

On March 20th to 22nd, 48 curlers assembled at a warehouse in Beaverton, Oregon for the 53rd annual International Tankard. A warehouse is an unlikely place for curlers to assemble but thanks to the ingenuity of the members of the *Evergreen Curling Club of Oregon*, they have turned it into a 3 sheet curling rink.

Six teams from the United States and six from Canada met in a series of 18 games of friendly competition, pitting American teams against Canadian teams. All competitors are worthy volunteers, nominated by their home clubs. The American competitors came from the Seattle Granite CC, Lilac CC (Spokane), Missoula CC, Orange County CC, San Francisco Bay CC, Evergreen CC and WSCA (Washington State Curling Association). The Canadian competitors came from Chilliwack CC, Comox Valley CC, Gibsons CC, Golden Ears Winter Club (Maple Ridge), Juan de Fuca CC, Langley CC, Marpole CC (Vancouver), Mission Granite CC, North Shore Winter Club (North Vancouver), Port Moody CC, Richmond CC, Royal City CC (New Westminster) and CurlBC Region 11. This year marked the first time the International Tankard event has been held outside either Washington State or the Province of British Columbia.

Opening Ceremonies were held between the first and second draws and featured the curlers being led onto the ice by

pipers and colour guard, known as the *Northwest Scots Honour Guard*. National Anthems were sung speeches were presented, including the Mayor of Beaverton, a toast to the piper and first rock thrown by *Alli Crockett* (9 yrs old) and skip's broom held by *Rhiannon Kuns* (11 yrs old), junior curlers. The first rock was swept to the 4 foot by the girls' fathers, *T.J Crockett* and *Brian Kuns*.

During the event, friends and family back home could watch the games live on the internet as the Evergreen CC has a very sophisticated live streaming system. Bruce Irvin, President of the Evergreen Curling Club, is quoted to say "geographically we are far from other curlers and curling fans, thus streaming helps to bridge the distance a bit." The system was made possible by a generous grant from US Curler "*Kaytaro Sugahara*."

Saturday night, to the delight of all, the Evergreen CC hosted a gourmet banquet meal, catered by *Divine Catering* of Tigard, Oregon. .

Competitions continued on Sunday with the standings never being more than a game apart. Even the broom stacks became creatively competitive. One of the more creative stacks was a Tic Tac Toe game with red stones getting 3 in a row over the yellow stones. On the final draw, the American side managed to bring the standings to a tie, each side having

nine points. A very appropriate conclusion to a friendly competition.

The curlers gathered in the Lounge for the closing ceremonies where the Tankard trophy presented to both sides and the International Tankard banner was presented to the 2016 hosts, the Chilliwack CC. All joined hands in the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Thank you, Bruce Irvin and all your volunteers of the Evergreen Curling Club for putting on a great show.

**48** curlers will assemble again next year in "The Wack" (Chilliwack, B.C.).

Respectfully submitted by Ross & Katherine Johnson BC  
International Tankard Committee Members