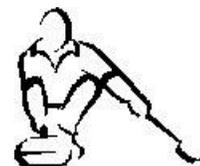


# In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 86

November, 2018

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

Opening Spiel Dance	Saturday, November 3
Start of League Play	Sunday, November 4
Junior Orientation and registration	Saturday, November 10
Fun Night	Saturday, November 24
Turkey Spiel	December 6-8
Holiday Break	December 21-January 3
League Play Resumes	Thursday, January 3
Two on Two Spiel	January 4-5
Wine and Cheese Reception	Friday, January 4
Fun Night	Saturday, January 12
Schooner Cash Spiel	January 18-20
Cash Spiel Dance	Saturday, January 19
Sweetheart Spiel	February 8-9
2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts	February 16-24
Two on Two Spiel	March 1-2
Fun Night - St. Patrick's Day Edition	Saturday March 16
Coors Light Spring Mixed Spiel - Sydney CC	March 22-24
Ladies Doubles Spiel	April 5-6
Closing Spiel	April 25-27
Skating Party	Sunday, April 28
Closing Banquet	Saturday, May 4

**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 my message this year by saying that I am very happy and feel honored to be back as president again this season. When I began last season I had it in my mind that it would be my last and I would turn the reigns over to someone else. Last season was so great and I had such a wonderful time I decided that I would take on the role for at least one more term. A big reason I decided to come back is the great people who are on the executive alongside me. Richard Lorway has taken on the vice-president role after Lynn Kelly took over as treasurer when Thomas Drover stepped aside. They, along with all of the other executive members and committee heads work hard to make the club run smoothly and I want to thank each of them for taking on the jobs they have. I also want to welcome Kevin Gouthro as bar steward this year and thank him for tackling such an important role. The Schooner bar is very important to the club and making it run smoothly is no small task.

Along with the executive and committee heads I would also like to send out a big thank you to all of the people who volunteer at the club and take time from their schedules to keep the club running smoothly. The most obvious place to start at this time of the year with conveying our gratitude is with the guys on the ice crew and everyone else who pitched in to make our great curling ice. Thanks to everyone who volunteered over the summer to make our events like the Schooner Golf and Washer Toss tournament run so smoothly and to those who pitched in time to do work at the club and put their skills to use to better our facility. Thank you to everyone who helped out in planning and running the Schooner Opening Spiel and to everyone who is going to give time this season to keep the club running, tend bar, maintain the ice, help with events and the list goes on. Without the countless volunteer hours put in by so many people, the Schooner Curling Club could not survive.

This will be a big year for the curling community in Cape Breton with the 2019 edition of the Scotties taking place at Sydney's Center 200 in February. The Scotties will be a great event for the local area and the Schooner Club will be front and center with a number of our members signing on to volunteer, myself included, and a week of events that are now in the planning stages taking place at the club during the Scotties. We will be suspending regular curling for that week and concentrating on special open-ice events that will promote the sport of curling and the Schooner curling club to everyone. The Schooner executive has already had meetings with the Scotties organizers from Curling Canada and we hope to work with them throughout the months leading up to the big event to help promote it through information sessions and with great giveaways. Watch the club's website and bulletin board for more info.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to both our returning members and to our new members as well. I hope you all have a great year and that your time at the club is most enjoyable. Curling is a great sport and the Schooner Club is a great place to enjoy it. Thanks once again to all the volunteers who work so hard to keep it that way. Please help us out and support our fundraisers whenever possible and try to give back some time by volunteering, even it's just an hour or two, as every little bit helps and benefits everyone. So here we go with another season. All the best, have fun and *Good Curling Everyone!*

## League Roundup



League play is set to get underway on Sunday, November 4, when the Don Cherry's Team Entry League will take the ice and throw the first stones in league play for the 2018-19 season. It remains to be seen how many teams will be competing in this league as there were a few big shakeups in the off season and there are a couple of skips that may not be competing this year.

