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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 115

March , 2023

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



With the start of March we are beginning to see the finish line for league play that normally wraps up in mid-April. That means we have about six weeks left before the end of the season. Where did the time go? The Boston Pizza Team Entry League that plays on Sundays has been embroiled in a playoff round robin for a few weeks now. Teams are divided into two divisions and will play each team in their respective divisions and one crossover game with a team from the other division for a total of five games. Teams will then be seeded and play an elimination round until we get to a championship game and, finally, a playoff winner. The Russell Fitzgerald rink has continued their strong performance from the regular season in the playoffs, racking up three wins in the playoff round robin so far. Fitzgerald is in a division with regular schedule champs the Stephen Leslie rink, Robert Agnew, Peter MacIntyre and Carrie Cress. Both Agnew and Leslie have two wins thus far but Leslie has only played two games while Agnew has played all three scheduled. Division two is made up of Gordie Cormier, Gary Landry, Brian Laughlin, Mel Windsor and Jenna MacNeil. The surprise in this division so far has been the slow start of the Gordie Cormier rink. Cormier only has managed one win on three tries, dropping his most recent outing to the Mel Windsor foursome who scored a big end in the eighth to overcome a two point deficit to snatch the victory away from Cormier. The Cormier rink's struggles could be due to the absence of mate, Wally MacDonald, from many of their playoff outings so far due to work commitments. Gary Landry leads this division with two wins against one loss. Both Mel Windsor and Brian Laughlin sit tied with Cormier with one win. There's still a couple of weeks left in the round robin and a few teams have make up games before we will know how the next round plays out.

The East Side Mario's Mixed League is well into round two now. Teams were shuffled after round one and there has now been two divisions created, one for Monday night and one for Tuesday. Teams will play others on their respective nights twice each in this round. While there are two distinct divisions, teams points will be used to determine a single winner

Drawmaster's Musings

from all teams involved. There are still a number of weeks remaining in the schedule and there are a few make up games to be played due to weather cancellations so there is no one team making a bid as the favorite to win. The Schooner Doubles league continues play on Wednesdays with the schedule set to wrap up on April 19. With seven weeks remaining there are a number of people in the league still in the running for top spot and a winner will likely not be decided until the final week.

The Firestop Enterprises Men's League is heading into its final week of the regular schedule with two teams in the running for top spot. The Gordie Cormier rink leads the Russell Fitzgerald rink by only one point and the two are scheduled to play on the final night of the regular season. A win for Fitzgerald will vault him past Cormier into first place while Cormier only needs to muster a tie at the least to remain in the top spot. After the completion of the regular season the league will begin playoffs which will consist of a two division round robin and then an elimination round to determine a playoff champ.

So we still have lots of excitement in all leagues as we move towards the end of the season. Check back next month for more league updates.

All members are reminded that Matinee Curling is also still underway every Friday afternoon from 1-3 pm. You can just drop in any Friday and play.

With the beginning of March, we are now in the home stretch. Days are getting longer, and playoffs have begun in some leagues. I'd like to remind curlers that there is 1 sheet available on both Monday and Tuesday nights at 8 for makeup games, but please let me know if you are going to use the ice so we don't have too many teams showing up.

Here are some more tweaks to think about going forward.

Delivering Rocks

According to the rules of curling, rocks must be delivered in a straight line from the hack to the broom. Additionally, right handed curlers must start from the left hack and vice versa. I have noticed some stick curlers starting from the wrong hack and/or walking out on a diagonal to get a better angle around a guard (which defeats the purpose of the guard). This is not permitted, as per Curling Canada's rule book.

See below:

"The delivery of a stone by the right hand shall be initiated from the hack located to the left of the centre line. The delivery of a stone by the left hand shall be initiated from the hack located to the right of the centre line."

AND

"The delivery and release of a curling stone are intended to occur in a reasonably straight line from the hack towards the target broom."

Burned Rocks

Recently, a few of us behind the glass had a discussion about burned rocks. It's somewhat technical, and even the wily veterans were confused about the rules.

Basically, there are 2 broad scenarios: 1) if a moving stone is touched before it reaches the hog line at the playing end, and 2) if a stone is burnt after it crosses the hog.

If before the hog line, the stone is stopped and removed immediately. Easy-peasy, lemon squeezy.

