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First World Crokinole Championship

Derek Kidnie of Kitchener has become the first seniors World Crokinole Champion at a tournament in Tavistock, Ontario on Saturday, June 5th that attracted 278 participants in five categories of play. Two hometown players earned the junior and intermediate titles while a St. Jacobs pair were cues champions and two Varna brothers captured the doubles title.

Billed as the World Crokinole Championship in the home of the world's oldest known crokinole board, built in nearby Sebastopol in 1876, the all-day event was an all around success according to committee chairman, Doris Gladding of Tavistock. She praised the work of dozens of local volunteers who organized and ran the event and thanked the sponsors and prize donors for their support.

Cues and doubles play was held in the morning with 20 teams in cues and 54 teams in doubles. Brothers Oscar Weber of St. Jacobs and Enoch Weber of Drayton combined for the cues championship title. Second place went to the team of Waldron Eckstein of New Hamburg and Roy Parker of New Dundee. Donald and Mike Neal of Arthur placed third. Doubles champions were brothers Jason and Raymond Beierling of Varna. Bill Freeman and Dan Shantz of Shingletown (RR 2, Petersburg) earned second place, while Don McLean and Charles Fraser of Kitchener, placed third.

The main event, singles play in three categories, began after 1:00 p.m. with 104 players in the senior division, 14 intermediate and 12 juniors. Derek Kidnie of Kitchener was the senior champion following a two-round final of twelve shots each. Joe Fulop of Exeter placed second in the senior division and was also "20's" champion recording 90 discs in the centre hole during the ten games of the qualifying tournament. Bob Mader of Breslau earned third place, while honourable mention went to Dave Scott of Stratford who was eliminated in the final.

Intermediate champion is Adam Stock of Tavistock with second place going to Trevor Baer of Plattsville and third place to Travis Kropf of RR 6, Woodstock. Honourable mention goes to Corey Bowman of Tavistock. In the junior division, Andrea Green of Tavistock was the champion followed by Josh Ruby of Tavistock and Adam Kropf of RR 6, Woodstock. Honourable mention in the juniors goes to Barratt Bender of Tavistock.

Although most participants were from southwestern Ontario, guests from the United States included Bill Davis of Adrian, Michigan; John Garrett and Theron Mergott of Rochester, New York; and Doug Shepardson of Burlington, Vermont. Brothers Dave and Norm Lagasse of Santa Fe, New Mexico also competed in senior singles tournament and as owners of the Pichenotte Game Board Co., (pronounced peeshnut) were generous prize sponsors of the tournament. Their



Senior Champion Derek Kidnie of Kitchener accepts his trophy, board and cash from WCC committee chairperson Doris Gladding and tournament initiator "Mr. Crokinole" Wayne Kelly of Stratford.

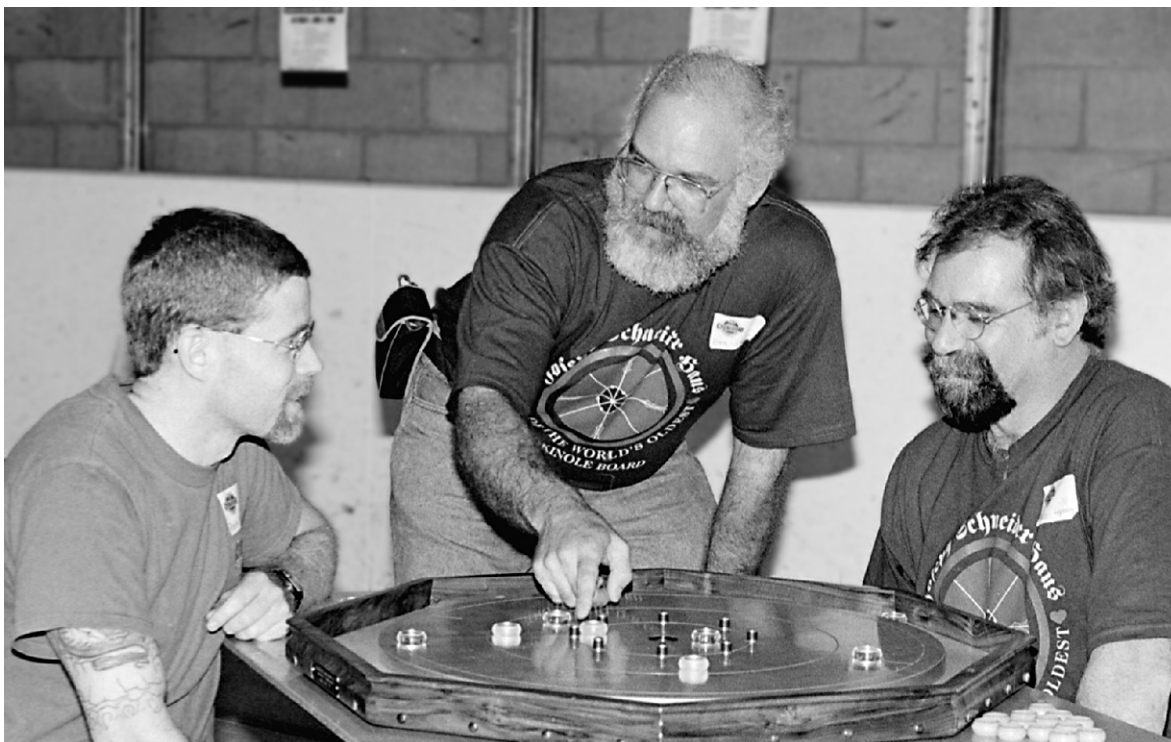
company donated three custom boards to the winners. Other board manufacturers products were also used as prizes along with cash and custom designed and built trophies.

