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The '83 Regina Friars' Briar

It was with great excitement that fourteen rinks of clergy signed up for the '83 Friars' Briar in the land of the Richardsons and Campbells and to view the Silver Broom games from April 11 to 17. Dave Iverson, who had won the gold medals in Brandon was in charge of local arrangements there.

The Silver Broom was played in the Agridome, known on the prairies for its many stock, grain and machinery exhibitions. A slightly different arrangement was made for viewing tickets for the friars. Although no books of tickets were available, 48 seats were assured for each game. This meant that the participants decided among themselves who would use the available tickets at each of the World Championship games. Most days, until the final and semi-final games, there was no limit on the number of tickets available for purchase.

The Friars' Briar games were curled in nearby rinks on the Exhibition Grounds - the Regina Curling Club on Monday, Thursday and Friday; the Tartan Curling Club on Tuesday and Wednesday. One rink from B.C., five from Alberta, three from Saskatchewan, three from Manitoba and two from Ontario competed in the five-game bonspiel for the Canadian Clergy Curling championship trophy won by Hugh Christmas' rink from Calgary. Curling with Hugh and also receiving gold medallions were Gordon Dixon, Irvin Hohm and J.B. Cunningham. Second place silver went to Dave Iverson's rink from Regina including Tom Powell, Ken Powers and Ray Anderson, Bronze medallions were won by Fraser Muldrew's rink from Winnipeg which included Walter Cowan, Ken MacFarlane and Bill Morgan. Cliff McMurtry's rink, also from Winnipeg, and skipped by Wilf Raths and including Nels Hampton and Dick Gillanders was runner-up. These rinks made up the "A" Event. In the "B" Event, rinks skipped by Wes Bray of B.C., Hugh Bayne of Alberta, Gerry Ward and Curly Doan of Alberta placed respectively. The six rinks in the "C" Event were skipped by Harold Ziprick of Alberta,, Grant Smith of Manitoba, Don Amos of Ontario, Irv Puricki of Saskatchewan, Mel Murray of Saskatchewan and Andy McKenzie of Ontario respectively.

A lively time was had at the Awards Banquet in the Four Seasons Banquet hall under the leadership of Dave Iverson. Don Amos, Chairman of the Association announced plans to be in Victoria for the next year's get-together. This would be held in conjunction with the Labatt Brier. The bobble of a possible game of golf following the events of the Friars' Briar was even dangled before possible participants present as an incentive to sign up right away. The possibility of a rink going to Glasgow the following year at the time of the Silver Broom to watch and have a game with clergy across the pond was also suggested.

With the exception of those who were able to take part in the Friars' Briar from home or who stayed with friends nearby, once again the Relax Inn was the place where the friars returned at the end of the day to discuss their win or loss and talk about the outstanding world-calibre curling that they had witnessed.

Following the Friday night banquet the usual annual meeting of what was coming to be known as the "Friars' Briar Association" it was decided that directors should be appointed to represent all the provinces presently participating in the annual curling events. Accordingly, David Iverson was asked to represent Saskatchewan. Don Amos was to remain as Chairman and be the person to stimulate participation by provinces east of Ontario; Mel Boyd was to continue as Secretary and represent Ontario; Fraser Muldrew was to represent Manitoba; Hugh Christmas was to continue as Treasurer and represent Alberta; and Wes Bray was to continue as the representative for B.C.

It was in the capital city of Saskatchewan that we first heard from Herb Erickson from Edmonton who came to be known as "The Poet Laureate of the Friars' Briar". The first of his yearly offerings was entitled, "The Silver Broom of 1983".

Its words were as follows:

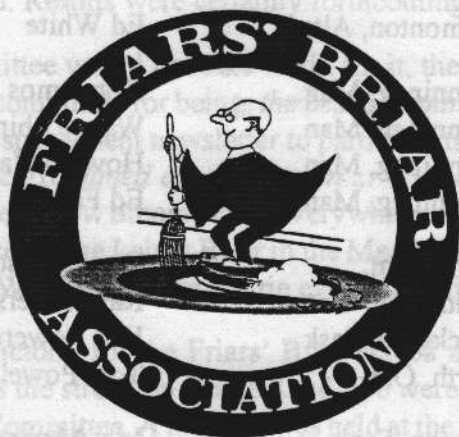
"Wi' besom an' stane"
In the "roaring game"
The best of the world have met.
Regina the place
Exciting the pace,
With many a near upset.
The ice they must read,
The Skip's signals heed,
And sweeping leads stones into place
Each country plays well,
But soon we can tell
The best rink will win in the race.
Now Canada leads,
And Germany heeds,
And persists, not giving much room,
The finals are played,
The last stones are laid,
And Canada wins "Silver Brooms"!