Probably the biggest story in Team Entry entering the season is the parting of ways of long time skip/mate combination Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell and Rick Windsor. Windsor has left Bonnell and formed his own team that will consist of Mel Windsor, formerly with the Gordie Cormier rink, Rick Billard who competed last season with Wally MacDonald, and Steve Billard. Steve will be missing at least the first part of the season due to work commitments so skip Windsor has recruited Ceilidh Forrest to start the season and will be with the team indefinitely. The departure of Rick Windsor, Mel Windsor and Rick Billard from their respective teams have left all of those rinks in search of replacements as well. Bonnell's squad has run into even more trouble. On top of the loss of Windsor at the mate's spot, Bonnell himself will be unable to start the season due to a health issue. It is unsure when he will return and they will start the season with Bill Farr filling in at the skip position temporarily. Richard Lorway and Bryant Cormier will move up in position and a new lead will still need to be found.

A new entry to the Don Cherry's league this season will be the Coralie Ayre rink. Coralie is a past member of the Schooner Club and will be rejoining us after a few years down at the Sydney CC. Also coming to our club this season and playing with Coralie will be Heidi Bishop and Bill Ayre. All three have submitted applications that indicated their entry into the Sunday league. A fourth on that team is to be determined.

Confirmed to also be returning to Sunday play this year will be the Brian Laughlin, Wally MacDonald, Gordie Cormier, Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod, and Russell Fitzgerald rinks. Most of these teams will have at least one new name on the roster with the exception of Brian Laughlin's squad that should return intact. Also expected to ice teams on Sunday are skips Keith MacEachern and John Donovan while Omar Roach and Greg Ferguson are undetermined at this time. Roach missed the end of last season with a shoulder injury and is said not to be returning. Mate Gary Landry has said he will be icing a team on Sunday however, likely taking over the skip position himself. Ferguson missed a lot of time for personal reasons and they may also lose Steve Jurcina who has indicated he may not be returning this year. Overall, the Schooner's competitive Sunday League will certainly have a much different look when it takes the ice this season.

Draw Master Cal Thistle will be working hard to sort through the applications and prepare teams in the Pepsi Mixed and Old Triangle Men's Leagues for when they take the ice to start their respective seasons. The Mixed will begin on Monday, November 5th and the Men's will start play on Thursday, November 8th. The Mixed League would normally play on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with draws at 7pm while Men's takes the ice on Thursdays with two draws, 7pm and 9pm. The number of curlers and teams in each league will determine how that

## Fall General Meeting

goes this year. Keep an eye on the Schooner website for rosters and schedules when they become available.

All members are reminded to watch for the return of Matinee Curling as well. Matinee Curling is normally held on Fridays from 1-3pm. It's open to all Schooner members.

The Schooner Junior Program is scheduled to begin on Saturday, November 10, with an open orientation and registration day. Any kids that are interested in giving curling a try on that day can come and play for free. Helmets are required as well as clean sneakers for the ice. We supply all the other equipment. Those who want to join the program can register on that day for a cost of \$60 plus HST for the season. Anyone with kids, grandkids or if you know of anyone with kids who may be interested, please bring them along to try curling at the Schooner. There has been some good interest in the Junior Program generated on Facebook and other social media and we are hoping the program will grow again this season like it did last year.

As mentioned last month, Junior Coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover has announced that the 2018-19 season will be her last with the program and we are looking for someone to take coaching certification and take over where Nadine left off. Anyone who has interest in getting coaching certification and taking on the Junior program can see Nadine or any executive member.

The Schooner Club held its Fall General Meeting at the club on Wednesday, October 10, with sixteen people in attendance. After the minutes from the previous general meeting were approved, this meeting was opened by club president Gordie Cormier who was first to give his report. He welcomed everyone back and said they he was looking forward to another great season at the club. Gordie mentioned that ice making was underway and we were hoping to start the opening spiel on October 29. Gordie thanked the members who had accepted executive and committee positions for the coming season and all members who volunteer in any way, reiterating how important volunteers are to not only the success of the club but its mere survival.

