



## Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone. It was another fantastic summer on Cape Breton Island but now that fall has arrived we will once again trade in our golf clubs and our swim trunks for curling brooms and warm clothing and return to the Schooner club. There have been a number of upgrades to the club including installation of a new ice plant and dehumidifier along with improvements to the building in new windows and doors. Ice making went well this season and we have another great sheet of curling ice to enjoy all winter. A big thank you to everyone who helped out from planning, implementing and installing all the additions as well as everyone who pitched in for ice making and getting the club ready for the season.

All indications are that we are in for another fantastic season of curling and fun at the club and we will get it all rolling with the Opening Spiel from November 5-7. Things will certainly be different this year with all the Covid protocols in place but we will strive to make things safe for everyone while still keeping the fun in curling.

League play will get underway shortly after the Opening Spiel with the first rocks of the 2020-21 season scheduled to be thrown in the Team Entry League on Sunday, November 8. A big welcome to new club president, Richard Lorway, VP Anthony Boudreau and to all of the executive and committee heads. They will be working hard all season to make this another great year at the club. So here we go. *Good Curling Everyone!*

## President's Message



I would like to welcome all returning and new members to the 2020/21 curling season at the Schooner Curling Club! It's been an unusual 2020 to say the least, but we will return to curling soon, albeit with a few changes to Club operating procedures due to new health and safety protocols.

The good news is that the rules on the ice have not changed. Despite earlier indications, teams can still use 2 sweepers, and sweeping behind the T-line is permitted. Masks can be worn on the ice, but are not mandatory. Players should still try to social distance as much as possible, and of course anyone who is sick or who has been out of the Atlantic bubble should not set foot in the club until their quarantine period has expired. Common sense always applies in any situation.

On the downside, COVID protocols require that we operate differently inside the clubhouse. Masks must be worn at all times unless a beverage is being consumed. (That should drive bar sales!) Social distancing is also required, and our overall capacity has been cut in half. There will be new procedures for purchasing beverages as only 1 person is allowed at the bar at one time. Your executive is hoping to create an ordering system that will enable players to get in a queue without physically standing in line, and can wait at their table till their name is called. More on that soon.

In other news, we have replaced the old ice plant with the newer plant purchased from River Hebert. It's now up and running, and we think it will be much more efficient than the old one, and possibly produce some savings. We have also replaced our defunct dehumidifier with a used desiccant system from Halifax, which cost roughly 1/5 of the new dehumidifier we were considering. We are upgrading our electrical service in the process as well. Because of all the changes, our season was delayed by a week or so.

## League Roundup



I'd like to thank all our volunteers who have once again worked hard to get our ice shed and clubhouse ready. And I'd like to say a special thanks to Stephen Leslie, without whom none of the major infrastructure improvements would have been possible.

I look forward to seeing you all on the ice. Have a great and fun-filled year everyone!

Leagues at the club will remain unchanged this season, at least until membership numbers are finalized. The Don Cherry's Team Entry League will run on Sunday afternoons with the first draw starting at 12 noon. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will see the Mixed League and Thursday evenings will be Men's League. We hope to have eight teams in men's again this season which would mean two draws starting at 7pm and 9pm. Due to additional pre-game procedures required for Covid compliance, start times of games may be adjusted slightly to allow for the time to get everything ready. Also, all curlers are asked to please arrive approx. fifteen minutes early for all games so pre-game procedures can get done, curlers organized and games started on schedule. Matinee Curling is also slated to return this season and will be held on Friday afternoons from 1-3pm. Matinee Curling is open to all Schooner members. A starting date has yet to be determined for Matinee Curling.