If after the hog line, it is more complicated, so I'm just going to quote the rules directly:

"Inside the hog line at the playing end:

(a) If a moving stone is touched, or is caused to be touched, by the team to which it belongs, or by its equipment, all stones are allowed to come to rest, after which the touched stone must be removed from play and all stones that were displaced after the infraction are placed to their original positions; *unless the non-offending team considers it an advantage to;*

(i) Leave all stones where they came to rest, or;

(ii) Place all stones where it reasonably considers the stones would have come to rest had the moving stone not been touched.

(b) If a moving stone is touched, or is caused to be touched, by the opposition or by their equipment, all stones are allowed to come to rest, after which the non-offending team places the stones where it reasonably considers the stones would have come to rest had the moving stone not been touched."

There are also scenarios re: a stone from another sheet and other external forces, but I'm not going to get into those now. If anyone is curious to read more, the full rules can be found at Curling.ca

One final note re: spares - Players needing a spare should do more than simply post to the Facebook group and hope for the best. If you don't get an immediate response, please call the folks on the Spares List, and at least tell your skip you can't make it so it's not a surprise when folks show up at the Club.

Thanks for listening everyone, and Good Curling!

Richard

Doubles Team Entry Cash Spiel

The Schooner Curling Club will be hosting a Doubles (2 on 2) Cash Spiel on March 10 and 11 at the club. This is a team entry event with an entry fee of \$50 per team. Entry fees will be returned as cash prizes with a portion, \$10 per team, being donated to the Whitney Pier Boys and Girls Club in honor of former long-time Schooner member, Jackie Pearson. The club will also be contributing additional money to the donation. Sign up is now open at the club. If you do not have a partner for this event you can sign the sign sheet as an individual but there are no guarantees of a spot or that you will form a team. Members are also encouraged to reach out on the private members Facebook group to try and find a team mate. This is always a popular event so don't please sign up quickly to avoid disappointment.

Team Cress forced to bow out of Provincial Club Championship

Skip Carrie Cress had hoped to take her team to Digby Nova Scotia to compete in the Ladies Provincial Club Championship event being held from March 2-5. The team, along with skip Carrie, consists of Jenna MacNeil, Julia Cormier and Jennifer Haigh. Skip Cress declared her intention to compete at the event as Schooner's representative and, even though no other team from our club challenged her for the club's spot, NS Curling Association rules were still preventing her and her team from competing.

That was because Schooner didn't provide opportunity to meet any of the three criteria in our club that are required to pick a winning team. They appealed to our provincial curling association and, even though team Cress was granted the permission from NS Curling they needed to compete, due to logistics and work commitments of some of the players, they were forced to bow out. While this is a disappointing end to the story for team Cress for this season, we hope they will stay together for future seasons and eventually carry the Schooner flag to compete for the provincial club title. The winner of the Nova Scotia Provincial Championship event earns a spot in the Canadian Championship held during the following curling season. Best of luck to team Cress moving forward.



It was another huge success for the CC Computer Solutions Sweetheart Spiel this year when it took place at the club on February 10 and 11. There were a total of ten ladies teams that took part in the two day event and there was lots of great curling, fun, prizes and great food. Play got underway on Friday evening at 6pm and saw all teams play their first games of the event that night. Everyone was treated to a wine and cheese reception with the wine being donated by Schooner members Russell Fitzgerald and Martin Campbell, a longstanding tradition that started at the first Sweetheart. There was also a variety of dips, finger foods and sweets that everyone could enjoy that were brought by various club members and spiel participants. Play resumed on Saturday morning with all teams playing two games on that day. Scoring was done based on a point basis with three points up for grabs for each win and two points available for every end you won. At the end of the day, all points accumulated would be tallied to determine a winner. In the case of a tie, plus/minus for points scored versus given up was also recorded with a maximum of plus five for each game. The Joanne Hunston rink of Sydney was our overall winner, having a near perfect event with three wins against no losses and only losing four ends for the entire spiel. Joining skip Hunston was Donna Arseneau, Mary Lou Andrea and Lois Higgins. They took home the coveted Sweetheart Sweatshirts. Second place was taken by another team from the Sydney Curling Club, the Marie Young rink. Marie was also 3-0 in the event but did not accumulate as many points as Hunston. Schooner's Carrie Cress took third spot, one point behind Young. Cress had two wins in three games, the only blemish being a loss to spiel winner Hunston and her squad. Skip Marie Young was joined by Joan Latimer, Cynthia Boutilier and Dianne Penney while Carrie Cress was aided by Julia Cormier, Jenn Haigh and Georgette Sparkes. Rounding out the top five were the Brittini Fernandes rink and the Lorraine McPhee rink. Fernandes team also had Amanda MacAulay, Val MacIntyre and Genevieve Andrea while skip McPhee was joined by Heather LeBlanc, Katherine Shaw and Leanna Campbell-MacDonald. Congratulations to our winners.

