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# In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 51

November 2013

🌸 Remembrance Day, Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Lest We Forget 🌸

## Club Calendar

Oct 28-30, Nov 1-2	Opening Spiel
Saturday, November 2	Opening Spiel Dance
Sunday, November 3	League Play Begins
Friday, November 8	Inter-Club Play
Saturday, November 9	Schooner Social
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No Curling
Saturday, November 16	Super Saturday
Saturday, November 23	Coors Fun Night
Friday, November 29	Inter-Club Play
Friday, December 6	Inter-Club Play
December 10-14	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 22	Coors Fun Night
December 22 – January 4	Holiday Break
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

## President's Message



The curling season is upon us once again!!!! Brian and his crew have worked their magic to create two wonderful sheets of ice, Kelley has organized a fantastic opening spiel and Cal has worked hard at establishing our leagues for the year. And with that, I would like to welcome everyone back for another great year of curling at the Schooner Curling Club. Your 2013-14 Schooner Executive have put in the time and effort to bring more activities to the Club this year and I would like to personally thank each member that volunteered his or her time in planning and preparing the Schooner Curling Club for the upcoming year.

This year we are hoping to introduce fresh new ideas and activities to the Club while keeping the “Schooner Curling Culture” that is evident in only our Club. We are working with the CBRM Curling Association and Sydney Curling Club to bring more integrated events for everyone to enjoy. We will also be introducing “Schooner Nights” this year. On these nights, the Club will be open to all members to come practice their shot-making, have a pick-up game with other members of the Club or participate in the many theme nights we will have planned throughout the year.

The junior program will benefit from the hours of research that Nadine has done to improve the quality of our program. She and Amy have worked hard throughout the summer to plan new games and instructional techniques to increase the enjoyment for our junior members and entice youth to join our program. We will be creating partnerships with local youth organizations to invite their youth into our club to try the sport and have some fun.

Schooner will also look to invite adult organizations as well. The goal for our club is to increase our membership. We plan on doing this by increasing the public

awareness of our club by hosting invited groups to try our sport and advertise our fun events throughout the Sydney area.

All in all, we expect to have a great year with plenty of activities to keep everyone entertained throughout the winter months. I hope to see you all participating in these events and I look forward to seeing everyone on the ice. GOOD CURLING TO YOU ALL!!!!

*Thomas Drawer*

## New Format for “In The Hack”

I’m sure that you all noticed that the newsletter for this month is sporting a new look. After 50 editions of “In The Hack” I thought it might be time to do a makeover on the look and feel of the newsletter and give number 51 a fresh, new appearance. The new format also allows the newsletter to be more easily printed at home as it now has an 8.5 x 11 format instead of the 8.5 x 14 format it used to have. The new format also removes some of the restrictions of space that the old format had and that allows for larger font sizes, something many readers have been asking for. You will still find basically the same content as before, club event info, league and spiel results, the club calendar, curling info, etc., but just presented in a new and, at least in my opinion, updated format. Lastly, the new format allows for more use of color to dress the newsletter up a bit and possibly even the use of photos here and there. This may not be the final revision of the new format, it may get tweaked a bit over the next few months as was the case with the first few original editions of the newsletter. As always, your feedback and input are welcomed and encouraged. I look forward to hearing what everyone thinks.

## Coors Fun Night



The first Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, November 23. The fun gets going at around 7:00 and is only \$7.00 for the public and \$4.00 for Schooner Members. This gets you curling, pizza and a chance at some great Coors Light Brewing Company prizes. There’s no better bargain in town so grab your friends and head on down to the Schooner Curling Club for Coors Fun Night. All the equipment you need for curling is supplied but we ask that you bring clean, dry shoes for the ice area.

