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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 57

October 2014

Club Calendar

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| Opening General Meeting | Tuesday, September 30 th 7pm |
| Opening Spiel | Late October |
| Start of league play | First week of November |
| Remaining Schedule | COMING SOON!! |
| NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions. | |

Another Season “In the Hack”

Just as quickly as summer came it was gone. Now, fall is in the air and we are starting to once again turn our thoughts to curling. Right now the club is filled with ice making equipment and the floor in the ice shed is still brown sand. Over the next couple of weeks the ice crew will transform that sand into two great sheets of glistening white curling ice and the club will once again be filled with members laughing and joking about their summer activities and the sound of rocks gliding down the ice towards skips who are yelling as loud as they can to encourage curlers to sweep just a little harder. As it is with every new season there are changes. Some old faces won't return but new faces will take their places. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all returning members and, of course, welcome all new members to the club. I also want to wish new club president, Gordie Cormier, and the Schooner executive a successful and enjoyable season. I was very surprised when I checked that this will be the ninth season for In the Hack. Where did the time go? It has certainly been a pleasure to be able to write these newsletters and I am looking forward to this coming season. I hope that everyone has found the newsletters entertaining and informative over the past seasons and that this season is no different. I encourage everyone to make comments and contributions whenever they wish. So, without further adieu, let's get the fun started with the opening spiel and have a great season. *Good Curling Everyone!*

Closing Spiel Results

The annual Closing Spiel, the Ralph Lloyd and Dan MacKinnon Memorial, was held at the club from April 8th to 12th, 2014. This, as always, was the last curling event for the season and was, again, a wonderful finish to another great year. Twelve teams in total took part in two divisions that saw curlers from both of these divisions face off on Saturday to see who would take the top honors. It was a close race with first and second place coming down to a point differential. The Peter MacIntyre rink and the Keith MacEachern rink were tied with 31 points at the end of play but MacIntyre edged into first place with a +11, narrowly defeating MacEachern who had a +7 differential. Joining skip MacIntyre in victory was mate Rick Windsor, second Lonnie Howe and lead Amanda Windsor. Skip MacEachern was aided in his second place finish by mate Sid Murray, second Frances Ford and lead Debbie Murray. Third and

fourth place was also decided by a point differential when Gordie Cormier and Wayne "Bull" Bonnell each finished with 28 points. Bonnell shaded Cormier by the narrowest of margins, beating him out for third place in differential by a single point. Joining Bonnell was Todd MacAulay, Kelley Laughlin and Kenny Thomas. Cormier's rink included Amy MacPherson, Chris "Slugger" MacLeod and Gabby Drover. After curling and prize presentations on Saturday there was a draw to the button contest. For a \$5 entry fee participants got their chance to draw one stone without the aid of sweepers to try and place it as close to the button as possible. A total of 24 participants took part but in the end it was veteran skip Wayne "Bull" Bonnell showing his skill and soft touch by drawing his stone to within inches of the center pin and besting all others to take home the prize money. Congratulations Bull. After that there was a dance with music provided by DJ Jimmy. The dance was very well attended by members and guests and a great time was had by all into the wee hours of the morning. It surely was a great end to a great season. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the closing. Thank you to Raylene Dejeet for bringing up the very delicious fudge for everyone to enjoy, to bonspiel chair Kelley Laughlin for another great effort in organizing a successful spiel and to everyone else who helped out in any way as, without the generous help of so many volunteers, we would be unable to hold events such as this at the club.

Coors Fun Night



Coors Fun Nights are back for the 2014-15 season starting in November. Coors Night will see new faces running the fun this season as brothers Dennis and Gordie Cormier have taken over from Abbie and Robina Boudreau who stepped down last season after running Coors Nights for a number of years. Best of luck to the Cormier boys and a big thank you to Abbie and Robina for all the work they have done in the past to make Coors Nights such a success. The fun gets going at around 7:00 and is only \$7.00 for the public and \$4.00 for Schooner Members. This gets you curling, pizza and a chance at some great Coors Light Brewing Company prizes. There's no better bargain in town so grab your friends and head on down to the Schooner Curling Club for Coors Fun Nights. All the equipment you need for curling is supplied but we ask that you bring clean, dry shoes for the ice area. Schedule for Coors Nights will be announced soon!

