fourth games to sit tied with six points. Paul 'Delio' D'Alessandro also has six points after winning his third game in the final week of November and Janet Gallivan also has six points and remains undefeated with two wins and two ties. Keith MacEachern joins the fray of players with six points, also undefeated with two wins and two ties. Bob Smith sits among the ranks of the undefeated as well but with five points after starting with one win and three ties. There are a number of players close behind with four points and, with a lot of curling in doubles left, anyone can win. The parity in the standings shows that with this format, anyone can win on any given week, especially with partners changing all the time. Given its popularity, it looks like our new doubles league will be staying around in future seasons. The men's league is back to its regular Thursday night schedule and back to a full roster of eight teams. As it has been for the last few years, the men's league is competitive and there is a lot of parity among teams. The Kevin Gouthro rink is the only team yet to lose, sporting a 3-0 record to start the year. Close behind is the Gordie Cormier and Wally MacDonald rinks, both with a 2-1 record and both having their only loss come at the hands of the undefeated Gouthro rink. With lots of season left in front of us, any of the teams in Men's this year can make a run at the title.

A Few Notes on League Play

The Don Cherry's Team Entry League saw its schedule change slightly this season with start times for the first draw moving from 12 noon to 1pm in order to accommodate the Stephen Leslie rink who can only play games after 5:00 pm. The final draw in this league has a scheduled start time of 5:30. With this allowance, the league has a full slate if twelve teams again this year.

Skip Kevin Gouthro is off to a fast start in the Sunday league, just as he is in men's, sporting a perfect 4-0 start to the season. Gordie Cormier and Cal Thistle sit close behind, both having three wins. Cormier does have a makeup game to play after missing one week. Stephen Leslie also has a makeup and sits with two wins against one loss after playing three games. His one loss has come to the undefeated Gouthro rink. Having an uncharacteristic slow start to the season is the Brian Laughlin rink who is still searching for their first win. Laughlin is traditionally one of the top contenders on Sunday and will most certainly turn things around after this slow start.

Friday Matinee Curling has enjoyed some good crowds to start the new season. Running every Friday afternoon from 1-3, it's open to all Schooner members and is a drop in format with teams being made from those in attendance. If you have some free time on Friday afternoons you can drop by and get some extra curling in.

There are a few things that all league curlers should take note of. With schedules being quite full this season we ask all curlers to be ten to fifteen minutes early for games so everyone is ready to go on time. Please try to be ready and start your games at the scheduled time, be ready to throw stones when it is your turn and try not to delay the games in any way. Skips and mates are encouraged to make sure games flow smoothly. After the games, all teams are reminded to mark the results on the score sheets at the club. It is traditionally the mates responsibility to record the results for their teams. Many times, the winning mate will record the game for both teams. Skips should make sure this is being done.

If you cannot make a game, please try to find a spare to take your place. A club spares list has been distributed. You can also post on the Schooner Members Facebook group as many people monitor this to see if they can pick up an extra game. If you are not yet a member of the group, you can apply to join. It's open to Schooner members only. If you have tried but cannot find a replacement, you should notify your skip so they aware you will be missing.

If there are any issues regarding league play you should contact the Drawmaster, Richard Lorway. The best way to get in touch and make sure your issue is handled in a timely manner is through email. Richard's email is schoonerdrawmaster@gmail.com

Cancellation of games by teams that cannot ice a team must be made at least twenty four hours prior to the time the game is scheduled. Skips are responsible to schedule make up games for any they cancel. Any cancellations made by the club due to weather or other reasons will be rescheduled by the drawmaster. Club cancellations of curling will be posted on the Schooner website, Schooner Facebook page and Schooner

Membership

Members facebook group as soon as possible. It is unlikely that each individual will receive a phone call to announce a cancellation. You should monitor the online resources mentioned as well as your email as a group email may be send out as well if timing permits. If you are unsure, you can call your skip to confirm cancellations.

The Schooner Club is very proud to announce that our membership for this season now stands at 89 members, a huge increase over the last few seasons. Last year, membership was in the mid sixties at its peak. The swelling of our ranks this season is due in big part to the start of a \$99 promo rate for new members. We have over twenty five brand new members at the club this season, many of which are not only new to the club but to the sport of curling as well. We want to welcome you all and say thanks for joining us. We hope you are enjoying curling and the time you are spending at the club. We encourage all members to take advantage of extra curling events such as Matinee Curling on Friday afternoons and spiels like the upcoming Turkey Spiel and we also encourage you to take part in social events like our upcoming Open Mic night and Holiday dance that will be held during our Turkey Spiel weekend. For information and schedules on these and all Schooner events you can visit the club's website or Facebook page. If you haven't done so already, you can also request to join the Schooner Members Facebook group. Have a great season everyone.

