

**Chapter 30**  
**Friars' Briar History**  
**30th Anniversary Year**  
**Held in Winnipeg, March 2008**



A hearty welcome was given to the 24 Teams coming to play at the Friars' Briar in Winnipeg this year. It was a good mix of teams, as can be seen below:

- 4 from Ontario
- 7 from Manitoba
- 6 from Saskatchewan
- 5 from Alberta
- 2 from British Columbia

## Opening Ceremony and Reception

The assembly started in the upstairs meeting room where greetings were brought to the Friars' Briar, first by Grant Nordman (Councillor, St. Charles Ward) on behalf of Mayor Sam Katz of the City of Winnipeg; Doug Martindale (MLA, Burrows) on behalf of Premier Gary Doer of the Province of Manitoba; and lastly Guy Hemmings, representing the Canadian Curling Association.

In passing, Grant Nordman indicated he was a curler (although lesser known than Manitoba Brier notables coming from his Charleswood rink!) Doug Martindale indicated he was a United Church minister (and a wannabe curler)! Guy Hemmings, well, just wanted to keep up the good game of curling!!

Descending down to the ice surface, Ken Innes (from the Chaplain's Curling Club in Winnipeg) piped in the ceremonial group while curlers lined the rink.

**Guy Hemmings** cast the first stone (as he was without sin.... in curling that is!) It was fortunate Guy was in Winnipeg to attend the Tim Horton Brier, as he was a friend of the FB, having cast the first stone in Regina two years previously.

Following the on-ice ceremony, Friars and guests retired to the upper room for the reception and recuperation from the first day of **Round Robin** play. Teresa Moysey (from the home rink) provided an inspiring Grace before the meal.

Actually, as the Winnipeg FB had to be a 4-day event this year (the Heather Curling Club scheduling could only offer four consecutive days), curlers had been curling since 8:30 a.m. the first day. The Opening Ceremony took place later in the afternoon of the first day.

By the end of curling day one, all teams had had two games in the Round Robin event of 5 games, postings for which went online that evening and reported on in the newsletter, Friars' Criar, the next day.

The **Reception** provided the first real opportunity for curlers and partners to sit down and talk over the day's experience, ask questions of Winnipeg and sample the various and delicious repast provided by the Heather staff. (Word had it that there was no difficulty in getting staff to come to the Friars' reception after they heard Guy Hemmings was coming!!!!)

### Finishing Round Robin Play

Finishing off the Round Robin seeding games proved quite some doing.

First, there were at least two game tie-breakers during the Round Robin tournament of 4 Groups of 6 teams each.

Then, there were 'tie-breaking rounds' where each member of the team

shot a stone to the rings, counting preset numerical scores for each ring made (or not!). These scores were held by the Drawmaster (Tom Lurvey) to facilitate placements within each Playoff Group in the event of tied scores.

Round Robin play ended with 8 teams playing games at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. Final scores were posted and the Playoffs (3 Tournaments of 3 games each team) began at 11:00 a.m. that day with both the Championship and Intermediate Tournaments taking to the ice. The Recreational Tournament followed in the next round at 1:45 p.m.

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Whether it was just the pace of the days or tension building up as to who would ultimately win the Recreational Round, the Criar noted that more and more FB curlers were seen stretching those leg muscles after only two day's play!



**Guy Hemming throwing the First Stone, opening the 2008 Friars' Briar in Winnipeg**

## Final Scores for the Round Robin games.....

GROUP A: Teams	W	L
McKenzie (Ont)	3	2
Sjoberg (Man)	1	4
Butcher (Man)	3	2
Borkowsky (Sask)	0	5
Baska (Alta)	5	0
Friedrich (Alta)	3	2

GROUP B: Teams	W	L
Robertson (Ont)	2	3
Burton (Man)	1	4
Haugen (Sask)	3	2
Grundahl (Sask)	4	1
Scholz (Alta)	5	0
Kiesman (BC)	0	5

