

Schooner Curling Club
 61 Military Rd.
 Sydney NS B1N 3K6
 (902) 539-3992
 schoonercurlingclub.com
 schoonercurling@gmail.com

In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 96

February, 2020

February 7-8	Sweetheart Women's Spiel
Friday, February 7	Open Mic Night
February 14-16	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 15	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 22	Curling Day in Canada Fun Night
March 5-7	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 7	Fun Spiel Dance
Saturday, March 14	Fun Night - St. Paddy's Day Edition
April 23-25	Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 25	Closing Spiel Dance
Saturday, May 16	Year End Banquet and Dance

NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.

League Roundup



The first round of the Pepsi Mixed league has one week left in the schedule which will be mostly makeup games. The league has come down to three teams chasing first place, currently held by the Keith MacEachern rink who's followed closely by the Carrie Cress and the Coralie Ayre rinks. A win by Cress in their final game coupled with a loss by MacEachern would give Cress the title. MacEachern holds his own destiny in his hands as a win in his final game would secure him first overall. A recent loss by MacEachern to the Ayre rink has opened the door for her if she can win out and see the MacEachern and Cress rinks both lose their final games.

The second round of the Pepsi Mixed will see eleven teams compete, down from twelve in the first round as there were a few people who dropped out. A printable roster and schedule is now posted on the Schooner website and the schedule has been added to the Schooner calendar. Anyone who is playing in the Mixed for round two should check for their team and schedule as soon as possible as play will get underway on February 10. Please keep in mind that there will be a bye for one team each week due to the number of teams.

The Don Cherry's Team Entry League remains a four team race with just a handful of games remaining for the teams. The Coralie Ayre rink finally lost their first game of the season to fellow front-runner Wally MacDonald. MacDonald does have a loss to the Cormier rink but has the upper hand on Gouthro with a victory over him. MacDonald also has an easier finish to their schedule than Ayre's rink who have to play their final three games of the season against front runners like the Kevin Gouthro rink and the Gordie Cormier rink while MacDonald's remaining matches are against teams further down in the standings, not that there are any guarantees of a win on

Women's Sweetheart Spiel

Sunday against anyone. The Gordie Cormier rink also only has one loss and has one extra game to play as a makeup while the Kevin Gouthro rink sits with two losses but still has a chance at first if the other front runners falter and lose a game or two. It certainly looks like the Don Cherry's League will not be decided until the final week of play. After the season schedule is done, a playoff round will begin.

Anyone with makeup games in any league is asked to get them played ASAP. This caused a real problem last season and we would like to avoid a repeat of that.

The Old Triangle Men's League has undergone a change to the lineup with one team being eliminated, leaving seven teams to compete for the remainder of the season. The Keith MacEachern rink was dissolved and the players were distributed to teams that had only three players. It was decided that it would have been extremely difficult to complete the schedule with eight teams as four of those were down to three players each, one being the now defunct MacEachern rink. One team will have a bye each week. While not ideal, this will create a pool of Men's League players for other teams to call on to spare.

The Men's league is now three weeks into round two and it looks like the Gordie Cormier rink is running away with it, still not having a blemish on a perfect season with ten straight wins. The next team to Cormier is the Gary Landry rink who is nine points back but does have two extra games remaining, one a make-up game from round one and the second will be during Cormier's bye week. Landry has already had his bye in round two. Kevin Gouthro is just behind Landry and is the opponent that Landry has missed a round one game against but Gouthro has yet to sit out his bye week. It seems, at this point, it would take a monumental collapse on the part of Cormier to blow his lead in Men's and not win the regular season title. Following the completion of round two in Men's there will be a playoff round.

The Schooner Junior Program continues at the club and is getting along well under new coordinator Ceilidh Forrest. They were supposed to take part in a junior spiel in the Baddeck Curling Club but bad weather and poor travel conditions prevented them from going. The program hits the ice every Saturday at 1 pm and will they will be kicking off our Curling Day in Canada Celebrations on February 22nd. Ceilidh can always use some help on Saturdays if any member has some free time. Julia Cormier has been kicking in to help out and there have been a few other members come up to give her a hand.

