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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 88

January, 2019

League Play Resumes	Thursday, January 3
Two on Two Spiel	January 4-5
Wine and Cheese Reception	Friday, January 4
Fun Night	Saturday, January 12
Schooner Cash Spiel	January 18-20
Cash Spiel Dance	Saturday, January 19
Ship Hector Spiel - New Glasgow	January 25-27
Sweetheart Spiel	February 8-9
2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts	February 16-24
Two on Two Spiel	March 1-2
Fun Night - St. Patrick's Day Edition	Saturday March 16
Coors Light Spring Mixed Spiel - Sydney CC	March 22-24
Ladies Doubles Spiel	April 5-6
Closing Spiel	April 25-27
Skating Party	Sunday, April 28
Closing Banquet	Saturday, May 4

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

League Roundup



The Don Cherry's Team Entry League is about half way through the first round and there a few teams who have started to distance themselves from the pack. The Coralie Arye rink has an undefeated record and sits atop the standings with five wins, followed closely by the Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod rink and the Gordie Cormier rink who both have equally impressive undefeated records but with only four wins as they have to make-up a game that was missed. The Rick Windsor rink has a 4-1 record and sits tied with MacLeod and Cormier while the Brian Laughlin rink sits with three wins against one loss, also having a make-up game to be played, just behind the leaders. Laughlin was undefeated until losing to the Wally MacDonald rink on the final Sunday before the Holiday break. The Team Entry Schedule will see only three games in January as there will be a Sunday lost to the Schooner Cash Spiel that is scheduled to be played from January 18-20. The first round of play is not set to wrap up until mid February and with all the teams at the top very close to each other, it looks like it will be down to the end before we see a champion emerge.

The Old Triangle Men's League will be the first to take the ice in 2019 when its schedule resumes on Thursday, January 3. This will be the final game for all teams in round one with round two getting underway on January 10. At the Holiday Break the Kevin Gouthro rink was in first place

with a 4-2 record and 8 points, holding a narrow one point lead over the Gordie Cormier rink who has a 3-2-1 record and 7 points. Three other teams sport 3-3 records and are only one point behind Cormier and two behind the first place Gouthro squad. The men's league is once again showing a high level of parity and competitiveness among all teams and will likely not be decided until late in the schedule.

The first round of the Pepsi Mixed League has pretty much become a two team race for the title. The Kevin Gouthro rink sits atop the leader board with twelve points, having suffered only one loss so far, that being at the hands of the second place team, the Coralie Ayre rink. Ayre has eleven points with one loss and a tie, the tie coming against the third place rink, Robert Agnew. Agnew was undefeated heading into December but a loss to first place Kevin Gouthro and another to the Gary Landry Rink has pretty much dropped him out of contention. While still having an outside chance, Agnew will have to win out and hope both Ayre and Gouthro lose their remaining games in order to take top spot. If the Gouthro rink can win their two remaining games they will take the first round title. If they end up in a tie with the Coralie Ayre rink, Ayre will take the championship as she will hold the tie break advantage over Gouthro. We will have to wait until all games are played until a winner will be decided.

The Schooner Junior Program is enjoying a good season so far and will resume play on Saturday, January 12. Numbers are strong in the program this year and they have a busy second half scheduled. The program had a Holiday party on their last day of curling in December before heading into the break.

All Schooner members are reminded that there is Matinee Curling on Friday afternoons from 1-3 at the club. It's just drop in curling and teams are made from whoever is in attendance. It's open to all members so if you have some free time any Friday, drop by.

Turkey Spiel



The Schooner Club's annual Holiday tradition, the Turkey Spiel, was held in early December, taking place from the 6th to the 8th. It was run using a new scheduling format where each team played only one game during the week, either Thursday or Friday evening, and then two games on Saturday. Ten teams took part in the event, four starting things off on Thursday and six on the Friday night side. Kenny's Pizza came on as sponsor for the event.

