

Schooner Curling Club  
 61 Military Rd.  
 Sydney NS B1N 3K6  
 (902) 539-3992  
 schoonercurlingclub.com  
 schoonercurling@gmail.com

# *In The Hack*

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 76

March, 2017

March 2-6	NS Traveler's Championships
Friday, March 3	Tirecraft Fun Night and Hit the Button
March 7-11	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 11	Dance with the band Full Circle
Saturday, March 18	Fun Night
March 24-26	Sydney Coors Light Mixed Spiel
April 2-8	Sydney Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 15	Fun Night
April 18-22	Schooner Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 22	Dance with DJ Jimmy
Sunday, April 23	Skating Party
Saturday, May 6	Closing Banquet (tentative)
Saturday, May 27	Sydney CC Ticket Draw and Dance

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

## League Roundup



The Pepsi Mixed League started its second season with re-formed teams in late January after Sid Murray had taken the first leg championship. Play up to February has Greg Ferguson leading by a thin margin of one point over three other teams, the Cal Thistle rink, the Rick Windsor rink and the Thomas Drover rink. Ferguson finished tied for second in season one, one point behind Murray for the title. Ferguson maintained first place over Rick Windsor after winning a head to head matchup in the final full week of February, handing Windsor his first loss in season two. Thistle and Drover have yet to play Ferguson. Close behind the leaders, sitting one point behind the three tied for second, is the Gordie Cormier rink. With roughly only half the schedule played, there's still lots of time for other rinks to make a move on the leaders and it's way too early to pick a winner in this league. The move to a split season and remaking teams in the mixed seems to be a popular one with most curlers favoring it over the old regular season with playoff structure. While it's not for certain, it is something that will definitely be looked at repeating for next year.

The Men's League, sponsored by the Old Triangle English Ale House, wrapped up its regular season in late February with the Brian Laughlin rink coming out in first place. The Laughlin rink and the Omar Roach rink were fighting it out all season and leap-frogging each other for top spot but Laughlin put himself in the driver's seat when he won a head to head matchup against Roach in late January. Roach fell further behind with a loss to Gordie Cormier in February while Laughlin continued to win. A win on the final night of the season solidified victory for Laughlin and made Roach's

final game against the Wayne Bull Bonnell rink irrelevant. Roach took second and Bonnell finished third. A team to watch in the playoff in the Men's will be the Gordie Cormier rink. After dropping his first five games and finishing down in the standings after round one, Cormier got hot and won seven in a row to vault himself up the standings to finish fourth. Only a final night loss by Cormier and a win by Bonnell kept Cormier from finishing in third place. The Men's league will start playoffs in early March and will play a round robin in two divisions. Teams in each division were decided based on how they finished the regular season. Once that is done, the top two finishers in each division will play another round robin to decide a playoff champ.

There is only one week left in the Don Cherry's Team Entry League regular season and an overall winner is still up in the air. The final Sunday will see an abbreviated schedule of only three games. Two teams still have a shot at the regular season title, the Gordie Cormier rink and the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink. Cormier sits two points behind Bonnell but has a makeup game in hand. That game is against the always tough Martin Campbell rink. Campbell's rink spoiled Bonnell's bid to clinch the title in the last game of February, although skip Martin Campbell and Russell Fitzgerald were both missing and had their places taken by Gordie Cormier and Stephen Leslie, a move that was within the rules but has since been seen as somewhat controversial. Cormier's rink then went on to beat the Keith MacEachern rink later that same day to keep their title hopes alive. Cormier has to win his final game against the Omar Roach rink, another tough opponent, to bring the make-up game into play. If he does, even if Bonnell wins on the final Sunday as well, Cormier will be able to tie Bonnell and have tie break rules come into play. If Bonnell loses, Cormier will have an opportunity to take the league title with a win over Campbell in the makeup. This all goes out the window if Cormier loses however. If he does lose he needs Bonnell to lose to keep a tie possibility in place. Check the Schooner website for updates. Either way, the Team Entry league will begin playoffs in March. Again, watch the website for updates and for a playoff schedule.

