



In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 47

February 2013

Schooner Curling Club

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The annual JDRF Fun Spiel was held in January and was another huge success. This year's event saw 24 teams compete over two days in an effort to raise money to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and help to wipe out Juvenile Diabetes. Curlers compete in two divisions, experienced and not experienced or "new curlers". This year, John Bonaparte's rink prevailed in the experienced curlers division and, on the non experienced side, a team from the Kinsmen Club led by Martin Campbell and Russell Fitzgerald took first place.

This year's JDRF raised a total over \$4150, up from last year's total even though teams entered were down from 28 to 24. On top of the \$100 entry fee per team, money was raised through a silent auction that featured autographed sports and celebrity collectables, sporting equipment and green fees to local golf clubs, a penny collection, even split draws and other donations. The success of the spiel is due mainly to the efforts of Lena Chiasson and her family. Lena originally started the spiel and has been a driving force through its existence. Lena and her family all spoke at the closing ceremony of the spiel to say how much they appreciate the help of the club, the curlers and community businesses in making the spiel successful. We all owe a huge thank you to everyone who took part and to all local businesses that supported the spiel by entering teams or providing food, prizes or other donations to benefit the cause. We hope to see you all back next year to help make the JDRF Curl for a Cure even more successful in 2014.

Coors Fun Nights



Shake off the winter blues with a night out for fun and exercise at the Schooner Curling Club. Join us for the Valentine's edition of our regular Coors Fun Night being held on Saturday, February 16th. The fun gets going at around 7:00 and is only \$5.00 for the public and \$2.00 for Schooner Members for curling, pizza and prizes. Please bring clean, dry footwear for the ice area.

Club Calendar

February 8 th – 9 th	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 16 th	Coors Fun Night
Saturday, February 16 th	Curling Fun Day in Port Hawksbury
February 23-24	Retired Teacher's Spiel
March 1st – 2nd	Coors Spiel
Friday, March 15 th	Spaghetti Dinner
March 16 th and 17 th	Blarney Stone Lady's Spiel, Baddeck CC
Wednesday, April 17 th	General Meeting
Saturday, April 27 th	Closing Banquet
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

Inter Club Curling

All Schooner members, both men and ladies, are invited to participate in an inter club curling day to be held at the Strait Area Curling Club in Port Hawksbury on Saturday, February 16. This event is part of a season long effort to promote curling and social events between four Cape Breton Clubs, the Schooner, the Sydney Curling Club, the Baddeck Curling Club and the Strait Area Club. Refreshments and snacks will be served during the day. For more information see John Donovan or check the club bulletin board where there is a sign-up sheet posted.

Closing Banquet



Make plans to attend the closing banquet on Saturday, April 27th. Things get rolling at 6pm with a cocktail hour and then dinner starting at 7:00. This year the banquet will be held at the Sydney Pensioner's Club. This venue provides us with more room and allows all members to enjoy the event without having to worry about decorations, setup or cleaning up afterwards. While this means we will forgo bar sales for the event, club president Ray Cameron says that any profit we made on the bar in past years has only gone to cover other out of pocket expenses and generally, we ended up even anyway. The Pensioner's Club bar prices are \$3 for beer or spirits. After dinner there will be prize presentations and then there will be a dance with a DJ until 1 am. The banquet is free for members and \$10 for guests at dinner. All members must pay a \$10 deposit that will be refunded at the banquet. If you plan to attend the banquet, please sign up and pay your deposit with Frank Kokocki at the bar.

Schooner Teams Compete at the Ship Hector Bonspiel in New Glasgow

Four Schooner teams competed in the 41st annual Ship Hector Bonspiel Jan. 25-27. The Abbie Boudreau rink with Gary Landry, Bryant Cormier and Dave Boudreau, the Brian Laughlin rink with Gordie Cormier, Kelley Laughlin and Rick Billard, the Cal Thistle rink with Barb Thistle, Sid Murray and Debbie Murray and the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink with Wally MacDonald, Chris MacLeod and Rick Windsor. This spiel is held in four curling clubs in the New Glasgow area and attracts teams from all over the Atlantic Provinces.

