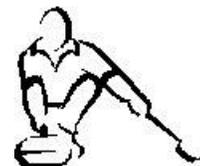


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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 81

January 2018

Thursday, January 4th	Curling Resumes - Men's League
Saturday, January 6th	Junior Curling Resumes
Saturday, January 6th	Mid-Season Meeting and Wine and Cheese Social
Sunday, January 7	League Play Resumes
January 12-13	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, January 13	Dance with DJ Jimmy
January 19-20	Club Championship (Traveler's Playoff)
Saturday, January 27	Schooner Fun Night
January 26-28	Ship Hector - New Glasgow
February 9-10	Sweetheart Spiel
February 16-18	Schooner Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 17	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 24	Fun Night
Saturday, March 3	Fun Night
March 8-11	Traveler's Championship (Sydney CC)
March 20-24	Schooner Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 31	Junior Program Easter Party
April 6-7	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, April 14	Junior Program Closing Party
April 24-28	Schooner Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 29	Skating Party
Saturday, May 12	Schooner Closing Banquet

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

League Play



After a nice long Holiday break, league play is scheduled to start on Thursday, January 4, when the Old Triangle Men's League will take the ice for the first games of 2018. Draw master Cal Thistle has used the open ice over the break to get in some of the makeup games that have built up in November and December as well. All curlers are asked to keep a close eye on the online schedule on the Schooner website or the schedules posted at the club on the league bulletin board so that you don't miss any games.

The Don Cherry's Team entry will be entering 2018 play with a number of teams tied at the top and others within reach to contend for the league title. The Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod rink reeled off five wins in a row to start the season but sputtered down the stretch to the break and suffered two straight losses, first to the Keith MacEachern rink, a game that most would have expected them to win, and then to the Omar Roach rink. The five wins and ten points MacLeod carried into those two games allowed him to maintain a share of first place but, unless he and his team can get things figured out, they won't be there for long. One of the other teams tied for first, the Brian Laughlin rink, had a chance to go up on everyone else and be at the

top alone when they played the Omar Roach rink in a makeup game just before the Holidays. Laughlin lost that game to Roach and missed the opportunity to do that and the win for Roach allowed him to join the logjam at the top as the victory gave him ten points on the season as well. The final team tied with ten points is the Gordie Cormier Rink. Cormier has one game in hand on the others however, a game against the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink who sit with eight points. A win in that make-up for Cormier gives him sole possession of first place but a win for Bonnell adds a fifth team to the logjam at the top. With only two games left in round one of the regular season, it appears that the Team Entry title is far from being decided and will likely once again come down to the final games of the season. One team surprisingly not in the conversation for the title is the Wally MacDonald rink. We talked about the slow start that MacDonald had to the season and December wasn't much better. One bright spot was that he finally broke into the win column with his first victory of the campaign but with five losses at this point in the season it is unlikely he will rebound.

The Pepsi Mixed League is also enjoying a competitive season thus far with three teams tied for first heading into the break with eight points each. Close behind with six points are the Thomas Drover and Sid Murray rinks who have a makeup game scheduled for early in the new year that, with a win for either team, could see them join the front runners and create a four way tie. The Cal Thistle rink also sits with six points and also has a game to make up. There are still five scheduled games left in the first leg of the season so even teams sitting with four or five points at this point have a chance at making a run at the first half title. The first leg of the mixed league will finish up in mid February and then teams will be shuffled and we will begin a second leg for the league. That was the format used last season and proved very popular with the participants so it was carried on this season. One other note to pass along regarding the Pepsi Mixed League, there has been a schedule change in the first week back after the Holiday break. Please check the online schedule the schedule at the club to confirm when you are playing. Teams affected are the Farr, Agnew, Thistle and MacEachern rinks.

The Old Triangle Men's League is following suit with the other leagues and sees a number of teams within reach for a title at this almost half-way point. With one game left in round one, the Gordie Cormier rink sits alone in first with nine points and holds a slim one point lead over the Wally MacDonald rink who has eight points and has a two point cushion on the Sid Murray rink who sits at seven points. Three other teams follow with six points. As it is with both other leagues, there's no way to pick a winner at this point. The only team that has fallen off the pace in the Men's is the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink who have only been able to muster a single point so far this season. While a run for the title is unlikely for Bonnell, it was just last season that the Gordie Cormier rink had a similarly disappointing first half of the season but came on strong in round two to finish as one of the league's top teams. We will have to wait and see how it all plays out.

