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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 83

March 2018

Saturday, March 2-3	Fun Spiel (Cancelled)
Saturday, March 3	Dance with DJ Jimmy
March 8-11	Traveler's Championship (Sydney CC)
Thursday, March 15	Junior Learn to Curl
Saturday, March 17	St. Paddy's Day Fun Night
March 23-25	Sydney Spring Spiel (Sydney CC)
Saturday, March 31	Junior Program Easter Party
April 6-7	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, April 14	Junior Program Closing Party
April 24-28	Schooner Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 29	Skating Party
Saturday, May 12	Schooner Closing Banquet

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

League Play



The Pepsi Mixed League started its second season in February and all teams were shuffled. A first round winner is yet to be crowned as there were a few makeup games to be played before first place could be decided. The Thomas Drover rink sits in the driver's seat to take first place but there are still a couple of other teams with a chance to overtake him if he can't win his make-ups. The second season is still pretty new so it's too early to really see anyone distancing themselves from the pack. Gordie Cormier and Keith MacEachern both won their first two games but there's still a long way to go. In the Don Cherry's Sunday Team Entry, a regular season champ has been crowned. The Gordie Cormier rink have taken top honors for the regular schedule. They were neck and neck with the Brian Laughlin, Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Omar Roach rinks most of the season but a few untimely losses by those rinks and Cormier's ability to continue to win gave him the title. MacLeod started the season strong but this began to derail for him just before the Christmas break. MacLeod lost two games to both Laughlin and Roach this season and that was, ultimately, his biggest demise. Laughlin was also not so good against his fellow top competitors, losing twice to Roach and once to Cormier while Roach really lost it on games that he should have won including two defeats to the John Donovan rink and one to Greg Ferguson, teams that finished low in the standings. There was one week still left on the Sunday schedule but that has been scrubbed so playoffs can start. Games would not have factored in and it was an abbreviated schedule anyway so Draw master Cal Thistle decided to use the time to get playoffs rolling in case there are cancellations down the road. Team numbers have been changed and the playoff schedule is now posted online.

Fun Nights

The big story in the Old Triangle Men's League has to be the Keith MacEachern rink and how they have vaulted themselves up into a position to potentially win the regular season schedule. MacEachern started off strong but was only able to finish in the middle of the pack after the first half of the season. A 6-0 record in the second half has now pulled him even and in a tie for second with the Wally MacDonald rink, just two points behind front runner Gordie Cormier. A win by Cormier would sew things up for him but a loss and a win by either MacDonald or MacEachern would lose him the season title because he doesn't hold the tie break advantage over either one. Cormier plays the Gary Landry rink while MacDonald will face Sid Murray in the final week of the regular schedule. MacEachern plays the always tough Brian Laughlin rink. Both Cormier and MacDonald won the first round matchups with their final week opponents while MacEachern lost his earlier game to Laughlin. All of these games have meaning and can play a part in determining the regular season title.

The Schooner Junior program had a busy February with a spiel in Baddeck and the hosting of a kids learn to curl as part of CBRM's Taste of Winter. March promises to be just as busy with another spiel, this time at the Sydney Curling Club, a March Break curl, another Learn to Curl and the annual Easter party at the end of the month. Good luck to the juniors in the Sydney Spiel.

All members are reminded that Matinee Pickup Curling is still on at the club every Friday from 1-3. It's open to all members and is a great way to squeeze a little more curling out of your Schooner membership.

Fun Nights continue to be successful this year after another great night in February. The March Fun Night, originally scheduled for March 3rd, is now rescheduled to Saturday, March 17, to accommodate a move of the Schooner Fun Spiel to March 2nd and 3rd since its original date conflicted with Sydney's Spring Spiel. The Fun Spiel was supposed to be a week-long event but has now been shortened to a weekend affair.

This month's Fun Night lands on St. Patrick's Day so it will be a double celebration on that night. I'm sure there will be a few shamrocks adorning the inside of the club on that night. And we even have our own Blarney Stone. As always, Fun Night starts at 7pm. Members are encouraged to attend whenever they can and bring friends, co-workers, family, whoever and give them a chance to try this great winter past time. Fun Nights are also a great night out for only a few bucks. For only \$7 per person (Schooner members are charged \$4) you get to curl and also enjoy some delicious pizza. Everything is provided for curling except clean, dry sneakers for the ice. Plan to join us for the St. Patrick's Day Fun Night, throw some rocks and kiss the Blarney Stone.

