

Schooner Curling  
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# ***In The Hack***

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 121

February 2024

February 16-18	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 17	Cash Spiel Dance
February 23-24	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 24	Fun Night
March 1-2	Meals on Wheels Fundraising Spiel
Friday March 8	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
March 8-9	Jackie Pearson Memorial Doubles Spiel
Saturday, March 16	Fun Night
March 16-24, 2024	Women's World Championships
April 11-13	John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 13	Closing Dance
Saturday, May 4	Awards Banquet and Dance
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

## Newsletter Late Being Published

Sorry for the late release of the newsletter this month everyone. Things have been very hectic and then we were hit with the massive snowfall that slowed everything down considerably. I hope you still enjoy the February edition of In the Hack and find it both entertaining and informative.

## League Roundup



League play was moving along pretty smoothly this year with very few cancellations and postponements. That all changed in recently when Cape Breton finally started to get some snow. The big blow was the massive weekend storm in early February that cancelled a whole week of league curling and also forced the postponement of the Sweetheart Spiel. In the Schooner Mixed League, round two got underway in late January after round one came to a close. Winners of round one were the Julia Cormier rink. Joining skip Julia was Robbie Biron, Douglas Fewer and Ashley Foster. Cormier narrowly edged out the Bryant Cormier rink for first overall in round one. For round two, teams are changed around and curlers get to compete on new teams with new team mates. Doubles continues to compete on Wednesday nights and it looks like Julia Cormier may repeat as champ in that league again this year. Close on her heels is Keith MacEachern and there are a couple of more participants who are still within reach as well given there is still a lot of curling remaining in the season. The Firestop Enterprises Men's League is remaining competitive with any team able to pull off a victory against any other on any given night. Two teams, however, seem to have distanced themselves slightly from the

## Draw Master's Musings

others, the Mel Windsor rink and the Brian Laughlin rink. The league has started round two of three rounds of its regular schedule that will see each team play each other team three times. The Windsor rink finished round one in first with only one loss while Laughlin was in second with a loss and a tie. That loss came at the hands of the Windsor rink who defeated them soundly. The second round matchup of the teams went to Laughlin who returned the favor and trounced Windsor in that game, handing Windsor only his second loss of the season and vaulting themselves into top spot. There's still lots of season left to play and, as previously stated, all teams are competitive and are capable of coming back to take the league's title. In the Boston Pizza Team Entry League, round two has also begun. After this round there will be a regular season champ crowned and we will head into a playoff that the format is yet to be determined. It will depend on time. The Mel Windsor rink, the Gordie Cormier rink and the Kevin Gouthro rink are all log jammed at the top of the leader board in this league. That's not to say another team can't come from behind to catch them. One team on the rise is the Brian Laughlin rink who, after a slow start, has started to win a number of games, a couple of those wins coming at the expense of the top rinks, Gouthro and Cormier. If Laughlin can continue his winning ways he will definitely be in the conversation for first overall. Matinee Curling continues at the club as well, taking place every Friday from 1-3. It's open to all members and is a drop in format. Everyone is reminded that league play will be suspended for the week of the Women's World Curling Championships from March 18-24.

Happy February, Schooner curlers!

We are now at the midway point of the curling season. Mixed is just starting the second half and we have already had 3 nights cancelled due to storms. We will schedule makeup games at the end of the season if they matter. I thought I would take the opportunity to go over some of the more obscure rules that seem to get debated from time to time.

### HOG LINE CONTACT

The first one 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.

### CENTRE LINE GUARD

We are all now playing the "no-tick rule" for centre line guards, which has made for more interesting ends for sure.

While it is generally understood that an opponent's guard which touches the centre line cannot be bumped off the line, the actual rule is a bit more nuanced, as follows.

Firstly, if a delivered stone causes a centre line guard to be moved off the line - directly or indirectly - the stones should not be stopped by players, but allowed to come to a full stop naturally.

Secondly, it is not mandatory that all stones be returned to their original position, as some players seem to think. Rather, it is the non-offending

## Sweetheart Spiel

skip's decision to either:

(1) remove the delivered stone from play, and replace all stones that were displaced to their positions prior to the violation taking place; or

(2) leave all stones where they came to rest, if the non-offending skip decides it is a preferred outcome.

### SWEEPING OPPONENTS' ROCKS

I have seen both new and veteran curlers enthusiastically sweeping their opponent's rocks in the top half of the house above the T-line. 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. And of course each team is only allowed one sweeper behind 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, sweeping their own when the 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 the mates are supposed to be in the house. It is the mates' responsibility to agree to the score and call for a measurement if needed. I have seen lots of people crowding into the house and participating in the process. This not only causes confusion, but can also cause mistakes when rocks get 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 the non-counting stones to be removed.

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 can only help.

See you on the ice!

Richard

The CC Computer Solutions Inc. Sweetheart spiel that was scheduled for February 9 and 10 had to be postponed due to the massive snow fall and ongoing state of emergency in CBRM. The new dates for the spiel are February 23 and 24, the weekend following the Schooner Cash Spiel. This year we will see a total of twelve teams taking part in the two day event, each team playing two six end games and one four end game. There will also be a wine and cheese reception on Friday and dinner for all curlers on Saturday. This is always a great event with lots of fun had by all curlers and guests. Plan to join us and take in some of the great women's curling action at the club and have a great time doing it.