The Schooner Junior Program is enjoying a good season so far and has seen its numbers more than double this season, going from eight junior members last season to eighteen this year. They also have enjoyed a very successful fundraiser with their pre-Christmas fudge sale that saw them profit just over \$700. Money raised will help to pay for social events, year-end prizes for the curlers and will help fund participation in outside events and spiels. Thank you to everyone who took part in the fudge sale, both buyers and sellers, and good luck to the juniors for the remainder of the season.

Fun Nights

All league curlers are reminded to keep a close eye on the online and in-club schedules for any changes, cancellations or make up games. Good Curling Everyone.

There will be a Schooner Fun Night on Saturday, January 27 starting at 7pm. This fun night wasn't on the original schedule but was added after the success of the event held in November. While this is the same weekend as the Ship Hector in New Glasgow, the Fun Night Coordinators, Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale, will be at the club to run the event. Get a group together and plan to join us. Everything is supplied except for clean, dry sneakers for the ice. There will be pizza for everyone and maybe even a couple of prizes given away. Schooner Fun Nights make for a great night out for only a few bucks. See you on the 27th.

2019 Scotties Coming to Cape Breton

Since the official announcement by Curling Canada on November 3 that granted Cape Breton the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, not much new information has been made available. A Facebook post has announced that anyone who made the deposit on full event packages will be contacted between January 8th and 19th and will have first crack at seat selection. In all, over 900 deposits were taken. Tickets sales are supposed to begin early in 2018 but there is not an official date set as of yet. No price level was mentioned for the Cape Breton event either but the 2018 Scotties in Penticton BC will cost you \$399-429 for a full event package with a number of other smaller packages available along with single draw tickets. Round robin single draw tickets range from \$19.50 - 29.50 and playoff single draw tickets are \$29.50 - 37.50. Some packages include an opening weekend package for \$89, championship weekend from \$189 and day packs that range from \$49-59 each. For full ticket info for the 2018 event, visit the Curling Canada website at:

<http://www.curling.ca/2018scotties/tickets/>

If you wish to be a volunteer at the event you must commit to thirty hours and pay a \$100 fee. Volunteers will have full access to the arena and hospitality area even when not working (subject to availability). No further updates on volunteering were found. Keep up to date at the Cape Breton Scotties webpage:

<https://www.scottiescapebreton.com/>

Lighting Upgrade

With funding approved from Efficiency Nova Scotia and the outlay of funds from the club approved by the membership, the upgrade to the club's lighting system is ready to get underway. Work is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 2 at 8am. It is not known for sure how long it will actually take. There are two make-up games from the Pepsi Mixed League that were cancelled due to the work. The installers are taking precautions when working in the ice area but the ice will likely require some maintenance to get it back into playable shape after work has completed. Once it's all done we will have a much better and much more energy efficient lighting system. The cost to the club is spread across two years of payments to NS Power. It is hoped the cost savings will cover the monthly cost of our portion of the upgrade so it will essentially require no outlay of cash on the clubs part. The work is being done by Greg Peters, the same electrician that did the electrical upgrades to the back compressor room last season.

Holiday Ice Maintenance

The Schooner Ice Crew took advantage of the down time over the Holiday break to do some work to our ice surface. It's common to do a flood at this time of the year to refresh the ice and get it ready to stand up to the use it gets for the remainder of the season. The ice was flooded with a layer of water to add some thickness to the surface and afterwards a lot of shaving with our ice king is required to bring it back to playable condition. The final work has been postponed until the lighting upgrade in the ice shed is complete. The ice would require some work after the electricians were finished in the shed anyway. The playing conditions of our club are always very good, something we have come to take for granted, but we would not enjoy these good conditions if the ice crew didn't put a lot of time and effort into maintaining the ice. This type of maintenance can take two to three days to complete. They also shave the ice every Sunday and many times on Thursday evening as well. We want to take this opportunity to send out a big thank you to Ice Director Brian Laughlin and his crew and congratulate them all on a job well done again this year.

