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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 95

January, 2020

Saturday, January 4	General Meeting and New Years Social
January 10-11	Doubles Spiel
Saturday, January 18	Fun Night
January 24-25	Townhouse Fundraising Spiel
February 7-8	Sweetheart Women's Spiel
Friday, February 7	Open Mic Night
February 14-16	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 15	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 22	Fun Night
March 5-7	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 7	Fun Spiel Dance
Saturday, March 14	Fun Night
April 23-25	Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 25	Closing Spiel Dance
Saturday, May 16	Year End Banquet and Dance

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

League Roundup



League play finished up for the Holidays on Thursday, December 19, with the Old Triangle Men's League playing the final games of 2019. The Gordie Cormier rink continues to lead the way in the Men's but there are a few other teams not far behind. Sid Murray and Gary Landry are close and Landry still has a game to play against Cormier in round one of this league. Round two will get underway in mid-January and we will see if any team can do what has happened in the Men's league the last two seasons, go undefeated in round two to come from behind to take the title. Cormier has yet to lose in round one, maybe he can be perfect all season and go undefeated. Time will tell.

The first round of the Pepsi Mixed league is set to wrap-up in mid-February when a first round winner is decided. The Keith MacEachern rink currently leads the way but are followed closely by the Coralie Ayre rink and the Carrie Cress rink. Cress and MacEachern have already played with MacEachern coming out with a win, giving him the advantage but he has yet to play the Ayre rink in what could be the deciding game of the round. The Philip Edwards rink and the Gary Landry rink are also still in the mix but will need the leaders to lose games in order for them to have a chance. With a handful of games remaining, any of these teams and maybe even a few others still have a chance. After round one is decided, teams will be mixed up and a second round will get Underway. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that anyone who currently plays in the Mixed and is not planning on participating

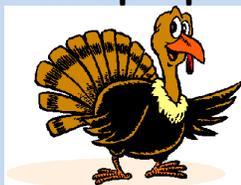
in that league for round two contact Draw Master Julia Cormier ASAP so she will not include you on a team for round two. Also, anyone not playing in the Mixed now who would like to participate in round two should also contact Julia and she will try and find you a spot. Again, please make your plans known to Julia now and do not wait until round one is over.

The Don Cherry's Team Entry League seems to have turned into a four team race at this point in the season with five weeks remaining on the schedule. The Coralie Ayre rink has yet to lose a game and sits atop the standings but they are followed closely by three teams who only have one loss. The Gordie Cormier rink are one of those teams with their only loss coming at the hands of the Kevin Gouthro rink in an extra end on the first of December. The Gouthro foursome followed up that big win with a loss to the Wally MacDonald rink the following week, dropping them out of a tie for first and back to second while MacDonald's only loss was suffered earlier in the season to the Gordie Cormier rink. All three of these second place teams have yet to face the first place Ayre rink so the title for the Sunday league is still far from decided.

Anyone with makeup games in any league is asked to get them played ASAP. This caused a real problem last season and we would like to avoid a repeat of that.

The Schooner Junior Program is still enjoying a good year, finishing up 2019 with a Christmas party on December 14 and then being treated to a special surprise on the 21st with a visit from Marc Kennedy. Marc put the junior curlers through some drills for over an hour and they performed admirably. The ability and form of these young kids is really something to see. The Schooner Juniors will be the first Schooner Curlers to take the ice for 2020 when they resume their regular Saturday sessions on January 4th at the regular time of 1pm.

Turkey Spiel Wrap-up



The Schooner Club's annual Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel, was held early in December from the 5th to the 7th. A total of ten teams took part in the three day event which was an overall big success. Play got underway on Thursday where there were six teams competing, continued on Friday that saw four and then finished up on Saturday with all teams playing their final two games that day. Once everything was wrapped up, it was the Robert Agnew rink that had come out on top, amassing three wins and thirty three points. Skip Agnew was joined by mate Lynn Kelly and front end Eric and Colleen MacLeod. In second place, also sporting an undefeated record with two wins and a tie, was the Wally MacDonald rink who totaled twenty seven and a half points over the course of play and in third was the Cal Thistle rink with twenty six points from two wins and a loss. Joining MacDonald in second was Leo Fraser, Justin Humphrey and Janet Gallivan while skip Thistle was aided by Mel Windsor, Samantha Campbell and Barb Thistle. The three top finishers all won Holiday turkeys for each member of the team. Fourth through sixth place finishers, the Keith MacEachern rink, Russell Fitzgerald rink and Bill Farr rink respectively, all won chickens. Along with skip MacEachern there was mate Joe Erickson, second Chris Webb and lead Bernadette Cormier. Russell Fitzgerald had the help of only two curlers, Brian Laughlin and spare Kevin Gouthro and actually played his

final game with two players while Bill Farr was joined by Bryant Cormier, Frances Ford and Anthony Boudreau. In true Schooner spirit, no one went home empty handed and the remainder of the teams all won boxes of chocolates.

