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# ***In The Hack***

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 111

November , 2022

November 1 and 2	Free Intro to Curling
November 3-5	Ray Cameron Memorial Spiel
Saturday, November 5	Opening Spiel Dance
Saturday November 19	Slider Cup
December 15-17	Turkey Spiel
December 19	Holiday Break Begins
Tuesday, January 3	League play resumes
January 6 and 7	Doubles Spiel (2 on 2)
Saturday, January 28	Fun Night
February 10 and 11	Sweetheart Spiel
February 17-19	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 25	Fun Night
March 10 and 11	Doubles Spiel (2 on 2)
Saturday, March 18	Fun Night
March 23-25	Fun Spiel
April 20-22	John Boneparte Memorial Spiel

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

🌸 Remembrance Day Friday, November 11 - Lest we forget 🌸



## Welcome Back

A big welcome to all the new members who will be joining us this year and also a big welcome back to everyone who is returning to the Schooner Club for another great season. We had a wonderful season last year and we certainly hope that this one will be even better. With the uncertainty and restriction caused by the Covid 19 pandemic mostly behind us now we are looking forward to returning to full normalcy for a full year.

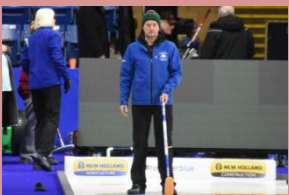
It was a good summer at the club with a few very successful events such as Schooner Golf and two washer toss tournaments drawing in many people and the return of our weekly Tarabish game and summer social creating some activity and generating some revenue at the club over the summer months. Now we are ready to return to our main focus, curling.

The introduction of our \$99 new member deal last year saw the membership ranks of the club balloon to over 90 people, numbers we hadn't seen in a few years. As it always is, we will lose a few people from our ranks this year as they will choose not to return to curling but, with the return of that new member promo and the return of a few long standing members who had taken some time away and are now coming back to curl, we hope that we will be able to replace those who leave and maintain the high numbers we enjoyed last season.

Either way, we are looking forward to a fantastic season at the Schooner Club with lots of league curling, spiels, special events and socials. After a small delay, we are now set to kick off the year with Intro to Curling clinics and the Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel. League play will start shortly after that and we are off and running. We encourage all members to take part in as much as they can and get the most from your memberships. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked hard to get the club up and running for the season like Brian, Russell, Dave and everyone on the ice crew, Cheryl and everyone who helped out with cleaning and to all the others who did their part to make sure we are ready for another season. All members are encouraged to volunteer some time help out whenever they can. Without the hard work of volunteers, our club could not survive.

Lastly, don't forget to read In the Hack each month for a wrap up of what has gone on and to see what is coming up on the club's schedule. If anyone has input or things they would like to see in the newsletter, please feel free to reach out. Have a great season everyone and Good Curling!

## President's Message



I would like to start out by welcoming all returning and new members to the club for the 2022-23 season. I am extremely happy to be back as president of the club this season and I am looking forward to a wonderful year at the Schooner Club. I want to thank all of the people who have joined me on the executive and say that it's nice to see a new face or two taking some of the positions. Thanks also to Cheryl and all the helpers who cleaned up the club to get it shiny and new for the start of the year, to everyone who helped organize the upcoming opening spiel and to Brian and the ice crew, especially Russell and Dave, who worked so hard this year to get our curling ice ready. We had a few delays, some caused by Hurricane Fiona, and had to endure some lingering summer-like weather, but the crew worked through it and we have wonderful ice to curl on again this season.

And what a season we have on in-store. We will begin by holding the second annual Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel to kick off the year. We have league play starting shortly after that and we have a new event making its way onto the Schooner calendar this season, the Slider Cup, which will be a competition between us and the Sydney Curling Club that is fashioned after the Ryder Cup in golf. There will be various games played such as a men's game, women's game, doubles, etc that winners will be able to accumulate points in. The club with the most points at the end of the day will win the overall competition and take home what we expect to be the coveted Slider Cup. Host clubs will alternate and we are hosting this year. Keep an eye open for more info on that. And keep an eye on the Schooner calendar all season for other great events that will be held all year long. I encourage all members to take part in as many spiels and special events as they can to get the most out of their memberships.

