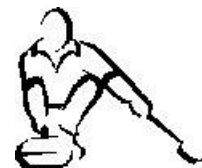


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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 82

February 2018

Saturday, February 3	Junior Learn to Curl
February 9-10	Sweetheart Spiel
February 16-18	Schooner Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 17	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 24	Fun Night
Saturday, March 3	Fun Night
March 8-11	Traveler's Championship (Sydney CC)
Thursday, March 15	Junior Learn to Curl
March 20-24	Schooner Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 24	Fun Spiel Dance
Saturday, March 31	Junior Program Easter Party
April 6-7	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, April 14	Junior Program Closing Party
April 24-28	Schooner Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 29	Skating Party
Saturday, May 12	Schooner Closing Banquet
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

League Play



The Old Triangle Men's League has begun round two of its regular season schedule and the Gordie Cormier rink has been able to maintain its first place position. They led the Wally MacDonald rink by one point heading into round two and have now extended that to two points when MacDonald tied one of his first two second round games and Cormier won both of his. Cormier sits with fifteen points while MacDonald has thirteen. With only five games remaining in the regular schedule, it would appear that these two rinks have distanced themselves enough to be considered the two main contenders for the title. Cormier and MacDonald are scheduled to meet head to head on the first of February, a game that will be very important to both teams and one that may eventually play a big part in deciding a champion. The Keith MacEachern rink sits in third place with ten points and would have to make the most of his remaining games as well as hope for a few losses by the front runners to be able to overtake them. The Brian Laughlin rink is in fourth spot with nine points and could also make a run if he can win out and have the leaders falter a bit. The Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink finally hit the win column in January with a victory in their final match of round one. Bonnell got a second victory in January as well but his comeback was stifled a bit by a loss to the front-running Cormier squad. Bonnell can now only play out the regular schedule and wait for the playoffs. In the Don Cherry's Team Entry League round two has also begun in the

regular schedule and the top of the standings is still pretty crowded. The Gordie Cormier, Omar Roach, Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Brian Laughlin rinks are all tangled together and within a couple of points of each other. The final Sunday of January saw an abbreviated schedule of only three games due to some teams travelling to the Ship Hector spiel in New Glasgow. The Cormier rink has sixteen points and sits tied with the Omar Roach rink who also have sixteen after win recently over the MacLeod rink. Roach is finally having the season that he was always thought to be capable of, possibly finding the missing piece on his team with the addition of Justin Humphrey as lead this season. Cormier does have the advantage however with a first round makeup game against the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink and he will play on the final Sunday of the regular schedule as he was one of the teams not in action in late January while Roach was. The two will meet head to head in February in a game that will be very important to both teams. The Brian Laughlin rink sits close behind with fourteen points and will also play that final Sunday to makeup the game missed when away at the Hector. He is tied with the Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod rink who also counts fourteen points after dropping their previous game to Roach. MacLeod will not be playing on that final Sunday of the schedule which could allow Laughlin to pass him in the standings. MacLeod started the season fast but has seemed to squander some opportunities to distance himself from the pack with losses to both Laughlin and Roach and a surprising loss to the Keith MacEachern rink in round one that could prove very costly to him.

The Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink is surprisingly not in the hunt for the league title this season and sits in the middle of the pack with eight points in what can only be described as a mediocre season for the usually consistent foursome. Bonnell has struggled in games against the top teams this season, losing his first round games to Laughlin and Roach and having now lost two games to the 'Slugger' MacLeod rink. Bonnell has two first round makeup games, one against the Cormier rink, but it looks like it may be too late to make a run at the title even if he can pull off wins in both of those make-ups. He can only take the role of spoiler. Another surprise continues to be the Wally MacDonald rink. It's been a rough season for MacDonald in the competitive Sunday league and he has only been able to muster two wins and sits in last place. While a regular season title is definitely out of the question for MacDonald, the playoffs still hold some hope as he and mate Sid Murray have been in the championship spot in either the regular season or playoffs since they began playing together in this league. MacDonald will have to get things figured out and his team will have to start playing a lot better if he hopes to keep his streak alive.

The Cape Breton Beverages Pepsi Mixed League is coming to the end of the first half of its season with only a couple of games remaining. Four teams remain in the hunt for the title in round one, the Richard Lorway, Thomas Drover, Bill Farr and John Donovan rinks, all have a chance at winning. Drover is the front runner with only one loss and a couple of make-up games in hand. Richard Lorway has two losses and Farr and Donovan have three losses each. Farr and Lorway have a game to play against each other due to a storm cancellation. It looks like the first round champ won't be crowned until the final rocks are thrown.