League Roundup



All league playoffs from the 2013-14 season ended in early April, just after the last newsletter of the season had been published. So, to catch everyone up on how things ended, here are the results of the playoffs in all of the leagues. Full results were posted on the Schooner Website as well. In the Team Entry it came down to the Ray Cameron rink, 2012-13 playoff champs in this league, and the Brian Laughlin rink playing one game for the league's playoff title. After a close, low scoring match it was Ray Cameron who scored two with hammer in the final end to overcome a one point deficit and defeat Laughlin to win his second Team Entry playoff title in as many years. The loss was especially disappointing for skip Brian Laughlin who didn't even get to play in the final game as he was sidelined by a back injury. The team was skipped by Gordie Cormier who usually plays mate for the Laughlin rink. Both Laughlin and Cameron had made it to the final game by first winning a draw to the button between three teams to break a tie in their division and then by winning semi-final games against winners from the other division, the John Donovan and Greg Ferguson rinks. Regular season winners, the Wally MacDonald rink, seemed to have

lost their momentum in the playoffs, dropping all three games they played in round one. Even with an early playoff exit, MacDonald can call his year a big success, winning regular season honors in his rookie campaign as a skip and with a new team as well, having broken away from his former skip, Wayne "Bull" Bonnell at the end of the 2012-13 season. Bonnell can also call his regular season a success, finishing second to MacDonald after going undefeated in the second half and almost catching MacDonald for top spot at the end. Like MacDonald, Bonnell faded in the playoffs, almost as if he had given everything he had in the regular season and had nothing left in the tank, and only won one game in round one, not good enough to advance. In the Mixed League it was the Thomas Drover rink who took top playoff honors by defeating the Cal Thistle rink in the final game. Skip Drover was joined by mate Tom Drover Sr., second Gabby Drover and lead Nadine Neima-Drover. As you can tell, it was a real family affair for the Drover foursome. Skip Drover was one of the hottest curlers in the club in the last few weeks of last season taking a first and a second place in two consecutive spiels and then cruised to his playoff victory. The regular season in the Mixed was up and down for Drover and he finished in the bottom third of the league but he certainly turned it around in the playoffs, winning his way out of his division in round one and then defeating the John Bonaparte rink in a semi final before taking on Thistle for the championship. League regular season champ Gordie Cormier made it past round one only to fall to Thistle in the semi finals. The Men's League playoff champ was decided by a round robin event so there was no final championship game. That didn't mean there wasn't any drama leading into the final week of play for the playoff title. First, mother nature stepped in one more time for the season and forced a postponement of play from Monday March 31st to Wednesday, April 2nd. Along with that, before entering play that night, five out of six teams still had a chance to share the lead after round robin play. In the end it was the John Bonaparte rink that came out on top by winning their final round robin game and claiming the title outright, all with only three players in the absence of skip Bonaparte who was ill and couldn't play. They ended up with a 4-1 record, best of the bunch, and a Men's League playoff title. Joining John in victory was mate Brian Bernier, second Sid Murray and lead Bill Blackwood. For Sid Murray this was his third title of the season having already won regular season titles in the Team Entry with the MacDonald rink and in the Mixed league with the Cormier rink. Congratulations to Sid on a very successful season and congratulations to all of our regular season and playoff winners.

With the new season soon upon us there are a couple of potential changes to league play to note. The existing leagues will all be back; Sunday Team Entry, Men's League and the Mixed League. There will also be the potential for a Lady's League this year if there is enough interest from female members. Another potential change to note is in the Mixed League where all 9:00 draws (if required) are proposed to move from eight end games to six end games. League play for the new season should get underway in early November. Keep an eye on the website and the club bulletin board for information on these and other league related topics.

