

# The Crokinole Post

May 2016

"Your Crokinole Newsletter"

Issue Ten

## Justin Slater Gets Second Singles Title

Article and photo from Bill Gladding  
(June 6, 2015 Tavistock Gazette)

It's taken five years, but Justin Slater, the youngest player (at 17) to ever win the World Crokinole Championship has done it again.

"I haven't been fulfilling my potential," Justin said about his previous year's play. He earned second place in 2012 behind 2-time winner John Conrad and in 2014 losing out to 4-time champion Brian Cook, who was absent from this year's competition.

Justin and his father, Fred, earned fourth place in the doubles category this year. "I was only getting about 10 per cent of my 20's shots," he said. But in the singles tournament in the afternoon, "I remembered how to play," he commented.

It was a "stressful" tournament, he admitted, but Justin lost only one game to fourth place winner, Robert Bonnet of Wingham. "I won the NCA (National Crokinole Association) tour, and now this," Justin said proudly.

At age 22, Justin recently completed a combined honours degree in Mathematics and Statistics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is currently teaching with a private tutoring company in Toronto, but in September will decide whether or not to take a government job or attend Queen's University to earn his Masters' degree.

Ray Beierling of Dorchester, 2011 champion, placed second this year followed by Roy Campbell in third place and Robert Bonnett in fourth. In a field of 82 adult singles players, Ray also earned the trophy for the most 20's in the preliminary round with 116. He won the



2015 World Crokinole Champion: Justin Slater

trophy last year with 131. John Conrad of Poole finished in first place in adult singles preliminary play this year, but failed to make the final four. He did, however, win the doubles title along with Tony Snyder of Waterloo. Brothers Ray and Jason Beierling placed second in doubles while Rex and Tom Johnston were third and the father/son team of Fred and Justin Slater were fourth.

Fourteen players registered this year in each of the junior and intermediate categories. The games were played upstairs in the Recreation Centre Hall. Winning the Juniors were Kyle Grasby of Holland Landing in first place; Jake Grant of St. Marys in second; Odai Alshared of Mitchell in third; and Jack Church of Tavistock in fourth. Abijah Jong of Hamilton went home with the Intermediate trophy while second place went to Tyson Kuepfer of Brunner; third place to Kieran Johnston of

Stamford, Connecticut; and fourth place to Matthew Schultz of Tavistock.

This year's cue singles winner was Carol Litt of Kitchener. Second place went to Jonathon Brubacher; third place to Dave Brubacher and fourth place to Lorne Steckley. In Recreational Singles, Lloyd Wiseman placed first with second place to Cor VandenHoven. Third place was Bill Geris; and fourth place to Steve Wiseman.

The World Crokinole Championship set a new record this year with 100 boards in play at one time. The committee implemented scheduling changes this year that saw the doubles categories all played in the morning and all singles play in the afternoon. It worked out well as the tournament was completed in record time, just after 8:00 p.m. thanks to the many volunteer referees, scorekeepers, emcee Ken Wettlaufer and registration coordinator Sherrill Calder.

East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Don McKay welcomed everyone to the tournament in the morning and assured the participants that although Ontario was hosting international soccer and the PanAm Games, Tavistock was not to be outdone by hosting their 17th Annual World Crokinole Championship. "Crokinole encompasses all age groups, all demographics ... a game that is equal for all," he said. He noted that twenty-five percent of registrants this year were new to the tournament and players participating were from age 6 to 87. There were many players from several US states as well as all regions of Ontario, Manitoba and eight from Prince Edward Island.

Doubles play saw 60 boards in play in the morning with 38 doubles, 22 cue doubles, and 58 recreational doubles teams. Consolation Doubles saw Rob and Bob Mader in first place; Dave and Matt Brown in second; Lawson Lea and Wilfred Smith in third place; and Ray Kappes and Kevin Bechtel in fourth place. Recreational Doubles winners were Reuben Jong and his son, Abijah. Barry Kiggins and Ian Morton placed second; Jason Hogan and Lawrence Wilks were third, and Lloyd and Steven Wiseman were fourth. Dave and Dennis Brubacher were this year's cue doubles champions. Second place were Carl and Carol Litt, third place to Wayne Schultz of Tavistock and Floyd Kuepfer; and fourth place to Curtis Ryan and Ken MacPherson. Consolation Cue winners were Ernie Martin and Maurice Sauder; second place to Doug and Nyle Eby; third place to Joe and Jim Ward; and fourth place to Paul Weber and Oscar Weber. Consolation Recreational Doubles winners announced were Randy and Bill Harris. Second place went to Kyle Vaillancourt and Mike Yourk; third place to Dwayne and

Christina Campbell; and fourth place to Harold Ruffenbach and Marty Vamos.

