



In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Remembrance Day November 11th – Lest We Forget



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Schooner Curling Club

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President's Message

Although it never really materialized, summer has come and gone and now it's time for our favorite season of the year, curling season. There are many familiar faces back for another year but, as always, some go and new ones take their place. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the Schooner Executive to welcome all returning and new members and to wish you a year filled with success and fun. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who make our club function. I encourage all members to try and find some time to give back to the club in some way. We have been able to keep our membership rates very reasonable and the hard work of volunteers is the main reason we can function, not only inexpensively, but at all. Success or failure is based on teamwork.

With a successful Opening Spiel behind us we now look forward to the 2011-12 curling season. Thank you to Russell and John, our bonspiel guys, and everyone else who pitched in to help out with organizing and running the opening. Drawmaster Cal Thistle has been working hard to create teams and make schedules and league play has begun. Along with that we have a busy year planned at the club with spiels, fun nights and other events to keep us all busy and entertained. Early indications show us that our ice will be very good again this season, thanks to the hard work of Brian Laughlin and the ice crew. Many hours are spent making and maintaining the ice and I want to thank all those who showed up to help out with flooding, painting and ice making chores. The club itself also looks great thanks to our housekeeping committee Frances Ford and Yvonne Donovan. Things look very promising for the coming year overall. So, without further adieu, let's hit the ice and have some fun. Good curling everyone.

Ray Cameron

Coors Fun Nights



The first Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, November 12. The fun gets going at around 7:00 and is only \$5.00 for the public and \$2.00 for Schooner Members for curling, pizza and prizes. Please bring clean, dry footwear for the ice area. Abbie and Robina Boudreau are back to host the fun nights and the Coors Light Brewing company is back again this year as sponsors. The fun nights are a great way to introduce new people to the sport of curling and we reap the benefits with new members so gather up friends, family, co-workers, whoever and attend the first Coors Fun Night. See ya there!

Club Calendar

Saturday, November 12	Coor's Fun Night
December 5-10	Turkey Spiel
Saturday Dec. 17	Coors Fun Night
December 19	Christmas Break Begins
Monday, January 2 nd	Curling Resumes
January 13-14 th	JDRF Spiel
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

Opening Spiel Results

And we're off! The annual Schooner opening spiel marks the start of another great season of curling. This year's event, although somewhat shortened, was a great success with all teams fighting hard for victory which made for some great curling and great fun. The final day, dubbed "Super Curling Sunday" by president Ray Cameron, was a great end to the spiel that brought all teams together for the final day and, for the first time, saw all teams compete for top spot overall, not just against their own division rivals. With the start of play on Sunday there were many teams still in the running for top spot but once the finals rocks were thrown and all the points tallied it was the rink skipped by Gary Landry that prevailed, edging out Brian Laughlin's foursome by plus minus. Both rinks finished with 31 points but Gary was a +12 and Brian a +9. Very close. Gary was joined in the victory by Richard Lorway, Mike McGrath and Frances Ford. Brian had Kelley Laughlin, Terry Marshall and Georgette Sparkes with him. Third spot was taken by the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink with Wayne, Mate Tom Drover, Matt MacPherson and Amy MacPherson. It was a good start to the season for Bonnell who plans on taking the reins of his own rink in the Sunday Team Entry League this season. In fourth spot was John Bonaparte along with Billy Farr, Everett Dixon and Steve Jurcina. Veteran skip Ray Arseneau made his return to curling at the Schooner an exciting one as he was one of the rinks in Sunday's hunt for first but he fell to defeat in his final match and finished in fifth spot overall.

Along with great curling Sunday also saw the presentation of prizes to all the curlers and pizza was provided by the club. Thank you to all who took part and thanks also to anyone who helped out in any way. Overall a great spiel and a great start to the 2011-12 season.

League Play

League play got underway Sunday, Oct. 30 with Team Entry. The men's league will be held Monday nights starting November 7th and the mixed league will play 7pm draws on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. night starting Nov. 1st depending on the number of teams involved. If teams exceed twelve, a 9pm draw will be added.

