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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 114

February , 2023

February 10 and 11	Sweetheart Spiel
February 17-19	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 19	Cash Spiel Social
Saturday, February 25	Fun Night
March 3-4	Townhouse Meals on Wheels Spiel
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 is continuing to be competitive in all most leagues at the club as they transition into second rounds. In Boston Pizza Team Entry, there are six of ten teams within four points of each other at the moment, some of them have played out their first round schedules and some still have games that remain unplayed. The Stephen Leslie rink sits atop the standings as of the last update with seven wins against no losses for 14 points and two games unplayed. They are followed closely by The Russell Fitzgerald rink with six wins and two loses for 12 points with one game remaining unplayed, that game being against the team they are chasing, the Leslie rink. The Gordie Cormier rink has one loss this season but with five wins and 10 points, they must make the most of three games remaining after already falling to league leader Team Leslie in the draw. Gary Landry's, Robert Agnew's and Brian Laughlin's rinks all have ten points as well, Laughlin having played out all of their games and Landry with one remaining have no chance of taking over first but Team Landry can play spoiler as they still have to play Team Leslie. Team Agnew has two games unplayed, one being against Cormier and an opportunity to spoil his bid at a comeback to take over first. This all only matters if the remaining league games will be played because, if not, the Leslie Foursome will be crowned regular season champs as Team Entry moves into a playoff round starting on Sunday, February 5th. Teams will be divided into two divisions of five each and play a round robin within that division as well as one crossover game with a team in the other division. Once the round robin finished teams will be seeded and play a single game elimination bracket with winners moving on and losers playing consolation until we have an overall playoff winner.

In the East Side Mario's Mixed league, round one of two finished up late in January but a winner is still to be decided. Due to team Thistle leaving the

Drawmaster's Musings

league during round one, some teams has a bye in the round and some did not. The Gary Landry rink and the Bryant Cormier rink are in contention to win the round and it has been decided that they will play one deciding game to see who will take the overall title in round one. The date that this game will be played is yet to be determined. Meanwhile, round two has gotten underway in Mixed as of January 30th. Teams were shuffled and curlers moved around to form new teams to compete in the second round with another winner to be decided at the end.

In the Firestop Enterprises Men's League, round two of round robin play has also gotten underway but, in this league, teams do not change and points from both round one and two are accumulated to determine a regular season champ. The Russell Fitzgerald rink and the Gordie Cormier rink sit tied for first at this juncture, each boasting fourteen points with identical 7 and 2 records. Gary Landry sits close behind with twelve points. Keith MacEachern also sits within striking distance with five games remaining in the regular season.

The Schooner Doubles League has proven competitive again this season with no less than ten of the participants sporting ten or more points and all of those within four points or less of current leader Keith MacEachern. With over two months left in the schedule, there is ample opportunity for those as well as most other competitors to make a run at first place. Doubles has proven very popular once again, now enjoying its second year on the Schooner calendar. While play is limited to 24 players each week, the league actually has 26 and two competitors each week enjoy a bye. Partners rotate for each game so you get to play with different people each week.

All curling team skips are reminded that there is a free sheet of ice available every Monday and Tuesday night at 8pm. These sheets can be used for makeup games, exhibition games or practice. Please verify availability with the draw master, Richard Lorway, and reserve your time with him.

All Schooner members are also reminded that Matinee Drop-in Curling is going on every Friday afternoon from 1-3 unless otherwise stated online. Open to all Schooner members, you can just show up on Friday and teams are made and games played from those in attendance. It's a great way to get a little more curling out of your Schooner membership.

Hello Schooner Curlers:

We are now at the midway point of the curling season. Mixed is just starting the second half and Team Entry is about to begin their post-season playoff round.

I thought I would take this opportunity to discuss some of the more obscure rules that seem to get debated from time to time.

HOG LINE CONTACT

The first rule concerns the hog line and when rocks are deemed to be in play. A rock is considered in play only if it fully crosses the hog line, UNLESS it makes contact with another rock. If a rock makes contact with a guard and comes to a stop straddling the hog line, then it is deemed to be in play as it is assumed it would have crossed the line without contact.