# Mr. Crokinole Passes

**Article and Photo from Bill Gladding  
(May 11, 2016, Tavistock Gazette)**

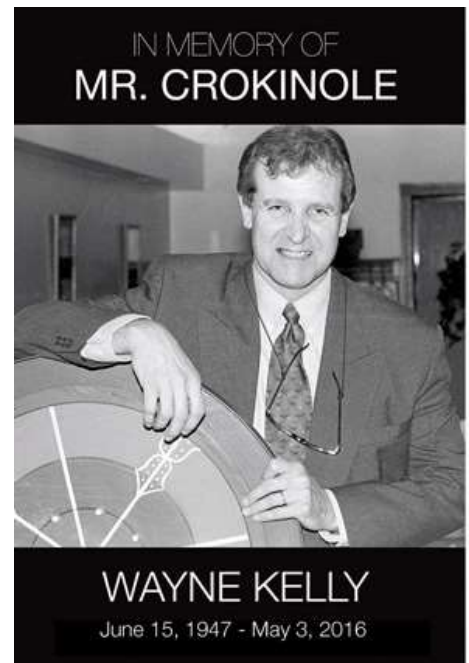
The Stratford man who brought the World Crokinole Championship to Tavistock has passed away at the age of 68.

Wayne Kelly, better known as 'Mr. Crokinole' died suddenly, but peacefully, at his home in Stratford on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

Back in April of 1999, Wayne approached local service clubs to pitch the idea of a crokinole tournament to be held here. In his 1988 publication 'The Crokinole Book', he had suggested that the oldest known crokinole board documented in Canada was built by Eckhardt Wettlaufer of Sebastopol in 1875. It was a fifth birthday present for his son, Adam. As Sebastopol is a suburb of Tavistock, it was thought Tavistock was the most likely place to hold such a prestigious event. As well, Tavistock residents had some experience with crokinole as a tournament was held each year at the Tavistock Public School.

As a result, the first World Crokinole Championship was held on June 5, 1999 and has been an annual event the first Saturday of June. Now in its 18th year, the tournament has drawn competitors from all across Canada, the U.S. and even some from Europe.

In his book, Wayne maintained that "crokinole is among those very few, since it is a game that can be learned in five minutes (yet may take a lifetime to master), a game that is not shackled by age, gender, skill or cultural barriers, and a game that a six-year-old and his 96-year-old great-grandmother can play together, and both have fun!"



"It has been Wayne's privilege to have assisted with the establishment of crokinole tournaments and events in five Canadian provinces, seven US states, as well as events across Europe, in Asia and Australia. He has been a designer and consultant to twenty-two game board companies in eight countries. And in 1999, he helped establish the World Crokinole Championship that is held annually in Tavistock, Ontario. He is also the designer of the international-standard, competition crokinole board used in that tournament, and by the more serious crokinole players around the world."

**You're Invited to Attend  
The World Crokinole Championship  
Committee Annual Meeting:  
Monday Oct 17th, 7pm**

Tavistock and District Recreation Centre  
The Committee is in need of  
more volunteers ideas and feedback

# National Crokinole Tour: Year in Review

## **Turtle Island: Lewiston, New York**

### **Article from Crokinole Centre**

For this fourth annual event, the Tuscarora Crokinole Club brought in a tournament-record 40 players for the 2015 Turtle Island Crokinole Tournament.

In the first round of competitive action, Ray Beierling showed himself to be in fine form after the Summer break, scoring 71 points and 103 20s for the top spot. Brian Cook and Jon Conrad also looked very strong, both scoring 64 points. The remaining 5 spots in the A group cutoff were jammed as 6 players fought tooth-and-nail for every point. Roger Vaillancourt and Clare Kuepfer each scored 52 points, while Jason Beierling cut it a little closer with 51, just leaving Tony Snyder on the outside with 49.

Meanwhile in the Recreational group, Neil Cook, Carol Cook and Doreen Sulky were the high scorers from their group, and Wayne Wolfgang, Janet Diebel and Ray Henry grabbed the top 3 spots on their side.

