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# In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 71

October 2016

## Club Calendar

Opening General Meeting	Wednesday, October 19
Opening Spiel	TBA
Start of league play	TBA
Ship Hector - New Glasgow	January 20-22, 2017
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 of "In the Hack"

Just as quickly as summer came, it is gone. Most will agree it was a good one. 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 ice-covered brown sand. Over the next week or so the ice crew will finish transforming 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 want to wish returning club president, Gordie Cormier, and the Schooner executive a successful and enjoyable season.

It's hard to believe but this is the first newsletter in the eleventh season of In the Hack. I look forward to another good year and once again hope everyone finds these newsletters both informative and entertaining. As always, I encourage everyone to provide feedback and submit ideas to help make the newsletter better. If you want to receive In the Hack every month in your email inbox be sure to provide your email address on your club application or send an email to the club's address, schoonercurling@gmail.com, telling us you want to receive club emails and I will add you to the mailing list. Anyone who has previously subscribed but had changes to your email address can update their information in this way as well. Also, don't forget to keep an eye on the Schooner website at [www.schoonercurlingclub.com](http://www.schoonercurlingclub.com) for schedules, special events, club news and more. And you can always follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook.

It's the start of another great year of curling and fun at the Schooner Club. Welcome back returning members and greetings to new ones. *Good Curling Everyone!*

## Closing Spiel Results

The closing spiel of 2016 was held April 19-23 and saw six teams compete in each of two divisions, Tuesday/Thursday and Wednesday/Friday. All teams taking part came together on Saturday to finish the spiel and determine a winner. A well balanced roster of teams saw only two rinks head into Saturday play with two wins. The Thomas Drover rink and the Russell Fitzgerald rink each had won their first two matches and it looked like they would have the best chance to come out one/two in the event. Drover had a small, two point lead over Fitzgerald when play got underway on the final day. Saturday would see Drover take on the Keith MacEachern rink and Fitzgerald would face the always tough Cal Thistle squad. Things did not go well on Saturday for Drover and he dropped his game to Keith MacEachern, earning only two points for his effort. Fitzgerald on the other hand continued his strong play and won handily over the Thistle rink, vaulting him into first place alone with no one having a chance to catch him. Joining Russell in victory was Nadine Neima-Drover, Allen Young and Bev Young. The loss for Drover dropped him into a tie with the Sid Murray rink who had two big victories against one loss. Murray earned third place as his plus/minus rating was higher than Drover's and the Drover rink had to settle for fourth place. Skip Murray had Kelley Laughlin, Matt MacPherson and Georgette Sparkes with him while Thomas Drover was joined by Cheryl MacKinnon, Mel Windsor and Steve Jurcina. The win over Drover for the Keith MacEachern rink earned them a second place finish. MacEachern had finished the event with two wins and one loss but in his loss he was able to solidify more points than his competitor by winning four of six ends to take eight of a possible fifteen points. Joining Keith in second place was Marie Young, Janet Gallivan and Tyler Coolen. Rounding out the top six were the Wally MacDonald rink and the Gordie Cormier rink, both finishing with twenty six points but MacDonald edging ahead with a better plus/minus. Wally was aided by Samantha Campbell, Blair Gentile and Lisa Gentile. The Cormier rink was a family affair with Dennis, Bernadette and Natalie Cormier joining skip Gordie. On Saturday curlers were treated to turkey soup compliments of Frank Kokocki and sandwiches and wraps compliments of the Schooner club. When curling was all done it was time for DJ Jimmy to take over. There was a good crowd that stayed around and partied at the club into the wee hours of the night. Congratulations to all of the winners and a big thank you to everyone who took part. Thanks also to Stephen Leslie for organizing and running the spiel, to Frank for his delicious soup, to the Schooner executive, the bartenders, the ice crew and to everyone else who helped out in any way to make the closing spiel a great way to finish off a great season.

## Fun Nights

Fun Nights will be back for the 2016-17 season. This year our coordinators are Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale. The fun nights are open to both members and the general public and are not only a great way to get people to try curling but are an important source of new members for the club each and every year. Given the lack of participation in November and December for the last couple of years, there were no fun nights held until January of last season. This schedule will be followed again this season but a fun night may be added to the schedule early on in the season to help generate some interest from potential new members. Schooner Fun Nights are a huge bargain with curling, pizza and prizes for only a few bucks. Members are encouraged to get groups of co-workers, family and friends together and have a night out at the club. We hope to see lots of people take part and have the success this year that we have enjoyed in the past.