Saturday not only saw a lot of great curling, there was lots of great food to keep the curlers and guests fueled up for the day. We started with breakfast of muffins, fruit and biscuits and later that day all curlers were treated to a Chinese food dinner from the New Moon restaurant. Overall, a great day and a great spiel that was topped off with lots of prizes to be won by all the

curlers. A big thank you goes out to Lynn Kelly for spearheading the event again this season and to everyone who helped her in planning and running the spiel. Thank you to returning sponsor, CC Computer Solutions for their continued support, to Martin and Russell for once again supplying the wine for Friday night's wine and cheese, to everyone who made and brought something to be enjoyed by the curlers and guests throughout the weekend, to the bartenders, ice crew, housekeeping and to anyone else who helped in any way. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to all the ladies who joined us to compete in the spiel. We hope to see you all back again next season. Check out some photos from the event in an album on the Schooner Facebook page.



The premier event on the Schooner calendar for the season, the Schooner Cash Spiel, was held at the club from February 17-19. A total of ten teams took part in the event that saw rinks representing the Schooner, Sydney and the Strait Area curling clubs.

Play got underway on Friday evening with eight of the ten teams competing seeing action. Team Phillip Edwards and Team Robert Agnew had drawn byes and were automatically advanced to a second round game on Saturday. The 7PM draw saw Schooner representative Stephen Leslie defeat Sydney Curling Club's Wes Stanford rink while Sydney's Sebastian LeFort took down Schooner's Russell Fitzgerald in the other game. Leslie moved on to play Schooner's Phillip Edwards rink on Saturday morning while Lefort advanced directly to the "A" semi final on Saturday evening. Draw two of the night had two Schooner rinks, Gordie Cormier and Carrie Cress, face off on one sheet with Cormier coming out victorious, while the other match had the Travis Stone rink of Sydney playing Donald MacCuspick of the Strait and Area Community Curling Club, a game Stone would win. Cormier moved on to play another Schooner rival the following day, Robert Agnew, while Stone, like LeFort, advanced further in the "A", directly to the semi final. Losing rinks in round one would move to compete further in the "B" division.

On Friday evening all curlers and guests were treated to some snacks, finger foods, dips and desserts that were made and donated by various people. There was lots of delicious options to choose from.

On Saturday, play got underway at 10am with the first action in the "B" division. Team Fitzgerald defeated team Stanford while the MacCuspick rink handed team Cress their second loss. Winners continued to play on in the "B" division while losing rinks went to "C" to play later in the day. The mid day draw at noon saw more action from the "A" side with Stephen Leslie taking on Team Edwards and Team Cormier facing the Robert Agnew squad. Leslie won and moved on to face Team LeFort in the "A" semi final while team Cormier also earned their way to the other semi in "A" to face Travis Stone. Agnew moved to "B" to face Fitzgerald while Edwards would meet the MacCuspick team with these games taking place at 4 pm Saturday after a two hour break in the action from 2-4 pm. All four rinks were playing for a shot at the "B" semi final games that would take place Sunday morning. Edwards and Fitzgerald would be successful in advancing to the "B" semi while MacCuspick and Agnew moved to play in "C" later that night

