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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 65

November 2015

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

Club Calendar

October 27-30, Nov 1	Opening Spiel
Monday, November 2	League play begins
Thursday, November 5	Chase the Ace Begins
November 6-7	2 on 2 Spiel
Saturday, November 7	Dance with DJ Jimmy 9-1
Wednesday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No Curling
November 20-21	Kinsmen Spiel (Private)
Sunday, November 22	649 Entries Due
Wednesday, November 25	649 Draw starts
December 15-19	Turkey Spiel
December 21 – January 1	Holiday Break
Saturday, January 2	General Meeting and Wine and Cheese
January 3	League Play Resumes
January 8-9	Women's Club Playdown
Saturday, January 16	Fun Night
January 22-24	Ship Hector - New Glasgow
January 29-31	Open Cash Spiel
February 5-6	Men's Club Playdown
February 12-13	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 20	Fun Night
February 26-27	Traveler's (Men's and Women's)
March 1-5	Coors Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 5	Dance with DJ Jimmy 9-1
March 19-20	Blarney Stone (Baddeck CC)
Saturday, March 19	Fun Night
April 1-2	2 on 2 Spiel
April 19-23	Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 23	Dance with DJ Jimmy 9-1

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 welcoming all new and returning members to the club. As I enter my second season as club president I am feeling a lot more comfortable in my position and I have a much better idea of what to expect. Also, the club is in a much better financial position going into this season than it was last year, due in large part to the success of our Chase the Ace fundraiser that ran last season and continued through a big part of the summer. Some of the money raised has already been reinvested into improvements at the club. The interior of the clubhouse has received a fresh coat of paint, we are replacing some of the aging tables and chairs with new ones, and there have been improvements made in the ladies washroom with a new countertop and sinks being installed. I would like to thank everyone who was involved and helped out with these improvement projects and everyone who

supported Chase the Ace last season and helped make these improvements possible. We are going to run another Chase the Ace this season and I am hoping it will be as well supported and successful as the one held last year. Draws will start on November 5th and will be held on Thursday evenings throughout the season. Another part of our summer success was the Tuesday night tarbush games that were organized by Rick Billard. These were so popular that we have decided to keep them going on Tuesday evenings throughout the curling season. It's just another way to utilize the club facilities and bring new faces into the club, even if it's not to curl. We will also be running another 649 fundraiser early in the season with draws getting underway on Wednesday, November 25th. I appreciate the support Schooner members give to all of our fundraising efforts and I hope everyone realizes just how important it all is to the club staying alive and being able to run while keeping costs to members as low as possible.

With a successful opening spiel already behind us we look forward to starting league play and getting the season into full swing. There will be lots of curling this year with many spiels and special events. The Schooner Club has rejoined the NS Curling Association this season and that allows us to once again participate in sanctioned events such as the Traveler's Club Championship. I was proud to be part of the team that represented the club at last year's event and this season we will have in-house playdowns for both men's and women's teams. This year will also see the return of the 2 on 2 spiel that was so popular last year that we have actually scheduled two of these events this season. Along with our regular lineup of curling events and league play, the return of our fun nights after the Holiday break and the possible return of inter-club curling with the Sydney Curling Club, our winter looks to be filled with lots of curling for everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive, committee heads and membership of last year for helping me through my first year as president and making it a very enjoyable and successful season. I look forward to working with everyone this season to make it just as enjoyable and successful as last year. 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.

Lastly, I would like to send out thanks to everyone who worked hard to make sure we are 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 Steve 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, ready to take on another season 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

Fun Nights

Fun Nights will return this season but there are a couple of changes to take note of. First, Fun Nights will not start this season until January. The November and December Fun Nights have always been slow and not well attended. Last season there was one that no one showed up for. The Schooner executive has decided to remove these early season events and use the weekend ice for other purposes. We're sure the fun nights will be very popular again when they start up in January. Second, the sponsor for the Fun Nights is up in the air for this season. Long-time sponsor Coors may not be back this year and the club executive has been looking at other options, one of which is Labatt Brewery. The sponsorship issue will be worked out by time Fun Nights are scheduled to get underway.

League Play



League play is scheduled to get underway on Monday, November 2nd, when the Men's league takes to the ice. The Mixed league will follow, getting underway on Tuesday, November 3rd and the Team Entry will start on Sunday, November 8th. 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 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 are true and others are changing teams. Long time skip/mate duo Brian Laughlin and Gordie Cormier are going their separate ways this season with Cormier striking out to skip his own squad, leaving not only the mate position to be filled by Laughlin but lead as well since Dennis Cormier will be joining Gordie to play lead on his new rink. Brian has had success in filling the spots and will reportedly have Joe Erickson and Lonnie Howe joining him and Kelley Laughlin this season. Long time Schooner member and skip of his own Sunday rink, Ray Cameron, has reported he will not be returning this season so his team will be looking to fill his spot. Russell Fitzgerald said that he, Martin Campbell and Les Ferguson are all returning to play in the Sunday league but, at this time, they are still looking for a replacement for Cameron. A notable return to Team Entry play this season is Omar Roach who was absent last season due to work commitments. He will return as skip and will be joined by Gary Landry at mate, Mike Cormier and a player to be determined. 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.

