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# In The Hack



SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 60

January 2015

## Club Calendar

December 21 – January 4	Holiday Break
Saturday, January 3rd	General Meeting and Social
Sunday, January 4th	League Play Resumes
January 16-18	Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, January 24th	Coors Fun Night
February 13-14	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 21	Coors Fun Night
February 27-28	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, March 14	Coors Fun Night
March 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Moosehead Mixed – Sydney Club
March 27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Coors Fun Spiel
Saturday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Coors Fun Night
April 20 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Closing Spiel
Saturday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Closing Banquet
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

## Welcome Back

The Schooner Club and its executive would like to welcome all members back after the Holiday break and also welcome new members who have joined us for the remainder of the season. We hope you all had a joyous and restful Holiday season. Now that we are into January, the curling season is really getting ready to ramp up. We get the ball rolling with a mid-season general meeting on Saturday, January 3rd to bring all members up to speed on how the club is doing and highlight upcoming events. The meeting will be followed by a wine and cheese social. League play resumes on January 4th, and shortly after we have our premier event of the season, The Open Cash Spiel. This Spiel will be held from January 16th to 18th and is open to anyone who wants to enter a team. Some Schooner curlers will be hitting the road in January and heading to the Ship Hector Spiel in New Glasgow from January 23rd to 25th. We will also be holding our monthly Coors night in January on Saturday the 24th. Things don't slow down in February when we will see the ladies take the ice in the annual Sweet Heart Spiel on February 13th and 14th, have another monthly Coors Fun Night on the 21st and last, but certainly not least, we will see a new event to the Schooner this year, a 2 on 2 spiel. For anyone who hasn't tried 2 on 2 curling it can be lots of fun and very competitive for curlers of any age and caliber. The fun keeps going into March and late into April so keep an eye on the Schooner website and the club bulletin boards for more info. Happy New Year and Good Curling everyone!

## 649 Winner

The 649 fundraiser held in November was a great success. Total sales for the event was \$2300 which meant the prize was \$1150 and the club profited \$1150. It took five draws this time and we ended up with five winners splitting the cash, each receiving \$230. Two of the winners were Schooner Members Amanda Windsor and Bill Farr. They were joined by Anne Farr, Cindy MacArthur and Anna Clyburn. Thank you to everyone who participated and to everyone who sold entries. A big thank you to club treasurer Laura Rafuse who coordinated and ran the event and to everyone who helped her out in any way. The club plans to run another 649 event sometime this season.

## League Roundup



All leagues are in full swing now with two months behind us. League play will resume early in January following the Holiday break when Team Entry gets things going on January 4th. The men's league will be starting round two when it makes its return on January 5th and the Mixed will resume on January 6th.

With round one finished and each team having played each other team once, play in the men's league has been competitive with many close games. Currently, Gordie Cormier sits alone atop the standings with one loss and a tie. Steve Leslie missed a chance to share top spot with Cormier when he tied his final game before the Holiday break and sits in second place with one loss and two ties. Close behind in third is Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell with two losses and one tie. Bonnell won his final two games of round one to lift himself up in the standings and may be a contender in round two if he can continue his winning ways. Right behind Bonnell is Brian Laughlin with three losses. This league is still up for grabs as every team can win on any given night and no one is more than a couple of wins away from contending.

The news of late in the Team Entry league has to be the Rick Billard rink. As reported last month they knocked off the previously undefeated Wally MacDonald rink and early in December, to prove the victory over MacDonald was no fluke, the Billard squad crushed the strong Ray Cameron rink for their second victory in a row. Both of these wins came on the heels of a position change for former lead Todd Fraser who was moved to the mate spot. In Billard's final match before the Holiday break he didn't have the services of his new mate who was out with an injury and went down to defeat to the Greg Ferguson rink. The new year will tell if Billard's winning ways will continue or if they were just a brief bright spot in the season for the rookie skip and his group of new curlers. Either way, Billard has got to gain a lot of confidence in beating two of the top teams. After losing to Billard, the Wally MacDonald rink's confidence was visibly shaken. They followed up that disappointing loss with another defeat, this time at the hands of the Gary Landry rink. Landry, who sits in the middle of the pack in this league, also defeated the Ray Cameron rink earlier in the season. Landry's only other victory came against the upstart Billard team. MacDonald was able to right the ship somewhat in his final game before the break when he was victorious over a depleted Keith MacEachern rink. With that victory, MacDonald was able to grab a share of first place with five wins against two losses. For MacDonald, winning that game may prove to be the most important win of the season as another loss at this juncture may have fractured what little team confidence was left. Also sitting with five wins and in a tie with MacDonald is the Brian

