

# The Crokinole Post

May 2018

"Your Crokinole Newsletter"

Issue Twelve

## ROBERT BONNETT WINS WCC CHAMPIONSHIP

Article and photos from Bill Gladding  
(June 6, 2017 Tavistock Gazette)

The World Crokinole Championship honoured a new competitive singles winner Saturday night in their 19th annual event; and he may be the oldest winner in the history of the tournament.

Robert Bonnett of Wingham, Ontario defeated two-time champion Jon Conrad in a double tie-breaker to win the coveted trophy and \$1,000 cash prize.

Mr. Bonnett won over 81 other players competing in the top category this year. "I think I was just lucky," Mr. Bonnett humbly stated after the win. Three-time champion Justin Slater was eliminated in the playoff round of Pool A. Then Robert had to play two-time World Champion Jon Conrad of Milverton in a double tie-breaker before Jon missed the second last shot allowing Bonnett to drop a winning twenty onto the board. Mr. Bonnett made it into the top 16



2017 WCC winners Jon Conrad, Robert Bonnett, Connor Reinman and Nathan Jongsma

player playoff coming through Pool B with 56 points and 66 twenties to get to the final four. Justin Slater led Pool A with 68 points on 104 twenties to take home the twenties trophy. Andrew Hutchinson scored 68 points and 61 twenties to lead Pool B.

The final four playoff round saw Jon Conrad against Robert Bonnett for first and second prize and Connor Reinman against Nathan Jongsma for third and fourth place.

Robert Bonnett won the Recreational Singles titles back in 2006 and 2012 and last year placed fourth in the competitive singles category. He said he plays recreationally with friends in his hometown of Wingham, "once in a while," he said.

In other action, Tavistock's Wayne Schultz is the tournament's first five-time winner as he once again took home the Cue Singles title. He won the honour also in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2014.



2017 WCC Cue Singles Championship: From the left are 2nd place winner Curtis Ryan, Wayne Schultz, Floyd Kuepfer, 3rd; and Doug Schwartztruber, 4th

Doubles winners this year were the pairing of Clare Kuepfer of Dobbinton and Nathan Walsh of Kitchener. Recreational Doubles champions were the father and son team of Tim and Connor Reinman of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. Connor went on to place third in the competitive singles category.

You're Invited to Attend  
The World Crokinole Championship  
Committee Annual Meeting:  
**Monday Oct 15th 7pm**

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



**2017 WCC Doubles Winners:  
Clare Kuepfer and Nathan Walsh**

Jahjireh Jong of Hamilton won the Juniors title; Abijah Jongsma of Hamilton the Intermediate title, and the team consisting of these two winners also took home the Youth Doubles trophies.

Tyson Kuepfer of Brunner has come up through the Junior (2011 champion) and Intermediate (2014 champion) ranks to win the Recreational Singles title this year over 67 other competitors.

This year's World Crokinole Championship was another international success with 462 players pre-registered for Saturday's tournament.

In this, Canada's 150th year of Confederation, players came from sea to shining sea ... Newfoundland to British Columbia. Eleven players attended from Prince Edward Island and there was also representation from Quebec, Saskatchewan, and of course, all over Ontario. Roxanne Broer from Carleton Place came the furthest distance within the province. The doubles pairing of Vincent Leclerc and Vincent Beaubien, who grew up together in Lery, Quebec, left at 4:00 p.m. Friday from Montreal to arrive in Tavistock at 1:00 a.m. They slept in their car overnight and didn't awaken until 8:00 a.m. They said they ran into the arena to register and were seated immediately for the 8:15 start. Little did they know they had been seated in the competitive doubles area instead of recreational doubles. They wondered why the competition was so intense.



**Vincent and Vincent from Quebec**

Leclerc, a pipe fitter by trade, had attended the championship on his own last year. He first found the game of crokinole on boardgamegeek.com and purchased a Willard board online, a month before last year's tournament. He and Beaubien, a powerline technician, have been practicing since then and the two are now actively following trends on Boardgamegeek.com. "We play a lot of board games," they said, but crokinole seemed to keep their attention.

Beaubien was rewarded for his efforts by winning third in the Recreational Singles finals after placing 15th overall out of 68 competitors. Leclerc placed 20th overall in the same category.

There were a record number of players (31) from the US this year representing eight states including New York, Ohio, Texas, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Massachusetts and Michigan. The oldest player registered for the tournament was Bill Harris of Southampton who was scheduled to play with his son, Randy, now living in Colorado. However, Bill was hospitalized and was unable to attend this year's tournament.