With Saturday being a long day for curlers and all teams having two games over the course of the day, the club contracted the services of Tommy and Laura young to provide soup and sandwiches for everyone to enjoy and keep up their energy levels. Curlers were also treated to a special surprise when Bernadette Cormier brought along a variety of sweets for everyone to enjoy including chocolate chip cookies, brownies, skor bar squares and spider cookies. All were very delicious. A huge thank you to Bernadette and thanks to Tommy Young for a great job once again. We also want to send out a big thank you to the Bonspiel Committee who always work so hard to organize and run these events and always do such a fantastic job. Thank you to all the volunteers who make these events run so smoothly, the bartenders, ice crew and anyone else who helped out in any way. And finally, thank you to everyone who took part and made the 2019 Schooner Turkey Spiel such a great success. See you next year.

Doubles Spiel

The Schooner Club will be holding a Doubles (2 on 2) spiel on January 10 and 11, 2020. Due to limited time between the end of our Holiday break and the start of this spiel, registration began in December before we took a break for the Holidays. While registration has been going well, spots still remain for those who want to sign up. Check for info on the club bulletin board and on the Schooner website.

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. The spiel is limited to thirty two curlers (sixteen teams) so sign up early.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights began in November with the first one of the season taking place on Saturday, November 16th. There were about fifteen people who attended, a number from outside of the Schooner membership, and everyone had a good time curling and socializing. There was no Fun Night scheduled for December but they are returning with one a month for the remainder of the season starting in January. The January event will take place on Saturday the 18th at 7pm and go until everyone has had their fill of curling and pizza. The February Fun Night will take place on the 22nd and run in conjunction with Curling Day in Canada and in March we will have our St. Paddy's fun night on the 14th, an event that has always been popular in previous years. Members are encouraged to gather up friends, family, co-workers, whoever and support our Fun Nights by bringing them along.

Matinee Curling

Fun Nights are important to the club as they introduce new people to the sport of curling and to the club itself. Many of the new members that have joined the club over the last few years have gotten their start at a Schooner Fun Night. Everyone is welcome and for only \$7 per person (\$4 for Schooner members) you get to curl, get some delicious pizza and maybe even have a chance at winning a prize. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. We supply the equipment needed except for a clean pair of sneakers for the ice. Plan to join us for a Fun Night this season. Once you try curling, you'll be hooked.

Due to poor attendance in the opening weeks, Matinee Curling was suspended for December and is slated to be re-evaluated after the Holiday break. Matinee Curling is normally held on Friday afternoons from 1-3pm and is a great way for all Schooner members to get a little more curling in for their membership dollar. Cheryl MacKinnon is coordinating the Friday afternoon curling and says that, in the new year, they will try to get it going again and hopefully build up the numbers to make a go of it. If you are interested in taking advantage of Matinee Curling, even if it's not every week, please make that interest known to Cheryl as soon as possible. Watch the club bulletin board, the Schooner website and the Schooner Members Facebook Group for more information moving forward.

Fundraising Spiel



On January 24th and 25th, the Schooner Curling Club will be playing host to a fundraising spiel sponsored by Glace Bay Townhouse and the Glace Bay Citizen's League in support of Meals on Wheels, one of fourteen programs supported by Townhouse. Schooner member Peter MacIntyre is the driving force behind the spiel and hopes it can become an annual event, similar to the JDRF fundraiser that was held at the club in the past.

Curlers can participate in the spiel as a single entry for \$25 per person, as a team of 4 for \$100 or as a team of multiple players for \$125 (set fee). The spiel is limited to the first 20 teams and will also feature a light lunch, door prizes, a silent auction, a 50/50 draw and more. All teams are guaranteed three, four-end games. As an added bonus, organizations or businesses entering teams can request a 'Rivalry Game' where they can challenge another business or organization and play a head to head game in the spiel. Team sponsorships are also accepted. Registration is now open and you can sign up at the club or email peter.macintyre@gmail.com. Donations or cash or merchandise are also being accepted for the door prizes and silent auction.