The Friday night draw saw both the Laughlin and Boudreau rinks take victories to open the spiel while Thistle and Bonnell suffered opening losses. Saturday at the Hector can take its toll on curlers who have to play three games in that one day with normally only a short break in between matches. At the end of the day we saw two Schooner rinks make it through to play on Sunday while two narrowly missed making it to the playoff round. The Brian Laughlin rink started the day with their second victory, beating a strong team from Dartmouth on a draw to the button to break a tie game. The Dartmouth squad, last year's Bluenose division champs, jumped out to an early lead, only to see it evaporate over the final ends when the Laughlin squad, with Gordie Cormier playing the skip spot in this game, stealing point after point to claw back to tie the game in the seventh end. The Dartmouth skip played a clean eighth end and had an open draw to win the game but came up short, forcing the tie breaking draw to the button. Second Kelley Laughlin took the draw for the Schooner team and bit the eight foot with her rock, good enough to win when the Dartmouth skip again came up just short and only managed to get full twelve. The Laughlin rink went on to win their third game that afternoon, solidifying a spot in Sunday play. They dropped their last draw on Saturday evening to a very powerful Wayne Sangster rink, who was the eventual overall winner of the spiel, but the 3-1 record was good enough for them to play on Sunday. The Cal Thistle rink opened play on Saturday with two well played and hard fought matches but were not able to mark anything in the win column. Saturday's final match for Thistle saw him victorious and qualify for a semi final on Sunday morning that, if he was able to win, would put him in the Tartan Division final. After a victory on Friday night, the Abbie Boudreau rink played two great matches but fell short in each, one decided when the opponent's rock out counted Boudreau's by less than an inch in the eighth end to steal a win away from the Schooner foursome. Boudreau also fell in his final game of the day and was eliminated from Sunday play. The Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink, after losing their opening game, dropped their second match as well in six ends. Bonnell's squad got better as the day progressed but were unable to enter the win column. In their final two matches of the day they led late into the games but weren't able to hang on to take a victory.

Cal and his team played their semi final in the first draw Sunday morning and it was a seesaw battle that saw the lead change hands a few times. Thistle, down by two in the sixth end, scored three to take a one point lead only to see his opponent from New Glasgow score a single in the seventh and tie the game, giving Thistle the all important hammer coming home. The eighth end came down to the last rock seeing the New Glasgow squad lying shot, a potential game winning point, but Thistle threw a perfect angle raise, gently bumping his own stone from the twelve foot to a perfect resting place on the button to score a single and take the win and a spot in the afternoon's Tartan Championship. Cal ended up dropping the championship match and took the runner-up spot in the Tartan Division and the \$200 prize. The Laughlin team had their semi in the second draw on Sunday. Their 3-1 record in regular play had put them in a position that, win or lose, they would play in the afternoon in a final somewhere but they again took a victory, scoring early and stealing some opportune points to move on to play for the Heritage Division championship in the afternoon. Laughlin fell in the afternoon match 7-5 in a well played game that saw many lead changes and the score tied at five late in the match. They ended up in the runners-up spot, winning \$300 in prize money.

Overall it was a great spiel for all involved. There was great curling and, of course, great socializing as well. Thank you to the four Schooner teams who participated and represented out club proudly and congratulations to the Brian Laughlin rink and the Cal Thistle rink on your success at the 2013 Ship Hector.

League Wrap-up

Regular league play has wrapped up in the Team Entry league and a league champion crowned. The Omar Roach rink took top honors this year with a sparkling record that included only one loss on the season, capping it off with a must win against the Brian Laughlin rink to solidify the top spot. Joining skip Roach was Gary Landry, Elaine Arseneau and Mike Cormier. Second place went to the John Donovan rink and third place went to the Brian Laughlin rink, both with only two losses on the year but Donovan finished ahead of Laughlin having defeated him earlier in the season. Last year's regular season champs, the Ray Cameron rink got off to a good start this season but faltered in the late stages and finished fifth and last year's playoff champs, the John Bonaparte, rink finished eighth. Bonaparte was low in the regular standings last year as well and came on strong in the playoffs so he will still be one to watch.

