

## Chapter 23

### The Kitchener Waterloo 2001 Briar

#### The early planning

Following last year's Friars' Briar word came back from Doug Sloan, the Ontario director of the Association, that since there was no clergy curling club in Ottawa, it would be difficult to stage our Briar where the national event was being held in March 2002. The good news that came with that correspondence was that the Kitchener/Waterloo Club would be happy to have the Friar's Briar. On the basis of the 1986 Briar sponsored by this club and in the knowledge that Doug Sloan would give good support to the local committee, we knew that we were in for a good time!

Early in November clergy curling clubs received word through their provincial director from David Martin, chair of local arrangements that the 2001 Friars' Briar would be hosted by the Kitchener/Waterloo Clergy Curling Club, March 5-9 at the Granite Curling club in Kitchener, Ontario. Soon after a letter followed giving details of the opening events on the Monday evening, the round robin games on Tuesday and Wednesday and the games on Thursday and Friday morning in First, Second and Consolation events leading up to the awards luncheon at noon on Friday. Included with the letter were Registration forms for the Briar and Pre-Registration forms for accommodation.

Choice of the Walper Terrace Hotel with its "irresistible old world charm" at the remarkable price of \$75 per room per night for 1 or 2 guests, rate including an unbelievable continental breakfast, was a stroke of genius on the part of the local committee and a source of great satisfaction to the applicants. Courtesy of the Assistant Bishop of the Lutheran Church in that area and the generosity of the Walper management, a bounteous and beautifully displayed repast of fruit and all manners of finer foods were served on Tuesday evening between 9 and 10 o'clock to the clergy staying at the hotel.

#### The curlers arrive

Most of the out of province clergy from B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba arrived by plane on the Monday morning or afternoon. We were greeted by the fringe of the worst snow storm of the winter that hit hardest in the Boston and New York areas. Our landing occurred in the north end of the Toronto airport. With a snow plough taxiing us around the perimeter, we finally made it to the usual deplaning spot. There we were picked up by Doug McKenzie, Stan Yakota and Bob McNaught who had driven in the driving snow over freshly ploughed roads by car to Kitchener. The Alberta rinks seemed to have pre-planned and pre-paid corporate support for their transportation arrangements.

Having checked in at the hotel we proceeded to the Granite Curling Rink in Kitchener. There a warm welcome was awaiting us. As the names of the Local arrangements Committee were read out to us - names like David Martin, Wilmer Minke, Reynold Kipfer, Ab Lorch, Bill Huras, Aaron Klassen and Maurice Martin, it suggested that for the first time in Briar history, the leadership was from those of Mennonite faith.

A generous bag of maps and brochures about the two cities and surrounding communities, plus a special pin marking the 2001 Briar was given to each curler as he or she arrived. A hot meal of schnitzels and other goodies was ready for us in the dining area.

In the official opening following the meal, David Martin, chair of local arrangements, and the mayor of Kitchener, Carl Zehr, brought greetings. Wilmer Minke, the registrar, continued to check out registrations. Gerry Hofstetter, the drawmaster, gave out the list of rinks and the draws for Monday through Wednesday. He explained that the Monday night games determined the winner of the Heavenly Host shield for the East-West competition. Tuesday and Wednesday games were part of a round robin that decided the top eight rinks in Flight One. The next eight rinks played in the Second Flight. The last six played in the Consolation event. These were the Thursday and Friday morning games. The opening games on Monday were preceded by a procession of the 2001 curlers led by piper Bob Mitchell of Cambridge. At the conclusion of his duties he was presented with the traditional dram of whiskey by the Granite Rink manager.

Twenty-two rinks in all participated – 13 from Ontario, 3 from Manitoba, 1 from Saskatchewan, 3 from Alberta and 2 from British Columbia. Among these (and for the second time in Briar history) one was a women's rink consisting of Bonnie Cole Annal (United Church minister), Barbara Petit (Anglican priest), Lois Matton (United Church minister's spouse) and Adele Fletcher (United Church diaconal in training). There were three husband and wife rinks consisting of Larry and Kay Cowper plus Blanch and John Robertson; Ken and Carole Innes plus Bruce and Marg Whitmore; Siegfried and Teenie Wall plus Anne and Dave Winter. For the third time members of the Cline family now scattered across Canada came to the Briar. This time Phil brought a St. Catherine's friend, Hank Petkau to fill the fourth spot on the rink.