League play will follow with the same basic schedule as last season, Monday for the Men's league, Tuesday to Thursday for the Mixed and Sunday for Team Entry. Teams will be made and the rosters and schedules will be posted once the majority of membership applications have been received. The Schooner Junior Program will make its return to the ice on Saturday, November 14th 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 a couple of seasons ago for members of the Schooner and Sydney clubs is not a certainty on the schedule. Schooner draw master Cal Thistle says that dates have been

649 Fundraiser

set aside for inter-club play but he is still trying to work out details and sure up times before announcing a set schedule. 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 this season.

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 22 and draws start Wednesday, November 25. 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 asked 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. As an added bonus, a \$50 prize will be awarded to the person who sells the most entries. If you have any questions or want to submit entries, contact Lynn Kelly or Gordie Cormier. Thank you for your support.



Opening Spiel

The leaves falling quickly from the trees to the ground and the Leafs falling quickly in the NHL standings are two sure signs that autumn is here. Another sign of Autumn is the Schooner Curling Club's Opening Spiel sponsored again this season by Stephen's Rona Building Supplies. This year the Opening Spiel got underway on Tuesday, October 27 and ran until Friday, October 30. With a break on Saturday for Halloween, play continued on Sunday, November 1 when all teams came together from two divisions to decide a winner. This year curlers had a choice of playing in the Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday division or the Wednesday/Friday/Sunday division. There were six teams on Tuesday/Thursday and a full complement of eight teams on Wednesday/Friday.

When curling wrapped up on Friday there were a number of teams that would head into Sunday play with a chance at top spot. The Brian Laughlin rink held on to a slim lead over the Peter MacIntyre rink, both tied in points but Laughlin with a slightly better plus/minus rating. There were at least four other rinks within striking distance of the leaders and a win was a must on Sunday if you were to have a chance at the title. With a break on Saturday for Halloween and trick or treating, all fourteen teams came together on Sunday to decide the winner.

Getting things started was the Cal Thistle rink taking on the Darryl MacAulay rink, both rinks having a shot at top spot starting the day only five points behind the leaders but needing to win to have a chance. Thistle was up for the task and defeated the MacAulay rink, vaulting himself into first place, at least for the time being. The second draw of the day would see the Wally MacDonald rink taking on the Barry Smith rink. While MacDonald was out of contention after suffering two previous losses, Smith still had an outside chance to catch Cal Thistle for and share first place. The MacDonald rink was being skipped that day by Chris "Slugger" MacLeod who was filling in for MacDonald who was ill. After taking four points in the first end, the Smith rink were looking to be on their way to a big win and a possible high finish.

That wasn't to be as MacLeod guided his team back from behind and ended up defeating Smith with a single in the last end to claim victory. The other game on the ice was between the first place Laughlin rink and the Bill Farr rink who held third spot going into Sunday play, only two points behind Laughlin. A tight game saw the two teams trade single points in the first four ends, each getting a single point with hammer and stealing a single, and head into the fifth end tied. Laughlin held hammer in the fifth and had a good chance to score but he caught a bad break when his final stone picked just after it crossed the far hog line and missed its intended target, allowing Farr to steal one and head home with a lead of just a single point but without that all important hammer. The final end was a cautious one for both skips that saw Laughlin lying one partially buried for most of it after lead Frances Ford had made a great draw to put it there. After Farr was able to finally bump that half-buried stone back enough with his final rock to lie two, Laughlin had a chance to make a double and win the end and the game. Laughlin's final shot didn't quite curl enough, missing by only an inch or two, and only removed one of Farr's rocks, giving up a steal of one. The win put Farr temporarily in first and dropped Laughlin to an eventual fifth place finish.