for a chance to get into the final money game in that division. McCuspic would eventually defeat Team Stanford in that game to claim the right to play Team Agnew, who defeated team Cress, in the "C" final on Sunday. Meanwhile, in the "A" semi that took place on Saturday at 6 pm, Team Stone and Team Leslie were victorious and moved to the championship game. Team Cormier, after losing to Stone, moved to play fellow Schooner rink, team Fitzgerald and Team LeFort moved to "B" to play Phil Edwards after a loss to Leslie in the "A" Semi. In those games, that took place Sunday morning, Team Lefort and Team Cormier won their way into the "B" final, eliminating team Fitzgerald and Team Edwards. All three championship games were now set with the "C" final taking place at noon on Sunday and the "A" and "B" championship games set for 2 pm. Saturday at the club also saw all curlers treated to a light breakfast to get the day started, lunch with soup and sandwiches and dinner that featured lasagna and ceasar salad. The soup and lasagna were compliments of some hard working Schooner volunteers. Everything was delicious and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. There were lots of leftovers for Sunday as well. There was a social held on Saturday evening with music and partying that went well into the night. A great time was had by all. Sunday morning got underway early, again at 10 am with the aforementioned "B" semi. Championship games began at noon with the final tilt in the "C" division that featured the Donald MacCuspic rink taking on Schooner's Robert Agnew. MacCuspic won that game and the \$200 "C" division prize while Agnew took home \$100 as runner up. Skip MacCuspic was joined by Mike McNamara, Dave Cluett and Neil MacNeil. Robert Agnew had Justin Humphrey, Leo Fraser, Adam Vassallo and Eric Macleod. Sunday afternoon saw both the "A" and "B" division finals take place at the same time. In the "B" championship, Sebastian Lefort along with his team, Todd Mercer, Nolan Drover and Callum McNutt, defeated Cormier's team to win the "B" division and the \$400 top prize. Cormier's foursome, that also included Wally MacDonald, Walter Nichols and Anthony Boudreau, took home \$250 for runners up. In the main event, team Travis Stone defeated the Stephen Leslie rink in a close game and take the overall spiel title. Stone's foursome, skip Travis, Mate Kurt Roach, second Mark MacNamara and lead Robin Nathanson, split the \$600 top prize while skip Leslie shared his winnings, \$450, with mate Kevin Gouthro, second Shane Langille and lead Ryan Ferguson. It was a great weekend of curling, food and fun. A big thank you to all the teams that took part, especially those who chose to join us from outside of the Schooner Club, to everyone who worked hard in planning and organizing the event, to the ice crew who did a great job in preparing and maintaining the ice all weekend, everyone who helped prepare, heat and serve the meals in the club all weekend, the bartenders, cleaners and everyone else in the club that pitched in and helped out. Also, a huge thank you to everyone who made and brought the food to share, especially to everyone who made the lasagnas and the soup. Everything was delicious. We hope everyone enjoyed Cash Spiel Weekend at the Schooner and we hope to see everyone back again next season. Check out photos of the event on the Schooner Facebook page.

Ladies Off to Compete in Baddeck

A Schooner ladies team will be off to Baddeck to compete in the annual Blarney Stone Spiel that is starting on March 12. Lynn Kelly, Cheryl MacKinnon, Frances Ford, Rose Gale and Pamela Conohan will make up the team representing the Schooner Club. Best of luck to the ladies and we hope you bring home the trophy.

March Fun Spiel

The Club will be holding a Fun Spiel on March 24th and 25th. It's a single entry event and open to all club members and guests. There will be three, six end games and lunch on Saturday. Watch for more info and sign up as the event gets closer.

Sydney Teams Compete at Club Championships

Two Teams from Sydney went to the Nova Scotia Curling Club Championships held in Bridgewater in late February. The Travis Stone rink with skip Travis, Kurt Roach, Mark MacNamara and Robin Nathanson and the Stephen Leslie rink with Skip Stephen, Kevin Gouthro, Shane Langille and Ryan Ferguson. Team Stone has good success in the event, making it to the final game before falling to Team Steele of the Halifax Curling Club 5-4. Stone had a shot to tie the game in the final end when Steele's final stone took out two Sydney stones and sat behind another of the Sydney Rink's rocks as shot stone. Sydney had another rock in the rings that was second shot and Stone elected to throw a runback that he had to stick to get his two. Sydney's final stone just under curled slightly and, while the takeout was made, the stone that was run back into the rings did not stay and team Stone only scored one, coming up short and losing the game. Still a great showing at a high level event. Congratulations to team Stone and to team Leslie for representing the Cape Breton curling community well.

Townhouse Glace Bay Meals on Wheels Fundraiser

The Meals on Wheels Fundraising Spiel, brought to you by Townhouse Glace Bay Citizens Service League and the Schooner Curling Club, is set to go on March 3 and 4. There will be ten teams competing in the two day event, each team playing a four end game on Friday and one six end and one more four end game on Saturday. Many new curlers will be in the event including a team that came from a recent Fun Night at the club. The Schooner Club is providing equipment and instruction to anyone that needs it. Entry fee into the spiel is \$100 per team with all proceeds going to the Meals on Wheels program. Everyone is welcome to drop by during the weekend as there will be lots of door prize draws, a silent auction and fun and food all weekend. Donations will be accepted at the event as well. Plan to join us and help support this worthy cause.