The Schooner Club's Valentine's tradition, the Sweetheart Spiel, is back again this year and will run February 7th and 8th with CC Computer Solutions returning as sponsor. Open to all women curlers, no experience necessary, this event has proven to be one of the premier events of the season for the past number of years. Entry fee is \$30 per person, \$20 for Schooner members, with three, six-end games guaranteed. There will also be a wine and cheese on Friday along with an open mic for entertainment, dinner on Saturday sponsored by the Schooner men and there will be prizes for everyone. Plan to take part of just drop by, take in some of the curling

Schooner Cash Spiel

action and enjoy some great food, entertainment and fun. See you there. There's still a few openings and time to sign up for the Schooner Open Cash Spiel taking place from February 14-16. This is a team entry event that is open to everyone and teams can be made up of any combination of men and women curlers. All entry fees will be returned as prizes with a guaranteed first prize of \$1000. Dinner will be served on Saturday and there will be refreshments all weekend. There will also be a dance on Saturday night from 9-1 with music provided by everyone's favorite DJ, DJ Jimmy. Everyone is welcome and there is no cover charge for the dance. Plan to join us and take in some of the action throughout the weekend. Thank you to sponsors Firestop Enterprises and Jeff Ellis Enterprises.

Doubles Spiel Wrapup

The Schooner Club held a members only Doubles (2 on 2) spiel on January 10 and 11, 2020. A total of twelve two-person teams took part that made for some great action and exciting games over the two day event. Since this spiel was single entry, all teams were made up by a random draw which made for some interesting combinations. Play got underway on Friday evening with winners advancing in the top division and losers dropping to the consolation bracket. The way the draw worked, winners of the first round of games had to go out and play a second game on Friday against teams that had a bye in round one. Bye's were determined by the luck of the draw. After Friday's play, Eric MacLeod and Keith MacEachern would face Julia and Gordie Cormier in one game of the top bracket Saturday morning while Brian Laughlin and Gary Landry would meet Janet Gallivan and Phillip Edwards in another, winners advancing to the final. MacLeod and MacEachern had earned their spot in that game with a win over Sid Murray and Peter Campbell while the father/daughter Cormier duo defeated Robert Agnew and Chris Webb. Losers were still alive in the spiel and would play in the consolation round on Saturday. The semi final game in the top division would be played late in the morning on Saturday, winners advancing to the final and losers moving down to continue play in the consolation round. The team of Brian Laughlin and Gary Landry won and would meet Gordie and Julia Cormier in the final later in the afternoon. Play in the consolation round got underway early on Saturday with teams that had lost games on Friday evening facing off, winners moving on and losers being eliminated. In draw one of the morning, Robert Agnew and Chris Webb defeated Justin Humphrey and Greg Wall and Peter MacIntyre and Sid Murray moved on with a win over Jessica Dilney and Val MacIntyre. Georgette Sparkes and Mel Windsor defeated Wally MacDonald and Joe Erickson in the first game of the second Saturday draw and Cheryl MacKinnon and Frances Ford defeated Lynn Kelly and Bernadette Cormier in the other game to advance. MacKinnon/Ford continued to win in their next match, eliminating Sparkes/Windsor and moving on to the consolation semi final while Agnew/Webb also advanced with a win over MacIntyre/Murray. The consolation semi final pitted the losers of the semi final game in the top division against the two teams that had won earlier on Saturday in consolation. Edwards/Gallivan defeated Agnew/Webb to move to the consolation final in one semi final and MacLeod/MacEachern won to advance in the other.

Curling Day In Canada and Schooner Fun Night

After a lot of curling on Friday and Saturday, both finals were set to go on Saturday afternoon. Laughlin and Landry were facing the Cormier Duo in the top division while the consolation final had Edwards and Gallivan taking on MacLeod and MacEachern. The final games did not disappoint anyone who stuck around to watch, both being close, well played affairs that weren't decided until the end. In the top division, Brian Laughlin and Gary Landry were the winners while Keith MacEachern and Eric MacLeod were winners on the consolation side. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who took part.

