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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 103

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Doubles Spiel Team Entry	March 5-6
Schooner Cash Spiel	March 12-14
Schooner Fun Night	Saturday, March 20
Fun Doubles Spiel Single Entry	March 26-27

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

League Roundup



League play has been running normally for the last few weeks after the Provincial Government relaxed some of the restrictions that were in place. We are hoping that will remain the case for the remainder of the season but, with sports restrictions being put back into effect in the Halifax and surrounding areas, there is no guarantee. Time will tell.

In the meantime, two leagues have begun their playoff rounds, the Old Triangle Men's League and the Don Cherry's Team Entry, while the Pepsi Mixed League is well into its second round.

In Men's, it was the Gordie Cormier rink who took the regular season crown. Joining Gordie is mate, Mel Windsor, second Justin Humphrey and lead Eric MacLeod. Cormier is off to a good start in the playoffs as well, winning his first two games in the round robin. All six teams will play in the round robin portion of the playoffs with the four top teams making into semi-final games. The winners of the semi finals will play for the playoff title. Other teams will continue to play in a consolation round to finish out the season. The Wally MacDonald rink has charged out of the gate in the playoffs as well, winning their first two games to match Cormier's record. MacDonald defeated Kevin Gouthro, second place finisher in the regular season, for one of those wins. Gouthro now sits at 1-1 after defeating the Sid Murray rink in their second game. Murray finished third in the season but is still looking for their first win in the playoffs after losing to Gouthro and dropping their first match to the Cormier rink. There is still time for any of the six teams competing to make a charge for one of the top four spots and a place in the semis.

As mentioned earlier, the Don Cherry's Team Entry League is also into its playoff round. Taking top honors in the regular season in this league was the Kevin Gouthro rink. Gouthro is skipping for a new rink this season after leaving the team he competed with last year. Joining skip Gouthro was Walter Nichols at mate, second Trevor Billard and lead Anthony Boudreau. Wally MacDonald has been playing a regular role on that team as well, filling in for Billard quite a bit. The playoff format in this league is also a round robin but the ten teams are split into two divisions. Each division will

see a round robin within it plus all teams will play one game against an opponent from the other division. The top teams from each side will then play for the title in a championship game.

The Pepsi Mixed League has begun its second round with an expanded roster of teams, growing from nine in the first round to eleven in round two. This was due to some new and returning members coming into the league and some members who opted not to play Mixed in round one now taking part. With the expansion of teams, Mixed has now added a game to the schedule on Wednesday evening but, with still having an odd number of teams, there remains one team with a bye each week. Round two in the Pepsi Mixed won't complete until later in April.

Winner of round one in Mixed was the Gary Landry rink. Joining skip Gary was Cheryl MacKinnon at mate, second was Ray Smith and lead duties were handled by Bev Young.

Congratulations to all of our winners and best of luck to all teams as they move forward.

Matinee Curling

Don't forget about Matinee Curling that takes place at the club every Friday from 1-3 pm. It's open to all Schooner members and you can just drop in any Friday you can make it. Turnout has been good all season but there is always room for more. It's a great way to get more out of your Schooner membership.

Sweetheart Spiel

The CC Computer Solutions Sweetheart Spiel took place on February 12 and 13 at the club and was another huge success. Eight teams of women curlers took to the ice to try to win the Sweetheart title and, after all the rocks were thrown and the points tallied, it was a rink out of the Sydney Curling Club that came out on top. The 2021 Sweetheart champs are the Marie Young rink that, along with skip Marie, was made up of Joan Latimer, Cynthia Boutilier and Diane Penney. The Sydney foursome got off to a good start on Friday with a win and followed that up on Saturday with two more, taking eleven of a possible fifteen points in each of their three games. Second place was taken by the Schooner team skipped by Lynn Kelly. Joining Lynn was former Schooner member Laura Rafuse and current Schooner members Bernadette Cormier and Georgette Sparkes. Kelly's team also got off to a fast start on Friday with a win but a tie in their second game limited their points and even a second victory in their final match wasn't enough to catch Young. Close behind in third place was another rink out of the Schooner Club, this one skipped by Carrie Cress. Cress also had two wins sandwiched around a second game tie and finished just short of team Kelly's total. Skip Carrie was joined by Samantha Livingstone, Julia Cormier and Helen Joyce.

Along with some great curling on Friday, curlers and guests were treated to a wine and cheese with the wine being supplied by Russell Fitzgerald and Martin Campbell. Both have been involved with the Sweetheart spiel since its inception and have been contributing to this opening night tradition for just as long. This year was a bit different than previous years given the

Covid concerns and restrictions. Instead of a 'serve yourself' style as in previous years, this time there were some pre-packaged portions of cheese, fruit, deli meats, dips and crackers that everyone could enjoy. Wine was served by Russell and Martin. Overall, it was a big success and enjoyed by all that were there. Another change in this season's Sweetheart was in the meal that curlers would enjoy on Saturday after curling was done. In past years it was always a hot meal served to the ladies but this year we opted to have pizza instead. The meal was funded by donations from Schooner's male members as it has been in the past. There were also a variety of squares and cookies for dessert, again all packaged individually for safety.

Lynn Kelly, who has been organizing and running the spiel for a number of years along with a team of volunteers, had a lot of extra work this year, packaging all the food and making sure everyone was staying safe and following the club's Covid protocols. Overall, everyone was very accommodating and this went just as well as in previous years. A big thank you goes out to Lynn and all of the hard working volunteers who helped out in organizing and running another successful event.

A big thank you goes out as well to returning sponsor CC Computer Solutions Inc. The local Sydney Business has been sponsoring the event for the last few years and we appreciate their support.