Women's World Championships

As most already know, the 2024 Women's World Curling Championships are coming to Sydney's C200. There was an official ticket launch held at the arena on February 16. A variety of ticket packages are available to purchase including a full event pass that will get you into each and every game for the event. According to the Curling Canada website, volunteer registration is still "coming soon" and not officially open yet. Check back on the Curling Canada Website for more info as it becomes available.

John 'Jackie' Pearson



The Schooner Club was saddened by the loss of one of our family, Jackie Pearson, on February 4th, 2023, in his 85th year. He was laid to rest at a very well attended funeral mass at Holy Redeemer Church on February ninth. Many in attendance were friends that Jackie had made in the Cape Breton Curling community over the years. Jackie was an instrumental part of resurrecting and revitalising the Schooner Club after the military had left the radar base. After curling at the club for many years, Jackie had stepped away from the sport for a while, only to return over the last couple of seasons to once again play at the Schooner.

Jackie was into many sports over the years, not just curling, playing hockey, soccer, golf and baseball. Jackie was proud to have been part of the first ever little league in Canada when the Sydney and District Little League was formed in 1951 and was inducted into the local sports hall of fame as part of the Indians team that won the title in that inaugural season. Jackie also gave back to the Whitney Pier community that he loved so much, volunteering countless hours for many organizations including being part of the creation of the Whitney Pier rink and later being on the board of directors helping to ensure its survival through hard times. He even got involved with civic politics for a while, holding the position of alderman for ward six back in the 90's. Jack was born and raised in the Pier, was proud to be a Pier boy and will spend his eternity overlooking the community he loved so much.

Rest in peace John 'Jackie' Adrian Pearson. We will always appreciate what you did for us at the Schooner Club. You always had a smile and a joke for everyone and now you are smiling down from above.

Schooner Fun Nights

The final Schooner Fun Night of the season will be March 18th, our special St. Paddy's day edition. The previous two Fun Nights, one in January and one in February, were both well attended and successful, generating lots of interest from new people in attendance in both the sport and the club. We are calling on members to help make the final Fun Night of the season the best one we've seen in a while. We will be celebrating St. Paddy's day so wear your green. Bring some friends and enjoy a night out at the Schooner. 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.

Sydney CC Hosted Under 13 Provincials

The Nova Scotia Curling Association held its Under 13 Provincial Championship at the Sydney Curling Club from February 10-12 at the Sydney Curling Club. This was the first event for that division since 2020 due to the covid pandemic. Eight teams, five from Sydney, two from Chester and one out of Lunenburg, competed for the provincial crown. The local rinks included Team Joey Mathews, Team Colton MacVarish, Team Sam

Volunteers Needed

Maclsaac, Team Sarah Black and Team Sophie Foote. Meanwhile, visiting rinks include Team Henry Salzman of the Lunenburg Curling Club as well as Team Odin Jollymore and Team Emily Pembleton, both of the Chester Curling Club. Play got underway on Friday afternoon and wrapped up on Sunday with championship games being played. The eventual winner was Team Jollymore from the Chester Curling Club. The team was made up of skip Odin Jollymore, Mate Callum Bates, second Lucas Corkam, lead Reese Malloy, alternate Charlie Creaser and coach Brett Dorrey.

With such a busy schedule ahead at the club with spiels, special events and league play continuing, the club needs volunteers more than ever. We always need people to pitch in and help out with ice, bartending, housekeeping and the like but that gets even more critical during busy times like these. Along with continuing league play we have three spiels, Meals on Wheels, a doubles spiel and a fun spiel scheduled this month, we have our closing spiel coming in April and we have a fun night in March as well. During spiels we may also look for people who are willing to make food dishes and to possibly help prep and serve meals at the club. For more information or to volunteer for general tasks see any member of the Schooner executive. If you are willing to make dishes and/or serve at spiels, see Lynn Kelly or Julia Cormier. We need your help. Please give some time back to the 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



Schooner's weekly social and tarabish game are continuing 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.