

The Crokinole Post

May 2008

"Your Crokinole Newsletter"

Issue Two

Still Flickin' After All These Years

WORLD CROKINOLE CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted By: The World Crokinole Championship Committee

A simple game that has changed very little since its conception in 1876, Crokinole remains as popular now as it has ever been. Evidence of this can be seen on June 7th at the Tavistock and District Recreational Centre where competitors from across Canada; various parts of the United States and Europe will compete for the World Crokinole Championship title.

The first known crokinole board was created just outside of Tavistock. In 1876 a local craftsman, Eckhardt Wettlaufer, made a crokinole board as a birthday present for his five-year-old son, Adam.

Some 130 years later, the game is kept alive by various local clubs that meet in fire halls, town halls, and church basements. A few small tournaments have been held over the years, but it wasn't until 10 years ago in 1999, that the village of Tavistock hosted the first World Crokinole Championship. Every year since, the World Championship event has grown stronger and become more well-known around the world.

Part of crokinole's recent growth in popularity can be attributed to the "Crokinole" DVD that was released in 2006 by Joshua and Jonathan Steckley. And more recently, three time World Champion Joe Fulop published his book, "It's Only Crokinole: But I like it." This book has sold over 100 copies in only 3 months. The book features tips on shot making, strategy, and preparing for tournaments as well as detailed information about various crokinole legends; including some insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the top ranked players that will be appearing at this year's Championship.

This year, as part of the tenth anniversary celebration the WCC will be giving special recognition to the original committee members and past champions. Special presentations will take place following the doubles round robin in the morning and again between Singles Pool A and Pool B in the afternoon. Original committee members and past tournament champions are expected to be in attendance as well as the originally copy of the first known crokinole board. This board will be on special loan from the Joseph Schnieder Haus Meusum in Kitchener.

Tournament registration numbers are on track to set yet another record. The 2008 registration is expected to easily reach its maximum capacity. As the tournament limits participation based on the number of tables and boards available. The Committee would like to remind everyone to register early next year to avoid disappointment.

Overall, there will be over 350 individual participants competing for the \$5000 in cash and prizes that are at stake. The top prize of \$1000 will be awarded to the Champion Adult Single. The recently introduced recreational division has a top prize of \$200. The recreation division is a growing category for those wishing to play in the tournament at a recreational level.



Other categories include cue and finger doubles and cue, intermediate and junior singles. It's one of the goals of the WCC executive to promote crokinole as a game that's fun for everyone. It is a game with no age or gender barriers or advantages, as many children will play with or against grandparents. Competitors at the World Championship often range in age from 6 to 80.

As well, the World Crokinole Championship will have limited edition 10th Anniversary golf shirts, hats and key chains available for purchase.

And for the second year in a row CrokinoleDepot.com will be hosting a Crokinole Skills competition that tests individual shot making skills. This event will run from about 8:45 to 4:45, entries are limited to 3 entries per person.

Congratulations to Diana Schnuth of Toldeo, Ohio and Jil Ramer of Elmira, Ontario, this year's early bird draw winners, both receiving WCC jackets.

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“It’s Only Crokinole:But I like It”

Submitted By: Joe Fulop



Brian Cook accepts his 1st prize award from tournament organizer Joe Fulop

Formerly the Joe Fulop Invitational tournament, the “It’s Only Crokinole: But I like it” tournament was held on May 3rd in Exeter, Ontario.

The main goal of the tournament was to have as many good players as possible, a secondary goal was to spread the prize money around so that every type of player had a chance to win something.

The World Crokinole Championship committee at Tavistock allowed us to use 32 of their boards. They were accurate and lightning fast. John Schultz even stuck around to make sure everything was going smoothly.

The total number of players was listed as 60. This included the current number 1 player, Brian Cook from Toronto. Some tough company chose to compete in the Open

group with him. This included long time stars like Bill Freeman, Dan Shantz and Ray Kappes from St. Jacobs. There was a strong contingent from the Varna club which had recently won the team championship at Joseph Schneider Haus. This included Jason Beierling, Ray Beierling, Ab Leitch and Joe Fulop. Preston arrived with Bob and Rob Mader and Art Eby.

