

The Crokinole Post

May 2007

"Your Crokinole Newsletter"

Issue One

Crokinole Born in China



Submitted By: The World Crokinole Championship Committee

The Chinese Championships of Crokinole were held for the first time on May 18th in Dalian, China, which is in the northeastern region of China. The championship is the brainchild of Craig S. Engleson, a Canadian teacher who has been living in Dalian for the past five years. Engleson says that the Canadian teachers who are living there are all keen crokinole fans and he thought that a tournament in China would not only enable his fellow ex-patriots to have a day to celebrate being Canadian, but it would also help promote the game of crokinole in an area of the world that has never seen it before.

Engleson says that the tournament was very successful and "I feel we have definitely started something here that will continue on throughout the years." The winner, Adrian Conradi, was awarded a birth into the World Crokinole Championship held Saturday, June 2nd in Tavistock, Ontario.

Engleson said that the Chinese Championship used the exact same standards as the World Championship. He recently had a custom crokinole board made in China and 'did everything within my means to make the board of the highest quality and standard.' He is very happy with the overall product. He decided to have insignias burned on the buttons the light coloured buttons have

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Crokinole has its roots in Tavistock. Historians believe that the game developed in southern Ontario during the 1860s. That notion is confirmed by the fact that the oldest known crokinole board in the world was made just outside of Tavistock in 1876 by a local craftsman, Eckhardt Wettlaufer, as a birthday present for his five-year-old son, Adam. The board now resides at The Joseph Schneider Haus Museum in Kitchener, Ontario.

...light coloured buttons have 'Hao Ren', which means good people, and the darker coloured buttons have 'Hui Ren', which means bad people.

'Hao Ren', which means good people, and the darker coloured buttons have 'Hui Ren', which means bad people. "This way, every game will be the good people versus the bad. I like that!" he commented.

The World Crokinole Championship (WCC) will host its 9th championship this year. Past competitors have come from all across Canada as well as from New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, California, Texas, Tennessee and Michigan. There has also been representation from the Yukon, Germany and England.

Prince Edward Island has their own provincial championship tournament and sends their champions to compete in Tavistock. Germany held their first European Championship last year and plans to encourage their winners each year to compete in the World Crokinole Championship. A participant from California is registered to attend this year his plans are to get a regional tournament started in California.

At this year's Championship there is \$5000 in cash and prizes to be won, with the top prize of \$1000 being awarded to the Champion Adult Single. The recently introduced Recreational Division, with a top prize of \$200, has been well received and will again be a category for those wishing to play in the tournament at a recreational level. It is one of the goals of the WCC executive to promote crokinole as a game that is 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.



The Second J. Fulop Invitational Tournament

Submitted By: Joe Fulop

May 5th was an excellent day for crokinole in Exeter. The weather was fantastic and the competition in the two pools was intense. Tournament organizers did the best job they could to make playing conditions as favourable as possible for the participants. The boards were on loan from Tavistock and were all very well maintained and polished. Announcers Tom Walsh and Bob Robilliard did an excellent job of keeping the event moving and on time. Several players complimented the organizers for doing such a splendid job. 'A' pool champion Brian Cook said, "It was the best run tournament I've been to..." The comments showed an appreciation for all of the work involved in running such a tournament.

The 'A' Pool featured 16 top players, including 6 of the winners of the World Championship tournament in Tavistock. There was a good mix of local players and some from as far away as Toronto. It was reduced to 14 when Dan Shantz (injury) and Hugh Kidnie were unable to attend. Players played 6 games against each opponent in a round robin style of tournament. When the dust settled Brian Cook was the winner with 131 points. He was followed closely by last year's champion, Ray Kappes, with 125 points. Mr. Kappes also won at Tavistock in 2003. Ray Beierling snatched the prize for 3rd place with 115 points. He was followed closely by Rich Mader with 114; defending World Champion Jason Beierling and 2005 World Champion Bruce Hartung each had 113. Rounding out the top 10 were three-time World Champion Joe Fulop at 107, Bob Mader at 100, Ab Leitch with 97 and Jeremy Howey with 93 points. Prize money was \$200 for first place, with lesser amounts for second through fourth places. Mr. Cook also received a custom designed trophy created by Tom Walsh.

In Pool 'B' Harvey Atchison was the winner scoring 120 points against 21 opponents. A round robin format was used with 4 games played against each opponent. Elmer Cook was 2nd with 109, Robert Battle had 107, and Jack Conley grabbed fourth place with 106 points. Mr. Atchison received a custom trophy from Tom Walsh. Prize money ranged from \$70 for first place with lesser amounts for second through fourth place finishes.



Pool A Winner Brian Cook



Pool B Winner Harvey Atchison



Aggressive Strategies and Making Twenties

Crokinole Commentary by Joe Fulop



Photo by The Tavistock Gazette.

I wish to preface my remarks by stating that I am speaking of how I did things during my glory days from the early 90's until about 2004 - I am no longer the player I was during that time. I can blame this change on physical ailments, to a degree. It also ties in with a player's state of mind. Also, I am referring to how I play the game. My style is based on offense. In my championship years my strength was the ability to score a lot of twenties. Many players have different approaches, including my doubles partner, Albert Leitch. Whatever approach works for you is the one you should use.