#### The banquet and annual meeting

Thursday evening is banquet night and time for entertainment and strengthening the bonds of friendship when spouses and friends join us who are in easy traveling distance. A brief annual meeting of the Friars' Briar Association also happens that night. The banquet and entertainment was arranged by the Kitchener/Waterloo clergy Curling g Club. The event took place in the Crystal Ballroom of the Walper Terrace Hotel.

Punch was available for a half hour social time when table guests got acquainted and copies of last year's chapter of the Briar Book were offered for sale. A delicious dinner of spring salad, prime rib of beef, baby new potatoes, fresh mixed vegetables, rolls and butter, black raspberry parfait and coffee and tea was served, following prayer by our national president, Kutch Imayoshi of Vancouver.

A most pleasing presentation of music was provided by a group of men from the Rockway Mennonite Church. These enthusiastic musicians called "Four on the Floor" included Bob Janzen (a lawyer), Ron Harder (a social worker), James Reimer (a theologian) and Lyle Friesen (an ecologist). Lyle played an acoustic amplified Mandolin. Bob Jenzen played guitar. All sang contemporary Christian songs to upbeat music. It was a very enjoyable but moving experience in all!

Local chair, David Martin, turned the attention of the evening over to Kutch Imayoshi for the conduct of the annual Friars' Briar Association meeting. Secretary Jan Huntjens read the minutes of last year's meeting and gave a summary of decisions made by the directors in a meeting held earlier during this year's Briar. All officers and directors appointed or confirmed last year were re-elected. Cliff McMurtry gave a report of a review, made by Kutch himself, of the constitution of the Friars' Briar Association. The amended constitution, reflecting minor refinements made from the membership present appears as an appendix to this chapter.

Two special awards were made by our president. The first was the Heavenly Host Shield created by the Calgary Clergy Curling Club to continue the friendly rivalry between East and West. This year the shield was given to Fraser Muldrew for safekeeping until next year on the basis of the superior scores of the West over the East in the Monday night opening games. The second award given by the president was the Amazing Grace or Wesley Leatherhead trophy created by Ralph Milton of Wood Lake Press. This year it went to a rink from Ontario whose ages total 327 years. Recipients were Bill Fennell, Helge Hongisto, Bob McNaught and Ernie Nix. The way to go, guys! God's blessing on you!

In his report as historian, Cliff McMurtry made reference to a recent birthday party he attended for President Kutch at First Baptist in Vancouver. Date of birth: December 27, 1920. Cliff also paid tribute to the memory of two of the early founders of the Friars' Briar Association. The Reverend Doctor Grant Smith who died on November 11, 2000 at 84 years convened the first meeting with Don Amos in the spring of 1977 to talk about a possible exchange of East and West clergy curlers. The Reverend Doctor Gerald Ward who died October 20, 2000 was the winning skip of three others from Alberta (all who had inclinations to share the skipping role), of the first East/West curling event named by Don Amos, the Conspiel, but changed in 1980 to The Friars' Briar. On behalf of these beloved curling friars and others who had died during the past year, Bob McNaught offered a prayer, based on the theme, "For those we love".

Fraser Muldrew gave a progress report on behalf of the committee appointed to investigate the possibilities of procuring a sponsor for the Friars' Briar Association that might help defray some of the major costs in connection with running the Friars' Briar event each year. The treasurer, Ken Innes, gave his yearly report and assured us that we had a comfortable balance at the present time. Calgary Clergy Club issued an invitation for the next year's Briar which was quickly accepted. The meeting closed with prayer.