Given the additional challenges that were facing the 2021 edition of the Sweetheart Spiel it turned out to be one of the most successful events we have had. Thank you to all who took part and we hope to see everyone back for next year's event. Hopefully things are more back to normal by then as well.

Doubles Spiel Team Entry

The Schooner Club will be holding a 2 on 2 spiel on March 5 and 6. It's in house, open to all Schooner members and it's team entry. As of the end of February, the spiel had been filled with the maximum sixteen teams already signed up. Entry fee will be \$40 per team and there will be cash prizes for the top teams. The spiel will be held using a draw format. Play will get underway with all teams playing on Friday evening. The spiel will continue all day on Saturday with team's schedules being determined by wins and losses in the bracket. Rules will be the traditional hybrid doubles rules that the Schooner Club normally uses for these events and are posted on the club's website. Drop by and enjoy some of the great curling action on March 5 and 6 and cheer the curlers on.

Doubles Spiel Single Entry

The Schooner Club will be holding a second 2 on 2 spiel in March, this one being scheduled for the 26 and 27, but this time it will be single entry and teams will be drawn from those curlers who sign up in house. Entry fee will be \$20 per person and there will be prizes awarded. The format of play is to be determined and will likely depend on the number of teams taking part. Lunch will be served on Saturday. Rules will once again be the traditional hybrid doubles rules that the Schooner Club normally uses for these events. Registration should start soon so keep an eye out for it. These events are popular and fill up quickly.

Schooner Cash Spiel



The Schooner Club's annual Cash Spiel is scheduled to run from March 12-14. This year's event is sponsored by Disco Tirecraft. Entry fee for the spiel is \$200 per team with all proceeds being returned as prizes. Three games are guaranteed and there will be dinner on Saturday. Registration is now open and was originally limited to sixteen teams but, given restrictions on our hours of operation by the Provincial government, it is looking more like we will be forced to limit it to twelve teams. Registration is now open but is filling up fast. Anyone looking to take part should get their team entered as soon as possible. Teams can be any combination of male and female curlers.

The Schooner Cash Spiel is one of the premier events that we hold at the club every year and we want it to be the best it can be. To do that we will need lots of help so if you have any free time that weekend to help out with cleaning and maintaining the ice, sanitizing rocks and scoreboard numbers, helping with food service, the bar, cleaning or whatever, please plan to volunteer and help.

If you aren't taking part in the spiel, plan to drop by and take in some of the great curling action. The Schooner Cash spiel always attracts some really good curling teams and the competition will be fierce all weekend with some great curling to watch. Everyone is welcome.

Bling in the Rings Women's Spiel

Right on the heels of the Schooner's women's spiel, the Sweetheart, the Sydney Curling club held their women only event, the Bling in the Rings, the following weekend, February 19 and 20. Schooner was represented at the event by one team, the Marcie Bungay rink. Marcie and her crew won their first game on Friday but dropped two heartbreakers on Saturday, both coming down to the final stones in the eighth end to be decided. Still a great showing by the Schooner ladies. Joining skip Marcie for the event was Kathy Gale, Janet Gallivan and Debby Murray. Way to go ladies. Thanks for representing the Schooner Club well and proudly.

Sydney Curling Club's Spring Mixed Spiel

Schooner members should take note that the Sydney Curling Club will be holding its Spring Mixed Bonspiel from April 9-11. This is a popular event with curlers and there are usually a few teams from the Schooner Club looking to take part. The event is limited to the first twenty four teams and it is rumored that it is roughly two thirds filled already. If any Schooner teams are planning to take part you better sign up quickly. Entry fee is \$160 per team and that gets you three, eight end games guaranteed. Teams must be in a true mixed format, alternating male and female players in positions. All teams must also come up with a 'curling themed' name like "The Joe Rockheads", "The Flashers" or "The Button Biters", just to name a few. Use your imaginations but do it quickly, avoid disappointment and get signed up soon if you want to take part.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights finally got underway in February with the first one being held in conjunction with Curling Day in Canada on February 27. The crowd wasn't huge with around fifteen people showing up to take part, but

the night was still a success with everyone having a great time. The next Fun Night is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, and will be our St. Patrick's Day event. Members are encouraged to attend and bring some friends and family with them. It introduces new members to the club and the sport of curling, helps generate much needed revenue for the club and is a great way for the club to attract new members.

These Fun Nights are also a great way for people to have a fun night out in a safe environment and for not a lot of money. It's only \$7 per person and that gets you curling and pizza. There's no better deal in town unless, of course, you're a Schooner member because then it's only \$4. We follow Covid protocols to keep everyone safe and we supply instruction and all the equipment you need except for some clean sneakers for the ice. And to top things off this month, we usually celebrate a couple of special birthdays at this event so there will even be cake. FREE CAKE!!

So to summarize: Fun, safe, pizza, cheap, birthday cake. Sounds like an easy decision. See you at the Fun Night on March 20.

649 Fundraiser



The Schooner's 649 Fundraiser got underway in late February with the first draw taking place on Wednesday, February 24th. Results are now available following each draw, one on Wednesday and one on Saturday, so those taking part can track their progress. Sales were pretty good and, with final numbers tallied, the jackpot to be won will be \$742.50. Thank you to everyone who took part and good luck. As of the February 27th draw we don't have a winner but one will be announced on the Schooner website as soon as someone fills up their entry.

Provincial 50/50



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

Please help support the Schooner club and curling clubs in Nova Scotia by visiting the Rafflebox website and purchasing tickets. Make sure you select the Schooner Club before completing your purchase. Use this link below or visit the Schooner website to get there. Thanks for your support.

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