I would also encourage all members who have some time to look at volunteering and helping out around the club. Without the help of volunteers, the Schooner Club could not survive.

After a great resurgence in membership last season, it's looking like we will have good numbers to start this year as well and it looks like we will, once again, have lots of new faces at the club. With the great success of our new member promo last year we decided to run it again and are happy with the results. We have a number of people re-joining us for 2022-23 that got their start at the club due to the promo. I want to thank you all for returning and want to wish all those joining us for the first time a good year.

With Covid finally starting to be less of a distraction for most of us I hope we can return to a more normal atmosphere and run without interruption. Even though things are much better, Covid is still part of our everyday lives and I encourage everyone using the club to exercise caution by social distancing whenever possible, using sanitizer and by staying away when they are feeling sick and/or exhibiting symptoms of Covid. Let's keep everyone safe and healthy.

I want to finish off by congratulating the Cape Breton Curling Community, the CBRM and Centre 200 on the successful bid to host the 2024 Women's World Curling Championship. What a great event to have in our area. The Scottie's Tournament of Hearts in 2019 had very positive effects on the sport and we hope this event does as well, even more so. Even though it's over a year away, keep updated and plan to take part. You won't regret it. So here we go. Another great season of curling and fun at the Schooner. Have a great year everyone and Good Curling.

Gordie

## League Roundup



League play is set to return to the club in early November and there will be no changes to the league structures this season. Mixed League will play on Monday and Tuesday evenings with its six-end games going at 6:30 and 8:00. Doubles is slated to make a return after a successful inaugural season and will be held on Wednesday nights with games 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 as dictated by the number of participants. Men's will return on Thursday's at 7:00 and 9:00 and Team Entry will fill its traditional time slot on Sunday

afternoons. Game times are subject to change based on the number of teams in a league. Friday's Matinee drop in curling is also slated to come back, being held from 1-3pm. There is no sign up for Matinee Curling, just attend whenever you are available. Teams are set from those in attendance on any given day.

There are some rule changes being made this season with regard to postponements, forfeits, tie breakers, spares, etc. and they are discussed in a bit more detail by the Drawmaster, Richard Lorway, in his section below and they will be made more clear to all skips at a general skips meeting that will be held early in the season.

All leagues will be started shortly after the Opening Spiel and the Schooner Drawmaster has begun creating teams and schedules. Info will be posted as soon as possible and all curlers will be contacted soon about starting dates and times. We had a great season of league play last year and look forward to another one for 2022-23.

With league play wrapping up late in the season, results aren't known until after the final newsletter has hit the street. With that in mind, here are the winners in leagues last year.

In the East Side Mario's Mixed League, the winners of round 2 were skip Phil Edwards, George Plumridge, Frances Ford and Christina Edwards. Phil and Christina were also part of the team that won the first round and were joined there by Bryant Cormier and Bev Young. In the Don Cherry' Team Entry League, Kevin Gouthro's foursome took both regular season and playoff honors. Skip Gouthro was joined by Wally MacDonald, Walter Nichols and Anthony Boudreau. It's worth noting that this team also scored an eight ender during a playoff game. Similar to team entry, the Tim Horton's Men's League also saw one team take both regular schedule and playoff honors, the Gordie Cormier rink. Joining skip Cormier was Bill Farr, Eric MacLeod and Kirk McNeil. Bill Farr was crowned doubles league winner after accumulating the most points as an individual. Congratulations to all our winners and a big thank you to everyone who took part.