### The final games

When the games were completed at noon Friday March 9 all curlers were invited to gather in the dining area of the Granite Rink to receive a prize and have lunch before leaving for home. Twenty-four individuals and institutions made it possible that everyone would have something to take home by way of remembrance of the 2001 Briar. Some rinks received special recognition. Guy Scholz' rink, including Grant Rodgers, Dan Eagle and Andy Jones won the gold in the Medals event. The Harry Klassen rink, consisting of Ernie Skujins, Gerry Hofstetter and John Perkins, won the silver medals. The George Budd rink, consisting of Arnie Friesen, Stephen Hambidge and Orie Oldfield, captured the bronze! The Jeff Learmont rink, consisting of Kellie McComb, Mark Winger and Ted Martin were awarded first in the Second Flight. Cliff McMurtry's rink, consisting of Cameron Reid (skip), Ross Connal and Sid Phillips were first in the Consolation. All agreed at the end of the day that there had been some good curling during the week as well as lessons learned on how to put it together better next Briar.

Congenial host and tireless worker on our behalf as local arrangements chair, David Martin, describes the final championship game for us in an exciting manner:

*The championship game of the Friars' Briar was played at 10:30 on Friday morning between Harry Klassen's rink of Toronto and the Guy Scholz rink of Calgary. It was a classic showdown between east and west. Klassen and Scholz who had played well all week went head to head in the final game. In the final end of play, the game was tied at 3-3 with Scholz holding the hammer. The fans rated this championship as the best Friars' Briar finish ever!*

*The picture perfect finale was as good as anything you might see in the Nokia Brier! With skip rocks left to play, Klassen faces a house with three Scholz rocks under cover. In his first shot, he drew through to guard, but his rock over-curled, leaving the port open. With a finely thrown rock, Scholz responded with a spectacular angle raise take-out to win the game 6-3 and to earn his fifth Friars' Briar championship. It was an amazing end to a week of exceptional curling.*

May I end this chapter with a whole series of commercials? This week at Kitchener/Waterloo wouldn't have been financially possible without a good deal of financial strain on the part of many of the participants had it not been for the generous donations by Kitchener/Waterloo Clergy Curling Club, Guelph Clergy curling Club, All Ontario Clergy Curling Association and twenty Funeral homes from Cambridge, Elminra, Waterloo, Tavistock, Wellesley, Guelph, Plattsville, Fergus, Acton and Kitchener. Thank you as well to Pat Schlitt and the Schreiter-Sandrock Funeral home for the generous provision of courtesy limousines from the hotel to the rink each morning, and the sharing of rides by Ontario curlers with cars. As well we appreciated the fine job done by the volunteer members of the local committee and the caterers.

## Participating Rinks - Friar's Briar 2001

### Eastern Rinks

Skip	Vice	Second	Lead
<b>Bauman</b> , Gordon	Delmer Epp	Vernon Brubacker	Carl Nicklas*
<b>Cline</b> , Phil	Hank Petkau	Ellis Cline	Steve Cline*
<b>Cole Arnal</b> , Bonnie	Barbara Pettit	Lois Matton	Adele Fletcher*
<b>Cowper</b> , Larry	Kay Cowper	Blanche Robertson	John Robertson*
<b>Dykman</b> , Henk	Bill Service	Arnie Bethune	Paul Webb
<b>Fennell</b> , Bill	Helge Hongisto	Bob McNaught	Ernie Nix
<b>Kipfer</b> , Reynold	Earl Myers	Earl Allsopp	Trevor Braun*
<b>Klassen</b> , Harry	Ernie Skujins	Gerry Hofstetter	John Perkins*
<b>Learmonth</b> , Jeff	Kellie McComb	Mark Winger	Ted Martin*
<b>Lorch</b> , Ab	Joanne Kipfer Bill Dick	Bill Huras	Aaron Klassen*
<b>Martin</b> , David	Glen Mattinson	Don Misener	Wilmer Minke
<b>Sloan</b> , Doug	Emily Woods	George Speers	Gord Truscott*
<b>Yokota</b> , Stan	Jan Huntjens	Doug McKenzie	Aileen Yokota

