

Schooner Curling Club  
 61 Military Rd.  
 Sydney NS B1N 3K6  
 (902) 539-3992  
 schoonercurlingclub.com  
 schoonercurling@gmail.com

# In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 72

November 2016

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

## Club Calendar

November 1-5	Opening Spiel
Sunday, November 6	League play begins
Saturday, November 19	Junior Program Begins
November 18-19	Port Hawksbury Cash Spiel
Friday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No Curling
December 13-17	Turkey Spiel
Sunday, December 18	Final Day of Curling Before Christmas
December 19 - January 1	Holiday Break
Monday, January 2	League Play Resumes
Saturday, January 7	General Meeting and Social
January 13 and 14	Two on Two Spiel
January 20-22	Ship Hector - New Glasgow
Saturday, January 28	Fun Night
February 11-12	Sweetheart Spiel
Saturday, February 18	Fun Night
February 24-26	Schooner Cash Spiel
March 2-6	NS Traveler's Championships
March 7-11	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 18	Fun Night
March 24-26	Sydney Spring Fling Mixed Spiel
April 2-8	Sydney Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 15	Fun Night
April 18-22	Schooner Closing Spiel
Sunday, April 23	Skating Party

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

## President's Message



As I begin my third curling season as Schooner Club President I would like to start by welcoming all new and returning curlers to the club. We are a little bit behind schedule getting started this season due to the power outage on Thanksgiving day that affected our ice making efforts, but I am happy to say that we got back on track quickly and are now set to get underway. I would like to send out a huge thank you to Brian Laughlin, our ice director, his regular crew and to everyone who pitched in to help with ice making this year. It's a huge undertaking and, as we all know, one that they do a great job on. Opening the club for a new season is more than just making ice however. I would also like to thank our housekeeping committee, Georgette and Bernadette, who do a fantastic job of getting the club sparkling for the start of the season and keep it that way all year. Thanks also goes out to those who work hard to get the bar up and running, to Stephen for organizing the opening spiel that starts our

season off on the right foot, to Cal for all his hard work in organizing teams and making the schedules for league play, to Nadine for all she does in getting and keeping the junior program running, to Bill for keeping us up to date with the website, on Facebook and with this newsletter, to Frances who probably made hundreds of phone calls to keep members up to date on things going on and involved in decisions about league play, to Richard for promoting the club and our events, to Lynn for generating revenue from the sign program and to everyone else who helps out in any way to get the club running and keep it running all season long. The list could go on for a while. When it all comes down to it, the heart and soul of the Schooner Club and all of the success we enjoy is thanks to our volunteers. Without the time and effort put forth by so many we could not survive. I encourage all members to give at least a little bit of time back to the club this season and help us build on our past success and make the club even better.

Over the past two seasons that I have been president, I, the executive and a group of volunteers have been working hard on fundraising. With proceeds from past events like Chase the Ace and our 649 draws, I am proud to say we have been able to do a number of improvements to the club while still keeping the membership fees at the same low price. I want to thank all those who helped out and also to everyone who participated by purchasing tickets and entries. Without the money raised by our fundraising we would not be in the strong position we are in today. We are planning to run another Chase the Ace this season along with other fund raising events and I hope, with the help of everyone, that they will be even more successful than the ones in the past.

I have decided that, after giving it much thought, I will be giving up the position of President of the Schooner Curling Club at the end of this season. I will, however, continue to curl and to volunteer at the club. I have enjoyed my time as President and have enjoyed working with everyone to keep the club strong and build for the future. Without the help of the great people on the executive and all of the wonderful volunteers who work so hard, my job would have been impossible. While there have been challenges and some difficult situations during my term as president, we were able to overcome all of them together and, as I look back on my time, I am happy with and proud of what was accomplished. I am hoping someone will step forward and take on the position, continue to work hard and keep the club moving in a positive direction in the future.

For now I look forward to the season at hand and all it has to offer our members, to curling with old friends and new and to sharing a beverage afterwards. We will start the season with the opening spiel that will run November 1-5, league play will start shortly after that and there will be a full schedule of events at the club to keep all curlers busy and entertained throughout the winter. I encourage everyone to take part in as many events as possible and take full advantage of all the club has to offer. In closing I would just like to say that I hope everyone has a great year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone *"Good Curling"*.