Schooner Golf Day 2014

With curling season done in early April, many curler's thoughts had turned to golf. For the last number of years, the Schooner Club has accommodated the passion of some and the curiosity of others and held an annual golf outing. We would like to pass along a huge thank you to Lynn Kelly and Mary Foley who, as they have for the past number of years, organized and ran the very successful and enjoyable event. This year

ten teams took part in the event which started out with a nine hole round of golf at Alderdale Greens and then it was back to the club for a steak BBQ. On the course this year it was the team of Reid MacInnis, Linda MacNeil, Richard Lorway and Wayne “Bull” Bonnell that came out on top with a score of 3 under par. Before each team teed off they had the opportunity to participate in a “Putter Drive” game that consisted of each golfer teeing off with their putter and driving a practice ball as close to but not beyond a goal line. Gary Landry was the winner of this event. Gary Landry was also part of the winning team in the “Fantasy Golf” event. During the event there was also a closest to the pin and a longest drive competition for both men and women golfers. The longest drive for the men was by Gordie Cormier and for the ladies it was Amy MacPherson. Winning the closest to the pin for the men was Francis Sutherland and for the ladies was Cheryl Pierre. Congratulations to all of our winners. Once golf was done everyone met back at the club for a delicious steak dinner. This year, Brian Laughlin assumed duties at the grill as Abbie Boudreau, our grill master for the previous few years, was unable to make the event this year. Brian did a stellar job and the steaks were great. Along with the steak there were lots of sides and salad and a huge cake supplied by Eileen Bonnell at Harold’s Bakery. A huge thank you goes out to Georgette Sparkes for coming up early and preparing the food at the club before the golfers arrived, keeping things on track during dinner and doing cleanup afterwards. Also helping out was Anne Farr, Yvonne Donovan and, of course, Lynn and Mary. Thank you also to Lynnette Chiasson, Joseph Chiasson, Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale who all pitched in to get things ready for the golf event. Thanks, as well, goes out to Matt and Amy MacPherson who looked after the bar for the day. We apologize to anyone who was missed but please know that if you helped out in any way it was certainly appreciated. So the 2014 edition of the Schooner Golf Day is in the books and it was another huge success. Congratulations once again to our winners and thank you one more time to Lynn and Mary for putting on such an enjoyable event and to everyone else who helped out. See you on the links in 2015.

649 Fundraiser

With the great success of the 649 fundraisers last season and the demise of our spaghetti dinner fundraiser, it was decided that the 649 would be run again this year to raise additional operating funds for the club. In order to accomplish the same financial benefit of the spaghetti dinner, the 649 will need to be run twice during the season, once in the fall at the beginning of curling season and once more through the season, likely in late January or February. With ever increasing costs of running the club this fundraiser provides important money to cover expenses such as power and rent and allows us to keep membership rates as low as possible. All members are strongly encouraged to participate and sell as many entries as possible.

Grant Money

It was reported at the spring general meeting in April by Nadine Neima-Drover that some of the grant money that had been applied for by the CBRM Curling Association had come through and some equipment was purchased. You may have noticed at the end of last season the new Goldline brooms that lined our broom racks in the ice area. Nadine said that the more money was possible and would be shared by the Sydney and Schooner Clubs to purchase other equipment in the future. This included a set of Junior rocks to be shared by the clubs. A wish list was drawn up by our executive and ice director Brian Laughlin and presented to Nadine to guide future purchases. Watch for updates on this subject in the future.

We Are On Facebook



That's right. The Schooner Curling Club is on Facebook. You can visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/schooner.curling>. When you visit don't forget to "Like" us and you will get a news feed of all of the club events and other information that gets posted to our Facebook page. You can then share that info with your friends. We hope by using Facebook we will be able to get information to our members faster and to have more people know what's going on at the Schooner Club by having the word spread by everyone who is on Facebook. If you don't have a Facebook account you can go there and sign up for free. If you are not into Facebook, don't worry, the club will still get information out via our website, email blasts, Twitter and telephone.