GROUP C: Teams	W	L
McCurdy (Ont)	1	4
Williams (Sask)	4	1
Hunter (Sask)	0	5
McMillan (Man)	2	3
Oman (Alta)	4	1
Lurvey (Man)	4	1

GROUP D: Teams	W	L
Wall (Man)	4	1
Martin (Ont)	4	1
Muldrew (Man)	2	3
Hesje (Sask)	2	3
Kuhn (Alta)	3	2
Imayoshi (BC)	0	5



Ken Innis, Winnipeg Club, piping in guests and curlers alike for the Opening Ceremony and throwing of the first rock.

## Moving on to the Playoffs....

Having played 5 games in the Round Robin seeding round, thrown stones to the rings, counting up scores for rocks in the rings, then using total team score for placement within their respective Playoff Round, focus then turned to the 'serious' business of the Playoffs!

The top two teams in each Group were assigned to the Championship Playoff Round, the second two teams were assigned to the Intermediate Playoff Round and, finally, the bottom two teams in each Group were assigned to the Recreational Playoff Round. By the end of the day, all teams had

had at least one game in their respective Playoff Round of 3 games. It was time for a breather!

## Championship Round Distribution of Teams

Alberta teams – 3

Ontario & Manitoba – 2

Saskatchewan – 1

(The Criar's tears for BC were heard in the locker room)

## Off to the big Brier

Registration at the Winnipeg FB event included tickets to the Tim Horton's Brier Wednesday evening, being held downtown in the relatively new Manitoba Telephone System (MTS) Centre. Much of the cost for tickets was offset by the fund-raising efforts of the major sponsor supporting the Winnipeg FB.

Playing that night were teams from Saskatchewan, N.W.T., N. Ontario, Ontario, Manitoba, British Colum-



### Championship Playoff Rounds

Team	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	After 2 Rounds Contenders For	Final Results
Baska	Win	Loss	Win	Bronze/4th	Bronze
Grundahl	Loss	Loss	Win	7/8th	7th
Lurvey	Loss	Win	Win	5/6th	5th
Martin	Loss	Win	Loss	5/6th	6th
McKenzie	Loss	Loss	Loss	7/8th	8th
Oman	Win	Win	Loss	Bronze/4th	4th
Scholz	Win	Win	Win	Gold/Silver	Gold
Wall	Win	Win	Loss	Gold/Silver	Silver

### Intermediate Playoff Rounds

Team	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	After 2 Rounds Contenders For	Final Results
Butcher	Win	Win	Loss	1st/2nd	2nd
Friedrich	Loss	Loss	Loss	7/8th	8th
Haugen	Loss	Win	Loss	5/6th	6th
Kuhn	Win	Win	Win	1st/2nd	1st
McMillan	Win	Loss	Loss	3rd/4th	4th
Muldrew	Win	Loss	Win	3rd/4th	3rd
Robertson	Loss	Win	Win	5/6th	5th
Williams	Loss	Loss	Win	7/8th	7th

### Recreational Playoff Rounds

Team	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	After 2 Rounds Contenders For	Final Results
Borkowsky	Loss	Loss	Loss	7/8th	8th
Burton	Win	Loss	Win	3rd/4th	3rd
Hesje	Win	Win	Loss	1st/2nd	2nd
Hunter	Loss	Loss	Win	7/8th	7th
Imayoshi	Loss	Win	Loss	5/6th	6th
Kiesman	Win	Win	Win	1st/2nd	1st
McCurdy	Loss	Win	Win	5/6th	5th
Sjoberg	Win	Loss	Win	3rd/4th	4th

bia, Prince Edward Island and Alberta, so everyone at the FB had a team to cheer for.