League play is slated to get underway on Sunday, November 8, with the Don Cherry's Team Entry League taking the ice and throwing the first stones in league play for 2020-21. There will be a number of changes to team rosters and a number and a few new teams competing for league honors on Sunday this season. The Brian Laughlin rink will see the departure of Kevin Gouthro after only one season. With the return of Lonnie Howe to the club this year after a one year hiatus, Laughlin will return to throwing skip rocks and have Howe come back on board as mate. Kelley Laughlin and Joe Erickson will continue at lead and second. The aforementioned Gouthro has joined forces with Walter Nichols, Trevor Billard and Anthony Boudreau to solidify that team. Richard Lorway will be returning to Sunday play but on a new look team as he is joining forces with Cal Thistle and Barb Thistle as well as Alison Grapes. Three previous club members are returning, Jackie Pearson, George Carew and Tommy Youden, and will be forming a new Sunday team that will see Bryant Cormier fill in the fourth spot for them. Cormier was left available after the Lorway rink was dissolved.

Another team undergoing changes on Sunday is the Gordie Cormier rink. Cormier and long time team mate Stephen Leslie will be together and will be joined by Carrie Cress and Julia Cormier. Chris Glibota, who played with Cormier's team last year, has left and Philip Edwards has moved on to form his own team. Edwards has secured Samantha Livingstone as mate but the remainder of his team is not yet known. Livingstone played with Russell Fitzgerald last season along with Julia Cormier. The departure of those two from Fitzgerald's squad leaves that team in limbo. Other teams in search of replacement personnel were the Gary Landry rink and the Wally MacDonald rink. Landry lost mate Mike Cormier who is not returning and MacDonald himself has stated he was unsure about competing in Sunday this season,

## **Schooner Junior Program Put on the Shelf**

leaving Sid Murray, Mel Windsor and Dave Boudreau in search of a possible replacement. Landry filled two vacancies with Lynn Kelly and Ceilidh Forrest. Justin Humphrey will move to mate and Kelly and Forrest will play second and lead respectively. Lynn Kelly had played for Keith MacEachern the last few seasons but, in a surprise move, Keith has taken Wally MacDonald's spot as skip for that team.

The Coralie Ayre rink will return this season intact as will the John Donovan rink. Peter MacIntyre will be back on Sunday with long-time team mate Cheryl MacKinnon. They will be joined by Debby Murray as lead who came over from the Gary Landry rink. So far there is no word on the status of Robert Agnew, the skip for that team last season and they have only three listed on the roster so far. That leaves us with eleven teams heading into opening day. Hopefully another team will step forward and fill in that final spot before we get underway.

There is still talk of a doubles league at the club for this season. On a members survey done in the fall, doubles curling seemed very popular with all respondents. It will remain to be seen if we have the time and the players to ice a doubles league at the club this year.

Check back each month throughout the season and get updated on all leagues at the Schooner Club.

With all of the uncertainty brought on by Covid and the difficulties related to following the protocols to see everyone stay safe, coupled with Junior Coordinator, Ceilidh Forrest, not able to run the program this season due to personal time commitments, the Schooner Executive have reluctantly decided to cancel the Junior Program for this season. There was no one to take over running the program and the logistics of following the safety protocols with the kids just presented a no win situation for the juniors. The Sydney Curling Club will be running their Junior Program this season and parents were directed there so their kids could keep curling and developing. The kids in the Schooner Juniors were really coming along and turning into fine curlers and we wanted to see that progress. We wish the best to all the kids from the program and their parents and we hope to see the Schooner Junior program resurrected someday soon.

## **Spring General Meeting**

The Schooner Club held it's mandated Spring General Meeting on June 23, 2020, at the club. Since we were still in the midst of the Covid 19 lockdowns, special precautions were taken and rules followed to make sure everyone who was in attendance could stay safe. Attendance was, in fact, very good for the meeting with over thirty people taking part.

The meeting got underway at the appointed time of 7pm with Gordie Cormier taking the floor first. President Cormier started out by welcoming everyone who was there and thanking them for coming. He then announced that he would not be re-offering for the club president position for the following season. After six seasons as Schooner President, Gordie said he didn't have the same spark and energy to bring to the position any longer and felt it was time to step aside. He said that he was proud of the accomplishments that he had made as president and thanked everyone

who had worked hard to help along the way. Gordie finished by saying he would still be around to help out at the club but felt the president's position would better be filled by someone else.