2019 Scotties in Cape Breton

There's not too much new news to report in regards to the 2019 Scotties other than the fact that we now know who one of the teams will be. Jennifer Jones and her rink of Kaitlyn Lawes, Jill Officer and Dawn MacEwan will be competing as Team Canada after winning the 2018 Scotties recently in Penticton BC.

Tickets for the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, being held in Sydney

from February 16-24, 2019, went on sale on Friday, January 23. Only full event packages are currently available. They are \$399 (plus applicable taxes and fees) each and will include all round robin draws as well as any tie breakers required and all playoff games as well. Those who placed the \$50 deposit during the bidding stage have already had a chance to get their seats selected. Mini packages and single draw tickets will go on sale at a later date, sometime in the fall of 2018. All event packages also include access to the Heartstop Lounge that will be located at the Joan Harris Cruise Pavilion. There will be live music and dancing as well as food and beverage services available. There will also be special events and opportunities to meet the curlers there.

The field at the 2019 Scotties will see sixteen teams take part, just as it is this year in BC. This will include teams from all provinces and territories as well as Northern Ontario, one wild card team that will be decided on February 15, and the team that wins the 2018 Scotties in Penticton who will compete as team Canada. It should be a great field. Get your tickets early by calling or visiting the Center 200 box office or go online at www.curling.ca/tickets .

Volunteer opportunities also exist for the event. For more info visit the website

www.curling.ca/volunteer

Keep up to date at the Cape Breton Scotties webpage at <https://www.scottiescapebreton.com/> or Curling Canada at www.curling.ca/2019scotties

Fun Spiel Cancelled

The Annual Schooner Fun Spiel, originally scheduled to be a week-long event from March 20th-24th, has been rescheduled to run as a weekend spiel on March 2nd and 3rd. This was done to avoid a conflict with the Sydney Curling Club's Spring Spiel that was scheduled to run that same week. Schooner normally send a number of teams down to that spiel. However, due to a lack of interest in the event, it was decided to cancel it. There were only about sixteen people who signed up and that just wasn't enough to run a successful spiel. Instead of the spiel, members will be offered open ice and a number of people were trying to organize a 2 on 2 day. The dance on Saturday, March 3rd with DJ Jimmy is still a go and will run from 9-1.

Schooner Cash Spiel Wrap-up

The Schooner Curling Club's annual Open Cash Spiel was held from February 16-18 and was a huge success, arguably the best Cash Spiel ever held at the club. The weekend was packed with great curling action, great food and great entertainment that went from start to finish. Even the 'A' final went to an extra end. The spiel boasted a full slate of 16 teams and was filled long before the event ever began. Teams included a number from the Schooner and Sydney Curling Clubs, two from Port Hawkesbury and one, skipped by Kris Granchelli, that was a reunion of four old friends, two who are current Schooner members and two who are curling now in Halifax. Play got underway early on Friday to allow time for all teams to see their first

action of the spiel that night. Winning teams would remain in the top division while losers would drop to the 'B' division for their second games. The first draw was at 4pm on Friday and pitted Schooner's Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell against Bubs Stone of the Sydney CC on one sheet and two Schooner rinks, Wally MacDonald and Brian Laughlin on the other. Bonnell and Laughlin were both winners and stayed in the 'A' while Stone and MacDonald would meet in the 'B' division. The two games on the 6pm draw were very close to the finish with John Donovan of Schooner taking Coralie Ayre of Sydney to the final rocks before dropping a close decision and Todd Mercer also pushed Sebastian LeFort's rink, both from the Sydney CC, to the brink before dropping a one point decision. The next draw at 8pm saw the Tom Wagner rink from Port Hawkesbury take on Schooner's Omar Roach. Wagner was almost unable to compete at the event when two of the team came down with the flu and couldn't come. Robert Agnew and Blair Gentile filled in on the team and allowed them to play their games. The other game at 8pm saw Kenny Keough from Sydney take on Kris Granchelli of Halifax. Granchelli was joined by friends John Penny, also from Halifax, and Kenny Thomas and Todd MacAulay from Schooner. Roach and Granchelli were winners in that draw. The final draw of the night was scheduled for 10pm but ended up hitting the ice about 30 minutes late. That saw Schooner's Gordie Cormier taking on Port Hawkesbury's Donnie McCuspic and Sydney's Kurt Roach facing Schooner's Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod. Both Schooner teams went down to defeat and Roach and McCuspic stayed to play in the top division.

