

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 105

November, 2021

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

Monday, November 1	League Play Begins
November 11	Remembrance Day - No Curling
December 9-11	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, December 11	Turkey Spiel Dance
December 20 - January 3	Holiday Break
January 6 - 8	2 on 2 Spiel - Single Entry
Saturday, January 8	Wine and Cheese New Year Social
January 14-16	Sydney CC Cash Spiel
Saturday, January 22	Fun Night
January 28-29	Townhouse Fundraising Spiel
February 11-13	Schooner Open Cash Spiel
January 18-19	Sweetheart Lady's Spiel
Saturday, February 26	Fun Night
March 10-12	Schooner Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 19	Fun Night
March 25-27	Sydney CC Spring Fling Mixed Spiel
April 7-9	2 on 2 Spiel - Team Entry
April 21-23	John Boneparte Memorial Closing Spiel

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



## Welcome Back

It seems like we just finished up last season and now we are set to start a new one. It was another great summer in Cape Breton but now, as the air turns cooler, we are leaving the summer behind and preparing for another great winter full of curling and fun at the Schooner Club.

Brian and his ice crew have once again provided us two great sheets to play on this season. Ice making wasn't as smooth as we would have liked it but the crew dealt with the issues that came up and finished right on time as always. Membership numbers look good this year and, as it is every year, we see some members drop out and new faces take their place. Welcome to everyone, both new and returning. We encourage you to take full advantage of your membership and participate in as many events as you can.

Someone asked me the other day how long I have been curling at the Schooner Club and I really wasn't quite sure. I looked back in the archives and this will actually be the 16th season for 'In the Hack', the first edition having come out in October of 2006, so that means I am now entering my 17th season at the club, having enjoyed every minute of each year to the fullest. Time sure does fly by. Curling is a great sport that everyone can enjoy but it's the people at Schooner who have added so much to the enjoyment for me and I don't see that being any different this season.

*Welcome, enjoy the year and Good Curling Everyone!!*

## President's Message



I would like to start out by saying that I am extremely happy to be back as president of the club this season after taking a year off. I want to first thank and congratulate Richard Lorway, last year's president, and the executive committee of 2020/21 for doing such a wonderful job last season, say how excited I am to be working with this year's executive and how happy and proud I am to have my daughter, Julia, as my vice-president. I also want to welcome all new and returning members to the club and thank them for joining us for what I think is shaping up to be a wonderful season. Thanks also to Brian and the ice crew who worked so hard once again this year to get our curling ice ready. We had a very successful opening spiel that was renamed this year in honor of a long time Schooner member and former president, Ray Cameron, who passed away a couple of years ago. Thank you to everyone who took part and to everyone who helped out in planning and running that event. Without the help of volunteers, the Schooner Club could not exist. If anyone has any free time to offer, I encourage you to help out whenever you can.

We have good membership numbers to start the year and it looks like we will have lots of new faces at the club this season, thanks in part to our new member promo and also to the increased interest in the sport generated partly by the Scotties Canadian Women's Championship that was held in the area in 2019. Curling is a sport that can be enjoyed by pretty much everyone and I encourage our new members to get out and take part in as many events as they can.

The Scotties not only generated interest in curling in the area, it also benefited the club financially, allowing for upgrades that we could not have normally done and also given us a cushion to get through some hard times if they come our way. More upgrades are pending for Schooner with the

announcement of the New Dawn Solar Garden for Pine Tree Park, a project that will include work to the club and the addition of some energy saving equipment. We certainly look forward to that and the benefits it will bring. While the Scotties provided a little 'Rainy day' fund for us, we still have to be cautious about finances and to that end, fundraising will play a more important role at the club this season. We are doing a 649 fundraiser to start the year and will be relying on other fundraising events throughout the season to help us stay ahead. Please do what you can to make these fundraisers a success as they are crucial to the financial well being of the club.

Covid has affected everyone's lives over the last while and it has also affected the club and how we function and play our sport. Things are looking up and we are beginning to find our way back to a less restrictive place with more and more people getting vaccinated and government loosening restrictions because of that. We still have to live with certain rules and I ask all members and guests to respect their fellow members and follow those rules when they are using the club.

So we are ready to go. League play is set to get underway and we have a full schedule of spiels, fun nights and other special events to keep us all busy throughout the winter. Have a great year everyone and Good Curling.

## League Roundup



League play finished up in April last season, luckily just before increases in Covid restrictions may have shut down play at the club again. Winners from last season included Kevin Gouthro's team taking the regular season of the Don Cherry's Sunday Team Entry and the Gordie Cormier rink taking the playoff title, defeating the Gary Landry rink in the final. Skip Gouthro was joined by mate Walter Nichols, second Trevor Billard, lead Anthony Boudreau and fifth Wally MacDonald. Team Cormier included skip Gordie, Carrie Cress, Stephen Leslie and Julia Cormier.