Spares

SWEEPING OPPONENTS' ROCKS

I have seen both new and veteran curlers enthusiastically sweeping their opponent's rocks in the top half of the house. Eg. to move an opposing guard out of the way. This is not allowed. You may only sweep your opponent's rock once the front edge has crossed the T-line (one sweeper only). You may not sweep an opponent's stone anywhere above the T-line.

PRE-SWEEPING

Another common error is what I call pre-sweeping. I have seen many curlers "pre-heating" the ice when their opponent's stone is well above the T-line, or in the case of doubles, pre-heating when their own incoming rock is well above the hog. This is not allowed. The front edge must cross the line before you are permitted to sweep.

PLAYERS IN THE HOUSE

At the conclusion of an end and before the score is determined, only mates are supposed to be in the house. It is the mates' responsibility to agree to the score, or call for a measurement if needed. I have seen lots of people crowding into the house, tapping rocks with brooms, etc. This not only causes confusion, but sometimes rocks get bumped or moved prematurely. The rocks only get moved once the mates have decided on the results of the end, or have called for a measurement and asked for non-counting stones to be removed.

I realize that some of these finer points may seem picky, but the purpose of rules is to reduce potential arguments, and enable games to proceed smoothly and without hard feelings. After all, we all play the sport to socialize and have fun. Having everyone on the same page only helps. Thanks for listening, and see you on the ice!

Richard

Recently there has been some confusion over who is allowed to fill in as a spare during league play at the club. To avoid further confusion we want everyone to know that, given our current policy, in order to spare in any league game you must be a member of the club in good standing. Like many club's in the province, the Schooner Club offers an opportunity to members of other clubs and some former Schooner members who are no longer part of our membership ranks the chance to spare or play one game per season out of courtesy as part of curling etiquette. This doesn't occur very often and only happens if there are no members available to take the spot. The Schooner Club, unlike some other curling clubs, does not offer a pay to play option. That is where a curler from outside of the club's membership can pay a pre-determined per game fee to spare in a league game. The number of times they can spare are usually limited to a few. The Schooner executive is going to look at implementing such a policy in the future. Members will have first opportunity to fill in for a missing player but, given the number of games we have with only three players on a team, having a player willing to pay for a game and fill an empty spot may be beneficial. Again, the number of times that any individual can do this will be

very limited. If anyone has any input on the topic you can email the club or bring your concerns or suggestions to any member of the Schooner executive.

Doubles Spiel

An in-house doubles spiel was held at the club last month on the first weekend back after the Holiday break, January 6 and 7. A total of sixteen curlers made up eight teams, each consisting of one male and one female curler, in the members-only event that used our usual hybrid 2 on 2 rules. Each team played three, six end games, one on Friday evening and two on Saturday with lunch being provided to all participants and guests on Saturday. Scoring was done using a points system with three points going to the winner of each game and two points for each end won. This structure can certainly change the strategy used in a game as each end is very important and valuable towards your final total. After a great two days of curling with lots of close games, the twosome of Cheryl MacKinnon and Keith MacEachern finished on top with a total of thirty three points, besting second place finishers Jenn Haigh and Adam Vassallo by two points after they finished with 31 total points. Haigh and Vassallo vaulted themselves into that second place position with a win over the father-daughter duo of Peter and Val MacIntyre in their final game. The Macintyre team had a chance at overtaking MacKinnon and MacEachern for first place but that loss dropped them into third place overall.

As always, we want to thank everyone who took part on the weekend and supported the event. We also want to send thanks to Lynn Kelly and everyone who helped out in organizing and running the spiel.