The next draw saw Lonnie Howe take on the Gordie Cormier rink and the Gary Landry rink take on take on the Richard Lorway rink. The only rink with a chance to overtake first place was the Lonnie Howe rink who entered play with nineteen points on Sunday. Howe would need to win the game and five of six ends to overtake the Farr rink for first. Cormier entered the day winless but had two very close games that could have gone either way, losing both by only one point. Cormier, however, struggled on Sunday and Howe opened up a lead and won four of the first five ends, needing only one more end to put himself in first place. Tragedy almost struck for the Howe rink about half way through the game when mate Rick Windsor took ill and was forced to leave the game. The Howe rink, who were playing with only three to start the game, needed someone to fill in or they would forfeit. Chris "Slugger" MacLeod volunteered to fill in for Windsor and the game continued. Cormier would have hammer in the final end and, facing a couple of opponents rocks counting in the house, needed to make a draw to the edge of the four foot to get a single and take the end from Howe. Cormier made no mistake on his draw and Howe came up short of the points he needed, now occupying second place with only one team left to play that had a chance to catch both him and Farr. The Peter MacIntyre rink went into Sunday play with two wins under their belts and twenty two points. They needed only a victory and three ends to take over first and bump Farr and Howe down. Another unlikely scenario would have Macintyre lose the game but take five ends to take over first place. He would face the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink who had one win and one loss. It was a well played game that came to the sixth end seeing both teams tied. If MacIntyre could score one point in the sixth to take the win he would be our opening spiel champ. That was not to be as Bonnell would score a single point in the end to defeat MacIntyre and drop him to a fourth place finish. Bonnell finished up in sixth after the victory over MacIntyre. The second game in the final draw had the Russell Fitzgerald rink taking on the Stephen Leslie rink. Fitzgerald was winless and Leslie was one and one going into Sunday play. Fitzgerald was able to best Leslie and take his first win of the spiel.

With Bonnells' victory over MacIntyre in the final draw, the Bill Farr rink locked up first place. Joining Farr was mate Rick Billard, second George Plumridge and lead Mike Cormier. The Lonnie Howe rink took home second place with skip Howe, mate Rick Windsor, second Mel Windsor and lead Kevin MacDonald (Kevin MacDonald

Donations from Local Businesses

was unable to play). The Cal Thistle rink held onto third place and, as mentioned, Peter MacIntyre wound up in fourth. Joining Skip Cal Thistle on his team was mate Eric Boutilier and Second Barb Thistle. Cal's lead, Anthony Boudreau couldn't play due to unforeseen circumstances. Skip Peter MacIntyre was aided by mate Chris "Slugger" MacLeod, second Todd MacAulay and lead Val MacIntyre. Rounding out the top six were the Brian Laughlin rink in fifth with Brian, Bryant Cormier, Amy MacPherson and Frances Ford and the Wayne "Bull" Bonnell rink in sixth with Bull, Keith MacEachern, Kelley Laughlin and John Halliday.

A big thank you to everyone who took part, thank you to Stephen Leslie, bonspiel chair, for organizing and running a successful Opening Spiel, to president Gordie Cormier and vice president Lynn Kelly for everything they did to help out, to the bartenders for volunteering their time, to the ice crew for working hard to get and keep us playing and to everyone else who helped out in any way.

So, with the Opening Spiel serving as a great start to the season, we now look forward to another year of curling, fun and friendship at the Schooner club. League play, fun nights, dances and more spiels are all in store for us this year. We hope everyone has a great season and Good Curling Everyone!!

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 as well as the carpets on the front and back boards in the ice area in preparation for the upcoming season. Clean carpet 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 with cleaning the floors and applying the fresh wax. Thank you all. Another donation to note is from Compu Clone Computer Solutions and club member Bill Farr. Late last season the club's computer went down and Compu Clone has donated a replacement. It's setup at the club now, has internet access and is available for all club members to use when needed.

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, fun 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.

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 four events this year. The first will be held on Saturday, November 7th as part of the 2 on 2 spiel, 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 held in March and April in conjunction with the Coors Fun Spiel and the Closing Spiel respectively. The final event where DJ Jimmy will be used is the closing banquet. Plan to attend all the events with Jimmy this year as a good time is always had by all.

Bar Update

Bar prices will remain the same for the 2015-16 season. Along with the usual things you would expect at the bar like beer and liquor, members and guests can also enjoy soft drinks, coffee, hot chocolate, subs and pizza burgers from Paul's Food factory and other snacks. There is still no one who has stepped forward to take the bar steward position so, once again, the bar will be run by committee as it was last season. That seemed to work out well with various members of the executive and some other volunteer members taking on the tasks that the bar steward would normally look after. Things like scheduling workers, stocking the bar, inventory counts and handling receipts from sales are all being shared and accomplished by the committee. Anyone who may be interested in the position of bar steward can contact any member of the executive. Members are also reminded of the debit machine now available for making payments. The machine was installed last year after being suggested by then treasurer Laura Rafuse. Laura was instrumental in getting the machine setup and it has been well used since it was installed. Lastly, a big thank you goes out to our volunteer bartenders. They give a lot of time and effort so we can enjoy the Schooner bar, a part of the club that is hugely important in our financial survival. If anyone has some free time to volunteer to work a shift at the bar it would be much appreciated and they can contact Gordie Cormier.

