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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 58

November 2014

🌸 Remembrance Day, Tuesday, November 11th – Lest We Forget 🌸

Club Calendar

Sunday, November 2	League Play Begins
Saturday, November 8 th	Junior Registration and Fun Day
Tuesday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No Curling
Wednesday, November 19 th	649 Draws Begin
Saturday, November 22	Coors Fun Night
Sunday, November 23 rd	Chase the Ace Begins
Saturday, November 28 th	Schooner Pre-Holiday Dance
December 10-14	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 22	Coors Fun Night
December 23 – January 4	Holiday Break
Sunday, January 4 th	League Play Resumes
January 16-18	Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, January 24 th	Coors Fun Night
February 13-14	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 21	Coors Fun Night
February 27-28	2 on2 Spiel
Saturday, March 14	Coors Fun Night

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

President's Message



I would like to start out by giving a warm welcome to all new and returning members to the club. It was a great summer in Cape Breton but now that the weather is turning cooler our thoughts become focused on our favorite winter activity, curling. And what better place to enjoy our favorite sport than at the Schooner Club. As it is with every new season at the club, we see some familiar faces not return and new faces take their place. There will be challenges but we will face and overcome them as we always do. I, along with the Schooner executive and committee heads, are all committed to making sure the club maintains the success we have had in the past and that all members and guests fully enjoy their time at the Schooner. But we can't do it alone. The Schooner has always relied on the commitment of its members to volunteer their time to make the club function. I ask all members to give back to the club and volunteer time to help out. Without your help we cannot exist. I also ask all members to help ease the ever increasing financial burdens on the club by participating in the various fundraisers we have this season. Right now we have a 649 draw going on with money raised going to cover everyday expenses of the club to help keep membership costs down. If each member sells just a few entries we can be successful. The Schooner Club and its executive are also committed to furthering the sport of curling in our community. While we are always actively seeking new members to join us at the club we are also committed to the Schooner Junior program and bringing the sport to as many young people as possible. We are also committed to continuing the

strong efforts of last year's executive and furthering our cooperation with the Sydney Curling Club and the CBRM Curler's Association to help with their efforts to further the sport of curling in the community and in the schools. The curling landscape is changing in Cape Breton and we need to change with it in order to survive and grow the sport for all ages to enjoy in the future.

Lastly, I would like to send out thanks to everyone who worked hard to make sure we were ready for the new season. A huge thanks to Brian and the ice crew who worked many hours to give us the two great sheets of curling ice that we have again this year, to Laura for organizing the opening spiel to get the year started, to Georgette and Bernadette in housekeeping for getting the club shiny and new for us to enjoy and to everyone else who pitched in along the way to get us up and running. Thank you to local businesses Chandler Sales and BNC Cleaning for providing equipment and labor to the club to clean the carpets and maintain the floors and to all of our sponsors from the community who help us out every year.

So here we go. With a successful opening spiel to begin the season and league play getting underway early in November we are off and running to another great year at Schooner. I look forward to curling with everyone and sharing a beverage afterwards. All that's left to say is "Good Curling Everyone".

Gordie Cormier

Coors Fun Night



The first Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, November 22. This year will see new faces running the fun on Coors Night. Brothers Gordie and Dennis Cormier have taken over the reins after Abbie and Robina Boudreau stepped aside. 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 2nd, when the Team Entry league takes to the ice. This league is not one where your membership guarantees you a spot to play. Each team is picked and entered by the skip running that team. If you have registered for that league on your application your name will be made known to all skips who are entering teams into that league that may be in need of players to fill in their rosters. The final decision on who they want on their teams will be made by the skips. Some rinks from last year's team entry league will be in need of players if rumors of certain members not returning or changing teams are true. Rick Billard who played lead for the last couple of seasons with the Brian Laughlin rink has struck out on his own to skip a team of newcomers on Sunday. The Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink and the Wally MacDonald are returning and, for the moment, seemingly intact but past volatility in these two skips means that nothing is for certain until the season is underway. Other Team Entry skips may be looking to replace players who have not returned to curling for this season or have opted out of the more competitive Sunday league.

Other 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. Teams will be made and the rosters and schedules will be posted once the majority of membership applications

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The club is holding a 649 fundraiser to raise money for the club. 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. Entries must be turned in by Sunday, November 16th and draws start Wednesday, November 19th. The final prize will be a 50-50 split of all the money raised by tickets sales. Given the ever rising cost of running the club and the fact that membership dues are held steady at last year's rate, all members are to sell as many entries as possible to raise much needed funds to keep the club running. Entry forms are available at the club or you can download them from the club website. The two 649 draws that were held last season were very successful and we hope to exceed their success this year. If you have any questions or want to submit entries, contact Laura Rafuse or Gordie Cormier. Thank you for your support.