## On to the Finals...

24 Teams came to the Friars' Briar of 2008 in Winnipeg. Thursday was the day of reckoning for some.

In the **Championship Round**, a close game (6 to 5) went to the **Scholz** team from Alberta, taking the Gold Medal and Trophy. The Silver Medal went to the **Wall** team from Manitoba. And the Bronze Medal went to the **Baska** team from Alberta.

First place in the other two rounds, **Intermediate** and **Recreational**, went to the **Kuhn** (Alberta) and **Kiesman** (British Columbia) teams respectively.

No matter what division teams played in, it was very evident that all took their game seriously, yet having much fun in just trying to make their shots count.

(Full details at left on this page, also p.8)



### Winners of the Gold Medal Scholz Team, Alberta

Guy Scholz (Skip), George Budd (Third),  
Stephen Hambidge (Second)  
and Dan Eagle (Lead)



### Winners of the Silver Medal Wall Team, Manitoba

## Banquet and Closing Ceremony...

A very enjoyable night was held after curling was over. It was the time for the final banquet, a little bit of business, and finally the awards.

“Rusty, Willy and Marty in the Middle” gave us background music before and after the meal. They also played an original song directed to the Friars’ Briar assembly (See insert p.7, complete with guitar chords!).

**Emcee Cliff McMillan** introduced the head table, including Ken Anstie (Chair of the local Winnipeg Chaplain’s Curling Club), Dave Hunter (Chair of the Friars’ Briar Association), Sieg Wall (Chair of the Local Planning Committee), himself as emcee and included spouses along the way.

The ‘well rehearsed’ choir, gleaned from the assembly, treated the crowd to ‘A Curling Song’ (see words elsewhere on this page) that might just make it to the hit songs list (or is that the hit list songs?!)

The Heather hosted a huge Buffet Dinner, including local fare Holopchi and Perogies. (We are still not sure if table #15 ever got the call! )

Emcee Cliff then turned our attention to the first two awards, namely the Heavenly Host and Amazing Grace Trophies. The **Heavenly Host Trophy** goes to either the top East or West side teams attending the Briar. This year, the dividing line seemed to be somewhere in Saskatchewan, if not splitting Regina!! Bill Kiesman from British Columbia accepted the trophy on behalf of the ‘West side’ winners.

The **Amazing Grace Trophy**, an imaginative ceramic statue, is awarded to curlers who have stood out as outstanding supporters of curling and the Briar. This year the award winner was introduced by

Fraser Muldrew (a past winner) and presented by Peggy Lawrence ( whose son created it, and her brother Ralph Milton donated it). The winner this year..... **Walter Cowan**. (Walter ended his acceptance speech by donating \$500 to the

Association despite, and as he said, having not consulted his wife beforehand!)

Then, on to the competition Awards and prize picking by every team member. (Full results are found on p.4 ,8)

### Curling Song

Come in, come in and sit down  
You are apart of this family  
Curling the game and Friars’ the name  
And we’re all a part of this family

You know the reason why you came,  
Skip or lead or in between  
So share in the laughter and fellowship here  
For Winnipeg’s host to this family.

Easterners, westerners, we’re all here  
Coming to curl, we have no fear  
2 games a day does some of us in  
But we’re still a part of this family.

There’s life to be shared as we gather and dine  
Prizes to give, so no one should pine  
We’ve won and we’ve lost  
But we’ve all played the game  
Yes we’re all part of this family.



**Top l to r:** The Curling Songsters; President Dave Hunter; On the Ice; Walter Cowan (Winner of Amazing Grace Trophy); Bill Kiesman (Accepting Heavenly Host Trophy)  
**Bottom left:** Amazing Grace Trophy

## Report of the Annual Meeting Friars' Briar Association ...

Dave Hunter reported on behalf of the Association Board meeting held earlier in the day. As every curler paid for membership in their registration fee it was his duty to invite members to vote on several items being recommended by the Board. One had to do with standardizing and simplifying travel reimbursements over future years. Another was to let local planning committees have 4 or 5 day events, allowing flexi-

bility in scheduling Briars in various venues. (Winnipeg asked permission for a 4 day event this year, which was allowable under the Constitution) A Notice of Motion was presented, to be affirmed at next year's Annual Meeting, regarding lifting the Rules section out of the Constitution altogether. This would allow the Board more flexibility to make policies accordingly.