The Recreational C group playoffs saw Erwin Printup and Stephanie Banks take the top 2 spots with nearly identical scores. After E. Printup defeated Zionne Jong and S. Banks defeated Tiffany Henry, the two met in the finals. But it was Stephanie Banks grabbing the glory as she beat Erwin Printup for the C group final.

In the Recreational B group, NCA newcomers, Derek McKie and Dave Carnahan faired extremely well, both making the playoffs and competing against each other in the semifinals. While McKie would advance to the final, John Ramsey would score an upset victory over Sarah Mason. Ramsey would continue his playoff run, beating McKie in the final to claim the B group title.

Neil Cook continued his strong play in the Recreational A group, scoring a high 42 points. However, Abijah Jong was able to score the semifinal win over Cook. Carol Cook and Ray Henry met in the other

semifinal, with Henry scoring the win to advance to the final. In the final, Abijah Jong came out on top to win the Recreational title.

In the Competitive group, the fierce battle continued in the second round, with players in the A and B groups fighting for spots in the semifinals. In the B group, Tony Snyder played strong to grab the top seed, but was defeated in the semifinals by former Cameron Heights colleague, Barry Kiggins. Wayne Scott won the other semifinal over Beverly Vaillancourt. In the finals, Barry Kiggins continued his playoff momentum to beat Wayne Scott for the B title.

In the A group, Jon Conrad and Brian Cook were the class of the second round, scoring 36 and 35 points respectively for the top 2 spots. The Beierling brothers, matched each others scores with 29 points to finish 3rd and 4th.

Brian Cook beat Ray Beierling in the first semifinal, in what was another instalment of one of crokinole's greatest gladiator battles. Jason Beierling's play, true to form, improved significantly throughout the day, as he defeated Jon Conrad to make the final. In the final, Brian Cook successfully defended his New York title.

## **Belleville Crokinole Challenge: Belleville**

### **Article from Crokinole Centre**

A brand new location for the tournament brought the crokinole action to the Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre. The crowd of 29 split into 3 groups for the preliminary round in the morning action. Justin Slater scored at the highest rate to grab the first spot, while he was joined by Ray Beierling and Matt Brown at the top of the heap. Also completing the top 10 were the Waterloo bunch (Nathan Walsh, Roy Campbell and Howard Martin), a Golden Horseshoe duo (of Fred Slater and Reuben Jong), and a Quinte/Kingston mix of Peter Tarle and Wayne Scott.

In the afternoon, Ron Hebden earned the top spot in group C, while Peter Klaassen finished

2nd (with a group high of 39 20s). They were joined by Betty Waite, and a lone non-Quinte Crokinole Club member in Gloria Walsh. A long semifinal battle, with several extra rounds of crokinole needed, would see Hebden and Klaassen advance. Finally, Klaassen would be victorious claiming the C title.

Meanwhile, Eric Miltenburg cruised to the top spot in Group B with 43 points and 77 20s. Clare Kuepfer, Jason Hogan and Chris Gorsline would complete the semifinalists. Jason Hogan would claim victory over Kuepfer in the first semifinal, while Miltenburg would edge out Gorsline. As Hogan had to leave early, a make-shift final would be played by Kuepfer and Miltenburg. With the pressure somewhat relieved, the quality of play was spectacular, and Kuepfer gained a small edge to take the title.

In Group A, Slater, Beierling and Brown would once again rise to the top of the pile. Nathan Walsh grabbed the 4th spot and played Justin Slater in the first semifinal. After a tense 5-3 win in the first game, Slater would claim a spot in the final to play for a chance to repeat as tournament champion. In a close 3-game matchup, Ray Beierling would just beat out the local favourite in Matt Brown for the other spot in the final.

The pressure of fighting for the Belleville title appeared to affect both players in the final, with a few uncharacteristic mistakes made from both players. In another match that was taken to 3 games, Justin Slater would come out on top and become the 2015 Belleville Crokinole Challenge Champion.



*Belleville Crokinole Challenge Championship  
Final Justin Slater vs. Ray Beierling*



## Ontario Doubles Championship: Brucefield Article from Crokinole Centre

A field of 52 strong made up 26 teams for the 6th annual Ontario Doubles Crokinole Championship, packing the hall of the Brucefield United Church on Halloween. While everyone came for the crokinole, the costumes of many crokinole players brought out a joyful exuberance, well aligned with the good spirit that comes from the game.