## League Roundup



League play wrapped up for the 2015-16 season on Monday, April 18th when the team entry playoff championship was decided, the final championship of the three leagues. The Sunday Team Entry League had a number of teams vying for the title all season long before Wally MacDonald came out in front and won his second league title in as many years. MacDonald, who had won both the schedule and playoff championships in the 2014-15 season was also one of the favorites to win the playoff title this season as well. Unfortunately for MacDonald, a repeat of his double win in the previous season was not to be as he was bested by the Gordie Cormier rink in his their division of round robin play. Cormier was one of the top teams all season in Team Entry and was just edged out by MacDonald for top spot in the regular season. Cormier earned the right to play in a one game, winner take all match against the top team from the other division, the Greg Ferguson rink. Ferguson was a bit of a surprise winner of that division as his squad had struggled to find consistency in winning all season and had finished in the bottom half of the league during the regular schedule. Ferguson found his groove in the playoffs though, winning the round robin portion of the event with ease over some strong competition like the Wayne 'Bull' Bonnell rink who had also finished close to the top of the league and were just beat out by MacDonald. Ferguson and Cormier met in a one game final to determine the Team Entry's overall playoff winner. In a well played game that saw momentum swing back and forth over the eight ends, Cormier's rink came out victorious and were crowned Team Entry Playoff champs. Joining skip Cormier was mate Stephen Leslie, second Dennis Cormier and lead Mel Windsor. Greg Ferguson was joined by Peter MacIntyre at mate, Cheryl MacKinnon as second and Steve Jurcina at lead.

The Cormier rink should be back intact this season to defend their playoff title and given the playoff success of the Greg Ferguson rink things may look good for him if he can keep his team together. That's not the case for the Wally MacDonald rink however as rumors have them splitting this season with MacDonald going off to form a new rink with current mate Sid Murray while Chris "Slugger" MacLeod and Walter Nichols go off in another direction to form their own rink. We'll be watching to see how that plays out. Another team that had some playoff success in Team Entry and may be able to carry that into the coming season is the Omar Roach rink. Roach and his rink struggled to find victories all season but found their winning edge in the playoffs, narrowly missing making it into the final game for the title. If Roach can carry that success into the coming season it should be a good one for his squad. If the landscape remains pretty much intact in the Team Entry and rinks who found playoff success carry that into the season, we should be in for a good year of competitive curling in this league.

The Men's League finished up early in April with a final round robin game to decide the playoff champs. The Gary Landry rink needed to win against the Cal Thistle rink while Thistle only needed a tie or better to take the title. Landry was victorious, handing Thistle his only loss in the playoffs, and took the playoff crown home. Joining Gary Landry were mate Rick Windsor, second, Greg Wall and lead Mel Windsor.

The Mixed League also finished up in early April with three teams still having a shot at the playoff title heading into the last week of play. The Greg Ferguson rink needed to win their final game against the Martin Campbell rink to solidify the title while the Brian Laughlin and Cal Thistle rinks needed Ferguson to lose so their game would decide who would be playoff champ. Laughlin and Thistle didn't get a chance to play a meaningful game as Ferguson went on to defeat Campbell and take

## Schooner Member Survey and Vote

first overall in the playoffs. Joining skip Ferguson was Mate Jolene MacLellan, second Joe Erickson and lead Laura Rafuse. Congratulations to all winners in all leagues.

League play will undergo some changes in this coming season. There was discussion at the end of last season and over the summer about changing some days that certain leagues play on, length of games and start times. The Schooner executive decided that members should have a voice in any potential changes so in late September a member's survey was undertaken online with great response and results. More info on the survey is below in the next section. After some discussion of the survey results, three possible scenarios were formulated to be voted on by members. Since attendance of the general meetings is sometimes low and, given the importance of this vote to all members, the Schooner executive decided to once again use an online solution to allow members to voice their opinions and vote. More info is available below in the next section.

The Schooner Junior Program will be making its return to the ice again this season, once again being run on Saturday afternoons unless changes are made before or during the season. Program Coordinator Nadine Neima-Drover, her coaches and assistants all do a great job with the kids and we hope to see the program grow this season

With the 2016-17 curling year looming and soon to begin, there was some discussion by the Schooner executive about potential changes to league play for the impending season. Not wanting to arbitrarily decide what was good and bad for league curlers, a survey was conducted using an online tool that allowed any schooner member to provide feedback on such things as league nights, length and start time of games and their interest or lack of in a 2 on 2 event being added to the schedule. The survey ran for approximately two weeks and came to a conclusion on Monday, September 26th. Participation in the survey was very good with 56 Schooner members taking part and providing their feedback.