Schooner and the NSCA

The future of having the Schooner Curling Club as a member of the NS Curling Association for the upcoming season is still up the air. There was a plan put in place for the club to rejoin the association for the 2013-14 season after 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 were looked into by the Schooner executive but turned out to be a dead end. In the end, it was the feeling of the executive that the potential return to the club of being an NSCA member would not warrant the cost to join. Continued efforts to get information from the association regarding our membership options didn't provide any viable alternatives for us and it was once again decided at the start of this season that we should not join and save the money NSCA membership would cost to help run the club. This issue is not yet dead and will still be explored by the current executive so that a presentation and recommendation can be made to the members of our club at a future meeting.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for the Schooner Curling club for the 2014-15 season remain unchanged from last year's rate. The cost of a full, adult membership is Still \$220 plus HST for a total of \$253. This remains one of the biggest bargains for a winter full of fun you will find anywhere. Junior membership and little rocker membership rates also remain unchanged at \$138 and \$69 respectively, HST included, and we continue to offer a student membership at \$138, HST included, as well. The payment terms offered to members this season have changed. Student, junior and little rockers must pay in full at the start of curling. Adult membership is also due in full at the start of curling but the club will accept one cheque for \$153 by November 1st, prior to the start of regular season curling, along with a post-dated cheque for January 15th to cover the balance. You MUST provide both cheques at the beginning of the curling season. These terms are in line with many other curling facilities and still offer adult members the ability to spread the payment out a bit if required. Failure to follow these payment terms will result in revocation of your membership privileges. Payments can be made to the bar or to Frank Kokocki, membership coordinator.

Inter-Club Curling

Last year saw the introduction of inter-club curling where members from the Schooner and Sydney Curling Clubs would get together and use both facilities to have a night of curling. Members would get the opportunity to curl in a different club and with new people. This initiative of the CBRM Curlers Association was designed to bring the two clubs closer together in hopes of one day forming one united club. As of the start of November there were no inter-club events scheduled to be held. Our draw master, Cal Thistle, said he hasn't heard that any events will be held this season but he still has hope that, through discussions with the Sydney Club, a scaled down schedule of inter-club play can become a reality. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and the club bulletin boards for announcements and possible dates for inter-club curling.

Donations from Local Businesses

The Schooner curling club would like to extend a big thank you to 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. We would also like to thank [Chandler's Sales](#) (R and A Paper Products) for providing equipment to strip and wax our club floor. Trevor Billard of Chandler's also donated his time to strip the floors for us. Rick Billard helped out and Georgette Sparkes worked hard to clean the floors and apply the fresh wax. Thank you all.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the local businesses and organizations that support the club with sign rentals, in-ice advertising and other donations of prizes and money to help run spiels and other events. [Visit our sponsors page on the Schooner website](#) to see these community minded businesses and please consider patronizing them by using their services or buying their products whenever the opportunity arises.

Volunteers Needed

The heart of the Schooner Curling Club beats in our volunteers. Without the work done by Schooner members who donate their time, our club could not exist. We are still seeking to fill one more executive position at the club, Bar Steward. There is a

big commitment required by whoever takes over this job but we are hoping someone will step up and take it on. We are also looking for bar tenders to fill shifts on league nights, Coors nights and during spiels and other special events. There is also a need for people to help out with spiels, ice maintenance, housekeeping and other jobs. So please, we really need the membership to pitch in and help. Even if you can only give us an hour or two a month, every little bit helps.

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.

Upcoming Dances

Everyone get your dancin' shoes on and get ready to party at the Schooner club. The club has secured the services of everyone's favorite DJ, DJ Jimmy M, for three events this year. The first will be held on Saturday, November 28th. It will be a pre-Holiday dance that is open to both Club members and guests. Watch the website and club bulletin boards for more information as the event gets closer. Future events with DJ Jimmy will be announced as dates are finalized.

Bar Prices on the Rise

The Schooner Executive has announced that the prices at our bar will rise slightly for the coming season. You've probably already noticed the increase in prices as they came into effect October 27th. Beer and spirits have gone up from \$3.50 to \$3.75 (including HST), Wine has gone to \$3.75 also and coolers have risen from \$4.50 to \$4.75. All prices include HST and, even with the minimal increases, still remain very low relative to many other establishments. Other items sold at the bar such as snacks, soft drinks, coffee and tea have not increased in price. Given the importance of the bar revenue to the financial well being of our club, this minimal increase in prices will help pay the ever increasing cost of daily operations while allowing us to keep membership rates in check.

