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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 101

January , 2021

Schooner Fun Night	Saturday, January 16 (cancelled)
Stick Curling Fun Spiel	January 22-23 (cancelled)
Townhouse Fund Raising Spiel	January 29-30
Sweetheart Spiel	February 12-13
Schooner Fun Night	Saturday, February 27
Curling Day In Canada	Saturday, February 27
Doubles Spiel Team Entry	March 5-6
Schooner Cash Spiel	March 12-14
Schooner Fun Night	Saturday, March 20
Fun Doubles Spiel Single Entry	March 26-27

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

League Roundup



League play continues to be suspended due to government restriction on holding regular scheduled games. The initial announcement pushed the club's Christmas break from league activity from two weeks to three. An extension of those initial restrictions has cost another two weeks and it would appear that there is no end in sight and the government will still continue to impose a ban on league games for a while longer. Given that, the Schooner executive has decided to start to allow members to use their scheduled league time as practice. All members will be permitted to use the ice and times will follow your regular league schedule. Numbers of curlers practicing at one time are restricted and that is why we need to follow a set schedule. Members should note that, due to lost time over the last couple of weeks, league schedules have changed. Updated times are posted on the Schooner website and on the club's bulletin board. Please check to make sure you know when your times are. If you cannot make your scheduled time, please notify your skip so a replacement can be found and all times utilized to the fullest.

As we headed into the Holiday Break, things in the Old Triangle Men's League were close at the top. Gordie Cormier's rink went through the first round without a loss, defeating the previously undefeated Sid Murray rink in a close game on the final night before the break. Murray sits in third with one loss but also has two ties while second place Kevin Gouthro finished round one with one loss and one tie. Round two of the Men's League will get underway when restrictions are lifted.

In the Don Cherry's Team Entry League, a new look Gary Landry rink holds down top spot as of December with a blemish-free, undefeated record. Landry has moved Justin Humphrey to mate and added Samantha

Livingstone and Lynn Kelly on the front end and had been rewarded with six straight victories. Second spot is being held down by the Kevin Gouthro rink with a 5-1 record and sits two points behind Landry. The two teams have yet to meet head to head. Gouthro had success on Sunday last year after taking the helm of the Brian Laughlin rink but departed suddenly in the off season to join with mate Walter Nichols and front end Trevor Billard and Anthony Boudreau. Laughlin took back over the skip's duties and was reacquainted with former mate Lonnie Howe for this year's campaign. Laughlin sits in fourth place with two losses against three wins but has a game to make up which, with a victory, would pull him even with third place team the Richard Lorway rink. Lorway also reinvented his team this year and now competes alongside mate Cal Thistle and front end Barb Thistle and Alison Grapes. The Gordie Cormier rink, who also went through a few changes in the off-season, sit with two wins against two losses and have two games to make up. Cormier's four points equals that of a number of other teams in the league, some of which also have make-up game opportunities to lift them up in the standings.

When the Pepsi Mixed League finished up for the Holiday break it was Gary Landry who was sitting atop the first round standings with a 5-1 record and ten points. The Cal Thistle rink was close behind with eight points and there were a few teams six points, one of which is Sid Murray who has a makeup game in hand that could work in his favor.

Still a long road in all leagues and, with restriction extensions becoming the norm for now, we will have to see how things play out this season. Rest assured the club will be doing everything it can to get its members as much curling as possible.

Doubles League

With all the government restrictions that have affected league schedules and with the addition of members that will very likely expand the Pepsi Mixed league, the proposed doubles league has been shelved for this season. For those interested in playing doubles, the club has two upcoming spiels in March, one team-entry and one single-entry. Plan to take part in those and we will revisit the possibility of a doubles league next season.

Matinee Curling

Matinee Curling's restart after the Holiday break was delayed by the government restrictions just as all curling at the club was. With the permitting of practice time and pickup games and after some clarification, the club has decided a restart of regular Friday Matinee Curling would be allowed. Matinee Curling takes place most Friday afternoons from 1-3 pm, only being cancelled if there is a spiel or other weekend event going on. It's open to all Schooner members and no registration is required, simply drop in. It's a great way to get a little more out of your membership dollar so why not plan to take part.