At the completion of the first round in the Mixed, the teams will all be shuffled

and a new round will begin in mid-February. This format was tried last season and proved very popular. Watch the Schooner website for new teams and schedule when they are available.

The Schooner Junior Program is enjoying a good season this year with much better numbers than the previous season. The program will be hosting two Junior Learn to Curl events as part of the CBRM's taste of Winter Festival, the first one on Saturday, February 3rd and the second on March 15 which is during the March Break. The Juniors will also be hitting the road in February to take part in a spiel at the Baddeck Curling Club on Saturday, February 17. Good luck to all the Schooner kids and have lots of fun. The Juniors will continue to take the ice every Saturday at 1pm with some changes to Sunday at 10am if there are other activities such as spiels scheduled at the club.

All members are reminded that Matinee Pick-up Curling is held every Friday at the club from 1-3. It's open to all Schooner members and you don't have to pre-register, just show up. Teams are picked from those in attendance on a given day. It's a great way to get more out of your Schooner membership.

Fun Nights

The January Fun Night, held on Saturday the 27th, wasn't originally on the Schooner schedule but was a late addition. A good decision for sure as there was a great turnout to the event with approximately sixty people there to enjoy a good night of curling, pizza and fun. There was even a birthday celebration. A good crowd had gathered as soon as the doors opened at 7pm and there were people there and curling into the late hours of the night. Thanks to Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale, fun night coordinators, for putting on such a great event. Thanks also to Nadine, Thomas, Lynn and Joe who helped out the new curlers on the ice with some training and tips throughout their games and a huge thank you to everyone who attended.

The fun night for February will be held on Saturday the 24th starting, as always, at 7pm. Members are encouraged to attend whenever they can and bring friends, co-workers, family, whoever and give them a chance to try this great winter past time. Fun Nights are also a great night out for only a few bucks. For only \$7 per person (Schooner members are charged \$4) you get to curl and also enjoy some delicious pizza. Everything is provided for curling except clean, dry sneakers for the ice. Plan to join us for the February Fun Night.

2019 Scotties in Cape Breton

Tickets for the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, being held in Sydney from February 16-24, 2019, went on sale on Friday, January 23. Only full event packages are currently available. They are \$399 (plus applicable taxes and fees) each and will include all round robin draws as well as any tie breakers required and all playoff games as well. Those who placed the \$50 deposit during the bidding stage have already had a chance to get their seats selected. Mini packages and single draw tickets will go on sale at a later date, sometime in the fall of 2018. All event packages also include access to the Heartstop Lounge that will be located at the Joan Harris Cruise Pavilion. There will be live music and dancing as well as food and beverage services available. There will also be special events and opportunities to

Lighting Upgrade

meet the curlers there.

The field at the 2019 Scotties will see sixteen teams take part, just as it is this year in BC. This will include teams from all provinces and territories as well as Northern Ontario, one wild card team that will be decided on February 15, and the team that wins the 2018 Scotties in Penticton who will compete as team Canada. It should be a great field. Get your tickets early by calling or visiting the Center 200 box office or go online at www.curling.ca/tickets .

Volunteer opportunities also exist for the event. For more info visit the website

www.curling.ca/volunteer

Keep up to date at the Cape Breton Scotties webpage at <https://www.scottiescapebreton.com/> or Curling Canada at www.curling.ca/2019scotties

As I'm sure everyone has seen, the upgrading of our lighting, both on the ice and in the club house, to energy efficient LED lights has been completed. The work was completed by Greg Peters Electrical and was partially funded by Efficiency Nova Scotia. The remaining cost was financed through Nova Scotia Power and will be paid off over two years with each power bill. The approximate cost to the club is \$300 per month. A large part of that cost should be offset by the saving in electricity the new lights will give us. The new lights look great and make the ice area look very bright and vibrant. A dimmer was installed in the clubhouse to turn the lights down as they were simply too bright at full power. Lights were also installed in the bar and the kitchen. While outside lighting was not included in the original proposal to Efficiency Nova Scotia, it was decided that it should be done as well. We got a price to replace the outside lighting and Efficiency Nova Scotia agreed to amend the original funding and include a portion of that as well. Greg Peters will be doing this work in the near future.

2 on 2 Spiel



The first of two 2 on 2 spiels scheduled for the season was held in January on the 12th and 13th. A full roster of sixteen teams signed up to take part in the two day, double-knockout event. The \$40 per team entrance fees was offered up as prize money and split between winners and runners-up in two divisions.

