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In The Hack

SCHOONER CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 92

October, 2019

Wednesday, October 9	Fall General Meeting
October 30, November 1-2	Opening Spiel
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day - Club Closed
Saturday, November 16	Fun Night
December 19-21	Turkey Spiel
Saturday, January 4	General Meeting and New Years Social
January 10-11	Doubles Spiel
Saturday, January 18	Fun Night
February 7-8	Sweetheart Women's Spiel
Friday, February 7	Open Mic Night
February 14-16	Schooner Cash Spiel
Saturday, February 15	Cash Spiel Dance
Saturday, February 22	Fun Night
March 5-7	Fun Spiel
Saturday, March 7	Fun Spiel Dance
Saturday, March 14	Fun Night
April 23-25	Closing Spiel
Saturday, April 25	Closing Spiel Dance
Saturday, May 16	Year End Banquet and Dance
NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the club website or bulletin board for changes and additions.	

Another Season

Welcome back everyone. It was another fantastic summer on Cape Breton Island but now that October has arrived we will once again trade in our golf clubs and our swim trunks for curling brooms and warm clothing and soon be back at it at the Schooner club. Ice preparations are already underway and will soon result in two glorious sheets of pristine curling ice.

All indications are that we are in for another fantastic season of curling and fun at the club and we will get it all rolling with the Opening Spiel coming up soon, getting started on October 30 and finishing up on November 2, taking a night off for Halloween of course. The first big party of the year will be on Saturday, November 2 with a dance being held from 9-1. League play will get underway shortly after that and then we are really on our way. Gordie Cormier is back again this season as our president and he, along with all of the executive and committee heads, will work hard all season to make this another great year at the club. *Good Curling Everyone!*

League Roundup



As is the norm, things in most leagues were still undecided when the final edition of In The Hack was released last season. For those who may not know how things ended up, here is a summary of the final results from all leagues.

The 2018-19 season seemed to belong mostly to Kevin Gouthro who was part of five out of a total of six league championships. Kevin skipped the teams that took both legs of the Pepsi Mixed League, both the regular season and playoff titles in the Old Triangle Men's League and was part of the team that won the regular season title in the Don Cherry's Team Entry League. He narrowly missed out on having a chance at the playoff title in team entry when his rink was ousted from the playoffs on a draw to the button tie breaker.

In the first leg of the Pepsi Mixed last season things were tight to the end with three teams in the mix down to the wire but, in the second half, Gouthro's rink cruised to the win and clinched the league with a win over Keith MacEachern's rink late in March, a few games before the league wrapped up. Joining Kevin in the second round Mixed title was Samantha Campbell, Bill Moss and Alicia Deagle.

In the Men's League, Gouthro was joined by Lonnie Howe, Mike Cormier and Todd MacAulay. They cruised to the regular season title, going undefeated in round two to leave the other contending teams behind to fight it out for second place. The playoffs proved a little more difficult for the Gouthro Rink and had to hope for outcomes of other games that could decide their fate. They did make it to the crossover round and defeated the Wally MacDonald rink in the first crossover to go on to face the Gordie Cormier rink in the finally, taking that game as well and completing the sweep of the league.

The Don Cherry's Team Entry league also wrapped up in April with the Brian Laughlin rink taking the playoff title this season, going undefeated in the round robin and then taking a crossover game and the final to complete the victory. Joining Brian was Lonnie Howe, Joe Erickson and Kelley Laughlin. Regular season title winners, the Gordie Cormier rink, were bounced from the playoffs on a tie breaking draw to the button and second place finishers, the Coralie Ayre rink, weren't in contention due to having to forfeit a couple of games including one to eventual winner Brian Laughlin.

The Schooner Junior Program is coming off another great season last year that saw the numbers in the program rise again. There are some big changes coming for the program with the departure of Nadine and Thomas Drover as coordinators and Ceilidh Forrest taking over for the coming season. Thomas and Nadine left the Schooner to curl in Sydney for the 2018-19 season but agreed to continue with the Junior Program at Schooner to give the club time to find a replacement. Best of luck to Ceilidh, we know you will do a great job. Anyone who has some free time to help out with the Juniors is welcome to drop by any Saturday when they take the ice. There won't be any big changes to regular league play at the club this season. The Mixed League will play Monday to Wednesday with 7pm draws remaining the norm unless numbers in that league dictate a change is required. The Men's League will take the ice on Thursdays and Team Entry will return on Sunday afternoons. Start times on Sunday are under discussion and may move to noon as the start for the first game. Watch the

Closing Spiel Wrap-up

schedules when available. Sponsorships for all leagues are in place but the club executive is considering finding a new sponsor for the Mixed League to try to bring prizes in that league in line with the others.