Club treasurer Lynn Kelly was the next to take the floor with her report. She said that, while some revenue had certainly been lost due to the Covid shutdown, the club was still in pretty good financial condition. She said that we had shut down the club's internet and the debit machine services had been suspended in an effort to save some money by cancelling services we would not be using during the shutdown period. Lynn said there was a good portion of the Scottie's 50/50 money left that was a great cushion for the club and it was mentioned that we were in line for some more Scottie's money from the legacy fund. Lynn also asked that anyone who had an outstanding tab or owed the club any money please pay it up as soon as possible. Payments can be made through e-transfer to [schoonertreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:schoonertreasurer@gmail.com) .

Brian Laughlin, Ice Director was next to speak and said that all shutdown procedures had been done and gone smoothly after our abrupt closing in mid-March. He also said that there were still some issues with the dehumidifier and it was currently not working properly. It is something that will have to be dealt with prior to the new season.

Bill Farr provided an update on the website and newsletter next. He said the April edition of the newsletter had gone out and was distributed electronically through the club's email list and it was available to read and download on the Schooner website as always. He went on to say that the Schooner website had been updated with the current information on all cancellations and that the information was also posted to the Facebook account. Bill said Facebook has seemed to be starting to take over as the go-to platform for people to get information on the club as website traffic had slowed a bit while the Schooner Club's Facebook page had now exceeded 750 likes and followers. There were no further executive or committee reports following that.

The next order of business to discuss was the equipment purchase that the club made from the Brookside Curling Club in River Hebert. The equipment included pretty much a full ice plant including chiller, brine pump and compressor. It also included some electrical as well as some other curling related equipment such as an older Ice King machine and some vinyl rock houses that can be used in our ice instead of painting. The purchase was approved by the membership at the January General Meeting. A total of \$12000 for the purchase was approved, \$10,000 for the already negotiated purchase price and \$2000 for pickup. The trip and related expenses to pick up the equipment came in slightly under that budget. A few club members went to pick up the equipment and bring it back. It's now all in storage in a New Dawn Building on the radar base site. Thanks to Gordie, Brian, Richard and Stephen for making the trip, disassembling the equipment and returning it to Sydney for storage. Stephen Leslie provided the truck needed to transport the equipment back.

While the equipment is currently stored in a space donated by New Dawn, the club executive recommended that we have the new equipment installed since it is much newer than what we currently have and it would be more reliable and efficient. It is estimated that it will cost around \$5000 to install

the new equipment, including some modifications to the back room where the equipment resides. A motion to allow for spending up to a maximum of \$7000 for install was put to the floor and approved. All of the money being spent is from the Schooner's capital fund that is basically made up of money from the Scotties 50/50 revenue.

Richard Lorway was next to speak on a topic related to the ice plant purchase. The club had applied to the province for a facilities grant, first discussed at the January General meeting, to make improvements to our building and equipment. We submitted an estimate and the Province would pay a percentage of that estimate if approved. The purchase of the Brookside equipment was a big part of that, along with some new Windows and doors as well as a labor component for everything. The total for the grant application was approximately \$24000 or which we were approved for around \$14000.

The meeting then moved forward to discuss new business which began with making an amendment to our bylaws. Our current bylaws stated that notice of a general meeting should be posted at the club two weeks prior to the meeting. Given the abrupt closure of the club due to Covid 19 and that no one was in the club after that, a proposal to change the bylaw was put forth. The new bylaw would be that notice of a meeting would be distributed to members via email or other electronic means. That means that all members who provide an email address will be notified and that notifications will also be made available online by various means. In today's day and age, that means that pretty much all members will get notification even if they aren't at the club. The motion to change the bylaw passed.