This year's vice president, Richard Lorway, was next to speak and he reported that he was in conversation with Maddie Kelly of Curling Canada and that she had agreed to visit the club on the final Saturday of the opening spiel with the Scotties trophy that was going to be in Cape Breton and on display at various venues. He said we would need to setup a display area for the trophy and other promotional materials and that we would need a couple of volunteers to help out. Lynn Kelly was next with the treasurer's report, having taken on that position for this year after being vice president last season. Lynn said the club was still in the black but the financial position wasn't as good as she would have hoped due to startup expenses and some unexpected repairs that we had to pay for like the sewer line replacement and some repairs to the dehumidifier last season. She said that New Dawn had agreed to pay 60% of the sewer repair and that we had received that payment. She also said that the club had received a good portion of the ice shed signage rentals and that the financial position would improve once the membership money started to

come in and the bar got up and running on a more regular basis than once a week. She mentioned that Chase the Ace had just gotten started again and that was also expected to bring in some good revenue to the club. Overall, things were looking OK.

Draw master Cal Thistle was next to report and he said that, at this point, all he could do was wait for applications to start coming in. He also reminded the executive that he would not be here for the full season and that someone was required to take his position in the new year. Julia Cormier has been approached to do the job and she will help Cal with league setup at the start of the season and learn the position.

Next up was new bar steward Kevin Gouthro. He didn't have much to report but did say that there were some changes planned with the point of sale system to simplify it and make it quicker to ring in a customer. Ice maker Brian Laughlin reported next and said that things were going pretty well and that the crew was on schedule with ice making. He also said that the ice shed dehumidifier was still acting up and not working as well as it should. There was someone lined up to come up and have a look at it to see if they could figure out what was wrong. There was also discussion about installing two new heaters out in the ice shed. The heaters had been obtained at no cost to the club and Stephen Leslie was going to install them. More heat was required in the ice shed after a temperature drop when we installed the new LED lighting last year.

Bonspiels will be run by committee again this season and Lynn Kelly said they were going to meet to organize the opening spiel soon. It was also reported that each member of the committee would take the lead on a spiel with the other members giving support. This worked well last season and it was expected to work well again this year. Nadine Neima-Drover was not in attendance to give the report for the junior program but Gordie spoke on their behalf. He said Nadine wasn't going to be a member of the club this season but that she had agreed to run the junior program for the season anyway. He also said that this would be her last year and they needed to find someone with or someone interested in obtaining coaches training if the program was to continue next season.

Bernadette Cormier was next with the housing report and said that she and Georgette Sparkes were once again sharing duties for this committee. She also said that they had received the new vacuum cleaner that had been requested and ordered by the club. It's called a "Henry" and is an more industrial type model than what we had been getting in the past with the hope that this one would work better and last longer.

The membership committee was next on the agenda but there was no one there to report. Gordie Cormier said that long time membership coordinator, Frank Kokocki, would likely not be back this season due to personal issues. Julia Cormier would be taking over the full duties after assisting Frank last year. The ways and means report was delivered by Lynn Kelly and she said that shed signage invoices were sent out over the summer and, so far, fourteen had been paid. Subway had gotten an updated sign for the club and they said they would be interested in doing other things with us to help out. Chase the Ace was underway with a guaranteed jackpot of \$500 which would stand until sales dictated that it would go above that and we would be holding a 649 fundraiser sometime

through the season.

Public relations committee chair Richard Lorway reported that he was promoting club events on Go Cape Breton's website and that he would start promoting the opening spiel and do up both posters and a sign up sheet for that event soon. Janet Gallivan was next to report for Schooner fun nights. She said she and Kathy Gale were back to coordinate the events this year and were hoping that they would be as popular and successful as they had been last season. The first fun night will be held on November 24 and Janet also said that they would be doing one in conjunction with St. Patrick's day again this year since last season it was so popular.