The Schooner Junior Program continues to play on Saturdays at the club. The next big event for the Schooner Junior's is the Sydco Fuels Bonspiel being held at the Sydney Curling Club in March. This will be the second event to take the juniors out of club as they took part in a spiel held in the Baddeck Curling Club earlier this year. Best of luck to our Junior Curlers and *GO Schooner!!*

While technically not a league, all Schooner members are reminded that they can take part in Matinee Curling that is held every Friday afternoon from 1-3 pm. This is a drop in event and teams and format are decided based on who is in attendance. Members are also reminded to keep an eye out for casual 2 on 2 events that will be scheduled if time allows. Watch the club's bulletin board or check the website for dates as they become available.

## Fun Night

As in January, the February Fun Night was very well attended, this time with about 50 or more people there to enjoy curling and pizza and have a good time. Along with bringing new faces into the club and introducing them to the sport of curling, the club benefits financially through the registration fees and bar sales. Bar sales were very good on this particular night with well over \$1000 being taken in revenue. The Fun Nights are open to everyone nineteen years of age and older and are a great deal. For only a few bucks you can curl, eat delicious pizza and yes, still have a chance at winning a prize. Fun nights so far this season have been very well attended and we hope to continue the trend through March. Get some friends from work, family, whoever and plan to join us on March 18 for a great night of fun and curling at the Schooner.

And as a special bonus, there will be an additional Fun Night in March. It will be held on Friday, March 3rd and will be FREE to attend. It is sponsored by Tirecraft as part of the celebration for Nadine Neima-Drover who was one of four winners in Tirecraft's national 'Hit the Button Sweepstakes'. As part of this Fun Night we will be holding our own Hit the Button contest. It will cost \$10 to enter and you have a chance to win great prizes. All proceeds are going to charity. So plan to join us for this special event, help us congratulate Nadine on her big win and also help raise some money for charity. It's sure to be a great night.

## Sweetheart Spiel



We were holding our breath in mid February as the Sweetheart Spiel, scheduled for February 10 and 11, was once again being threatened by mother nature as a storm was forecast to hit Cape Breton the night before the event was to get underway. While the snow and high winds would probably be done by the time the first rocks were to be thrown in the spiel, the threat of a power outage was looming. Luckily, the storm blew through and there was no power issues so we were able to run the Sweetheart Spiel with no interruptions or delays.

Day one saw all eight teams take to the ice in draws at 7pm and 9pm. Schooner's Yvonne Donovan took the early lead when she won big and captured thirteen of the available fifteen points in her first match. Close behind Donovan were two teams from the Baddeck Curling Club, Barbie Cook and Theresa Buchanan, who were able to amass eleven points each in their opening games. Lynn Kelly of Schooner lost her first game but ended up with eight points when she was able to win more ends than her opponent, Joanne Hunston of Sydney. On Friday, all curlers and guests of the club were treated to a wine and cheese social. The wine was compliments of Schooner members Martin Campbell and Russell Fitzgerald while the club provided some of the food and some was brought in by other members. Bernadette Cormier brought punch for those who wanted to go the non-alcoholic route. As always, it was very popular and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Play got underway early on Saturday with the first draw being held at 10:00 am. Luckily, the weather was cooperating so there was no issues with getting the games played. The coffee maker was busy and in true Cape Breton fashion, the Baileys wasn't far away. Early leader, Yvonne Donovan, won her second game when she defeated the Amy MacPherson rink in a

close game that saw both teams split the ends. Donovan got nine points for a total of twenty two after two games. The Theresa Buchanan rink also continued to win and collected another eleven points in their second game of the spiel which now put them in a tie with Donovan. The two leaders would face each other head on in their final game of the event in what could very well determine the overall winner. Buchanan was looking for a first place finish after coming in second the previous year despite winning all three of her games. Barbie Cook lost her second game to Schooner's Mary Foley rink, dropping her back to a seventeen point total and Joanne Hunston won but again didn't get many ends, scoring nine points for a total of sixteen, still keeping her in the running for the overall title.

Each team was to play two games on Saturday so to keep energy levels high there was soup and sandwiches provided for lunch. The soup was compliment of John Donovan and the sandwiches and other food were provided by the club. There was also some cheese, cold cuts and dip for the curlers enjoy.