Next on the agenda was the money due to the club from what is known as the Scottie's Legacy Fund. It's basically a percentage of the Scottie's ticket revenue that gets split up among local clubs. The CBRMCA was administering the funds. The issue that arose that needed discussion was that the Sydney Curling Club had asked to get 75% of the total funds available, saying that they deserved more because they were a bigger club with a bigger membership. This was a big ask since the total amount of the fund that was to be distributed was around \$66,000. The Schooner members involved rejected that claim. The resolution for the situation that was laid out in the actual bid letter for the Scotties that was presented to Curling Canada was quite involved with a board of trustees having to be set up from members of both clubs as well as the CBRMCA and could take a fair bit of time to go through. Hoping to avoid all of this, the Schooner Club countered with an offer to split the money 60/40 with the larger portion going to Sydney. The Sydney Club accepted this proposal so the executive was bringing it to our membership for approval at the meeting. It was presented that it could take a long time to resolve the issues and that there was no guarantee that we would get more than 40% as a result of all the hearings. If approved, we would get a guaranteed amount and it would be distributed to us in a short time. It was voted on and passed. As a result, we would receive just over \$26,000 and Sydney would get just under \$40,000.

The meeting then moved forward to the election of officers for the club for the coming season. As stated earlier, Gordie Cormier had announced his intention not to run again for club president. Current club vice president, Richard Lorway, stepped forward to put his name in for the president's spot.

Since there were no other members offering, Richard was named president without a vote. Anthony Boudreau offered to be the new vice president and will be replacing Richard at that spot. There were no other changes on the executive committee with Lynn Kelly returning as treasurer, Frances Ford back as secretary, Julia Cormier taking on draw master and Brian Laughlin back in his long time position as ice coordinator. The bar stewards role will be done by committee once again. There were a couple of changes on the committees side with Bernadette Cormier not reoffering for housekeeping so Yvonne Donovan will be taking her place alongside Georgette Sparkes who did come back. Alison Grapes will be a new member of the Fun Night committee. Here is a full listing of all of your Schooner executive members and committee heads for the 2020-21 season.

President	Richard Lorway
Vice President	Anthony Boudreau
Treasurer	Lynn Kelly
Secretary	Frances Ford
Draw Master	Julia Cormier
Ice Coordinator	Brian Laughlin
Bar	By Committee
Bonspiels	By Committee
Junior Coordinator	Ceilidh Forrest
Housekeeping	Georgette Sparkes and Yvonne Donovan
Membership	Julia Cormier
Public Relations	Richard Lorway
Ways and Means	Lynn Kelly
Fun Nights	Kathy Gale, Janet Gallivan and Alison Grapes
Web	Bill Farr
Newsletter	Bill Farr

The final order of business to discuss, something that was on everyone's mind, was the situation surrounding Covid 19 and how it will affect the club moving forward. At the time of the meeting, much was still unclear about the upcoming curling season. The Schooner executive said that we would just have to wait and see what the current situation was when we're indeed ready to re-start, what restrictions would still be in place and what directions would be given to us by Curling Canada and Nova Scotia Curling. It was announced that all summer activities would be cancelled including Schooner Golf and our annual washer toss tournament. The club would remain closed to any events including Tuesday Tarabish and there would be no rentals available. It was also stated that the incoming executive would monitor the situation and possibly re-evaluate based on changes in the situation and loosening of restrictions.

With all the club business handled, the meeting was adjourned. It was a great meeting with lots accomplished and it was nice to see such a large turnout. Thanks to everyone who attended and a big thank you and best of luck to those who accepted executive and committee positions for the upcoming season.

## Fall General Meeting

The Fall general meeting of the Schooner Curling Club took place on Wednesday, October 28, at the club and was well attended with around thirty people in attendance. The meeting was called to order by new club president Richard Lorway at 7pm with the first order of business was to approve the minutes of the above mentioned Spring Meeting as well as the minutes of a special general meeting that had been held on August 26 to discuss the situation surrounding our ice shed dehumidifier and to have the membership approve the possible spending of money to replace it. At that meeting, it was learned that our dehumidifier needed to be replaced and that a new one would cost in the vicinity of \$20,000 installed. We also learned that there was the possibility of us getting a used dehumidifier from an arena in the Halifax area that was upgrading theirs. At that August meeting, an amount of up to \$20,000 was approved for the purchase. The minutes for both meetings were approved by those in attendance and the meeting got underway with a report from the president. Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and then informed everyone we would be starting a bit later this season due to all of the changes and renovations that the club had undergone and a slightly longer amount of time to get everything online than was expected. He went on to discuss the changes in a bit more detail, including the fact that we were able to procure the used dehumidifier at a significant saving over the new unit, and also said that we are still planning on getting the electrical upgrade that would give us better capacity to handle all of the new equipment. Richard also told the meeting that New Dawn, the owners of the Pine Tree Park which includes our building, have a possible plan for an energy project at the park and that may impact us in a positive way. More details on that will be forthcoming but it could mean more improvements for the club that could possibly be funded by outside sources, at least partially.

