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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 112

December , 2022

Saturday, December 10	Survivor entry deadline
Saturday, December 17	Survivor Final Elimination
December 15-17	Keltic Kubota Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 17	Turkey Spiel Holiday Dance
December 19	Holiday Break Begins
Tuesday, January 3	League play resumes
January 6 and 7	Doubles Spiel (2 on 2)
Saturday, January 28	Fun Night
February 10 and 11	Sweetheart Spiel
February 17-19	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 25	Fun Night
March 10 and 11	Doubles Spiel (2 on 2)
Saturday, March 18	Fun Night
March 23-25	Fun Spiel
April 20-22	John Boneparte Memorial 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 with the Boston Pizza Team Entry league taking the ice on November 6th and throwing the first stones in league play for the 2022-23 season. Team entry is welcoming a new sponsor this season, Boston Pizza Sydney, after Don Cherry's chose not to return after sponsoring for the last few seasons. There are eleven teams taking part in the league this season, many sporting new or shuffled rosters from last year. With the disbanding of team Gordie Cormier, that foursome has been redistributed to teams throughout the league. Cormier is now skipping the foursome that was previously skipped by Kevin Gouthro who moved to play with team Stephen Leslie. Cormier now fronts Wally MacDonald, Walter Nichols and Anthony Boudreau. Cormier has big shoes to fill as this team under Gouthro had a lot of success on Sunday, winning multiple titles over the last couple of years. On the other side of that change, Leslie is hoping Gouthro can continue his winning ways in Team Entry and bring more success to that team. So far, it seems to be working out on both sides as each team has yet to lose a game on Sunday so far. Carrie Cress, Cormier's former mate, has struck out on her own and now is doing skip duties for front end Eric and Colleen MacLeod and mate, Schooner newcomer, Katrina Markotjohn. The final piece of former Team Cormier, Julia Cormier, has joined forces with Skip Russell Fitzgerald who also has returning teammate Paul MacDonald and newcomer to the foursome, Jenn Haigh. Haigh played skip Jenna MacNeil last season but MacNeil returns to Sunday play with a whole new roster with Brittini

Fernandes handling mate duties, Sophie Bungdon at second and Bennito Delornezo at lead. Mel Windsor, last season skipping a team with Delorenzo and Fernandes as members, has now moved over to join forces with Keith MacEachern, Bryant Cormier and Tommy Youden. Team Cal Thistle is back again with addition Alison Grapes at lead who takes the spot of Connie Howe who did not return to curl. Rounding out the field are the Brian Laughlin, Gary Landry, Robert Agnew and Peter MacIntyre rinks who return pretty much intact from last season. At this early stage in the season we have seen some good games and it looks like everyone will be competitive and capable of winning on any given Sunday.

The East Side Mario's Mixed League is once again back to compete on Monday and Tuesday evenings, sporting six end games once again after a change to that format last season. There are thirteen teams competing in round one of mixed so there is one bye each week and games have a staggered start of 6:30, 7:15 and 8:00. So far, Bryant Cormier and Butch MacLean have moved out into a slight lead with three wins and Cal Thistle is close behind with two wins and a tie. It's still early and there are a lot of teams that can make a bid for top spot in mixed in this first of two rounds.

The Schooner doubles league is back at the club again this year for its second season and it has grown even more popular. Last year saw 24 people taking part and this year it has expanded to 27. That means a bye for three curlers each week. Partners rotate in this league so you get to play with a new curler every game. Games are six ends and each player throws six rocks in three of the six end. There is no sweeping until the rock crosses the hog line at the far end. It's a great way for newer curlers to get better more quickly as you get to throw more rocks and also get to call line and participate in strategy. The doubles game has become very popular at the club since it was introduced a few years ago and that is evident in the expansion of the doubles league in only its second year.

Another league making a return this season is the Schooner Men's League and it's sporting a new sponsor, Firestop Enterprises. There is a full slate of eight teams this year again, although a few teams have started the season with only three players. A few late additions have helped with that situation but there is still room for one or two more curlers to fill up the teams.

Schooner men's league takes place on Thursday nights and there are draws at 7 and 9pm. Games are eight ends. There are typically two regular season rounds in this league followed by a playoff round. So far, skips Gordie Cormier and Russell Fitzgerald have guided their foursomes to the top of the league, each sporting three wins. With the competitive nature that is typical in this league, any of the eight teams can overtake the current front runners and make a bid for a league title. We'll have to wait and see what happens.

All Schooner members are reminded that Friday afternoon Matinee Curling has returned once again as well. Held on Fridays from 1-3, it's open to all Schooner members and you can just drop in, there is no registration required. Teams are formed and games played from those in attendance on any given week. It's a great way to expand your curling membership. If you are free on any Friday, drop by and take part.

Drawmaster's Musings

As we enter into December, the leagues are well underway. We are still a couple of players short of full teams in the Mixed and Men's leagues, so if anyone wishes to join either league, please let me know.

As you are all (hopefully) aware, there were some tweaks to the League Rules of Play this year with regards to spares, postponing games, and league tie-breakers. They have been emailed to skips and they are on the bulletin board at the club.