After the first game for each team, the Wally MacDonald rink sat in first place, holding a slight advantage over the Robert Agnew rink while three other teams, Richard Lorway, John Donovan and Thomas Drover, were also close to the leaders heading into Saturday play. While MacDonald won his first game on Saturday to stay atop the leader board, Agnew lost which dropped him down and made a first place finish more difficult for sure. John Donovan also won, keeping him in the hunt for top spot and closing the gap on MacDonald, taking his deficit from 4 points to 2 with a big second game victory. Both Lorway and Drover dropped game two and fell off the pace. The Gordie Cormier rink, who lost game one, won their second game, taking four ends and eleven points, giving them a shot at a top finish but still were five points off the pace set by MacDonald. Keith

MacEachern also lost his first match but won big in game two and vaulted his rink to within three points of the leader and only one point behind the John Donovan rink. Unfortunately for Cormier and MacEachern, they both lost their third match and dropped in the standings. MacDonald was a winner in the third game but so was Donovan, once again besting MacDonald's point total and now sat in a tie for first at 31 points each. MacDonald was crowned the winner based on plus/minus, only edging out the Donovan foursome by a plus two differential. Joining skip MacDonald was Mel Windsor, Joe Erickson and Janet Gallivan while John Donovan was aided by Martin and Samantha Campbell and Yvonne Donovan. Robert Agnew tied in his final game but, by taking four ends, amassed enough points to finish in third place. Rob was joined by Greg Wall, Dave Boudreau and Bev Young. Fourth was captured by the Richard Lorway rink who bounced back with a big win in their final game and fifth place, also decided by a plus/minus differential, saw Keith MacEachern edge out Gordie Cormier, both finishing with 23 points but MacEachern having a plus two advantage. Skip Lorway had Matt MacPherson, George Plumridge and Georgette Sparkes while the top six were rounded out with Peter MacIntyre and Eric and Colleen MacLeod with skip MacEachern and Justin Humphrey, Julia Cormier and Jess Dilney joined skip Cormier. The top three finishers won Holiday Turkeys while the teams in fourth to sixth won ham. There were chocolates for all other teams so, really no losers.

The Turkey Spiel this year saw an old tradition at the Schooner resurrected, a draw to the button but with a frozen turkey instead of a curling rock. The draw was open to anyone who wanted to try for an entry fee of \$5. The prize on the line was a pair of tickets to the Scotties Tournament of hearts during the opening weekend. Our winner was Joe Erickson.

The new format for this spiel seemed to be popular with the curlers and may be used again for future events. To keep the players energy levels up for two games on Saturday, all curlers and guests were treated to delicious pizza from spiel sponsor Kenny's Pizza. We want to send out a big thank you to them for their generosity. Thank you also to the spiel committee for once again working hard to organize and run the event, to everyone who took part and to everyone else who helped out in any way. A great Turkey Spiel with a close and exciting finish and a wonderful lead in to the Holiday Season. Happy Holidays everyone.



The annual Schooner Cash Spiel will take place at the club From January 18-20. The maximum number of teams to enter is sixteen and we have already reached that as of late December. Names are currently being taken to be on a waiting list. This is the second consecutive year that we have filled up. Teams currently registered are coming from our own club, the Sydney Curling Club, the Strait Area Community Curling Club and there is a team made up of local curlers and curlers coming from Halifax. Many of these teams are returning to the spiel. It should be a great weekend of high caliber curling. Entry into the Spiel is \$200 per team and they are guaranteed three games. It will be run in a draw format.

This year the spiel is being co-sponsored by Jeff Ellis Enterprises and Firestop Enterprises and there will be a guaranteed first prize of \$1000. Entry fees will be used to fund other lower prizes in each division. All curlers will be treated to dinner on Saturday evening catered by Tommy Young. There will be a dance on Saturday night from 9-1 with Music by DJ Jimmy. The dance is open to all spiel participants, all Schooner members and guests. Plan to join us and take in some of the great curling action and fun on Cash Spiel Weekend.

2 on 2 Spiel

The first of three 2 on 2 curling events will be held at the club in early January, shortly after we return from Christmas break. This spiel will be run on January 4th and 5th, is open to Schooner members and is single entry for \$20 per player. Another event is scheduled for March 1st and 2nd while a ladies only doubles event is scheduled for April 5-6. Due to the lack of time between our return from the Holiday break to the start of this spiel, registration was started in mid-December, before the Christmas break. This event will be run in a draw format with play beginning on Friday night and going all day Saturday. Games are six ends and it will be a double knockout. All teams will see action on Friday evening in the first draw with winners staying in the top division and losers on night one falling to the consolation round. The spiel is limited to the first 32 members who sign up.

On Friday Night the club will be hosting a New Year's celebration with a wine and cheese reception for all curlers, club members and guests. There will be lunch on Saturday catered by Tommy Young.

Rules for this event are based on traditional doubles curling but with a few modifications. We generally don't place rocks in play at the start of an end. Each team member will be designated an end at the start of the game and will play that end for the duration of the game, not being permitted to cross the half way point of the sheet. Each team delivers six stones per end and there is no sweeping of a stone until it crosses the hog line at the target end. Full rules will be made available prior to the start of play. This game has certainly grown in popularity at the club over the last couple of years and everyone who plays it really enjoys it.

