

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 93

November, 2019

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

October 30, November 1-2	Opening Spiel
Saturday, November 2	Opening Spiel Dance
Sunday, November 3	League Play Begins
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day - Club Closed
Saturday, November 16	Fun Night
December 5-7	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, January 4	General Meeting and New Years Social
January 10-11	Doubles Spiel
Saturday, January 18	Fun Night
February 7-8	Sweetheart Women's Spiel
Friday, February 7	Open Mic Night
February 14-16	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 15	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 22	Fun Night
March 5-7	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 7	Fun Spiel Dance
Saturday, March 14	Fun Night
April 23-25	Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 25	Closing Spiel Dance
Saturday, May 16	Year End Banquet and Dance

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



President's Message



Another season is underway at the Schooner Curling Club and I feel honored to be back, not only as a member of such a great organization, but also as president. I didn't plan or expect to be back in the president's role for another year but, last year was so great and there are so many wonderful people at the club that help out to make the job easier, that I decided I would return. I am not the only familiar face on the executive for this season as most of the dedicated people involved last season are back at their positions. Richard Lorway returns as vice-president, Lynn Kelly as treasurer and Frances Ford as secretary. I would like to welcome them along with all of the volunteers who took on positions as executive members and committee heads, send them a big thank you for all the work they do and wish them another successful season.

The Scotties championship that was held in Sydney last February was a great event that shed a lot of light on the sport of curling and introduced it to a much wider audience. I am hopeful that this will translate into more new members for the club this season. The Scotties also generated a huge financial benefit to our club, sharing the proceeds of the 50/50 draw and a percentage of the gate revenue with the Sydney Curling Club. That money will go a long way in helping to keep the club running and functional for years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both our returning members as well as all of the new curlers who have decided to join us this season. There will be a lot happening at the club this winter with league play, fun nights, spiels and social events filling the calendar all season and promising to make it another great year at the Schooner Club. I encourage everyone to take part in as much of it as they can and I also encourage everyone to get involved with the club and volunteer some of your time. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the club and without them we could not survive. So here we go. The opening spiel is well underway and league play will be starting very soon. Our first big party will be held as part of the Opening Spiel and we look forward to many more throughout the season. Keep an eye on the Schooner website, Facebook page and the club's bulletin board for all upcoming events and plan to take part. Let's make this the best season the club has ever seen. *Good Curling Everyone!*

League Roundup



League play will be getting underway very soon with the Don Cherry's Team Entry League being the first to take the ice, scheduled to start on Sunday, November 3. There will be a number of shake ups on teams this season with some players not returning, new players coming into the league and some players moving from one team to another. Last year's league and playoff champions will be two of the teams to see changes heading into the 2019-20 campaign. The Brian Laughlin rink will be losing mate Lonnie Howe who is not returning to curl this season and has filled his spot with Kevin Gouthro who played with the Gordie Cormier rink last season. Cormier will have two new players on his team, both coming up from the Sydney Curling Club. Philip Edwards is an experienced curler who was part of a club championship team from Sydney last year and will likely play lead while Chris Glibota, who also played in Sydney last year, will be joining the team either at 2nd or mate. Glibota is an experienced curler as well and has

competed at a high level so it looks like the Cormier rink will be even more formidable this season than they were with Gouthro last year.

Another shake up in the Team Entry is with the Coralie Ayre rink who will be switching to an all female roster with an eye on challenging for a spot at the Scotties. Coralie will have mate Heidi Bishop returning and will be joined by two new faces, Patti Merrigan and Marcie Bungay, reuniting a team that has made previous runs at a Nova Scotia title. Carrie Cress, who was displaced in the Ayre rink shakeup, will be joining Schooner newcomer Josephine McGillivray as a skip mate combo and will be joined on the front end by Ceilidh Forrest and Alicia Deagle. Forrest was lead on the Rick Windsor rink last season but, when Windsor didn't reoffer to enter a team due to personal commitments, she moved to this new squad. Alicia Deagle is a second year returnee to the club who didn't play on Sunday last year but had a good rookie campaign as a lead in the mixed, winning a title with the Kevin Gouthro rink in the process, and will fit in well on this team. Another displaced member of the Rick Windsor rink, Mel Windsor, will be joining the Wally MacDonald rink as second, replacing Chris Webb who is not playing on Sunday this season. The team formerly known as the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink, last year skipped by Richard Lorway when Bonnell took time off for health reasons, will see Lorway at the helm again this year with Bonnell once again not curling. He will be joined again by Todd MacAulay and Bryant Cormier with Bill Ayre coming on board after losing his spot on the Coralie Ayre rink. Curlers are asked to take note of new starting times on Sunday. Games will start at noon instead of 1pm and are also slated for 2:15 and 4:30.