Schooner Club withdraws from NSCA



At the fall general meeting, president Ray Cameron suggested that the Schooner Curling Club withdraw from the Nova Scotia Curling Association as a cost saving measure. Ray stated that our participation in the NSCA wasn't reaping many benefits and the costs were starting to become prohibitive. There is a cost per member as well as per sheet of ice which, in our case, would have added up to be in the \$1000 range for the year. Benefits of being in the association included the right for curlers from a member club to compete in provincial playoff competitions, the right for the club to apply to host a provincial playoff event and for the club to be listed on the NSCA website and have them promote our spiels both on their website and by email blasts to other member clubs. Other than that, the club is not penalized in any way for withdrawing from the NSCA nor are there any penalties to rejoin the association at any time if the club executive and membership ever decide to do so.

It was a unanimous decision by the club members in attendance, given the cost savings and the minimal benefit to the club, that the Schooner Curling Club withdraw from the NSCA, at least for the 2011-12 season.

Cell Phone Use During Games

The Schooner Curling Club would like to ask all members to show consideration to fellow members with regard to the use of cell phones during game play. While it is recognized that some members require they have their cell phones with them at all times to receive calls related to work or family emergencies, it is asked that, when playing a game, you turn the ringer of your phone off and set it to vibrate only. Also, if you need to take a call, please leave the ice area and take the call in the clubhouse area only. Keep the call short and return to play as soon as possible so as not to hold up the game. It is hoped that all members can follow this policy of common courtesy and you are thanked for your cooperation.

Etiquette for Curlers

Curling is a very social game. Curlers all try to get along and treat each other with respect and sportsmanship. There are certain rules of etiquette and common courtesies that we should all follow that will make the game move along quickly and smoothly and ensure good feelings between curlers, win or lose. These are just a few general rules that new curlers may not know and experienced curlers may have forgotten.

- Be on time. Always try to be a few minutes early for a game and be ready to play at the scheduled time. If you cannot make a game, notify your skip in plenty of time for them to get a replacement.
- Start the game with a handshake and a wish of good luck. The Mates will toss a coin for choice of hammer.
- Be ready to play. Always be ready to play when it is your turn to throw your stone or sweep a teammates stone. Avoid leaving the playing area unless absolutely necessary. **Don't hold up the game.**
- Keep the ice clean. Make sure you wear clothing and footwear that will not leave debris on the ice. Also, if you notice debris, always remove it for you and your fellow curlers.
- Never disturb a player when they are in the hack. Be quiet and avoid excessive movement when a fellow curler is delivering a rock. Never cross the ice just before a delivery and always try to be in position along the side as quickly as possible. **Never intentionally try to distract a curler.**
- Don't crowd into the house. Only the skip and the mate are permitted to be in the area of the house to discuss strategy or count up points at the completion of an end. **Leads and seconds should always stay between the hog lines** in the middle section of the sheet during play unless it is your turn to throw or sweep a stone.
- Don't be in the way. Stay as far to the sides of the ice as you can when walking back after sweeping a stone so you don't block the view of a player that is trying to see their skip and position of the skips broom to deliver their stone. Keep yourself and your equipment as far to the side of the ice as possible leaving the playing surface clear for the opposing team and never get in the way of opposing sweepers.
- If a game is taking place on an adjoining sheet, afford them the same courtesy you show any fellow curler. Don't allow stones from your sheet to enter their area of play.
- Always play by the rules. You are responsible to report when you have burned a rock, moved a stone in play or have broken any other rule of the game.
- Skips and mates who are in the area of the house while the opposing team is delivering a stone should avoid excessive movement and noise so as not to distract the opposing team.
- Mates are the only ones who decide scoring and perform measurements. All other players should stay away from the house until opposing mates have decided the scoring for an end and have completed any required measurements. NEVER move a rock until scoring has been decided or until you are told to do so by your mate.
- Skips are the leaders of their team and are responsible for making sure they and their players follow both the rules of play and the rules of good etiquette. Correction by the skip is warranted if a player breaks either.
- Always end a game with a handshake and congratulations. Winners always offer to buy the first round of drinks.

For more information on curling etiquette and courtesies, see these websites:

<http://www.curlnavy.com/members/etiquette.asp>

<http://www.curldc.org/about/courtesy.php>



First half of membership fees are due November 15