The first of five draws for Friday night got underway at 6pm. All sixteen teams would play their first games on Friday with the final draw of that night being two of the winners of their first games. The first draw has John Donovan and Peter MacIntyre take on Wally MacDonald and Sid Murray on one sheet while Trevor Billard and Matt Tubrett played Rob Agnew and Cal Thistle in another game. Donovan/MacIntyre and Agnew/Thistle were winners and stayed in the top bracket to meet each other on Saturday while the losers dropped to the lower bracket to continue play. The next draw at 7pm saw Greg Wall and Chris Webb take on Bryant Cormier and Richard Lorway while Brian Laughlin and Gordie Cormier took on Julia Cormier and Brandon MacSween. Laughlin/Cormier and Cormier/Lorway were winners

and would meet each other in their next game. Next on the ice was Lynn Kelly and Frances Ford, the spiels only all-female team, to take on Thomas and Nadine Drover. Alongside them was Walter Nichols and Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod facing Joe Erickson and Lonnie Howe. Winners from this draw were team Drover and Nichols/MacLeod and they would meet later that same night in Friday's final draw.

The last of the first round draws would also play again that night. In that draw we saw the team of Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell and Rich Windsor defeat Justin Humphrey and Gary Landry and Stephen Leslie and Kevin Gouthro defeat the father/son team of Rick and Steve Billard. The two winners of the 9pm draw had to go right back onto the ice and play against one another. In that game, Bonnell/Windsor were victorious, dropping Leslie/Gouthro to the lower bracket while Nichols/MacLeod stayed in the upper division by defeating the Drover twosome and drop them down.

Saturday play got underway early, starting at 10am, where the first two draws of the day would see all teams who lost their first games playing to try to move forward. Another loss for any of these teams would mean they were eliminated from the double knockout event. To keep winning meant that you were taking a long road to the final with having to play as many as five games that day. The first games on Saturday saw MacDonald/Murray win and move on to play Leslie/Gouthro later that afternoon. Wall/Webb were also victorious in that draw and would later play Thomas and Nadine Drover. In draw two it was Erickson/Howe over Kelly/Ford and Humphrey/Landry defeated Team Billard to move on. All losers of the first two draws on Saturday were eliminated.

Noon Saturday saw the first games in the top division where winners from Friday night would meet one another. Donovan/MacIntyre took on Thistle/Agnew and Cormier/Lorway met Laughlin/Cormier. Thistle/Agnew won and stayed on top while Donovan/MacIntyre dropped down and would meet Humphrey/Landry next. Cormier/Lorway defeated Laughlin/Cormier who would next meet Erickson/Howe in the lower bracket. The two winners of this draw would play against each other with the winner making it to the final and the loser dropping down for a second chance at money in the lower bracket.

With now four teams remaining in the top bracket, winners of their next game would move to the final and be guaranteed prize money. Losers still would have one more chance in the lower bracket. In these semi-final games, Agnew/Thistle moved on by defeating Cormier/Lorway and they would meet Bonnell/Windsor for the title after they defeated Nichols/MacLeod. A close, well played final saw Agnew/Thistle come out on top and take \$220 in prize money. Bonnell/Windsor received \$160 as runners up.

Play continued in the lower division until the semi-final games would be filled in by teams dropping from the top. Semi-Final losers in the top division dropped down to play another semi-final game in the lower division. These games included Nichols/MacLeod taking on Leslie/Gouthro who had gotten there by defeating MacDonald/Murray and Team Drover earlier. The second semi-final saw Cormier/Lorway drop to play Laughlin/Cormier who had earlier defeated Erickson/Howe as well as Donovan/MacIntyre. The lower division final was set when Leslie/Gouthro and Laughlin Cormier were victorious but the game never happened. The two teams decided that they

Schooner Club Championships

would split the prize money and not play.

Overall it was a great spiel with lots of great doubles curling action. Everyone was treated to pizza on Saturday afternoon and the weekend was capped off with a great dance that had DJ Jimmy entertain the crowd into the early hours of Sunday morning. Everyone who took part in the spiel talked about how much they enjoyed playing in this format. If you missed out on this 2 on 2 spiel you'll have another chance when we run a second event with the same format on April 6 and 7. Sign up early as this spiel is sure to fill up quickly.

With the Nova Scotia Men's Traveler's play down once again being held in Sydney this year, the Schooner Club will be sending a representative to compete to try and make it to the national competition. A club championship playoff was originally scheduled for January 19 and 20 but was never played. Only two teams expressed interest in representing the club at the Travelers, the Gordie Cormier rink with Gordie, Kevin Gouthro, Stephen Leslie and Mel Windsor and the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink with Wayne, Rick Windsor, Richard Lorway and Bryant Cormier. It was decided to forgo a formal event for two teams and just to have a playoff when time allows to decide a representative. The format will be decided at a later time.