One last thing with regard to league play for the 2022-23 season. All curlers are reminded that they are responsible for finding a replacement for themselves when they can't make a scheduled game. A spares list will be provided to everyone and sparing rules have been relaxed a bit to make sure everyone gets to play their games.

Have a great season everyone and Good Curling!

## Drawmaster's Musings

As we start a new season, I'd like to welcome back our wily veterans to Schooner's 2022/23 curling season. And I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to our new curlers. I hope everyone has a fun year and makes lots of great memories.

As the person responsible for making up the schedules, I urge everyone to get their membership forms in asap. League play starts Sunday, November 6th, and I know lots of folks have yet to send their information, which makes it really hard to make up teams and produce a schedule. Just sayin'...

Please be aware also that there are rule changes this year when it comes to using spares, postponing games, and for league tiebreakers.

As in the past, teams are still allowed a maximum of two spares per game.

## Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel and Dance

The rule change is that only one original team member is required to play the game. I.e. If only one original member can make the draw, a team can still play with three curlers and the game will count.

The new rules for postponed games are tweaks of the rules we have had in the past, but not enforced consistently. This resulted last year in games piling up at the end of the schedule, which led to some scrambling and confusion.

If a team can't make a scheduled game, the offending skip shall contact the opposing skip to see if he/she is amenable to reschedule. It is the other skip's option to say yea or nay. If nay, the game is forfeit.

*NOTE: If there is less than 24 hours notice, then the game shall be automatically forfeit.*

If a postponement is agreed to, the game must be played within 2 weeks of the originally scheduled date. Otherwise, the game shall be forfeited by the offending skip.

The Drawmaster must also be notified of postponed games, the new draw date, and the final results.

The final rule change is to the 3rd tiebreaker for league play. The first 2 tiebreakers stay the same, as follows:

- Tiebreaker 1: Most wins (vs. total points).
- Tiebreaker 2: Wins between tied teams involved.
- *Tiebreaker 3 (NEW): Draw to the button. \**

*\* On a regular league night TBD, teams will participate in a draw to the button. Each person on each team will throw one rock. Sweepers are permitted. The cumulative total will be recorded by the Drawmaster and used in the event that the 3rd tiebreaker is required.*

Links to the complete Rules of Play document can be found on the Schooner website at the bottom of every league page.

Good curling everyone, and we'll see you on the ice!

Richard

As the first newsletter of the season is released we are just a few days away from throwing the first rocks in a game setting for the 2022-23 season when the second annual Ray Cameron Memorial Opening Spiel starts on November 3. As of now there are twelve teams taking part, six in the Thursday/Saturday division and six in the Friday/Saturday division. Thanks to Julia, Lynn and all of the bonspiel committee for their work in organizing the event. Participants will play a total of three, six-end games, one on either Thursday or Friday and two on Saturday. Lunch will be served on Saturday to keep all curlers and fans energized. Following curling on Saturday we will be holding the first big party of the season when DJ Jimmy rocks the club from 9-1 at the Opening Spiel Dance. Everyone is welcome.

## **Turkey Spiel**

Mark your calendars and plan to take part in a Schooner Christmas tradition, the Turkey Spiel. It's scheduled for December 15-17. Plan to join us and ring in the Holidays in style. You may even win your Holiday turkey. Watch for more info coming in December.

## **Slider Cup**

A joint effort between the Schooner Curling Club and Sydney Curling Club has created an event that is based loosely on the Ryder Cup in golf and is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 19. There will be a number of different competitions, a men's game, a women's game, doubles, etc. where winning teams will earn points for their respective club and, at the end of the day, the club with the most points will take the overall title and be awarded the Slider Cup. Host clubs will alternate each season with Schooner getting to host the inaugural event. Participants can only take part in one game so as to spread the participation over more of the members. This event is still under development and may be expanded to include other clubs on Cape Breton Island. If you are interested in taking part in the Slider Cup, watch the Schooner website, Facebook page and club bulletin board for more info and sign up opportunities. We hope this will be an ever growing and popular event that will bring the memberships of the two local clubs, and possibly others, together. Plan to take part.