It was another great 2 on 2 weekend at the Schooner Club. Along with the great curling action, everyone enjoyed some delicious pizza on Saturday that fueled the curlers through a long day. Thanks again to all the curlers, to the spiel committee and to everyone else who helped out. See you next time.

Saturday, February 22nd is Curling Day in Canada and the Schooner club has a day of events planned to celebrate. The day will get underway with the Schooner Juniors taking the ice at 1pm and after that we will have various curling activities going on for the rest of the afternoon. As part of the daylong celebrations, we are holding a special fun night that will be FREE of charge to attend and will begin at 6pm, an hour earlier than usual. We will have live entertainment from 6-9 pm with Harbourtown and curling will go all night. There will also be free pizza for everyone at the fun night.

Schooner member Julia Cormier has submitted an entry on behalf of the club in a contest sponsored by Curling Canada that would see the Tim Horton's Brier Tankard, the trophy presented to the winner of the Canadian Men's Curling Championship, make a visit to the winning club for the day. Last year we were paid a visit by the trophy presented to the women's winners at the Scottie's.

Let's get out and celebrate this day dedicated to the sport we all love. Get your family, friends, co-workers, whoever, all together and bring them to the Schooner club on Saturday, February 22nd to celebrate Curling Day, try the great sport of curling and see how much fun you can have at the Schooner Club.

Matinee Curling

Matinee curling made its return for the new year in January and there was a good crowd that took part. Matinee curling was suspended before the Holidays due to low attendance but an effort was put forth to try and renew the interest in the event so it could return to the weekly schedule. Matinee curling is open to all members and is a great way to get a little bit more curling value out of your membership. It runs on most Friday afternoons from 1-3 and there is no registration required, just drop in. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and Facebook and we hope to see you there.

Upcoming Schooner Fun Spiel

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Schooner Fun Spiel that will be held the first weekend in March from the 5th to 7th. Watch the Schooner website, Facebook and the club bulletin board for info and sign up later in February. It will be single entry for \$20 per player. You will get three games, one on either Thursday or Friday and two on Saturday. There will be refreshments

Fundraising Spiel Wrapup



Schooner Teams Compete in Sydney Cash

Good Luck to Our President

on Saturday and prizes for everyone. Plan to take part.

On January 24th and 25th, the Schooner Curling Club played host to a fundraising spiel sponsored by Glace Bay Townhouse and the Glace Bay Citizen's League in support of Meals on Wheels, one of fourteen programs supported by Townhouse. Schooner member Peter MacIntyre was the driving force behind the spiel and hopes it will become an annual event, similar to the JDRF fundraiser that was held at the club in the past.

In its inaugural year, the spiel attracted eight teams including two junior teams, one boys and one girls. There were also teams in the spiel made up of mostly new curlers, providing some their first exposure to the sport of curling.

The Schooner Curling Club donated the ice time for the spiel, provided all equipment required and gave any instructions for those who need it. Local businesses donated items for a silent auction, door prizes and also sponsored teams. Sobey's sponsored a team and provided food trays for the event and RBC made a generous donation of \$1000. Overall, it was a very successful first year for the spiel that netted around \$3000 for the two day event.

Three rinks from the Schooner Club went to compete in the Sydney Curling Club Cash Spiel that was held January 17th to 19th. A total of sixteen teams took part in the event. Schooner was represented by the Gordie Cormier rink, the Coralie Ayre rink and the Wally MacDonald rink. The spiel was run in a round robin format with four divisions of four teams each. Top teams from each division would play in a crossover game to try and make it to the next round and into the finals. All three Schooner rinks had good round robins, Cormier and Ayre going 3-0 and MacDonald going 2-1, all good enough to make it to the crossover games. Cormier ended up facing MacDonald in the crossover since Cormier was first in his division and MacDonald second in his. It was a close game with MacDonald holding a one point advantage coming home without hammer. Cormier was able to overcome that and take the game in the final end to move on to a semi-final game. Coralie Ayre was also eliminated after her loss in a crossover game to Yvonne Lefort's rink.