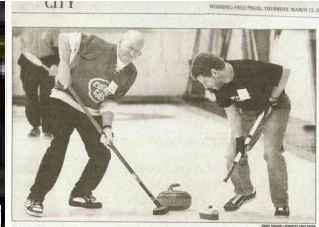
Baska Team (Alberta) Silver in Championship Round



Kuhn Team (Alberta)  
1st in Intermediate Round



Kiesman Team (B.C.)  
1st in Recreational Round



**Their faith is rock solid**  
All-clergy bonspiel sweeps into city

Jack Armstrong (left) and Paul Sabin of 'Team Macdonald' compete against Sault Ste. Marie on Wednesday.

It's a lot of fun - I've been doing it for 20 years and we just enjoy a good game. These things, a mixed United Church and Roman Catholic clergy members, and while the curling is fun, the spirit of the game is what counts. The work of the BFC Centre, it's a lot of fun.

Their faith is rock solid. "I don't want to do a prayer, I want to do a game," says Sabin. "I don't want to do a prayer, I want to do a game." Sabin and Armstrong, both of whom are active in their churches, are competing in the bonspiel. Sabin is a member of the United Church and Armstrong is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. They are competing in the bonspiel, which is a curling event for clergy members. The bonspiel is a fun and competitive event that brings together clergy members from different denominations. The bonspiel is a great way for clergy members to get to know each other and to have a good time. The bonspiel is a great way for clergy members to get to know each other and to have a good time. The bonspiel is a great way for clergy members to get to know each other and to have a good time.

Winnipeg Media Coverage

**FIVE FRIAR'S BRIAR PROVINCES and a little bit of heather**

**THE HEATHER-**  
When God first made the world, He looked at the bare and barren hillsides and thought how nice it would be to cover them with some kind of beautiful tree or flower. So He turned to the Giant Oak, the biggest and strongest of all the trees He had made, and asked him if he would be willing to go up to the bare hills to help make them look more attractive. But the oak explained that he needed a good depth of soil in order to grow and that the hillsides would be far too rocky for him to take root.

So God left the oak tree and turned to the honeyuckle with its lovely yellow flower and beautiful sweet fragrance.

He asked the honeyuckle if she would care to grow on the hillsides and spread her beauty and fragrance amongst the barren slopes. But the honeyuckle explained that she needed a wall or fence or even another plant to grow against, and for that reason, it would be quite impossible for her to grow in the hills.

So God then turned to one of the sweetest and most beautiful of all the flowers- the rose. God asked the rose if she would care to grace the rugged highlands with her splendour. But the rose explained that the wind and the rain and the cold on the hills would destroy her, and so she would not be able to grow on the hills.

Disappointed with oak, the honeyuckle and the rose, God turned away. At length, He came across a small, low lying, green shrub with a flower of tiny petals- some purple and some white. It was a heather.

God asked the heather the same question that He'd asked the others. "Will you go and grow upon the hillsides to make them more beautiful?"

The heather thought about the poor soil, the wind and the rain- and wasn't very sure that she could do a good job. But turning to God she replied that if He wanted her to do it, she would certainly give it a try.

God was very pleased.

He was so pleased in fact that He decided to give the heather some gifts as a reward for her willingness to do as He had asked.

Firstly, He gave her the strength of the oak tree- the bark of the heather is the strongest of any tree or shrub in the whole world.

Next, He gave her the fragrance of the honeyuckle- a fragrance which is frequently used to gently perfume soaps and potpourrs.

Finally, He gave her the sweetness of the rose- so much so that heather is one of the bees favourite flowers. And to this day, heather is renowned especially for these three God given gifts.