## League Play



League play will get underway on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the Team Entry league takes to the ice. Regular league play will follow with the same basic schedule as last season, Monday for the Men’s league and Tuesday to Thursday for the Mixed. The Schooner Junior Program will start on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> with a registration, orientation and fun day. The Juniors will take the ice on Saturdays from 1-4 for the remainder of the season with the exception of rescheduling due to spiels. Senior Pickup Curling is again slated for Friday afternoon and should start shortly after league play begins. New this season will be inter-club curling where members from both Sydney and Schooner play together on all six sheets of ice available. These inter-club events will be held eight times through the year and all on Friday nights. You will need to sign up for each of the inter-club events with Draw Master Cal Thistle.

## Curling Etiquette

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.

## Schooner Social Night

## 649 Fundraiser

## Opening Spiel Dance

## We Are On Facebook



## Schooner to Rejoin NSCA

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>

A new feature at the club this season will be “Schooner Socials”. These social events will be held on various Saturday nights throughout the year and are open to Schooner members and a guest. They are not designed to be public events. On these nights you will be able to curl if you want, play darts, play cards or just sit around and have a beverage and chat with friends. It’s totally up to you. The first Schooner Social Night will be held on Saturday, November 9 and will start around 7:00pm and we are hoping for a good turnout. Hope to see you there.

The club is holding a fundraiser to raise money to start a capital fund that will be used specifically to purchase new equipment and to repair or replace the current equipment we have. The fundraiser that is chosen is a 649 lottery draw. The tickets are \$5 each and three for \$10. The person you sell the ticket to selects 6 numbers from 1-49. On each draw of Atlantic Lottery’s 649 the numbers that are drawn will be checked off. The first person to check off all of their chosen numbers will be our winner. If there is more than one winner then the prize will be split equally. Draws start November 20<sup>th</sup>. The final prize will be a 50-50 split of all the money raised by tickets sales. All members are required to sell \$30 worth of tickets. The first planned expenditure of the new capital fund is to be a new flat panel TV for the club to replace our aging CRT set.

In conjunction with the Opening Spiel, there will be a dance at the club on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The party will get rolling after the curling and prize presentations are all done and will run until the music stops. Music will be by everyone’s favorite DJ, DJ Jimmy. The dance is free and open to members and their guests so plan to invite your friends. Let’s get the year off to a fun start and plan to attend the Opening Spiel Dance.

That’s right. The Schooner Curling Club is on Facebook. You can visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/schooner.curling>. When you visit don’t forget to “Like” us and you will get a news feed of all of the club events and other information that gets posted to our Facebook page. You can then share that info with your friends. We hope by using Facebook we will be able to get information to our members faster and to have more people know what’s going on at the Schooner Club by having the word spread by everyone who is on Facebook. If you don’t have a Facebook account you can go there and sign up for free. If you are not into Facebook, don’t worry, the club will still get information out via our website, email blasts, Twitter and telephone.

The Schooner Curling Club will again be a member of the NS Curling Association for the 2013-14 season. A presentation was made by the Schooner Executive at the Fall General Meeting outlining the reasons it would be beneficial for us to rejoin after not being part of the Association for the past few seasons. The promotion of our events on

a Provincial level and the possibility of grant money were just a couple of reasons outlined by the executive. The cost to the club of joining the Association is \$120 per sheet of ice, \$10 per adult member, \$7.50 per young adult member and \$5 per member under 12 years of age. Given last year's membership numbers we would be looking at approx. \$1000 for the year if we report our full membership. Other alternatives to full membership with the NSCA are also available and are being explored by the Schooner executive. It was the feeling of the executive that the potential return to the club of being an NSCA member would be more than the cost to join. A motion was made at the meeting and it was passed unanimously by the members in attendance.

## **Membership Fees**

Membership fees for the Schooner Curling club for the 2013-14 season have gone up slightly. The full, adult membership is now \$220 plus HST, up from last year's \$200 rate. Full Junior and Student memberships stand at \$120 and Junior and Little Rockers will pay \$60, HST being added to all of these prices. Our fees, although higher this season, remain some of the lowest in the Province and offer the most return. The cost of running the club has increased and, along with our re-entry into the NSCA, has necessitated the increase. Full membership can be paid in two installments, the first installment of \$128 (included HST portion) being due on November 15<sup>th</sup> and the remaining \$125 being due January 15<sup>th</sup>. Student, Full Junior and Junior membership is payable in full by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Late payment of your membership fees may result in a 10% penalty being added and/or your membership privileges being revoked. All payments can be made at the club bar or to Frank Kokocki, membership coordinator.