Other board manufacturers included Kraemer Woodcraft of St.

Jacobs, Abba Wood Products of Neustadt, Prince Industries of Leduc, Quebec, and Creative Wood Products of London. Other prizes were donated by Wayne Kelly "Mr. Crokinole" of Stratford, Yantzi Hardware of Tavistock, and Wettlaufer

Woodworking of RR 2, Tavistock.

Cash donation for prize money was supplied by South Easthope Insurance Company, Tavistock; Armstrong Cheese Company, Tavistock Division; Sommers Motor Generators Sales Ltd., Tavistock; as well as donations



Above, Doug Shepardson (left) of Burlington, Vermont, learns the fine points of game board manufacturing from custom designers Dave (centre) and Norm Lagasse of Santa Fe, New Mexico at the World Crokinole Championship held in Tavistock on Saturday, June 5th, 1999.

U.S. Visitors Addicted to Crokinole

Doug Shepardson of Burlington, Vermont made a 12-hour car trip to Tavistock for Saturday's World Crokinole Championship event and was not disappointed. "I've had an absolute blast," he commented.

Doug said he stumbled across the game of crokinole just two years ago when he was looking

for a game to play in the winter months. He picked up a book describing games and built his own crokinole board from the plans provided. The game was an instant hit with his friends, but because no boards were available locally, he made another two in a friend's basement.

Later, while looking for infor-

mation about the game over the internet, he found Wayne Kelly's site and read about the world championship in Tavistock. He just had to participate. Doug is a pharmacy technician in Burlington and plans to introduce the game to as many people as possible in the next year.

from the local Opti-Mrs. Club, North Blenheim Insurance, Shakespeare Inn, and private individuals. The trophies were designed by Bill Gladding of The Tavistock Gazette and created and finished by Ken Wettlaufer of Wettlaufer Woodworking.

Barry Tate of Woodstock was the event host explaining rules and regulations throughout the day and organizing shoot outs and instructing the scoring desk. Mike Campbell of Tavistock was announcer for the afternoon with arena manager Ken Wettlaufer coordinating the timing and table setup with the help of the Tavistock Optimists. A banquet meal served eighty-one participants prior to the playoff rounds at 7:00 p.m.

Sixteen of the top players were selected for the quarter-final round in the senior division while eight were selected for the junior and intermediate grouping. Brian Cook of Toronto was top scorer after the seniors qualifying tournament with 33 of a possible 40 points in ten games. Other top players included Hugh Kidney, Waterloo; Raymond Beierling, Varna; Al Fuhr, Shakespeare; Ivan McClymont, Varna; Robert Jones, Kitchener; Raymond Kappes, Hanover; Bill Freeman, RR 2, Petersburg; Lloyd Wiseman, Kitchener; Jason Beierling, Varna; Ted Morrison, Cambridge; and Wayne Kipfer, RR 1, Millbank. Other semi-finalists in the intermediate category included Michael Dobben, Jesse Schultz, Rachel Bender, all of Tavistock; and Kaitlyn Sheehy, of Kitchener. The other junior semifinalists included Shelby McLaren, Jarris Jantzi, Curtis Bowman, and Ryan Gribble, all of Tavistock.

A draw was made from all entrants in the competition for a Kraemar Professional Board which was won by Kathryn Halliday of Tavistock. Tickets were also sold for a board donated by Wettlaufer Woodworking of RR 2, Tavistock that was won by Mary Lou Piggott of Innerkip. The awards ceremony was emceed by chairperson Doris Gladding who introduced Mayor of East Zorra-Tavistock Dave Oliphant. He brought greetings from the township and congratulated the organizers and participants on a fine tournament. Awards and prizes were then presented. Mrs. Kay Sommers made the presentation to 20's champion Joe Fulop on behalf of Sommers Motor Generator Sales Ltd. Wayne Kelly presented the junior and intermediate awards and Dave and Norm Lagasse presented the seniors awards and boards.

The youngest competitors were aged six years and the oldest were Walter Trussler, 90, and his brother, Cliff, 87, both members of the Mannheim crokinole club, playing in the cue doubles category Saturday morning. Plans are already in the works for next year's tournament which could accommodate as many as 400 participants. In the meantime, some local participants are talking about starting a club right here in Tavistock.