The final committee report for the evening was from newsletter/website and was given by Bill Farr. He started by saying that the October newsletter, the first of the season, had been made available on that day and printed copies were at the club and that it was available electronically online at the website. Copies were to be emailed in the next day or so to those on the Schooner mailing list. He said that the newsletter still seemed to be popular and that he welcomed any input or feedback to help make it better. Bill also reported that a security certificate had been purchased for the website and was in the process of becoming active. It was discussed at a recent executive meeting that the Schooner website did not have SSL security, something that was becoming more of a big deal on the internet in recent months with internet giant Google drawing more attention to sites that did not have it. For us, it is more of an image issue, but it was decided that the club would authorize the roughly \$65 cost for the year to obtain the certificate. Bill said that, even with this added expense, we were still using mostly free services for our web presence and that our total cost per year were still under \$100, good value for what we were getting from it. Bill continued his report by talking about the club's use of social media. He said we have a growing Facebook presence that is reaching a lot of people, both members and others, and that it was tied into a Twitter feed that duplicated many of the posts. He encouraged all members to like and share as many posts as possible to reach a larger audience. He also welcomed feedback and input on the website and said that, even though Richard Lorway was posting to GoCapeBreton.com that he would try to supplement those posts on that platform as well.

President Cormier thanked everyone for their reports and moved on to updates on some old business. He reported that, with the receipt of the cheque from New Dawn, the sewer repair issue was now completed. He then gave a short Scotties update, saying that they were still searching for volunteers and that they were in need of quite a few more.

The meeting then moved on to new business, starting with the announcement that we would be accepting Interact e-transfers for membership dues and other payments, such as spiel registrations, this season. An email address for the treasurer has been setup and that is the one that will be used for the transfers. It is [schoonertreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:schoonertreasurer@gmail.com). There was talk about volunteers for the coming season and it was reiterated how important they are to the club and then there was a discussion on the coaches training we were going to require for someone

## Ice Making

to take over the junior program from Nadine. Gordie said he would talk to Curling NS to see if there were any opportunities this season to get the certification done locally. The last topic on the agenda was other business from the floor. Gordie took this opportunity to discuss a recent roof repair that had been done by Stephen Leslie and that spurred discussion on the state of the roof in general. It was discussed that we should look into applying some sort of coating or repair it in some way to make it more presentable and give it more longevity. It was decided that Richard Lorway would approach New Dawn to feel out their position before any more discussion on our part.

The next order of business was to pick a date for the 649 fundraiser. It was decided to hold it the third week of November so we can sell entries before Christmas. The discussion then moved to the Schooner in-ice logo. With the passing of Keith Baldwin, the artist who had painted our logo in the ice for the last number of years, we were left wondering what options we had for this year. After some discussion, it was decided that we would investigate using an existing logo we had and modifying it, then approach a local graphics company to print it on the proper fabric in a size that would be suitable for the ice. Richard Lorway said he would take the lead on that project.

After that, president Gordie Cormier called for a motion to adjourn and the meeting was over. It was a very productive meeting with a lot of information provided to those in attendance and a lot of progress made on outstanding issues.

Ice making went pretty smoothly for the crew this year but there were a couple of hiccups. The ice shed dehumidifier is still having some issues and moisture in the ice shed area has been a bit problematic. There has been someone in to look at it and they are investigating possible solutions. We did spend a fair bit of money on the dehumidifier last season and we are now investigating the possibility of replacing it if it remains problematic. Another issue that had to be overcome was the new printed logo that we got this year to replace the hand painted ones that used to be done by the late Keith Baldwin. The logo was placed in the ice and all seemed to go well until the ice on top of the logo started to crack and shell. The ice crew thought that building up more thickness of ice over top of it would remedy the situation but it wasn't working. With a deadline looming to have the ice finished, it was decided to remove the logo and patch the ice in the spot where it was. It wasn't until a day or two later, in discussion with the printer who made the logo, that it was discovered the material the logo was printed on had a plastic backing that was supposed to be removed before installation. Having never seen a backing on any of the previous logos of this type that they had dealt with before, the ice crew didn't know to remove the backing. With the lesson learned, we will still be able to use the new logo next season and for more seasons to come. Final touches were made to the ice on Sunday, October 28, and rocks were thrown that night. With a few games now played, it looks like we have great ice once again for the 2018-19 season. A big thank you to Brian Laughlin and the ice crew and to everyone who helped out along the way in making the Schooner ice.