As much as things are changing in the Team Entry, they are just as much staying the same. Skips Keith MacEachern, Chris "Slugger" MacLeod, John Donovan, Robert Agnew, Gary Landry and Russell Fitzgerald are all expected to ice teams much the same as they had last season, maybe with one or two new faces among them all. With the lineup of competitors in the Team Entry this season, we should see some of the best curling and most competitive action we've seen in the Sunday league for some time.

The Pepsi Mixed League will once again play its games from Monday to Wednesday with all draws being at 7pm. The league will once again play a split season with a winner being crowned after the first round and teams being shuffled before playing round two. Twelve teams are slated to compete in round one of the Mixed.

The Old Triangle Men's League will take the ice on Thursdays again this season with a hope of seeing eight teams vie for this league's title. Draws will, once again, expected to be at 7pm and 9pm. The men's league has been very competitive the last few years and teams have been evenly matched. We expect to see that again this season.

The Schooner Junior Program will have new leader this year with Ceilidh Forrest taking over the reins from Nadine Neima-Drover. Ceilidh will be participating in coaching courses in November along with Julia Cormier who will be helping out. We are hoping to see good numbers in the program again this season that will get underway on Saturday, November 9, with a free orientation and registration day starting at 1pm. Kids can come up and try curling before committing to registering for the season. Junior membership is only \$69 including the HST. Kids as young as five years old

Fall General Meeting

can participate. Anyone who has kids or knows of kids who might be interested should encourage them to come to the club on November 9 and give it a try. We supply the required equipment but all kids need clean sneakers for the ice and kids twelve and under must wear a helmet. Matinee curling is expected to make a return to the club's schedule again this season, taking place on Friday afternoons from 1-3. Keep an eye on the Schooner website, Facebook and the club's bulletin board for when it will get underway. Matinee curling is open to all full Schooner members and is a great way to get a bit of extra ice time into your curling season.

The Schooner Club held its Fall General Meeting on Wednesday, October 9th at the club. There was good attendance at the meeting with 25 people taking part to learn what had gone on over the summer and what was in store for the coming season and beyond. Club president, Gordie Cormier, called the meeting to orders and started with a general welcome to everyone in attendance. He then proceeded to deliver his president's report which began by mentioning the ice crew and the amount of work it takes to install our curling ice each year. Gordie commented that work was ahead of schedule and thanked everyone who helped out in making the ice. He then went on to announce that the club's calendar was set with dates for spiels and social events throughout the year. The club's calendar can be seen online at the Schooner Website, is printed at the top of each edition of the newsletter and is available at the club as well. He pointed out the dates for the upcoming opening spiel as well as the opening spiel dance. He then went on to say that he is hoping for an influx of new members this season and wished everyone well before wrapping up.

Richard Lorway was next to take the floor and deliver the vice presidents report. Richard began his report by speaking about the dehumidifier in the ice shed and the ongoing problems we are having with it. A repair person is scheduled to look at it soon and evaluate it. The person who will be looking at it said it is very unlikely that it will need to be replaced and should be repairable. That's the good news. Richard said that we are waiting on repair estimates before making any kind of decision but also said that the dehumidifier was a priority since it is so important to us and our ice. Richard finished off his report by announcing there would be a skip's meeting prior to or shortly after the beginning of league play to reintroduce everyone to the rules that need to be followed to make sure everyone is aware of them and will adhere to them.

