

21st World Crokinole Championship

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INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

Over the years the WCC has had players from all over the world ... Germany, Scotland, Chile, France and so on. This year, Thomas Collins came from St. Peter Port, Guernsey (an island in the English Channel) and Joert Edink from Delft, The Netherlands.

Thomas's grandfather was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and moved to England about 20 years ago. Thomas remembers playing crokinole with him as a young lad of 5 years or so. About 18 months ago, Thomas signed a 5-year contract to work for a financial services insurance company in Guernsey. He enjoys travelling the world during his free time and planned a trip to Canada to visit relatives in Vancouver and Toronto before attending the World Crokinole Championship in Tavistock. He was quite pleased with his results placing 62nd in recreational doubles and 63rd in recreational singles.

Joert Edink of Delft, The Netherlands attended this year's event for the first time with his partner, Jane Manson of Newfoundland, who he met while holidaying in Vancouver 16 years ago. An IT design and software engineer, Joert lived in Vancouver and Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, and has family in Ottawa. He said he

enjoys the game of crokinole and watched a YouTube clip by Nathan Walsh that gave him the idea to come to Tavistock, compete and connect with the best players in the world. Joert placed 57th overall in competitive singles play while he and Jane were 40th in the competitive doubles category. Joert recently bought his uncle a board and is always introducing the game to his friends.

This year also brought 30 players from the US. They represented 7 states including Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio and New York. Six of the New York players are members of a wider crokinole group called the Extra Pint Crokinole Club that meets in different locations around the State of New York and concluded their season with a U.S. Open tournament in April.

TOURNAMENT RECORDS

One player, who travelled the furthest here in Canada was Jane Manson from Hay River, North West Territories. Next in distance were St. John's and Cornerbrook, Newfoundland as well as 11 faithful crokinole players from Prince Edward Island. Locally, the city of Kitchener had 49 players registered this year.

A school bus also arrived at the arena with 18 young players from Toronto. Calling themselves the City Flickers, with matching



The 8 players who have been at all 21 tournaments include, from the left, Nyle Eby, Robert Mader, Oscar Weber, Ray Beierling, Raymond Kappes, Jason Beierling, Clare Kuepfer and Lloyd Wiseman.



WINS 7TH CUE SINGLES TITLE

Lorraine Proud of Kitchener won her seventh WCC Cue Singles title.

BILL GLADDING / TAVISTOCK GAZETTE

blue t-shirts and a logo that included the CN Tower piercing a crokinole board, the group was organized with the help of former Tavistock resident Lindsey Falk.

On Saturday, there were 21 members of the Scone Crokinole Club at the 21st World Crokinole Championship. Club members that attended gathered for a photo outside the Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

during the tournament.

Women are also playing a bigger role in the day's events with 14 women registered in the competitive singles category. Once again, the Top Female was Beverly Vaillancourt of Penetanguishene, who has won the Karin Jeske Award for the past seven years. Her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Carstairs of Penetanguishene was second and Christina Campbell of London was third.

This year's early bird registration winners of the two official spring jackets embroidered with the World Crokinole Championship emblem were Sarah Beierling from Dorchester and Will Moore from Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

The official Crokinole board winner was

Douglas Neill of Summerside, PEI. Evelyn Hodgkinson of Paisley won \$218 in the 50/50 draw. The youngest girl was Rachel Beierling, 7, of Dorchester and the youngest boy, Ezekiel Jongsma, 5, of Hamilton. The eldest lady was Norma Morrissey, 85, of Charlottetown, PEI and the eldest man was Aden Brubacher, 88, of Elmira.

Back in 2013, for the 15th anniversary of the WCC championship, there were 10 crokinole players present who had played at all 15 tournaments. This year, there were 8 of those 10 who were playing for the 21st time.

From 5 years of age to 88 years, everyone once again enjoyed a well-run tournament with lots of action, fellowship and fun. The number of individual registrants was up from 375 to 386 this year with the total number playing throughout the day exceeding 575.

For final statistics and photographs please go to the web site at www.worldcrokinole.com or visit nationalcrokinole.com for videos and commentary on the day's events.



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A thank you to all participants, sponsors, committee members and referees, Joe Richards, Don McKay, Bill Gladding, Ken Roth, scorekeepers, volunteers, trophy presenters, food booths, arena staff and Firemen's Chicken Barbecue supper for making the World Crokinole Championship a successful and fun day. Everything was greatly appreciated.

Thanks again from Paul Epp, John Schultz, Mary Alice Roth, Lois Kalbfleisch, Linda Bender, Kathy Rosenberg, Sherrill Calder, Keith Brenneman, Jason Beierling and Nathan Walsh.

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