Cormier would move on to play Lefort in his next match, dropping that game and being eliminated. LeFort's victory put him into the final against the Kurt Roach rink with Roach coming out on top and taking the \$1000 first prize. All curlers were treated to dinner on Saturday and there was a dance on Saturday evening with live entertainment. It was a great showing by all Schooner rinks and we want to thank you all for representing the club so well.

We want to wish the best of luck to Schooner Club President Gordie Cormier when he travels to join a team from the Strait and Area Community Curling Club of Port Hawkesbury skipped by Donald MacCuspig at the Senior Men's Nova Scotia Provincial play downs being held from February 6-9 at the Truro Curling Club. Cormier will be playing the mate position on the team. Senior events are open to curlers fifty years of age and older. Winners of the Provincial title will represent Nova Scotia at the Everest

Mid Season General Meeting and Social

Canadian Senior Curling Championships in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba from March 16th to 22nd. Good luck Gordie.

The Schooner Curling Club held a mid-season general meeting on Saturday, January 4th, at the club. The meeting was very well attended with 25 members showing up to get updated on what has been going on and take part in the discussion of what will happen moving forward.

The meeting was called to order at the appointed time of 7pm and discussion began. The meeting had become more important than it was expected to be when the club became aware of some ice making equipment that was on the market for sale. If the club was to purchase it, it would require the approval of the membership and that is what was being sought at this meeting. The equipment was from the now defunct Brookside Curling Club in River Herbert in Cumberland County Nova Scotia, not far from Amherst. The equipment included what was basically an ice plant, a chiller, condenser, a couple of brine pumps, all of which was estimated to be about three years old. The list also included an older Ice King machine, some circles, a measuring stick and a number of other items. Estimated value of the package in its condition was in excess of \$100,000. The Club had negotiated a price of \$10,000 for the whole lot. The reason the executive was considering this purchase was that our ice plant and related equipment was getting pretty old, upwards of 60 years old, and could fail at any time. Purchasing this used equipment for a fraction of what it would cost us new could save the club if something major did fail. On top of the purchase price, we would be responsible for the shipping of the equipment from River Herbert to Sydney, a cost estimated to be around \$1000. The executive proposed paying for the purchase price and shipping from the newly established capital fund we have that was funded by the money we got from the Scotties 50/50 draws last year.

One question from the floor asked what we would do with the equipment once we obtain it. Would we simply store it or would we use it? It was suggested by the executive that we store it until after the season, possibly at the empty building across the street that used to be the New Dawn Welding School, and maybe install it in the summer months. We could possibly see savings in operating cost since the newer equipment is more efficient than the older stuff we have now. After some further discussion and a few more questions, a motion was put to the floor to grant the executive permission to spend up to \$12000 to obtain and ship the equipment, \$10,000 for the negotiated purchase price, \$1000 for transport and up to \$1000 for contingencies and unforeseen costs. The motion was passed unanimously.

Another motion for the spending of funds was offered to the floor to build a smoking hut outside, far enough away from the building so as to adhere to CBRM bylaws and also to allow non-smoking members a way to avoid breathing in second hand smoke close to the door. Smoke now not only includes cigarette smoke but, since it's legalization, cannabis smoke as well. The hut would be constructed by Wally MacDonald. The motion carried but it was decided that it wouldn't be done until after the season as it would be difficult to do during the winter.

President Gordie Cormier gave a brief report that mentioned the new cabinet that was constructed to house the pebble can and a new water

heater to keep the pebble water at temperature. It was noted that it was much more attractive and neater than the old setup and that the water heater would be much more convenient than using the old repurposed coffee urn that we used in the past. The urn had to be filled manually and needed to be turned on early enough to heat water in time to do the ice before a game. The new heater would keep water at temperature and ready to go all the time. There was a concern from one attendee that keeping the water at temperature all the time could be wasting money. Given the size and high efficiency of the new heater, once it brings the water up to temperature it will use only a little energy to maintain it and might even be more efficient than the urn. Time will tell but it was agreed that, even if the cost was slightly higher, the convenience of the new system was worth it. The pebble can is stored inside the cabinet and the water heater is installed above. There are water lines going to taps inside that are used to fill the pebble can. Total material costs were around \$400.

