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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 113

January , 2023

Monday, January 2	League play resumes
January 6 and 7	Doubles Spiel (2 on 2)
Saturday, January 28	Fun Night
February 10 and 11	Sweetheart Spiel
February 17-19	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 25	Fun Night
March 3-4	Townhouse Meals on Wheels Spiel
March 10 and 11	Doubles Spiel (2 on 2)
Saturday, March 18	Fun Night
March 23-25	Fun Spiel
April 20-22	John Boneparte Memorial Spiel

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

League Roundup



After a holiday break, league play resumed shortly into 2023 when the East Side Mario's Mixed league took to the ice on January 2nd. There is a change in the number of teams in the league after the departure of Cal and Barb Thistle to spend the remainder of the winter in Florida. The Thistle rink has been disbanded and eliminates the weekly bye that was part of the schedule thus far. Marnie MacDonald will join the Lynn Kelly rink and Lynn Kosik has decided to sit out the remainder of the round one schedule and spare as needed. There are only a few weeks left in the round one schedule that is set to wrap up January 23 and 24 and the second round is scheduled to get underway January 30. Teams will be shuffled for round two. Any makeup or tie breaker games that are necessary to decide a round one winner will be scheduled by the draw master and teams will be notified. The Firestop Enterprises Men's league is still in round one of its two round season with two weeks left before the schedule resets and teams start playing each other for the second time. Following round two the regular season winner will be crowned and the league will enter into a playoff round. There are still two teams in the league with three man rosters. The addition of Robbie Biron, playing lead with Keith MacEachern, and Brian Laughlin, who took over mate duties for the Wally MacDonald rink, filled in two three man rosters before the Holiday Break. The Gary Landry rink remains with three players and, with the loss of Cal Thistle, the Mel Windsor rink now also has three.

The Schooner Doubles league has lost a player in the new year as Lonnie Howe has gone the way of the Thistles and headed south for the rest of the winter. That leaves twenty six players in the league and still two each week with a bye. The league has proven to be very popular again this season

after being introduced to the club last year and will likely continue to be on the Schooner Schedule for years to come. Each week, curlers play with a different partner and wins and losses are recorded on an individual level. There are many participants that are still in the running for top spot and it won't be until the final weeks until we have a clearer picture on a potential winner.

The Boston Pizza Team Entry League will also continue play in round one after a Holiday break and will, as in the mixed league, see one less team on the docket. With the departure of Cal and barb Thistle and Lonnie Howe, their team will be taken from the league, bringing the total number of teams competing to ten and eliminating the bye that one team had each week.

All schedules are in the process of being updated online and, if they are not already complete, will be done by the end of the first week of January.

Matinee drop in curling is enjoying some good turn outs this year and will be continuing in January. Open to all Schooner members, it takes place on Friday afternoons from 1-3 PM and there is no pre-registration required, simply drop in when you can. Teams are made from those in attendance on any given day.

So here we go into 2023. There's lots of curling left in the season. Enjoy and Good Curling Everyone!

Drawmaster's Musings

Welcome back, Schooner curlers!

I hope you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to working off some of the holiday baking on the ice.

There have been some changes to the leagues as some of our members have flown south for the snow-shoveling season. We will try not to hold it against them too much.

Team Thistle is officially On The Beach, which impacts both the Mixed and Team Entry Leagues. On the plus side, removing a team from each league leaves us with an even number, so there will be no byes going forward.

Mixed is now a 12-team league, while Team Entry has 10.

The Mixed League has 4 more weeks of play in the first half. Prior to January 31st, the teams will be re-organized for the second half. If anyone wants to either join or remove themselves from Mixed, *please tell me now!* Setting up the league and schedule is a lot of work, and I would rather not do it twice (or three times) again. My email is schoonerdrawmaster@gmail.com

On a final note, I would ask players to keep the pace of play in mind during your game. If you are throwing the next rock, you are not expected to help organize the rocks after an end. Nor should you wait until your opponent's rock has stopped at the far end before entering the house to get ready.

Rather, your job is to prepare to throw - removing your gripper, selecting your rock, getting in the hack, etc.

Although it's the skips' job to manage the clock, everyone can help avoid unnecessary delays to play.

All the best in 2023, and we'll see you on the ice!