Schooner Cash Spiel Filled

The Schooner Cash Spiel is set to go from February 16-18 and it promises to be one of the best Cash Spiels at the club in a long time. The spiel has been filled since before Christmas with a number of teams coming from outside the Schooner ranks this year. There will be a number of teams from the Sydney Curling Club along with two from Port Hawkesbury. Kris Granchelli is also making the trip down this year and will compete on a team with a couple of Schooner members. Kris left a message on Facebook recently saying how much he is looking forward to taking part. It looks like the field is stacking up to be very competitive this year.

There will be a dinner served on Saturday for all the participants and there will be a dance on Saturday night with DJ Jimmy. The dance is open to everyone. Entry fee for the spiel is \$180 per team with all proceeds going to prize money. Teams can be made up of any combination of men and women curlers.

Plan to drop by the club during the Open Cash from February 16-18 to take in some of the great curling action and don't forget about the dance on Saturday night.

Sweetheart Women's Spiel



The annual Schooner Sweetheart spiel is all set to go this month on February 9-10. The spiel has been filled to capacity at twelve teams and registration has been suspended. This year we will have a large number of curlers from outside the Schooner membership with a few teams coming from the Sydney Curling Club and the Baddeck Curling Club along with a large number of non-members including the return of former Schooner members Laura Rafuse and Lynette Chaisson. This Valentines tradition at the club has become one of the busiest and most enjoyable spiels of the

The Ship Hector Spiel

season and this year is sure to follow suit. All curlers are guaranteed three, six-end games, there will be a wine and cheese reception on Friday night and dinner for all curlers on Saturday. This spiel is once again sponsored by CC Computer Solutions of Sydney and we wish to thank them for their continued support. Plan to join us for the 2018 Women's Sweetheart spiel and enjoy some of the great curling action and the festive atmosphere. It's sure not to disappoint.

Three Schooner rinks made the trip this year to represent the club at the annual Ship Hector Spiel in New Glasgow. This spiel attracts a large number of teams from near and far and is held in four clubs in the New Glasgow area. This time around we had the Cormier rink with Gordie Cormier, Kevin Gouthro, Stephen Leslie and Mel Windsor, the Bonnell rink with Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell, Rick Windsor, Richard Lorway and Bryant Cormier and finally the MacDonald Rink with Wally MacDonald, Sid Murray, Rick Billard, Dave Boudreau and fifth Brian Laughlin.

On Friday, Bonnell was the only winner among Schooner rinks. He then went on to lose two very close games on Saturday that came down to the last rock in both. Bonnell ended up facing fellow Schooner skip Gordie Cormier in the final game on Saturday for both teams. Cormier lost his first game on Saturday but found the win column in game three to set up the meeting with Bonnell. For Cormier, once he started winning he didn't stop. He defeated Bonnell on Saturday night to move onto Sunday play. Bonnell was eliminated with the loss. Cormier won a semi-final game on Sunday morning to make it to the championship of the Caledonia Division which he also won.

The Wally MacDonald rink lost on Friday and then a close game on Saturday morning. They did play Saturday night to attempt to get to Sunday play but were unsuccessful.

Congratulations to Gordie and his team on becoming Caledonia Division champs at the 2018 Ship Hector. You've done the Schooner Club proud.

Junior Learn to Curl



The Schooner Curling Club will once again be hosting free learn to curl events as part of the CBRM's Taste of Winter Festival. This time, they will both be aimed at junior curlers age sixteen and under. The first of the two events will be held Saturday, February 3rd, from 6-7pm and the second will be held during March Break on Thursday, March 15 from 11am to noon. These events are open to any kids within the age range who want to give curling a try. We will provide the equipment with the exception of clean sneakers for the ice. Helmets are also recommended for everyone and are required for those twelve and under. Knee and elbow pads are also recommended for kids twelve and under.

The sessions will be taught by certified instructors. We are still looking for some volunteers to help out at each event both on and off the ice. If you have some free time and can help at one or both events, please contact Nadine Neima-Drover at the club or put your name on the sign-up sheet posted. These learn to curl events are a great opportunity for young people to try the sport of curling and see how much fun it can be. They are the curlers of tomorrow.

Weekly Tarabish Games

The weekly Tarabish games will continue to be held every Tuesday evening at the club. Play gets underway around 7pm. The way it is setup is that everyone is entered as an individual, not a team. Depending on the number of players on a given night, you are designated to play a set number of games, sometimes within a group, and after each game, individual wins and scores are recorded and then you move on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member has played the number of designated games, scores are tallied and winners determined. The games are well attended and are a great boost to the club and our bar. The games are not just club members so you can bring a friend if you like.