As a result of that survey, the Schooner executive formulated three possible scenarios for the league structure of the men's and mixed with a possibility of some form of two on two curling built in to two of them. The Team Entry league would remain unchanged and still play on Sunday afternoons. Rather than present these options for a vote at the general meeting which can be poorly attended, it was decided that an online vote would be undertaken so more Schooner members could have a say in how things would be run this year. Option one was to keep the status quo with no changes to league nights, start times or length of games. Option two was to move the men's league to Thursday night and change the start times to 6:30 and 8:30 for the games that would remain as eight end contests. The mixed league would move to playing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, still playing eight end games that would still start at 7:00 pm and only still only have one draw per night. Option two also included a casual two on two night to be held on Fridays with times and details to be determined. Option three was the biggest change from previous years as the mixed league would move back to playing two draws per night, now on Monday and Tuesday, still playing eight ends but moving start times to 6:30 and 8:30. Men's League would play Thursdays at 6:30 and 8:30 with games being eight ends. This option included a more formal two on two league option to be played on Wednesday night. Online voting got underway at the end of September and ran until October 10. Those who didn't have access online could vote by phone by calling club president

Gordie Cormier. The general meeting was moved from its original date of October 5th to the 12th to allow time for the online voting but then further postponed until October 19th due to the power outages caused by the storm on October 10th. Results of the vote were tallied to be announced at the General Meeting. The vote did have a very good rate of participation with 54 Schooner members casting a ballot. The end result will see Men's league moving to Thursday evenings and Mixed playing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday depending on participation in the league. A casual two on two will be held on Friday's when demand dictates and scheduling allows. There will be a sign up per event and no commitment is required for the whole season. Sunday Team Entry will remain unchanged.

## Schooner Golf Day 2016



With curling season done in early April, many of the Schooner members succumb to another passion, playing 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 who, once again this year, took on the huge task of organizing and running the event and to Gary Landry who came on board this year as the event's co-organizer. Lynn and Gary did a great job and this year's event was, as it has been in the past, a huge success and was enjoyed by all who took part.

Thirty eight golfers made up ten teams and took to the links at the Alderdale Golf Club on a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon in June. Weather had played a negative roll in the previous year's event and it was nice to see that mother nature had cooperated with us this time around. After a long and hard-fought round on the course it was the foursome of Gordie Cormier, Brian Laughlin, Bill Farr and Gary Butler that came out on top with a three under par score. Gordie Cormier also won the men's longest drive that was held on Alderdale's number four hole, a long par five. Longest drive for the ladies was won by Laura MacRae. There was also a closest to the hole competition held on the par three eighth hole. Men's winner was Cal Thistle and the ladies winner, decided by a draw from the hat, was Anne Farr. Before golfing had gotten underway, all participants took part in a ladder toss game which was won by Trevor Billard. Back at the club, the organizers had set up a Fantasy Golf Course that each team got to play and gain valuable points towards a win. It came down to a tie breaker round but the eventual winners were Gordie Cormier, Brian Laughlin, Bill Farr and Gary Butler.

After their rounds, all golfers headed back to the club to enjoy a delicious T-bone steak with baked potatoes and other delicious sides and to finish off this great meal there was strawberry shortcake for dessert. A few more people joined the group as they had opted for just the dinner portion of the event. Brian Laughlin took on grill duty and did a great job on the steaks once again. Thank you to everyone who helped out with dinner both on Friday evening getting things prepared and on Saturday during the event. Thanks once again to Lynn and Gary, to everyone who took part and to anyone who helped out in any way to make the 2016 golf day a great success. See you all next year.