Next on the agenda was the treasurer's report that was delivered by Lynn Kelly. Lynn handed out a balance sheet that showed an overview of the club's financial position which she said is actually quite good. As it is every year, there are startup expenses that can drain the club a bit in the beginning but, as of the time of the meeting, there was just over \$10,000 in the main bank account and over \$20,000 in our fundraising account thanks to our portion of the Scottie's 50/50 revenue. There were still some more bills that still weren't received she expected would lower that total a bit before the start of the season. Now that membership dues were going to start to come in they would offset those remaining startup expenses. She also said that there was \$1700 of a possible \$2000 already collected from

ice shed sign rentals. Lynn then moved on to discuss the Schooner bar's debit machine and went through a bit of how the fees work to answer some inquiries from members. The final item she covered in her report was an update on the outstanding loan to Nova Scotia Power that we had taken out when the LED lights were installed. She said that we only have around \$2700 left to pay off on the interest free loan and given that we pay \$775 on each power bill every two months, the loan will be paid off this season. The LED lighting has saved the club money, even with the additional loan payments on each bill, and, once the debt is paid off, will start to show an even larger benefit.

Julia Cormier was next with the draw master's report but really, at this point in the season, didn't have much to report. She did say that we expect some new members this season, that membership applications had started to come in and that there were some available at the meeting for those in attendance to fill in, that e-transfer was an option for payment and that payment was required before the start of curling. She finished by saying that she hoped league play would start right after the opening spiel on November 3.

The bar steward's spot was next up and that job is reverting back to being run by committee after Kevin Gouthro was unable to reoffer to take the position. Gordie Cormier gave the report. He said that there were a few people committed to helping on the committee and mentioned that Cal Thistle would be doing the purchasing of inventory. He said they were looking for someone who would take on the job of scheduling bartenders as well as people who were willing to work the bar throughout the year. Gordie completed the report by breaking that bad news that prices for alcoholic drinks were going to rise for this season, the first time since the 2014 season.

Ice director, Brian Laughlin, took the floor to deliver his report and started by saying that the ice was ahead of schedule this year and that, if everything stayed good, that they would be ready around the 18th of October, leaving lots of time for free ice and clinics. If they maintain that schedule this will be the earliest the ice has been ready in a number of years. Brian said that they were hoping to paint the ice on the Thanksgiving weekend and that we would need lots of people to help. President Cormier promised the club would provide pizza for the weekend for the volunteers.

Bonspiels are once again being handled by a committee this season, a format that has worked well in previous years, and a report was jointly delivered by a couple of people involved with that committee. Once again, the members of the committee will each take the lead on one spiel with the remaining members providing support. It was reported that fun spiels will all be run as weekend events and not the week long affairs we have seen in the past. By starting spiels on Thursdays and playing two games on Saturday, there is less interference in league play and more people stay around longer on Saturday. Lastly it was noted that the Opening Spiel dates had been seen with the first games being played on Wednesday, October 30, then taking a break for Halloween and resuming on November 1 before finishing up on Saturday, November 2 with two games for reach team. There will be a dance on Saturday night with the club playing its own recorded music.

Newly elected Junior Coordinator, Ceilidh Forrest, who will be taking the program over this year from former coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover, was next to take the floor to give her report. The first order of business for Ceilidh will be to take a club coaching course to get certified. Since she was the only one planning to take the course and would be the only one certified, a call was put out to anyone else who might be interested. Julia Cormier said she would do it. The course is being paid for by the CBRM Curler's Assoc. and is being held at the Sydney Curling Club on November 23 and 24. Ceilidh also reported that she has been meeting with Nadine and Thomas Drover and is getting a better idea of how to proceed. She is also asking anyone with time to help out on Saturdays when the juniors take the ice.

The Housing Committee is once again being handled by Georgette Sparkes and Bernadette Cormier. They are asking for more volunteers to help handle the regular cleaning that is required at the club over the season. They have also requested that a cleaning party be organized to get the club in shape for the start of the season once the ice is finished. It was also reported that the clubhouse carpet will be cleaned by Rick Windsor and that the floor will be waxed by Trevor Billard of Chandler's.

Julia Cormier returned to the floor to give the membership report and mostly reiterated what she had already reported as draw master, the need to get applications in asap, the requirement to pay all dues before starting to curl and the hope that we will be attracting lots of new members this season. The report by the ways and means committee was delivered by Lynn Kelly and she started outlining the sign revenue that has been brought into the club already this year. She went on to talk about fundraisers and said that the 649 and spaghetti dinner events we had last season went very well and that we would be looking to repeat those again this year. The 649 sales sheets will be out by November 7 and sales will go to the 21st. We will start either with the November 23rd or 27th 649 draw. She also reported that she had reached out to Tom Young regarding the spaghetti dinner but the date was not yet set. We are shooting for early April. Lynn also talked about other potential fundraisers but said that Chase the Ace will not be one of them. The Snowball members only draw will be back again this year.