The Old Triangle Men's League was won by Gordie Cormier, Mel Windsor, Justin Humphrey and Eric MacLeod, the foursome taking both the regular season and playoff titles. Round one of the Pepsi Mixed League saw skip Gary Landry win with his foursome that included Cheryl MacKinnon, Ray Smith and Bev Young while round two also went to Skip Landry, being aided this time by mate Josephine MacGillivray, second Bob Smith and lead Maureen Smith. With Covid restriction once again forcing the cancellation of Schooner's year-end banquet and awards, an awards night and wine and cheese social was held at the club on Saturday, October 30, to recognize and celebrate all the winners.

Draw Master for the 2021/22 season is Richard Lorway. A big thank you to Richard for taking on such an important role at the club and for his work on organizing and running the leagues this season. The leagues at the Schooner Club are undergoing some changes this year, the first time in a long while. The Mixed League is moving to just two nights of play and games will be changed from eight ends to six. Start times were to be 6:30 and 8:00 but an odd number of teams has changed that to 6:30, 7:15 and 8:00. The staggered start is so one game is not out on the ice alone for the entire time. The thirteen teams also forces a bye for one team each week. The opening up of Wednesday night facilitated the start of a doubles league

at the club, a league that has been discussed for a few seasons given the popularity with members of the 2 on 2 format. Participants will not have set teams, each person will be a single entry and they will play with a different teammate each week. Points will be kept on an individual level. Games are six ends each and will be played using the hybrid doubles rules we normally use at the club for our two on two competitions. Given that games are relatively short, usually taking one hour to play, start times will be 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 each week. Depending on the number of curlers taking part, byes may be used so players may get a week off here and there. Since this is a brand new league, things may be tweaked a bit to make things work better for participants.

The Sunday Team Entry League will be relatively unchanged with the only exception being that start times will be an hour later than last season, moving to 1:30, 3:15 and 5:30. These were the start times used a couple of seasons ago. Men's league is unchanged and will run on Thursday nights with draws at 7:00 and 9:00.

Members are encouraged to add their names to the spares list for whatever leagues they wish. It's a good way to get in an extra game or two when you are available. There is no obligation to play when you are called to spare.

The Friday afternoon Matinee drop in curling will be back again this season as well. It runs most Friday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00. It is open to all Schooner members and there is no sign up or obligation, just come when you can. Teams are made up of those in attendance on any given day. It's a great way to get more out of your Schooner membership.

League play is scheduled to start on Monday, November 1st and you can check back to 'League Roundup' each month in the newsletter to see what is happening in each league.

## Fall General Meeting

The Schooner Club held its fall general meeting at the club on October 21 and there was a good crowd that attended. Almost thirty Schooner members and friends of the club showed up to take part in the discussions about what had gone on and participate in making the decision that will affect the coming season and the club moving forward.

The meeting started out with the traditional approval of the minutes from the previous general meeting. Once that was passed, new club president, Gordie Cormier took the floor to welcome everyone to the meeting and the new season. He welcomed the returning executive members back and the new members to their positions and went on to say he was expecting another great season at the club before turning the floor over to newly elected vice president, Julia Cormier. Julia also said that she expected this to be a great year and was really looking forward to serving in her new role. She said that we would be focusing a lot on the financial health of the club this year, given that we had just gone through some tougher times brought on by Covid, and that fundraising would play a more important part of keeping the club on its feet. Membership, advertising and bar revenues make up the bulk of what keeps us afloat but we need that little bit extra that fundraising brings to give us a cushion for unforeseen expenses and the ability to buy some extras when required. In keeping with that, Julia announced that the club would be doing its first fundraiser, a 649 sale,

starting right away, getting started during the opening spiel. She strongly encouraged members to try and sell as many entries as possible but asked members to at least try to buy one for themselves and sell at least one other. If that happened, it could mean hundreds of extra dollars for the club at the start of the season. Julia went on to say that there would be other fundraisers throughout the year and we may see a return to our spaghetti dinner event that we haven't done in a couple of seasons.

Club Treasurer, Lynn Kelly, was next to take the floor and report on the club's financial position. She said that, while things were not exceptionally good, they weren't that bad either. The bank balance was Ok and revenue from our sign advertising was coming in at a pretty good pace. She said that the bank balance would get better once membership revenue would start coming but said that revenue would be used mostly for startup costs for the season. She said that the balance in our emergency fund was good but that the executive does not want to use that and would like to run the club on current revenue only. She reiterated Julia's encouragement to support fundraising as a way to better our financial position. Lynn finished her report by saying that the club was seeing benefits of the upgrades to lighting and other equipment that had been done over the last couple of seasons on the power bills.

