

The Crokinole Post

May 2012

“Your Crokinole Newsletter”

Issue Six

Ray Beierling Wins 2011 WCC Title

From the Tavistock Gazette, June 2011 courtesy of Bill Gladding

Ray Beierling has finally done it. After 13 years competing in the World Crokinole Championship, he has finally won the coveted adult singles title and \$1,000 cash. He defeated three-time winner Brian Cook (2007-2008-2009) in a two-out-of-three final round. Last year's champion, Justin Slater, finished 8th in the final 16, round robin contest.

Ray joins his younger brother, Jason, in the championship circle. Jason won the singles title in 2006.

Ray, who lives in Dorchester with his wife, Sarah, has placed third in the singles finals on three occasions, 2003, 2007, and 2009, and in 2008 was fourth.

Aside from the best players rising to the top once again this year, the biggest news of the tournament was 12-year-old Julian Chalmers of Winlaw, British Columbia. He won the Intermediate title sinking 92 20's in the round robin tournament. He then went on to compete in the adult singles division where he placed fifth with 91 20's, just out of the final round playoff.

In other play, Lorraine Proud of Kitchener was the cue singles champion and Lloyd Wiseman of Kitchener the Recreational Singles winner. Tyson Kuepfer of RR



Adult Singles Champion and his wife: Ray and Sarah Beierling

1, Brunner won the Junior category. In Doubles play, Robert E. Mader of Breslau and Richard Mader of Waterloo teamed up for the doubles championship. Brothers Oscar Weber of St. Jacobs and Paul Weber of Drayton won the Cue Doubles title and the Recreational Doubles crown went to

Lloyd and Steve Wiseman of Kitchener. Early bird jacket winners this year were Dan Battler of Shingletown and Henry Veltkamp of Kitchener. There were a total of 441 players in this year's competition. For more details and photos go to www.worldcrokinole.com



Cue Doubles



Crokinole Depot Skills Competition



Doubles



Doubles

You're Invited to Attend
The World Crokinole Championship
Committee Annual Meeting:



Wednesday Oct. 17, 7:30pm
Tavistock and District Recreation Centre
The Committee is in need of
more volunteers ideas and feedback

Ontario Players Travel East To PEI Championship

Submitted by: Nathan Walsh

After months of discussion and weeks of planning, 5 Ontario crokinole fanatics had accepted the challenge of traveling out east for the PEI Crokinole Championships. And we found what PEI crokinole was really like.

Friday night was the weekly crokinole party in Stratford, PEI, where the players from PEI, Nova Scotia, and Ontario could socialize before Saturday's event. It was an average turnout for the club as they ran 11 doubles tables at the Cotton Centre in Stratford. The club mixes men's and women's doubles pairing, and rotates in such a way that almost everyone will meet in the course of an evening. There was a strong mix of the 44 people who attended the evening with 20 women and 24 men. After getting used to the scoring system and a few rule variations, we really got to know and appreciate our crokinole compatriots. It was a great night of PEI crokinole to lead into another fantastic day on Saturday.

The tournament began at 9am in the Cornwall Fire Hall with singles in the morning. 27 tables with 54 players, including 20 women were in action, with an addition 6 players in the junior category. It was a tough division to advance through

with several strong players, and only the top two advancing to the final round. After the 10 game preliminary round, Frederick Smith finished at the top with 65 points. Closely behind was Clare Keupfer, Eric Miltenburg and Lawson Lea. Finishing in second though was George Doughart, by way of more 20's (or "centres" as they are called in PEI) setting up an all PEI final. In the final, George Doughart took the first game, before Frederick Smith stormed back to win the next two games and take the PEI Singles Championship, winning the Sheldon Moore Memorial Trophy. Sheldon Moore was a crokinole enthusiast responsible for organizing and founding crokinole clubs in PEI. After his death, the PEI Crokinole Championships were created in his honour, with the singles trophy named after him.

And while those in Waterloo, Ontario were being treated to free pie, we were all treated to a free lunch of sandwiches and snacks. The afternoon was the doubles event with 14 tables and 56 competitors in play. After the 8 game round robin, Nathan Walsh and Clare Keupfer qualified first, with a log jam for second place. The PEI team of Wilfred Smith and Lawson Lea were tied

with Nova Scotia's, Don and Travis Wood, with 44 points. Right behind were Ontario's Eric Miltenburg and Tom Doucette with 43 points. But ahead in the 20's tiebreaker were Lea and Smith, resulting in an PEI vs ON final. The final was definitely exciting with Keupfer/Walsh taking the first game and Lea/Smith taking the second. In the decisive third game it was Keupfer/Walsh who would come out on top to take the PEI Pairs title.