Friday was more than just about the curling. On Friday night, caterer for the spiel, Tommy Young, was on hand to handle the hungry curlers and fans with an offering of delicious build-your-own pulled pork sandwiches and beef tacos. We were also treated to some great entertainment when Brian Cathcart of the band Pretty Archie took the stage for a Schooner style kitchen party. Brian did a fantastic job entertaining the big crowd all night. There was a bar tab draw on Friday as well. Tickets were \$5 each and all the money raised went to the value of the tab. Wally MacDonald and Bill Farr were the lucky winners.

Saturday play got underway early with the first draw starting at 8am with play in the 'B' division. Losing teams from the night before would take the ice to try and redeem themselves. Another loss would put teams on the brink of elimination in the spiel. The first and second draws of the day were both 'B' division and saw Bubs Stone defeat Wally MacDonald, John Donovan defeat Todd Mercer, Tom Wagner defeat Kenny Keough and Gordie Cormier was victorious over Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod. Early on Curlers were treated to coffee, tea and muffins to help get them going so early in the morning. Tommy Young was back early as well and would offer a variety of great food through the day to keep the curlers fueled up for competition. Soup, chili and sandwiches were just some of the choices offered.

The noon and 2pm draws would have 'A' division take the ice for their second games of the spiel. Winners of these games would meet in the semi-final games scheduled for 8pm that would decide who would face off for the 'A' division crown on Sunday. Brian Laughlin defeated Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell to earn his place in a semi against Coralie Ayre who took out Sebastian LeFort. The second semi final was set when Kris Granchelli defeated Omar

Roach and Kurt Roach beat Don McCuspic. Losers would continue play, now in the 'C' division but could not afford another loss as that would mean elimination.

The 4pm draw moved back to play in the 'B' division that would determine the teams that would play for the division championship the next day. John Donovan defeated Bubs Stone and Gordie Cormier eliminated Tom Wagner to set up an all-Schooner 'B' division final on Sunday. The 6pm draw would see the first play in the 'C' division and had Sebastian LeFort eliminate the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink and the Don McCuspic rink take out Omar Roach. Lefort and McCuspic would play in the 'C' Semi final on Sunday at 11am. Next we would have the 'A' division semi finals where the winners would play for the top title and the losers would drop to continue to play in the 'C' Division. It would be Coralie Ayre facing Kurt Roach in the final after they defeated Brian Laughlin and Kris Granchelli respectively in the semis. Laughlin would play Sebastian LeFort and Granchelli would play McCuspic to setup the 'C' championship game that would be played immediately after the semi final game. That wrapped up curling for Saturday but the fun continued late into the night when a great crowd stayed around to party to the music of DJ Jimmy.

Play on Sunday once again started early with the first draw, a 'D' division semi final, getting underway at 9am. Those games saw Todd Mercer and Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod win and face each other in the 'D' Final. In that game, MacLeod took control early and never looked back, winning the 'D' division and the \$220 prize. Mercer got \$180 for second in the 'D'.

The 'C' Division was still waiting to decide teams for its final and that would happen at the 11am draw. Sebastian LeFort would find his way into the final by defeating Brian Laughlin and Kris Granchelli would defeat Port Hawkesbury's Don McCuspic to earn his way in. Granchelli would win the division with a close victory over Lefort who just missed a tough double take out on his last shot that would have given him the win. The winners took home \$360 and the runners-up won \$240.

The final draw of the weekend would see teams playing for the top two divisions. In the 'B' division, the John Donovan rink overcame an early deficit and capitalized on some of their opponents mistakes to defeat the Gordie Cormier rink in what can only be described as an upset victory. Donovan took home \$420 for his efforts and Cormier won \$360 in the loss. The 'A' Division final was a fitting end to a great week of curling when Coralie Ayre and Kurt Roach went to an extra end before deciding a winner. The game was back and forth all afternoon but Ayre came out on top after the extra frame and took the 'A' title. Top prize was \$600 and the runners-up purse was \$500. Not a bad payday for either team.

Tommy young was once again present on Sunday with some more pulled pork, some hot dogs, chili, sandwiches and other treats that kept everyone's appetite at bay. Tommy did a great job keeping everyone fed and happy all weekend and we want to send him out a big thank you.

So that wraps up the 2018 edition of the Schooner Cash Spiel. It was a great one. We hope that next year's spiel is equally as good if not better. A huge thank you goes out to Stephen Leslie who, along with help from the bonspiel committee, put on a fantastic event. Thank you to all the teams who took part, especially those from outside the club. We hope you will come back

and join us next year. Thanks to the ice crew who worked hard to get the ice ready and keep it in great shape all weekend, to Tommy Young who did a fantastic job keeping everyone fed, to Brian Cathcart and DJ Jimmy for great entertainment, to Lynn Kelly and Frances Ford for selling tickets and keeping things running smoothly in the background, to Omar and Gary of EXP for preparing the draw sheet for everyone to follow, to bartenders, housing and to everyone else who helped out in any way, thank you very much. It was a great spiel and a great weekend but it certainly would not be possible without all the help. Check out the Schooner website for some great photos of the action both on and off the ice. See you next year for the 2019 Open Cash Spiel at the Schooner.