Laughlin rink. Laughlin only has one loss against his five wins and a game in hand over MacDonald. The only loss for Laughlin has come at the hands of the MacDonald foursome, the team they are tied with. Laughlin finished strong in December, handing Ray Cameron his second consecutive loss in convincing fashion on the final day before the break. The Ray Cameron rink, even after suffering two tough losses in a row, first to Billard and then Laughlin, still sit just behind the leaders with four wins. Even though things went bad for the Cameron foursome in December there is no reason to count out this veteran team. Also with four wins is the Greg Ferguson rink who are quietly having a good season in the competitive Sunday league. The Keith MacEachern rink, who started off the year well, have run into some hard times on Sunday. Keith lost mate Andrew Trites who has left the club and has had to play a few games with only three curlers. Word is that Keith will be getting a replacement in the new year in John Bourgeois who joined the club as a member after competing in the Turkey Spiel in December. Hopefully this can get Keith and his squad back to the winning ways they enjoyed early in the season. Another team in the Sunday league to keep an eye on in the new year will be the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink. Bonnell has had his struggles so far this season but came away with a victory in his final game of the first half. Last season Bonnell made a serious run at top spot on Sunday when he went undefeated after Christmas and almost caught the eventual league winners the Wally MacDonald rink. Time will tell if Bonnell can repeat his performance of last year but with only two wins under his belt so far he will have a huge task ahead to catch and pass the leaders.

The mixed league also sees a lot of teams still in position to take top spot at the end. Gordie Cormier sits in first right now but there are four other teams tied for second with only one less win. Cormier is certainly the curler to watch this season as he is part of all three first place rinks across all leagues. Right on Cormier's heels in the mixed is Cal Thistle, Greg Ferguson, Sid Murray and Thomas Drover. Some of these teams even have a game in hand so things are even tighter than they first appear, With lots of mixed league curling left it's way too early to pick a winner.

With a full slate of special events taking place in the club in the next few months, all curlers are asked to pay special attention to their schedules to make sure they don't miss a game. Enjoy the remainder of the season and ***Good Curling Everyone!***

## Snowball



The Snowball is an important source of funds for the club to cover expenses and help keep membership rates down. When you are at the club during a regular event and the Snowball is being run we ask that you take part. It's only \$2 and you have a chance to win a great jackpot. Jackpots haven't gotten quite as high this season as they did last year but there's still lots of time to go. One prize did get into the \$200 range and that was won by Wally MacDonald. Even a \$50 or \$60 jackpot is not bad for the \$2 investment that's required to play. So whenever you are at the club for curling or another club event, look for the snowball and take a chance on winning. It benefits us all.