12 doubles teams competed for the provincial title in the competitive division. Among the field was two teams with multiple world titles and several more with a proven track record in high quality competition.

A full round robin was played in the competitive pool, with each team looking to score enough points to make the top 4 and advance to the playoffs. Jon Conrad and Tony Snyder were the class of the field, scoring 62 points and a tournament high 121 20s, for the number one seed. The two-time defending champion Beierling brothers finished 2nd with 55 points.

Dwayne and Christina Campbell may have flown under-the-radar in the tournament, but they certainly won't be anymore, as they scored 53 points and 93 20s to take the 3rd seed. Equaling the Campbells in points were Tom and Rex Johnston, who took the 4th seed with 88 20s.

In the Recreational division, the morning round robin was followed by splitting the field into 2 groups for the afternoon. In Group B, Doug and Dave Mills had the top spot with 33 points and were joined in the finals by Doris Giddings and Phylis Lightfoot who scored 30 points through 5 games. Despite being the lower seed, Giddings and Lightfoot came through in the finals and claimed the Recreational B division title.

In the Group A Recreational division, John Lichty and Bob Jones easily took the top seed with 27 points. Peter and Jo-Ann Carter joined them in the final with 23 points, but not before they barely fought off Bill and Kathy Geris (scoring 21 points) and Andrew Hutchinson and George Whittal (20 points).

In what was a great seesaw battle, Peter and Jo-Ann Carter came through in the clutch. Tied at 8-8 in a "first to 9" match, the Carters edged out Lichty and Jones in the final round for the 10-8 victory and the Recreational A title.



*Ontario Doubles Recreational Division Final  
between John Lichty / Bob Jones and Peter  
Carter / Jo-Ann Carter*



*Ontario Doubles Championship Semi-Final:  
Beierling vs. Campbell*

The competitive division playoffs kicked off with Conrad/Snyder playing Johnston/Johnston, and Beierling/Beierling playing Campbell/Campbell. While both matches were entertaining and filled with lots of the strategic attention-to-detail that comes with the rhythm of doubles play, Conrad/Snyder and Beierling/Beierling showed why they own multiple World Crokinole Championship titles, and advanced to the final.

The final match began with two high quality rounds that set the stage for the epic match, but both rounds went to the team with hammer, making it 2-2, with the victor being the first to 9 points.

The reigning World Champions, Conrad and Snyder, were flawless in the next two rounds and took a 6-2 lead. But the Beierlings brought the match back to 6-6 after two high scoring rounds. The definitive moment of the match may have come mid-way through the 7th round, when Ray Beierling lined up a shot looking to make a double takeout of two opposing discs sitting in the 15 circle. While a double takeout would have been impressive, it was the fact that he also managed to score a 20 that brought the house down. From there, Jason and Ray had all the momentum they needed, and won the match 10-6.

## Scenic City: Owen Sound Article from Crokinole Centre

The 2015 Scenic City Crokinole Tournament was the 5th edition of the Owen Sound stop on the NCA Tour. The event has always been the final showcase of crokinole action for the calendar year, before the Tour goes into a slight hibernation for the winter months.

Some very strong players proved to be very effective in the morning action. Ray Beierling, the tournament's defending champion, scored 74 points through 11 games, well ahead of the rest of the field. Still finishing quite strongly were Jason Beierling at 63 and Brian Cook at 61 points.

With the afternoon play being split into 3 different groups, the goal for several top players was attempting to finish in the top 8. Eric Miltenburg grabbed the final spot, scoring 48 points and 84 20s. That left several others just on the outside with Rueben Jong and Roger Vaillancourt at 46 points, and Cathy Kueper at 45.

The very unique aspect of the Owen Sound tournament is always its combination of competitive singles and recreational doubles. What it creates in organizational hassles it more than makes up for in overall enjoyment and quality of the event.

A large round robin was played in the recreational doubles event, as the well attended tournament led to a total of 30 players and 15 teams.