Sweetheart Women's Spiel Wrap-up



The annual Schooner Sweetheart spiel was held at the club on February 9-10 and was once again a huge success. This year boasted a full roster of twelve teams and things were hopping at the club all weekend. On Friday, play got underway at 5:30pm and continued all evening until the 9pm draw as all twelve teams would see their first action on opening night. When not entertaining the many fans in attendance with their creative outfits and great shot-making, curlers were treated to a wine and cheese reception that included many home made dips and desserts that were donated by various people. For those who didn't want wine, they could sample one of the special cocktails that were formulated especially for the event or stay warm on the ice with one of the shots that were making their way around the club. After play on Friday, two teams were tied for first place, the Barb Cook rink and the Marie Young rink, with thirteen points each. Not too far behind was the Yvonne Donovan rink who accumulated nine points for her first game efforts. Play on Saturday got started early with the first draws hitting the ice at 9am. First round leader Marie Young was among the first teams on the ice Saturday and was able to win her second game and get nine points towards her total that now stood at twenty two. Barb Cook was part of the mornings second draw and also was a winner, getting eleven points to sit in first place alone with twenty four, two better than Young and six ahead of Yvonne Donovan who also won her second game and gained another nine points to sit at eighteen. That was only good enough for fourth place at this point as the Charlotte Labelle rink had gotten a big win and thirteen points to now sit in third place with a two-game total of twenty points.

As the day went on game times began to run behind by quite a bit, it was decided to shorten the games from six ends to fours ends so as to finish play are a reasonable time for dinner. A formula was worked out so that teams with four end games would still have a fair shot at getting points towards their totals. Marie Young finished her spiel in the second last draw of the day and was once again victorious, taking eleven points that gave her and her foursome a thirty three point total and first place at the time, having passed Charlotte Labelle who had earlier put a third win on the books for her squad but sat with a final total of thirty one points. The only team who was still within reach of bumping the Young rink from first was the Barb Cook rink who would take the ice in the final draw of the day, needing nine points to tie and ten points to take first place. Cook had a great game and was able to add thirteen points to her total, surpassing Young for first place overall. The

Marie Young rink took second and Charlotte Labelle was third. Joining skip Barb Cook in first was mate Ruth Morrison, second Gretchen Landry and lead Heather MacIntosh. Congratulations to you all. For the win the Cook foursome received Sweetheart Spiel championship jackets along with a few special prizes. Joining Marie Young in second spot was Joan Latimer, Bernadette Cormier and Lisa Gentile while third place was enjoyed by Charlotte Labelle, Jill Ramsey, Donna Binns and Val Flemming. Fourth place overall was taken by the Joanne Hunston rink who sported an undefeated record but had a tie in their first game along with two wins and that dropped their totals a bit. Joanne was joined by Barb Mercer, Jacklyn MacDonald and Meghan Burns. Rounding out the top five was the Yvonne Donovan rink who ended up losing their third game after victories in their first two. Yvonne was aided by Cheryl MacKinnon, Georgette Sparkes and Celiegh Forrest. Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to all the ladies who took part. It was a great weekend of very entertaining curling.

After curling was through, all curlers and guests were treated to a wonderful dinner prepared by Tommy Young and served by some of the Schooner men. Dinner was funded by donations from Schooner's male members. Prize presentations followed dinner and wrapped up what could arguably be called the best Sweetheart Spiel to date. Thank you once again to all the ladies who took part, especially those from the Sydney and Baddeck Curling Clubs and to those who aren't regular curlers but enjoy the sport enough to participate. A big thank you to Lynn Kelly who heads the organization of the event every year and also to the Spiel Committee who played a big part in pulling this off as well. Thank you to Bill Farr and CC Computer Solutions for returning as sponsor of the event again this year, thanks to the ice crew, Kevin Gouthro and other who helped out for bartending, to the Georgette and Bernadette on the housing committee for keeping the club in top shape all weekend, to everyone who brought the delicious food on Friday and to Tommy for a great meal on Saturday and thank you to anyone else who helped out in any way to make this a great event. We hope to see you all back next year for the 2019 Schooner Sweetheart Spiel.