The open pool was divided into groups of 12 with the best 6 advancing to the ‘A’ playoff round and the other 6 advanced to the ‘B’ pool playoffs.

The scores were very close throughout the first 2 rounds in the ‘A’ pool. The final four included Brian Cook, Dan Shantz, Bill Freeman and Joe Fulop. After a round robin Freeman and Cook were seeded as 1 and 2 advancing them to the best of 3 series which was eventually won by Brian Cook. He earned his win but realized that the other top players will be gunning for him June 7th in Tavistock.

Pool ‘B’ play was dominated by Nathan Walsh (Stratford) who is an up and coming teen sensation. He breezed through the second round of 12 and won the smaller Group of 4 and final pairing. His opposition in the Group of 4 included 3 quality players. They were Robert Bonnett (Kincardine), Art Eby (Preston) and Rex Johnston (Exeter). Walsh defeated Bonnett 2-0 in the final set of matches.

The Recreation division was a larger group with 36 players. There was some confusion as the organizers tried to accommodate

players who entered late or who wanted to change pools. Some fabulous scores were posted in the first round which included 8 or 9 players per group. The highest scores in that first round came from Bruce Shaw with an 89, Oliver Davidson had 85, Kent Davidson had an 81 while scores in the high 70’s were posted by Chris Leitch at 77, David Whyte at 77 and Rob Knechtal with 75. Others with high scores were Joan Beierling at 72, Chris Campbell, Elmer Cook and Marlin Lichter had 71. Jack Conley and Marg Hayter each had a score of 70.

The top level of the Recreation players became the ‘C’ pool. After a long playoff series where the competitors were exceptionally close in abilities Randy Wagler (Exeter) came out of nowhere to defeat Rob Knechtal (Stratford) in the final 2 matches to 1. Chris Leitch was involved in a tiebreaker with Wagler and lost by only 5 points. He is another young star to watch carefully.

Pool ‘D’ included those in the lower half of the Recreation pool. The final group included Murray Matthison, Reg Matthison, Ivan McClymont and Deanna Ruggi. Murray Matthison (Stratford) prevailed over the others defeating Ivan McClymont (Varna) in the final.

Many players had good things to say about the tournament including the quality of the boards, the quality of the competition, the organization involved, the pies and the way that everyone had a good time. Hopefully things will be as good in future tournaments.



Ray Kappes and Jason Beierling



Marg Hayter and Russ Watson

Schneider Haus Waterloo County Classic

Submitted by: Jason Beierling

The Joseph Schnieder Haus Museum hosted the annual Schneider Haus Waterloo County (finger's only) Classic. This tournament is an invitational event that invites local clubs to send a team of four members to participate in this unique team tournament. This year, six teams participated resulting in a total of 24 games for each player. The tournament format is entirely based on a round robin in which each player plays all the other players, but not the players on their own team. The winning team is the team that has the largest combined total score. A high individual prize is also awarded.

This year's event was held this year on Saturday, April 13th at 1pm. The six participating clubs included, Cameron Heights, St. Jacob's, Preston, Varna, Stratford and London.

Both the Cameron Heights and St. Jacobs clubs have had a large amount of success at this tournament in the past years. However, this year it was the Varna club taking



Schnieder Haus Team Champions from the Varna Crokinole Club left to right: Ab Leitch, Ray Beierling, Jason Beierling, Joe Fulop.

home the replica board and trophy with a combined total of 447 points, edging the perennial champion St. Jacob's club team, that had 399 points. Individual high score award went to Brian Cook.

Tournament Profile: Sudbury Centres

Submitted by: Nathan Jongsma

Held on Sat. Nov.17 at the Carmichael Community Centre. The tournament was played in accordance with the WCC rules and all play was on WCC approved boards.