With Ice Director, Brian Laughlin, not able to attend the meeting, Gordie did a report on his behalf. He said that there had been a leak discovered late in the ice making process that had set the crew back a few days and had that the system had lost a lot of its glycol mix that had to be replaced, a cost of around \$400 that was unexpected. The ice team had made the repairs required quickly and downtime was limited with no permanent damage experienced. Gordie went on to thank Brian and everyone else who had helped in ice making for their hard work.

The bonspiel committee was next in line and the report was given by members of the committee at the meeting. It was reported that the Schooner Opening Spiel would now be named to honor former Schooner member and past president, Ray Cameron, who passed away a couple of years ago and that the closing spiel would be honoring former long-time member, John Bonaparte, who passed away just this past year. Also reported was that, in keeping with the executives emphasis on frugality during uncertain times, prizes would be more limited at spiels and we would no longer be giving out gift cards to all participants. In fun spiels, prizes will not be given just to winners but will be more offered as random draws and door prizes to keep in tune with the non-competitive aspects these events are supposed to convey. The three day format would be mostly maintained and lunches on Saturday would continue for now. The dates for the opening spiel were also announced and that registration would open after the meeting.

Georgette Sparkes spoke next on behalf of housing and said that her, Yvonne Donovan and Bernadette Cormier would be handling the bulk of the duties but were hoping to get help from others who had pitched in last season. Lynn Kelly then took the floor for membership and said that there had actually been a couple of applications received and fees paid but that the membership drive was just really going to kick off at the meeting. She also said there would be a new members promo where new curlers or

curlers who had not held membership for at least three seasons at the club could join for \$99 plus hst. This was an effort to get membership numbers back up after they had fallen the last couple of season. The hope was to get somewhere in the range of 65 to 70 members, up from the low sixties last season. While there would be less revenue from these members, it was hoped that money could be recouped by having more people buying drinks, participating in spiels and other events and helping out with fundraisers. Lynn also spoke on Ways and Means since Gordie Cormier is just taking over that position. She said that signage invoices had been sent and most were paid. She reiterated the importance of fundraising this season. A question from the floor regarding the rates was answered by Lynn, the rate being \$100 plus HST for a \$115 total. Gordie said that he would be looking at raising that next year as it had not changed in a long time and was relatively low.

Janet Gallivan was on hand to speak for the Fun Nights committee and said that she, Alison Grapes and Kathy Gale were back to run the events this season. She said that the first night was scheduled for January 22.

The final report of the night was from Website/Newsletter and the attendees were informed first that the applications forms for the coming season were now available online. It was also reported that some Facebook advertising had been undertaken as a test to see if it would be beneficial. This advertising had been approved by the executive at a previous meeting and a rough budget was set to follow. The initial results, although limited, were encouraging as there was some contact initiated by people who had seen the ads. The Intro to Curling event and the New Member \$99 promo were the two things being promoted. It was also reported that the yearly fee for website hosting was due. Finally, everyone was told that the first newsletter of the season was going to be out in November.

The meeting then moved on to discuss updates on existing issues starting with the CBRM's bid to host the Brier Men's Curling Championship. Gordie said there wasn't much discussion with the curling community by the CBRM which had been the case during the bid for the Scotties a few years back. The CBRM had more or less gone ahead on their own, following what they had done for the Scotties bid and not much is known on the status. It is felt that this is a preliminary attempt to get the event and not much hope is held to actually be chosen. A more serious bid will likely follow for the Brier in the near future.

Next was an update on the New Dawn Solar Garden project that has been announced for Pine Tree Park and will also include energy efficient upgrades for the club. Richard Lorway spoke on this and said there had been some delays with tendering and that the project's management had changed. Tenders had not yet been awarded. Richard did say that the club's possible use of heat recovery from the ice plant had been studied and that it was rejected since the savings would not have justified the costs. He also said that the concern over asbestos in the clubroom ceiling tile has been alleviated as tests of the tile were negative for asbestos content. Two tiles had been removed for testing and red tape placed over the openings created. Richard said he would check with New Dawn about having those spots repaired. While the project is delayed, Schooner is still in line for the installation of heat pumps, the replacement of some windows including the

ones between the the club house and ice shed and some upgrades to our incoming electrical power. The Solar garden will also eventually supply some of our power requirements.