Margaret Wigginton of Charlottetown, PEI was the oldest female registered. It was her first time at the tournament, travelling with 11 members of the PEI group. The youngest boy was 7-year-old Manoah Jongsma of Hamilton and the youngest girl was Rachel "Acute" Beierling, 5-year-old daughter of Ray

and Sarah Beierling of Dorchester. The nickname comes from her father and uncle Jason's crokinole nicknames on their number 20, red t-shirts of "Angles" and "Protractor".

Perennial attendees Eric Miltenberg of Toronto and Dale Henry of New York State came with matching, but opposite coloured t-shirts that read "Beware of the Grim Flicker" on the front and "One Cheek Rule Design" on the back.

One group of 12 from Toronto, calling themselves The City Flickers, once again had their own t-shirts made up



**The City Flickers from Toronto included, from the left, front Row: Kate Cousteils, Lindsey Falk, Masooma Hussain, Rebecca Kennedy, Aly Parry, Elysia Vaccarino; back row: Mitchell Finck, Micheal Le Souder, Sam Mason, Andrew Kampian, Clive Harvey, Joel Mason.**

complete with a logo showing a silhouette of the CN tower pointing to the centre of the crokinole board. Another Toronto team was Flicks of Fury while some US names to appear were Croke Like U Know from Pennsylvania and the Carolina Croks, who also have a Texas branch.

Another record set this year, according to registration chair Sherrill Calder, was the fact that 31 per cent of the players were new to the tournament.

The city with the most representation was Kitchener-Waterloo with 41 participants. There were 32 players from Toronto this year including former champion Justin Slater and his father, Fred, who were shut out of the medal rounds.

# Waterloo Club Wins Schneider Haus Classic



*Waterloo Club: Nathan Walsh, Jason Beierling, Reid Tracey and Andrew Hutchinson*

## Article and photos from Nathan Walsh (April, 2018 Crokinole Centre)

Through the first 25 years of the Waterloo County Crokinole Classic only 3 clubs had laid claim to the team title, and even when the legendary Cameron Heights Teachers Club folded, Varna and St. Jacobs traded victories while denying any new champions. But as the Schneider Haus event turned past its first quarter-century, perhaps a new era began as the Waterloo Crokinole Club claimed the team title.

Master of ceremonies, Fred Johnston, began the day citing some history of the tournament and of game of crokinole. This included noting the efforts of Susan Burke in acquiring the oldest known crokinole board for the Schneider Haus museum, and then establishing an annual tournament in 1993, to provide an opportunity once a year to showcase the most prized board in crokinole history.

7 clubs were in the attendance, these included the the tournament mainstays of Varna, St. Jacobs and Preston who

had been in attendance in the very first year of 1993, London and Waterloo who began to attend the event in the late 2000s, Scone who first attended in 2015, and the Golden Horseshoe team forming for their first appearance in the event.



*Golden Horseshoe team*

Waterloo was off to a good start, leading the way with 263 points, followed by St. Jacobs at 240, London at 234, and Varna at 197. But to come in the afternoon, following the generous lunch and pie of the Schneider Haus staff, were several key head-to-head matches that would determine the winners of the day.

London started the afternoon very strong, and while they may not have known it, quickly surpassed St. Jacobs. Dwayne Campbell was instrumental in that as he was the biggest mover in the afternoon, jumping from 14th at the halfway mark to 8th in the afternoon.

Waterloo continued to post strong numbers in the afternoon, which would be enough to hang on the lead they established in the morning, and with four games left the only question left to answer was that the individual title.

At that point, Jason Beierling was in first with 125 points, while Justin Slater was in second with 118 and his final four games left against the Waterloo club. Ray Beierling sat 3rd at 115, Walsh in 4th at 113, and Andrew Hutchinson in 5th what else is new at 112.

It was in Game 21 that Slater erased the 7 point deficit entirely with an 8-0 victory over Jason Beierling, to momentarily have first place. A few places down, Andrew Hutchinson and Ray Beierling finished strong to end dead-locked at 136, while Walsh fell back ending at 126.

Jason Beierling rebounded from the "skunking" earning 17 points in the last 3 games. Justin Slater then finished his set of games against the Waterloo club, winning 6-2 against Reid Tracey, 5-3 over Nathan Walsh and tying 4-4 against Andrew Hutchinson. That left Slater with 141 points, and Jason Beierling with 142. And with the scores being so close, each of Tracey, Walsh and Hutchinson were willing to take the credit for "helping" their Waterloo teammate to grab the narrowest of victories as Jason Beierling earned the individual title for the first time.

The win for the Waterloo Crokinole Club is the first in its history, after the club first made an appearance at the event in 2010, and surpasses their previous best finish of 2nd in 2016.

# Belgians Win First European Titles

**Article and photos from Nathan Walsh  
(April, 2018 Crokinole Centre)**

While pockets of European interest in the game of crokinole have existed for a few years now, you could be forgiven if it appeared from afar as a passive hobby from a select few of the most enthusiastic board game lovers who stumbled upon the Canadian game of crokinole after hours searching through web forums such as boardgamegeek.com.