## Turkey Spiel



The Schooner Curling Club's annual Turkey Spiel was run from December 9th to 13th and was a great success. A total of fourteen teams took part with six playing in the Tuesday/Thursday division and a full slate of eight competing in the Wednesday/Friday division. All fourteen teams came together on Saturday to playoff and determine our winner. In the end we had a tie for top spot with both the Ray Cameron rink and the Gordie Cormier rink ending up with 29 points and a +11 rating. Both Gordie and Ray were undefeated for the week. Joining skip Ray Cameron was Gary Landry at mate, Cheryl MacKinnon at second and Steve Jurcina at lead. Aiding Gordie Cormier in victory was mate Dave Boudreau, Second Matt MacPherson and lead Walter Nichols. In third place was the Bill Farr rink who were one point behind the winners with 28 points and in fourth was the Brian Laughlin rink who were also close with 26 points. Joining skip Farr was Mike Cormier at mate and Joe Erickson at second. The Farr rink only had three players and relied on the help of spares Georgette Sparkes, Janet Gallivan and Rick Windsor in their effort. Skip Laughlin had mate Bryant Cormier, second Georgette Sparkes and lead Julianna King. Julianna is a member of the Schooner Junior program, one of two who played in the spiel. The other Junior member was Ethan Kent who was part of the Darrell Crane rink. All four top teams received Butterball turkeys as prizes. In fifth place was first-time spiel skip Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod. MacLeod and his foursome, made up of mate Jolene MacLellan, second Laura Rafuse and lead Anthony Boudreau, got off to a bit of a slow start with two close losses but a decisive win on Saturday against veteran skip Darryl MacAulay vaulted them up in the standings. For their fifth place effort the MacLeod rink all won Christmas hams. Also winning hams were sixth place rink Greg Ferguson, seventh place Keith MacEachern and eighth place Wally MacDonald. Joining Ferguson were former Schooner members Reid MacInnis and Linda MacNeil at mate and second and John Halliday at lead. John is a current member and works for Tamarind Optical who were our sponsors for this event. With Keith MacEachern were Rick and Amanda Windsor at mate and second and Kevin MacDonald, a new curler, at lead. Finally, joining Wally MacDonald's rink was Lonnie Howe, Barry Smith and John Bourgois. The remaining finishers received boxes of chocolates.

On Saturday all curlers and guests were treated to Pizza and delicious turkey soup made by Frank Kococki. Thank you for that Frank and a big thank you to bonspiel chair Laura Rafuse for another great effort in putting together a successful and very enjoyable spiel. Thank you also to everyone who took part and to everyone who helped out in any way with bartending, organizing the spiel, running even splits or any other of the many tasks required to be done to make a spiel successful.

A bonus feature of the Turkey Spiel this year was the 'Chase the Monkey' game. Anyone who made a double takeout would be the owner of the monkey until the next double takeout when ownership would change to whoever made that shot. The Monkey changed hands a few times but in the end it was Darryl MacAulay who ended up with it and the prize it came along with. The prize was \$25 cash. After all curling was over there was a draw to the button competition. Anyone who wanted to enter could pay their \$5 entry for one chance to draw a rock without the aid of sweepers to see who could get it closer to the button than anyone else and take home the prize money. Our

winner was Dennis Cormier. Congratulations to Darryl and Dennis and thank you to everyone who took part.



The Chase the Ace fundraiser being held at the club has been running for a few weeks now and the jackpot has grown to a respectable level sitting at \$460 for the last draw and an estimated Ace Jackpot for the January 4th draw to be around \$525 or better. The winner of the weekly draw, along with a chance to draw a card for the jackpot, also gets 20% of the daily sales. So far these prizes have been in the \$50 range. The club has benefited from the Chase the Ace sales with approximately \$600 coming in. After the lottery tax and the \$100 the club put up for the jackpot in the beginning, we have netted just under \$500 since the draw started. The club executive hopes that once the Ace Jackpot gets to a higher level there will be more interest in the draws and that it will grow even more quickly. Every dollar earned by the club in this fundraiser goes back into keeping membership and other costs down and making the club better for its members. Ticket sales take place from 6-8 pm on Sundays with a draw at 8:15. If you can't be in attendance, members can leave money at the bar for tickets to be purchased on their behalf. If your ticket is drawn there will be someone to represent you and cut the cards for your chance to win the jackpot. So why not take a chance and play Chase the Ace. You could win a big prize and you're benefitting the club.

## Open Cash Spiel

One of the premier events of the season, the Schooner Open Cash Spiel, will be held at the club from January 16-18th. The spiel is open to the first sixteen teams who enter for the fee of \$160. All entry fees are returned as prize money. Teams can be made up of any combination of men and women curlers. The spiel is run in a draw format and each team is guaranteed a minimum of three games (byes included if necessary). All curlers will be treated to dinner on Saturday evening and snacks throughout the weekend. So why not put a team together and take a chance at winning some money. Watch for registration to open early in January.