Going into the final draws of the day there were still four teams that had a chance at the title. The Donovan and Buchanan rinks were tied with twenty two points and would face each at 2:00 pm, the second to last draw. The other two rinks with a chance would also face each other, this time in the final draw at 4:00 pm. The Barbie Cook rink stood with seventeen points and the Joanne Hunston rink had sixteen. Both would have to win big and hope the two leaders would split the ends if they were to have a chance. While Cook was able to do her part and win her game and get all but two of the available points, Buchanan was also able to get a big point total in her game against Donovan and to take the championship. Cook ended up in second place and Donovan dropped to third. It was a one/two finish for Baddeck. Fourth place was won by Schooner's Cheryl MacKinnon and fifth was taken by the 2016 Sweetheart champ Amy MacPherson. Both MacKinnon and MacPherson had rough starts to the spiel, dropping their first two games, but both rebounded in game three and won big to vault them up the standings.

Joining Skip Theresa Buchanan in the victory was Ann Marie Baldwin, Wendy Breyfogle and Jennifer Anderson. Skip cook was aided in her second place finish by Gretchen Landry, Heather MacIntosh and Anne MacRae. Schooner Skip Yvonne Donovan was joined by Janet Gallivan, Bev Young and Lisa Gentile. Rounding out the top five, Cheryl MacKinnon was joined by Kathy Gale, Eileen Bonnell and Rachel Baker while Amy MacPherson had Andrea Cullen, Emma Nicherson and Erica Gillis.

After curling was done, curlers and guests were all treated to a delicious turkey dinner that was provided by Tommy Young and funded by the Schooner men. Tommy did a great job as always and even provided a custom made Sweetheart cake for dessert. Prize presentations followed dinner.

Overall, another great Sweetheart Spiel and a great weekend at the club. Thank you to everyone who took part, especially those who joined us from other clubs, to Martin and Russell for provided the wine, to Bernadette Cormier for her great punch and to everyone else who brought food on Friday night. Thank you to John Donovan for his delicious soup on Saturday for lunch, to Tommy Young for a great dinner, to spiel sponsor Compu-

Clone Computer Solutions, to the ice crew for great curling conditions, to the bartenders, the house keeping crew and to everyone else who helped out in any way. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Lynn Kelly for once again working very hard to organize and run the Sweetheart Spiel. We hope to see you all back next year. Some photos from the event are now online and can be accessed through the Schooner Website or through Facebook.



The Schooner Open Cash Spiel was held at the club from February 24-26 with a total of 12 teams taking part in what is traditionally the premier event of the season at the club. This year saw an even mix of teams from within and from outside the club with one team coming from the Strait Area Community Curling Club in Port Hawkesbury.

Play got underway Friday night with the 6pm draw that saw two Sydney rinks face off on one sheet and two Schooner rinks on the other. Garth Nathanson was facing Bubs Stone and Thomas Drover was playing the Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod rink. The Drover and Nathanson rinks were victorious in the opening draw and would move on in the 'A' division while the losers would drop into the 'B' Division moving forward. The eight o'clock draw saw the Sebastien LeFort rink, a junior team from Sydney, defeat the Donald MacCuspik rink from Port Hawkesbury in a close game and in another battle of two Sydney Curling Club teams, Kurt Roach defeated Kenny Kehoe. The final draw of the night at ten o'clock was an all Schooner affair with Gordie Cormier taking on Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell and Wally MacDonald was facing John Donovan. Cormier and MacDonald were winners and would face each other in an 'A' match that would send the winner to the championship game due to a favorable draw that these two teams had gotten. The other teams remaining in the 'A' division would have to win two more games to get to the finals. Donovan and Bonnell would meet each other in the 'B' division the following day.

Saturday play got underway at 9 am with play in the 'A' division that saw the winners from the first two draws on Friday go head to head. To fuel the curlers early in the day, the Club provided coffee and muffins from Tim Horton's along with fresh fruit and juice. Schooner's Thomas Drover was taking on Sydney's Garth Nathanson in one game while Sebastien LeFort met up with fellow Sydney rink Kurt Roach. The Drover rink continued their strong play from Friday and was able to get a lead that they never relinquished, defeating Nathanson to move on to play for a chance to get into the 'A' final. LeFort jumped out to an early lead in his game against Roach and it looked like a possible blowout but Roach was able to fight back and make the game close. In the end, LeFort was able to squeak out the victory and move on to play Drover later that day for his chance at the 'A' championship game.