Also on the prize front, the club will no longer be purchasing jackets to give as prizes to league winners. The cost is getting too prohibitive. We will rely on sponsorship for league prizes. Jackets may be available for purchase by all club members this season if an agreement can be reached with a supplier.

There was some discussion of adding a doubles (2 on 2) league to the schedule this year, either on Friday evening or making the mixed league play on two nights and opening another weeknight, necessitating the need for possible 9pm draws in the mixed. That idea has been decided against and doubles curling will be done as casual pick up night here and there throughout the season.

Friday afternoon Matinee Curling will be making a return to the club again this season if there is interest. It runs from 1-3 on Friday afternoons and is open to all Schooner members.

The Annual Schooner Closing Spiel was held from April 25-27 at the club and was a great success. It saw a total of fourteen teams taking part, six in the Thursday/Saturday division and eight on the Friday/Saturday side. Each team played their first game on their respective night and then played two games on Saturday. It was a long day of curling that started in the morning and didn't finish until late into the evening but, fueled by subs from Subway Restaurants and other goodies, everyone made it through. The winners were actually decided before the final scheduled games took the ice after the Stephen Leslie rink had amassed enough points with a win in their final game, the second last scheduled for the day, so that no one could catch them in the standings. Skip Leslie was joined by Jill Ramsay, Mary Lou Andrea and Cynthia Boutilier. For first place they received a gift bag provided by Subway that contained a gift card, a foldable picnic blanket and other items. They also received a gift card of their choice from a variety of the club's sponsors. Congratulations to you all. Second place went to Kevin Gouthro, Julia Cormier, Jess Dilney and Tyler Curtis. The Richard Lorway and Brian Laughlin rinks tied for third with an equal point total and plus minus. Skip Lorway was joined by Bryant Cormier, Alison Grapes and Georgette Sparkes while skip Laughlin had Kelley Laughlin, Justin Humphrey and Ray Smith. Rounding out the top five was the John Donovan rink who finished two points behind Laughlin and Lorway with two ties in their three games. Skip Donovan was helped by Andy Pyke, Yvonne Donovan and Willie MacDonald. While Donovan finished with two ties, he was bested in that statistic by Wally MacDonald who finished with three ties in three games. MacDonald took sixth place.

It was a great closing weekend overall that featured not only lots of good curling but also lots of entertainment and fun with an Open Mic Night held on Friday and a dance held Saturday night. The Open Mic featured the club's president, Gordie Cormier along with his good friend Troy Allen who did a great job entertaining the crowd and playing backup to others who wanted to perform. On Saturday, a big crowd stayed around and partied late

2 on 2 Spiel April 19

into the night to finish off the season. Saturday night also featured a barefoot button draw, something that has become a bit of a tradition at the club, that was won by Wally MacDonald after three rounds.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part in the spiel, especially those from outside of the Schooner membership, to Subway for supporting the club once again, to the spiel committee, the ice crew, the bartenders, cleaners and to everyone else who helped out in any way to make the Schooner Closing the fantastic event it was. It was truly a fitting end to such a wonderful season of curling and fun at the Schooner.

A two on two spiel was held at the club last season on April 5th and 6th. That was too late to get into the final newsletter of 2018-19 so we will catch you up on the results now.

A total of 16 players took part to make up the 8 teams, split evenly into two divisions to play a round robin with the top two teams from each division making it into a semi-final crossover game, the winners of that playing off for first place. In division 'A', the team of Joe Erickson and Chris 'Slugger' MacLeod went through with a perfect 3-0 record to take top spot and earn a place in one semi-final while George Plumridge and Bob Smith took second place and also a spot in the semis with a 2-1 record. In the 'B' division it was Walter Nichols and Kathy Gale with a perfect 3-0 record in top spot while Greg Wall and Mel Windsor squeaked into the second playoff position with a 1-2 record, narrowly edging out two other teams with identical records, Wally MacDonald and Lynn Kelly and Frances Ford and Keith MacEachern, on plus/minus. The Windsor/Wall team would face Erickson/MacLeod in one semi-final while the other would have Gale/Nichols taking on Plumridge/Smith to see who would make it to the finals to play for the overall title. Plumridge and Smith punched their ticket to the championship by handing the Gale/Nichols rink their first loss of the event and relegating them to the consolation game. In the other semi, Erickson and MacLeod made it through by defeating the Windsor/Wall rink. The consolation match didn't get played and the prize money, \$140 in total, was split by the two teams. In the championship game, the Erickson/MacLeod rink got out to an early lead, scoring a single point in each of the first three ends. Plumridge and Smith got on the board in the fourth end with a single and then stole another in the fifth to make it a one point game coming home. The end was setting up well for Plumridge/Smith but a missed guard late into it allowed MacLeod a chance at a runback take out with his second last rock that he made, putting him back in control of the end. When a draw opportunity came up light on Plumridge's last stone, Erickson and MacLeod solidified the win. They took home a prize of \$100 and the runners up got \$80. Congratulations to our winners.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part and to everyone who helped out in any way in planning and running the event. Watch for more two on two events to make their way onto the schedule again next season.