The next report was from Treasurer Lynn Kelly and she said that the club was in a relatively good position. This time of the year is always financially trying for the club with all of the startup expenses that we have but she also said we do have enough to cover those and that she is hoping the revenue from advertising and memberships will come quickly now that the season is upon us. At the time of the meeting, the club had approximately \$5000 in our operating account but still had a good cushion in a contingency fund that, after all outstanding expenses from the upgrades were paid, should sit at around \$25,000. The contingency fund is just that, a stash of money that the club hopes to keep to be used for emergencies or future required upgrades. This fund was made possible by the money that the club got as a result of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts held in Sydney in 2019.

Julia Cormier was next to report in her capacity as Draw Master. She said that, at that point, she was waiting on applications to start coming but also said that league play would get underway immediately following the Opening Spiel on Sunday, November 8th with games in the Team Entry league. She encouraged everyone at the meeting to get applications filled in and submitted and that if anyone was going to be part of a Sunday team to let her know and encourage the other members of the team to get applications in early as well.

The bar report was next on the agenda with Richard Lorway speaking on behalf of the Bar Committee that will be running the Schooner bar again this

season. He started by announcing that there would be no change in prices this year. He then went on to say that the liquor license needed to be renewed because of changes to the club's executive. He also confirmed that Cal Thistle would be doing the purchasing and handling the inventory duties. The bar committee will also be looking for volunteers to work some shifts as bartenders.

The Schooner bonspiels will also run by committee again this season, something that has worked well for the last few years. New Schooner Vice President Anthony Bourdreau will head the committee that will be responsible for planning and running all the spiel events. They are presently in the process of getting the Schooner Opening Spiel off the ground. Also, food at spiels will have to be dealt with a bit differently this season. Bowls of chips and other snacks are not permitted but individual portions are ok. We can still offer food such as pizza but the actual serving of the food may be done a bit differently. That is still being worked out.

Georgette Sparkes was next to take the floor on behalf of Housing. She said that they were pretty much ready to go and that they have some new Covid cleaning protocols. She also said that they would need to organize a party to clean the club following the completion of the ice to get the club ready for the Opening Spiel and the season in general.

Lynn Kelly was up again for Ways and Means with the next report. She said that all invoices had been sent for ice shed advertising and she had gotten one payment as of the time of the meeting. She didn't expect to many issues with collecting as most advertisers had been supporting the club for some time.

Public Relation chair Richard Lorway reported next and said that he would be advertising the Schooner events online at Go Cape Breton. Fun Nights Co-coordinator, Janet Gallivan reported that Fun Nights were returning to the club but would not begin until January. She said the committee was still working out changes to procedures that would be required because of Covid. Bill Farr was the final committee head to report on behalf of Newsletter and Website. He said that the November newsletter, this current edition, would be the first of the season. Previous years saw the newsletter return in October for the year but there would be no October edition for the 2020-21 season. The website had been updated with application forms and also had the Covid waivers that would be required this season available in printable form. Facebook and the Schooner website continued to be popular and well used and that all Schooner events would be listed on both. Once available, the club's calendar would also be put online.