Play continued at 11:15 Saturday with the first games in the 'B' Division that had Bubs Stone playing Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Donald MacCuspik taking on Kenny Kehoe. The 1:30 draw was also a 'B' Division match that saw Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell take on a fellow Schooner team the John Donovan rink and two Sydney rinks, Garth Nathanson and Kurt Roach, do battle. MacLeod, MacCuspik, Donovan and Roach were all winners and moved on for a chance to play their way into the 'B' final while the losers

were still alive and would play in the 'C' bracket from here on out. The next game for all eight of these teams was do or die since if they lost they would be eliminated. Only winners would advance to further play.

As Saturday afternoon rolled around the curlers and guests were treated to some delicious turkey soup that was made by Frank Kokocki. A big thank you goes out to Frank. The 3:45 draw saw us return to play in the 'A' division where three Schooner teams were still alive. These were the semi-final games in the top division and winners would play in the championship game on Sunday while losers would still have a chance to play in the 'C' division. Sydney's Sebastien LeFort was taking on Schooner's Thomas Drover and Schooner rinks Wally MacDonald and Gordie Cormier were playing in the other semi. Drover had a strong game but wasn't able to pull off a victory against Lefort, needing two to tie in the final end that he wasn't able to muster. MacDonald looked to be in control in his game against Cormier, leading as they headed into the later ends. Cormier was able to come back to tie going into the eighth and final end but MacDonald held that all important hammer coming home. There were a few rocks in play as we started with skip stones. Cormier tried a draw around a guard on his first but MacDonald picked it clean with a great takeout. Cormier had one more chance but again left his draw partially exposed for MacDonald who just needed to get rid of it to win since he had other rocks already counting in the house that would give him the victory if he got rid of Cormier's stone. MacDonald was a bit tight on his second shot and while his sweepers tried their best to hold the line for him, they were unsuccessful and MacDonald's stone ticked a rock in front of the house, allowing Cormier to steal the point and the game and move on to the 'A' division championship against the Lefort rink. MacDonald, along with Drover, would move to the 'C' division semi final games on Sunday morning. The 6 pm draw saw the first play in the 'C' division with Garth Nathanson taking on Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell and Bubs Stone was playing Ken Kehoe. Winners would advance to the 'C' semi finals on Sunday morning to play either Wally MacDonald or Thomas Drover while losers would see their spiel come to an end. It was Bonnell and Stone who were successful and moved on to play Sunday. The final game of the night was the 8:15 draw that would determine the 'B' division finalists. It was Donald MacCuspig taking on Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Kurt Roach was playing against John Donovan. Both games started out close but MacCuspig and Roach were both able to pull away from their opponents in the later ends and claim victory and a spot in the 'B' final on Sunday. Along with some great curling action, Saturday afternoon also saw all curlers and guests treated to a wonderful buffet that was catered by Tommy Young. Tommy did a great job, providing a wide variety of delicious food to choose from that included sandwiches, chicken, rice, meatballs, chili and more. No one was left hungry and there was even some left to feed everyone on Sunday. After curling was done on Saturday, DJ Jimmy took over to provide the entertainment for everyone at the Cash Spiel Dance. Jimmy kept the dance floor full of the approximate 30 people that stayed around and partied the night away.

Play got underway on Sunday at 10 am with the 'C' Division semi-final games. Wally MacDonald defeated fellow Schooner rink Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell in a shortened game and Thomas Drover dropped his game to

Bubs Stone when he missed wide for a take-out on his final shot that could have given him victory. That setup the 'C' Final for later that day where MacDonald would play Stone for that division's title.

Next on tap for Sunday was the 'B' division championship that saw Donald MacCuspig of Port Hawkesbury take on Kurt Roach out of Sydney. It was a well played game that went the distance before Roach emerged with the win, taking the 'B' title and the \$400 prize. MacCuspig took home \$300 in the runner up spot. That capped off a pretty successful weekend for the MacCuspig rink who not only took home the 'B' consolation prize but also were the winners of the bar tab draw and the even split held on Saturday where they won over \$100. Congratulations to Roach and his rink who, along with Skip Roach, was made up of Mark MacNamara at mate, Travis Stone as second and lead Robin Nathanson. Donald MacCuspig was joined by Blaise MacEachern at mate, Mike McNamara at second and Doug MacNeil at lead.