Turkey Spiel



The Schooner Turkey Spiel got underway on Tuesday, December 5 and saw a field of twelve teams compete, six in each of the two divisions. All teams came together to face off on Saturday before a winner was decided. This was the second spiel that was organized and run by the newly formed Spiel Committee and they did a fantastic job once again. Teams were all evenly matched as was evident by the finish that saw the top five teams within one point of each other. Wally MacDonald was the eventual winner but only by a thin margin of one point over four other teams that tied for second. Plus minus had to be used to decide second through fifth place. MacDonald started the spiel strong when he took thirteen of a possible fifteen points in his first game. MacDonald also won his second game but came away with only seven points in that match as he could only manage to get two ends. A third victory on Saturday and nine points in game three, giving him a total of twenty nine, was enough for first overall. Second place was taken by the Gary Landry Rink who finished one point behind MacDonald with twenty eight. A plus/minus rating of +11 gave Landry the runner-up spot. Gary was also undefeated through the spiel but lower point totals of eight and nine in his first two games proved costly. He did finish strong on Saturday with a victory that saw him take four ends and eleven out of fifteen points. The Cal Thistle rink finished in third when they also accumulated twenty eight points but with a +8 rating. Thistle won his first game, suffered a loss in game two but came back with big win in his final match. Fourth place was the Richard Lorway rink who also sported a 2-1 record with 28 total points and a +5 rating. Lorway started the event slowly with a loss in game one but rebounded with two big wins in games two and three. In fifth place was the Bill Farr rink. Farr had losses in his first two games but was able to accumulate fifteen points in those losses and that allowed a big win on Saturday to vault him up the standings. He also finished with a twenty eight point total but was even in the plus/minus rating. Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell finished sixth with a twenty four point performance. He was well positioned heading into Saturday play with a twenty point total but a final game loss where he was only able to get four points dropped him in the standings. The top three finishers won Christmas turkeys while the next three won chickens. Wally MacDonald was joined in his first place finish by Bryant Cormier, Mel Windsor and Blair Gentile. Gary Landry was joined by Lonnie Howe, Mike Cormier and Georgette Sparkes in second and Cal Thistle had Barb Thistle, Kathy Gale and

Bernadette Cormier. Rounding out the top five, the Richard Lorway rink had Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod, Matt MacPherson and Trida Murphy and Bill Farr was joined by mate Keith MacEachern and front end Eric and Colleen MacLeod. Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to everyone who took part, especially those from outside of the club's membership.

Thank you to the Spiel Committee for a great job on organizing and running the event and to everyone who helped out in any way. Thank you also to Frances and Richard for the delicious chili that everyone enjoyed on Saturday, to the bartenders, ice crew and a big thank you to everyone who donated items to the Schooner Food Drive to help the Kinsmen Club help less fortunate families during the Holidays. Another great Turkey spiel and a great way to begin the Holiday Season.

2 on 2 Spiel



The first of two 2 on 2 spiels scheduled for the season will be held at the club on Friday, January 12 and Saturday, January 13. Enter as a team of two for a fee of \$40 per team. All proceeds will be returned as prizes. Going into the Holiday break, there were only a handful of spots left open for this event. Only the first sixteen teams are accepted. If you are thinking about taking part you should sign up as quickly as possible so as not to be disappointed by not getting in.

The spiel will be run in a draw format with double elimination which means lose two games and you are out. The rules of play will be similar to doubles curling but with a few variations. One is that we do not place any rocks in play at the start of an end as they do in doubles and another is that there is no sweeping until the rock crosses the hog line at the target end. This format of play has been very popular at the club over the last couple of years and most who try it enjoy playing it. There will be snacks and refreshments available on Saturday and things will wrap up with a dance on Saturday night from 9-1. Music is by DJ Jimmy and it's open to everyone.