Mobile Website Issues

We recently learned of some problems with the website when visitors were using a mobile device to access information, in particular, the opening spiel page. Schedule information on this page was jumbled and not in the proper order when viewing the mobile version of our website on a phone or tablet. The mobile version is created by our web hosting provider, a free service called Weebly, automatically from the desktop version that is edited and posted. In the case of the opening spiel page that mobile users had trouble with, the way the page was created for the desktop version did not translate well to the mobile version. We apologize for that over site. In the future we will try and make sure the design of the pages is conducive to translating them into a mobile version given that we have so many visitors who use mobile devices to check the website. All users are also reminded that there are sometimes

Mid-Season General Meeting



Fundraiser

multiple ways to access information. In the case of schedules, you can access the club calendar from the main start page of the website. There is a section where the daily schedule is shown and there is also an icon that allows you to access the full calendar of events for the entire season. This feature has been tested in Android using different browsers and works fine. Another option is to use the “printable” schedules that are normally posted for spiels and leagues. These are in PDF format and should be easily viewed on mobile devices. Feedback is always welcome from website visitors, either the mobile or desktop versions. Reports of problems and issues as well as feedback regarding your experience while using the website regarding things such as ease of use, amount of information, design, etc. help us make the site better for all Schooner members and friends. Feel free to contact webmaster Bill Farr or any member of the executive or email the club at schoonercurling@gmail.com with your comments. You can also leave feedback directly on the website using the site’s guestbook feature.

The Schooner executive would like to announce the addition of a third general meeting for this season. Added to the traditional fall and spring meetings will be a mid-season meeting held early in January to allow Schooner members to get an update on how the club is running, to voice any concerns there may be and to have input into what, if any, changes need to be made. This meeting will be held as part of a Holiday social on Saturday, January 3rd, 2015 at 7pm. After the meeting members are encouraged to stay around and spend some time at the club to help welcome in the new year and celebrate with your Schooner friends. Stay up to date with more details as the meeting gets closer by checking the Schooner website and club bulletin board.

As part of an ongoing effort to raise funds to help offset increasing operational costs and to keep membership fees at a reasonable rate, the Schooner executive has decided to run a new fundraiser called “Chase the Ace”. These types of fundraisers have been cropping up in other areas and have proven very successful for those organizations that run them. The way it works is tickets are sold each week on Sunday afternoon from 2 pm to 4 pm for a draw to be held at 4:15 pm. Tickets will be \$1 each with a minimum purchase of 5 tickets. While you do not have to be present for the draw you must have someone representing you if your ticket is drawn. The owner of the ticket drawn each week will win 20% of the weekly sales and have a chance to cut a deck of cards in hope of turning up the ace of spades to win the money accumulated in the jackpot. The club will get 30% of weekly sales and 50% of sales will go into the jackpot. For each week the ace of spades is not drawn, the jackpot will grow. The drawn card drawn will also be discarded from the deck so that each week the jackpot builds the chance of drawing the ace also increases as the number of cards in the deck will decrease. Jackpots in these fundraisers have reached into the thousands of dollars. The higher the jackpot grows, the more interest we will have in the event. The club has applied for a lottery license number to run this event so the draw can be open to everyone. We hope you will participate but, if not, that you help promote the event to the community so it can be successful and help raise much needed funds to keep the club going. While we hope membership will support this fundraiser, even if you do not participate we ask that you promote the event so we can build the jackpot quickly and gain the most success.

Schooner Rink to Compete in Cash Spiel

There will be a rink representing the Schooner Curling Club at the Port Hawksbury Paper Open Cash Spiel being held later this month in at the Strait Area Community Curling Club in Port Hawksbury. Wayne "Bull" Bonnell, Gordie Cormier, Rick Windsor and Dennis Cormier will form a team to compete for the cash. This team is a combination of two Sunday Team Entry rinks, the Wayne Bonnell rink with Bonnell and Windsor and the Brian Laughlin rink where the two Cormier brothers play, Gordie being a long time third for Laughlin and Dennis just recently joining the team this season to take the lead position. The spiel is being held from November 21st to 23rd. The entry fee is \$200 and if anyone else is interested in entering a team they can contact the Strait Area Community Curling Club online at www.saccc.ca or by phone at 902-625-1824. Best of luck to our Schooner curlers and we hope you bring home some cash

Debit Machine

In a recent club executive meeting it was decided that the Schooner bar would get a new debit machine to offer electronic payment options to members and guests. This will be on a trial basis to gauge usage and value to both members and the club. Members and guests will be able to pay for any item at the bar or service at the club, including their membership fees, and we will also offer cash advances on a limited basis. To help cover the rental cost of the debit machine and the per-transaction fees associated with it, there will be a 25 cent charge per transaction. Members using debit to pay at the bar for more than one purchase will either be offered a cash advance or they can run a tab against their debit card for the evening so they will only have to incur one fee for their nightly purchases. The applications for the debit service are in the works and we hope to have it up and running shortly.

Club Rentals

Members are reminded that the Schooner Club is available for rentals. The cost of renting the club for curling is \$50 per hour per sheet (\$100 minimum). You will also get the use of the clubhouse and we will provide the bar services as well. If you want to just rent the club house area and not the ice, the cost is \$50 plus a \$50 cleaning deposit (non-refundable) and, again, we will provide bar service for the event if required. Renters are permitted to bring in their own food and snacks. The Schooner club makes a great venue for birthday parties, showers, Christmas parties, etc. If anyone is interested in renting the club for an event, contact the club or see Lynn Kelly to book you time. There are already a couple of Christmas parties booked so don't delay, book today!