Finally, under updates, Gordie announced we would have an awards night and social on Saturday, October 30, to replace our cancelled banquet and give out prizes to last season's winners.

The meeting then moved on to new business beginning with talking about provincial vaccination requirements and how they affect the club. Gordie Cormier reported that all members and people who enter the club must be double vaccinated and provide proof of that upon entry. He said there could be no exceptions. He also said he knew of a couple of members who planned to return who were not double vaccinated but were in the process of getting vaccinated.

The next topic covered was the impending changes to leagues and spiels. Gordie announced that there would be changes to the mixed league, shortening games, changing start times and only playing on Monday and Tuesday this season. That would allow for a doubles league to be started on Wednesday. Men's League would be unchanged and Team Entry would see start times moved ahead one hour to accommodate a new team that was bringing three new members into the club. The changes to spiels would see less prizes and the prizes offered being done more as a random draw and as door prizes. That will be worked out. The main reasoning is so the club can save some money and generate a bit more revenue from spiels. It was also announced under new business that the club would be holding some free learn to curl events before the opening spiel got underway. The hope is to generate interest from the public and possibly get new members to join.

Lastly there was the opening of the floor to new business. Benito Delorenzo spoke about possibly changing the club room garbage can to something that you don't have to touch to throw away trash given the Covid situation and it's spread through contact. The current can has a lid that needs to be picked up to remove. The executive said they would look into another option. Benito also raised an issue on behalf of the ice crew. There are a few things that the ice crew could use and rather than dig into club funds to pay for them, Benito suggested allowing the ice crew to raise their own money through a fundraiser to foot the bill. One of the items mentioned that the club should have, not necessarily for ice making but just in general, was an Automated External Defibrillator or AED. Brittni Fernandez said it could save a life at the club if someone had a medical emergency. The executive agreed to look into the cost and if there were any programs that would assist a club like our in obtaining one. Gordie said he would contact the CBRM. An estimated cost of a unit, if we had to buy one outright, is around \$2000. The final order of business from the floor was raised by Stephen Leslie who asked when we could expect our power service to be upgraded. With the installation of a new plant last year, we knew that our current service was underpowered but we could get away with it in the short term. The New Dawn Solar Garden project is going to upgrade our power service but, given that it is delayed, we aren't sure if we can wait. Stephen said that we are at the upper limit of the power service we have coming in and we don't have any headroom left. Richard Lorway said he would

## Membership

contact New Dawn regarding that, find out what their schedule is and see what can be done in the short term. After all that, the meeting was done and a call to adjourn was made. Thank you everyone who took part.

The Schooner club will be starting the season with 77 members on its roll, a very good number given that membership had dipped down well under 70 for the last couple of seasons. We are also very excited that a large number of those joining this year are new members to the club and many new to the sport of curling. All members are reminded that fees must be paid in full before you start curling. Regular membership fees are \$235 (\$270.25 incl. tax) and new members who fall under the promo price will pay \$99 (\$113.85). Payment can be made by cash, cheque or debit at the bar or by e-transfer to [schoonertreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:schoonertreasurer@gmail.com)

All members are encouraged to get the most from your membership and take part in curling and events outside of the league or leagues you may have signed up for. The club maintains a spares list that, when a player can't make a game, they will find a replacement from. All members can go on the spares list and it's a great way to get an extra game or two when you are available. There is also our Matinee drop in curling on Friday afternoons. It runs from 1-3pm on Friday afternoons and it's open to all members. Then we have our spiels, curling fun nights and lots of other things to keep everyone busy all winter. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and our Facebook page for a full list of events. Also, don't forget to request to join the Schooner Club's members only Facebook group. There is more club related info shared here and it's a great place to request a replacement when you can't make it or pick up a game in someone else's place when you are available.

Members are reminded that, due to provincial protocols, everyone using the Schooner Curling Club must have proof of double Covid vaccination and provide it to the club. A form is available at the club that you can sign that, after you show your vaccination record once, allows you not to have to show it each time. Masks are mandatory when entering and moving around the club house but can be removed when seated. Masks are not required when out on the ice playing.

It's going to be a great season, make the most of it.

## Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel

The Schooner Club's opening spiel was renamed this year to honor a long time member and former club president, Ray Cameron, who passed away a couple of years ago. Ray was a soft spoken gentleman, a good curler and a staunch supporter of the game of curling and the Schooner Curling Club in the community. Participants had a choice of playing one game either Thursday or Friday and then two games on Saturday. There were six teams competing in the Thursday/Saturday and originally four on Friday/Saturday that grew to six teams after some new curlers who had taken part in our Intro to Curling on Wednesday before the spiel wanted to come on board and play.