The main event for the weekend, the 'A' championship was scheduled for 2pm on Sunday. The 'C' division final was also scheduled for that time. That game saw Wally MacDonald take on Bubs Stone. MacDonald controlled the game throughout, getting out to an early lead and not looking back, and took the 'C' division championship and the \$300 prize. Stone got \$200 in the runner-up spot. The 'A' division game was an entertaining one that saw the young Lefort rink get out to an early lead when they scored three in the second end after Cormier had taken a single in one. Cormier came back with another single in the third and stole one in the fourth to tie the game at three. LeFort scored a second three ender in the fifth and then stole one in six to make it appear like he had the game in hand but Cormier came back with three of his own in seven and was down by only one coming home without hammer. In the eighth end Cormier was lying shot early on but a runback takeout by the Lefort rink gave them the advantage heading into skip stones. Cormier's only hope was to draw around and try to out-count his opponent's stone. On his first attempt he over curled and hit a stone out front. After Lefort tried but failed to block the draw path, Cormier was given a second chance. This stone was much better, going around the front guards and making its way into the house. If it stopped in time it would be shot rock and buried under cover, giving Cormier a good chance at a tie and forcing an extra end. But it wasn't to be for Cormier as he was just a little bit heavy and slid inches to far. LeFort remained shot rock and solidified the win without having to throw his last stone. LeFort won the 'A' championship in the Schooner Cash Spiel for the second year in a row, taking home the \$560 prize while Cormier's rink got \$400 in the runner-up position. Skip Sebastien LeFort was joined by Nicholas MacKenzie, Reece Couture and his father and coach Yvon LeFort who played lead in this spiel. Cormier's rink, along with skip Gordie, was made up of Stephen Leslie, Rob Agnew, Mel Windsor and 5th Bill Farr who played on Sunday in place of Agnew when he had to leave for work. The 'C' champions were Wally MacDonald, Gary Landry, Rick Billard and Anthony Boudreau while Bubs Stone was joined by Bill Stone, Todd Mercer and Dan Tobin in the consolation spot. Overall it was a great weekend at the club with lots of great curling and lots of fun had by all. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who took part, especially to the teams who came from outside the club. Also a big thanks

to Stephen Leslie, bonspiel coordinator, for organizing and running the event and to Brian Laughlin for helping him with the scheduling. Thanks to Brian again and to his ice crew for great playing conditions all weekend, even when the weather really warmed up on Saturday and Sunday. Thank you to our housekeeping committee for keeping the club clean and tidy all through the event, to Frank for making his delicious soup, to Lynn Kelly for helping coordinate things all weekend, to Bernadette Cormier for the fantastic squares and cookies, to Kathy Gale and Georgette Sparkes for handling bar duties, to Tommy Young for the great meal and for coming back on Sunday to feed everyone with hot dogs and leftovers from Saturday, to DJ Jimmy for a great party on Saturday night and finally to everyone else who helped out in any way to make this spiel as great as it was. We hope to see everyone back next year for the 2018 edition of the Schooner Open Cash Spiel.



## Fundraiser

The current Chase the Ace fundraiser is going very well, due mostly to the week-long ticket sales as opposed to just selling tickets on the night of the draw. We have currently done four draws with the jackpot for the last draw on February 28th being \$1286. The estimates jackpot for the draw on March 7 will be over \$1400. The weekly prizes have also been very good, ranging from the \$120-140 range.

The main difference between this Chase the Ace and ones we have run in the past is that we are now using a fillable stub ticket that we sell all week long as opposed to just selling a numbered ticket on the night of the draw. Anyone wishing to participate can buy tickets anytime the club is open or from any member at any time. This format has shown a dramatic increase in sales. Winners also are no longer required to be present at the draw to win. If your name is drawn as the weekly winner and you are not in attendance, a phone call is made to you. You can decide to make your way to the club within half an hour to draw your own card or you can simply have a proxy at the club draw on your behalf. If the winner does not answer the phone call, the proxy is used to draw the card. We are also only using one color ticket. This was a cost saving measure as multiple colors of tickets was quite expensive. Sales end at 8 pm every Tuesday night and the draw is made at 8:15. Once the draw is made for any given week, tickets can then go on sale for the following week.