## Schooner Photos

Recently there were a number of old photographs found at the club. These photos are of social events and curling that took place probably sometime in the 70's or 80's. The photos have been scanned and are now available on our Facebook page. We are hoping that when people see these photos that they may be able to supply some info on the people who are in them. Some have already been identified. Also, along with the photos from yesteryear are photos from some more recent events. Many of the photos from the past few seasons are stored at an online photo service and can be accessed from the Schooner Website. Our Facebook page also has some recent photos and we are planning on using these albums more going forward. You can submit photos to be put online on the website and Facebook by sending them to [schoonershotz@gmail.com](mailto:schoonershotz@gmail.com), copy them to the club's computer under 'pictures' or put them on some sort of portable memory like a USB drive (it will be returned), a CD or DVD and we will get them posted. Photos don't have to be of special events, they can be from any league night or any other activity at

## Ship Hector Spiel

the club. Snap photos while you are playing, send them along and we'll get them posted.

The 43rd annual Ship Hector Bonspiel will be held from January 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> at four area curling clubs in Pictou County; the Bluenose Curling Club in New Glasgow, the New Caledonian Club in Pictou, the Westville Curling Club and the Stellar Curling club in Stellarton. As many as 56 teams will compete on the weekend for as much as \$7100 in prize money split among the top twenty teams. The schooner will be well represented again this year with three rinks making the trip to compete. The Brian Laughlin rink with Brian, Gordie Cormier, Kelley Laughlin, and Dennis Cormier will be competing again this year along with the Wally MacDonald rink that has skip MacDonald being joined by Dave Boudreau, Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Walter Nichols. The third rink representing Schooner will see skip Wayne "Bull" Bonnell and mate Rick Windsor team up with spouses Amanda Windsor and Eileen Bonnell. All three Schooner rinks have some previous Hector experience. We want to wish all the Schooner rinks heading to the Hector the best of luck and we hope you have some success. We are all rooting for you.



Curling fans are reminded of a world class event that is coming to Nova Scotia on March 28th when the Ford World Men's Curling Championship will get underway at Scotia Bank Place (former Metro Center) in Halifax. The event will complete on Sunday, April 5th when the men's curling world champion will be crowned. Participating countries are now almost all decided when eight teams were added to the field after the 2014 Le Gruyère European Championships completed in Champéry, Switzerland in December. Joining host Canada and Asia-Pacific top finishers China and Japan will be the top seven teams from the European championship that were Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, the Czech Republic, Russia and Scotland. For the Italians it's their first trip to the Worlds since 2010 and only the fourth time they have made it since 1990. An eighth European entry was decided in a best-of-three playoff between Germany and Finland with Finland earning their way to Halifax with two straight victories. The teams that competed to win the right for their countries to participate in the Halifax event are not guaranteed to be the representative of those countries. They still need to win their respective national championships before they can take part in the Worlds. Canada's representative will be decided at the Tim Horton's Brier being held in Calgary from February 28th to March 8th. There is still one more spot up for grabs in Halifax and that will be decided in a challenge round between the USA and Brazil when they will play a best of five series to determine the final country to vie for the world championship. Brazil has challenged the USA twice in recent years, both in 2009 and 2010, and has defeated them both times, sweeping them in three games in each challenge round.

Various ticket options are now available for sale starting with a full event pass called "The Old Classic" at a cost of \$369. Individual tickets for draws 1-5 only are available now for \$25 each with individual tickets for other draws becoming available in February. There is also a "Team Canada Flex Pack" for \$119 that allows you to pick any five of the eleven Team Canada games

throughout the round robin. Lastly is the "Classic Mini Pack" for \$159 that gives you access to the final five draws of the event plus any tie breakers that may be necessary. All prices do not include taxes or fees. Tickets can be purchased by phoning the box office at 902-451-1221 or toll free at 877-451-1221 or by going online at <http://www.curling.ca/2015worldmen-en/tickets> . All tickets also give you access to "The Patch" which will be located just steps away at the World Trade and Convention Center. It's going to be a great event and one that any curling fan will not want to miss.