Team Cress to Compete at Provincial Club Championship

Skip Carrie Cress is taking her team to Digby Nova Scotia to compete in the Ladies Provincial Club Championship event from March 2-5. Along with skip Carrie, the team consists of Jenna MacNeil, Julia Cormier and Jennifer Haigh. Skip Cress declared her intention to compete at the event as Schooner's representative and, even though no other team from our club challenged her for the club's spot, NS Curling Association rules were still preventing her and her team from competing. That was because Schooner didn't provide opportunity to meet any of the three criteria in our club that are required to pick a winning team. However, Team Cress applied for an exemption and to get special permission because of the lack of those opportunities, one's that most club's offer teams to win their way to such an event. The NS Curling Association made a decision to grant permission for the team to compete and they are now registered. Best of luck to team Cress. The winner of the Nova Scotia Provincial Championship event will earn a spot in the Canadian Championship held during the 2023-24 season.



The Schooner Club is proud to be once again hosting the Ladies Sweetheart Spiel on February 10 and 11. The spiel is almost at its capacity of twelve teams that are made up of curlers from Schooner, the Sydney CC and the Strait CC. We are also hoping that the Baddeck ladies will join us once again this year. The spiel gets underway on Friday evening with each

team playing the first of three, six end games they will compete in over the weekend. Scoring is done based on wins and losses and there are points for each end won as well. There will also be a wine and cheese reception for all curlers and guests on Friday as well. On Saturday, teams will each play two games and then we will crown our Sweetheart Champions. Along with the coveted Sweetheart Sweatshirts going to the overall winners, there will be lots of other prizes given away on the weekend. All curlers will also be treated to dinner on Saturday afternoon, sponsored by donations from the Schooner men. We also want to thank returning sponsor CC Computer Solutions for their continued support of the event. It's going to be a great weekend of curling and fun. Everyone is welcome to join us, take in some of the action and cheer on the ladies in the 2023 edition of the Sweetheart spiel.



The premier event on the Schooner calendar for the season, the Schooner Cash Spiel, will be held at the club from February 17-19. This is an open spiel so teams can be made up of any combination of male and female curlers. Entry fee is \$200 per team with three games guaranteed. Games are eight ends and teams will compete in a bracket draw format. All entry fees will be returned in prizes to the winners. Twelve teams are confirmed to compete and will come from the Schooner, Sydney and Strait Area curling clubs. Play gets underway Friday evening and will continue all weekend with championship games scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Curlers will all be treated to dinner on Saturday and there will be snacks and light lunches to keep energy levels up all weekend. On Saturday evening there will be a social at the club for all to enjoy after curling, open to everyone 19+. Everyone is welcome to join us and enjoy some of the great curling we are sure to see from these competitive teams.

Sydney CC Mercer Fuels Cash Spiel

The Sydney Curling Club hosted the Mercer Fuels Cash Spiel from January 20-22 at their club. Sixteen teams took part, three representing the Schooner Club. The Stephen Leslie Rink, Gordie Cormier Rink and Carrie Cress rink all took part in the event and all made it past the first round robin round. Play got underway Friday evening with all teams seeing action in the first of three round robin games they would play. Saturday saw teams complete the round robin portion and enter the first playoff round Saturday evening. Both Cress and Cormier finished the round robin with two wins against a single loss while Leslie was undefeated. In playoff games on Saturday, Team Cress took on the Yvon LeFort rink of Sydney while Cormier and Leslie met in another game. LeFort defeated Cress and eliminated her foursome while Leslie took down Cormier in a close game that was decided on the final shots. Cormier was eliminated at that point but Leslie eventually moved on to play in the 'A' final where he lost to spiel overall winner the Brent MacDougall rink.

Stephen Leslie was joined on his team by Kevin Gouthro, Shane Langille and Mitch McNutt. Cormier was with Wally MacDonald, Anthony Boudreau and Walter Nichols while Carrie Cress's all female team was skip Cress, Jenna MacNeil, Julia Cormier and Jenn Haigh. Overall a pretty good

showing by the Schooner rinks in a great event put on by the Sydney Curling Club.