### Western Rinks

<b>Budd</b> , George	Arnie Friesen	Stephen Hambidge	Orie Oldfield*
<b>Hesje</b> , Harold	David Hunter	Arno Bablitz	John Wall*
<b>Imayoshi</b> , Katsumi	George Friedrich	Ian Grant	Emmitt Homes*
<b>Innes</b> , Ken	Carole Innes	Bruce Whitmore	Margaret Whitmore
<b>McMurtry</b> , Cliff	Cameron Reid	Ross Connal	Sidney Phillips*
<b>Muldrew</b> , Fraser	Dennis Butcher	Roger Coll	Patrick Muldrew*
<b>Oman</b> , Ed	Frank Little	Neil Campell	Grant Hastie
<b>Scholz</b> , Guy	Grant Rodgers	Dan Eagle	Andy Jones*
<b>Wall</b> , Siegfried	Anne Winter	Dave Winter	Teenie Wall

\* Lay

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Kitchener-Waterloo, On  
March 5-9, 2001**

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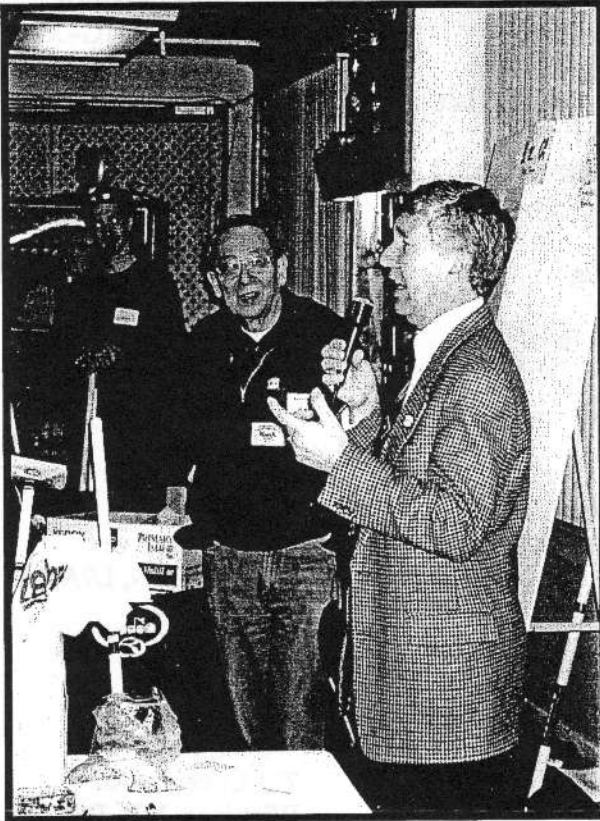
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## Kitchener Waterloo Friars' Briar photos



Top left picture

Mayor Carl Zehr welcomes the curlers to the 2001 Friar's Briar at Kitchener, Ontario. Kutch Imayoshi, president of the Canadian Clergy Curling Association, on his right.

Bottom picture

Wilmer Minke, registrar and Doug Sloan, Ontario director sitting at the registration table. Fraser Muldrew, past president listens to the right. Ross Connal feels the purple crown.





Evening meal, Kitchener style, of sauer-kraut and schnitzels, in the Granite Curling rink social room.



Some British Columbia "friars" relax on arrival over cup of coffee.



Piper Bob Mitchell of Cambridge.

The traditional dram of whiskey.



The Processional



Classy Women's entry!

Bonnie Cole Annal  
(UCC Minister)

Barbara Petit  
(Anglican Minister)

Lois Matton  
(UCC Minister's spouse)

Adele Fletcher  
(UCC Diaconal Minister)



Friars watching Brier in Ottawa on T.V. between brier games.