A nice surprise for the participants in the Regina '83 Friars' Briar was the appearance of a lovely enamel pin - black, gold, red, blue, pink and white - on metal, and complete with a safety catch. It featured the now famous logo picturing the cleric in flowing gown and with broom under arm, riding a curling stone into the house - the artwork of Catherine Robbins of Calgary.

Listen to what Hugh Christmas, the producer, had to say about it when it was first described by him in a subsequent newsletter:

Some curlers make a habit of collecting club pins. The Friars' Briar Association has it's own!

Below is an illustration in black and white. So far, 100 Friars are proud wearers! That was the extent of the first *striking*. We could literally have sold hundreds more, but we are restricting ownership (or wearership) to Friars' Briars participants. Cost is \$5.



Another pleasant surprise that the local committee had ready for the participating friars in Victoria were some 26 Hospitality Gifts which were drawn out of a hat on the Tuesday

Friars' Briar - Regina 1983

Fraser Muldrew	Dugald, Man.	Gerry Ward	Lethbridge, Alta.
Ken MacFarlane	Winnipeg, Man.	Mark R. Waugh	Craik, Sask.
Walter R. Cowan	Winnipeg, Man.	Walter Gardiner	Bethune, Sask.
Bill Morgan	Winnipeg, Man.	Elmer Koronko	Calgary, Alta.
Lawrence Koehler	Surrey, B.C.	Hugh Christmas	Calgary, Alta.
W. R. Bell	New Westminster, B.C.	J. B. Cunningham	Calgary, Alta.
James M. Taylor	Port Moody, B.C.	Irvin H. Hohm	Calgary, Alta.
Wes Bray	Clearbrook, B.C.	Gordon Dixon	Calgary, Alta.
Hugh Bayne	Trail, B.C.	Harold Ziprick	Calgary, Alta.
Norm McDonald	Edmonton, Alta.	Ray Price	Calgary, Alta.
Brian Hunter	Drumheller, Alta.	Carl Huget	Calgary, Alta.
Harry Steele	Wetaskiwin, Alta.	Joe Rostad	Calgary, Alta.
S. A. Curly Doan	Edmonton, Alta.	Grant Smith	Winnipeg, Man.
Paul R. Koester	Sherwood Park, Alta.	Enid Smith	Winnipeg, Man.
Val Roos	Edmonton, Alta.	Gordon Kerr	Winnipeg, mAN.
Herb Eriksson	Edmonton, Alta.	Ed White	Winnipeg, Man.
W.K. Rath	Winnipeg, Man.	Don Amos	Brampton, Ont.
Cliff McMurtry	Winnipeg, Man.	Wayne Shirton	Winfield, B.C.
R. J. Gillanders	Winnipeg, Man.	Howard Hanson	Regina, Sask.
Nelson Hampton	Winnipeg, Man.	Ed File	Toronto, Ont.
Andrew McKenzie	Perth, Ont.	Dave Iverson	Regina, Sask.
Gordon C. Smyth	Balderson, Ont.	Ray Anderson	Regina, Sask.
Larry Mattson	Rockglen, Sask.	Ken Powers	Regina, Sask.
Isabel McKenzie	Perth, Ont.	Tom Powell	Regina, Sask.
Irv Pudricki	Regina, Sask.	Mel Murray	Saskatoon, Sask.
Joe Balzar	Regina, Sask.	Frieda Oswald	Saskatoon, Sask.
Larry Edwards	Regina, Sask.	Lorna Thronson	Selkirk, Man.
Louis Kubash	Regina, Sask.	Kenneth Peterson	Saskatoon, Sask.