Fundraisers

The club took a break from running a Chase the Ace fundraiser for a while after a few other successful projects like the 649 and the spaghetti dinner helped raise funds for the club last season. Given the success of these other fundraisers and the prevalence of other Chase the Ace events, the Schooner Executive have decided to not run another Chase the Ace this season and instead stick to running a 649 fundraiser in November and another spaghetti dinner, probably around the first of April. Last season, the spaghetti fundraiser netted the club around \$1600 and the 649 netted around \$600, both with a lot less effort than the Chase the Ace event. A second 649 may be run during the second half of the season if it is felt that funds are needed.

The 649 will begin sometime around the second week of November with selling to go for about two weeks before we start the draws. That will give us plenty of time to crown a winner before the Holiday break. All members and friends of the club are asked to sell as many entries as possible. The money raised goes directly into covering everyday club expenses and helps to keep costs to everyone down and to keep the doors open. Watch the Schooner website, Facebook and in-club bulletin board for more info.

Fun Nights

Fun Nights will make a return to the club once again this year and will get rolling on Saturday, November 16. Janet Gallivan and Kathy Gale are returning again as Fun Night Coordinators. They did a great job last season with all Fun Nights being very well attended and they made sure everyone who was there had a great time.

We take a break for December but get back up and running after the Holiday break with the second Fun Night on Saturday, January 18. Fun nights are open to everyone (19+) so round up your friends, family, co-workers, whoever and plan to join us. For only \$7 you get a great night of curling, some delicious pizza and you may even get a chance to win a great prize. There's no better deal in town for a night out. Fun Nights are important to the club as they introduce new people to the great sport of curling and we have gotten a large number of our members over the last few years from people trying curling at our Fun Nights. Keep an eye on the Schooner website and our Facebook page for more information on Fun Nights and a full schedule.

Club Executive and Elections

At the Spring General Meeting, held at the end of last season, the new Schooner executive and committee heads were chosen for this coming season. We wish to thank everyone who has committed their time to the club and taken on an executive or committee position. Without the tireless work of volunteers our club could not survive. So, without further adieu, here are your 2019-20 Schooner executive and committee heads.

President - Gordie Cormier
Vice President - Richard Lorway
Treasurer - Lynn Kelly
Secretary - Frances Ford
Draw Master - Julia Cormier

Bar Steward - Run by Committee
Ice Director - Brian Laughlin
Bonspiels - Run by Committee
Juniors Coordinator - Ceilidh Forrest
Housekeeping - Georgette Sparkes and Bernadette Cormier
Membership - Julia Cormier
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

Tuesday Tarbish

For the last number of years, the Schooner Club has hosted a Tarabish Game at the club on Tuesday evenings starting at 7pm. The game is open to everyone and draws both club members and people from outside of the Schooner membership. The game offers a big benefit to the club as it brings in more people on Tuesdays and it introduces the club to people outside of the membership. If you want to take part you don't need to pre-register, you just show up. You don't even need a partner as partners rotate throughout the evening with individual wins and points being tallied to determine an overall winner. It's a lot of fun and it's a great night out. Plan to join us some Tuesday evening and give it a try. Even if Tarabish isn't your game, drop by any Tuesday and relax with a drink and have a game of shuffle curling on our custom table. During the curling season you can also take in some of the action in the Mixed League. The Tuesday Tarabish games and Social run all year long. Hope to see you there.

Schooner Golf and BBQ



The 2019 edition of Schooner Golf, held on Saturday, June 22, didn't get the cooperation we were hoping for from mother nature and we ended up cancelling the golf portion of the event. Heavy rain leading up to the event and cool, windy and drizzly weather that day created conditions that would have made it difficult to enjoy a day on the course. Everyone who made up the twelve teams taking part got a rain cheque to use at a later date at Alderdale Greens. The damp weather certainly didn't dampen the appetites of the golfers and a number of other guests who had signed up for the dinner portion of the event and we still made our way to the club to enjoy a delicious meal, play some fun games and win some prizes. Everyone was treated to a great dinner that started with an appetizer of grilled pepperoni and was followed by an main course of T-bone steak with all the trimmings. Dinner was capped off by a delicious cake for desert. Co-coordinator, Gary Landry, oversaw a couple of games that everyone took part in and there were lots of prizes given away during the day. Overall, a pretty good day considering the weather conditions.