Gillis Rink Competes at AMI Again

The Louise Gillis Rink, curling out of the Sydney Curling Club, was once again Nova Scotia's representative at the AMI Vision Impaired Curling Championship that was held in Ottawa from February 5-13. Joining skip Gillis is Mate, Christina Lewis, lead, Mary Campbell, sweeper/second Terry Lynn MacDonald and sweeper/second Mike Vrooman. Coaches for the team are Sidney Francis and Garth Nathanson. Nathanson replaces long time coach John Marusiak who retired after last season.

The rules used in the event are the same as regular curling rules with the exception of the use of a guide and lighted brooms to help the curlers line up shots and deliver stones. This year's championship saw seven teams taking part from six different provinces, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, BC and Team Canada who, this year, hailed from Kelowna, BC.

Nova Scotia was coming off of a bronze medal performance at last year's event but this time around weren't able to find the podium. Ontario took bronze, Alberta won silver and Team Canada repeated as champions once again. Nova Scotia finished with a 3 and 3 record in the round robin.

Junior Learn to Curl



The Schooner Curling Club will once again be hosting another free learn to curl events as part of the CBRM's Taste of Winter Festival. The first was held on February 3rd and saw around twenty kids take part and have a great time. This time, the event will be held during March Break on Thursday, March 15 from 11AM to noon. It's again open to junior curlers age sixteen and under that want to give curling a try. We will provide the equipment with the exception of clean sneakers for the ice. Helmets are also recommended for everyone and are required for those twelve and under. Knee and elbow pads are also recommended for kids twelve and under.

The sessions will be taught by certified instructors. We are still looking for some volunteers to help out at the event both on and off the ice. If you have some free time and can help please contact Nadine Neima-Drover at the club or put your name on the sign-up sheet posted. These learn to curl events are a great opportunity for young people to try the sport of curling and see how much fun it can be. They are the curlers of tomorrow.

Weekly Tarabish Games

The weekly Tarabish games will continue to be held every Tuesday evening at the club. to help get games going at a reasonable time, registration is now being cut off at 7pm. Games will begin shortly after that. The way it is setup is that everyone is entered as an individual, not a team. Depending on the number of players on a given night, you are designated to play a set number of games, sometimes within a group, and after each game, individual wins and scores are recorded and then you move on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member has played the number of designated games, scores are tallied and winners determined. The games are well attended and are a great boost to the club and our bar. The games are not just club members so you can bring a friend if you like.



Chase the Ace continues into March and, with an estimated \$1300 jackpot for February's final draw, we should see the total prize hit close to \$2000 the end of this month. Tickets are sold all week and are 3 for \$5. They can be purchased at the club's bar all week, at the club on draw nights from 7-8 pm and at vendors around town as well. This year we once again have Disco Tirecraft in Sydney, CC Computer Solutions on George St. and Cape Breton Glass at 19 Mitchell Place in Sydney near Centre 200. We are hoping to add more vendor outlets soon.

Please support this very important fund raiser for our club. Proceeds from Chase the Ace in the past have helped fund projects at the club like electrical improvements, new furniture, a new bar fridge and our new LED lighting. Without the proceeds from Chase the Ace, these projects very likely could not have been done. Proceeds also help keep membership costs down and that benefits everyone. Next time you are at the club remember to get you tickets at the bar. Who know, you could win a great prize.

Sydney CC Spring Spiel

The Annual Sydney Curling Club's Spring Spiel, Sponsored by Coors, will be held March 23-25 at the Sydney Curling Club. The entrance fee is \$160 and teams must be true mixed, that is they need to have two men and two women and they need to play alternating positions. This spiel is always a great time and the Schooner Club normally has a number of teams competing and representing our club. As of late February only a few spots remained open in the spiel so, if you want to enter a team and have not yet secured a spot, you had better get entered soon before it fills up. Friday night there will be some curling trivia, Saturday, curlers are treated to lunch and supper and there will be a dance on Saturday night with Gary Chew and John Kendall. New this year, there will be a prize for best team uniforms. Contact the Sydney Curling Club for more info or to register.

LED Lights Offer Savings

The first power bill is in since we installed the new LED lights and the savings are significant. This power bill is approximately \$1800 less than the same period last year. While there is no way of knowing how much the lights contributed to that savings exactly, it can be assumed that they made a significant difference. The cost to the club over a two year period is roughly \$300 per month so, given the amount saved, we are already seeing a financial benefit. The new LED outdoor lights have also now been installed.