Richard

Turkey Spiel



With a full slate of sixteen teams, the 2022 edition of Schooner's Holiday Turkey Spiel was a great success. It got underway on Thursday, December 15th with the first eight teams seeing action. Play continued on Friday, December 16 and concluded on Saturday where the schedule spanned the whole day and saw all teams play two games. When the marathon of curling was done it was the Russell Fitzgerald rink that came out on top and took home the Holiday Turkey Spiel top prize. Skip Russell was joined by his daughter, Miranda Fitzgerald-Bullen at mate, Shane Langille second and lead Martin Campbell who stepped in for Paul MacDonald who was originally slotted into that spot on the team but had to drop out. Team Fitzgerald went a perfect 3-0 for the weekend. Following close behind in second place was the Keith MacEachern rink. MacEachern lost his first game of the event but came back strong in games two and three to vault into the runner-up position. Joining Keith was Lynn Kelly, Keith MacEachern and Bruce Devoe. Peter MacIntyre guided his rink into third place, also dropping game one but winning big in games two and three to make it to the podium. Bob Smith, Val MacIntyre and Angela Robinson were Peter's teammates. The fourth and fifth teams were actually tied with an equal point total but the Carrie Cress rink edged out the Walter Nichols rink on plus/minus. Skip Carrie was joined by Jenna MacNeil, Sean MacPherson and Adam Vassallo while Skip Nichols was aided by Benito Delorenzo, Britni Fernandes and Jessica Gould. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who took part, especially those who joined us that are outside of the Schooner membership ranks.

The weekend was more about fun and Holiday spirit than competition. For many in Cape Breton the Holidays are, in a big way, about food and on Saturday, everyone was treated to some delicious food that was part of a pot luck where people brought their favorite recipes for everyone to try. Everything was delicious and we thank all the home chefs for sharing with us. The Holidays are also about celebrating and partying with friends and we had that as well when, on Saturday night, DJ Jimmy rocked the club into the wee hours and a large crowd danced and partied the night away. It was a great way to end the weekend and send us into the Holidays with a smile. Unfortunately, there was one downside to the weekend when a problem was discovered with the ice and it appeared we had a leak in our cooling system. Luckily it didn't hamper play in thespiel but it did force the postponement of the final scheduled games in the Sunday Team Entry League. I big thank you goes out to all the ice crew volunteers who not only maintained the ice in tip top shape forspiel play but who quickly reacted to the issue once it was found and started to diagnose and repair it right away. We also want to send out a big thank you to Keltic Kubota for returning again this year as the sponsor to the event. Support from local businesses like this goes a long way in helping the financial situation at the club in these difficult times. We also want to thank thespiel committee and all the other volunteers who helped out with the event and made it such a great success and a great kick off to the Holiday season for all Schooner members and friends.

Ice Issues

As the Turkey Spiel was wrapping up on December 17, we started to notice we were having some issues with the ice and, upon further investigation by the ice crew, it was determined that we had a leak in our cooling system that runs through the plant and under the ice. Quite a bit of the glycol liquid that runs through the system to keep the ice frozen had leaked out and needed to be replaced so we could continue to cool the sheets and not lose the ice all together. On Saturday night, after curling had completed in the Turkey Spiel, the crew started to refill the system. At that point, the exact problem hadn't been pinpointed and that was the next step. Once the issue was found, the ice in that area needed to be chipped away to expose the sand and the pipes underneath. Once the location of the leak is determined and fixed, the sand in the area of the leak must be removed as it is now contaminated by the leaked glycol. Once that is done and it is determined that the leak is definitely fixed, the sand that was removed must be replaced and then the process of patching the ice back in can get underway. The new sand must be sprayed with water and frozen then more water can be added on top to build up the ice to the original levels. During this time, it is also painted. It is a long and labor intense task. Thank you to Brian, Benito, Stephen, Russell and to anyone else who helped out to get things fixed up and back up and running. Luckily for the club it happened during a planned down time and we only lost one day of curling, the final Sunday in Team Entry. While lucky for the club, not so good for the individuals tasked with fixing the issue as they had to give time up over the Holidays to make sure things were fixed up for our return to curling in January. We are very lucky at the Schooner Club to have so many skilled and dedicated volunteers. Again, we send out a huge thank you to you all for your work and for getting us fixed up as quickly as you did. We all need to thank them.