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Mid-Season General Meeting



Fundraiser

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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 58

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🌸 Remembrance Day, Tuesday, November 11th – Lest We Forget 🌸

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President's Message



I would like to start out by giving a warm welcome to all new and returning members to the club. It was a great summer in Cape Breton but now that the weather is turning cooler our thoughts become focused on our favorite winter activity, curling. And what better place to enjoy our favorite sport than at the Schooner Club. As it is with every new season at the club, we see some familiar faces not return and new faces take their place. There will be challenges but we will face and overcome them as we always do. I, along with the Schooner executive and committee heads, are all committed to making sure the club maintains the success we have had in the past and that all members and guests fully enjoy their time at the Schooner. But we can't do it alone. The Schooner has always relied on the commitment of its members to volunteer their time to make the club function. I ask all members to give back to the club and volunteer time to help out. Without your help we cannot exist. I also ask all members to help ease the ever increasing financial burdens on the club by participating in the various fundraisers we have this season. Right now we have a 649 draw going on with money raised going to cover everyday expenses of the club to help keep membership costs down. If each member sells just a few entries we can be successful. The Schooner Club and its executive are also committed to furthering the sport of curling in our community. While we are always actively seeking new members to join us at the club we are also committed to the Schooner Junior program and bringing the sport to as many young people as possible. We are also committed to continuing the

strong efforts of last year's executive and furthering our cooperation with the Sydney Curling Club and the CBRM Curler's Association to help with their efforts to further the sport of curling in the community and in the schools. The curling landscape is changing in Cape Breton and we need to change with it in order to survive and grow the sport for all ages to enjoy in the future.

Lastly, I would like to send out thanks to everyone who worked hard to make sure we were ready for the new season. A huge thanks to Brian and the ice crew who worked many hours to give us the two great sheets of curling ice that we have again this year, to Laura for organizing the opening spiel to get the year started, to Georgette and Bernadette in housekeeping for getting the club shiny and new for us to enjoy and to everyone else who pitched in along the way to get us up and running. Thank you to local businesses Chandler Sales and BNC Cleaning for providing equipment and labor to the club to clean the carpets and maintain the floors and to all of our sponsors from the community who help us out every year.

So here we go. With a successful opening spiel to begin the season and league play getting underway early in November we are off and running to another great year at Schooner. I look forward to curling with everyone and sharing a beverage afterwards. All that's left to say is "Good Curling Everyone".

Gordie Cormier

Coors Fun Night



The first Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, November 22. This year will see new faces running the fun on Coors Night. Brothers Gordie and Dennis Cormier have taken over the reins after Abbie and Robina Boudreau stepped aside. 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 2nd, when the Team Entry league takes to the ice. This league is not one where your membership guarantees you a spot to play. Each team is picked and entered by the skip running that team. If you have registered for that league on your application your name will be made known to all skips who are entering teams into that league that may be in need of players to fill in their rosters. The final decision on who they want on their teams will be made by the skips. Some rinks from last year's team entry league will be in need of players if rumors of certain members not returning or changing teams are true. Rick Billard who played lead for the last couple of seasons with the Brian Laughlin rink has struck out on his own to skip a team of newcomers on Sunday. The Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink and the Wally MacDonald are returning and, for the moment, seemingly intact but past volatility in these two skips means that nothing is for certain until the season is underway. Other Team Entry skips may be looking to replace players who have not returned to curling for this season or have opted out of the more competitive Sunday league.

Other 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. Teams will be made and the rosters and schedules will be posted once the majority of membership applications

649 Fundraiser

have been received. The Schooner Junior Program will get underway on Saturday, November the 8th with a registration, orientation and fun day. Anyone who knows of kids who might be interested in trying curling are encouraged to bring them to the orientation day. There's no charge to try curling, just bring suitable footwear for the ice area. The Juniors will regularly take the ice on Saturdays from 1-4, 1-2 pm for the little rockers and 2:30 – 4 pm for the regular juniors, 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. As of now, inter-club play that was introduced last season for members of the Schooner and Sydney clubs is not on the schedule. That may change and members are encouraged to keep an eye on the Schooner website or on the bulletin board at the club to see if inter-club play does indeed make a comeback.

The club is holding a 649 fundraiser to raise money for the club. 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. Entries must be turned in by Sunday, November 16th and draws start Wednesday, November 19th. The final prize will be a 50-50 split of all the money raised by tickets sales. Given the ever rising cost of running the club and the fact that membership dues are held steady at last year's rate, all members are to sell as many entries as possible to raise much needed funds to keep the club running. Entry forms are available at the club or you can download them from the club website. The two 649 draws that were held last season were very successful and we hope to exceed their success this year. If you have any questions or want to submit entries, contact Laura Rafuse or Gordie Cormier. Thank you for your support.