## **John Bonaparte Memorial Spiel**

The final curling event of last season, the John Bonaparte Memorial Closing Spiel was held at the club from Thursday, April 21 to Saturday, April 23. A total of ten teams took part, four on Thursday/Saturday and six on Friday/Saturday. There was lots of great curling all weekend and in the end it was the team of Kevin Gouthro, Jennifer Haigh, Georgette Sparkes and Joel MacDonald that took home top honors in this first annual memorial spiel honoring the memory of former Schooner member John Bonaparte. When curling was done on Saturday, DJ Jimmy took over and we partied the night and the 2021-22 season away. It was a great end to a great year.

## **Washer Toss Tournaments**

Over the summer the Schooner Club held two washer toss tournaments at the club, one on July 16 and the second on August 27. Entry fee was \$20 per team and that included a BBQ with burgers and dogs. Both events were open to Schooner members and invited guests and both were well attended. In the July event, first place overall was won by the team of Glen Fewer and Jason Kokocki while Wayne Binns and Marie Young took the runner up spot. Third place was won by Bill and Anne Farr and fourth was the father/daughter team of Gordie and Julia Cormier. All money collected in entrance fees was returned as prize money. In the August event, Julia Cormier was again in the prize money, this time taking first overall with partner Robbie Biron. They defeated Janet Gallivan and Butch MacLean who took second place. In third was Benito Delorenzo and Kirk McNeil while Gordie Cormier once again got fourth place money, this time with partner Helen Joyce.

Two great summer events enjoyed by many members and guests and a great way to keep the club going and supported in the off months. Thanks to

## Schooner Golf



everyone who attended and to everyone who helped organize and run the events.

After a hiatus of a couple of years due to Covid restrictions, Schooner's Golf Day made a comeback in June of 2022. Saturday, June 18 started out as a damp, wet day but Mother nature provided us a wonderful break in the weather in the afternoon that helped make Schooner Golf day and BBQ a great success once again. Twelve teams took part in the event that was held at Alderdale greens, the first of those twelve teeing off at 12 noon with the final group leaving the tee at 1:50. Prior to tee off, each team played a bonus game of golf ball toss for points. After completion of their rounds, everyone headed back to the club for a delicious steak BBQ that included all the trimmings as well as our traditional grilled pepperoni appetizer. There were a number of others who joined the golfers at the club to just enjoy the meal. There was also another game, chip for points, played by every team at the club.

The golf portion of the events ended in a three way tie that was broken by a random draw of score cards. Team Gordie Cormier ended up the overall winner. Joining Gordie was Bill Farr, Kirk McNeil and Brian Laughlin. The golf ball toss that was played at the course was won by Russell and Sherrie Fitzgerald, Paul MacDonald and Rose Gale. Finally, the Chip for points events was won by Greg and Paula MacNeil, Butch Maclean and Marnie MacDonald. Finally, there was a draw for two rounds of golf at Lingan Golf and country club with a shared power cart that was donated by CC Computer Solutions Inc of Sydney. That was won by a very special guest, Kristen Briand. It turned out to be a great day and a wonderful return of this special event. Thank you to everyone who took part and a big thank you to Lynn Kelly, Gary Landry and everyone else who helped organize and run the golf event and the special games. Thanks to the crew who helped out on Friday night and Saturday with the meal preparations and to Bill Farr, Gordie Cormier and Brian Laughlin for handling the grilling duties. It was a great event and we are very happy we could have it again this year after missing it for the last two years. We hope to see everyone back again next season.

## Schooner Fun Nights

Schooner Fun Nights are scheduled to return to the club's calendar this season in January of 2023. The first Fun Night will be held on January 28th, the second on February 25th and we will wrap up with our special St. Paddy's Day Edition Fun Night on March 18th.