The Annual Banquet  
at the Walper Terrace  
Hotel

Entertainers –  
“Four on the Floor”

Bob Janzen  
Ron Harder  
James Reimer  
Lyle Friesen

from  
Rockway Mennonite  
Church

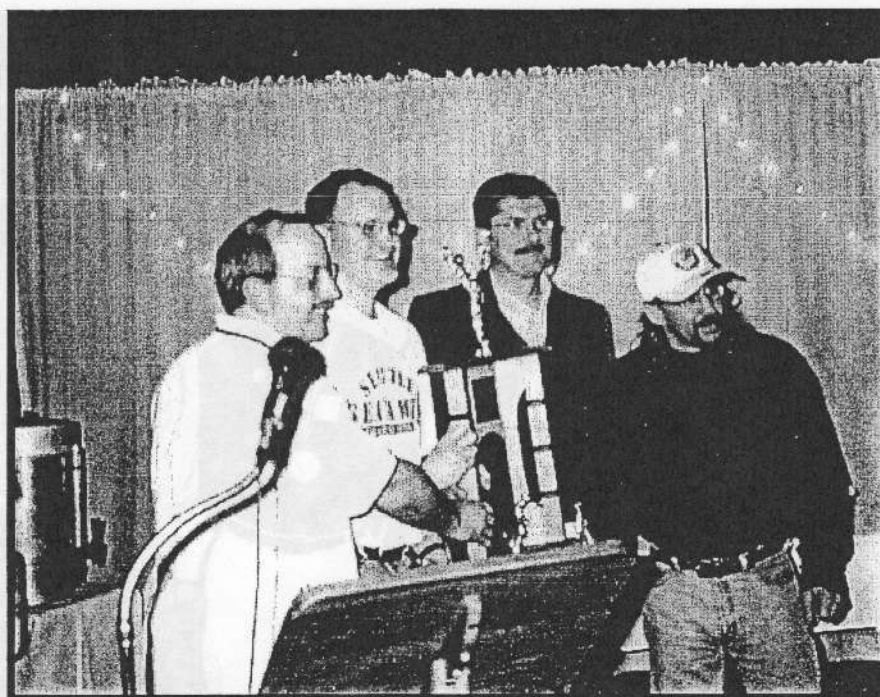


President Kutch  
presents,  
“Amazing  
Grace” trophy to  
Bill Fennell,  
Helge Hongisto,  
Bob McNaught  
and Ernie Nix.

(Their ages total  
327 years!)

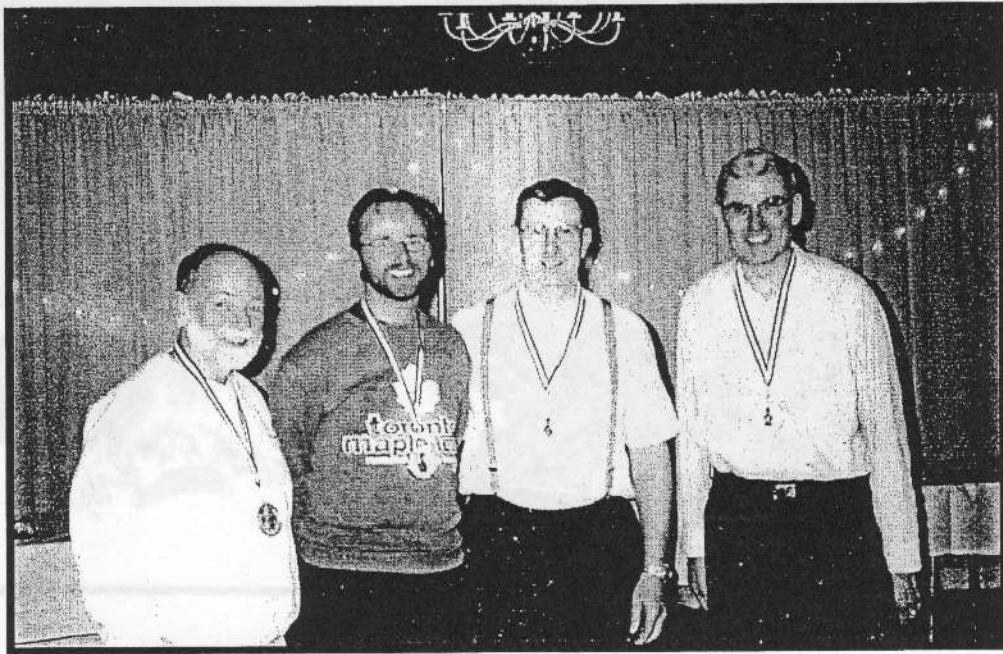


Friday noon award luncheon!