## **Schooner Cash Spiel**

The Schooner Open Cash Spiel will take place from February 16-18 and is a team entry event with entry fees being \$220 per team. Teams can be made up of any combination of male and female curlers and will be guaranteed three games. There will be a casual social on Friday with snacks and a meal for all curlers on Saturday. There will also be a dance from 9-1 on Saturday night with music by DJ Jimmy that will be open to everyone. The party bar has been set pretty high this year already after the Christmas dance but, with a good effort and with enough liquid encouragement, maybe we can push it even higher.

Even if you are not taking part in the spiel, we encourage all Schooner members and friends to come to the club and support the curlers and take part in the social festivities. We will also need help from volunteers to make this event all it can be. If you have any time to help out at the club with the bar, the ice, make and bring a dish or some treats for the social events or pitch in and help with whatever, we appreciate all your time.

## **Meals on Wheels Fundraiser**

The annual Townhouse Glace Bay Meals on Wheels Fundraising Spiel will take place at the club on March 1 and 2. Entry fee is \$100 per team or \$25 for an individual and you will get three games over the course of the two day event. No experience is necessary and we will provide all the required equipment and instruction if needed. Anyone who doesn't have a team can enter as an individual and teams will be formed for them. There will also be lots of food all weekend, door prizes, a silent auction and more. Any business who would like to make a donation of cash for entry fees or merchandise for prizes or the auction is more than welcome to do so. For more information, to make a donation or to register a team or as an individual, please contact the club or Peter MacIntyre.

## **Jackie Pearson Memorial Doubles Spiel**

The Jackie Pearson Memorial Doubles Spiel will be held at the club on March 8 and 9. This is a team entry event, enter as a team of two, for an entry fee of \$60 per team. A portion of the entry fee will be donated to the Whitney Pier Boys and Girls Club, a portion will go to the Schooner roof project and the rest will be returned as prizes. Last year we donated \$1000 to the Boys and Girls club from entry fees, even split draws and other donations. Format of the spiel will depend on the number of teams. Lunch will be served on Saturday. A maximum of sixteen teams will be accepted to take part. Sign up soon as this spiel will likely fill up quickly.

## **Ice Maintenance**

Ice maintenance will be done prior to Cash Spiel weekend and will impact league play. There will be a flood done to the ice on Wednesday, February 14 and shaving and other preparations done on Thursday, February 15. That means that the Schooner Doubles league and the Firestop Enterprises Men's League will be cancelled for that week.

## **New Lease**

The Schooner executive committee is happy to announce that after meeting and negotiating with New Dawn, we have an extension to our lease and no increase in the monthly rent. The extension is for another five years. Our current lease is set to run out at the end of next season. There was some concern that the lease would not be extended and that we may no longer have a club to play at in the future. That meant projects like roof repairs were on hold due to that uncertain future. With this extension, the club has a commitment from New Dawn that allows us to take on bigger projects as they now have become a lot more worthwhile.

## **Mid Season General Meeting**

The Schooner Curling Club held a mid-season general meeting on Sunday, January 28 following curling in the Team Entry league. The meeting was well attended with twenty two members taking part, getting information on things that are happening at the club and taking part in the conversation on how we will proceed in the future.

The meeting got underway with committee reports. Most were pretty standard but Lynn Kelly did give a treasurer's report that showed the club is in pretty good financial shape. The ice maker's report was given by Julia Cormier as Brian Laughlin was unable to attend. She said there would be a flood done prior to the Cash Spiel and that Brian is planning on sharpening the rocks. Benito Deloranzo spoke a bit on what that entails and said that we will volunteers to help with the process. It's essentially sanding the running surface of the stones to refresh them. Gordie suggested doing that on the night they flood the ice as the rocks will have to be taken off for that anyway.

Carrie Cress presented for the Bar Committee and said Bob Smith was still handling inventory and doing a great job. She also mentioned we are now recycling plastic cups and asked everyone to return them to the bar and not throw them away.

There was a discussion regarding Fun Nights and how we need to promote and support them better. The January Fun Night was a bit slow and we hope they can do better.

After reports we moved on to other business with President Julia Cormier and Draw Master Richard Lorway leading the discussions. It was announced that we have a new five year lease extension with New Dawn at the same rental rate we pay now. That was fantastic news and gives the club new life. Given that we now have a solid future we need to look at larger projects like fixing our roof. Everyone was told that we are looking into a grant that will help with that. It is called a rink revitalization fund that will pay up to 2/3 of the projects cost before taxes. We do have one preliminary quote on fixing the roof which came in at around \$83000. That means we could need as much as \$30000-35000 to cover our portion. With approx. \$17000 in our capital fund we need to raise another \$15,000 to 20,000 to be safe. We are only eligible for the grant funding due to our new lease.

As part of the funding of the project, it was discussed that we will be getting a portion of the even split ticket sales and the gate revenue from the Women's World Curling Championship. The amounts are currently not known for sure but it likely will not be the 50/50 split between us and them.