## Schooner Cash Spiel 2016

The Schooner Open Cash Spiel was held from April 8-10 and was a huge success. After having to cancel the spiel in January due to a severe winter storm, it looked like there would be no Schooner Cash Spiel for this year but Spiel Chair Stephen Leslie persuaded the Schooner Executive to shuffle the schedule a bit and make time for it. Even though we had a weekend to play it on, it was unknown if we could attract enough teams to fill it. Fourteen teams had signed on for the January event and it was hoped we could at least get ten or maybe twelve back for this one. Turned out that there were fourteen teams who signed on for the rescheduled spiel which was better than anyone had expected. As always, there was great support from the Sydney Curling Club which helped to build up the numbers for the event. Play got underway on Friday evening at 6pm with draws to follow at 8pm and 10pm with all teams seeing action except two, the Wally MacDonald rink from Schooner and the Joanne Hunston rink from Sydney, who would meet each other in the first draw on Saturday morning which got underway at 9am. As is normal in an event like this, play got behind on Friday and the last draw, scheduled for 10pm, didn't get out until almost 11pm and the game ran well past midnight. Saturday play, with more draws, also saw delays with games more than an hour behind by the end of the day. Play didn't finish up until well after midnight again on Saturday. That didn't deter the curlers and fans as the club was bustling with activity all weekend long. On Saturday, curlers were treated to a meal catered by Tommy Young. Normally it's the Schooner ladies who pitch in and volunteer to prepare and serve the meal but it was decided that since they had already been asked to do that once for the spiel that was cancelled it wouldn't be fair to ask them all to do it over again. Everyone enjoyed a variety of dishes prepared by Tommy and there was even lots left over for hungry curlers on Sunday. Curlers and guests were also treated to chili on Friday night and coffee and muffins Saturday and Sunday morning. There was lots to eat for everyone to keep their energy levels up for the curling. Sunday saw the completion of bracket play before finals in each of four divisions got underway. The first set of finals, scheduled for 11AM Sunday, saw teams play for the 'B' and 'C' Championships. The Coralie Duchemin rink would take on Kenny Keough's rink for the 'B' title and in 'C' it was the Martin Campbell rink taking on the Gordie Cormier rink. Both Duchemin and Campbell were successful in winning their respective divisions. The final draw of the weekend saw the 'A' and 'D' finals take place. The 'A' final was an all Sydney Club affair with Kurt Roach, Nova Scotia Traveler's Club Champions, taking on Sebastien LeFort's junior squad. The 'D' division saw two Schooner teams taking part, the Thomas Drover rink and the Rick Billard rink. Drover was victorious over Billard to capture the 'D' prize while Lefort bested Roach in a game that required an extra end even after LeFort jumped out to a pretty sizable early lead. Joining Skip Sebastien in winning the spiel's top category and top prize was Charlie Gerrie, Nicholas MacKenzie and Aidan McNutt. Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up in the various divisions and a big thank you to all the curlers who took part and made take two of the Schooner Cash Spiel 2016 a great success. Thanks to Stephen Leslie, Schooner bonspiel chair, for pushing to have the spiel and spending the time to organize and run it. Thanks also to everyone who volunteered and helped out in any way, to the bartenders who put in some late nights, to the ice crew for working hard to prepare and maintain the ice before and during the spiel, to Tommy Young for catering a great meal and last, but certainly not least, to all the fans and visitors to the club on the Cash Spiel weekend. We hope everyone enjoyed their time and the Schooner club and will join us again next season for the Schooner Cash Spiel 2017.

## Scotties Bid

A bid for the 2018 Scotties was undertaken by a local committee of curlers, business people and administrators in hopes of bringing the women's national curling championship to Cape Breton's Center 200 next year. An advertising campaign was launched and pre-tournament ticket orders were taken for a \$100 deposit in order to gauge interest and better make a case for bringing the event to the area if ticket sales were strong. As of the end of September it was reported by one of the committee members that the Sydney bid for the Scottie's had been rejected by Curling Canada with no real reason given. The committee is now trying to get a reason as to why the bid was unsuccessful. Further details were not provided by the bid committee at this time. According to information received from Paul MacDonald of C200 and relayed through a bid committee member, refunds for anyone who made a ticket deposit are processed. Anyone who paid by credit card should have received a credit on that card and anyone who paid by cash should have received a refund by cheque. If anyone has any issues you can contact Paul MacDonald or Nadine Mathews at Center 200 for more information.

## High Level Curling Coming to Nova Scotia

Even though Sydney won't get a chance to host the elite of women's curling in Canada for the Scottie's in 2018, there's still a couple of high level curling events coming to the Province this year. Port Hawksbury's Civic Center will be home to the best of men's curling when it hosts the 2017 Men's Elite 10 from March 16-19. Some of the talent scheduled to compete is Nicolas Edin, Brad Gushue and Mike McEwen. Early bird ticket packages are available now by visiting the Port Hawksbury Civic center website at [www.phcivic.com](http://www.phcivic.com) or by calling 902-625-2591.