The Ontario Recreational Champions, Jo-Ann and Peter Carter, played well throughout the day but could only manage 56 points. The

team the Carters defeated in the Ontario final, Bob Jones and John Lichty, managed better and were able to score 64 points to grab 4th place. Just ahead of them were Carl and Sharon Jolley who had 65 points for 3rd place, and Neil and Carol Cook with 68 points for 2nd. The Recreation Doubles Champions on the day were Clark Campbell and Paul Bryers who claimed the top prize with 70 points in 12 games.

In the afternoon singles play, a very strong leading position from Chris Gorsline in Pool C led to some extremely close scores battling for the final playoff spot. While Gorsline (43 points), Howard Martin (37 points), and Clare Kuepfer (34) comfortably advanced into the playoffs, the rest were very closely matched. Wayne Scott and Dave Brown had to feel slighted as they scored 25 points and only missed the playoffs by one point. It was even worse for Ken Hawkins, who scored 26 and lost out on a tiebreaker. Dale Henry was the beneficiary of all of this, also scoring 26 points but advancing as the 4th seed.

In the round robin playoffs, Clare Kuepfer turned up the heat and managed to pull through for first place with 18 points. Howard Martin scored 12 points for 2nd place.

The Pool B singles action shaped up quite differently. Roger Vaillancourt scored 39 points for first place, while Rueben Jong earned the 4th seed with 30 points, just ahead of Peter Tarle at 28. But in the playoffs, Jong and Roger Vaillancourt would finish third and fourth respectively, as Bev Vaillancourt finished 2nd with 12 points, and Andrew Hutchinson won Pool B with 17 points.

Hutchinson's all-round crokinole game seems to be reaching a level that no player has gone before. While he's already a World Champion in Cues play, his results on this stop of the NCA Tour are pointing towards him reaching the high levels of the Fingers game as well. While phrasing it as a "switch-hitter" may not be the best terminology, there may soon need to be a term for someone who can competitively dabble in both the finger and cues versions of crokinole.

In Pool A, the battle for tournament champion caused lots of nerves throughout most of the group. It was Roy Campbell and Brian Cook who seized the opportunity, scoring 39 and 35 points respectively. Jason

Beierling and Robert Bonnett rounded out the playoffs with 27 points, just edging Nathan Walsh and Jon Conrad who both were within 2 points of advancing.

In the round robin playoffs, Roy Campbell dominated, winning each game 6-2 for 18 points and the first seed. Jason Beierling recovered from his 6-2 defeat to Campbell, to do exactly the same to his counterparts and earned 14 points for the other spot in the tournament final.



*Scenic City Crokinole Tournament Playoffs*

So the Scenic City Crokinole Tournament, and title of the "King of Scenic City Crokinole", would come down to Roy Campbell and Jason Beierling. It was Campbell's first ever NCA tournament final, still very impressive being that he was only introduced to the competitive side of crokinole in 2011. Meanwhile, for Beierling, it was already his third final of the 2015-2016 NCA Tour.

The finals was a "first-to-11" point structure that amplified the importance of winning games with the last-shot advantage. The match started out even with players trading wins to be tied at 4-4. The match took its first turn when Beierling got an early lead in round 5 and was able to hold it for a 6-4 lead, stealing 2 points without the last shot. He then consolidated the lead in the next round, with the hammer, to go up 8-4.

But Roy Campbell was able to reset and find his game. After stopping the string of 6 consecutive points from Beierling, he stole 2 points and had levelled the match at 8-8. And with the match on the line, Campbell was unflinching. He sealed the final two round to take the match 12-8, and win his first NCA event with a victory in Owen Sound.

## **Golden Horseshoe: Hamilton**

**Article from Crokinole Centre**

Clear weather and a hankering for crokinole brought out 40 players to the Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church for the first NCA event of the new year.

Players were split into 4 groups for a morning round-robin that sprinkled the talent pool and introduced players experienced and new together. Ray Beierling was the top finisher through the morning with 61 points out of a possible 72.

With the money and prizes on the line in the afternoon, nervous energy played its part, but those who were able to maintain their calm found their way into the playoff rounds. In Pool D Ted Cossit and Doreen Sulkye excelled, scoring 56 and 55 points respectively. John Herbst finished 3rd in the group with 48 points, just missing out of the title match. Cossit was able to hold onto his top seed and win the Pool D title by edging out Sulkye in the finals.

In Pool C, John McFeeters and Janet Diebel had very strong afternoons, scoring 46 and 44 to finish 3rd and 4th respectively. Alan Cerclier and Mouser Henry were neck and neck through the second round, both scoring 52 points over 9 games, and making for a very interesting finale. It was Cerclier who would finally gain the upper-hand, winning the Pool C title over Henry in the championship match.