SPARES: A team can play with a maximum of 2 spares and a minimum of 1 original member. I.E. If 2 original team members cannot play, then the team can still compete with 3 total players.

POSTPONEMENTS: If a team cannot be fielded, the offending skip can ask the opposing skip to reschedule, **BUT** if less than 24 hours notice is given, it is an automatic forfeit and the game cannot be rescheduled.

With more than 24 hours notice, the game may be rescheduled, but must be played within 2 weeks of the original date, otherwise the offending skip forfeits the game.

THIRD TIE-BREAKER: In the event of a tie in points following the regular season or play-offs, the first tie-breaker is the most wins (vs. wins & ties).

The second tie-breaker is the win record between the tied teams.

Starting this year, the third tie-breaker is a draw to the button. Each team will throw 4 rocks (1 per player), and the accumulative distance to the button will be recorded for future reference if needed. Sweepers are allowed.

If a team only has 3 players, then the 4th rock may be thrown by any team member.

We will be running the draws to the button starting the week of December 5.

If you have a bye that week, we'll get to you the next league night.

If anyone has any questions, my email is schoonerdrawmaster@gmail.com.

See you on the ice!

Richard

Turkey Spiel



The Schooner's Holiday Tradition, The Turkey Spiel, will be held this year from December 15-17. We would like to welcome back and thank returning spiel sponsor Keltic Kubota. The Turkey Spiel is open to everyone, not just Schooner members, for an entry fee of \$25 per person. For new curlers, we will provide the equipment and instruction if required. You get three, six end games, one on your choice of either Thursday or Friday night, and two on Saturday. There will be lunch served for everyone on Saturday as well.

There will be lots of prizes for curlers, bonus games and prizes and there may even be a chance to win a Holiday Turkey! It looks like this spiel will be full this year again as, at the time of writing, there are only a few spots left in each division. Don't delay, sign up soon.

Turkey Spiel Holiday Dance

Plan to join us and party the night away to celebrate the Holidays at the Schooner Club's Turkey Spiel Holiday dance. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a night of dancing and fun with music provided by everyone's favorite DJ, DJ Jimmy. There's no cover and we'll be partying from 9-1. So dust your dancin' shoes off and join us to help start the Holiday celebrations off with a bang.

Slider Cup

A joint effort between the Schooner Curling Club and Sydney Curling Club has created an event that is based loosely on the Ryder Cup in golf. This event was originally scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 19, but planning took longer than expected and the event has been delayed. A new date has yet to be named. There will be a number of different competitions, a men's game, a women's game, doubles, etc. where winning teams will earn points for their respective club and, at the end of the day, the club with the most points will take the overall title and be awarded the Slider Cup. Host clubs will alternate each season with Schooner getting to host the inaugural event. Participants can only take part in one game so as to spread the participation over more of the members. This event is still under development and may be expanded to include other clubs on Cape Breton Island. If you are interested in taking part in the Slider Cup, watch the Schooner website, Facebook page and club bulletin board for more info and sign up opportunities when they become available. We hope this will be an ever growing and popular event that will bring the memberships of the two local clubs, and possibly others, together. Plan to take part.

Early January 2 on 2 Spiel

We won't be back at the club long following our Holiday break when the first spiel of 2023 is scheduled to take place. It's a 2 on 2 spiel, enter as a team of two players with entry fee being \$50 per team. Format will be determined by the number of teams taking part. Play gets underway Friday, January 6 and runs through Saturday, January 7. Games are 6 ends. Curlers will be treated to lunch on Saturday. Mark your calendars and plan to take part. This spiel is open to Schooner members but exceptions may be made depending on the number of participants.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights are scheduled to return to the club's calendar this season in January of 2023. The first Fun Night will be held on January 28th, the second on February 25th and we will wrap up with our special St. Paddy's Day Edition Fun Night on March 18th. Fun nights are a great way to have an enjoyable night out with family and friends, introduce people to the great sport of curling and help support the Schooner Curling Club, all at the same time. For only \$7 per person (\$4 for Schooner members) you get to curl, you get some delicious pizza and you may even win a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night out. We supply the equipment and instruction if necessary and you just need some clean, dry sneakers for the ice. Plan to join in January for a Schooner Fun Night.

Tuesday Tarabish and Social

Now that we are back to our regular curling schedule, the Schooner Club's weekly tarabish game and social will continue every Tuesday. It's a great way to bring new faces into the club and, even if you don't want to play cards, Schooner members are encouraged to come for the social and bring some friends to support the club. Everyone is welcome. We get started at around 7pm but, if you want to play tarabish, you are asked to arrive around 6:45. Partners for tarabish will rotate after each game and winners will be



Ice King Purchased

determined by individual wins and points accumulated. Along with cards you can play some shuffle curling, darts or just relax and enjoy a beverage and some snacks. Join us any Tuesday at the club.