Lynn Kelly, Schooner Treasurer, gave a quick report that showed the club to be in a good financial position. She said the increase in membership dues and bar prices had made a big difference in covering the day to day expenses of the club. Lynn also reported that the final loan payment to Nova Scotia Power for the upgrade to LED lighting was going to be made in February and, once that was done with, the benefit to the club from that upgrade would be even greater. We had already been saving more in electrical costs than what we owed on the loan payment each month. She also mentioned that, once the loan was done, we could approach Efficiency Nova Scotia again for another project, the installation of a heat pump. Not only would it potentially save money on heating costs, it could act as a dehumidifier for the club room in the summer, something we really need. The ice makers report from Brian Laughlin was short but it stated that the dehumidifier in the ice shed that we have been having so many issues with over the last while are now remedied and the unit is working as expected. There were a few other short committee reports and then the meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting portion of the evening was done, the club treated those in attendance to a wine and cheese reception to ring in the new year. Overall a very productive and enjoyable night.

More Club Improvements

It seems like every month there is something new to report in this section. This month is no different with more improvements and changes made at the club. Most members have noticed the new cabinet that was built to house the club's pebble can. A big thank you to Wally MacDonald for putting that together for us. It looks great and really tidies up that area that was before just a table for the pebble can and water heater. Along with the cabinet, a new water heater has been installed above that heats the water constantly for the pebble, no more turning a repurposed coffee on and off and having to wait for it to heat before every draw. Taps are installed inside the cabinet to allow filling of the can for each pebble. The cabinet was stained by Kathy and Vince Gale who also did some other painting around the club including the men's washroom. Thanks to you both.

The Ecobee thermostat that was purchased for the club isn't installed and it

More Than Curling

looks like it will have to be replaced as it isn't compatible with the wiring we have for our furnace. We are looking at another smart thermostat, one that will have a simpler wiring requirement but still provide the same automation and level of control we are looking for.

There will be a cleaning and decorating day on Saturday, February 1, starting at 2pm. Julia Cormier is organizing it and we are trying to get the club ready for what is looking to be a very busy month. Anyone with free time is asked to drop by.

While the Schooner Club is known as a great place to curl in a social and fun environment, many of our members know that the club is also a place to see great entertainment and to party. February will see lots of that and we hope members and the general public will take full advantage. First, as part of our annual Sweetheart Spiel, there will be an Open Mic Night taking place on Friday, February 7th from 9-1. Everyone is welcome and there is no admission. Bring an instrument if you play or get up, take the microphone and belt out your favorite song. The later it gets, the better you'll sound. The following weekend on Saturday, February 15th, there is a dance at the club with music by DJ Jimmy. This is part of our Cash Spiel weekend celebrations and, again, everyone is welcome with no charge for admission. It's going to be a great time with Jimmy who always keeps the place rockin' and the dance floor full.

The good times keep on going the following weekend when we celebrate Curling Day in Canada on Saturday, February 22nd. We have a full day of events planned starting with Junior Curling at 1pm. Later that day we will have the duo, Harbourtown playing from 6-9pm and our Fun Night starting this month at 6pm and going all evening. For this month only, we are waiving the \$7 entry fee to fun night so you can enjoy some great live entertainment, curling and pizza, all for FREE!

So plan to join us for one or all of these great, free events and find out how much fun you can have at the Schooner Club. For more info on these and other upcoming events, visit us at the Schooner Website or on Facebook.

Facebook Milestone

The Schooner Club reached a milestone on our Facebook page last month, reaching and then exceeding 500 likes. Everyone who likes our page receives all of the posts that we create. The more likes we have, the more people know about the club and what's going on. So, if you haven't done so already, smash that like button the next time you visit us on Facebook. Our next goal is 1000 likes. Help us get there.

Happy
Valentine's
Day