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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 108

February , 2022

February 11-12	Sweetheart Lady's Spiel - Postponed
February 18-20	Schooner Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 26	Fun Night
March 10-12	Schooner Fun Spiel
March 11-13	Ship Hector New Glasgow
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 Boneparte 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 has been on hold for the entire month of January and the first part of February while we wait for government imposed restrictions to be lifted to allow return to regular play. There was practice time permitted under these restrictions with numbers limited to 10 participants. On February 7th, the practice limit was increased to 25 and, as of Monday, February 14th, it appears that league play will be permitted as per the announcement made on February 9. This is part of phase one of three phases that are expected to last about a month each. Tournaments are not permitted in phase one. The Schooner club has been scheduling practice ice for league teams based on the rules imposed, just to keep everyone curling, all be it in a limited fashion, and next week we will be able to return to regularly scheduled league play.

The East Side Mario's Mixed League has seen changes to its team's rosters as of the end of January. As is the norm, around this time we complete round one in the league, crown a winner and then move on to round two. Even though we could not complete round one, teams were shuffled and a winner was determined based on existing results as of the time of the shutdowns. Congratulations to the Phillip Edwards rink with skip Phil, mate Bryant Cormier, second Bev Young and lead Christina Edwards. Mixed teams will continue to use practice ice for now and will return to play with their new teams on February 14th.

The Don Cherry's Team Entry League will finish up regular play soon and go into the playoffs. Teams will be split into two divisions and play a round robin within their division in the first round. Top two teams in each division will cross over for a semi final and the winners will play for the playoff

championship. There is a new team in the league that will be replacing the Cal Thistle rink after all members left to go down south for an extended period. New Schooner member Jenna MacNeil will skip Liam Flannigan, Robbie Birron and Jennifer Haigh.

The Schooner Men's League will be starting round 2 of its regular season in February now that we will be returning to regular play. Kevin Gouthro holds the advantage in Men's while Wally MacDonald and Gordie Cormier are close behind. With each team set to face all other league competitors in round two for a second time, any one of the eight teams could make a charge for top spot.

Townhouse Fundraising Spiel

Due to the Covid situation at the time and for the foreseeable future, a decision was made to cancel rather than reschedule the fundraising spiel in support of Meals on Wheels that is run by Townhouse Glace Bay. In a post on the club's Facebook group, Schooner member and spiel organizer, Peter MacIntyre, said the following:

"The Meals on Wheels Spiel for Townhouse Glace Bay will not be held this year. I suppose we were fortunate to get it in a year ago, but with so many cases in the local area, and so many events to re-schedule, it's best to wait until January 2023.

The board of directors at Townhouse Glace Bay asked me to pass along their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support of the Schooner club, its members, the executive, the ice crew, bar tenders, sponsors, donors, and everyone who played in the spiel.

This was a major fundraiser for the program the past couple of years and we had a lot of fun with the new curlers, the juniors from the Sydney club, and everyone who supported the spiel. Thank you, and see you in January 2023, bigger and better."

Sweetheart Spiel

The Schooner Club's Sweetheart Spiel was scheduled to run on February 11-12, just before Valentine's Day but Covid restrictions forced it to be postponed. This ladies-only spiel is always a highlight of the season at the club and we are very disappointed that it could not go ahead as scheduled. We will try to have a ladies only event at some point in the season, even if it is only in house. Government restrictions are still prohibiting tournament play during the first phase of reopening and that will last for roughly a month before phase two is undertaken.

Schooner Cash Spiel

Arguably the premier event on the Schooner calendar for the season, the Schooner Open Cash Spiel was scheduled to take place on the long weekend in February running from the 18th to 20th. Again, with tournament play still prohibited, the Schooner Cash will not be able to happen on its scheduled dates. Stay tuned for updates on this and other scheduled events to be rescheduled once the rules allow.

This spiel is a team entry event and will be run in a draw format. Entry is \$200 per team and all entry money will be returned in prizes. All teams are

March and April Special Events

guaranteed three games and there will be dinner on Saturday. There will also be snacks and entertainment provided throughout the weekend. We did have some interest from teams to take part and we hope they will decide to join is if and when the event can go forward.

As previously mentioned, the Nova Scotia Government has begun loosening restrictions put in place to help stem the spread of Covid. They have announced that these restrictions will be lifted in three phases with phase one starting as of February 14th. In phase one, league games can resume but there will be no tournaments allowed which will affect a few Schooner events. We have a fun spiel scheduled for March 10-12 but, given each phase is set to rollout a month following the previous phase, that spiel may fall just before phase two and the allowance of such events. You may see the date for that spiel pushed to later in March. Fun nights for February and March are also up in the air. We do have two spiels scheduled for April that we are confident will go ahead under the current plan, a two on two spiel April 7-9 and our John Boneparte Memorial Closing Spiel, scheduled for the third week of April. That event is scheduled to take place after stage three comes into effect and we are pretty sure it can happen barring any changes. It also looks like we will be able to have a closing banquet this season, something we haven't been able to do for a couple of years now. Keep an eye on the club bulletin board, the Schooner website and our Facebook page for info and updates on all of these coming events.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights were scheduled to return to the club on Saturday, January 22 but, given restrictions to events, we had no choice but to cancel it. The next Fun Night is scheduled for, Saturday, February 26 and we will have to get more clarification as to whether or not it can proceed. There is another scheduled for Saturday, March 19, which is our special St. Paddy's Day Fun Night, and we are hoping that will be allowed for certain given it falls after phase two of reopening comes into effect. Updates will be posted on the Schooner website, Facebook page and at the club.

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.

Sydney Loses 2023 Brier Bid

Sydney was unsuccessful in its bid to host the 2023 Tim Horton's Brier. The event will be heading to London, Ontario after its 2022 stint in Alberta. We are hopeful that the CBRM will attempt at least one more bid to host the event and that it will be successful, something that is more likely now as the event makes its way back east.

Olympic Curling

The 2022 Winter Olympics are underway in Beijing and every curling fan knows that Canada's Rachel Homan and John Morris came up short of the podium, dropping a must win game to Italy on a measure in the extra end that ended their event. Homan had a chance to draw for the win in the extra but came up just millimeters short, giving the undefeated Italians the victory. Italy went on to win the gold medal at the games. In their previous game, Canada was upset by the Australian team who only managed one other win in the entire event and finished last in the round robin.

Stefania Constantini and Amos Mosaner of team Italy won gold, defeating Norway's Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten who took silver. Sweden's Oskar Eriksson and Almida de Val claimed the bronze medal by defeating Britain's Bruce Mouat and Jenn Dodds.

With the sting of no medal in doubles a memory now, we look forward to team curling where Brad Gushue and Jennifer Jones will represent Canada with their teams. Gushue is joined by Mark Nichols, Brett Gallant, Jeff Walker and fifth Mark Kennedy. Brad Gushue is no stranger to the Olympics having won gold in 2010. Jennifer Jones is joined by Kaitlin Lawes, Jocelyn Peterman, Dawn McEwan and alternate Lisa Weagle. Jones has also had success at the Olympics with an undefeated gold medal performance in 2014.

Best of luck to Canada's mens and womens curling teams. We hope you both bring home the gold. The Schooner Club is rooting for you.

Schooner Goes Scent Free

In a recent decision by the Schooner executive, the club is now a scent free zone as it has been discovered that some members are sensitive and/or allergic to some scents and fragrances. We ask all members to respect the new policy by refraining from wearing fragrant products and colognes when attending the club. This policy comes into effect immediately. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy
Valentine's
Day