Fred Slater was able to comfortably cruise into the top spot of Pool B action with 60 points, Howard Martin scored 44 points to earn 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. In the final, Slater continued to roll and earned the victory over Martin for the Pool B title.

Pool A action had all 10 players vying for a top 4 spot to advance to the semifinals. While there were several close games, by the end of the round a clear set of 4 had left a decent margin of error. Jon Conrad took the top seed (45 points) and would play the fourth seed, Clare Kuepfer (43 points). Leaving Ray Beierling and Andrew Hutchinson (both with 44 points) in the other semifinal.

The Conrad/Kuepfer semifinal was thoroughly entertaining. Clare Kuepfer would win the first game 6-4 with Conrad responding to win game two 6-0. The deciding third game was incredibly tight. The players traded takeout-20s before drawing round 1 and round 2. Conrad would take round 3 for a 4-2 lead, and Kuepfer's double-takeout attempt would just come up short in round 4 to tie another round, leaving Conrad with the 5-3 victory in game 3 to win the match.

In the other semifinal, Andrew Hutchinson was trying to take another step in his meteoric rise of the fingers-side of crokinole, and was in tough against the defending Golden Horseshoe Tournament Champion. Hutchinson started out strong and took the first game 6-4 against the hammer of Ray Beierling. The second game was very strategic and came to a conclusion of much deliberation. With Hutchinson leading 4-2 and Beierling needing 2 points, he needed to make a tough combination double takeout to extend the match. He was unsuccessful and Hutchinson advanced to his first ever NCA tournament final.

There were many momentum swings in the championship match between Hutchinson and Conrad, which made for great viewing pleasure. At the end of the see-saw first game, Hutchinson had secured the victory 6-4 against the hammer. Once again, Conrad needed to respond, and did so quickly by jumping ahead 4-0 in the second game. He'd hold off some strong play from Hutchinson to win the game 5-3 and force a deciding third game. In the third game Conrad was unshakeable and nearly perfect as he took the game 6-2 and claimed the Golden Horseshoe title.

**British Columbia Crokinole Championships: Oliver, BC**  
**Article from Quin Erzinger**

It was a gorgeous day that greeted the players of the 8th annual BC Crokinole Championship. After coffee and some muffins, the doubles competitors drew their starting tables and settled in for play. This year there were six teams on the competitive side and twelve on the recreational. A five game round robin was played by both divisions, with the top six teams in

recreational advancing to the next round. Another five games were played and the top two teams on each side faced off in the finals. After some thrilling action on both sides, the Good family from Kelowna really took things home with daughters Elle and Petal beating out Wilf and Pearl Pauls from Enderby to win the recreational title and last year's champions Linda Irvine and Quin Erzinger narrowly losing out to the father-daughter team of Jody and Saje on the competitive side.



*Competitive Finals - Linda Irvine (left) vs Jordan Ripley (right)*

After a short break for lunch, singles play got started with a ten game round robin with the top eight scores on each side advancing. This year it was evident that play was more strategic as, for the second year in a row, Quin Erzinger took home the award for most 20s with 75, a sharp drop over last year's total of 91. After playing another seven game series, the top four scores moved on to play each other and this determined who would face-off for the respective championships.

On the recreational side, Gordon Gunn from Owen Sound, Ont. beat Brendan Pauls from Kelowna to take third place and the final was a showdown between the morning's doubles victors, Elle and Petal Good, with Petal edging out Elle to take the title.

On the competitive side, Quin Erzinger defeated Michael Hughes to claim third place and the final this year was between two opponents who had never before played in the finals, Linda Irvine and Jordan Ripley. It was an intense display of skill and concentration, but after trading the first two games in the best of three series, a shocked Linda emerged as the first female competitive singles champion in the tournament's history!

**Forest City Flickers: London**

**Article from Ray Beierling**

53 competitors hit the boards for the 8th annual event in London, setting a new high number for the 2015-2016 NCA Tour. The 30 Recreational and 23 Competitive players were split into separate groups for the preliminary round with each player vying for seeding for the afternoon round.

