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Back to the Heartland Regina Briar '92

The storied history of Saskatchewan curling goes back almost 130 years to the frozen surface of the North Saskatchewan River. Prince Albert is where the first recorded matches were played and where the province's first curling club was formed in 1882. In the next decade numerous small clubs began springing up all over the province, many with wooden huts to shelter the curlers and the natural ice from the 'tropical' Saskatchewan winter! The first curling club in the Queen City, the Regina Curling Club was founded in 1889.

The Ozzie Barkwell rink of Yellow Grass made history by competing as Western Canadian Champions in the first Brier held in Toronto in 1927. The Barkwells won the Saskatchewan Championship by acclamation: they were the only rink to challenge for the title!

They then loaded their own set of stones on the train for Winnipeg where they won the first Western Canadian Championship. Their 3-4 record at the Toronto Brier was good enough for a third place finish.

So reads the advertising feature story in the March 6 issue of the Regina Leader Post just prior to the beginning of the 1992 Brier. There follows stories of subsequent glory days for curlers from Saskatchewan like the 1955 Brier champions, the Campbell brothers, Garnet, Don, Glen and Lloyd of Avonlea, and the '59, '60, '62, and '63 Brier and World Champion Richardson rink, Ernie, Arnold, Sam and Wes from Regina.

What a setting to anticipate another Friars' Briar! But there was a little problem Dave Iverson and some of the key organizers of our '83 event in Regina had moved elsewhere and there was no clergy curling club functioning there. Maybe Saskatoon could make the arrangements as Winnipeg had for Brandon and Portage. Not possible! Suddenly the president got a brain wave. Why not ask Ron Sutton, a former Moose Jaw associate and enthusiastic curler, to make the local arrangements? Our good secretary could make up the draw when he arrived with his gold-medal-rink from Winnipeg. No sooner was the request made than a positive reply was given. Ron would not only volunteer his own congenial self, but also that of his wife, Mary, who was to be chief administrator.

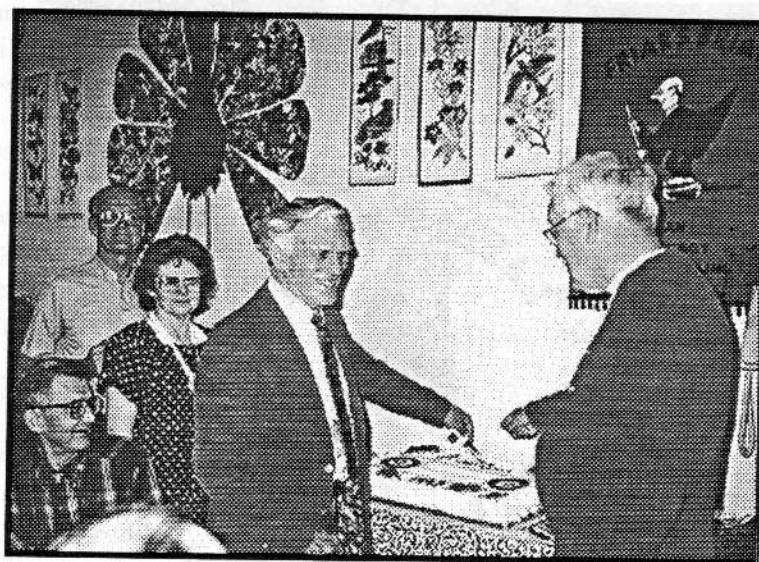
Arrangements were made for clergy viewing of the '92 Labatt Brier Canadian Men's Curling Championship games in the Agridome, located in Regina's Exhibition grounds and for curling of the Friars' Briar in the nearby Wheat City and Regina Curling clubs. Accommodation was set up with our favorite motel people and benefactors, the Relax Inns.

As usual, play in the Friars' Briar was very competitive and fun-filled. Once again the gold went to Fraser Muldrew's rink from Manitoba consisting of Ken Innes, Roger Coll and brother Milt. George Budd and his Saskatchewan rink consisting of Jim Chapman, Glenn Gerbrandt and father Dave claimed silver. Guy Scholz of Alberta and wife Carla, father Herb and father-in-law Don Anderson won the bronze. Saskatchewan's Harold Hesje, Rolf Nosterud, Gene Grant and Arno Bablitz earned fourth place.

One of the really human aspects of the arrangements for the Regina '92 Briar was the fact that the Welcoming Breakfast on Tuesday morning and the Closing Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting of the Association were held at Mutchmor Lodge, a home for senior citizens established by the United Church. Since Mary Sutton was the Supervisor of Nurses for this institution, this helped her be present for these two events, while at the same time was good *reality therapy* for curlers and nursing home guests.

Friar Bill Kiesman complained in subsequent years of competition he only got a chocolate bar for a prize - he and all the rinks placing 5th to 12th in the standings! The decision had been made earlier that any cash available after other costs were met would go to the travel pool. Accordingly, Ron Sutton visited the nearby confectionary store and purchased a small package of sweets for those of us in the lower brackets. It was a bit like the *sweets of mourning* handed out at a Chinese funeral. The incident apparently hasn't deterred our guy from Asquith with the orange running shoes from continuing to enter the fray in search of gold!

The following list of curlers registered for the Regina '92 Briar. It will serve to remind all who read, of the new friends made, and former acquaintances visited again. Fourteen rinks in all - five from each of Saskatchewan and Alberta, one from each of B.C. and Manitoba, and two from Ontario!



Gerry Ward cutting the cake on direction of the forward looking president.

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One of the really human touches in the arrangements was the fact that the Welcoming Breakfast on Tuesday and the Ladies Bardy and Annual Meeting of the Association were held at the same time. I believe the senior citizens established by the United Church. Since my 25th birthday was for this occasion, this helped for the present for these two events while at the same time a party for outers and nursing home guests.

First Bill Kriesman explained the curling rules and all the things that go to the travel. Accordingly, earlier that any cash available should go to the travel. Ron Sutton visited the nearby contact. It was in the lower part of us in the lower part. The incident apparently hasn't been mentioned to enter in continuing to enter in.

The following list of the new friends from each of Saskatchewan Curling.



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Friars' Briar , Regina 1992

WEST

Alberta 1

Harold Ziprick
Merv. Kentel
Evan Bottomley
Emil Kaminski

Alberta 2

Bruce Vanstone
Tom Bray
Murdo MacKenzie
Arlene Bray

Alberta 3

Don Brown
Curly Doan
Gordon Oakes
John Colclough

Alberta 4

Guy Scholz
Carla Scholz
Herb Scholz
Don Anderson

Alberta 5

Gerald Ward
Paul Harding
Mildred Gardner
Leonard Anderson

Saskatchewan 5

Harold Hesje
Rolf Nosterud
Gene Grant
Arno Bablitz

British Columbia 1

Cliff McMurtry
Lorne Dorsch
Cameron Reid
Walter Gardner

EAST

Ontario 1

Bob McNaught
Beula McNaught
Vic Sangwine
Mel Murray

Ontario 2

Andy Denholm
Bill Fennell
Don Amos
Lloyd Tilley

Manitoba 1

Fraser Muldrew
Ken Innes
Roger Coll
Milton Muldrew

Saskatchewan 1

Ron Sutton
Margaret Young
Howard Hanson
Jerry Borkowsky

Saskatchewan 2

Allan Grundahl
Ken Peterson
Janice Grundahl
Perry Olson

Saskatchewan 3

Bill Kiesman
Wayne McLaren
Bob McAdam
Mary Kiesman

Saskatchewan 4

George Budd
Jim Chapman
Glenn Gerbrandt
Dave Budd