Doubles Spiel

There will be a Double Spiel (2 on 2) the first weekend after we return from our Holiday Break. Registration was started early, back in December, so there are a few people signed up already. The spiel is open to Schooner members and registration is \$25 per player, single entry. The format, draw or round robin, will be determined by the number of participants.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights are finally set to return to the Schooner club this month with the first of three events being held on Saturday, January 28th. Plan to join us and bring your family and friends to introduce them to the wonderful sport of curling and spend with them a great night out at the Schooner club. There are Fun Nights also scheduled for February 25th and March 18th, our special St. Paddy's day edition.

The fun gets going at 7pm and everyone (19+) is welcome. For only \$7 per person (\$4 for Schooner members) you get to curl, you get some delicious pizza and you may even win a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night out. We supply the equipment and instruction if necessary and you just need some clean, dry sneakers for the ice. Schooner Fun Nights make for a great family outing, a night with friends or a great way to have a work party so plan to join for a Schooner Fun Night and see how much fun curling can be at the Schooner Club.

Club Rentals

Everyone is reminded that the Schooner Curling Club is available to rent for your next social event. You can rent the ice for a night of curling or you can just rent the clubhouse for your next party. Rental fees are \$50 per hour per sheet with a \$100 minimum for the ice. That means you can, at minimum, rent one sheet for two hours or two sheets for one hour. You are, of course welcome to rent the ice for longer periods if you wish. Ice rental includes required equipment such as brooms and sliders, the use of the Clubroom and, if required, we will provide bar services. You can bring your own food and snacks. You can also choose to rent the Clubroom only for a flat rate of \$100 for an afternoon or an evening event. We will again provide bar service if required and you are free to supply your own food. We accept cash, debit, cheque (cleared prior to event) and e-transfer for rentals and cash and debit at the bar for drinks.

The Schooner club provides an intimate setting for birthday parties, wedding or baby showers, family get togethers or work outings for up to a maximum of 80 people. Children are welcome within times specified by Nova Scotia liquor licensing rules. If you require decorations, early access to the club can be granted on the day of the event or even up to a day prior to your event if our schedule allows. Contact the club by phone or by email or, for more info, check out our rental page (coming mid-January) on the Schooner website under the heading 'About the Club'. There will also be a printable rental agreement available on the site. We hope you pick the Schooner club to host your next party.

Tuesday Tarabish and Social



After a Holiday break, Schooner's weekly social and tarabish game are returning on January 3rd and will run each Tuesday for the remainder of the schedule and even into the summer months. We get started at 6:30 with cards getting underway at 7pm. Tarabish is single entry with partners rotating after each game and wins and points being recorded for individual players. If you don't want to play cards, we also offer darts, a game of Shuffle Curl on our custom table or you can just sit and relax, have a beverage from our bar, enjoy some snacks, catch up with some friends or watch some of the curling action in the East Side Mario's Mixed League. Plan to join us and help support the club.

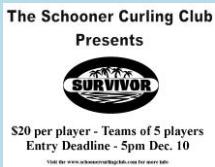
Snowball



The snowball is an in house fundraiser that is run during all regularly scheduled curling events and is open to Schooner members only. It costs \$2 to play each time, \$1 going to the club and \$1 going towards the jackpot. Each member is assigned a number based on alphabetical order on the membership roll. Each time the snowball is run, a number is drawn at the end of the night and, if the number corresponds with a member who has participated on that night, they win the accumulated jackpot. If the member is not signed in for the draw, the nightly sales are added to the jackpot for next time and the prize "Snowballs" into a bigger amount.

Draws are held on Mixed League nights, Monday and Tuesday, Doubles on Wednesday, Men's on Thursday and Team Entry on Sunday. While there is not a draw during Friday Matinee Curling, anyone in attendance can sign in and will be included in the Sunday draw. While you do not have to be in

attendance when the draw is made, you must personally sign in for each draw on the day of that draw, with the exception of Friday carrying into the Sunday draw. You cannot sign in ahead of time and you cannot have someone else sign you in on your behalf. All Schooner members are eligible to sign in for any draw. You do not have to be scheduled to curl in order to be eligible but, again, you must come to the club on the day of the draw and sign in personally. Prior to the Holiday break we saw jackpots going quite high with one hitting over \$300. The proceeds from these draws are very important to the club and we ask all members to participate whenever they can. You may be the winner of the next big jackpot.