This is a very important source of revenue for the club and allows us to do some extra things we may not have a budget for and also to have money in hand for unexpected expenses. All members are encouraged to buy tickets and also to sell as many as possible so we can maximize the benefit to the club. Thank you to everyone who takes part. We really do appreciate your support.

## Blind Curlers Win Bronze at National Event

A team from Sydney once again competed as Team Nova Scotia at the 13th Annual AMI Canadian Vision Impaired Championship held in Ottawa from February 5-11 at the Ottawa Curling Club. AMI (Accessible Media Inc.) became the title sponsor of the annual event several years ago and provides significant media coverage every year. Team Nova Scotia, skipped

by Louise Gillis, also included third Chris Lewis, second/sweeper Terry Lynn MacDonald, lead Joyce Wells and second/sweeper Mike Vrooman. The team also included coaches/guides John Marusiak and Sidney Francis. Along with being skip of her team, Gillis is also the current president of the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB). In a pre-event interview, Gillis said the event is all about showing ability, not disability and to level the playing field for everyone. She also commented on the social aspects of such an event. Teams joining Nova Scotia came from across Canada and included BC, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Alberta and Team Canada.

Gillis and her Nova Scotia rink started the week with two wins against Ontario and eventual gold medalists British Columbia and finished the week with a three and three record after a win against Manitoba was mixed in with losses to Saskatchewan, Alberta and Team Canada. That was good enough to get them to a tie break game against Ontario, a team they had already beaten earlier in the week. Nova Scotia beat the Ontario team in a close game to put them into a semi-final match against Alberta to see who would play for gold against the rink from BC, another team Nova Scotia has success against earlier in the event. Unfortunately Gillis and her team fell to Alberta and had to settle for a third place Bronze finish. Another great showing for Nova Scotia at this very competitive national event. To honor the success of Team Nova Scotia, a celebration was held at the Sydney Curling Club on February 15. Congratulations to Louise and her team for their success and for representing the province proudly.

## **Fun Spiel and Dance with Full Circle**

There will be a fun spiel held early in March from the 7-11. This spiel is open to everyone and is single entry for a cost of \$20 per player. You get to choose to play in the Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday or the Wednesday/Friday/Saturday division. Everyone will get three games and there will be food provided to everyone on Saturday. The Fun Spiel is sponsored by Daniel's Pub and the Bonnie Prince Beverage room. Sign-up sheets are now available for everyone to register.

To close out the Daniel's pub/Bonnie Prince Fun Spiel this year there will be a dance on Saturday night after curling is complete. Live Entertainment will be provided by the popular local band Full Circle. Full Circle is a five piece multi-genre band from Cape Breton covering rock and country hits from the past and today. There is no cover charge for the dance and it's open to all members and guests nineteen years of age and over.

## **Taste Of Winter Curling Lessons**

As part of the CBRM "Taste of Winter" Festival the municipality, in partnership with the Schooner Curling Club, hosted a free Learn to Curl night at the club on Tuesday, February 21. The lessons were open to anyone nineteen years of age and over and were taught by our resident club coaches Nadine Neima-Drover and Thomas Drover. There were nineteen people who showed up for the first learn to curl event on the 21st. The CBRM coordinator said he would like to do another but wasn't sure it was in his budget. Given the success of the first Learn to Curl, it was quickly decided that the club would provide the ice for the second event at no charge to the municipality. There was so much interest in the second Learn

to Curl that it was decided that the one mixed league game that was scheduled that night would be moved to another Tuesday in order to provide two sheets of ice for the Learn to Curl participants. As it turns out, there wasn't a very large crowd that attended but, no matter, the people there had lots of fun and were very interested in curling and in the club in general and that's what really counts.

Events such as these are great for the club in a number of ways. First, we get free publicity compliments of the CBRM advertising, we get new people interested in the sport of curling and introduced to the Schooner Club and our upcoming events such as fun spiels and these events have traditionally been pretty good for bar sales.