The meeting then moved on to update everyone on a few items under old business. Richard Lorway spoke about the club's dehumidifier and said the old one had been replaced with a new unit that had been approved at a special general meeting held in August. The purchase price was \$2500 and we got it from an arena in Halifax. It was installed by Stephen Leslie with some help from the ice crew. Stephen was also who went to pick it up. After initial installation, a few tweaks and repairs we required but it was now working at 100%. Even after incidental expenses, the used unit was still much less expensive than what a new dehumidifier would have costs which was in the \$20,000 range. Richard then spoke about the many other upgrades that club has seen over the summer. Richard Summarized them

and thanked everyone who helped out, especially Stephen Leslie, who not only donated a large amount of his time and expertise, he also used equipment that he owns to help out. Richard also outlined a couple of things that are still to get done.

The start of the season was the next topic of discussion and how things were looking for the beginning of the new year. The executive said that, while it was still too early to tell for sure, that they felt the club's membership numbers would be relatively good given the current social situation. A number of former members had conveyed their pending return and it was felt that new membership might get a spike as well given the relative lack of activities available due to Covid shutdowns and restrictions. An online survey had been conducted by the club late in the summer and the responses were encouraging. Most of the thirty people who took part said they would be joining or were likely to join and only one of the members from last year said they would not be curling at the club this year. The real issue with regard to the upcoming season that was on everyone's mind were the changes to procedures both in the club house and on the ice. The on ice issues were discussed first and everyone was told that the games would be played pretty much normally given the relaxing of restrictions in Nova Scotia. Masks do not need to be worn during game play unless the individual chooses to do so. Everyone is required to have a mask with them in case of an emergency situation as well as to re-enter the club house. In the club house, rules are similar to other bars and restaurants. Masks must be worn when entering and moving around inside. Masks can be removed once seated with your drinks. There will be no lining up at the bar and there are a few other rules that were detailed. The club has formed a committee to look into Covid rules and regulations and to formulate policies that will be followed at the club. A preliminary list summarizing the new rules was distributed to the attendees (these rules are available in another section of the newsletter). Signage will be posted at the club with rules and instructions.

Finally, the meeting was opened up to new business from the floor that allowed those in attendance to bring up topics to discuss or ask questions. A few items minor items were discussed and the meeting was brought to a close. Thank you to the Schooner executive and committee heads for all the info and thank you to all who attended. See you again in the spring.

## Turkey Spiel



Mark your calendar and plan to take part in the Schooner Club's annual Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel, which is normally held early in December. 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 be returning to the schedule this season but aren't expected to get underway until the new year with the first Fun Night taking place sometime in January. We'll publish specific dates once they are set. Fun Nights will look a little different this season as all Covid protocols will be followed and masks must be worn when entering and moving around inside the club house. We will also be taking precautions with all loaner equipment

and when everyone is on the ice.

Even with all the new rules and precautions being taken, we will still have lots of fun and hope to introduce lots of people to the great sport of curling. Schooner Fun Nights will be a great way to get out of the house with family and friends and enjoy a night out for just a few bucks. Keep an eye on the Schooner Website and our Facebook page for more details and dates for upcoming Fun Nights.

## 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

Due to all the new rules and restrictions put in place because of the Covid 19 pandemic, we will not be holding our regular Tuesday Night Tarbish Games for now. We are very sorry that we can no longer host our weekly card games and we do hope that they can resume sometime in the near future. Thank you to everyone who took part and we look forward to seeing you all again.

## Membership Fees

The Schooner Curling Club membership rates for a full adult membership remains the same for the 2020-21 season at \$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. We also offer a Student rate at \$120 plus tax for anyone enrolled full-time in a recognized post secondary or trades program. All members are reminded that your membership fee must be **PAID IN FULL** on or before November 7, 2020. 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](mailto:schoonertreasurer@gmail.com).

## Schooner Club Upgrades

The Schooner Club has undergone a lot of upgrades and renovations over the last few years. We have had all of our lighting replaced with energy efficient LED lighting, the ice crew station has been upgraded with a custom built cabinet, bathrooms have been refreshed a bit, there has been new tables and other furniture added among other things. This year has also seen some major upgrades to our mechanicals like the ice plant and dehumidifier. This is largely made possible by the money the club got from the 2019 Scotties and through the willingness of members to pitch in and help out, keeping labor costs to a minimum. We also benefitted from some grant money that allowed for some new windows and doors.