But in Budapest, an assortment of individuals proved that a deep interest in crokinole can be found not only in Hungary, but in many European nations.

A small social was held on the Friday evening by the tournament organizers (Zsolt Rimár, Daniel Léтай and Dóra Salamon) before the first ever European Crokinole Championships. It allowed some keen competitors from Spain, Italy, Canada and the Netherlands to try out the local Hungarian boards, talk about the few Hungarian words they've learned so far, and remark about how crazy it was they had all traveled to a foreign country to partake in a crokinole tournament.

## **Saturday - Doubles**

The two day competition began on Saturday with Juniors, Women's, Doubles and the first section of the Team competition. The Women's competition was won by Dóra Salamon, with second place going to Klára Soós and third to Zsófia Schönberger. A triplet of Hungarians also won the junior trophies with Móric Szeszler in third, József Herczeg in second and Domonkos Kollár taking the title. Watching the Juniors compete was quite interesting and exciting. Not only did each player appear to be enjoying the game, there was a great deal of thought and focus present in most games that shows a clear desire from many of them to improve their skills. Of great help in spreading interest in the

game to the youth of Hungary is credited towards a number of crokinole competitors who are school teachers, who have on more than one occasion, brought the game of crokinole into the classroom.

Afterwards, the doubles competition began with 26 teams entered, and an 8-game round robin that would see each team fighting for a place in the top 8. The tournament schedule allowed for significant time in between games and chose to utilize live scoring throughout the tournament, which made it easy to see which teams were playing well, and which would be fighting for every point to make the playoffs. At the halfway point, a number of the top teams had established themselves, with the Hungarian teams of Zámbo/Zámbo and Kacskovics/Móczár leading the way at 27 points, while the 4-time Belgian national champions of Costermans/Vrints sat 8th with a one point edge on 9th.

The Belgians would improve their play in the afternoon however and qualify for the playoffs in 7th spot. They would also be joined by 5 Hungarian teams, the Spanish champions of Cobo/Andrade, the Hungarian/Canadian team of Soós/Walsh.

A lot was on the line in the finals as Belgium and Hungary faced off, and you could tell the pressure was on as a few shocking mistakes were made early in the match. After 3 rounds, the match was 3-3 in the first to 11 battle. The Berzlánovich's had been the top team all day, having the lead in the tournament at every stage, however, Costermans and Vrints had picked up momentum throughout the day, and in the final rounds, both in tactics and execution, they proved to be the better team. They won the final 4 rounds in a row and claimed the European Doubles title with an 11-3 victory.

The first day of the competition had

stretched on quite long as the doubles play had been interrupted to play the first half of the team competition, which was to be completed on Sunday. However, that didn't stop most of the foreign players from enjoying a dinner and a few beverages in the warm Budapest evening.

## **Sunday - Singles**

The Singles event had a 12-game random draw preliminary round with 49 players looking to make the top 16. Attila Berzlánovich was the class of the field as he easily took the top spot with 81 points and 128 20s. Following behind him were Gáspár Léтай, Bert Costermans, and the reigning Hungarian singles champion, István Kádár.

There was quite the crowd for the final playoff spots as only 5 points separated 12th through 23rd, and only 7 20s separated 16th from 20th. The most crushing misses were that of Móric Szeszler, the top junior player on the day, and Nathan Walsh, who only missed the final playoff spot by 1 20.

The championship match of Attila Berzlánovich and Gáspár Léтай was well anticipated as both players had shown great consistency in 20s shooting and shot-making ability. A number of spectators had arrived or stuck around for the match and were quite enthusiastic throughout and quick to acknowledge some good shots. Unfortunately for Léтай, the great form on Open 20s he had shown throughout the day didn't maintain itself, and Berzlánovich, a very aggressive player, was relentless in his pursuit and won the match 11-3 to win the first ever European title.

# WCC Tourmanet Celebrates 20 Years

Article by Jason Beierling, Photo from Bill Gladding

Twenty years ago, a small committee started the largest and longest running annual crokinole tournament in the world. Tavistock was chosen as the host village because it was closest to the Sebastopol, Ontario home of Eckhardt Wettlaufer, the maker of the earliest known board.

The first tournaments held in 1999 and 2000 had participants from PEI, Quebec, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Vermont, and Spain. Although the numbers have varied through the years, the tournament has always been well attended. While many players are returning from previous years, approximately 25% of the participants are new to the tournament each year.

With cue, finger as well as, youth and adult categories and the addition of recreational categories it really is an event for all ages and skill levels. The tournament also boasts the largest cash prizes of any crokinole tournament. Although organizers claim the tournament runs itself, the reality is many hours of preparation, planning and a full day of set-up go into such a large event.