Ray Beierling was extremely strong in Competitive A action, scoring 47 points to leave the rest of the field behind in his dust. Andrew Hutchinson and Ab Leitch were able to comfortably qualify for the semifinals with 41 and 40 points respectively. Jon Conrad was able to grab the last spot with 38 points.

The Competitive B field saw a crowded group of 13 trying to squeeze into the top 2 positions. Ron Reesor and Roy Campbell had a strong showing, but they had to settle for third and fourth place as Robert Bonnett and Howard Martin achieved the top scores and would play for the B title.

On the Recreational side, Tom Walsh and Sharon Watson grabbed the top 2 spots in the C pool with Tiffany Henry just missing out on the final by 2 points. When all was said and done, Watson was able to pull off the victory and capture the pool C crown.



*Forest City Preliminary Round*

In Pool B, it was Gus Hohmann and Jacob Westerhof who had 53 and 52 points, and would face-off in the final. Westerhof would get the better of Hohmann in the final and claim the Rec B title.



The race for the finals in the Pool A Rec was very tight. Abijah Jong grabbed the top spot with 51 points and was joined by Jo-Ann Carter, who scored 47, in the final. Derek McKie and MJ Andrea fought admirably but just missed out on the final with 46 and 45 points. Abijah Jong was able to keep up his strong play and win the final to take the A title.

Back on the Competitive side, Robert Bonnett raced out to 6-0 start in the “First-to-9-Points” final. But Howard Martin found his stride in the 4th round and came all the way back to claim in the Competitive B title in thrilling fashion.

The Competitive A semifinals was made up of an interesting group. Ray Beierling, Jon Conrad and Andrew Hutchinson had all qualified for the Hamilton semifinals just two months ago, while Ab Leitch was attempting to defend his London title from 2015. The match-ups saw another clash of the titans with Ray Beierling and Jon Conrad, while the other match of Hutchinson vs Leitch was their first ever playoff encounter.

Beierling continued to be on-fire throughout the semifinal, winning 10-2, while Hutchinson was able to edge-out Leitch in a see-saw affair, winning 9-7.

It was the second straight final for Andrew Hutchinson, after he was defeated in the finals in Hamilton, and a chance for revenge for Ray Beierling, after Hutchinson eliminated him in the Hamilton semifinals. But the day was to belong to Ray Beierling who made his victory look like it was never in doubt, as he won the match 10-0, to claim the 2016 London title



*Tournament organizers, Joe Richards (left) and Bette Cunningham (centre), with 2016 London Tournament Champion, Ray*

## **Ontario Singles Championships: St. Jacobs** **Article from Crokinole Centre**

The Finale of the National Crokinole Association Tour usually does not lend itself to surprising results. That was only good news for Justin Slater, winning his 5th straight title, and Ray Beierling capping off the NCA Tour with the Championship title.

28 players descended on St. Jacobs for the last tournament of the 2015-2016 NCA Tour. Through the morning play Nathan Walsh qualified with the highest score to earn a spot in Group A, and was joined by Justin Slater, Roy Campbell, Jason and Ray Beierling, Ab Leitch, Andrew Hutchinson, Clare Kuepfer, Rex Johnston and Brian Simpson. Unfortunately, Jon Conrad’s run at the NCA title was stopped due to a tiebreaker loss for the 10th and final spot in Group A.

In the afternoon, Eric Miltenburg and Rueben Jong excelled in Group C and claimed the top 2 spots to compete for the title. While Eric Miltenburg had the higher seed, Jong came through in the final to claim the C title.

Jon Conrad scored 50 points in the afternoon to win the top seed in Group B, while Tom Johnston qualified second with 42. Jon Conrad went on to win the B title over Johnston in the finals.

In Group A, the 10 players vied for the 4 semifinal spots, while the NCA Tour race had come down to Jason Beierling needing the victory for the day to pass Ray Beierling. The round-robin led to some very clear results as Roy Campbell, Justin Slater and Ray Beierling scored 49 points, followed by Jason Beierling at 45, well ahead of 5th place finisher Nathan Walsh at 36.

The semifinal matchup intensified the drama as Roy Campbell and Jason Beierling met for a rematch of the Owen Sound final earlier this year, while Ray Beierling and Justin Slater met yet again in a playoff match.

Justin Slater, as usual at the Ontario Singles Crokinole Championship, looked dominant in the semifinals, winning the match over Beierling in 2-straight games. But any chances for the NCA title to be decided in the final

game was eliminated when Roy Campbell overcame a loss in game 1 to defeat Jason Beierling in 3 games.



