

Friendly Marpole Curling Club Hosts the 55th International Tankard



The slogan of the Marpole Curling Club is: "The Friendly Home of Curling in South Vancouver". They certainly lived up to their slogan for the 55th International Tankard of March 17th to 19th, 2017. Curlers of the six American teams came from Seattle, Spokane, Beaverton, Boise, Missoula, Hollywood and Ogden while curlers of the six Canadian teams came from Marpole, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, Langley, Golden Ears, Port Moody, Royal City, Richmond, Squamish, Gibsons, and Comox. All curlers assembled at the Marpole Lounge for the Friday Night Social, to meet their teammates, their opposition and old friends. The next morning was the Opening Ceremonies, with the curlers piped onto the ice by Edward MacIlwane and led by Marpole Junior curlers Andrew and Nicola. Opening speeches by Vancouver Councillor Heather Deal, Seattle Granite Club Vice President Harry Saylor, CurlBC Region 11 Vice Chairperson Ross Johnson and welcoming remarks by Marpole Club President Reuben Bartlett. The National Anthems were sung by fellow curler, Bill Rafter, followed by a toast to the Piper then the Ceremonial First Rock thrown by Olympic Gold Medalist Darryl Neighbour.

Competition began following the Ceremonies and the Americans surprised their Canadian counterparts by taking four of the first six games. The second draw held in the afternoon when the Canadians were able to reverse their fortunes taking four of the six games and leaving the competition in a tie at 6 games each. At the evening banquet, curlers were served a delicious meal of chicken and ribs. The meal was followed by a Tweekie Toss and some impromptu entertainment from our Oregon friends.

The following morning was the third and final draw with both sides winning three games leaving the standings tied at 9 games each. A perfect result for a friendly competition. At the informal Closing Ceremonies, the International Tankard Trophy and Banner were presented to Harry Saylor and April Gale-Sexiero of the Seattle Granite Club. (Seattle is the site of next year's hosts of the Tankard). Curlers observed the final Tankard tradition by joining hands in the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Thank you to Marpole President Reuben Bartlett for hosting the International Tankard and showcasing the friendly atmosphere of his curling club. A very special thank you to Jineanne Payne-Eason and her enthusiastic group of volunteers who made this International Tankard special for all of us.

Respectfully submitted by Ross and Katherine Johnson, on behalf of the CurlBC Region 11 International Tankard Committee Members
internationaltankard.com

VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Brenda Sims, Volunteer Region 11 Representative @ 2017 International Tankard

Brenda Sims hails from the Howe Sound Curling Club, a 4 sheet facility, nestled in the community of Squamish enroute to Whistler. It is the only curling facility north of Vancouver in the Sea to Sky Country. Brenda has curled from the age of 11, celebrating 55 years this year and has been a member of Howe Sound since 1980 relocating from Victoria. Since her arrival volunteering in the club has been a priority mainly to foster improvements & growth. She wants to be a part of a team to assist in moving the club forward, by introducing new leagues, Stick Curling, Competition Coaching & Safety on Ice; however this does not come without its challenges. Currently serving as President, Brenda, has noted the community has become a bedroom community due to the industrial decline. In present day terms, her desire is to garner more membership participants as many of the seniors have retired to the interior or the island. Thus tapping into the youth of the Community to promote the game is an opportunity for growth. The commitment is to harness juveniles as well as promoting Rocks & Rings in Senior Centres. The desire to envelope innovative ideas to motivate people by developing with her team of volunteer's i.e the Kid Rock Program along with the Senior & other Juvenile Programs.

The Howe Sound Curling Club is part of the Golf & Country Club with a history of 35 years, challenged by needing to seek grants or fundraising for new rocks & changes to plant/equipment to improve the facility. Brenda would like to see increased marketing and targeting the game of curling in every age group. Congratulations Brenda for your selection of representing Region 11 and thank you for all your volunteer work.