The Gold Medalists!

Guy Scholz (skip), Grant Rodgers, Dan Eagle and Andy Jones.



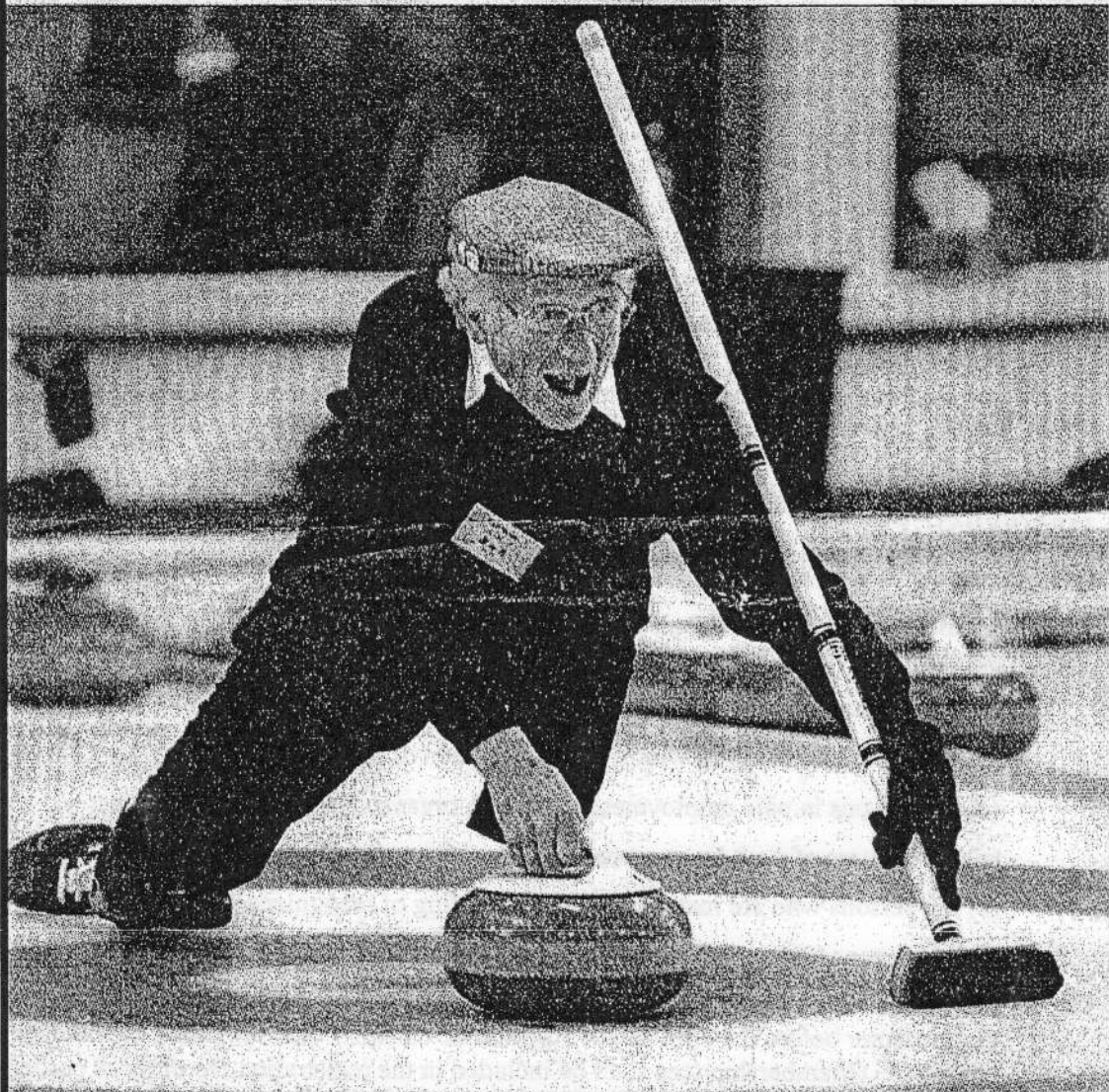
Silver! Harry Klassen (skip),  
Ernie Skujins, Gerry Hofstetter and John Perkins.