A big thank you goes out to Lynn Kelly and Gary Landry for once again organizing and running the event, to Brian Laughlin for manning the grill, to everyone who helped with prep on Friday evening and to all those who helped with preparing and serving dinner and then cleaning up afterwards. A big thank you also goes out to everyone who signed up to participate,

Membership Fees

especially those from outside of the Schooner membership. We hope to see you all back again next year for Schooner Golf and we hope mother nature will be more cooperative with the weather.

The Schooner Curling Club membership rates for a full adult membership will rise for the 2019-20 season, the first time in a number of years, from \$220 plus HST (\$253) to \$235 plus HST (\$270.35). This is still one of the lowest, if not the lowest, membership rates in any curling club in the country. Student and full-junior rates remain the same at \$120 plus tax and a Junior or Little Rocker can still curl all season for only \$60 plus tax. Visit the Schooner website's membership area for full info and to access a printable or an online application. Online applications are accepted anytime. All members are reminded that your membership fee must be **PAID IN FULL** on or before November 1, 2019. Anyone who has not paid in full will not be permitted to curl until all membership fees are paid. The club works hard to keep membership rates as low as possible and we are a big bargain for a winter full of fun so please pay before the deadline. Along with the availability of online applications, we will also be accepting payment through interact debit. You can send your payment to schoonertreasurer@gmail.com. We also accept payment at the club in the form of cash, cheque or debit.

Schooner In-Ice Logo



The passing of Keith Baldwin before the start of the 2018-19 season left us without an artist to paint a Schooner logo in the ice and when some technical difficulties with the replacement print that was decided upon forced its removal prior to the start of the season, the Schooner Club's curling ice was without a logo for the first time in many years. We hope to remedy that this season and be able to use the new print now that the issues that prevented its use last season have been sorted out. While it may not have all the character that Keith's hand painted logos brought, it still looks really good in the ice as we can see from the adjoining picture and will be reusable for a number of seasons.

With ice making underway and now being around the time he would have painted one of the many logos that adorned the Schooner ice for a number of years, the Schooner Club would like to remember Keith Baldwin, a well know artist and tattooist from the Pier area, who passed away on July 23, 2018, after a short illness at the age of 61 years. He painted two murals on buildings in Whitney Pier that commemorate the rich history of the area and will allow Keith's memory to live on for many years.

Rest in Peace Keith Baldwin.



2019 Scotties 50/50

The Scotties 50/50 draw was a great success and a huge windfall for both local curling clubs that shared its profits. Each club, The Sydney CC and our Schooner Club, received around \$25000 after all expenses were paid. As was reported last season, the two clubs were working together to try and leverage that large amount of money into even more money with the application for grants from various sources. The rationale was that if we had such a large amount of money to contribute to a project, government and other bodies would be willing to contribute a large amount as well. A committee was formed with representatives from the two clubs as well as from the CB Curlers Assoc. Meetings were held with some progress being made and a consultant that specializes in the area of finding and getting grants for non-profits was brought on board. That pretty much brings us up to where the newsletter left off last season.

After a few meetings of the aforementioned committee it was evident that the two clubs had different agendas and timelines and it was decided that each would be better off to take their money and go it alone. The Sydney Club was in need of roof repairs in a very short time frame and things were much more urgent for them.

With the demise of the joint grant effort, the Schooner Executive has decided to keep the 50/50 money in a special capital fund that will be used for facility and equipment upgrades and maintenance rather than for day to day operations. The club functions well on the regular income we get from fundraisers, bar sales, membership dues and so on. The Scotties money can be used for emergency repairs or replacements as well as a number of other projects that have been identified. A good example of such an expense was the sudden need last season for a new blade for our Ice King. The old blade had worn and was warping, causing problems with our ice after being shaved. A new ice king blade cost us over \$1300 plus tax. Treasurer Lynn Kelly and club secretary Frances Ford have done a walk-through of the club to identify a number of items requiring attention, some are big projects and some small. A couple of the bigger projects the club executive are looking at include repairs and resurfacing of the club roof and repairs to damaged and missing siding on the club's exterior. Projects like these will require estimates from professionals and possibly the inclusion of New Dawn, the building's owner.