My strengths included good hand-eye coordination and lack of nervousness during the tournaments. I was seldom rattled, confident that I was a good enough player to defeat any of my opponents. Being confident and winning some matches give the player a certain aura. They begin to believe that winning is given in any match. It means that quite often my opponents would be a little off their game before we even started. Obviously it was to my advantage to have this confidence. I see it now in Brian Cook who has won the last two tournaments this year. It is also evident in the play of the Beierlings, Jason and Ray. Jason always appears to be very cool and it helped him to win at Tavistock last year. Ray has improved immensely over the last few months - his day will come as well. And let's not forget the man who has been on Mr. Cook's tail for the last two seasons: Ray Kappes.

The list of excellent players is getting longer all the time. I would surely miss some by trying to make a list of the best ones I have

faced over the years, so I will name just one more for now: Dan Shantz, from the St. Jacob's club. I include him because we have battled on pretty even terms over 15 years. You don't count him out. He has earned the respect he is given.

Making twenties is, for me, the key to the game of crokinole. Even in practice sessions with the better boards and better players it is not uncommon to have 6 or more twenties in a game. It is for this reason that I do practice my skills in this area as often as I can. I once had 28 twenties in a row in practice and have never matched it since. Many players try different ways to change this method of play by being very defensive and/or hiding their buttons. Then they can pounce on a possible mistake. It doesn't work very well for me. I play aggressive and I like to go for twenties whenever possible in order to bank more points.

As well, I like to put a spin on my twenty shots. Often the spin will help to gain a 20 because of the action on the button. Even if you miss the button will often go on the opponent's side of the board and it is more

difficult for him/her to make a shot that can hurt you. I know that other players who don't use the spin can make a ton of twenties as well. To each his/her own.

The next step in practice is to try to get as many twenties as possible on shots close to the hole. This involves using your angles properly. For shots on the opposite side of the hole one must shoot a little harder to ensure the opponent's button is knocked off and that yours takes its rightful spot as a twenty. A good touch shot with a bit of spin works best for me on shots to either side of the hole. Finally, one has to master the follow through shot when the button is on your side of the hole. Shooting a little harder and extending the finger does the job on the fast boards used today. If I can't make a high percentage of these shots I know that I am in trouble and will likely lose.

As for who will win the World Championships this year, I can not predict a single winner, but I can say that any number of competitors could win the title. We'll have to wait and see.

Club Profile: Preston Since 1933

Submitted By: Robert Mader

A group of men had been playing crokinole socially for about seven years. After this social group dissolved, seven of the men formed the nucleus of the Preston Crokinole club in 1933. This club has been operating ever since.

We have the records of the first, second and third finishers and their average points for the last 73 years. At present most of the players are from Breslau and the Kitchener-Waterloo area. We meet in the players' homes every other night, starting in fall and ending in the spring, with each player hosting it once during the year. There are 12 members in our club with 3 boards set up. The seating is determined by the standing on the previous week's play.

When I started playing in the 1950's as a spare, a suit and tie were required. By 1964 when I became a member this rule had died out and the dress was casual. It is now 43 years later and I still very much enjoy the game.

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

Testing Your Crokinole Skills

Submitted By: Jason Beierling

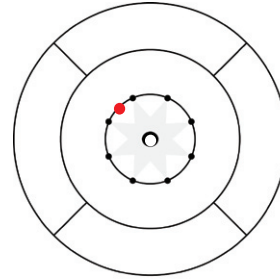
As a competitive curler and crokinole player, I have always felt that playing both of these games has improved my crokinole strategy. So I was thinking, curling championships have "hot shot" competitions, why don't crokinole tournaments have similar events? Having a skills competition at the World Crokinole Championships is something I have been thinking about for several years - an event that tests competitors' shot-making outside the one-on-one game. It removes the psychological factor that some players face when playing other well known competitive players.

When the World Championship Committee gave the go ahead for the event, it was an exciting challenge to design the competition. The competition will consist of 10 shots with a scoring of 0-3 for each shot, for a total of 30 points available. Although a perfect score will be very difficult, I do expect to see some high scores. The competition will run in the afternoon so that when players are not playing in their pool they can sit down and try their skills. In order to make the competition as fair as possible, templates will be used to make sure that all shots are equal. Separate divisions will be held for youth players, as well as adult and cues players.

This event will test players' skills on a fair playing field and offer each player a chance to show off or test their shot-making skills. As well, it should encourage more players to sit down and set up some practice shots rather than just playing head to head matches. Although crokinole is a very social game, that does not mean you can't have fun making some trick shots like one would do in billiards. The more you play the game and the more you practice the better you will become. And who doesn't like to line up a good double and twenty shot? This way you at least get points for trying, even if you can't make the shot.

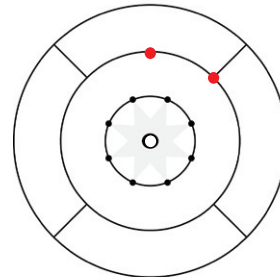
The event is being sponsored by Crokinole Depot and results and diagrams of the exact shots used will be available sometime after the tournament at crokinoledepot.com. I hope this year's event runs smoothly and that the crokinole skills competition can be run as an annual event at the World Championships.

Sample shots from the competition



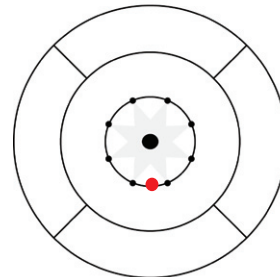
Rebound
(shoot off button and bounce back for 20)

3pts - 20
2pts - 15
1pt - 10



Back Double
(double must be made)

3pts - shooter in 10
2pts - shooter in 5
1pt - lost shooter



Drive Thru
(remove button and go for 20)

3pts - 20
2pts - 15
1pt - 10



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