Schooner Club Championships

With the Nova Scotia Men's Traveler's playdown once again being held in Sydney this year, the Schooner Club will be sending a representative to compete to try and make it to the national competition. To choose that representative, we will be holding a Club Championship playoff January 19-20 if more than one team shows interest in going. A sign up is now posted at the club for interested teams. An entry fee of \$60 per team will be charged and proceeds will be used to help pay the registration fee for the Provincial event that will be held March 8-11 at the Sydney Curling Club. The format of play for the in-club event will be determined by the number of teams taking part.

Schooner Cash Spiel Filled

Even though it's not taking place until mid February, the Schooner Open Cash Spiel has already reached capacity for entries at sixteen teams. This is the first time in a number of years that the spiel has been filled and it's certainly the first time in a long time that it has been filled this early on. Entries are still being accepted for a waiting list in case someone drops out last minute. Teams that will be competing will come from the Schooner, Sydney and Strait Area curling clubs with a few other out of town curlers coming in for the event who are teaming up with Schooner members. The quality of the teams looks to be very high this year and we should see some great curling action throughout the weekend. There will be a dinner served on Saturday for all the participants and there will be a dance on Saturday night with DJ

Sweetheart Women's Spiel



Jimmy. The dance is open to everyone. Entry fee for the spiel is \$180 per team with all proceeds going to prize money. Teams can be made up of any combination of men and women curlers. If you are interested in taking part you can sign up for the waiting list at the club or by contacting Stephen Leslie. Plan to drop by the club during the Open Cash from February 16-18 to take in some of the great curling action and don't forget about the dance on Saturday night.

The annual Schooner Sweetheart spiel will be held this year on February 9-10 and is open to all women curlers. This is a single entry spiel but teams of four may be accepted. This Valentines tradition at the club has become one of the busiest and most enjoyable spiels of the season. All curlers are guaranteed three, six-end games and there will be a wine and cheese reception on Friday night and dinner for all curlers on Saturday. This spiel is once again sponsored by CC Computer Solutions of Sydney and we wish to thank them for their continued support. Keep an eye open for more information posted at the club and on the Schooner website as the spiel dates get closer.

The Ship Hector Spiel

The Ship Hector Spiel, held in four curling clubs in the New Glasgow area, is set to go from January 26-28. Schooner will once again be represented there this year with three rinks from our club making the trip to take part. This is a slightly smaller contingent than has made the trip the last few years. Teams taking part in the Hector include the Wally MacDonald rink, the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink and the Gordie Cormier rink. All teams have competed at the event in the past and have enjoyed some success. The Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod rink is also considering making the trip to compete but that will depend on a couple of factors, one being availability of a spot for them in the spiel. The three day event is held in the Bluenose curling club in New Glasgow, the New Caledonian in Pictou, the Stellar club in Stellarton and the Westville Curling Club in downtown Westville. Each team is guaranteed four games with a grueling schedule on Saturday of three games for each team on that day. Some of the Schooner rinks are taking a fifth player to help ease the burden of such a hectic schedule. Twenty teams will share in the prize money which is estimated to total over \$7000 based on 48 teams entering. Many years that number is exceeded with over 50 teams taking part in the event. Best of luck to all Schooner rinks competing at the Hector and we know you will represent our club well.

Matinee Curling

Members are reminded that there is Matinee Curling held at the club every Friday from 1-3 pm. This is open to all Schooner Members. There are no set teams and no sign up is required, you can just drop in any Friday and curl. Teams will be formed from those in attendance. It's a great way to get a little bit more out of your Schooner membership.

Weekly Tarabish Games

The weekly Tarabish games will continue to be held every Tuesday evening at the club. Play gets underway around 7pm. The way it is setup is that everyone is entered as an individual, not a team. Depending on the number of players on a given night, you are designated to play a set number of games, sometimes within a group, and after each game, individual wins and scores are recorded and then you move on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member has played the number of designated games, scores are tallied and winners determined. The games are well attended and are a great boost to the club and our bar. The games are not just club members so you can bring a friend if you like.

Mid-Season Meeting and New Year's Social

There will be a Mid-Season general meeting at the club on Saturday, January 6 starting at 7pm. This meeting was added a few years ago as a way to get members up to speed on items that had gone on in the first part of the season and was also meant to be a social activity for club members to come together and celebrate the new year. The meeting will be brief, just an update of what's going on at the club and how we are doing, and then there will be a wine and cheese social immediately following. Plan to join us and help ring in the new year at the Schooner.