In Late November and into December, the Schooner Club ran a Survivor Fundraiser that was organized and spearheaded by our Ways and Means Coordinator, Rose Gale. Each entry was \$20 and there were teams of five participants. Entries were sold by Schooner members, were available at the Pier Discount Store at 890 Victoria Road, and were also sold on different days at the Mayflower Mall by Schooner volunteers. Any Schooner members selling more than one team had their names entered into a draw for a free membership for the 2023-24 season, getting one entry for each team more than one that they sold.

Entries were cut off at 5pm on Saturday, December 10 and an equal number of names, one hundred and eight to be exact, were drawn each night over the three days of the Turkey Spiel, December 15-17. The draws were live streamed on Facebook. The last name that was left won the Survivor Jackpot, \$3250, to be split equally among all their team members. The final survivor also won a great bonus prize, a \$100 NSLC gift card donated by Schooner member Rose Gale.

After all the eliminations were done, it was Amanda Burton who won the jackpot for her team, the Sheetheads, and the \$100 NSLC card. Each member of the Sheetheads took home \$650. Joining Amanda in the win was Schooner member Val MacIntyre as well as Cheryl MacNeil, Mary Barker and Robert MacIntyre. Thank you for taking part and congratulations on your win. The Schooner member who took home the free membership was Jennifer Haigh. There were ten members that sold more than one full Survivor team and made it into the draw. Congratulations Jenn.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part, all the Schooner members who sold entries and to those who participated, many entering their curling teams as Survivor teams. Thank you the many volunteers who helped out with selling at the mall and the elimination draws, they were very exciting by the way, to the Coast 89.7 FM for promotion, to the Mayflower Mall and the Pier Discount Dollar store for assisting with sales and to many other local businesses that posted info and jackpot updates to promote the event. Last, but certainly most importantly, we want to thank Rose Gale for all her work in planning, organizing and running the fundraiser. Without her efforts we would not have had nearly the success we did. Rose was also the one who did the elimination draws on Facebook and, to top it all off, she even donated the \$100 NSLC gift card that was given a prize. We appreciate all you did

This was a major fundraiser for the club and was very successful. It will help

Christmas Auction

immensely during this difficult time with costs rising almost on a daily basis. Thank you again to everyone who took part and helped in any way. We at the Schooner Curling Club appreciate your support.

The Schooner Club held a “12 Days of Christmas” auction at the Club from Tuesday, December 6th until December 17th. Bidding was cut off at 5pm on Saturday, December 17th, the bids were tabulated and winners announced that evening. There were a lot of beautiful donated items up for grabs including Christmas decorations, Schooner wearables, a golf bag and much more. Many of the items were donated by Schooner members and we thank you all for your generosity. When all the bids were counted up the club raised a whopping \$1005. Thanks again to everyone who donated items, to all those who bid and bought said items and to everyone who helped in organizing and running the event, again, spearheaded by Ways and Means coordinator Rose Gale.

In conjunction with the auction, there was a members only door prize draw held on December 17 that was won by MacEachern.

In total, fundraising efforts at the Schooner Club over the month of December brought in a total of \$4505, a huge amount to help with expenses at the club. Without the hard work of volunteers and the participation of members this would not be possible. Thank you all.

Lots to come

Now that we have all made it through the first part of the curling season as well as the Holiday season, we will be getting into the meat of the curling year at the Schooner Club. League play will continue into April in all leagues and there are lots of special events to take part in as well. The club is hosting a members only doubles spiel in early January and Fun Nights make their first appearance on the Calendar in January as well. There are also Fun Nights scheduled for February and March. In February we will be holding our two premier events of the season starting with the Schooner Sweetheart women'sspiel followed closely by the Schooner Cash Spiel. Both are big events for the club with lots of great curling, lots of great food and lots and lots of great fun to be had. In March we will see the return of the Glace Bay Townhouse Meals on Wheels fundraiser. Gather your friends, family or co-workers to form a team in this fun spiel and support a great cause at the same time. We also have another doubles spiel and our special St. Paddy's Day Fun Night. We will finish off curling with our second annual John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel and then keep an eye out for the Closing Banquet and dance that's always a great time. DJ Jimmy will be making some appearances over the next few months so plan to join us for those parties. Keep an eye on the Schooner newsletter, the website and our Facebook page for info and details on all events as they become available. It's going to be a great few months for curling and fun at the Schooner. Plan to take part.