Another thing that has allowed for these recent changes are a couple of good tips and some frugal shopping to obtain used equipment rather than new. The ice plant and chiller we purchased was from a now defunct curling club. We paid \$10,000 for equipment that could have easily cost in the \$100,000 range new. The dehumidifier was purchased from an arena in Halifax for \$2500 where a new one would have cost around \$20,000. In both cases we were made aware of these items from people in the industry and, in both cases, the items were in very good shape so we expect lots of life from them. We also hope that these units will be a bit more energy efficient than our old equipment and that will help recoup some of investment.

Even with these used items costing thousands less than new, we still would struggle to accomplish these upgrades without the help of volunteers giving their time and expertise to help get them delivered and installed. In the case of the ice plant, a group of Schooner members, Richard, Brian, Gordie and Stephen went to pick up the gear and transport it back. Special thanks to Stephen who also donates the use of his trucks and equipment. He also went for the dehumidifier. During installation, many others also kicked in to help out. A new support structure for the chiller was required and was built by Schooner members. The plant and dehumidifier were installed mostly by Schooner members. A huge thank you to you all. A big thanks goes out to Kenny Kehoe of Cape Breton Glass for his donation of new doors to the club as well.

The club building saw some renovations this year with new double doors being installed in the back room by the ice plant, installed by our volunteers. New windows were installed in the club house and both bathrooms and a new door is soon to be installed on the side of the building. The club was given a grant to cover some of those costs and, due to that, hired a licensed contractor, Aucoin Renovations, to complete the work.

## Bar Prices

Some good news in a time where it seems like most of the news is bad. The prices at the Schooner bar will remain unchanged for this season.

Beer, wine and a 1oz shot of spirits will be \$4.25, 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. Soft drinks are \$1.25 and we also plan to be selling pre-packed snacks as in the past. Prices will depend on the item. All prices include HST.

Bar sales are an important part to the fiscal health of the club. We need support from our membership and, keep in mind, these prices are still some

## Volunteers Needed

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 continued support.

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.

## Schooner Covid-19 Protocols

Over the last number of months we have all gotten used to following new rules in hope of slowing the spread of the Corona virus. From wearing masks to lining up outside of retail stores to wait our turn to walking up and down store aisles in only one direction, we have all had to do our part. The Schooner club is no different and we have had to make changes to the way we do some things as well. To aid in this, the club executive has commissioned a committee to both learn about the protocols and rules put in place by government and come up with our own procedures to follow in the club to help keep everyone safe and healthy. A big thank you to all the volunteers who took part in this and worked hard to come up with the Schooner Club's Covid protocols.

First, all members and those using the club will be required to sign Covid Waivers and Covid Compliance Forms that will be provided by the club. Sign in when you enter the club is required.

Luckily enough, with Nova Scotia being a relatively low infection area, some of the government rules that were in place early on have been eased and we can now play a game of curling relatively the same way we always have. Masks do not have to be worn during game play although you are required to have one on your person at all time. Two sweepers are allowed for each stone. Earlier on we were expecting only one. Rock handles and scoreboard numbers must be sanitized before each game and players are assigned two stones at the beginning of the game which they will use for the entire game. Please refrain from touching someone else's rocks. Whenever moving rocks, use your foot or your broom, not your hands. If you use club supplied equipment such as brooms, you are responsible to clean and sanitize it after use. Wipes will be available. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the club.

Inside the clubhouse the rules are much like any bar or restaurant. Masks must be worn when entering the club house and when moving around. Masks may be removed when seated with your beverages. Maintain social distance when possible. A designated area will be made available for changing shoes and must be used. No personal belongings may be left at the club and that includes curling equipment. Tables will be designated to teams when they get off the ice. We will enter through one door, the door at the end of the building next to the furnace room, and exit through another,

the door on the side of the clubroom. Rules will also be in place for getting things at the bar. Above all else, be courteous to others and use common sense. A list is provided here that was formulated by the Schooner Covid Protocols committee for your reference. These rules may change slightly as we get used to using the club during these strange times.