Schooner and the NSCA

The future of having the Schooner Curling Club as a member of the NS Curling Association for the upcoming season is still up the air. There was a plan put in place for the club to rejoin the association for the 2013-14 season after 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 were looked into by the Schooner executive but turned out to be a dead end. In the end, it was the feeling of the executive that the potential return to the club of being an NSCA member would not warrant the cost to join. Continued efforts to get information from the association regarding our membership options didn't provide any viable alternatives for us and it was once again decided at the start of this season that we should not join and save the money NSCA membership would cost to help run the club. This issue is not yet dead and will still be explored by the current executive so that a presentation and recommendation can be made to the members of our club at a future meeting.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for the Schooner Curling club for the 2014-15 season remain unchanged from last year's rate. The cost of a full, adult membership is Still \$220 plus HST for a total of \$253. This remains one of the biggest bargains for a winter full of fun you will find anywhere. Junior membership and little rocker membership rates also remain unchanged at \$138 and \$69 respectively, HST included, and we continue to offer a student membership at \$138, HST included, as well. The payment terms offered to members this season have changed. Student, junior and little rockers must pay in full at the start of curling. Adult membership is also due in full at the start of curling but the club will accept one cheque for \$153 by November 1st, prior to the start of regular season curling, along with a post-dated cheque for January 15th to cover the balance. You MUST provide both cheques at the beginning of the curling season. These terms are in line with many other curling facilities and still offer adult members the ability to spread the payment out a bit if required. Failure to follow these payment terms will result in revocation of your membership privileges. Payments can be made to the bar or to Frank Kokocki, membership coordinator.

Inter-Club Curling

Last year saw the introduction of inter-club curling where members from the Schooner and Sydney Curling Clubs would get together and use both facilities to have a night of curling. Members would get the opportunity to curl in a different club and with new people. This initiative of the CBRM Curlers Association was designed to bring the two clubs closer together in hopes of one day forming one united club. As of the start of November there were no inter-club events scheduled to be held. Our draw master, Cal Thistle, said he hasn't heard that any events will be held this season but he still has hope that, through discussions with the Sydney Club, a scaled down schedule of inter-club play can become a reality. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and the club bulletin boards for announcements and possible dates for inter-club curling.

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I would like to start out by giving a warm welcome to all new and returning members to the club. It was a great summer in Cape Breton but now that the weather is turning cooler our thoughts become focused on our favorite winter activity, curling. And what better place to enjoy our favorite sport than at the Schooner Club. As it is with every new season at the club, we see some familiar faces not return and new faces take their place. There will be challenges but we will face and overcome them as we always do. I, along with the Schooner executive and committee heads, are all committed to making sure the club maintains the success we have had in the past and that all members and guests fully enjoy their time at the Schooner. But we can't do it alone. The Schooner has always relied on the commitment of its members to volunteer their time to make the club function. I ask all members to give back to the club and volunteer time to help out. Without your help we cannot exist. I also ask all members to help ease the ever increasing financial burdens on the club by participating in the various fundraisers we have this season. Right now we have a 649 draw going on with money raised going to cover everyday expenses of the club to help keep membership costs down. If each member sells just a few entries we can be successful. The Schooner Club and its executive are also committed to furthering the sport of curling in our community. While we are always actively seeking new members to join us at the club we are also committed to the Schooner Junior program and bringing the sport to as many young people as possible. We are also committed to continuing the

strong efforts of last year's executive and furthering our cooperation with the Sydney Curling Club and the CBRM Curler's Association to help with their efforts to further the sport of curling in the community and in the schools. The curling landscape is changing in Cape Breton and we need to change with it in order to survive and grow the sport for all ages to enjoy in the future.

Lastly, I would like to send out thanks to everyone who worked hard to make sure we were ready for the new season. A huge thanks to Brian and the ice crew who worked many hours to give us the two great sheets of curling ice that we have again this year, to Laura for organizing the opening spiel to get the year started, to Georgette and Bernadette in housekeeping for getting the club shiny and new for us to enjoy and to everyone else who pitched in along the way to get us up and running. Thank you to local businesses Chandler Sales and BNC Cleaning for providing equipment and labor to the club to clean the carpets and maintain the floors and to all of our sponsors from the community who help us out every year.

So here we go. With a successful opening spiel to begin the season and league play getting underway early in November we are off and running to another great year at Schooner. I look forward to curling with everyone and sharing a beverage afterwards. All that's left to say is "Good Curling Everyone".

Gordie Cormier

Coors Fun Night



The first Coors Fun Night of the season will be held on Saturday, November 22. This year will see new faces running the fun on Coors Night. Brothers Gordie and Dennis Cormier have taken over the reins after Abbie and Robina Boudreau stepped aside. 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.

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Volunteers Needed

The heart of the Schooner Curling Club beats in our volunteers. Without the work done by Schooner members who donate their time, our club could not exist. We are still seeking to fill one more executive position at the club, Bar Steward. There is a

big commitment required by whoever takes over this job but we are hoping someone will step up and take it on. We are also looking for bar tenders to fill shifts on league nights, Coors nights and during spiels and other special events. There is also a need for people to help out with spiels, ice maintenance, housekeeping and other jobs. So please, we really need the membership to pitch in and help. Even if you can only give us an hour or two a month, every little bit helps.