The Schooner Curling Club is donating the ice time for the spiel, will provide all equipment required and give any instructions for those who need it. Curlers need only bring a clean pair of sneakers for the ice.

The Meals on Wheels program provides hot, nutritious meals to hundreds of seniors all year long and is an important part of a sustainable community. Please support this worthwhile cause by taking part in this event, donating a prize or sponsoring a team. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events at the Sydney Curling Club

While our club's schedule is pretty full with events to keep the membership busy, the Sydney Curling Club has a couple of events happening in January that may be of interest to some Schooner members.

First, on January 17-19, they are holding an open cash spiel, the first one that has been held at the club in a number of years. Entry is \$200 per team and there is a guaranteed first prize of \$1000. Dinner is included on Saturday and there will be entertainment on Saturday night by local musician Brandon Collier. The evening entertainment is open to everyone and there is no cover charge.

A second event being held in January may be of interest to the Schooner's female members. The Sydney Club will be hosting the "Bling in the Rings" ladies spiel January 25th and 26th. It's open to all women curlers with or without club affiliation. If you are interested in either of these events you should contact the Sydney Curling Club for more information.

Marc and Nicole Kennedy Visit

On Saturday, December 21, Junior, Canadian, World, Grand Slam and Olympic champion curler, Marc Kennedy, along with his wife Nicole, paid a visit to the Schooner Club. They were in the area to visit family for the Holidays as Nicole is a native of Glace Bay. Marc started out by holding a curling clinic for the Schooner Junior curlers, covering things like shot preparation, delivery, release, sweeping and other finer points of the game. He spent over an hour on the ice with the kids while Nicole socialized with members and guests in the club room. After the clinic, Marc was very accommodating to everyone, taking pictures both on the ice and in the club room and signing autographs. A good crowd was on hand for the event. A huge thank you goes out to Marc and his wife for paying is a visit and being so open and friendly to everyone on hand. Follow Marc on the professional circuit as he plays mate for the Brad Jacobs rink. Photos from the event are posted on the Schooner Facebook page.

649 Fundraiser

In December, the Schooner Curling Club held a 649 fundraiser that was very successful and well supported. Total sales for the event were \$1725 which meant the jackpot would be \$712.50, even better than the 649 fundraiser from the previous year. Draws began and numbers were ticked off starting on Wednesday, December 4, and it wasn't long before we had a winner. Actually, we had three winners, after they all finished on the same draw, Saturday, December 14th, only the fourth draw since we had gotten underway. Our lucky winners were Gary Adshade, Alena Usher and Evelyn MacSween, each taking home one third of the total prize or \$237.50, a nice win just before the Holidays. All three of our winners entered into the final draw with only three numbers ticked off in their eventual winning entries and each had the final three numbers drawn for them on that draw to give them a win. Congratulations to you all and a big thank you goes out to everyone who participated in this fundraiser by buying and/or selling entries.

Snowball



The Schooner Snowball 50/50 continues at the club, running during all regularly scheduled curling events. There have been a couple of pretty large jackpots already this year so the next time you are at the club and the Snowball is running, drop your toonie in the box and sign your name. You don't want to miss out on a great prize.

The Snowball is open to full Schooner members only. You don't have to be in attendance when the draw is made but you do have to be at the club on the day of the draw and sign in yourself. You cannot sign in for the next draw ahead of time or have someone else sign you in. When Matinee curling is held on Fridays, participants can sign in then and be eligible for the Sunday draw. No draw is made on Friday. At the end of the day, once everyone who wishes to sign in has done so, a number will be drawn from the bucket. Each member has been assigned a number and, if the number of a member who is signed in for that draw comes out, they win the current Snowball jackpot. If it's the number of a member who is not signed in, the jackpot carries over and 'snowballs' into a bigger jackpot for next time. For Each \$2 entry, \$1 goes to the jackpot and \$1 goes to the club. This is an important fundraiser for the club and helps cover day to day expenses and keep costs to members down. Please support the club and play the Snowball the next time you are there.