Mid-Season Meeting and New Year's Social

There was a mid-season general meeting held at the club on Saturday, January 6th. The meeting is held to allow members to be updated on what has been going on at the club for the first part of the season, to hear what's in store for the remainder and to voice any concerns or ask any questions they may have. This meeting is always followed by a wine and cheese reception that is hosted by the club's president.

To start the meeting off, Schooner President, Gordie Cormier, took the floor to welcome everyone and wish them a happy new year. In the absence of our Treasurer, Thomas Drover, who was unable to make the meeting due to a prior commitment, Gordie proceeded to update everyone on the club's financial status. He mentioned that the balance in our bank account is healthy and that the club is in a good overall financial position. Given that Chase the Ace was scheduled to start up again soon, that balance would be bolstered by the funds raised through that.

The next topic of discussion was the new lighting system that had just gotten installed the week prior to the meeting. Everyone agreed that the new lights were very nice and bright and that the dimmer that had been installed in the clubhouse section by the electrician was very important as, without it, the room may have actually been too bright. There was also discussion on getting the outside lights done as well. It was agreed that they should be done and that we should get a price for the work from Greg Peters Electrical, the company who had done the inside lighting. It was also decided that, before we pay for the outside lights ourselves, we should ask Efficiency Nova Scotia if they would contribute to them as well as they had done for the inside lights. Stephen Leslie agreed to look into all of that for us.

Gordie said the cost of our portion of the project so far was approximately \$300 per month that was added to our power bill. We hope to save close to that amount on electricity. It was also mentioned that it seemed colder in the ice shed as the new LED lights do not give off nearly as much heat as the old lights did.

Next up was Chase the Ace that was scheduled to start on the Tuesday following the meeting. Gordie and Lynn Kelly spoke on that and said things were going to run pretty much as they had in the past and that they were looking for a few new community vendors for this time around in an effort to up sales. The club was contributing \$500 towards the jackpot to get things started.

Gordie thanked some people who had contributed to the lighting project and done work over the Holidays. He started with Stephen Leslie who had done

a lot of the leg work to get the lighting project moving forward and also helped out during and after it' completion. He thanked Brian and the ice Crew who had done some ice maintenance during the Holiday break and were also on hand to get the ice back into playable shape after the electricians had finished working out in the ice shed. He finished things up by announcing that we had three, possibly four new members joining us for the second half and made reference to all of the events that were upcoming at the club, including four dances with DJ Jimmy. A busy second half indeed. The short meeting was then adjourned and the eighteen in attendance enjoyed some wine, cheese and crackers and caught up with one another after. A great time and an informative meeting.



Chase the Ace got underway at the club in January with the first draw taking place on Tuesday, January 9th. The club started the jackpot at \$500 and 30% of that week's sales were added giving us a starting jackpot of \$602. Two more draws in January with no Ace of Spades drawn has brought the jackpot up to \$840.50. The January 30th draw was cancelled due to stormy weather. The estimated jackpot for the next draw that will take place on February 6th is approximately \$975.

Tickets are sold all week and are 3 for \$5. They can be purchased at the club's bar all week, at the club on draw nights from 7-8 pm and at vendors around town as well. This year we once again have Disco Tirecraft in Sydney, CC Computer Solutions on George St. and Cape Breton Glass at 19 Mitchell Place in Sydney near Centre 200. We are hoping to add more vendor outlets soon.

Please support this very important fund raiser for our club. Proceeds from Chase the Ace in the past have helped fund projects at the club like electrical improvements, new furniture, a new bar fridge and our new LED lighting. Without the proceeds from Chase the Ace, these projects very likely could not have been done. Proceeds also help keep membership costs down and that benefits everyone. Next time you are at the club remember to get you tickets at the bar. Who know, you could win a great prize.

Snowball



All members are reminded that the Snowball even split is played at the club during every regular curling event. Entry is \$2 per draw with \$1 going to the club and \$1 going towards the jackpot, it's open only to club members and you must sign in yourself for each draw. Every club member is assigned a number and if your number is drawn when you are signed in for the draw, you win the jackpot. If a number of a member not signed in is drawn, the jackpot carries over and 'Snowballs' into a bigger jackpot for the next draw. So far this season we have seen a couple of jackpots in the \$100 range won by lucky members. This is an important fund raiser for the club and allows us to keep costs to members low by helping to cover day to day operating expenses. So the next time you are curling at the Schooner, remember to sign in for the Snowball. You don't want to miss out on winning that next big jackpot.

Happy Valentine's Day