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.

Upcoming Dances

Everyone get your dancin' shoes on and get ready to party at the Schooner club. The club has secured the services of everyone's favorite DJ, DJ Jimmy M, for three events this year. The first will be held on Saturday, November 28th. It will be a pre-Holiday dance that is open to both Club members and guests. Watch the website and club bulletin boards for more information as the event gets closer. Future events with DJ Jimmy will be announced as dates are finalized.

Bar Prices on the Rise

The Schooner Executive has announced that the prices at our bar will rise slightly for the coming season. You've probably already noticed the increase in prices as they came into effect October 27th. Beer and spirits have gone up from \$3.50 to \$3.75 (including HST), Wine has gone to \$3.75 also and coolers have risen from \$4.50 to \$4.75. All prices include HST and, even with the minimal increases, still remain very low relative to many other establishments. Other items sold at the bar such as snacks, soft drinks, coffee and tea have not increased in price. Given the importance of the bar revenue to the financial well being of our club, this minimal increase in prices will help pay the ever increasing cost of daily operations while allowing us to keep membership rates in check.

Mobile Website Issues

We recently learned of some problems with the website when visitors were using a mobile device to access information, in particular, the opening spiel page. Schedule information on this page was jumbled and not in the proper order when viewing the mobile version of our website on a phone or tablet. The mobile version is created by our web hosting provider, a free service called Weebly, automatically from the desktop version that is edited and posted. In the case of the opening spiel page that mobile users had trouble with, the way the page was created for the desktop version did not translate well to the mobile version. We apologize for that over site. In the future we will try and make sure the design of the pages is conducive to translating them into a mobile version given that we have so many visitors who use mobile devices to check the website. All users are also reminded that there are sometimes

Mid-Season General Meeting



Fundraiser

multiple ways to access information. In the case of schedules, you can access the club calendar from the main start page of the website. There is a section where the daily schedule is shown and there is also an icon that allows you to access the full calendar of events for the entire season. This feature has been tested in Android using different browsers and works fine. Another option is to use the “printable” schedules that are normally posted for spiels and leagues. These are in PDF format and should be easily viewed on mobile devices. Feedback is always welcome from website visitors, either the mobile or desktop versions. Reports of problems and issues as well as feedback regarding your experience while using the website regarding things such as ease of use, amount of information, design, etc. help us make the site better for all Schooner members and friends. Feel free to contact webmaster Bill Farr or any member of the executive or email the club at schoonercurling@gmail.com with your comments. You can also leave feedback directly on the website using the site’s guestbook feature.

The Schooner executive would like to announce the addition of a third general meeting for this season. Added to the traditional fall and spring meetings will be a mid-season meeting held early in January to allow Schooner members to get an update on how the club is running, to voice any concerns there may be and to have input into what, if any, changes need to be made. This meeting will be held as part of a Holiday social on Saturday, January 3rd, 2015 at 7pm. After the meeting members are encouraged to stay around and spend some time at the club to help welcome in the new year and celebrate with your Schooner friends. Stay up to date with more details as the meeting gets closer by checking the Schooner website and club bulletin board.

As part of an ongoing effort to raise funds to help offset increasing operational costs and to keep membership fees at a reasonable rate, the Schooner executive has decided to run a new fundraiser called “Chase the Ace”. These types of fundraisers have been cropping up in other areas and have proven very successful for those organizations that run them. The way it works is tickets are sold each week on Sunday afternoon from 2 pm to 4 pm for a draw to be held at 4:15 pm. Tickets will be \$1 each with a minimum purchase of 5 tickets. While you do not have to be present for the draw you must have someone representing you if your ticket is drawn. The owner of the ticket drawn each week will win 20% of the weekly sales and have a chance to cut a deck of cards in hope of turning up the ace of spades to win the money accumulated in the jackpot. The club will get 30% of weekly sales and 50% of sales will go into the jackpot. For each week the ace of spades is not drawn, the jackpot will grow. The drawn card drawn will also be discarded from the deck so that each week the jackpot builds the chance of drawing the ace also increases as the number of cards in the deck will decrease. Jackpots in these fundraisers have reached into the thousands of dollars. The higher the jackpot grows, the more interest we will have in the event. The club has applied for a lottery license number to run this event so the draw can be open to everyone. We hope you will participate but, if not, that you help promote the event to the community so it can be successful and help raise much needed funds to keep the club going. While we hope membership will support this fundraiser, even if you do not participate we ask that you promote the event so we can build the jackpot quickly and gain the most success.