Mid-Season General Meeting

Given the success and popularity of our newly introduced mid-season general meeting last year, the Schooner executive would like to announce it will be returning again this season. Added last year to the traditional fall and spring meetings, the mid-season meeting is a good chance for Schooner members to get updated on what's going on and the status of the club, 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 2, 2016 at 7pm. After the meeting members are encouraged to stay around for a wine and cheese event, 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.



Fundraiser

With the success of our Chase the Ace fundraiser last season, the Schooner executive have decided to give it another go this year. This time around the draws will be held on Thursday evenings with ticket sales from 6:30 - 8:30 and the draw following. The rules will be basically the same as last time with tickets costing \$5 for five tickets. We will start with a new deck of 52 cards and each time a card is drawn out that is not the Ace of Spades it will be destroyed and the number of cards in the deck will shrink. The person getting their ticket drawn on any given draw day will receive 20% of that

day's sales and be given a chance at the jackpot. The jackpot will grow each week by 30% of the total sales for that week. The Schooner jackpot will be guaranteed to be \$500 starting out. Tickets can only be purchased during designated times and the winning ticket must be present when drawn. If the winning ticket is not presented for 15 minutes after the draw, another ticket will be drawn. Schooner members can leave their money for tickets at the bar during the week so they don't need to be present on Thursday. A representative from the club will buy the tickets for you and represent you for the draw of the card if your ticket is drawn as the winner.

The overall success of this fundraiser is dependent on membership participation. We hope members will buy tickets but we also hope they will promote the event in the community, at home to family and at work to co-workers. You can bring money on behalf of family and friends, buy their tickets and represent them at the draw. Let's all work hard to make this a great fundraiser and exceed the success we had last year.

2 on 2 Spiel

There is a 2 on 2 spiel scheduled for November 6 and 7 at the club. This will be an in house spiel and is open to Schooner members and former members. Entry fee for a team of two players is \$40 with entry fees being returned as prizes that will be determined by how many teams register. At the time of publication, there were still some openings left. The 2 on 2 game is played using most of the same rules as traditional team curling with a only a few differences. Each member of a team will play in one end of the ice only (unless the game goes to an extra end) and cannot cross center ice any time during the game. Team members will alternate as skip, one throwing the rocks and one skipping and then reversing roles for the next end. There are six rocks per team in each end with the first three rocks being "free" rocks that cannot be removed from play by the opposition no matter where they are. This is similar to the "free guard" zone in regular play where any of the first four rocks between the hog line and the house cannot be removed from play. The difference is that it doesn't matter where the rocks are in 2 on 2, they can be guards or can be in the house as counters. Another difference in 2 on 2 is that a rock cannot be swept until it passes the hog line of the end it's being thrown to. That is to say that the "skip" for that end cannot do any sweeping until the rock crosses over the line in their end. Games are six ends and usually take about one hour or so to play. Scoring is the same as in regular team curling. The 2 on 2 game is suited to both slide and stick curlers and can be enjoyed by anyone with any skill level. So why not get a partner and give it a try. Check the bulletin board at the club for a sign-up sheet but don't delay, there's limited space available.

Executive Position Change

All members should note that there is a change in the Schooner Executive Committee. Amanda Windsor, who held the treasurer's position, has resigned due to family commitments. She is also not returning to curling this season. Thomas Drover has taken over the Treasurer's position on the executive. Thomas is a professional accountant and works for the Cape Breton YMCA. We are certainly sorry to see Amanda go and we wish her the best. We welcome Thomas to the Treasurer's position and want him to know we are happy to have him.

Weekly Tarbish Games

During the summer a weekly tarbish game was started by club member Rick Billard. The way it was setup was that everyone entered as an individual, not a team. There were groups of eight or nine and there were always two games on the go at any given time within a group. After each game, individual wins and scores were recorded and then you moved on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member had played one game with everyone else in the group, scores were tallied and a winner determined. If there were nine people in the group, each person would sit out one game. These games were very popular and brought people into the club that were not members. For this reason it was decided that the games would be continued, at least on a trial basis. Anyone interested in playing can see Rick Billard at the club for more details or to register. It is recommended that you pre-register or you will not be guaranteed a spot.

Junior Curling

Junior curling will be back at the Schooner this season. The juniors will take the ice for the first time on Saturday, November 14th from 1-4 when there will be an open orientation, fun and registration day at the club. This day is open and free so any kids who might be interested in curling can come and try it out. Basic equipment will be supplied but all curlers will need clean, dry sneakers for the ice are and little rockers (under 11 years of age) will need to bring a helmet as well as knee and elbow pads. Anyone who knows of any kids who might be interested in trying curling and possibly participating in the junior program are encouraged to bring them to the club on the orientation day. Juniors take the ice regularly on Saturday afternoons and also compete in a spiel or two throughout the season. For more info and pricing for the junior program you can check out the junior's page on the Schooner website or contact junior coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover.

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!