There was a discussion at the Schooner general meeting in October that revolved around the club potentially purchasing a used Ice King to help with ice maintenance. That machine has been purchased and is working out well. Our old Ice King, the machine used to shave the ice and keep it in top shape, was starting to cause problems. The one we had was a corded model and the one we have now is cordless, swapping a long and cumbersome power cord that must be navigated around when shaving the ice for battery power. It also has easier hydraulic adjustments. The cost to purchase was the agreed upon \$4800. New units sell for considerably more. As an added bonus, we can pay for the unit in \$200 monthly installments that will only be due during months when the club is running, allowing us four years to pay the \$4800 interest free. Ice director Brian Laughlin inspected the machine before purchase and gave the go ahead. This is an important piece of machinery that is integral to the quality of our ice and having this newer, more modern machine will benefit the club for years to come.

Snowball



The snowball is an in house fundraiser that is run during all regularly scheduled curling events and is open to Schooner members only. It costs \$2 to play each time, \$1 going to the club and \$1 going towards the jackpot. Each member is assigned a number based on alphabetical order on the membership roll. Each time the snowball is run, a number is drawn at the end of the night and, if the number corresponds with a member who has participated on that night, they win the accumulated jackpot. If the member is not signed in for the draw, the nightly sales are added to the jackpot for next time and the prize "Snowballs" into a bigger amount.

Draws are held on Mixed League nights, Monday and Tuesday, Doubles on Wednesday, Men's on Thursday and Team Entry on Sunday. While there is not a draw during Friday Matinee Curling, anyone in attendance can sign in and will be included in the Sunday draw. While you do not have to be in attendance when the draw is made, you must personally sign in for each draw on the day of that draw, with the exception of Friday carrying into the Sunday draw. You cannot sign in ahead of time and you cannot have someone else sign you in on your behalf. All Schooner members are eligible to sign in for any draw. You do not have to be scheduled to curl in order to be eligible but, again, you must come to the club on the day of the draw and sign in personally. Currently, the jackpot has snowballed to over \$300 so a trip to the club to drop your toonie and sign your name may be warranted. This is an important source of funds for the club. It helps us pay monthly expenses and keep costs to members to a minimum. Please, the next time you are at the club, play the snowball and support the Schooner club. You could win a great cash prize.

The Schooner Curling Club

Presents



\$20 per player - Teams of 5 players
Entry Deadline - 5pm Dec. 10

Visit the www.schoonercurlingclub.com for more info.

The Schooner Curling Club is currently selling entries into our Survivor Fundraiser. Each entry is \$20 and there will be teams of five participants. Names will be drawn over three days during the Turkey Spiel, December 15-17, with the last name left winning the Survivor Jackpot, 50% of total sales, to be split equally among all team members. The final survivor will also win a great bonus prize, a \$100 NSLC gift card donated by Schooner member Rose Gale. Rose is also spearheading the fundraiser. Entries can be purchased from any Schooner member, at the club during any regular event and from the Pier Discount Store, 890 Victoria Rd. in Sydney. Schooner volunteers have also been selling entries at the Mayflower Mall. As of now, the jackpot sits at an estimated \$2300 and is still growing. All Schooner members are requested to sell a minimum of one team, five entries. Any Schooner member selling more than one team will have their name entered into a draw for a free membership for the 2023-24 season. Members will get one entry into the draw for each additional team they sell. Entry deadline is Saturday, December 10, at 5pm. All teams must be complete and entered by then. Elimination draws will begin on Thursday, December 15 and continue on Friday and Saturday, an equal number of players being eliminated each night, until we have our final survivor. All elimination draws will be streamed on Facebook Live for all to see. This is a very important fundraiser for the Schooner Club and we encourage all members to sell as many entries as possible to maximize the prize and the benefit to the club. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Auction

The Schooner Club will be launching a "12 Days of Christmas" auction at the Club commencing on Tuesday, December 6th until December 17th. We have a lot of beautiful donated items up for grabs and are looking to see if anyone has any new items they would like to donate to this cause. If so, we would welcome any items, giftcards or regifted items you would like to donate. Some of the items we will be auctioning off include a Men's Under Armour Hoodie, a Fitbit Aria Scale, a Winder River ladies barn jacket, a Wine decanter/ aerator w/ NSLC gift card and the list goes on. Items will be on display at the club from December 6th until December 17th at 5pm for folks to bid on. The highest bidder for each of the 12 days will be awarded the prize for that day. Looking forward to your support of this fundraising initiative and happy shopping!

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.

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. Boston Pizza Sydney has come on board as a league sponsor and is now designated as sponsor of our Sunday Team Entry league and Firestop Enterprises is the new sponsor of Men's league. Thank you to these and all of the community minded businesses and organizations that sponsor the club and help us to continue to operate. If any members know of a local business or work for one that might consider supporting the club with sponsorship, let anyone on the executive know and we will contact them with options. We encourage members to support our sponsor companies whenever possible. Visit the sponsor page on the Schooner website for a full list.

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 17th with music by DJ Jimmy and we will celebrate the new year with a wine and cheese reception on Saturday, January 7th as part of the Schooner 2 on 2 spiel. We hope you can join us. The final day of league curling before the Holiday break is scheduled for Sunday, December 18 and the Schooner Club will be closed for the Holidays from December 20, 2022 to January 2, 2022. The first day back for league play is scheduled to be Tuesday, 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.