Schooner Rink to Compete in Cash Spiel

There will be a rink representing the Schooner Curling Club at the Port Hawksbury Paper Open Cash Spiel being held later this month in at the Strait Area Community Curling Club in Port Hawksbury. Wayne "Bull" Bonnell, Gordie Cormier, Rick Windsor and Dennis Cormier will form a team to compete for the cash. This team is a combination of two Sunday Team Entry rinks, the Wayne Bonnell rink with Bonnell and Windsor and the Brian Laughlin rink where the two Cormier brothers play, Gordie being a long time third for Laughlin and Dennis just recently joining the team this season to take the lead position. The spiel is being held from November 21st to 23rd. The entry fee is \$200 and if anyone else is interested in entering a team they can contact the Strait Area Community Curling Club online at www.saccc.ca or by phone at 902-625-1824. Best of luck to our Schooner curlers and we hope you bring home some cash

Debit Machine

In a recent club executive meeting it was decided that the Schooner bar would get a new debit machine to offer electronic payment options to members and guests. This will be on a trial basis to gauge usage and value to both members and the club. Members and guests will be able to pay for any item at the bar or service at the club, including their membership fees, and we will also offer cash advances on a limited basis. To help cover the rental cost of the debit machine and the per-transaction fees associated with it, there will be a 25 cent charge per transaction. Members using debit to pay at the bar for more than one purchase will either be offered a cash advance or they can run a tab against their debit card for the evening so they will only have to incur one fee for their nightly purchases. The applications for the debit service are in the works and we hope to have it up and running shortly.

Club Rentals

Members are reminded that the Schooner Club is available for rentals. The cost of renting the club for curling is \$50 per hour per sheet (\$100 minimum). You will also get the use of the clubhouse and we will provide the bar services as well. If you want to just rent the club house area and not the ice, the cost is \$50 plus a \$50 cleaning deposit (non-refundable) and, again, we will provide bar service for the event if required. Renters are permitted to bring in their own food and snacks. The Schooner club makes a great venue for birthday parties, showers, Christmas parties, etc. If anyone is interested in renting the club for an event, contact the club or see Lynn Kelly to book you time. There are already a couple of Christmas parties booked so don't delay, book today!



Schooner Curling Club
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 schoonercurlingclub.com
 schoonercurling@gmail.com

In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 58

November 2014

🌸 Remembrance Day, Tuesday, November 11th – Lest We Forget 🌸

Club Calendar

Sunday, November 2	League Play Begins
Saturday, November 8 th	Junior Registration and Fun Day
Tuesday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No Curling
Wednesday, November 19 th	649 Draws Begin
Saturday, November 22	Coors Fun Night
Sunday, November 23 rd	Chase the Ace Begins
Saturday, November 28 th	Schooner Pre-Holiday Dance
December 10-14	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 22	Coors Fun Night
December 23 – January 4	Holiday Break
Sunday, January 4 th	League Play Resumes
January 16-18	Open Cash Spiel
Saturday, January 24 th	Coors Fun Night
February 13-14	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 21	Coors Fun Night
February 27-28	2 on2 Spiel
Saturday, March 14	Coors Fun Night

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big commitment required by whoever takes over this job but we are hoping someone will step up and take it on. We are also looking for bar tenders to fill shifts on league nights, Coors nights and during spiels and other special events. There is also a need for people to help out with spiels, ice maintenance, housekeeping and other jobs. So please, we really need the membership to pitch in and help. Even if you can only give us an hour or two a month, every little bit helps.

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.

Upcoming Dances

Everyone get your dancin' shoes on and get ready to party at the Schooner club. The club has secured the services of everyone's favorite DJ, DJ Jimmy M, for three events this year. The first will be held on Saturday, November 28th. It will be a pre-Holiday dance that is open to both Club members and guests. Watch the website and club bulletin boards for more information as the event gets closer. Future events with DJ Jimmy will be announced as dates are finalized.

Bar Prices on the Rise

The Schooner Executive has announced that the prices at our bar will rise slightly for the coming season. You've probably already noticed the increase in prices as they came into effect October 27th. Beer and spirits have gone up from \$3.50 to \$3.75 (including HST), Wine has gone to \$3.75 also and coolers have risen from \$4.50 to \$4.75. All prices include HST and, even with the minimal increases, still remain very low relative to many other establishments. Other items sold at the bar such as snacks, soft drinks, coffee and tea have not increased in price. Given the importance of the bar revenue to the financial well being of our club, this minimal increase in prices will help pay the ever increasing cost of daily operations while allowing us to keep membership rates in check.