The mixed league regular season will end around mid-February and playoffs will begin shortly after. Heading into the final couple of weeks we see Martin Campbell with 11 points, holding a slim one point lead over three other teams, John Bonaparte, John Donovan and Gordie Cormier. Campbell and Donovan were slated to meet in the last week of January but had their game postponed due to weather. Four other teams are still in the hunt as they are either one or two points behind the second place rinks. All mixed league participants are reminded that they should check their schedules for the first week of February as there is no curling on Thursday, February 7th so that there can be ice maintenance done in preparation for the Sweetheart Spiel. There has been a 9 pm draw added on Wednesday, February 6th. *Con't pg 3*

The Men's League is in the middle of its second round and will start playoffs when that is complete at the end of February. Brian Laughlin's rink still sits atop the standings and has opened up a slightly larger lead with 15 points, sitting three points ahead of second place Dennis Crosby. Only one point behind Crosby is a tie for third between Gary Landry's rink and Leo Fraser's foursome. The Men's league is close across the board with two more teams within striking distance at 10 points and another at 8 points. As it was last season, this league has proven to be competitive with lots of close games and good curling all season.

With league play coming to a close and playoffs in all leagues starting this month, we would like to send a big thank you out at this time to our hard working Draw Master Cal Thistle. Cal has the difficult job of making teams, scheduling games and keeping all curlers accommodated all season. Thanks to Cal for all his hard work behind the scenes to make the leagues run smoothly through the year and keep us all curling. Best of luck to everyone for the remainder of the season and into the playoffs and Good Curling Everyone.

Lady's Sweetheart Spiel



It's not too late to sign up for one of the most anticipated spiels of the year, the Sweetheart Spiel, being held at the Schooner Club February 8th and 9th. This event has grown into one of the most fun and most popular events of the season over the last few years and this year promises to be every bit as good. The spiel is open to all ladies with an entry fee of \$20 for Schooner members and \$30 for non-members. Each curler is guaranteed three games with the overall winners taking home the coveted Sweetheart Sweatshirts. Everyone will be treated to Wine and Cheese on Friday evening with the wine being generously donated by Schooner member Martin Campbell and there will be dinner served on Saturday afternoon compliments of the Schooner men and thanks to Russell Fitzgerald who organizes the dinner and collects the donations from the guys to fund it every year. If you haven't done so already, all Schooner men are asked to donate to the dinner and you can pay Russell or pay at the bar whenever you can. The Sweetheart Spiel is sponsored again this year by Compu Clone Computer Solutions Inc.

So ladies, sign up now to take part in the Sweetheart spiel and get in on the fun. A signup sheet is posted at the club and is filling fast. You can check the check the website, email us or call the club for more information. We encourage all the guys to come out to cheer the ladies on. See you at the club.



Coors Light Spiel



The annual Coors Light Fun Spiel will be held at the club on March 1st and 2nd. Open to both members and the public this is a single entry spiel with a cost to enter of \$20. All participants will play three games and compete for prizes donated by the Coors Light Brewing Company. Watch for more information and a signup sheet at the club soon.



The club's annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held this year on Friday, March 15nd. Dinners will be \$7 and are prepared by Tommy Young of the Sydney Curling Club. Dinners can be picked up at the Sydney Curling Club or delivery is available for order of five or more. Volunteers will be needed on Thursday evening to help prepare and on Friday for packing and delivering dinners. Please help with this important fund raiser and sell as many dinners as possible. Order should be in by March 7th.

Blarney Stone Lady's Spiel



The Blarney Stone Lady's Spiel will be held at the Baddeck Curling Club on March 16th and 17th. Entry fee is \$160 per team guaranteeing three games. There will be a limit to 18 entries. A light breakfast and lunch will be served both days and dinner will be held on Saturday evening. Schooner has been represented there for the last few years and there are plans to go again this year. Best of luck to all Schooner ladies who will be competing.



**Happy
Valentines Day**