## **Inter-Club Curling**

This season will see 8 inter-club curling events where members from both the Sydney Curling Club and the Schooner Curling Club will come together and compete on all six sheets of ice available at both clubs. The first of these events will be on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in taking part is asked to sign up with our draw master Cal Thistle. You will then be placed on a team for that event that will be made up of curlers from either club and you will be informed of what club you will be curling at. There is no charge for these inter-club events. It is the hope of both clubs along with the CBRM Curling Association that these events will form a stronger bond between the two clubs and foster more sharing of resources. All Schooner members are encouraged to take part. It's a great way to get more for your membership money and curl with people at a facility you may not normally have the opportunity to.

## **Renos to Club**

The curling season is not the only time that there is lots of activity at the club. Throughout the summer and fall there have been a few renovations and repairs. Vice president Gordie Cormier, with the help of some of the ice crew, was busy trying to patch a leak in the roof. Another big project was the removal of the old carpet on the side boards, some of the boards replaced or repaired and new carpet installed. Thanks to Tom Drover with, again, help from Brian and the ice crew, for fixing the boards and to Gordie Cormier, Rick Billard and a few others for working hard to get the carpet and get it installed. Other projects included cleaning the kitchen which was spearheaded by Thomas Drover, recovering the ice shed benches, recovering the club brooms and cleaning the carpets and floors in the clubhouse. There are still a few projects to complete to get the club in perfect shape. There are far too many names to mention in their entirety here but we extend a big thank you to everyone who



## Donations from Local Businesses

volunteers their time and expertise to help out. The Schooner curling club would like to extend a big thank you to three local businesses that recently made donations to the club. [BNC Cleaning Solutions](#) donated the uses of a carpet cleaner to be used to clean the clubhouse carpets in preparation for the upcoming season. Clean carpet in the clubhouse means less dirt and debris on the ice. Thanks to Rick Windsor for getting the machine and cleaning the carpets. [CC Computer Solutions](#) has donated a used computer and monitor to the club for use by the members. This computer can be used to check info on the internet and may eventually be used for entertainment purposes like playing music during parties or streaming content from the internet to our TV. We would also like to thank Ryan's flooring for their donation of supplies and carpet to help complete the repairs of the side boards in the ice area. Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of our sponsors who support the club in many ways through the year from spiel sponsorships to sign rentals to prize donations. Without the help of these sponsors our club could not exist. [Visit the sponsor's page](#) on our website and try to support as many of these local companies whenever you can.

## Volunteers Needed

As is the case every season, the club is asking for everyone's help by volunteering some time. Matt MacPherson, our new Bar Steward, is looking for bartenders to work various league nights and club events. Matt says he would like to get enough bartenders so no one would have to work more than one night a week and promises to work around your curling schedule.

We are always looking for help in housing, ice maintenance, running spiels, planning events, etc. so any time you can give will be very much appreciated. See any member of the executive for more information or to sign up to volunteer. Without the help of volunteers the club could not exist.

## Cell Phone Use

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 cells 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.

## Super Saturday

Super Saturday is an event where all four Island Curling Clubs, Schooner, Sydney, Baddeck and Strait Regional, come together to curl with and against each other. Being held this time at the Sydney Curling club on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, the event is open to all members of the four clubs and is either by single entry or team entry and can be any combination of men and women. The event runs from 9am to 5pm. Watch for more information and sign-up sheets at the club or you can check the website and send email to the club account if you want to participate. These events have been very popular in the past and have proven to be lots of fun. Plan to attend the first Super Saturday of the season.