Turkey Spiel



The Schooner Turkey Spiel, a Holiday tradition at the club, was held from December 3rd to 5th. A total of ten teams took part, all vying to win their Holiday turkeys. Play got underway on Thursday night when the first six teams saw action and continued on Friday when the final four played their first games. Saturday had all ten teams in action, each playing twice that day.

This year's winners were Team Brian Laughlin who started out with a big win in their first game Thursday night and never looked back, winning all three games they played and dropping only three ends total all weekend. Joining skip Brian in victory were Kelley Laughlin, Bill Moss and newcomer Bruce Deveaux. Second place was taken by Lonnie Howe and his foursome which, along with skip Lonnie, included George Plumridge, Janet Gallivan and Connie Howe. Both of the top teams won Holiday Turkeys. Third place was taken by Leo Fraser's rink and coming in fourth was skip John Donovan and his team. Skip Leo was joined by Eric MacLeod, Dave 'Dickie' Boudreau and Colleen MacLeod while skip John was aided by Cal and Barb Thistle and Yvonne Donovan. Both third and fourth place teams won chickens. The remaining teams didn't go home empty handed, all being treated to boxes of Holiday chocolates.

Overall, the spiel was a big success again this year and a wonderful lead in to the Holiday season. In the week or so leading up to the spiel and all during the event, the Schooner club also ran a food drive in support of the Kinsmen Club's Holiday efforts. A large amount of non-perishable food was collected at the club and then later distributed by the Kinsmen to those in need. Thanks to everyone who made a food donation, thank you to everyone who took part in the spiel, especially those from outside the Schooner membership ranks and a big thanks to everyone who helped out with planning and running the event. See you in December 2021 for the next Schooner Turkey Spiel.

Glance Bay Townhouse Fundraising Spiel

The Schooner Club is pleased to be hosting the second annual Glance Bay Townhouse Fundraising Spiel in aid of their Meals on Wheels program. We hope to build on the success of the inaugural event that was held at the club last January. This year's event is scheduled for the last weekend of January, being held on the 29th and 30th of the month. The two day spiel is open to everyone with an entry fee of \$25 per person or \$100 per team of four. A maximum of sixteen teams can take part with each team getting to play three, four end games. There will be food and prizes throughout the event, a silent auction, a 50/50 draw and more. Last year saw a number of teams sponsored by local businesses and organizations. If anyone wants to sponsor a team or if you know of a business who might be interested in a sponsorship, please let us know. For more information or to enter as an individual or team, contact Peter MacIntyre at 902-849-7935 or by email at peter.macintyre@gmail.com.

Along with team and individual entries, we are also looking for donations for the silent auction as well as cash donations to go towards the Meals on Wheels program and help provide hot, nutritious meals to seniors all year long.

Townhouse Glance Bay has over 50 years' experience serving the

Upcoming Spiels and Events

community, administering fourteen programs, supported by approximately 200 volunteers, for children, adults and seniors including a low cost nursery school, summer camps, pre-employment programs, a clothing depot, seniors contact, and meals on wheels. More information can be found on Townhouse's Facebook page.

So check out the Schooner website and Facebook page or contact Peter to register your team or make a donation to this worthwhile community cause. Let's work hard to make the second annual Meals On Wheels fun spiel a great success.