*Gordie Cormier*

## League Play



League play is scheduled to get underway on Sunday, November 6 when the Team Entry league takes to the ice. The Mixed league will get underway on Monday, November 7th after a move to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights for this season. Men's will get underway on its new night, Thursdays, beginning on November 10. The new nights for both Mixed and Men's is due to the results of the online vote held by the club in early October. Members had a chance to vote online or by phone on one of three options on how they wanted to see the leagues structured this season. The option that won prompted the move of the Men's league to Thursday night with mixed taking the open Monday night slot to fill in its third night. Membership levels will determine if there will be any tweaking of this schedule moving forward. One other thing that came out of the league structure vote was the establishment of a casual 2 on 2 night to be held on various Fridays as the schedule allows. These will be individual sign up events and info will be posted at the club and online at a later time. When Team Entry takes the ice there will be a number of changes to teams that took part last season. The Gordie Cormier rink, last year's Team Entry playoff champs, were thought to be intact for the coming season while defending that title but it turns out that second Dennis Cormier has other commitments and won't be playing this season. Rob Agnew has been slotted in to play in his place, joining Cormier, mate Stephen Leslie and lead Mel Windsor. Another big shakeup in Team Entry sees Wally MacDonald and mate Sid Murray split from Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod and Walter Nichols. Even though the foursome has enjoyed much success in Team Entry in the last two seasons, the latest being a regular season title last year, they are going their separate ways and forming new teams. MacLeod and Nichols will be playing skip and mate respectively and will be taking on a new lead and second while MacDonald and Murray will also be adding a new front end. It's also rumored that Darrell MacAulay will not be returning to Sunday play this year leaving his team without a skip. We'll have to wait and see if they will find a new fourth to take his place or disband and try to fill in empty roster spots on other teams in need of players.

Another team that is rumored to be absent from the Team Entry this season is the Thomas Drover rink. Drover had a good rookie campaign last year and would have likely been a strong contender this season. Again, it's unknown if remaining team members will reform that team or make themselves available to other teams in the league.

The remaining teams that competed in Team Entry last year are expected to make a return to this year's campaign, although not all are confirmed. One team to watch if they come back will be the Omar Roach rink. Roach made a strong run in the playoffs last year, finally playing at the level he was expected to have but didn't achieve in a mediocre regular season. If he and his team can continue that play from the start of this year then he will definitely contend for top spot. Another team to watch will be the Greg Ferguson rink who made a surprise visit to the championship game in the Team Entry Playoffs and narrowly lost to the eventual champs, the Gordie Cormier rink. If the Ferguson rink can continue the strong play that they exhibited in last year's playoff round then they will also be at the top of the league this season. With the return of other strong contenders like the Brian Laughlin and Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rinks and players coming available from some teams not returning to bolster other rosters, it looks like the Team Entry will be a competitive and entertaining league this season.

Since Remembrance Day falls on Friday this year it will not affect any league schedules. The club always closes on Remembrance Day in honor of all of our service people both past and present.

## 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 19th 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.



## Opening Spiel

The Rona Opening spiel is scheduled to get underway just as the November edition of In The Hack is hitting the streets and will run from November 1 to November 5. There are a total of twelve teams vying for the Opening Spiel Title, six playing in the Tuesday/Thursday division and six are in the Wednesday/Friday. All teams will come head to head on Saturday to determine an overall winner. We would like to welcome all curlers and thank everyone who is taking part. We would also like to send a big thank you out to spiel sponsor Stephen's Rona. Check the Schooner website or next month's newsletter for a complete summary of results.

## Fun Nights

Fun Nights will return this season with the first one scheduled for Saturday, January 28th. Last year we didn't schedule any fun nights in November or December because they were traditionally poorly attended and that is the case again this season. The fun nights that were held last season, all after the Holiday break, were very well attended and successful. This year will see Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale taking charge of running the fun nights and we wish them all the best. The Schooner fun nights are a great way to introduce new people to the sport of curling in a fun and low pressure environment. It's a great night out, you get to curl, you get pizza and you may even have a chance to win a prize, all for just a few bucks. Plan to attend a Schooner Fun Night and bring your friends.

## 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.

## Fall General Meeting

The Schooner Curling Club held its Fall General Meeting at the club on Wednesday, October 19. The meeting had been rescheduled a couple of times to accommodate the league survey and vote. These changes may have contributed to the lower than normal turnout at the meeting. Those that were in attendance however participated in a good dialogue about many important issues at the club and many decisions were made and votes passed during the evening.

The meeting got underway with a call to order followed by Gordie Cormier delivering the President's report that included a summary of what had gone on at the club over the summer. He talked about things like the success off-season events such as the washer toss tournament and the St. Paddy's in September dance and gave an update on the electrical work that had been going on in the compressor room that was now complete. He also spoke of the new season and informed attendees that the club's calendar was a work in progress and that membership dues would be remaining at the same level as the previous season. Gordie then spoke about the power outage and how it would delay the start of the season, then informing everyone that the Opening Spiel was scheduled to start November 1 instead of the last week of October as it normally did. As part of his report Gordie informed everyone that he did not intend to reoffer as President for the 2017-18 season and this one would be his last.