Bronze! George Budd (skip),  
Arnie Friesen, Stephen Hambidge and Orie Oldfield



## GOD IS IN THE HOUSE



Earl Meyers, a retired Kitchener minister and the vice on one of the three Kitchener-Waterloo rinks in the 2001 Friar Brier, slides his rock during a game with a Toronto rink. Twenty rinks are competing in the annual Canadian curling championship for men, which is being held at the Granite Club in Kitchener.

ROBERT WILSON, RECORD STAFF

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FRIARS' BRIAR ASSOCIATION

Amended at the Annual General Meeting held in Kitchener, Ontario, March 8th, 2001.

1. The name of the Association shall be The Friars' Briar Association, hereinafter referred to as the **FBA**.

## AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the **FBA** shall be the promotion of fine fellowship and good curling on a national basis among clergy persons and their associates (see section 3 below).
- 2.2 It shall be the aim of the **FBA** to hold an annual curling competition, to be known as the **Friars' Briar Bonspiel** (hereinafter to be known as the **FBB**), and, when possible, in conjunction with a national or world curling event being held in Canada and accessible to all curling provinces.

## MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership in the **FBA** shall be open, upon payment of an annual fee, to the following persons:
  - (a) clergy persons, whether engaged in an active ministry or retired;
  - (b) the spouses or widows/widowers and children of clergy persons;
  - (c) lay persons in paid employment by church organizations or congregations;
  - (d) the spouses of such lay persons;
  - (e) lay persons who are members in good standing of recognized clergy curling clubs;
  - (f) lay persons recommended by an **FBA** clergy person.
- 3.2 The annual membership shall be in the amount of Five Dollars, and must be in the hands of the Treasurer before the 30th day of April of the calendar year for which membership is requested. (Membership fees shall be included in the registration fee of those participants in the annual **FBB**.)

## ANNUAL MEETING

- 4.1 There shall be an Annual Meeting of the **FBA**, duly called by the Directors, which meeting shall be held during the week of the **FBB** as arranged in cooperation with the Local Organizing Committee.
- 4.2 At the annual meeting a quorum shall be considered to be present if 60% of the participants in the current year's **FBB** are in attendance.
- 4.3 Between the annual meetings of the **FBA** the business of the Association shall be entrusted to the Executive Committee and the Directors of the **FBA**.

## DIRECTORS

- 5.1 The positions formerly designated by the term Trustees shall, from the date of the annual meeting held in Victoria, B.C., on the 9th of March, 1984, be designated by the term Directors.
- 5.2 There shall be one Director, elected or appointed, to represent each of the following areas, the exception being Ontario which shall have two Directors:
  - (a) the province of Ontario;
  - (b) the Province of Manitoba;
  - (c) the Province of Saskatchewan;
  - (d) the Province of Alberta;
  - (e) the Province of British Columbia.
- 5.3 As additional provinces decide to participate and be part of the Friars' Briar Association, Directors for those provinces will be added.
- 5.4 A Director shall be selected by those members from the area he/she is to represent who are attendance at the annual meeting of the **FBA**. He/she shall serve for a five year term, or he/she moves out of the area he/she represents if such move comes before the expiry of his/her term.
- 5.5 In the event that, at an annual meeting, there are less than four members present from an area that is to select a Director, then the other Directors shall appoint a member from that area to serve as its Director.
- 5.6 In order to maintain continuity in the direction of the affairs of the **FBA**, it is recommended that no more than two new Directors be appointed at any one annual meeting.
- 5.7 In the event that a Director resigns or moves from the area that he/she represents, he/she cease to be a Director, and the remaining Directors shall appoint another member from the area concerned who shall finish out the term.
- 5.8 The Directors shall appoint the following officers who shall be considered part of the Board of Directors.
  - (a) President;
  - (b) Vice-President;
  - (c) Secretary;
  - (d) Treasurer;
  - (e) Historian.
- 5.9 The duties of the officers shall be consistent with those of the officers of any similar organization.