Richard Lorway stood for the Public Relations report and said that advertising for spiels and events would mainly be done on social media and that he was committed to creating the posters and other related material that would be required for each event. It was also discussed that we should have more in-house advertising for upcoming events when other events happen such as fun nights. That lead into the next report from Kathy Gale and Janet Gallivan, returning fun night coordinators. They outlined the dates that are set aside for fun nights this season including the first event that will be held on November 16. There will be no fun night in December. Janet suggested it might be a good idea to have music or some entertainment at the first fun night and Gordie said we may be able to get an open mic night organized or possibly check with DJ Jimmy to see if he is available. A question came from the floor regarding sponsorship but the coordinators and members of the executive didn't feel a sponsor was necessary as the revenue from the participants is sustaining the fun nights and paying for what they are costing.

The final report of the evening was given by Bill Farr for the Website/Newsletter. He reported that the first newsletter of the season was available at the meeting, had been posted online and had been emailed to those who subscribe. A new Facebook group was announced that is open to only Schooner members in hope that information that is mostly of interest to the members can be conveyed there and general information be posted on the main Facebook feed. One possible use for the group will be to request spares when you can't make a game. Bill said we will have to wait and see how the group plays out and what use it has but encouraged all club members who are part of Facebook to join. With regard to the website, he said a discussion was had regarding a refresh of the pages but that had not been done and was unlikely for this season. The website is functional and conveys the information to members that is required. While it still functions to attract people to the club, that role is more being filled by the Facebook site and the design and appearance of the site, dated or not, isn't as important as it once was. A new addition to the site this year is a page dedicated to facility rental and lists possible uses, capacities, rates and provides a PDF download of a newly created rental agreement. Next we moved on to updates of old business and began with Richard Lorway speaking on behalf of the CBRM Curler's Assoc. He said there was still money to be distributed from the Scottie's 50/50 and that was going to happen soon because the final outstanding bill for setup of the electronic terminals had finally been received. He suggested the two club's pay that bill, as they had done for other previous bills, to take advantage of the HST rebate that the CBRMCA would not get. The clubs would then be reimbursed for the payments as well as receive the remainder of the money from the 50/50 proceeds, possibly around \$4000 each. There will be a CBRMCA meeting soon to finalize all of this. It was also discussed that we may also be eligible for proceeds from ticket sales for the event but it wasn't know how much this might be or how it would be distributed. Also under old business, the increase in adult membership fees and bar prices were mentioned. There was discussion on the Sunday Team entry league and earlier start times were suggested. Also, the inclusion of all who want to play and sign up for it on their membership applications was discussed and Gordie said that he isn't aware of anyone who wanted to play over the last couple of years that couldn't play. He also said while every effort would be made to accommodate those who do want to play on Sunday, play in this league would not be made automatic and the onus would still be on the players to find or create their own team. Old business finished up with stating there would be a skips meeting at some point and that this season and that players will have to take more responsibility for finding spares when they can't make it. The Facebook members group was mentioned as a potential tool to make finding a spare a bit easier. When the meeting moved on to new business, the topic of repairs, specifically the roof, were discussed. This was under new business because Gordie had prices that had been quoted for repair and that this topic tied in with another that had not yet been discussed. We were told that we had gotten quite a bit of money from the Scotties 50/50 and that we were also in the pursuit of possible grant money to make the 50/50 cash go further. It turns out, we need to formalize our rental agreement with New Dawn in