Next up was the Treasurer's report but, unfortunately, Thomas Drover was unable to attend as he was sick. Gordie Cormier gave a brief summary of the club's financial position in Thomas's absence and showed everyone that the club was in a strong position. Brian Laughlin was next up with the Ice Director's report. He told everyone that the Thanksgiving Day power outage due to the storm had put the ice crew about a week behind but that they were working hard to catch up and get the ice ready as soon as possible. He said that the goal was to be painting and installing lines and circles by the weekend of October 22 and that he hoped to have the ice complete by the end of October. Brian also reported that this was the year that there were additional ice making expenses as we were required to buy paint this year as well as get our water conditioning tanks refreshed. These two things are done every two years and are made to coincide as they are both done with the same company, Jet Ice, and having shipping combined on both saves the club money. There was also the typical yearly expenses which include sharpening and honing the Ice King blade. At this time Gordie Cormier pointed out that the club's strong financial position made these additional ice making expenses much less of an issue and much less painful than they had been in previous years.

The Bar Steward's report was scheduled next and it was at this time that Gordie informed everyone that, due to personal commitments and schedule conflicts, Dennis Cormier was not returning to curl this year and was unable to keep the Bar Steward's position. Gordie said the bar would go back to being run by committee, a system that had worked well for the last couple of seasons, at least until a volunteer stepped forward to take on the Bar Steward position.

Cal Thistle, Draw Master, had no report other than to say he was waiting on applications to start rolling in for the coming season. Lynn Kelly reported for Ways and Means and said that invoices had been sent out to all of the ice shed sign customers and she was waiting for the payments to start coming in. She also stated that some of the companies whose signs we have in the ice shed have stated that they are cancelling and won't be paying. Some haven't paid in a while. It was discussed that we should remove the signs but it's difficult to replace the empty space.

Bernadette Cormier was on hand to deliver the Housing report and said that everything was going smoothly and that she and Georgette had been cleaning all

summer at the club since it was still in use. Stephen Leslie, Bonspiels, reiterated in his report that the Opening Spiel would be run from November 1-5 and that he was going to start calling around to try and get participants signed up. He also requested that notifications be put on the website and that it be announced on Facebook. The last report of the night was for the Newsletter and website. It was reported that the first edition of the newsletter for the 2016-17 season had just been made available that day and there were copies available at the club and online and that email copies had been sent out to those that subscribe. The website report included a confirmation that the domain name we use, schoonercurlingclub.com had been renewed in the club's name for another three years. It was also reported that Facebook had been used more to report news and events to members and the general public on a more timely basis. A previous discussion had been had in regard to spending money to boost posts and advertise some on Facebook but that issue would be dealt with on more of a per incident basis.

The meeting then moved forward to cover some existing business that needed to be finalized. The first item was to ratify the decision to spend slightly more money than had been authorized to the executive to do the final phase of the electrical work in the back room. An online email pole of members in favor resulted in allowing the work to go ahead but the Schooner executive wanted to make sure it was in the minutes of the meeting. It ended up a new motion was made and a vote taken on the issue. All in attendance were in favor.

Next was a discussion regarding the Sydney bid to host the 2018 Scotties. Since the bid was unsuccessful, refunds of the ticket deposits had been given. Gordie Cormier had made deposit on two ticket packages that were to be used in a ticket draw fundraiser for the club. He noted that the deposits had been returned to the club funds. The last order under existing business was the issue of reinstating individual awards for members to be given out at the club's annual banquet. These awards would include such things as rookie of the year, most improved, etc. It was decided to form a committee to decide what awards will be reinstated and that the committee's recommendations will be brought to a vote at the mid-season general meeting in January. Richard Lorway and Greg Wall were appointed to the committee.

The meeting then moved forward to deal with new business which started out with discussing the changes to league play brought into affect by the online member's survey and subsequent vote. The vote brought forward a change in the Men's league night to Thursday and, as a result of that, moving the Mixed to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. A casual 2 on 2 night was also to be instated that would be run on Fridays as the schedule allowed and could be signed up for on a per event basis. There was discussion on this topic around the danger of losing members as a result of the changes but, based on the result of the online vote, the changes were passed and the new schedule was ratified.