## Spaghetti Dinner

## Sport NS "Sportsweep" Fundraising Program

Sydney Curling Club we got on the even split ticket sales from the Scotties and will more likely be a 60/40 split like it was on gate revenue from that event. Still not bad. That is not guaranteed though as the portions for each club will be decided by the committee and the club in Port Hawkesbury is also trying to be part of the revenue sharing as well. We will be getting something, we're just not sure how much yet.

Other fundraising ideas were also discussed. We are currently involved with Sport Nova Scotia 'Sportsweep' ticket sales where we get a portion of the \$5 sale price for each ticket we sell, we currently have an in-house block draw happening and we are doing a spaghetti dinner on March 8. Frances Ford suggested we look at another rock handle sponsorship and Gordie Cormier said we could look at another Chase the Ace if we can find a partner.

The discussion then moved on to the busy months of February and March we have ahead of us with lots of spiels and special events. The Sweetheart Spiel, the Cash Spiel, the Meals on Wheels fundraiser and the Jackie Pearson memorial 2 on 2 are all on the horizon. Julia mentioned that last year we raised \$1000 for the boys and girls club in the 2 on 2 spiel. It was motioned that this year we use a portion of the money raised for our roof fund and that was accepted.

After all discussions were complete the meeting came to an end and was adjourned. It was a great meeting with lots of information, lots of useful discussion and lots of plans made. Thank you for everyone who attended and took part.

The Schooner Curling Club will be holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Friday March 8. Dinners are \$12 each and will be prepared by Tommy Young. They can be picked up at the French Club (second floor) on the corner of Dolbin and Ferry Streets in the Northend from 11am to 12:30pm or delivery is available to multi-dinner orders. The club will get \$6 for each dinner sold with proceeds going to our roof repair fund. All members are encouraged to sell as many dinners as possible to maximize this fundraiser. Last year we were very successful. Also, volunteers will be needed on Thursday evening, March 7, as well as on the morning of the event to help with prep, plating and delivery. Anyone with time to help can come to the French Club. Thank you in advance.

The Schooner Curling Club is participating in the ready-made fundraising program from Sport Nova Scotia call 'Sportsweep'. SportSweep is a turn-key, low effort and low risk ticket campaign designed to raise money for sport teams, sport clubs and sport organizations throughout Nova Scotia. Sport Nova Scotia handles the lottery license, solicitation of prizes, and printing of the tickets. All we need to do is sell the tickets! Tickets sell for **\$5.00 each** and we retain **\$3.75** from each ticket. That's **75%** of the profit! We can sell for as long we like, there is no time commitment, until the end of the event which will run until March 29, 2024. All tickets must be returned to Sport NS by April 5 and the draw will take place on April 12, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Sport NS office in Halifax. The winner will be contacted by Sport

NS by phone or email. In the event the prize is unclaimed within 90 days, a second draw will take place on June 7, 2024 at 11am and another winner announced. The club has ordered 1000 tickets to have on hand but we just sell what we can with any tickets that are unsold simply returned back to Sport Nova Scotia. All tickets that are sold are also returned to Sport NS for the draw along with their \$1.25 per ticket fee. The only risk we really take on, and it's very minimal, is that we will have to pay the \$1.25 fee for any tickets that are lost.

Tickets are now available for sale at the club's bar. Any member who wants to take tickets to sell to family, friends, co-workers, etc. can do so as well. Your name and the number of tickets you take will be recorded. When you bring them back, the sales will be recorded as well as the number of unsold tickets. Please note that anyone taking tickets will be responsible for payment unless the tickets are returned unsold.

Participation by members is completely optional but we do hope that everyone will help out. Sport Nova Scotia has arranged for a great grand prize package for the winner that includes **\$2000 CASH** plus an Oak Island Resort & Conference Centre Getaway (two night stay in a two bedroom chalet with a \$500 food and beverage credit). We hope members will buy tickets themselves and possibly sell them outside the club. For every \$100 worth of tickets we sell we will make \$75. If we sell out of the 1000 tickets we have ordered that means a \$3750 profit to the club, all for little effort and little to no risk. Every ticket we sell helps our club so please participate. Tickets are available at the bar now.

## Block Draws

Block Draws are being held at the club now. Boards are posted and you can simply put your name in any block that is not taken already. Blocks are \$5 each and there 100 blocks to choose from. Prizes are half of the proceeds raised. Once all blocks are sold in a draw, a winner will be picked and then another draw will start. Proceeds are going to the Schooner roof fund. Please help out and buy a block today.

## Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights are back! The next Schooner Fun Night of the season will be Saturday, February 24, with the fun getting started at 7pm. We will be celebrating Curling Day in Canada.

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. There's no set time to arrive, just stop by anytime throughout the evening after 7pm. There's pizza for everyone and maybe even a few prizes to be given away. The cost is currently \$7 for the public and \$4 for Schooner members but is subject to review. There's still no better deal in town for a night of fun. Participants must be 19 years and older. We supply the equipment, you just need clean, dry shoes for the ice.

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. Future Fun Nights are also scheduled for February 24 and March 16. Plan to join us.

