

Chilliwack Curling Club Hosts the 54th Annual International Tankard



The 54th International Tankard was held at the Chilliwack Curling Club on the weekend of March 18th to 20th, 2016. It pitted 6 American teams against 6 Canadian teams. Participants (all volunteers in their own curling clubs) came from such places as Seattle, Spokane, Missoula, Beaverton, San Francisco, Phoenix, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, Langley, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Moody, Marpole, Tsawwassen, Squamish, Gibsons, and Comox. Teams enjoyed a social evening on Friday, where most met their new team mates. Bruce Renwick, Chilliwack Club Manager, MC'd the Opening Ceremonies on Saturday morning where the curlers were lead onto the ice by Bagpiper Thomas Merry and Flag Bearers, Madeline Britz and Evelyn Royea. Dignitary Speeches were given by Chilliwack Mayor, Sharon Gaetz, Chilliwack President, Larry Legault, CurlBC Region 11, Ross Johnson and Washington State Curling Association, Doug Potter. Cerimonial First Rock were thrown and skipped by Junior Curlers Criteena Schroeder and Sophie Besterbroer. National Athems were led by Mayor Gaetz and Darryl Horsman from the Coyote Curling Club in Phoenix. A group picture was taken as shown above. Competition began on right after the Opening Ceremonies, each team played two games on Saturday and one on Sunday for a total of 18 games. Canadian teams only met American teams. The standings remained close throughout the competition and were tied at the end of the second draw on Saturday. The end result came down to the very last rock on the last game on Sunday. The game ended in a draw which was enough for the Canadians to win the Tankard. The final standings were: Canada 9 wins, 8 losses and one tie, Americans 8 wins, 9 losses and one tie. A very close result indeed. On Saturday Night all participants enjoyed the banquet and the entertainment which followed. I don't know the name of the entertainment group but I will call them the Dancing Ladies of the Chilliwack Curling Club. All in good fun. After the last game on Sunday, the Closing Ceremonies were held where Katherine Johnson presented the Tankard Trophy to Canadian Representative, Janet Smillie of the Howe Sound Curling Club. Chilliwack Host Committe, Barb and Neil Long presented the Tankard Banner to next year's hosts, the Marpole Curling Club. All participants joined hands and sang Auld Lang Syne which brought the 2016 International Tankard to an end.

We (Ross and Katherine) find that the International Tankard is one of the most gratifying events to organize. The participants are all volunteers and they do thank us as they know the effort that a volunteer puts into a curling event. I would like to share an email sent to us from Dennis and Rita Araki:

Dear Ross and Katherine,

Thank you for all the hard work you did to make the 2016 International Tankard such a successful event.

We had so much fun and met such wonderful people – all out to have a good time curling, forge new friendships, and further the camaraderie of our great sport. And all this along with friendly competition! Everything ran so smoothly and the banquet on Saturday evening was delicious.

We hope we'll be lucky enough to participate again in the future.

Sincerely,

Dennis & Rita Araki

Royal City Curling Club

Volunteers are the glue that hold Curling together, so please, at the next curling event you participate in, go up to a volunteer and thank them. A "Thank You" is always appreciated. So with that, we would like to give a **Big Thank You** to all the Chilliwack Volunteers, especially Barb and Neil Long.

This year we would like to feature an International Tankard participant/volunteer:



Jana Bristol of the Comox Valley Curling Club