Another project related to the building but not at the scale of the first two mentioned would be the canopy over the main entrance that needs some attention. Other projects include making the ice shed more air tight, the removal of some old fixtures and other garbage outside, a cap on the bathroom vent, lighting of the exit signs and attention to emergency lights and the addition of disclaimer signs in the club. Many of these smaller projects will be undertaken in the short term. Another addition to the club, but not necessarily fuelled by the Scotties money, will be the addition of two new heaters in the ice shed. We have the heaters and are hoping to get them installed before the start of curling this season. They were necessitated when we changed the lighting in the ice shed to LED and we found the temperature dropped out there a noticeable amount.



Schooner Facebook Members Group

The Schooner Club held its annual Washer Toss Tournament on Saturday, July 20. It was a beautiful, sunny day and there was a great turnout. This time around, instead of opening entry to everyone, entries were limited to Schooner members and guests. A number of teams began the double knockout round but, in the end, it was the duo of Kelley and Brian Laughlin that came out on top. All participants and guests were treated to an onsite BBQ during the day and, overall, the event was another great success. Thank you to everyone who took part and to everyone who helped out in any way. Congratulations to Kelley and Brian and all the other winners.

The Schooner Club has been using Facebook for a few years now and our following has grown, accumulating over 425 likes. The next milestone will be 500 likes. We use Facebook to promote the club and our events and the more people who like us and share our information, the more people that will become aware of us and what's going on at the club on a regular basis. We ask all members who use Facebook to please like us and share our content with your friends to help spread the word.

To further our use of Facebook this season, we have created a Schooner Members Group that is only open to Schooner members and close friends and will serve as place that members can interact on topics that are more directly related to the club itself and its membership. It is a closed group and you must apply to become a member or have a member invite you in. All members can post to the group and only members can view the posts. We expect one of the main things it can be used for is getting a spare to take your place for a game. Because it's a closed group and only certain people can see the content, members may be more comfortable in supplying contact info here. Other uses can be the call for volunteers for a certain project or maybe a bartender on a given night. We'll have to see how it all plays out.

If you are a Schooner member and haven't joined the group already, visit our Facebook page and click on groups to apply to join.

Opening Spiel and Dance

The inaugural curling event of the season, the Schooner Opening Spiel, is scheduled to run on Wednesday, October 30 and Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2. The break in between is for Halloween. This spiel is open to everyone and no curling experience is necessary. For a \$20 entry fee you get three, six-end games, one on either Wednesday, October 30, or on Friday, November 1 and two on Saturday, November 2. Lunch will be served on Saturday and there will be lots of prizes to be won. We supply everything you need except for a clean pair of sneakers for the ice. Instruction will also be available for those who need it.

To start the season off right there will be a dance at the club on Saturday night from 9-1. Everyone is welcome, even if you don't curl in the spiel, and there is no cover. Plan to join us to help start the season off with a great party and see how much fun you can have at the Schooner Club.

New Bar Prices

Brace yourselves folks, for the first time in a number of years, the Schooner Club is raising prices at the bar. Price increases will only affect alcoholic beverages while snacks and non-alcoholic drinks are not going up. Beer, wine and a 1oz shot of spirits will be going up to \$4.25 from the original \$3.75. A can of Guinness will now cost you \$5.00 and Breton Brewing Craft Beer will be \$6.00. Coolers will be \$4.25 for a can and \$5.00 for a bottle. All prices include HST.

Price increases are due mostly to rising cost of buying the inventory to resell. Bar sales are an important part to the fiscal health of the club and we need to maintain a good margin. Also, keep in mind that this is the first increase in a long while and that these prices are still some of the cheapest around. In most establishments around town a beer or shot will cost you over \$5 and craft beer upwards of \$7-8, and that's before tax. The club appreciates your understanding and hopes you will all support the bar as in the past.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Schooner Curling Club and we are lucky to have a large number of our members willing and able to give time to make the club run as smoothly as possible. Thank you to everyone who helps out in any way at the club and, a reminder to everyone, now that we are beginning another new season, any time you can give to the club is very much appreciated. Without the help of volunteers, the club could not exist as it does.

Ice Making Ahead of Schedule

The ice crew is making good progress on our ice this season and are reportedly ahead of schedule as of now. Warm weather has slowed things a bit as of late but the plan is to be painting by the Thanksgiving weekend and after that, a few more floods and a good shave will finish it off. Lots of help is needed for painting so anyone with some free time is asked to help out. More details will be available on the Schooner website and Facebook. Also keep an eye on the website and Facebook for possible free ice and clinics becoming available after the ice is complete and before the Opening Spiel starts on October 30th.

***Welcome to another season.
Good Curling Everyone!!***