## Opening Spiel and Dance

The Schooner Opening Spiel got underway on Monday, October 29 and will continue until Saturday, November 3. There is a great turnout of curlers this year with a full complement of eight teams playing in the Tuesday/Friday division and there are six teams on the Monday/Thursday side. There was no curling on October 31 because of Halloween. Play will continue on November 1st and 2nd with all teams coming head to head on Saturday, November 3rd to determine a winner. The club will play host to the Scotties Tournament of hearts trophy on Saturday as well. It will be on display all afternoon and Maddie Kelly of Curling Canada will be on hand to greet visitors and answer questions about the upcoming Scotties being held in Sydney in February. After Curling on Saturday night there will be a dance with music by DJ Jimmy. Everyone is welcome and there is no cover charge.

## Turkey Spiel

The Schooner Club's annual Holiday tradition, the Turkey Spiel, will be held early in December running from the 6th to the 8th. This is a new scheduling format for this spiel that, in the past, has been run as a week-long event. The new format will see participants play one game on either Thursday or Friday evening and then two games on Saturday. Cost to enter is \$20 and it is open to everyone. You have a chance to win your Christmas Turkey and there will be prizes for everyone. In conjunction with the spiel there will be a food drive to help support the local Kinsmen Club's Christmas program as well. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and the club's bulletin board for more information as it becomes available. Plan to join us.

## Bling Fling Sydney CC

The Sydney Curling Club was scheduled to have a ladies only spiel called the Bling Fling in the Rings on Saturday, November 17 and Sunday, November 18. Due to conflicting schedules, that spiel has been moved to late January. Watch the Schooner bulletin board for more info as the event gets closer.

The cost of the spiel is \$40 per person and there is both team and single entry. You are guaranteed three games. There will be prizes for the best 'Blinged out' team. There will be a light lunch and supper provided on Saturday and there will be entertainment on Saturday night. For more information you can contact Joanne Hunston or Marie Young at the Sydney Curling Club



## Fundraiser

Chase the Ace continues at the club on Tuesday evenings with the jackpot for the first draw in November being estimated at around \$800. After guaranteeing the jackpot at \$500 for the first few draws, it finally climbed above that amount in mid October. Tickets can be purchased at the Schooner bar during all events including league curling and throughout the week at one of our community vendors which now include Hunted Treasures on Victoria Rd., DC Auto Electric on Upper Prince St., Disco Tirecraft on Disco St., Cape Breton Glass at 19 Mitchel Place and

CC Computer Solutions at 235 George St. Tickets are available at the club until 8 pm on draw nights.

The benefits to the club from proceeds we have gotten from Chase the Ace draws are huge. They have gone a long way in keeping member's costs down and in doing improvements and repairs to the club that benefit everyone.

## Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights are making their return to the schedule this month with the first one of the season taking place on Saturday, November 24. The fun gets started at 7pm. Fun Nights are open to everyone so round up your family, your friends, co-workers, whoever and get down to the club for a great time. For only \$7 (\$4 for Schooner Club members) you get to try curling, eat delicious pizza and maybe even get a chance at winning a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. If you haven't tried curling before or are relatively new to the sport, we will supply all the equipment you need and the instruction. You just need to have clean sneakers for the ice. Also, keep in mind that the ice area is around 35-40 degree celsius and you need to dress accordingly so that you are comfortable at that temperature.

## Tuesday Tarabish

Tuesday nights are tarabish nights at the club. The games are open to everyone and are single entry. Partners rotate throughout the evening and points and wins are tallied on an individual basis. Once the designated number of games are played, the points are added up and the winners determined. These games are lots of fun and the bar is open to purchase refreshments. Join us any Tuesday. The games get going at 7pm.

## Membership Fees

The Schooner Curling Club membership rates for all categories will remain the same for the 2018-19 season. A full adult membership is only \$220 plus HST (\$253). There are student and full-junior rates set at \$120 plus tax and a Junior or Little Rocker can curl all season for only \$60 plus tax. Visit the Schooner website's membership area for full info and to access a printable or an online application. Online applications are accepted anytime. All members are reminded that your membership fee must be **PAID IN FULL** on or before November 1, 2018. Anyone who has not paid in full will not be permitted to curl until all membership fees are paid. The club works hard to keep membership rates as low as possible and we are a big bargain for a winter full of fun so please pay before the deadline.