Fun nights are a great way to have a fun night out with family and friends, introduce people to the great sport of curling and help support the Schooner Curling Club, all at the same time. For only \$7 per person (\$4 for Schooner members) you get to curl, you get some delicious pizza and you may even win a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night out. We supply the equipment and instruction if necessary and you just need some clean, dry sneakers for the ice. Plan to join in January for a Schooner Fun Night.

## Schooner Awards Banquet

The Schooner Awards Banquet and Dance was held again at the end of last season after it was cancelled for two consecutive seasons due to covid restrictions. Things were done a little differently than the past couple of banquets. The event was moved back to the Schooner Club again after hosting at the Sydney Pensioner's club for the last while and the dinner and prize presentation portion of the evening was for member's only, no guests, as it has been in the past. The meal was purchased from Swiss Chalet and members had the opportunity beforehand to pick and choose some options. There was a dance from 9-1 that was open to all members as well as guests.

The evening got underway around 6:00 and started with a cocktail hour with dinner following around 7pm. after that, prizes for the season were handed out. There were also a number of prizes for categories that were voted on during the early part of the event. Thanks to Alison Grapes for organizing that. It was a great evening with all winners being honored for their accomplishments in the season. Thanks to everyone who attended and to all who took part in organizing and running the event. The evening went very well, the meal was really delicious and we partied well into the night. Watch for this format to be followed for future awards nights at the club.

## Tuesday Tarabish and Social



With Covid restrictions being eased and things getting more and more back to normal, the weekly Tuesday tarabish game and social has returned to the club with the first one taking place Tuesday, April 26th. For the summer, we also ran a summer social night in conjunction with cards. These were pretty well attended by some members and it was a great way to keep the club active over the off season.

Now that we are getting back to our regular curling schedule, Tarabish will continue every Tuesday as well as the social. Everyone is welcome. We get started at around 7pm but, if you want to play tarabish, you are asked to arrive around 6:45. Partners for tarabish will rotate after each game and winners will be determined by individual wins and points accumulated. Even if you don't want to play cards, you can drop in anytime on Tuesday evening and play a game of darts, shuffle curling on our custom table or just sit and enjoy a cold beverage from our bar and socialize and catch up with your schooner friends. Join us any Tuesday at the club.

## Ice King Purchase Pondered

There was a discussion at the Schooner general meeting in October that revolved around the club potentially purchasing a used Ice King to help with ice maintenance. Our Ice King, the machine used to shave the ice and keep it in top shape, is getting old and is starting to cause problems. The one we have now is a corded model and the one we are looking at is cordless, swapping a long and cumbersome power cord that must be navigated around when shaving the ice for battery power. There is no blade with the new machine but our existing blade, still in good shape, will fit. The batteries are relatively new and the use on the machine is pretty low. The cost to us would be \$4800 for the used unit, a machine that generally sells for somewhere in the \$15000 range. As an added bonus, we can pay for the unit in \$200 monthly installments that will only be due during months when



the club is running, allowing us four years to pay the \$4800 interest free. Ice director Brian Laughlin spoke at the meeting regarding the purchase and said the price was reasonable, especially considering the payment option, and that the club would benefit from the purchase. He said he will have to inspect the unit before we make a final decision. To expedite the purchase if we decide to go forward, a motion was made and voted on to allocate the funds for the purchase if we do move forward. That is where the issue was left at that time.

## **AED Machine**

An AED or Automated External Defibrillator is used to revive someone from sudden cardiac arrest. The club has been looking to obtain one for our facility for a while and has explored a number of avenues to try and get it. They are somewhat expensive, between \$1800 and \$2500, and we have been looking to get one funded or partially funded to alleviate some of the financial cost. At the general meeting it was suggested that we may be able to utilize a unit that the New Dawn Guest Home has onsite. Given the close proximity of the home, it may be still timely to go and get their unit and maybe possibly have their staff come to use it since they have training in its use. If that scenario doesn't pan out and we can't get any funding, the club is resolved to make the purchase outright in the near future.