Next under new business was talk about the new online application form. The form is available on the Schooner website for anyone who would like to use it. Originally it was thought that it wouldn't be used much, maybe by two or three members who would not have access to the club or be able to get a paper application in on time. It did turn out that, as of the newsletter release, there were 10 members who used the form. Discussion then moved on to the topic of fundraisers for this coming season. Gordie said that the application for another Chase the Ace had been done and was being processed. We are just waiting for our license before we proceed. The plan was to use a fillable ticket so that sales could take place all week and the person drawn as the weekly winner did not have to be present. The cost of these tickets was prohibitive

from the vendors already contacted and other options were going to be investigated. The draws are planned for Tuesday night to coincide with our weekly Tarbish game. Another fundraiser planned is a 649 draw. Details are to follow. A return of the spaghetti dinner was also discussed for the new year but a decision was made to table that to the mid-season general meeting in January where it will be discussed further and a final decision made.

Gordie then discussed this year's Traveler's Club Championships. The Nova Scotia event takes place from March 2-6, the men's being in Truro and the women's in Wolfville. There was some discussion as to whether or not we would hold an in-club playoff this year but there was no decision made if we would or wouldn't for sure. It will be based on interest from the membership.

Other business was next to be discussed and Lynn Kelly had some information regarding ordering equipment. She said that members can still order items through her and pay cost prices for both your item and shipping. A letter from The Curling Store was presented that stated that members would not get the club price if they went there on their own to make purchases. If anyone wants to buy directly from them they will have to pay regular prices. The only way to get club pricing, Lynn said, was to order through her. She highly recommended that since we can get a considerable discount over retail and she reiterated that the club has no markup over the cost. Also under other business was the mention of the dates for Sydney's mixed spiel, the Spring Fling, which is being held March 24-26. A date was also chosen for the Schooner mid-season general meeting which will be held January 7, 2017.

After all the business was taken care of the meeting was adjourned. Thank you to all who took part. We hope to see a good turnout in January for the mid-season event.

## Bar Update

Bar prices will remain the same for the 2016-17 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. With the departure of Dennis Cormier who had taken on the Bar Steward position, 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 available for making payments. The machine was installed a couple of season ago and has proven to be very popular. 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 mid-season general meeting, the Schooner executive would like to announce it will be returning again this season. Added a couple of seasons ago 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 7, 2017 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.

## Turkey Spiel

Everyone is asked to keep the dates of December 13-17 open for the annual Schooner Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel. This spiel will be open to everyone, no membership required, so you can invite family, friends, co-workers or whoever, to join us for a great week of curling and Holiday spirit. More details will be available as the dates get closer. Don't forget there will be a Holiday food drive in conjunction with the spiel and all curlers are asked to donate non-perishable food items to help those in need. See you in December.

## Executive Position Change

All members should note that there is a change in the Schooner Executive Committee. Dennis Cormier, who held the Bar Steward position, has resigned due to scheduling conflicts. He is also not returning to curling this season for that same reason. For now, the bar will return to being run by a committee made up of executive members. They will pool their time to cover the responsibilities associated with the bar. This is the way the bar has been run for the last couple of seasons when the bar steward position was vacant and it has worked pretty well. We wish Dennis well and hope he can return to curling at some point.

## Weekly Tarbish Games

The weekly Tarbish games will continue to be held every Tuesday evening at the club. Play gets underway around 7pm. These games were started a couple of summers ago as a way to utilize the club during the off times and to bring new faces in, even if it's not to curl. The games proved so popular that they continued into last year's curling season and have been going on ever since. The way it is setup is that everyone is entered as an individual, not a team. Depending on the number of players on a given night, you are designated to play a designated number of games, sometimes within a group, and after each game, individual wins and scores are recorded and then you move on to play with a new partner in the next game. After each member has played the number of designated games, scores are tallied and winners determined. The games are well attended and are a great boost to the club and our bar. The games are open to anyone, not just club members, so you can bring a friend if you like.

## New Sponsors

The Schooner Club would like to welcome two new sponsors, The Old Triangle English Ale House and goCapeBreton.com. The Old Triangle has come on as the new sponsor of the Men's league and goCapeBreton has an ice shed sign. The Old Triangle is located on Charlotte St. and offers great food and drink along with a lot of local entertainment while goCapeBreton is an online forum for people to promote events and discuss issues that affect them and the community they live in. Membership to goCapebreton.com is free and you can sign up and participate in the conversation anytime. Thank you both for your generosity. Sponsorships from local businesses and organizations is very important to the Schooner Curling Club as they allow us to continue to offer low cost memberships and other events. Please support our sponsors.

## 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!