## **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 6.1 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for determining the location and dates for each annual **FBB**.
- 6.2 The Director for the area in which a **FBB** is to be held shall be responsible for co-opting a local committee which shall be tasked with handling the organization and conduct of that particular **FBB**. The Director for the area shall serve as a member of the Local Organizing Committee.
- 6.3 The Chairman of the **FBA** and the local Director shall be consulted by the local organizing committee regarding the nature of the Draw and Method of Scoring to be used at each annual **FBB**.
- 6.4 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for ensuring the safe custody of the FRIARS' BRIAR TROPHY and its availability for presentation to the winning rink after each **FBB**.
- 6.5 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the convening and the conducting of each annual meeting of the **FBA**.
- 6.6 The Board of Directors shall empower the Treasurer to advance, upon request, seed-money from the **FBA** account to a Local Organizing Committee to assist it with administrative and publicity expenses. It is expected that such seed-money will be returned to the **FBA** account after all local accounts are settled. It is also anticipated that as much or all of the surplus of any profits that may accrue from a **FBB** will be directed to the **FBA** account.
- 6.7 The Board of Directors shall empower the Treasurer to purchase the sets of gold, silver, and bronze medals required for each **FBB**, and to pay for them out of the **FBA** account.
- 6.8 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for keeping an up-to-date mailing list of all members of the **FBA** and keeping them informed of **FBA** affairs.

## **THE FRIARS' BRIAR TROPHY**

- 7.1 The Friars' Briar Trophy shall be awarded to the winning rink at the conclusion of each **FBB**, which trophy will be held by that rink until the next **FBB**.
- 7.2 It shall be the responsibility of the Skip of the winning rink to see that the Trophy is returned in good condition to the Directors in time for presentation to the winners of the next **FBB**.

## REGULATIONS COVERING THE FRIARS' BRIAR BONSPIELS

- 7.1 Participation in any **FBB** shall be open to rinks composed of paid-up members of the **FBA**. (See terms of membership under Section 3.1).
- 7.2 For a rink to be eligible to play in a **FBB**, it may include no more than one person who is a member under the terms of Section 3.1 (e) or(f).
- 7.3 When a rink that is eligible to play in a **FBB** includes a person whose membership comes under the terms of Section 3.1(e) or (f), that member must play in the Lead position.
- 7.4 A rink eligible to play in a **FBB** must be Skipped by a **FBA** member who is a clergy person (It is preferable, but not essential, that all members of a Rink shall be from the same Province as the Skip)

### **FBB Games:**

- 8.5 (a) Because a substantial number of participants in the **FBB** are of retirement age, it is desirable that the total number of games played per rink be limited to eight.  
(b) For the above reason, it is desirable that the initial round robin be limited to five games. Following that, the top eight rinks go on to play for the medallions. The balance of the rinks are placed in flights so as to make their games more competitive and pleasurable.
- 8.6 It is desirable that all games be eight ends with the exception of the final two played for the medals which shall be ten.
- 8.7 In the event that two Rinks are tied in the playoffs, the win is decided by a shoot-out. (Each curler throws one additional rock. One point is awarded for being in any part of the 12 foot ring; two points for any part of the 8 foot ring; three points for any part of 4 foot ring; four points for any part of the button. The rink with the most points wins the game. (Should the tie not be broken, skips will throw until there is a winner.)
- 8.8 It is desirable in any **FBB** that entries be limited to an even number of rinks, e.g. multiples of two or four.
- 8.9 The method of scoring and determining the winner in the **FBB** shall be as determined by the Local Committee in consultation with the President of the Association.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 9.1 This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the **FBA** by a simple affirmative vote of two-to-one or better by the members present, providing that due notice of motion to amend the Constitution, signed by two paid-up members, and accompanied by the proposed amendment in writing, is received by the Secretary of the Board of Directors before the end of the calendar year preceding the annual meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be presented.