Turkey Spiel



The Schooner Curling Club's annual Holiday tradition, the Turkey Spiel, is scheduled to run from December 9-11. Registration has been open for a few weeks now and most spots are filled up. There were still a few openings on the Thursday/Saturday side if you haven't signed up but would still like to do so. It's \$20 for three, six end games and lunch on Saturday. There will be lots of prizes and you will even have a chance to win a Holiday Turkey. As part of our Turkey Spiel weekend there will be an Open Mic night held on Friday from 9-1 and a Holiday Dance with music by DJ Jimmy on Saturday. Both events are open to all members and guests, not just those in the spiel. If you play an instrument or sing, plan to join us on Friday and showcase your talents. Saturday night promises to be lots of fun as Jimmy helps keep the dance floor full all night. Plan to join us and help us welcome in the Holiday Season.

Early January Events

There are a couple of events happening early in January at the club, shortly after we return from Holiday Break, that members should be aware of. First, the club will be holding a Doubles (2 on 2) fun spiel from January 6-8. Entry fee will be \$20 per player and you will get three games. It is a single entry spiel and teams will be made from those curlers who register. Watch for registration starting soon and sign up early. Judging by the popularity of the new Schooner Doubles League this event will be popular and will likely fill quickly. Also, on that same weekend, there will be a wine and cheese reception to celebrate and ring in the new year at the club. Watch for more details on these two events as they get closer and plan to take part in these two early 2022 events.

Sport Club Visits Schooner

The Sport and Social Club CBRM (SSCC) is a new non-profit organization focused on providing high quality recreation & sport opportunities for adults living in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. They schedule sports and social activities for adults 19+, many of whom are new to Cape Breton after having moved here and are looking to make new connections, find friends and get active. Club activities include sports such as frisbee, soccer and floor hockey as well as social activities like game nights at Island Folk Cider House, bike rides around the community and seasonal events such as Holiday cookie decorating and an ugly Christmas sweater night. The SSCC approached us to schedule a learn to curl evening and we were happy to oblige. A number of the club members showed up to learn how to curl and play a short game. It was a great night and the club members enjoyed their time learning the sport. We want to thank them for coming and we hope to have the SSCC back for future events with their members.

Schooner Food Drive



There will be a food drive held at the club in December to collect non-perishable food items to help the Kinsmen club in their Christmas efforts. Members can bring items to the club and deposit them in the bin that will be provided. The items will be picked up by the Kinsmen and distributed throughout the community to those in need. This type of service is especially important around the Holiday season. The next time you are at the store getting groceries, put an extra item or two into your cart and bring them to the club to help out. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights will be returning to the schedule next month with the first Fun Night being held on Saturday, January 22. We also have scheduled Fun Nights on February 26 and March 19 which is our special St. Paddy's Day Fun Night. We are working with the Nova Scotia Spirit Company to sponsor these events and they have agreed that they will come on board for the January Fun Night at least. The Nova Scotia Spirit Company is an award winning craft distiller and makes products like Blue Lobster Vodka and Fisherman's Helper rum and also produces a full line of Blue Lobster Vodka Soda which is available at the Schooner bar. Fun nights are social nights at the club that are open to both members and the general public. They are designed to introduce more people to the sport of curling and all members are encouraged to attend and bring some friends. They get going at 7pm and curling takes place all evening. There's pizza for everyone and maybe even a few prizes to be given away. The cost is \$7 for the public and \$4 for Schooner members. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. Participants must be 19 years and older. In keeping with provincially mandated rules, all participants must be double vaccinated and provide proof of that and ID. Masks must be worn when entering and moving about the club house but can be removed when seated. Masks are not required when out on the ice playing. 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 are a great way to get out of the house with family and friends and enjoy a night out for just a few bucks. Plan to join us.

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. So don't forget to sign in for the Snowball the next time you curling and you may win a great cash prize. There have already been a couple of good size pots won and 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.

649 Fundraiser

The Schooner 649 Fundraiser held in November was a big success with total sales over \$1800 and a prize of \$915 up for grabs. It only took Valerie Maglario four draws to fill in her six numbers and take the jackpot all by herself. There were a number of people and groups close with five numbers heading into the final draw but Valerie was the only one with success. Congratulations to Valerie and a big thank you to everyone who bought numbers and to all those who sold entries. The money raised is a big help to the club in covering ongoing expenses. Watch for the next 649 fundraiser at the club and get your numbers in for a chance at a great prize.

New Dawn Solar Garden Project

There was some bad news for the Schooner Club with regard to the New Dawn Solar Garden Project. The project has undergone some changes in who is taking part and who is overseeing it. The Club's building was originally included in the project and stood to gain some energy efficiency upgrades and additions as well as a much needed power upgrade to our incoming service from Nova Scotia Power. We are now told that we are not eligible to participate in the project and will not be included because we are not a residential property. The club's executive is still holding out hope that the decision to exclude us will be reconsidered and we will get some level of upgrading. New Dawn has always been very fair and generous whenever we have dealt with them in the past on issues regarding the building and have always kept our rent at a very fair and sustainable level. A glimmer of hope has come from the projects website, however, when it lists the two main goals for the "property":

"This project has two ambitious targets: (1) net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and (2) net-zero energy. The property will no longer use any fossil fuels for heat or electricity and the solar garden (with reduced consumption via retrofits) will meet 100% of the properties annual electricity/thermal demand."