The tourney was not as well attended as hoped, but still had a very strong field of ten players. Which included WCC 07 recreational division first place champ Ken Robinson of North Bay, WCC 07 open division top 16 finisher Reuben Jongsma, and WCC 07 intermediate division fifth place finisher Simon Jongsma. After a 10 player round robin Nathan Jongsma came out a strong first place with 62 points and Ken in second, Reuben and Craig Morrison came third and fourth and advanced to the four player final.

After some closely contested matches the final results were as follows. First place Ken Robinson, second Craig Morrison, third Nathan Jongsma, and fourth Reuben Jongsma. Top finisher Robinson took home a prize of \$20 and a t-shirt donated by crokinole depot. He also continued his winning streak from the WCC, watch out for him in 08.

Tournament organizer Nathan Jongsma has made this tournament a spring and fall bi-annual event. The spring event was held on Saturday, April 20. Tournament results were not available at the time of printing this newsletter. Anyone interested in playing in future Sudbury Centres Crokinole Tournaments should call Nathan Jongsma at (705)670-1884, or email sudburycrokinole@hotmail.com.

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

**Are you looking to play
more crokinole?**

**Sign up for the
World Crokinole League**

A World Crokinole League is being created to help foster the development of Crokinole. The new league will support local clubs and local tournaments, creating a season-long league play format. The league will assist in the formation of new clubs and the creation of new tournaments. It will network clubs and players together in various communities in order to increase exposure and attendance of crokinole events. As well the World Crokinole League hopes to record statistics and create player rankings leading up to the World Crokinole Championships.

The planning process for this league will occur in the late summer and fall of 2008 in preparation for the 2009 season.

Please contact Greg Matthison at gmatthison@rogers.com for more information on how you can participate.

Crokinole Depot Launches Website

Submitted by: Jason Beierling

Crokinole Depot was founded in 2007 by brothers Raymond and Jason Beierling. They were introduced to the game of crokinole at a young age by Marg Hayter. She is a neighbour to the Beierling family. Since then, crokinole has been the game of choice for the Beierling boys. They were both part of the Varna Crokinole Club before they headed off to pursue post secondary education and still represent the Varna club in tournaments. They have competed and placed in several tournaments in southwestern Ontario over the years.

Currently the brothers are both employed and have started this little business as a side project to help promote their hobby. They have partnered up with the WCC to try to help promote the game and relieve some of the duties of the volunteer committee.

One issue that concerns them, is the lack of youth playing the game. In several tournaments the youth categories are low in attendance. They know that the future of the game will depend on the younger generation. While completing random internet searches on the game of crokinole, they found a yahoo chat group and a few vendors' sites. It was at this time Crokinole Depot was conceived. Why not have an internet site to promote the

game and get people together to talk about and play this simple, yet complex game. At the same time, why not sell much needed crokinole merchandise to assist in marketing the game further.

With this in mind, their goal was to develop an internet site to meet the needs of all crokinole players. The forum is a key feature of the site. It acts as a link for crokinole players to meet and join or form new clubs in order to increase the amount of crokinole being played.

With the help of web developer Jake Rompf, crokinoledepot.com officially launched on March 1st, 2008. The online store has over 15 products available with more being added every month. As well, the online forum has been used to help promote tournaments and link players to local clubs.

In conjunction with the business launch Crokinole Depot has also set up and sponsored the Crokinole Skills Competition

that is held at the World Crokinole Championships. Last year's skill's competition received a lot of excellent feedback, and the event appears to be around to stay. Last years winners included Nathan Walsh and Jesse Wiseman in the youth class; Carl Nicklas and Nyle Eby in the Cues division, and Dan Shantz and Ray Kappes for the Adult finger shooters. Winners received cash prizes and t-shirts from crokinoledepot.com.

Also, this crokinole newsletter has been created. The purpose of this newsletter is to further spread the word that the game is alive and well. It will also promote and document clubs and tournaments as well as offer tips from some of the top crokinole players in the world. Crokinole Depot, in co-operation with the World Crokinole Championship committee, are working together to generate a better awareness of this great Canadian game.

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