With government continuing restrictions on sports and regular gameplay, the Schooner spiel schedule has taken a hit with some spiels already being cancelled and some being rescheduled. Luckily enough, the Schooner Turkey Spiel went off as planned as, during that time, there were no restrictions in place on such events. We were forced to cancel a social that was scheduled for January, a Fun Night and a Fun Stick Curling Spiel. The Townhouse spiel, scheduled for the end of this month, is still on for now. In February we have our annual Women's Sweetheart Spiel, a major event for the club, scheduled for the 12th and 13th. The Schooner Cash Spiel, originally scheduled for February 5-7, has now been moved to March 12-14. March also sees a competitive team-entry doubles spiel on the 5th and 6th as well as a fun doubles spiel that will be single entry late in the month, running on March 26th and 27th. There are also Fun Nights scheduled in February in March. Fingers crossed that we will be able to run all of these great events. Check the Schooner website, the online calendar and at the club for a full list of all events, dates and details and plan to take part in as many as you can.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights were set to make their season debut in January with the first one being scheduled for Saturday, January 16. Unfortunately, the Provincial government decided to extend its ban on playing games and holding special events so it had to be cancelled. February will see the next scheduled Fun Night, set to go on the 27th in conjunction with Curling Day in Canada, while the final one of the season is scheduled for March 20th, our annual St. Paddy's day event. All are scheduled to begin at 7pm. As always, fun nights remain an important part of the Schooner schedule as they introduce many new people to the club and the sport of curling and, in some cases, gets them hooked so they want to become members. These are people that would likely not be exposed to curling otherwise. Everyone is encouraged to gather some family and friends and join us for one of our scheduled Fun Nights. Not only will you be bringing new people to the sport, it's also a great night out for not a lot of money. The cost is only \$7 per person (\$4 for Schooner members) and that buys you a night of curling and some pizza. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. Plan to join us on February 20 and March 20 for a great night out and see how much fun curling at the Schooner Club can be.

Snowball



The Snowball 50/50 has returned to the club once again this season. It is open to Schooner full members only and will run during all scheduled league play. 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.

Provincial 50/50



The Schooner Club is now part of a province-wide 50/50 draw that is run online through a service called Rafflebox. There are a number of clubs involved and when purchasing tickets you can specify the club you are wanting to support by choosing it from a drop-down list. The club administering the draws is the New Caledonian Curling Club of Pictou. Tickets can be purchased online at the Rafflebox website with draws running every week and ticket sales for a given week finishing on Monday evening at 10pm and a winner being picked on Tuesday morning at 9:30 am. Tickets for the following week go on sale later on Tuesdays. Ticket purchasers do not have to be associated with any club but do have to be a resident of Nova Scotia and nineteen years of age or older. The only form of payment accepted is a major credit card. Participating clubs get a percentage of sales that were tagged in support of them and the sales that do not have a club specified go into a general pool that will be distributed as well. There are no direct costs to any club to participate. Please help support the Schooner club and curling clubs in Nova Scotia by visiting the Rafflebox website and purchasing tickets. Make sure you select the Schooner Club before completing your purchase. Use this link below or visit the Schooner website to get there. Thanks for your support.

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/nccc/18>

Membership

The Schooner Club is currently offering a 'New Members Special' of \$99 to curl for the remainder of the season. New members are people who haven't previously been a member of the Schooner Club or have not held membership for at least the past three seasons. If you don't qualify for that deal you can still take advantage of our pro-rated membership rate so you only pay for the time remaining in the season. Still a great deal. We would like to welcome all the new and returning joining us this month and wish you all the best for the remainder of the season 'Good Curling'

Schooner Club Maintenance and Upgrades

The list is finally coming to an end with regard to club upgrades. The final work is now almost complete on getting some things done in the back room to bring us back up to fire code and most work has been completed in the clubroom with just a few finishing touches needed here and there.

The ice crew was working hard over the extended Holiday break and did a lot of work on the ice with a full flood and a lot of shaving. It's been a long road to get here but the club is in great shape and we have a great ice surface to curl on. Thank you to everyone who volunteered time and expertise as well as a big thank you to local business and organizations that donated items to help keep costs down. Congratulations to our current and former Schooner Executives for a job well done.

Dehumidifier

The club's new desiccant dehumidifier is now fully functional and working very well. The drop in outside temperature has also helped out. As thought, it was just a few tweaks and fixes that were needed to get the unit running at maximum capacity. The decision to buy a used unit was a bit risky but has certainly paid off for the club. With the purchase cost, installation and repairs, we still saved thousands of dollars over the cost of a new unit. We hope to get a number of good years out of this one.