Ship Hector Spiel New Glasgow

The Annual Ship Hector Spiel will be taking place in four New Glasgow Area curling clubs on the weekend of January 25-27. Once again, Schooner will be well represented as a number of teams from our club are making the trip again this year. The Hector is a very large spiel, usually filled to its capacity and having over 50 teams taking part. It's run in a draw format with teams playing one game on Friday and then a grueling three game schedule on Saturday. Teams that make it through will play in the playoff on Sunday. Schooner teams have had some good success in the past at the Hector and we hope to see more of that. Good luck to all Schooner representatives who are making their way to the Hector this year.

Learn to Curl



The Schooner Curling Club, in partnership with the CBRM Recreation Department and the Taste of Winter Festival, will be hosting a number of Learn to Curl events over the next few months. These events are sponsored by the CBRM and are free of charge to those who want to take part. They are open to everyone. The first two events will be held on Friday, January 25 starting at 6pm with a Junior Learn to Curl open to anyone under the age of sixteen. After that, we will have a senior session for anyone sixteen plus starting at 7:30pm. There will be another senior session on Friday, February 15, just in time to learn the game for the Scotties, starting at 7:30pm and the event will wind up with another junior session on Thursday, March 15 at 11am. Again, these events are open to everyone in the designated age groups and all you need is a clean pair of sneakers for the ice and a desire to learn and try one of Canada's signature sports, Curling.

It's a great opportunity for anyone attending or volunteering for the Scotties Tournament of Hearts to learn more about the game and actually try the sport so you have a better feel for what the curlers are doing on the ice. Plan to join us. No registration is required. For more information visit the CBRM Taste of Winter website at <http://cbrm.ns.ca/taste-of-winter.html>

649 Fundraiser

The Club ran a 649 fundraiser that began early in December after entries were sold the last couple of weeks of November. Entries were \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and consisted of a set of six unique numbers from 1-49. Basically, it was the same as picking a 649 lottery ticket. After each draw for the 649 lottery, the numbers drawn were used to tick off numbers in each entry. The first person to tick off all six numbers would take home the cash prize which was 50% of sales. It took only four draws and many people were close but the first and only person to have all six of their numbers drawn was Janet Gallivan. Janet took home the cash prize of \$605. What a nice Christmas present for her. The club also funded a cash prize for top seller and that was won by Julia Cormier who sold over \$200 worth of entries. Way to go Julia.

Congratulations to our winner, Janet Gallivan and a big thank you to her and all the others who supported the Schooner club by buying entries. Thanks to Julia and all the others who worked hard selling entries as well and a big thank you to Lynn Kelly for organizing and running the fundraiser. Events like the 649, Chase the Ace, the Snowball and others are all very important to the club and goes a long way to help keep costs down to members and out guests. Please support the Schooner Club whenever we are raising money and help us to keep the club the great place it has become.

Snowball



All members are reminded that the Schooner Snowball Draw is underway again this year. It's open to members only and runs on any regularly scheduled curling league event. It only costs \$2 to play and we have already had a few big winners, most recently when the jackpot grew to well over \$200.

All members are assigned a number on the membership list posted at the

bar. On any night that the Snowball is running, members can sign in and pay the \$2 entry. While you don't have to be present to win, you must be at the club on the day of the draw to sign in, you can't have someone else sign you in on your behalf or sign in for any future draws ahead of time. If the number drawn belongs to a member who is signed in for that draw, they win the jackpot. If the number drawn is for a member who is not signed in, the jackpot carries over and "snowballs" into a bigger jackpot. Each entry means \$1 more toward the total prize while \$1 goes to the club. Do don't forget to sign in for the Snowball the next time you curling and you may win a great cash prize just in time for Christmas!

Fun Night

Schooner Fun Nights made their return to the schedule in November with the first one of the season taking place on Saturday, November 24. While this event wasn't as busy as we would have hoped, every Fun Night is important to the club as they introduce new people to the club and the sport of curling and, even if there are only a few people attending, they are still a success. The next Schooner Fun Night will be held on Saturday, January 12.

Fun Nights are open to everyone so round up your family, your friends, co-workers, whoever and get down to the club for a great time. For only \$7 (\$4 for Schooner Club members) you get to try curling, eat delicious pizza and maybe even get a chance at winning a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. If you haven't tried curling before or are relatively new to the sport, we will supply all the equipment you need and the instruction. You just need to have clean sneakers for the ice. There is no Fun Night in December due to the shortened month but Fun Nights return in January with the next one scheduled for Saturday, January 12. All members are asked to try and support Fun Nights and make them a success.

