

2001 INTERNATIONAL TANKARD

GIBSONS CURLING CLUB
March 23 - 25, 2001

Each year the Pacific Coast Curling Association and the Washington State Curling Association alternate hosting a friendly competition involving six teams from each association. The participating teams are comprised of the executives, directors and other volunteers from each association. This event has become a tradition with the two associations and consists of a series of 5 games, and social events focused on the Spirit of Curling, not on the winning of the games (although even these games are spirited in several ways and scores are indeed recorded).

The purpose of the International Tankard is to help maintain goodwill and feeling of community between the two Associations. In addition, it has become a forum to exchange ideas to the general betterment of curling and serves as a reminder that curling is indeed an international sport. It is an event, which enables directors and other volunteers to co-mingle and share good "spirit" and information.

All participants are presented with a crest to commemorate their participation in the International Tankard. The Pacific Coast Curling Association hosts the Tankard for two consecutive years, alternating in each of the two zones within the association. Each third year the Washington State Curling Association hosts the event.

The 2001 International Tankard was held at the Gibsons Curling Club on the Sunshine Coast on March 23 - 25, 2001. Five teams from the Washington State Curling Association (Executive team, one from the Lakewood Curling Club and three from the Granite Curling Club), one team from California and six teams from the Pacific Coast Curling Association (Executive team, two teams from the Vancouver Island zone, one team from the Fraser Valley zone and two teams from the Lower Mainland zone) competed. Each team played three games and the PCCA teams were successful in retaining the International Tankard for another year.

The Gibsons Curling Club and the Host Committee chaired by Bob Johnston did an outstanding job in hosting the event. A Welcoming Reception, where barbequed oyster were served, was held on Friday

night for curlers and guests.

The Official Opening was held on Saturday morning between the first and second draw with a representative from the RCMP, a Royal Canadian Legion Colour Party and Piper present. Gibsons Mayor Barry Janyk and Gibsons Curling Club President Juanita Wannamaker welcomed the curlers to Gibsons and the Sunshine Coast. WSCA President Greg Tonole and PCCA President Al Wood spoke on behalf of their respective associations. Ed Steeves, a member of the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame and a former Brier participant from New Brunswick, threw out the first rock.

A banquet was held on Saturday evening at the Gibsons Curling Club, decorated especially for the event, where the curlers and guests were served an incredible buffet dinner prepared by Club volunteers. The evening ended with the well - received entertainment by the Sunshine Coast Fiddle Orchestra and a skit by Ed & Dayna White.

At the end of the weekend, which emphasized international fellowship, the Tankard was presented to PCCA President Al Wood. The weekend ended with the joining of hands and the singing of "Old Lang Syne".

Next year's International Tankard will be hosted by the Washington State Curling Association in Seattle, March 29 - 30, 2002.

2001 International Tankard - Gibsons, B.C.

