



In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



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Schooner Curling Club

61 Military Rd, Sydney, NS, B1N 3K6

Ph. 539-3992 Web. www.schoonercurlingclub.com email. schoonercurling@gmail.com



The Schooner Club's annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held on Friday, March 23. Dinners are \$7 each and are being made by Tommy Young of the Sydney Curling Club. Pickup is available at the Sydney Club or delivery will be provided for orders of five or more. Volunteers are needed for Thursday evening, March 22nd, for prepping the dinners and also on Friday morning for packing and delivery. Volunteer sign-up sheets are at the bar. This is the only major fundraiser held by the club each year and is very important to our financial well being. Money raised helps to pay monthly bills and to keep membership rates as low as possible. All members are encouraged to try and sell as many dinners as possible. Order sheets are available at the club.

Coors Fun Nights



Join us for the final Coors Fun Night of the 2011-2012 season Saturday, March 24th. February was cancelled due to a snowstorm but we are ready to hit the ice again in March. Lots of fun, food and prizes to be had for the low price of \$5 for non-members and \$2 for Schooner members.

Coors Open Fun Spiel



Mark the weekend of March 16th and 17th on your calendar and plan to take part in the Schooner Club's annual Coors Open Fun Spiel. This spiel will be single entry and open to both members for a \$20 entry fee and to the general public for a \$30 entry. Teams will be guaranteed three games with overall winners being decided by a point system and all prizes are donated by the Coors Light Brewing Company.

But the fun doesn't end on the ice for this spiel!!

Join us Saturday night, March 17th for a St. Paddy's Day blowout. When the curling is over the dancing begins with music provided by DJ Jimmy M all night long. The dance is open to everyone so plan to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Schooner and Get Your Irish On!



Club Calendar

March 16 th – 17 th	Coors Spiel
Saturday, March 17	Coors Spiel Dance
Saturday, March 24 th	Coors Fun Night
April 9-14	Closing Spiel
Wednesday, April 18 th	General Meeting
Saturday, April 28 th	Closing Banquet

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

Club Elections

Its election time at the Schooner Club. All executive and committee head positions are up for grabs regardless if the current position holder reoffers. Any position being contested for by two or more members will be voted on at the closing general meeting on April 18th. A sign-up sheet is now located in the club for anyone interested in offering for a position so throw your name on the ballot and give something back to our club.

Baddeck Curlers in for Exhibition Play

A group of curlers from the Baddeck Curling Club visited the Schooner on February 25th to play a pair of exhibition games as part of a home and home exchange between the two clubs. Curlers played two exhibition draws with a break in between for a light lunch. All who took part said it was very enjoyable and we hope it can be a tradition that will continue from year to year with Baddeck. Thanks to all who took part and thank you to John Donovan for spearheading the event.

Congratulations to Thomas Drover

Schooner member Thomas Drover has attained his Chartered Accountant designation. After a long process combining both study and work experience, Thomas recently passed the professions Uniform Evaluation or "UFE" and was awarded his designation at a ceremony in Halifax. Congratulations Thomas and all the best in your career from your friends at the Schooner Curling Club.

Closing Banquet



Make plans to attend the closing banquet on Saturday, April 28th. Things get rolling at 6pm with a cocktail hour and then dinner starting at 7:00. After the award presentations are made the party gets started with live music provided by husband and wife duo "Savanna" who are currently very hot on the local club scene. So join us and party the night away at the last big event of the season at the Schooner Club.

Sydney Team Wins Bronze at National Championships

CANADIAN COUNCIL
OF THE BLIND



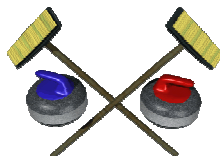
LE CONSEIL CANADIEN
DES AVEUGLES

a lack of sight is not a lack of vision

A team of visually impaired curlers from Sydney recently took third place at the AMI Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championships in Ottawa Ontario. This competition, sponsored by the Canadian Council of the Blind, is an annual event held in early February in conjunction with White Cane Week. The Louise Gillis Rink consists of skip Gillis, mate Christina Lewis, second Michelle Bartram, lead Joyce Wells and Sweeper Terry Lynn MacDonald. Coaches and guides are Ann Marie Baldwin and John Marusiak. The team only started curling together five years ago and no one on the team had any previous curling experience and no member had curled while sighted. This is not the case with the competition at the national event where many teams are made up of curlers with many years experience and many started curling when they were able to see and continued in the sport after losing their vision. The team curls out of the Sydney Curling Club and practices once each week and plays once a week. The only competition they have here are sighted curlers as there are no other visually impaired teams anywhere in the province.