Tuesday Tarabish

Tuesday night tarabish continues at the club and continues to be popular. Good turnouts in November and December filled the club with card players. The games are open to everyone and are single entry. Partners rotate throughout the evening and points and wins are tallied on an individual basis. Once the designated number of games are played, the points are added up and the winners determined. These games are lots of fun and the bar is open to purchase refreshments. Take a chance at the even split and enjoy some free snacks. Join us any Tuesday. The games get going at 7pm.

Junior Fundraiser

Leading up to the Christmas Holidays the Schooner Juniors ran a fundraiser in partnership with the Cape Breton Fudge Company. They have done this in previous years as well and have had good success. This year was no different and the program raised around \$700 to fund activities throughout the season and year end prizes for the curlers. Thank you to all the junior members and parents who worked hard selling fudge and a big thank you to everyone who purchased the products to help the juniors out.



We are now under fifty days to go before the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts gets underway in Sydney's Center 200. There's not a whole lots of news to report from December for the Scotties. Only one team, other than Jennifer Jones's Team Canada rink, is confirmed for the event so far.

Janine Bodner's rink out the Iqaluit Curling Club will be at the Scotties as Team Nunavut. Bodner, who throws second stone, is joined by mate Jennifer Blainey who throws fourth rocks, second Allison Griffen who throws third, lead Megan Ingram and alternate Sadie Pinkson.

Nunavut had three teams vying to represent the territory at the Scotties. Last year, in 2018 in Penticton BC, Nunavut was represented by Amie Shackelton of the Iqaluit Curling Club, who finished 0-7.

All ticket options for the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts are still on sale online and at the Center 200 box office. Full event packages are on sale for \$399 plus fee and get you access to all draws for the event including tie breakers and playoffs. Mini packages include opening weekend for \$99 and Championship Weekend for \$189. The Opening Weekend package includes all five draws for Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17 while Championship Weekend packs start on Friday, February 22 and will include any tie breakers and playoff games, including Sunday's championship game. Day packs will get you all draws on any given day and are priced at \$49-59. Single draw tickets are also available, ranging in price from \$17.50 to \$37.50 per game depending on the day and time of the draw. All prices include HST but not facility fees. All tickets to the event are also good for access to the Heartstop Lounge that will be located at the Joan Harris Cruise Pavilion. If you would like to plan your ticket purchases around the draws for team Nova Scotia, their preliminary round draws have been assigned – draw 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13. Final preliminary round match-ups will be determined once all of the provinces and territories teams are declared via the provincial and territorial play downs.

Get your tickets and plan to take part in this huge event for the area. The Scotties will be much more than just a curling event. There will be lots of entertainment at the Heart Stop Lounge and there will be lots happening off the ice with an interactive fan zone and lots of opportunities to interact with the curlers at meet and greet events all week.

For more information and up to date news you can visit the Official Scotties 2019 website at <https://www.curling.ca/2019scotties/>

Happy New Year

To all Schooner members and friends, we want to send you wishes for a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We also want to welcome everyone back after our Holiday break. The remainder of the 2018-19 season is going to be a very busy and exciting part of the season. Kicking things off we will have our 2 on 2 spiel taking place January 4th and 5th. We will also be celebrating the new year with a wine and cheese reception on Friday, January 4th starting at 7pm. All members and Guests are welcome. League play will resume on Thursday, January 3rd and we will be holding a Schooner Fun Night on Saturday, January 12, A busy month continues with the Schooner Cash Spiel, once again filled to capacity, on January 18-20 and the Cash Spiel dance on Saturday, January 19. The month rounds out with a number of Schooner Teams making the trip to New Glasgow for the Hector. The Schooner Club will be hosting two Learn to Curl events on Friday, January 25, as part of the CBRM's Winterfest, one for under 16 starting at 6:00 and one that is open to everyone 16 years and older starting at 7:30.

February is another big month for the club and curling in general in Cape Breton. We will be hosting the Women's Sweetheart Spiel on February 8 and 9 and then, starting on February 15, the Sydney area will be hosting the premier event in women's curling in Canada, the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Schooner will be having another Learn to Curl on Friday, February 15, for those sixteen and older to lead into the Scotties and give people a chance to learn more about curling going into the big event. League play is suspended for the week and the club is planning open ice and other events to coincide with the Scotties.

March and April will be no less busy with lots of league play, Fun Nights, spiels and other special events. Check the Schooner website or like us on Facebook to keep up with all that's going on. Plan to join us and see how much fun curling at the Schooner Club can be.