Chase the Ace will be making a return to the Schooner Club starting in early January. Ticket sales officially get underway on Tuesday, January 2nd and the first draw will be on Tuesday, January 9. Draws will be held regularly on Tuesday evenings. Tickets will once again be sold all week long at the club's bar and at designated vendors and will also be sold on draw nights from 7-8 pm at a table setup at the club. We are hoping that the vendors from last time, Disco Tirecraft, Compu Clone Computer Solutions and Cape Breton Glass will be back on board and we are looking at possibly adding a few more locations. In the last draw we got down to under 20 cards and saw the jackpot grow to around \$6000. We are hoping we can do that well again or even better as this event raises important funds for the club that allows us to do a lot of extras like electrical and lighting upgrades, buying new furniture and sprucing up the club with fresh paint and decorations. It also allows us to keep costs down for members. Please help us by buying your Chase the Ace tickets every week and buy selling as many books as possible. The price will be the same as the last time, three tickets for \$5.

Snowball



All members are reminded that the Snowball even split is played at the club during every regular curling event. Entry is \$2 per draw with \$1 going to the club and \$1 going towards the jackpot, it's open only to club members and you must sign in yourself for each draw. Every club member is assigned a number and if your number is drawn when you are signed in for the draw, you win the jackpot. If a number of a member not signed in is drawn, the jackpot carries over and 'Snowballs' into a bigger jackpot for the next draw. So far this season we have seen a couple of jackpots in the \$100 range won by lucky members. This is an important fund raiser for the club and allows us to keep costs to members low by helping to cover day to day operating expenses. So the next time you are curling at the Schooner, remember to sign in for the Snowball. You don't want to miss out on winning that next big jackpot.

Fundraiser



The club ran a 649 fundraiser that began with the December 6th 649 draw to help pay for the new lighting upgrade and cover other club expenses. The total sales for the event was \$1200 giving us a prize of \$600. The prize for most entries sold went to Schooner member Julia Cormier who had \$210 of total sales. Julia was also the seller of the entry that took home our prize. It only took three draws for Nelson Usher to tick off all six numbers and take home the \$600 first prize all alone. What a nice way to start the Holiday season. Congratulations to Nelson and a big thank you to everyone who bought entries to help the club raise money. Thank you also to everyone who sold the entries and a big thank you to Lynn Kelly who organized the event for the club. Watch for another 649 Fundraiser next season.

New Year's Celebration at Schooner

There was a new years eve party held at the club this year, the first time it has taken place for a few years. It was a casual affair with about thirteen partiers there to ring in 2018. Everyone enjoyed a variety of dishes in the pot luck and celebrated the arrival of the new year. Thanks to everyone who attended and to thanks to everyone who helped out to make this night possible.



All members are asked to take note of these six simple things that everyone can do to help speed up game play.

SPEEDING UP THE GAME! KEY WAYS TO KEEP THE GAME MOVING AND TO PLAY ALL 8 ENDS	5 MINUTES Be ready to go on the ice 5 minutes before your game is to start. This allows for handshakes, warm-up slides and the coin toss!	ROCK READY! If your teammate has to get their slider on, or your skip is coming down the ice, get the rock out for them while you're waiting.	HACK IT! As soon as the opposing player has released their stone, the next player to throw should move quickly to the hack. Clean the rock and set up so when your skip takes control of the house, you're ready to throw.
	LEAD ON At the beginning of an end, if you do not have hammer, your lead should NOT help to put the rocks away. Instead, the lead should find their first rock, get in the hack, clean their rock and be prepared to throw as soon as the skip is at the other end.	OUT OF ORDER Rocks do NOT need to be put away in order. Simply putting the rocks neatly in the corners and not worrying about number order saves A LOT of time! If you are compulsive about putting rocks away in order, skips can help by putting rocks that are out of play in their appropriate place as the end progresses.	STAY FOCUSED Skips must stay focused on the next shot and not be chatting with the opposing skip or players on adjacent sheets.