After the completion of the tournament, David Younker had invited us Ontario folk to his home for a few more games of crokinole and to meet his father, another man responsible for much of crokinole's success in PEI.

On Sunday we all began to make our way back to Ontario with the promise that we would return to PEI some day in the future, and the hope that we would see a few of them sometime in Tavistock for the World Championships. Overall it was a fantastic weekend for crokinole, and PEI was a great host.

Crokinole is alive and well in PEI.



Wilfred Smith accepting the Sheldon Moore Memorial Trophy from Sheldon's son, Brian, as the PEI singles champion.



Nathan Walsh and Clare Keupfer accept their PEI Doubles Award from PEI club member Donald Steeves

If you would like to have your crokinole club or tournament profiled please submit background information, results or other interesting facts to jason@crokinoledepot.com

Beierling Vs. Beierling in London Final

Submitted by Nathan Walsh

Ray Beierling had been unstoppable at the London Crokinole Championships. Well, until his brother got in the way.

It was another fantastic final, but Ray Beierling's streak of London titles was stopped at 3, after his brother Jason defeated him 2-6, 5-3, 6-4, to claim the title.

St. James Westminster Anglican church was the site of the 4th edition of the London Crokinole Championships, and the 7th of 9 stops in the 2011-2012 edition of the NCA Tour. The London tournament was the first ever tournament on the National Crokinole Association (NCA) Tour in 2009 (then known as the World Crokinole League). Since, London has been a marquee event on the NCA tour.

And since its inception, only Raymond Beierling had claimed the title as London Champion, as he defeated a member of the Toronto Crokinole Club in the finals every year. Those wins came over Fred Slater (2009), Justin Slater (2010), and Eric Miltenburg (2011), with Jason Beierling finishing as high as 4th in 2011. The 2012 Tournament featured 14 of the top 15

ranked Ontario players of the NCA.

The day did not start out well for the Beierling brothers, both struggled in the preliminary round, but were able to finish 6th and 7th out of the 22 man field to make the top tier of 8. In the top group, which also included Ab Leitch, Nathan Walsh, Eric Miltenburg, Kent Robinson, Joe Arnup and Jon Conrad, only 4 could advance.

The 4 to advancing to the playoff round were Miltenburg, Conrad and the Beierlings, a repeat of the top 4 of the 2011 London tournament.

The playoffs were tight and featured several 4-4 draws, with Jason Beierling finishing first with 16 points. Tied for second was Ray Beierling and Jon Conrad, but Ray Beierling won the tiebreaker by scoring more 20's, setting up the championship final between the two Beierling Brothers.

Despite several years in the top crop of the crokinole world, Jason and Ray Beierling had never played against each other in a singles final, but much to the delight of the crowd, they produced an entertaining affair.

In game one, Ray was able to steal 2 points

on Jason's hammer in the 3rd round to take a 4-2 lead. Ray sealed game one 6-2, by comfortably holding in the 4th round.

Jason answered back quickly in game two, by stealing two points without the hammer in round one, but gave one back as the two tied round two, to give Jason a 3-1 lead. Ray was able to hold in round three as he won two points on his hammer to draw game two to 3-3, and move within one win of his 4th London title.

Ray had a lead in the 20 count and was closing in on the title, but he left two hanging discs that allowed Jason to pull in front and win the round, as well as the game 5-3.

For the second consecutive year, the London finals went to a decisive third game, and just like Ray Beierling's classic match with Eric Miltenburg in 2011, this match headed to a 5th round tiebreaker.

Finishing 1st in the playoff round allowed Jason Beierling to have the hammer in the decisive round, which proved crucial as he grabbed an early advantage in the 20 count, and held on for the 2-6, 5-3, 6-4 win for the London title.

Ezringer Ties Crokinole Record In B.C.

By Emanuel Sequeira - Penticton Western News



20s Champion Quin Erzinger

Quin Erzinger was pleasantly surprised when he tied a world crokinole record. Playing in his fourth B.C. Crokinole championship in Oliver on March 17, Erzinger wasn't focused on that but on having fun. "It was pretty cool," said Erzinger, who enjoyed a personal best performance during the preliminary round of 20s. Erzinger ended up winning the 20s with a score of 108 as he equaled Jarmo Puiras' record set in 2004. However, he shattered Orrin Hargraves' provincial mark of 92 set in 2010.

During the tournament Erzinger, 17, played 23 games. He also placed fourth with Ed Erzinger in the doubles competition, won by Brian Cook and Fred Slater from Toronto. Taking second was Jordon and Ed Ripley of Summerland.