Another big event being held in Nova Scotia this season is the Canadian Mixed Curling Championships that will take place November 13th-19th at the Yarmouth Curling Club. Nova Scotia is represented by the Paul Flemming rink out of the Mayflower Curling Club in Halifax. More information is available at <http://www.curling.ca/2017mixed/>. Also, while unfortunately not in Nova Scotia, the 2017 Brier is still close by and is being held on the east coast this year in Saint John's Newfoundland. It runs from March 4-12, 2017. Anyone interested can get info at <http://www.curling.ca/2017brier/>. One last note, don't forget about the Sydney rink skipped by Kurt Roach who will be representing Nova Scotia at the Traveller's Club Championship in Kelowna BC from November 20-26. Watch for updates on the Schooner website as they become available.



Enter the Tirecraft "**Hit The Button**" SWEEPstakes for your chance to WIN up to **\$100,000!** plus other great prizes. Four lucky amateur curlers will get a chance to travel to Toronto in March 2017 for a chance to throw a rock **right on the button** and win up to \$100,000 – plus \$2,500 for your selected curling club! On February 1st, 2017 FOUR Grand Prize Finalists will be selected to WIN an all-expenses paid trip to Toronto to complete in a Shoot Out. The rink to be used for the Shoot Out will be kept a secret to make it fair for all. Before throwing the rock, each finalist will select 1 of 4 sealed envelopes. Each of those envelopes contains a potential prize of \$100,000, \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000. If the thrower puts the rock completely on top of the button, they win the amount in their chosen envelope. Early bird prizes are also available and entrants will have chances to win Tirecraft gift cards. You can visit the link below to enter but make sure you pick the Schooner club as your affiliate so we have a chance to win too. You don't have to be a member

## Curling as a National Sport

of a club to sign up for the contest and, even if you're not a member of the Schooner Club, you can list us as your affiliate and we will still get the club money if you are one of the lucky four to go to Toronto. Contest ends January 31st 2017. Visit the website to enter:

<http://hitthebuttonwithtirecraft.com/>

Good luck and don't forget to pick Schooner as your curling club.

There is currently an online petition to the House of Commons, Petition e-456 to be exact, to amend the National Sports of Canada Act and designate the sport of curling as one of three National sports of Canada. We currently have two, hockey and lacrosse. The petition, started by Scott Morphet of Ottawa and sponsored by Sault Saint Marie Liberal representative Terry Sheehan, argues that curling has existed in Canada for over well over 200 years and has existed almost as long as Confederation itself, that it can bring together Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life, that we have more curlers than any other country, that we have curling greatness with more Men's and Women's world championships than anyone else and that this greatness can inspire younger generations to greatness as well. If you agree that curling should be designated a national sport, you have until November 3, 2016 at 9:43 am to sign the online petition at the link below:

<https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-456>

## St. Paddy's Day in September



September 17th was St. Patrick's Day this year, at least it was at the Schooner Curling Club. A dance was held to celebrate with music being provided by Jinx O'Neill and Donnie Campbell. Only fifty tickets were being sold for the event at a cost of \$10 per lad and lassie and the event was pretty close to being sold out. The club was decked out for evening with St. Paddy's day decorations and everyone was treated to party favors and snacks. Jinx and Donnie kept the music going and the dance floor full all night. It was a great event and the type of off season thing the executive would like to do more of, especially if it brings in people who don't normally take part in events at Schooner like this one did. Much thanks to everyone who attended, to Janet Gallivan who was the main coordinator and ran this fun event, to Georgette Sparkes who worked the bar that night and was dressed in very theme appropriate attire and to everyone else who helped out in any way.

## Tuesday Tarbish

For the last while the Schooner Club has been hosting a weekly Tarbish game that is open to both members and guests. The games have been very popular and have drawn good crowds so the Schooner executive decided to keep them going. The games have been running all summer and will continue to be held on Tuesday nights throughout the curling season. Things get underway around 7pm and anyone can come and play on any given week. Again, this is open to both Schooner members and guests to the club so if you have someone you know that may be interested you can let them know or you want to play yourself and bring friends it which would be much appreciated.



## Membership Fees

Membership fees for the Schooner Curling Club for the 2016-17 season have once again remained unchanged. 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. All curlers are reminded that membership fees must be **PAID IN FULL** by November 1<sup>st</sup>, prior to the start of regular league play. 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. New this season is an online application form that can be filled in and submitted at the Schooner website. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or debit at the club. Again, no one is permitted to curl unless your dues are paid in full.