Schooner and the NSCA

The Schooner Curling Club had planned to rejoin the Nova Scotia Curling Association in the 2013-14 season but, due to a lack of response from the association to the requests of our executive for information, we never did get our membership up and running. Even after repeated emails and phone calls there was no response to our requests to rejoin so it was decided to forgo the membership for that season and revisit it in the 2014-15 season. At the end of last season it was left in the hands of the local representative for the association, Garth Nathanson, who promised to get to the bottom of the situation and get us the information we require. At a recent Schooner Executive meeting there was some discussion on the topic but still not much headway had been made with the Provincial association. It was decided that the issue be discussed with the general membership at the opening meeting on September 30th. Check future newsletters or the Schooner website for updated information.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for the Schooner Curling Club for the 2014-15 season have not changed from last year. The full, adult membership is still \$220 plus HST. Full Junior and Student memberships stand at \$120 and Junior and Little Rockers will pay \$60, HST being added to all of these prices. Our fees continue to remain some of the lowest in the Province and offer the most return. Please note, payment terms for your membership dues have changed for the coming season. Full membership must be **PAID IN FULL** by November 1st, prior to the start of regular league play. The club will accept two cheques to cover your membership, one dated November 1st for the amount of \$153 and one post-dated to January 15th 2015 in the amount of \$100. Failure to pay your dues will result in membership privileges being revoked and you will not be permitted to curl. Full student, Junior and Little Rockers must be paid prior to the start of curling for these groups. The club executive believes that, given our already low rates and no increase in fees for this season, these terms are very fair and are in line with payment terms offered at many other clubs. Your cooperation is very much appreciated. Application forms are available at the club or you can download one from the Schooner website.

Inter-Club Curling

Last season saw an experiment in inter-club play between the Sydney Curling Club and the Schooner Curling Club. These events were spearheaded by the CB Curling Association in an attempt to bring the two local clubs closer together in hopes that there would eventually be an amalgamation. Originally there were 8 sessions scheduled but these were whittled down due to scheduling conflicts and, in some cases, lack of interest. The inter-club events did see some success with a few of the

nights having good turnouts and generally good reviews from those who took part. As of writing this newsletter there has been no news of a return of inter-club play for this year but you are asked to keep an eye on future newsletters, the club's website and bulletin board in case that changes. Inter-club play was free of charge to Sydney and Schooner members and was a great way to get an extra night of curling in, see new curlers and play in a different club.

Volunteers Needed

As is the case every season, the club is asking for everyone's help by volunteering some time. The club is always looking for bartenders to work various league nights and club events. We would like to get enough bartenders so no one would have to work more than one night a week and we will try to work around your curling and personal schedule. We are also looking for help in housing, ice maintenance, running spiels, planning events, etc. so any time you can give will be very much appreciated. See any member of the executive for more information or to sign up to volunteer. This year there is also a spot on the application for you to say you will volunteer time. Without the help of volunteers the club could not exist.

Cell Phone Use

The Schooner Curling Club would like to ask all members to show consideration to fellow members with regard to the use of cell phones during game play. While it is recognized that some members require they have their cell phones with them at all times to receive calls related to work or family emergencies, it is asked that, when playing a game, you turn the ringer of your phone off and set it to vibrate only. Also, if you need to take a call, please leave the ice area and take the call in the clubhouse area only. Keep the call short and return to play as soon as possible so as not to hold up the game. It is hoped that all members can follow this policy of common courtesy and you are thanked for your cooperation.

Rules to Remember

Members are reminded that as a "Place of public assembly" as defined by the CBRM we are subject to their by-laws, most specifically the smoking by-law. Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the club which includes the furnace room. If caught, a first offence can carry a fine of \$100 for the individual and \$500 for the club. Maximum penalties can reach \$1000 and \$5000 respectively. We are also a "Licensed" facility and are subject to the Provinces liquor licensing rules. We received a warning last year from the liquor inspector for violations and need to be more careful in following the rules. Two rules of note are that there is no alcohol permitted outside the doors of the club and no one is allowed to bring their own liquor into the club. If we are caught violating the rules we may be subject to suspension of our license or possibly even have it revoked. Without the cash flow that the bar produces for the club we could never survive financially. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Curling Etiquette

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

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

For more information on curling etiquette and courtesies, see these websites:

<http://www.curlnavy.com/members/etiquette.asp>

<http://www.curldc.org/about/courtesy.php>