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## The Chicoutimi '88 Briar that didn't Happen

Conversation in the stands during the Briar playdowns in Edmonton and at the Annual Meeting of the Friars' Briar Association favoured attempting to hold the 1988 Friars' Briar in association with the Labatt's Briar in Chicoutimi, Quebec. The 4,000 seat George Vezine Centre in this scenic part of the country sounded very intriguing. Also, it would finally take us east of the Ontario border and into a new part of Canada and fulfill the dream of the founders when they appointed Don Amos the director for Eastern Canada.

Subsequently, arrangements were made with the Relax Group of Companies, whose facilities we had used in previous Friars' events, to underwrite the cost of fifty books of tickets for the Chicoutimi Labatt Briar national playdowns, March 6-13. The Association advanced payment for 20 rooms at the Motel Richelieu. Plans were being made for twelve rinks to compete.

But, alas and alack! When decision time came there was only a commitment on the part of twelve persons to attend and regretfully, the Briar event was cancelled. Only six persons travelled to Chicoutimi to use the rooms and tickets arranged. The cancellation caused the executive officers of the Friars' Briar Association no end of embarrassment and concern. Fortunately, the motel refunded the one night advance payment made for the twenty rooms not used. However, the viewing tickets, except for a few sold by the Briar scalpers who attended, could not be returned to the Labatt Briar committee. Through some generous gifts from several of the clergy curling clubs across the country and a few individuals, it was possible to remit back to the Relax Group of Companies, a total of just over half of the \$6,250.00 advanced to the Chicoutimi Labatt Briar Committee on our behalf for tickets.

Participants and friends of the Friars' Briar Association can show their appreciation to the Relax hotel chain by giving them consideration in the future in arranging accommodation in those cities where they are located. On their part, the directors of the Friars' Briar Association have had a big question mark raised about the necessity of our guaranteeing tickets for possible viewers to such events held at the same time as the Friars' Briar, in advance. In the meantime, let us continue to be grateful to our treasurer at the time, Hugh Christmas, who had a tough assignment of negotiating by letter with the company that responded to our predicament with such graciousness.

Fortunately, we were to go on to more successful things in the future!