Application forms are available online. You can print out an application to fill it in or you can fill one in online. We will also be accepting payment through interact debit e-transfer. You can send your payment to [schoonertreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:schoonertreasurer@gmail.com). We also accept payment at the club in the form of cash, cheque or debit.



There was lots happening on the Scotties front in October. A big push for volunteers came to an end on October 24 when volunteer recruiting was cut off. The organizing committee will now start the task of getting all volunteers organized and trained and get them the gear that they will wear and use throughout the event.

The Scotties Trophy has made its way to Nova Scotia and will be travelling around to various promotional events both on the Island and the mainland. It will be making an appearance at the Schooner Club on Saturday, November 3. Drop by and get a photo with the trophy.

New ticket packages are now available for the Scotties, joining the full event packages that have available for a while. Mini packages and single draws went on sale on October 12 and include opening weekend for \$99, day packs for \$49-59 and Championship Weekend for \$189. All prices include HST but not facility fees. Full event packages are still available for \$399 plus fees. Single draw tickets are also available now at prices ranging from \$17.50 to \$37.50 depending on the day and time of the draws. The Opening Weekend package includes all five draws for Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17. Single day packs will be available for Monday through Thursday, February 18-21, and will be good for all draws on the given day. Championship Weekend packs start on Friday, February 22 and will include any tie breakers and playoff games, including Sunday's championship game, that final weekend.

There will be a ticket open house November 14th at C200. Individuals who have already purchased full event and mini packages will be able to pick up their hard copies! You will also have the exclusive opportunity to purchase single draw tickets before the general public sale starts on the 16th. Come on down to pick your seat, check out the Scotties trophy and meet one of Nova Scotia's female curling legends. It's a surprise so you will have to show up and see who it is.

If you would like to plan your ticket purchases around the draws for team Nova Scotia, their preliminary round draws have been assigned – draw 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13. Final preliminary round match-ups will be determined once all of the provinces and territories teams are declared via the provincial and territorial play downs. The 2018 Scotties Tournament of Hearts champions, Team Manitoba, will be returning this year with the maple leaf on their back to defend their title as Team Canada. Last year's Scotties team consisted of lead Dawn McEwen, second Jill Officer, third Shannon Birchard, and skip Jennifer Jones. Kaitlyn Lawes, their regular third, was unavailable as she was competing at the 2018 Olympics in mixed doubles but returned to the team for Worlds. This year however, team Canada will look a little different with Jill Officer taking a step back and Jocelyn Peterman taking over as the second on the team. Officer will be staying on as the alternate player. Last year Jones team not only won the Scotties Tournament of Heart but went on to win the 2018 World Women's Championship in North Bay!

For more information and up to date news you can visit the Official Scotties 2019 website at <https://www.curling.ca/2019scotties/>

## Ray Cameron

The curling community and Schooner family lost a much loved member over the summer with the passing of Ray Cameron on June 25th at the age of 78. Ray was a veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force and retired back to his home in Cape Breton after 28 years of service. He was an accomplished curler and skipped many teams in his travels with the military and then back home at the Schooner Club. Ray was a big part of the club, not only being a longtime member but also holding executive positions as treasurer and also as president and he was always willing to give his time and lend a hand whenever he could help out. The Schooner Club plans on naming one of our spiels in his memory.

Ray was a quiet man who always seemed to have a smile for everyone, loved a good joke and was always ready to tell a funny story. He enjoyed sitting around the club after a game, sipping on an Olands or two and socializing with his fellow curlers, ribbing them if he won and making excuses if he lost. Whether he won or lost, he always wore a smile on his face. Ray was patient as well and always had time to offer new curlers advice on how to improve. When he wasn't curling Ray would enjoy time at home on the Mira, fishing, relaxing in front of the fire and spending time with family, especially his loving wife Lorraine.

Ray's kindness, honorable character and sense of humor was a big part of what made him such a likeable person. He will be sadly missed by Lorraine, his family, the Cape Breton curling community and, certainly, by his Schooner family here at the club. Rest in peace Wallace Raymond "DeeDee" Cameron and, if there's a sheet of ice and sixteen stones in Heaven, Good Curling.



## Curling Etiquette

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

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