It was a great night to have the free lessons as the club is normally bustling with activity on Tuesday night with curling, Chase the Ace and tarbish all going on that evening.

## Congratulations Nadine



For those of you who don't already know, Schooner member Nadine Neima-Drover was chosen as one of four national winners in the Tirecraft Hit the Button Sweepstakes. Nadine said she didn't enter the contest until the final day. Nadine now gets a trip for two to Toronto with airfare, accommodations and spending money, where she will then have a chance to throw one stone to the button to win as much as \$100,000. Prior to throwing the stone, each of the four participants will draw a card to see how much their prize can be. Any or all of the participants can win the prize amounts that they draw. As part of Nadine's win, the Schooner Curling Club will receive \$2500 from Tirecraft just for being Nadine's affiliate club, regardless of how she does in Toronto. Thanks for entering Nadine and the best of luck from all of us at the Schooner Club. We're rooting for you.

## Sydney Curling Club Coors Mixed Spring Spiel

The Sydney Curling Club will be holding their annual spring spiel, formerly called the Moosehead, on March 24-26. The Coors Light Brewing Company has returned as the sponsor again this year and will likely supply most of the prizes for the event as they did last year. Entry fee to take part in the event is \$160 per team and that will get you curling, lunch and dinner on Saturday and snacks available all weekend. You're always well looked after. There is also a dance on Saturday night with music by DJ.

The Schooner Club will be sending a number of teams to compete at the event. The Schooner rinks had some success last year with five of six rinks taking part making it to the Sunday playoffs culminating in the Stephen Leslie rink winning the 'D' division and the Thomas Drover rink finishing runner up in that same division. Best of luck to all Schooner teams taking part. Watch the Club's website or next month's newsletter for results of how all the teams fared out. Hopefully we will see even more success this year. **GO SCHOONER!!**

## **New Bar Fridge**

Most everyone has noticed the bright, shiny new bar fridge that is now doing duty behind the Schooner bar. A few weeks ago we had some trouble with the old fridge and were told that we needed a new thermostat that would cost a couple of hundred dollars. This wasn't the first repair we have had to make to this old fridge and it seems like we are having trouble with it and spending money on it every season. Couple that with the fact that the bar is the main source of revenue for the club and without a fridge we are essentially out of business, it was decided we should get a new one. Since an expense of this amount needs to be approved by a vote of the general membership, an email was sent out to ask members to say yea or nay to this expenditure. There was also a show of hands taken one day when approximately twenty five to thirty members were present at the club. Through these means the expenditure was approved and the new fridge was purchased from J.R. Mahoney's for an approximate cost of \$2700 including tax and delivery. The timing of the purchase couldn't have been better as we had just found out that we had come into an extra \$2500 from the Tirecraft Hit the Button Sweepstakes thanks to Nadine Neima-Drover being picked as one of the winners. The new fridge will be under warranty for some time so we no longer have to worry about unexpected repair costs.

## **Club Executive and Elections**

Everyone is reminded that, as we approach the end of the season, we also approach the time when we pick a new club executive and committee heads. While we hope most current members will re-offer, anyone interested in any position is encouraged to make that known. Sign up will be offered once the end of the season gets closer. If two or more people offer for the same position, an election will be held at the end of season general meeting.

Gordie Cormier, current club president, has already made it known that, after three years as president of the club, he may be looking to step down. Gordie has done a great job as president and we hope that he has a change of heart but, if he doesn't, we will need someone to fill that position. Other members of the executive and some committee heads have also held their positions for a long time and may be looking for a break if someone else was willing to step up. The executive and committees have all done an excellent job over the years and that is evident by how well the club is running and the strong position that it is in. Any member who has some free time to give is asked to consider joining the team that helps make the Schooner Club the great place that it is. Watch the club bulletin board and the website for more info.

## **Tuesday Tarbish**

Tuesday nights are rather busy at the club this season with league curling, Chase the Ace and also our regular tarbish game that has been run on Tuesday evening for quite a while now. Anyone can come and play, members or guests and no pre-registration is required. We currently have a good mix of members and non-members who take part each week. It's a great way to expand the use of our club and bring some new faces through the door. The card game gets going around 7pm. The games will continue all year, even after the curling season is done.