Assuming the 'property' is referring to the entire park, another statement on the site clearly includes the club as part of it:

"Specifically, Pine Tree Park Estates is comprised of housing (28 homes in duplex construction), an assisted living home (30 care beds), a private care home, the Schooner Curling Club, and Elizabeth Fry Society (housing for participants).

This and other information about the project can be found at

<https://newdawnproperties.ca/pine-tree-park-solar-garden/>

Regardless, given the relative urgency of the power upgrade issue, the Schooner executive have started to move forward with the power upgrade on our own as that is something we need in the short term and cannot wait and take a chance on being reconsidered for the project. In the long term, the hope is that we will be included in the energy efficiency, environmental and sustainability aspects of the project. It never hurts to hope.

Volunteers Needed

As always, the call for volunteers is out at the Schooner Club. If you have some time to spare we can use your help, even if it's just an hour or two here and there. The Schooner club survives on volunteer labor, we don't pay for any positions. That is the only way the club is viable financially. We need bartenders, people to help with ice maintenance, cleaning, organizing and running spiels and other events and more. If you have some free time and would like to give some time back to the club, see any member of the Schooner executive.

Canadian Curling Olympians Set

Canadian curling fans were treated to some great curling late in November when the Canadian Olympic Trials were held in curling for both men and women at the Sasktel Centre in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, from November 20-28. All teams had earned their way to the event with their play over the last few years and it was the best of the best of Canadian curling taking part. Championship Sunday saw former Olympian Jennifer Jones taking on Tracy Fleury, undefeated in the event, in an all Manitoba women's final while two former Olympians would face off for the men's title in the 'Battle of the Brads', Brad Gushue and Brad Jacobs.

In the women's final, Jennifer Jones missed a chance to win it in the tenth end by rolling just a bit too far on a final shot that needed to stay for a second point and the win. She would score one but settle for a tie, sending the game to an extra end for the first time in an Olympic trials final. Jones sat partially buried and counting as shot when Tracy Fleury took her last shot in the eleventh end, trying to come around the guard and punch back Jones' stone for the win. Fleury's rock over curled and rubbed the front guard, giving Jones the steal and a birth at the Olympics.

The men's final was equally as well played and exciting as it too came down to the final shot of the game. Brad Gushue took a one point lead into the fifth end break but Jacobs finally tied the game at two in the eighth end when he was forced to a single. Gushue countered with a deuce in the ninth, the first and only multi-point end of the game, and was up two heading into the tenth end. Jacobs had a chance to tie in the tenth with a hit and stick for two points but was a little wide on his shot and the rock rolled

inches too far, giving him only one point and Gushue the win. Gushue and Jones will make great representatives for Canada at the Beijing 2022 Olympics. Both have Olympic experience, Gushue winning gold in 2006 and Jones winning in 2014. Watch them represent Canada and Cheer them on to gold in 2022.

New Sponsors

The Schooner Curling Club's executive would like to acknowledge and thank a few local businesses that have come on to be sponsors of the club and help support us. East Side Mario's, Mayflower Mall, has come on board as a league sponsor and is now designated as sponsor of our mixed league. Keltic Kubota (The Keltic Group), Dodd St. Sydney, has very generously sponsored the Turkey Spiel and The Nova Scotia Spirit Company, makers of award winning spirits as well as Blue Lobster Vodka Soda drinks, has agreed to sponsor our January Fun Night and we hope they will come on and sponsor all of the Fun Nights moving forward. Thank you to these and all of the community minded businesses and organizations that sponsor the club and help us to continue to operate. We encourage members to support our sponsor companies whenever possible. Visit the sponsor page on the Schooner website for a full list.

Equipment

For anyone who doesn't know, Schooner treasurer, Lynn Kelly, also looks after equipment orders at the club. For anyone wanting to order any new curling equipment, see Lynn and she will set you up. There are a few catalogues at the club or you can shop online and then let her know what you want. There are discounted prices and shared shipping so you can save some money too. Order soon if you want it for Christmas.

Happy Holidays

The Schooner Curling Club and its executive committee would like to wish all members and friends of the club a safe and happy Holiday season. We will be celebrating the Holidays at the club with a Christmas dance on Saturday, December 11th with music by DJ Jimmy and we will celebrate the new year with a wine and cheese reception on Saturday, January 8th. We hope you can join us.

The final day of league curling before the Holiday break is scheduled for Sunday, December 19 and the Schooner Club will be closed for the Holidays from December 20, 2021 to January 2, 2022. The first day back for league play is scheduled to be Monday, January 3. The remainder of the season will be busy with league play and lots of spiels and other special events. We can't wait.

Have a safe and merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year everyone. All the best.