Townhouse Glace Bay Meals on Wheels Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for March 3 and 4 and plan to take part in the Townhouse Glace Bay fundraising spiel in support of their Meals on Wheels Program. Entry fee into the spiel is \$100 per team and you will play three, four-end games. If you don't have a team you can sign up as an individual and we will try to place you on a team that needs players. No curling experience is necessary, we provide what you need to play and instruction if required and the emphasis for the weekend is on having fun. There will be lots of door prize draws, a silent auction and a light lunch will be provided on Saturday. Any individual or business that would like to make a donation or register a team can contact the club or Peter MacIntyre.

Schooner Super Bowl Party

Join us on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12, for the Schooner Super Bowl Party. Kickoff is at 7:30 Atlantic but we'll get going earlier, around 5pm, for all the pre game festivities. This event is open to all Schooner members and guests and there is no admission charge. We will be having a pot luck so we ask you bring a dish to share. There will also be wings available for purchase (pre-order recommended) and the bar will be open with all your favorite beverages. Plan to join us and cheer your favorite team on to victory and the Schooner Club.

Schooner Fun Nights

The first Schooner Fun Night of the season was held on Saturday, January 28th. There was a decent crowd of about twenty people and there was a lot of curling, many in attendance going out more than once to learn and play some games. After curling everyone enjoyed some delicious pizza and beverages from the Schooner bar.

The next Schooner Fun Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th. Plan to join us and bring your family and friends to introduce them to the wonderful sport of curling and spend with them a great night out at the Schooner club. The final Fun Night of the season will be March 18th, our special St. Paddy's day edition.

The fun gets going at 7pm and everyone (19+) is welcome. 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. Schooner Fun Nights make for a great family outing, a night with friends or a great way to have a work party so plan to join for a Schooner Fun Night and see how much fun curling can be at the Schooner Club.

Volunteers Needed

With such a busy schedule ahead at the club with spiels, special events and league play continuing, the club needs volunteers more than ever. We always need people to pitch in and help out with ice, bartending, housekeeping and the like but that gets even more critical during big spiels

Club Rentals

like the Sweetheart and Cash spiels. During spiels we also look for people who are willing to make food dishes and to possibly help prep and serve meals at the club. For more information or to volunteer for general tasks see any member of the Schooner executive. If you are willing to make dishes and/or serve at spiels, see Lynn Kelly or Julia Cormier. We need your help. Please give some time back to the club.

Everyone is reminded that the Schooner Curling Club is available to rent for your next social event. You can rent the ice for a night of curling or you can just rent the clubhouse for your next party. Rental fees are \$50 per hour per sheet with a \$100 minimum for the ice. That means you can, at minimum, rent one sheet for two hours or two sheets for one hour. You are, of course welcome to rent the ice for longer periods if you wish. Ice rental includes required equipment such as brooms and sliders, the use of the Clubroom and, if required, we will provide bar services. You can bring your own food and snacks. You can also choose to rent the Clubroom only for a flat rate of \$100 for an afternoon or an evening event. We will again provide bar service if required and you are free to supply your own food. We accept cash, debit, cheque (cleared prior to event) and e-transfer for rentals and cash and debit at the bar for drinks.

The Schooner club provides an intimate setting for birthday parties, wedding or baby showers, family get togethers or work outings for up to a maximum of 80 people. Children are welcome within times specified by Nova Scotia liquor licensing rules. If you require decorations, early access to the club can be granted on the day of the event or even up to a day prior to your event if our schedule allows. Contact the club by phone or by email or, for more info, check out our rental page (coming mid-January) on the Schooner website under the heading 'About the Club'. There will also be a printable rental agreement available on the site. We hope you pick the Schooner club to host your next party.

Tuesday Tarabish and Social



Schooner's weekly social and tarabish game are continuing and will run each Tuesday for the remainder of the schedule and even into the summer months. We get started at 6:30 with cards getting underway at 7pm. Tarabish is single entry with partners rotating after each game and wins and points being recorded for individual players. If you don't want to play cards, we also offer darts, a game of Shuffle Curl on our custom table or you can just sit and relax, have a beverage from our bar, enjoy some snacks, catch up with some friends or watch some of the curling action in the East Side Mario's Mixed League. Plan to join us and help support the club.

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*