- In the Clubhouse:

- Masks are required to enter the clubhouse
- Social Distancing should be maintained whenever possible in both the ice shed and clubroom.
- Sanitizer stations will be setup both in the clubroom and ice shed.
- All members must sign in each night they are curling. A binder for sign in will be provided on a table near the bar. These records will be used for contact tracing.
- Tables and chairs will be setup with social distancing and reduced capacity limits in mind. Tables will be designated for each sheet for teams to sit at after games.
- No storing of personal belongings at the club. Players MUST take their personal items and equipment home. Players should arrive as ready as possible to play with only needing to change shoes at the club.
- A designated area with benches will be setup near the entrance for changing shoes.
- Players will enter through the regular way, using the door at the end of the building near the furnace room. Signage will be posted
- Everyone will leave through the side door. Signage will be posted.
- There will be no smoking near the entrance door. A designated smoking area will be setup at the side of the club. Smokers must exit through the side exit door and come back in through the entrance door. Masks will be required to re-enter the club.
- Door handles and tables and chairs should be disinfected regularly. We ask members to help out with this and not leave the entire burden on the Housekeeping committee.

- Rules During Play

- The rock handles and scoreboard numbers should be sanitized before each game. Please assign players from your team for each task. Sanitizing wipes will be provided on the shelves inside the ice shed.
- The wheel that is spun to determine hammer before each game will be moved inside the club. Mates from each team should perform the spin to determine hammer before entering the ice shed.
- Wearing a mask is not required during game play but everyone must have a mask with them on their person in case of an emergency and to re-enter the club house.
- No shaking hands prior to or after a game. Elbow bumps or nods are appropriate. Wish everyone good curling.

- Bar Area

- The bar will be enclosed in plexiglass or some other form of protection with space left to conduct business, take payments and serve products.
- Only one person is permitted to be at the bar being served at one time. No line ups. Please wait your turn before approaching the bar. A number system may be devised to better accommodate service at the bar.

## Curling Etiquette

Consider these rules a work in progress as they may change, have more added or some may be removed if not required. This is a learning experience for everyone and we ask for your patients and cooperation while things get sorted out. Thank you for your understanding.

Curling is a very social game. Curlers all try to get along and treat each other with respect and sportsmanship. Even in these much different times 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 early. Always try to be a ten to fifteen 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.
- While we can no longer start the game with a handshake, an elbow bump or simple nod and a wish of good luck or good curling is still encouraged.
- 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.

## Newsletter Delivery

- 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 congratulations to the winners. Winners always offer to buy the first round of drinks. Losers reciprocate.

As always, the Schooner Newsletter, In the Hack, will be available online at the Schooner website. It will also be delivered electronically through email to all those who want it and have indicated they are willing to receive email from the Schooner Curling Club. There will be a difference this year with the printed copies that were normally left at the club for people to read or take home. Due to restrictions in place due to Covid, we can't have copies of the newsletter sitting on tables and being handled by multiple people. We do, however, recognize that some people can't receive electronic copies of the newsletter or simply prefer to have a paper copy. We do remind everyone that the copy available on the website and distributed by email can be easily printed if you prefer to read it that way. If you cannot receive electronic copies, a limited number of printed copies will still be available at the club. They will be left at the bar and you can request a copy from the bartender. This will be your personal copy and you should take it home with you or dispose of it at the club if you are done with it. Please do not leave it lying around. If this procedure violates the Schooner Covid Protocols it will be stopped. If that happens, anyone requiring a printed copy can request one and I will make sure they receive it.

If you are not receiving the newsletter by email and would like to, simply send an email to [schoonercurling@gmail.com](mailto:schoonercurling@gmail.com) and say that you would like to receive emails from the club. You will be added to the mailing list.

I hope you all continue to read the Schooner newsletter and that you find it both entertaining and informative. As always, if anyone has any suggestions on things they would like to see in the newsletter, don't hesitate to get in touch.