It was a first-time finals meeting between Campbell and Slater with 2016 Ontario Championship on the line. Slater took the first game and quickly grabbed the lead in the second. But just as it seemed the match would finish quickly, Campbell complicated the play with a series of “self-assist raises” (where the opposition disc is pushed closer to the 20 hole, rather than off the board, in an attempt to set up a 20 opportunity on the next shot). After a couple of long deliberations, Justin Slater found the clear edge he needed and won the match for his 6th Ontario title in 7 years.

### **Crokinole ‘Free and Easy’ Song**

Pair of chairs and some plain old clothes  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
Shootin’ twenties in the center hole  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
Free and easy playing crokinole

Game is playin’ like it’s in slow mo  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
So I keep flickin’ like my hero Joe  
Free and easy playing crokinole

Got the sun shinin’ on me like a big spotlight  
So I know everything is gonna be alright

Aint no tellin’ where that disc might go  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
Livin’ life like a hit and roll  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
Free and easy playing crokinole

If you only get to go around one time  
I’m gonna sit back and try to double the side

I could make a thousand or just go home  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
Can’t take it with you when you go so  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
Someday I know it’s gonna make me groan so  
Free and easy playing crokinole  
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# 140 years and Crokinole has never travelled like this

Article from Ray Beierling

Crokinole Depot, the leading supplier of Crokinole merchandise, is launching Crokinole 2 Go at the World Crokinole Championships (WCC) in Tavistock Ontario on June 4th 2016. The company, which prides itself on introducing new products to the Crokinole market, is thrilled to unveil this two player travel version of the game.

“We are very excited to introduce Crokinole 2 Go to the ever expanding crokinole market. It is our latest contribution to the crokinole community and it fills a huge void in the world of crokinole”, says owner and marketing manager of Crokinole Depot, Jason Beierling. “This 2 player version of the game is great for beginners and professionals alike. It is the perfect size for travel, yet it maintains the same feel and fun of the traditional game.”

The tournament style crokinole board has an outside diameter of 31 inches. This makes the game awkward to travel with, space consuming to store, and hard to manipulate in smaller residences. Also the cost of a quality tournament crokinole board will generally set you back a minimum of \$200. Crokinole 2 Go has measurements of 21x12 inches, making it convenient to travel with, easy to store and a breeze to manipulate. It is built with the same quality materials as tournament boards, but the price is less than half (\$100).

Ray Beierling, owner and head of product development at Crokinole Depot had this to say. “The center hole, posts, discs, and 15 circle of Crokinole 2 Go are all tournament board specs, so you get the same angles, bounces and shot selection you would get from a regulation board. Also, the side ditches are an integral part of the design to keep discs from bouncing back into play. We put a lot of time and thought into this product and we know it is a 20.”

Handcrafting of Crokinole 2 Go, the 2 player travel version of Crokinole, has begun and pre-orders are now being accepted. The official launch date is June 4th 2016

## Club Feature

Crokinole in Grey/Bruce

Article from Clare Kuepfer

In 2008, after a local crokinole enthusiast decided to have a fun crokinole tournament for family and friends at the one room Scone Schoolhouse, several of the local attendees thought it would be fun to play again. In late summer that year, about 12 players gathered at the Scone Schoolhouse, which is located on the Grey/ Bruce County Line, just north of Hanover and east of Chesley, ON. for a fun evening of crokinole. At the end of the evening we all decided to do it again the next month on the 1st Wed. and from there it continued to grow, and we now meet 2 times each month from Apr. to Dec. on the 1st & 3rd Wed at 7 PM. On Apr. 20, 2016 we set a new attendance high of 32 players. At Scone we emphasize that crokinole is a fun and social event, although numerous players are becoming more competitive, attending NCA sanctioned tournaments regularly. You can easily spot us in our bright red sweatshirts! In the off season, (Jan.- Mar), players go to Teeswater, Paisley and Owen Sound to play. Early this fall, we are hoping to start an offshoot group at Bruce Dale, (near Tiverton). On the 4th Sat. of Nov. each year the Scone club joins the Owen Sound crokinole club to host their annual NCA sanctioned tournament, at 1st United Church in Owen Sound. ON.

*Crokinole is alive and well in Grey / Bruce counties*

# Crokinole

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