It was a great weekend of curling and a great start to the season. Curlers were treated to lunch on Saturday and all were invited to the wine and

cheese reception on Saturday night. In the end, after all the rocks were thrown and scores tallied, it was the Gary Landry rink who took top honors as the very first winners of the Ray Cameron Memorial. Team Gordie Cormier was second. Skip Landry was joined by Lonnie Howe, Bryant Cormier and Connie Howe while Gordie's team included Kathy Gale, Bob Smith and Bernadette Cormier. Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you goes out to everyone who took part, especially all of the new curlers who joined us. Thanks also goes out to our sponsor, Stephens Rona, to the ice crew for working hard all weekend and to everyone else who helped to organize and run the spiel, you did a wonderful job. So now we are underway. The 2021-22 is set to begin. Good Curling Everyone!

## Turkey Spiel



Mark your calendar and plan to take part in the Schooner Club's annual Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel, which is scheduled to be held December 9-11. 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 lots of prizes available to be won and you will even 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 getting underway until the new year with the first Fun Night taking place in January on Saturday, January 22. We also have scheduled Fun Nights on February 26 and March 19 which is our special St. Paddy's Day Fun Night. Fun nights are social nights at the club that are open to both members and the general public. They are designed to introduce more people to the sport of curling and all members are encouraged to attend and bring some friends. The get going at 7pm and curling takes place all evening. There's pizza for everyone and maybe even a few prizes to be given away. The cost is \$7 for the public and \$4 for Schooner members. There's no better deal in town for a night of fun. Participants must be 19 years and older. In keeping with provincially mandated rules, all participants must be double vaccinated and provide proof of that and ID. Masks must be worn when entering and moving about the club house but can be removed when seated. Masks are not required when out on the ice playing. 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 are a great way to get out of the house with family and friends and enjoy a night out for just a few bucks. Plan to join us.

## 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.

## 649 Fundraiser

Schooner is currently running a 649 fundraiser at the club. Each entry is \$5 and or you can get three entries on one form for \$10. Entries consist of a set of six different numbers between 1 and 49, just like the 649 lottery. The numbers you chose for your entry will get ticked off when they are drawn in the 649 lottery draw every Wednesday and Saturday. The first entry to have all six numbers ticked off will win the jackpot, 50% of total sales. In the event that more than one entry completes on the same draw, the prize will be split evenly among all winners. Only numbers drawn in the main 649 lottery draw are used, no supplemental draws, and we do not use the bonus number. The draw will begin WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17 2021 and continues every Saturday and Wednesday until there is a winner. Members are encouraged to support this important fundraiser. Even if every member sold one \$10 entry and bought one \$10 entry, that would mean a prize of over \$750 and the same amount in revenue for the club. We need your support. All entries must be turned in by Sunday, November 14. If you have any questions please contact Schooner treasurer Lynn Kelly.

## New Dawn Solar Garden Project

Many people are already familiar with the New Dawn Enterprises solar and geothermal project for Pine Tree Park (former Radar Base) that will allow it to become the first net zero energy community in Nova Scotia and serve as a model for other communities across Atlantic Canada. It is funded by a 1.8 million dollar investment from the federal government to allow for the installation of a bank of solar panels and for upgrading of other infrastructure to make the buildings in the park more energy efficient. One of the building slated to be part of the upgrade is the Schooner Curling Club building that we rent from New Dawn. We are looking at heating upgrades with the installation of heat pumps and better energy efficiency with the upgrading of some insulation and the replacement of the windows between the ice shed and the club house. We are also slated for a power upgrade to a higher level of service that will allow us to run the new ice making and dehumidifying equipment we recently installed more efficiently. The club has undertaken some projects of our own to increase our energy efficiency, having upgraded to LED lighting a few years ago and installed newer equipment to replace some aging things that were not as efficient. While work was expected to have already gotten underway, there have been a few delays to getting started. The club has already learned that a study was done on doing heat recovery from our ice plant to help heat the club house but that this idea was rejected as the benefits were not significant. Also, some of the materials inside the club have been tested for asbestos content

## Volunteers Needed

and found not to have contained any which will allow work to proceed more smoothly and quickly once it does begin. This project will greatly benefit the Schooner Club, not only saving us money that we would have had to spend to do upgrades ourselves but also saving money moving forward with increased energy efficiency and the use of solar power generated right on the New Dawn property. We would like to thank New Dawn for including us in this project and we look forward to seeing the results.

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. If you have questions in how you can help out or if you want to sign on to do a few things, see any one of the Schooner executive committee.

## Curling Etiquette

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

## Newsletter Delivery

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 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. Printed copies are made available at the club. 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.