order to qualify for any grants. Right now, we have a verbal agreement and a very favorable rent payment. It was suggested that we approach New Dawn with the request to formalize the rental agreement in writing but there is a concern that this may trigger a rent increase. We have had and do still have a very good relationship with New Dawn and have worked together with them in the past to remedy problems, like our sewer line last year, in a fair and amicable manor. The executive feels that new Dawn would be open to a written agreement but it was decided at the meeting that vice president Richard Lorway would approach them in an informal manor and feel out their position before a formal request was made. The executive also feels that, if a formal agreement isn't in place with New Dawn for the future, major repairs and renovations to the building are not a good idea. We could spend thousands on a roof or siding only to have them shut us down a year or two after. It is felt that a longer term arrangement is in our best interest. While major structural repairs are unlikely until our agreement with New Dawn is in place, other issues still need to be addressed and the attendees were filled in on a couple of items that need attention right away. The ice shed dehumidifier is still acting up and needs attention. There is a company that was lined up to look at it and was confident that it could be fixed. They also said that our unit may be too small to do the job are asking of it. One big problem is the amount of outside air that is getting in. With that in mind, Gordie Cormier called for volunteers to help seal up the ice shed and set a date of October 19 as the day it would be done. While this may not be the final solution for our dehumidifier problem, it will go a long way in helping it. The next new business was brought to the floor by the housing committee who asked for a work party to be organized to clean the entire club before the start of the opening spiel. A date of October 26 was set for that. The next item of new business was in regard to the shed floor and the age of the pipes that are the part of our cooling system. Every year the ice crew has to fix at least a couple of leaks and they seem to be getting more severe. Some discussion ensued about what can be done to help the situation, what options we have for replacement and if there can be changes made to the Glycol we use to try and get more life from the pipes. While there were no easy answers, it was agreed that we need to look into it further. If we are looking at building renovations such as a roof, the ice floor needs to be addressed as well. No need for a roof if we have nowhere to curl. The next order of business was the new club brochure that will be used to get information to new and potential members and rental agreement that will be required by all renters to agree to and sign before using the facility. Both were created by club secretary Frances Ford with input from the club executive. The last order of business was brought to the floor by Martin Campbell and it was to invite all Schooner members to his daughter Samantha's wedding on October 19. Samantha is also a Schooner member. Frances Ford followed up that invitation at the meeting with an email to all members so they would be aware. After the invite from Martin, the meeting was called to a close and we were done. In true Schooner fashion, a number of the attendees stayed around to socialize for a while before heading home. A great meeting and a great start to the new season. Thank you to everyone

Turkey Spiel



who showed up.

Mark your calendar and plan to take part in the Schooner Club's annual Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel, which will be held early in December from the 5th to the 7th. Choose to play one game on Thursday or Friday and two on Saturday. Entry fee will be \$20 per player, open to everyone. There will be prizes for all curlers and you will have a chance to win your Holiday Turkey.

Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights will begin in November with the first one of the season taking place on Saturday, November 16th. Fun nights start at 7pm and go until everyone has had their fill of curling and pizza. Fun Nights are important to the club as they introduce new people to the sport of curling and to the club itself. Many of the new members that have joined the club over the last few years have gotten their start at a Schooner Fun Night. Everyone is welcome and for only \$7 per person (\$4 for Schooner members) you get to curl, get some delicious pizza and maybe even have a chance at winning a prize. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. We supply the equipment needed except for a clean pair of sneakers for the ice. Get your family, friends, co-workers, whoever and plan to join us at the club for the first Schooner Fun Night of the season.

649 Fundraiser

The Schooner Club will be running a 649 fundraiser in November. Sales will start around the second week of the month and will go for a couple of weeks. Draws will begin closer to the end of the month. As in the past, one set of numbers is \$5 and three sets on the same entry is \$10. Pick six number from 1-49 for each entry and the first entry to have all six numbers drawn in the Lotto 649 weekly draws, Wednesday and Saturday, will win the prize, 50% of sales. If more than one entry completes on the same draw, the winners will share in the prize money. Numbers used will only include the main winning numbers drawn in the 649 lottery, not the bonus number or numbers drawn in any subsidiary games associated with the 649. All members are encouraged to participate and sell as many entries as possible. Fundraisers are very important to the club and its financial well being. Money raised goes directly into paying day to day expenses of the club and helps to keep membership rates and other prices as low as possible, benefitting all members.

Snowball



The Snowball 50/50 will be returning to the club once again this season. It is open to Schooner full members only and will run during all scheduled league play. All members are assigned a number on the membership list posted at the bar. On any night that the Snowball is running, members can sign in and pay the \$2 entry. While you don't have to be present to win, you must be at the club on the day of the draw to sign in, you can't have someone else sign you in on your behalf or sign in for any future draws ahead of time. If the number drawn belongs to a member who is signed in

for that draw, they win the jackpot. If the number drawn is for a member who is not signed in, the jackpot carries over and "snowballs" into a bigger jackpot. Each entry means \$1 more toward the total prize while \$1 goes to the club. So don't forget to sign in for the Snowball the next time you curling and you may win a great cash prize. You don't want to be the one who missed out on that big prize because you didn't sign in when you were at the club.