The committee meets 6-8 times a year to discuss any updates and changes. They review the schedule for the day, the rules and any special plans or outside inquiries. Meetings start in the fall to confirm and debate any changes that need to be made for the following year. The schedule of the day and the rules are updated every January and posted to the website. The event is posted to community and local calendars.

Fundraising is done in early spring by contacting the sponsors and following up with them to ensure the tournament is funded and the prize money is secured for each year. The sponsorship

from the Tavistock community has stayed strong for 20 years and the tournament could not continue with those supporters.

Registration packages are mailed out in March to ensure past participants get the reminder and have plenty of time to plan their travels and book hotels as needed for the weekend of the tournament.

At the April meeting registrations are coming in and the committee is planning special events, reviewing if they have enough volunteers for scoring, refereeing, securing speakers, ensuring they have enough boards, tables and chairs. At this time press releases are going out and merchandise is being ordered.

In May more details are finalized, who will help set up, where will any extra boards or tables come from and what volunteer positions need to be filled.

Practice runs for the scoring team and a referee meeting are held to ensure all the referee's are updated with any changes. Many measures are taken before hand to ensure the day will run smoothly.



## Milestones and Interesting Facts:

- 1999 - First Annual World Championships - Debut of custom designed iconic wooden trophies
- 2001 - Committee Forms 10 sub committees to ensure all aspects are covered.
- 2003 - WCC endorses it's own crokinole boards with precise measurements to make all the tournament boards more consistent and the addition of Rec Singles Category
- 2004 - Crokinole the documentary is filmed, later released on DVD in 2006.
- 2005 - Germany Holds a European Championship
- 2006 - A new WCC cancellation stamp is issued by Canada Post
- 2007 - China Hosts Chinese Crokinole Championships
- 2008 - WCC purchases their own tables to create more consistency and to save time and effort during set-up.
- 2009 - Introduction of rec doubles category
- 2010 - WCC rejected by Guinness Book of World Records for most simultaneous games of crokinole in one location. (not "worldy" enough)
- 2014 - Tournament celebrates 15 years. 10 players have attended all 15 years. New signage introduced
- 2016 - Hungary hosts European Championships
- 2017 - Introduction of youth doubles category

# Paddyfest has Second Annual Tournament

Article by Andrew Hutchinson



For the past two years, the Paddyfest Crokinole tournament has quickly become a favourite for crokinole players of all levels. For the most dedicated players, it represents an opportunity to put aside the NCA standings and just partner up with a friend, shoot some crokinole, try some risky or usual shots, and have fun. For the more casual player, it provides the chance to grab a beer, shoot (and celebrate) some 20's, and earn some bragging rights by taking a round or two from a previous world champion.

The organizers of Paddyfest have done a wonderful job of incorporating the crokinole tournament into the greater Paddyfest festival, and creating an event that both die-hard paddyfesters and die-hard crokinolers love to attend. The event is held at the Kin Station, home of the Kinsmen Club of Listowel. The converted train station makes a beautiful setting for a tournament and even more so after serious structural renovations the past year leveled the floor. The 2018 tournament saw 4 groups of 6 teams playing a round robin. After the round robin, the scores were tallied, and the top 12 teams were broken into an A1 and A2 groups, while the bottom 12 made up the B1 and B2 groups. Each of these groups played another round robin, with the top 2 finishers in each group earning a place in the semifinals.

When all was said and done, Jeremy Tracey and Roy Campbell faced off against Reid and Nolan Tracey in one A group semi final. Despite dominating the tournament all afternoon, Tracey and Campbell couldn't handle the youth and vigour of the Tracey offspring. In the other semifinal, defending Paddyfest champions Jon Conrad and

Andrew Hutchinson took on the husband and wife duo of Clare and Cathy Kuepfer, despite a close start, Conrad and Hutchinson pulled away to win their semifinal, earning themselves a chance to defend their title.

The Tracey's came in high off of their upset victory, however it was Conrad and Hutchinson that started off strong winning the first 3 round to build a 6-0 lead in the first to 7 match. Heading into the fourth round, Conrad and Hutchinson just needed a tie to secure the title, and managed to do just that, winning the match 7-1. The title allowed Conrad and Hutchinson to remain as the sole champions of the Paddyfest crokinole tournament. Anyone looking to have a great time and play some fun

crokinole, should seriously consider signing up for the tournament in Listowel next March!



## CrokinoleCentre

For all the news following competitive crokinole.

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.

Follow on Twitter @CrokinoleCentre

## Crokinole Depot.com

Your online source for Crokinole Boards, T-Shirts and Accessories

Visit us today at [www.crokinoledepot.com](http://www.crokinoledepot.com)

Follow us on Twitter @crokinoledepot or like us on facebook!