Tuesday Tarbish and Social

The Schooner Club continues to host a weekly Tarabish game and Social every Tuesday evening starting at 7pm. Attendance for cards has been a little low over the last month or two and we are hoping it picks back up in the new year. The Tarabish game is single entry with partners rotating after each game and individual players accumulating wins and points throughout the night to determine winners. It's open to everyone, not just Schooner members, so come on out and join us any Tuesday.

Don't feel like playing cards? That's OK too. We have a social evening where you can just enjoy a beverage while taking in some of the curling action, catch up with friends or maybe play a game of shuffle curling on our custom table. Again, everyone is welcome so plan to join us and see how much fun the Schooner Club can be.

Schooner Facebook Members Group

The new private Facebook group for Schooner members only that was setup this year is getting lots of use by members, mainly to find spares to fill in for games they can't make. Club announcements focused toward the Schooner membership are also posted here. Any Schooner members who has a Facebook account and has yet to join the group is encouraged to do so. It's a great way to share information or questions more directly related to the club and its leagues.

General Meeting and Social

The Schooner Curling Club will be holding its mid-season general meeting on Saturday, January 4th starting at 7pm. While the meeting is normally just a formality and a reason to get together for a New Year's social, this year it takes on greater importance as the club has an opportunity to purchase some ice rink equipment and needs the feedback and support of the

More Club Improvements

membership before proceeding. If you want to learn more about the purchase and have your say, please attend the meeting. Members can also learn how the club is getting along so far this season and what's in store for the remainder. It's also a good opportunity for other concerns and issues to be brought forward so they can be dealt with during the season. The meeting is open to everyone.

Immediately following the meeting there will be a New Year's social. We'll ring in the New Year and kick off the remainder of the curling season at the club. Finger foods and other snacks will be served and everyone is welcome. Plan to join us.

The club has undergone a number of improvements over the last couple of seasons, some pretty major and some on a smaller scale and some of which have been focused on making the club run more efficiently, therefore saving us money. The installation of the LED lighting has paid big dividends for us and now that the loan to cover our portion of the cost from NS Power is almost paid off, we will see even greater savings on our bi-monthly power bill. Recently, a lesser step was taken with hopes of saving on heating oil with the purchase of a 'Smart' thermostat from Ecobee. The current thermostat in the clubhouse, while being programmable, is still limiting in what we can do with it and it is being used mainly in manual mode, being turned up when people are at the club and turned down when they leave. The problem being, if no one turns it down we are heating the club for nothing when it is empty. The Ecobee unit is much more programmable, allowing for multiple programs each day, and can be locked down so changes to temperature can't be done manually unless by someone authorized. It is also WIFI capable so someone can monitor the settings and make changes remotely from an internet connected smartphone or tablet. Given that, after a very generous Efficiency NS rebate at the retailer, the unit only cost the club \$89, the potential cost savings should pay for it very quickly and then we will be in money each month that we use our furnace for heat. The executive are also considering installing inexpensive motion sensing light switches in places such as washrooms so the lights will only be on when someone is in there and they are required to be on. Every little bit helps.

The club executive is also in the process of looking at ways to improve the club by using some of the money that came to us from last year's Scotties 50/50 draw. They are currently talking to our landlord, New Dawn Enterprises, to try and formalize an agreement before we decide to spend money on the building for structural repairs and improvements. Every step, whether large or small, to improve our facility and its efficiency makes the club stronger and better prepared for the future.

Happy New Year

As we enter 2020 and the remainder of the curling season, there is lots in store at the club for the coming months. League play will resume on Sunday, January 5th when the Don Cherry's Team Entry League will throw the first stones of a new decade. The club will be holding a members only Two on Two Spiel on January 10th and 11th, a Schooner Fun Night is

scheduled for January 18th and the Fundraising Spiel for Meals on Wheels will take place January 24th and 25th. February sees lots of curling with League play, the Women's Sweetheart Spiel, the Schooner Cash Spiel and another Fun Night, this time being held in conjunction with Curling Day in Canada on February 22nd. There's a couple of big parties planned for February as well with an Open Mic Night and wine and cheese on February 7th as part of the Sweetheart and a dance on Saturday, February 15th as part of the Cash Spiel weekend. March and April are also jammed full of great curling action and fun as well. Make sure you are part of it. To all Schooner members and friends, a very Happy New Year and we wish you all health, happiness, good curling and all the best of life in 2020 and beyond.