Tuesday Tarbish

For the last number of years, the Schooner Club has hosted a Tarabish Game at the club on Tuesday evenings starting at 7pm. The game is open to everyone and draws both club members and people from outside of the Schooner membership. The game offers a big benefit to the club as it brings in more people on Tuesdays and it introduces the club to people outside of the membership. If you want to take part you don't need to pre-register, you just show up. You don't even need a partner as partners rotate throughout the evening with individual wins and points being tallied to determine an overall winner. It's a lot of fun and it's a great night out. Plan to join us some Tuesday evening and give it a try. Even if Tarabish isn't your game, drop by any Tuesday and relax with a drink and have a game of shuffle curling on our custom table. During the curling season you can also take in some of the action in the Mixed League. The Tuesday Tarabish games and Social run all year long. Hope to see you there.

Membership Fees

The Schooner Curling Club membership rates for a full adult membership for the 2019-20 season are \$235 plus HST (\$270.35). This is still one of the lowest, if not the lowest, membership rates in any curling club in the country. Student and full-junior rates remain the same at \$120 plus tax and a Junior or Little Rocker can still curl all season for only \$60 plus tax. All members are reminded that your membership fee must be **PAID IN FULL** on or before November 1, 2019. Anyone who has not paid in full will not be permitted to participate in league curling 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. We accept payment by cash, cheque, interact debit or e-transfer. You can send your online payment to schoonertreasurer@gmail.com.

Schooner online

All members and the general public are reminded to take advantage of the Schooner Club's online efforts. The Schooner website has been up and running for a number of years now and contains lots of information on upcoming events, league play, schedules and the club in general. The monthly newsletter is also available to read in its electronic format on the website.

We also have a Facebook page that is available for all to see and has updates of what is happening on a regular basis. We encourage all visitors to like and share our content so we can reach a wider audience and introduce the club to new people. New this year is a private Facebook group for members only. We are hoping that all Schooner members who have a

Facebook account will join the group and share information or questions more directly related to the club and its leagues. One main focus of the group will be to make it easier to find spares to fill in for games when players can't make it. We will also use it to find volunteers for specific events like when a bartender is needed on a particular night. If you are a schooner member and haven't joined the group yet, visit us on Facebook and apply to become a member of the group as soon as possible. The more members we have participating, the better the group will work. As always, we are open to suggestions and input that will make our online presence better for everyone. Don't hesitate to contact the club any time.

Opening Spiel and Dance

The Schooner opening spiel got underway on Wednesday, October 30. After a break for Halloween on the 31st, it resumed on November 1 and is slated to wrap up on Saturday, November 2, with all teams playing two games on that day. Lunch is being provided on Saturday. A good turnout for the Opening saw twelve teams taking part.

The first big party of the season is slated for Saturday, November 2, with a dance after curling in the spiel has completed. It will be open to everyone including guests outside the club's membership. There's no cover and there will be recorded music played. Plan to join us. Watch for a full wrap-up of the Opening Spiel in the December newsletter.

New Bar Prices

New bar prices are now in effect. For the first time in a number of years, the prices at the Schooner bar have gone up. Price increases only affect alcoholic beverages while snacks and non-alcoholic drinks did not rise. Beer, wine and a 1oz shot of spirits will be going up to \$4.25 from the original \$3.75. A can of Guinness will now cost you \$5.00 and Breton Brewing Craft Beer will be \$6.00. Coolers will be \$4.25 for a can and \$5.00 for a bottle. All prices include HST.

Price increases are due mostly to rising cost of buying the inventory to resell. Bar sales are an important part to the fiscal health of the club and we need to maintain a good margin. Also, keep in mind that this is the first increase in a long while and that these prices are still some of the cheapest around. In most establishments around town a beer or shot will cost you over \$5 and craft beer upwards of \$7-8, and that's before tax. The club appreciates your understanding and hopes you will all support the bar as in the past.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Schooner Curling Club and we are lucky to have a large number of our members willing and able to give time to make the club run as smoothly as possible. Thank you to everyone who helps out in any way at the club and, a reminder to everyone, now that we are beginning another new season, any time you can give to the club is very much appreciated. Without the help of volunteers, the club could not exist as it does.

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.