Erzinger began playing crokinole when he was seven and learned from his father. "With good boards, you can hit great trick shots," said Erzinger, who loves to play board games and golf. "That's the fun part for me. You just get satisfaction when a shot works."

Erzinger found the competition to be fairly easy until he faced Cook and Slater. However, his performance this season was his best by far of the four years. Erzinger plays once a week in Summerland but also at home.

In doubles recreation, Vancouver's Valerie Arnup and Nicole St. Pierre took first place, while Charlene and Tyler Ripley of Summerland were second. In third was Angie and Newt Tomson from Minitonas, Man. In singles competitive, Cook took

first place, while Slater was second. Adrian Conradi from Kamloops was third and Erzinger placed fourth.

In singles recreation, 11-year-old Jordan Ripley won. In second was Arnup, while Doug Mills of Summerland was third. In fourth was 10-year-old Elle Good.



Tournament organizers Clif and Joyce Antypowich with Singles Winner Brian Cook

Toronto Team Repeats as Ontario Doubles Champions

Submitted by: Jason Beierling

The 2nd Annual Ontario Doubles Crokinole Championship was hosted in Stratford by Crokinole Depot and sponsored by D&D Automation.

On October 29, 2011, 22 teams competed for the Ontario Doubles Title. The grand prize was assistance to the top seeded team willing to travel to B.C. to represent Ontario in the 2012 B.C. Crokinole Championships.

The tournament consisted of an initial round robin with two groups and the top 10 teams advanced to the A side while the remaining 12 teams competed for the B title.

The top ten teams made for a world class field including last year's Ontario Champions Brian Cook and Fred Slater, former World Champions Ron and Ray Haymes and Jason and Ray Beierling. As well as 2012 World Championship runner-ups Doug and Dave Brown and six time Cameron Heights Team Champions Jon Conrad, Barry Kiggins, Tony Snyder and Paul Hartman. The field was rounded out by top ranked Toronto NCA players Eric Miltenburg and Joe Arnup, Owen Sound's Clare Keupfer and Neil Cook, Varna's Rex and Tom Johnston and from Peterborough Jason Hogan and Lawrence Wicks.

By just a few points the top four was decided. After all the 20s were shot,



Tournament organizers Jason and Ray Beierling with Ontario Doubles Champions Brian Cook and Fred Slater

Snyder and Hartman took fourth, while the Beierlings placed third again for the second year in a row. The final two teams were Arnup/Miltenburg and Cook/Slater, this set up an all Toronto final that was successfully defended by last year's champions Cook and Slater.

Both Brian and Fred went to B.C. to represent Ontario at the B.C. Provincial Championships.

The B Championship was won by the London team of Greg Matthison and Ron Ressor. Louis Gauthier and Chris Gorsline from Belleville took second place.

The 3rd Annual Ontario Doubles Championship Tournament will be held in Brucefield, Ontario on October 27, 2012. For more details visit www.crokinoledepot.com

Scenic City Crokinole Championship 2011



Elmer Cook and Rec Champion Robert Bonnet

The first Scenic City Crokinole tournament was held Saturday November 19, 2011 in Owen Sound at the First United Church. The tournament had a both competitive and recreational divisions. Owen Sound native Brian Cook won the competitive division crowning him "King of the Scenic City" and Robert Bonnett of Wingham won the Recreational Title.

Belleville Crokinole Challenge 2011



A Champion Brian Cook and Tournament Organizer Dave Brown

On September 24, 2011 Crokinole players gathered at the Foster Ward Community Centre in Belleville, Ontario for the Belleville Crokinole Challenge.

The A final saw Brian Cook defeat Ray Beierling. Belleville's Peter Tarle took the B Championship. The Belleville Crokinole Challenge will be held again this fall. Check the NCA website for more information.

If you are looking for tournament information, results, local crokinole clubs or upcoming crokinole events please check out the National Crokinole Association website: www.nationalcrokinoleassociation.com

Slater Returns to Victory, Cook Seals Third NCA Title

Submitted by: Nathan Walsh

In 2010 Justin Slater proved he was one of the best players in the world as he won in Hamilton, finished second in London and at the Joseph Schneider Haus, before winning in St. Jacob's to tie Ray Beierling for first on the NCA Tour. A month later he would become the youngest ever winner of the World Championships.

A year ago he returned to Ontario after being away at university, but not in the same dominant form (although his third place in St. Jacob's and top 16 finish at the World Championships was still quite impressive).

But on Saturday, May 5, Justin Slater seemed like he had returned to his dominant form as he defeated Brian Cook in the finals to claim the St. Jacob's Crokinole Tournament, while Brian Cook won his third NCA Tour title.