## **Bar Prices**

With ever increasing costs at the club and the bar being a main money contributor to covering our ongoing expenses, it was decided by the Schooner executive and discussed and passed at the general meeting that bar prices had to increase, especially considering we hadn't significantly raised membership dues and that we were once again running a new member promo. The end result is that liquor prices have increased by \$1 pretty much across the board. A regular beer and a shot are now \$5.25 (HST included), a craft beer such as one from Breton Brewing will be \$7 and coolers and ciders will be various prices based on size and cost. Soft drinks and snacks have gone up \$0.50 to \$1.75. New Bar Steward, Jennifer Haigh, is looking into introducing new products at the bar to try and increase choice and sales at the same time. Members are reminded that our costs have increased quite a bit at the club and we need to make that money up somewhere and that, even though prices are increased, we are still at a very reasonable level compared to other outlets around town.

## **Women's Worlds Coming to Sydney**

In a recent announcement by Curling Canada, we found out that the 2024 Women's World Curling Championships is coming to Sydney's Centre 200. This is huge for the Cape Breton Curling Community and the area in general. Fans will get to watch some of the best women curlers in the world compete in person and the economic spin offs for the area will be amazing. The last big curling event that was held in the area, the 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the Canadian Women's Curling Championship, was a great success and we hope this event will equal or even surpass that. Stay tuned for more info over the coming months on tickets, volunteer opportunities, etc.

## Security Camera in Parking Lot

Back in the spring the Schooner Club unfortunately fell victim to theft of heating oil from our tank. It was almost full when it happened. The tank is locked but they still were able to get into it and pump out the oil. Recently we have purchased a wireless security camera for the parking lot in hope it will be a deterrent for future thieves and, if there are incidents, that it can provide evidence that will help bring criminals to justice. The camera isn't expensive and was installed by volunteers at the club. It is wireless and runs off of our existing wifi service. With the price of oil these days we can't afford any more thefts and we hope this investment will help prevent future incidents.

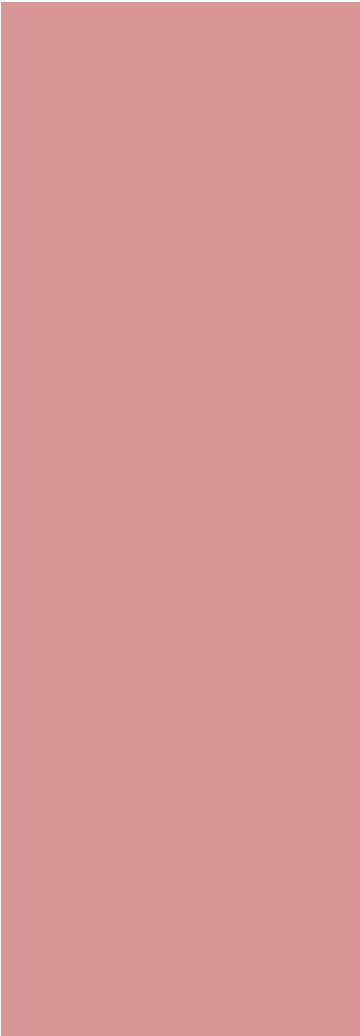
## New Sponsors

With limited resources at the club and ever increasing costs, the Schooner Club relies heavily on outside sponsorship from local business and organizations. We would like to acknowledge that Boston Pizza and Firestop Enterprises have both come on as league sponsors. This is timely as it looks like we may lose one or two sponsors this season. It's understandable given the current economic times are making it hard for everyone including local businesses. We want to thank our new sponsors for coming on board and remind all members that we encourage the support of all businesses that support the club from league sponsors to the sign sponsors in the ice shed. If anyone works for or knows of a local business or organization that might like to support the club with a sponsorship or advertising, please see our ways and means coordinator or any member of the Schooner executive.

## 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 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.