Mobile Website Issues

We recently learned of some problems with the website when visitors were using a mobile device to access information, in particular, the opening spiel page. Schedule information on this page was jumbled and not in the proper order when viewing the mobile version of our website on a phone or tablet. The mobile version is created by our web hosting provider, a free service called Weebly, automatically from the desktop version that is edited and posted. In the case of the opening spiel page that mobile users had trouble with, the way the page was created for the desktop version did not translate well to the mobile version. We apologize for that over site. In the future we will try and make sure the design of the pages is conducive to translating them into a mobile version given that we have so many visitors who use mobile devices to check the website. All users are also reminded that there are sometimes

Mid-Season General Meeting



Fundraiser

multiple ways to access information. In the case of schedules, you can access the club calendar from the main start page of the website. There is a section where the daily schedule is shown and there is also an icon that allows you to access the full calendar of events for the entire season. This feature has been tested in Android using different browsers and works fine. Another option is to use the “printable” schedules that are normally posted for spiels and leagues. These are in PDF format and should be easily viewed on mobile devices. Feedback is always welcome from website visitors, either the mobile or desktop versions. Reports of problems and issues as well as feedback regarding your experience while using the website regarding things such as ease of use, amount of information, design, etc. help us make the site better for all Schooner members and friends. Feel free to contact webmaster Bill Farr or any member of the executive or email the club at schoonercurling@gmail.com with your comments. You can also leave feedback directly on the website using the site’s guestbook feature.

The Schooner executive would like to announce the addition of a third general meeting for this season. Added to the traditional fall and spring meetings will be a mid-season meeting held early in January to allow Schooner members to get an update on how the club is running, to voice any concerns there may be and to have input into what, if any, changes need to be made. This meeting will be held as part of a Holiday social on Saturday, January 3rd, 2015 at 7pm. After the meeting members are encouraged to stay around and spend some time at the club to help welcome in the new year and celebrate with your Schooner friends. Stay up to date with more details as the meeting gets closer by checking the Schooner website and club bulletin board.

As part of an ongoing effort to raise funds to help offset increasing operational costs and to keep membership fees at a reasonable rate, the Schooner executive has decided to run a new fundraiser called “Chase the Ace”. These types of fundraisers have been cropping up in other areas and have proven very successful for those organizations that run them. The way it works is tickets are sold each week on Sunday afternoon from 2 pm to 4 pm for a draw to be held at 4:15 pm. Tickets will be \$1 each with a minimum purchase of 5 tickets. While you do not have to be present for the draw you must have someone representing you if your ticket is drawn. The owner of the ticket drawn each week will win 20% of the weekly sales and have a chance to cut a deck of cards in hope of turning up the ace of spades to win the money accumulated in the jackpot. The club will get 30% of weekly sales and 50% of sales will go into the jackpot. For each week the ace of spades is not drawn, the jackpot will grow. The drawn card drawn will also be discarded from the deck so that each week the jackpot builds the chance of drawing the ace also increases as the number of cards in the deck will decrease. Jackpots in these fundraisers have reached into the thousands of dollars. The higher the jackpot grows, the more interest we will have in the event. The club has applied for a lottery license number to run this event so the draw can be open to everyone. We hope you will participate but, if not, that you help promote the event to the community so it can be successful and help raise much needed funds to keep the club going. While we hope membership will support this fundraiser, even if you do not participate we ask that you promote the event so we can build the jackpot quickly and gain the most success.

Schooner Rink to Compete in Cash Spiel

There will be a rink representing the Schooner Curling Club at the Port Hawksbury Paper Open Cash Spiel being held later this month in at the Strait Area Community Curling Club in Port Hawksbury. Wayne "Bull" Bonnell, Gordie Cormier, Rick Windsor and Dennis Cormier will form a team to compete for the cash. This team is a combination of two Sunday Team Entry rinks, the Wayne Bonnell rink with Bonnell and Windsor and the Brian Laughlin rink where the two Cormier brothers play, Gordie being a long time third for Laughlin and Dennis just recently joining the team this season to take the lead position. The spiel is being held from November 21st to 23rd. The entry fee is \$200 and if anyone else is interested in entering a team they can contact the Strait Area Community Curling Club online at www.saccc.ca or by phone at 902-625-1824. Best of luck to our Schooner curlers and we hope you bring home some cash

Debit Machine

In a recent club executive meeting it was decided that the Schooner bar would get a new debit machine to offer electronic payment options to members and guests. This will be on a trial basis to gauge usage and value to both members and the club. Members and guests will be able to pay for any item at the bar or service at the club, including their membership fees, and we will also offer cash advances on a limited basis. To help cover the rental cost of the debit machine and the per-transaction fees associated with it, there will be a 25 cent charge per transaction. Members using debit to pay at the bar for more than one purchase will either be offered a cash advance or they can run a tab against their debit card for the evening so they will only have to incur one fee for their nightly purchases. The applications for the debit service are in the works and we hope to have it up and running shortly.

Club Rentals

Members are reminded that the Schooner Club is available for rentals. The cost of renting the club for curling is \$50 per hour per sheet (\$100 minimum). You will also get the use of the clubhouse and we will provide the bar services as well. If you want to just rent the club house area and not the ice, the cost is \$50 plus a \$50 cleaning deposit (non-refundable) and, again, we will provide bar service for the event if required. Renters are permitted to bring in their own food and snacks. The Schooner club makes a great venue for birthday parties, showers, Christmas parties, etc. If anyone is interested in renting the club for an event, contact the club or see Lynn Kelly to book you time. There are already a couple of Christmas parties booked so don't delay, book today!