The day began with a field of 25 separated into 3 pools. In an elite field all games were tight, and the point gaps were small as players were separated into three groups for the second round. Making it into Group A was Brian Cook, Justin Slater, Jason Beierling, Eric Miltenburg, Jason Carter, John Conrad, Nathan Walsh, Greg Matthison, and Rob Mader.

In an extremely tight second round, Justin Slater, Brian Cook and John Conrad secured the top three positions, while three more players tied for fourth place, and the final playoff position. It was Jason Beierling who would win the tiebreaker and hold the final playoff position.

In the playoff round robin, the scores came down to the final game with Brian Cook taking first with 15 pts, Justin Slater with 13, and Jason Beierling and John Conrad on the outside looking in with 10.

There was a lot of excitement surrounding the finals, especially as it was a repeat of the 2010 World Championship final. Game 1 of the best of 3 final was closely contested. But as Justin Slater led 4-2, a tie in the 4th round of game 1 was the turning point as Slater would go on to take the final 5-3, 6-2.

The win gave Slater his fourth NCA win, while Ray Beierling claimed the top spot in the B pool, and Nathan Jongsma won the C pool.

Meanwhile, the St. Jacob's tournament capped off the fourth season of the NCA Tour, as Brian Cook won his third Tour.

This season Cook's win was perhaps his most comprehensive. His worst finish in any tournament was a second, which he achieved in the 2011 World Championships and at St. Jacob's. In between those two were 6 consecutive wins in Belleville, Stratford, Owen Sound, Hamilton, and the BC Doubles and Singles titles. He dominated the season so thoroughly that only one other person earned more than one NCA title this season, which was Fred Slater, who scored both wins as Cook's doubles partner in Stratford and BC.

Behind Brian Cook was Ray Beierling, who was in the top three for most of the Tour, and once he moved into second place on the Tour, after his runner-up finish in London, he did not relinquish it. This is Beierling's second runner-up finish on the Tour, both of which were behind Brian Cook.

Fred Slater was able to earn several points early in the Tour, and secured a high ranking after his trip to BC, which led to a doubles victory, and a second place singles finish. His third place finish this year backs up a solid second place finish last year on the Tour.

Jason Beierling had yet another solid season, where he captured his first ever NCA title in London. The win moved him to fourth on the Tour, a position which he sealed with a fourth in St. Jacob's. This was Jason Beierling's second fourth place finish on the Tour, and in its four years he has never finished worse than sixth.



Tournament and St. Jacob's Club Organizer, Howard Martin (left), awards the Tournament's Champion, Justin Slater.



Brian Cook (centre) accepts the NCA's top prize from NCA Executives, Eric Miltenburg (left) and Greg Matthison (right).



The 2011-2012 Tour second place finisher, Ray Beierling (right) accepts his trophy from Eric Miltenburg (left)



Fred Slater (right), the 2011-2012 NCA Tour third place finisher with Eric Miltenburg (left)

2011/2012 NCA Tour Final Standings Competitive Division

Rank	Name	Total Points (top 4 events)
1	Brian Cook	204
2	Ray Beierling	196
3	Fred Slater	195
4	Jason Beierling	188
5	Paul Brubacher	183
6	Eric Miltenburg	180
6	Joe Arnup	180
6	Jon Conrad	180
9	Nathan Walsh	177
10	Clare Keupfer	175

CrokinoleCentre



The worlds newest and most up to date online crokinole blog is CrokinoleCentre updated several times a month by Nathan Walsh. Nathan says, "CrokinoleCentre was created to capture the competitive crokinole scene. It is hoped that Crokinole Centre will help stimulate interest in the competitive side of crokinole, and bring the game to the next level".

If you have a crokinole story, club, or tournament to share, let CrokinoleCentre know. Several of the articles in this newsletter are compliments of Nathan Walsh. You can also follow his Youtube account "Ishgmail" to see the latest promotion videos and play by play commentary on tournament finals.

You can follow Nathan on Twitter @CrokinoleCentre

Club Profile: Waterloo Crokinole Club

The Waterloo Crokinole Club just completed it's 3rd year. The Club is growing in membership and always welcomes new members with no commitment required. The Waterloo Crokinole Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the each month from September to May at the Waterloo Adult Recreation Centre which is located at the corner of King St. and Allen St. in Waterloo.

The club collects \$3 per meeting to cover the cost of the space. Players show up at 6:30 and play starts at 6:45 and runs until 9:30pm. On any given night usually has about 8-12 players of various skill levels.

The mission statement of the club is,

"To play crokinole well, with sportsmanship and enthusiasm."

If you are looking to join this club or a club in your area check out the club listings that are available online at nationalcrokinoleassociation.com. Keep on Flickin'!

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