After running two successful Chase the Ace events the Schooner club took a little break from them over the spring and summer. Chase the Ace will be making a planned comeback at the club this fall with the application process currently being underway. The club plans to make a few changes in how it will be run. The biggest difference will be that tickets will be sold all week long instead of on just one designated night. This is the format used in the Chase the Ace run by the Emera Center in North Sydney. There will still be two colors of tickets sold but selling them all week will allow members to buy tickets anytime they are in the club, to allow members to take tickets home to sell to friends, family and co-workers and to possibly sell tickets in local businesses. The draws are tentatively set to run on Tuesday nights and ticket sales will still take place up until the designated draw time. Once the ticket is drawn, the winner will be contacted and will have a designated amount of time to arrive or they can allow the card to be drawn from the deck on their behalf, making attendance completely optional. The prize splits will still remain the same with 20% of that week's sales going to the draw winner, 30% of sales going into the jackpot and 50% of sales going to the club. The club executive is hoping that these changes will increase support of this important fundraiser by both club members and the general public. The money raised by Chase the Ace is vital to allowing the club to continue to function well and keep fees down. It also allows us to do some extra things like upgrading our tables, painting, doing electrical upgrades and laying new carpet, all projects that have been done at the club thanks to funds made available from Chase the Ace. Keep an eye on the club's bulletin board and the website for more details on when Chase the Ace will be getting underway.

## Schooner Executive and Committee Heads

The Schooner executive and committee heads stayed pretty much the same as last season with a couple of exceptions. Dennis Cormier has moved from coordinating Fun Nights to being our bar officer and Janet Gallivan has joined forces with Kathy Gale to keep the Fun Nights rolling. Stephen Leslie had originally declined to return as Bonspiel Chair but has since reconsidered and has resumed those duties. Below is a full list of the Schooner executive and committee heads for the 2016-17 season. We would like to thank them all for giving their time and effort for the good of the Schooner Curling Club.

President - Gordie Cormier  
Vice President - Lynn Kelly  
Treasurer - Thomas Drover  
Secretary - Frances Ford  
Draw Master - Cal Thistle  
Bar Steward - Dennis Cormier  
Ice Director - Brian Laughlin  
Bonspiel Committee - Stephen Leslie  
Juniors Coordinator - Nadine Neima-Drover  
Housekeeping - Georgette Sparkes and Bernadette Cormier  
Membership - Frank Kokocki  
Public Relations - Richard Lorway  
Fun Nights - Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale  
Ways and Means - Lynn Kelly  
Website - Billy Farr  
Newsletter - Billy Farr  
Annual Golf Tournament Coordinators - Lynn Kelly and Gary Landry

## **Club Repairs and Improvements**

Chase the Ace profits went a long way to making much needed improvements at the club last season with one of those improvements being a redo of the electrical setup in the compressor room. When curling ended last season that work had yet to be carried out as the contractor was unable to do it until the spring. That work has now been completed and the electrical system is much safer and less likely to fail. One last thing that was outstanding was moving some phase protectors from the outside to the inside of the building where they would be protected from the elements. A quote was received and approved and that work was recently completed as well, now making it that all of the electrical upgrades have now been done.

## **Storm slows ice Making**

The nasty storm that hit the Sydney area on Thanksgiving Day made life hard for Schooner icemaker Brian Laughlin and his crew when a power outage all but snuffed out over a week of work and they had to start from almost scratch. The loss of power at the club that resulted from the storm lasted a couple of days and allowed the ice that had been made to that point to melt, putting the crew far behind schedule. As a result, the opening spiel and the start of league curling are now pushed ahead with an exact date to get underway unknown. Ice making has been going well and the crew hopes to be painting and doing the lines and circles the weekend of October 22. After that is done, the paint needs to be sealed slowly by spraying light coats water over it and letting it freeze. Putting too much water on top of the paint before it is sealed can cause it to lift off the ice and smear into a big mess. Once the paint is adequately sealed, more floods can be applied to raise the thickness of the ice to a playable level. A final shave and the ice is ready to go. If everything goes well and there are no more unforeseen issues, we should be able to start curling by late October. Watch the Schooner website for updates on the start of the Opening Spiel as well as league play.

## **Washer Toss Tournament**

There was a washer toss tournament held at the club on July 23rd. Entry fee was \$10 per person and included burgers and dogs cooked on the club BBQ. Participation was good and a lot of fun was had by all in attendance. Kelley and Brian Laughlin were the overall winners. Since the event was held outside, a special add-on to our liquor license was required to allow people to take drinks outside the club into an designated area that had to be roped off. Club President Gordie Cormier coordinated

## Curling Etiquette

the event and hopes more such events can take place during our off season to keep the club in use and people interested.

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