The Schooner Curling Club sends along our congratulations to Louise, her team and their coaches on this major accomplishment. You have certainly done Cape Breton curling proud.

League Wrap-up



Playoffs got underway in two of three leagues at the club in February. The Mixed League and the Team Entry playoffs are underway and the Men's League is set to begin March 5th with league play having wrapped up late in February.

The final games in the Men's League were played on February 27th with first place on the line in a game between the Russell Fitzgerald Rink and the Cal Thistle Rink. Fitzgerald needed a win or a tie to edge out Thistle and solidify first place and was able to do it in an exciting come-from-behind fashion that saw Fitzgerald score two with the hammer in the seventh and steal the eighth end to erase a three point deficit and take the league title. Congratulations the Russell Fitzgerald rink with skip Russell, mate Billy Farr, second Keith MacEachern and lead Sid Murray. Congratulations are also extended to Omar Roach who was the skip of the team in the first half of the season before having to give way to Russell when he could not return due to work commitments. In other action that night, a win by the Gary Landry rink coupled with Thistle's loss earlier saw Landry squeeze into a second place finish and drop Thistle to third. Playoff schedules are now available at the club or online at our website. Players are asked to pay attention to changes in team numbers.

After three weeks of playoffs in the mixed league, standings as of February 27th shows a big turnaround in the Abbie Boudreau rink from the regular season as they sit atop the standings in Division 1 with five points. Boudreau and his squad struggled a bit in the regular season and finished down in the overall standings but have certainly come to play in the playoffs with two wins and dropping only one point of a possible six in a tie to league champs the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink.

The Bonnell rink shares second spot with the Greg Ferguson rink at 4 points each and then the Ray Arseneau rink is next with three points. A little more playoff surprise sees the Thomas Drover Rink and the Brian Laughlin rink struggling for victories after finishing in the top part of the standing during regular season. Drover has only one win against two losses and Laughlin has yet to enter the win column. Division two offers fewer surprises with the league's number two regular season team, the Kevin Bates rink, sporting an undefeated record so far with three wins and leads division 2 with six points. Second place is currently held by the John Bonaparte rink with 4 points, their only loss coming at the hands of the undefeated Bates squad. The remaining four rinks, Fitzgerald, Thistle, Donovan and Chiasson, all sit tied with two points each. While Bates looks strong, it's still anyone's guess who will come out of this division.

And there's even more surprises in the team entry playoffs. The League's first place winners the Ray Cameron Rink, who went undefeated in regular league play, and the league's second place finishers, the Brian Laughlin rink, are both struggling to win and sport losing records at 1-2. The Cameron rink still has a chance to come out of Division 1 as one of the top two teams if they can win their remaining two matches but the picture isn't very bright for team Laughlin as they have a bye this coming week and only have one game remaining, that being against another of the league's top teams, the Greg Ferguson rink, who have also struggled and are winless in two tries after sitting out their bye already. Division 2

sees two teams tied at the top, the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink and the Mike Gillis rink each have two wins and four points. Both teams have two games remaining as they have both sat out bye weeks already. Kevin Bates sits tied with Laughlin at two points with a win and two losses. Bates also has a bye to sit out. Division 1 sees the Gary Landry rink and the John Donovan rink at the top, tied with four points, but Landry has only played two games, winning both, as they had a game postponed due to weather. Donovan has two wins and one loss. The remaining teams, the Cameron rink, Bonaparte rink, Arseneau rink and Boudreau rink are all sitting with two points but Bonaparte, like Landry, has played one less game. The Bonaparte/Landry match up will be rescheduled if it will make a difference to the standings. This division could still see anyone come out in the top two and move on to play for the league championship.

There's still lots of curling left. For up-to-date results you can click on the "Results and Standings" link on any of the individual league pages on our website.