Placemat at the closing Banquet, which people could take home! (Zoom out to read the words on this page)

**The Friars' Briar Blues**

Tune "San Francisco Blues"

Adapted by *Rusty, Willy and Marty in the Middle*  
(Complete with Guitar Chording)

(Intro) F B7 C - - A D7 G C

G - - C F C  
 Been curling well this winter / but I'm Friars' Briar Blue  
 F C  
 Planned on being number one, / ended up number two.  
 F C - - A  
 It's not bad, coming second, / but that's not the finish that I reck-oned.  
 D7 G  
 I was sure my metal would be gold. Gotta win one be-fore I'm too old!

C F C  
 \*\*\* Been a throwing and a sweeping letting/ my skip yell at me  
 F E  
 \*\*\* It's been hard to maintain my / curling dig-ni-ty  
 F C - - A  
 \*\*\* Lord please now don't forget, you haven't let me win one yet  
 D G C - - A  
 Didn't win the Friars' now I'm Friars' Briar Blue  
 D G C  
 \*\*\* Didn't win the Friars' now I'm Friars' Briar Blue.

C F C F C  
 Read the Criar 'bout the Briar, / saw something I don't get  
 F E  
 Does friar curling need to post / the rules of et-i-quette?  
 F G C - - A  
 After this "friendly" competition / do some need to be forgiven?  
 D7 D7 G  
 Seems no mater how you try / this game can't be pastor - ized!

C F C  
 Couldn't win the Friars' Briar but / winners I won't ne-glect  
 F E  
 Here's a toast to the champs / with my sincere re-spect  
 F C - - A  
 But in showing that I care, you won't hear trum- pets blare  
 D G C - - A  
 Team\_\_\_\_(Scholz)\_\_\_\_\_, here's what were gonna do  
 D G C  
 Your victory toot's, on our ka-zoos.

(Kazooing following chords at \*\*\* (two times tooting)

C F C  
 I can be forgiving now cause in just 12 months or so  
 F E  
 There'll be another Briar, at 30 degrees be-low  
 F C A  
 And there, to my satisfaction, I'm gonna beat that team Sa-skatche-wan  
 D G C - - A  
 I wanna win the Briar, / I just gotta find a way  
 D G C - - A  
 To cure my Friars' Briar Blues, / gonna win the Friars' some day

(Slow Down)

D G C  
 To cure my Friars' Briar Blues .... Gonna win the Friars' some day



Banquet Place Settings



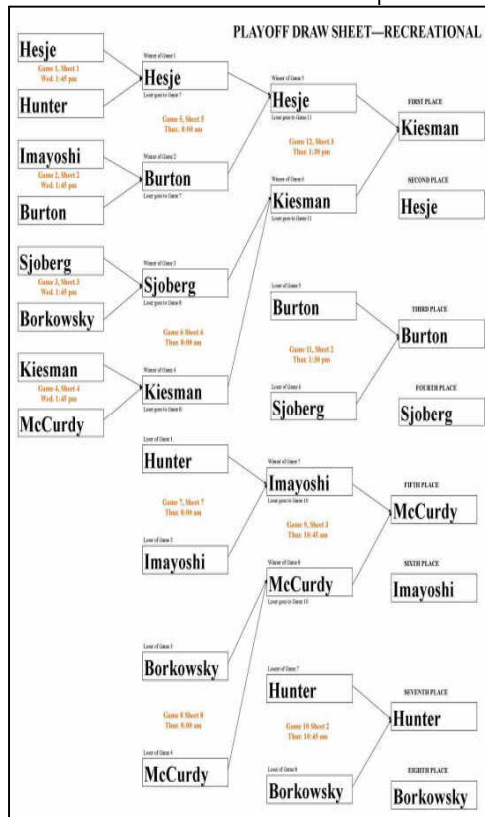
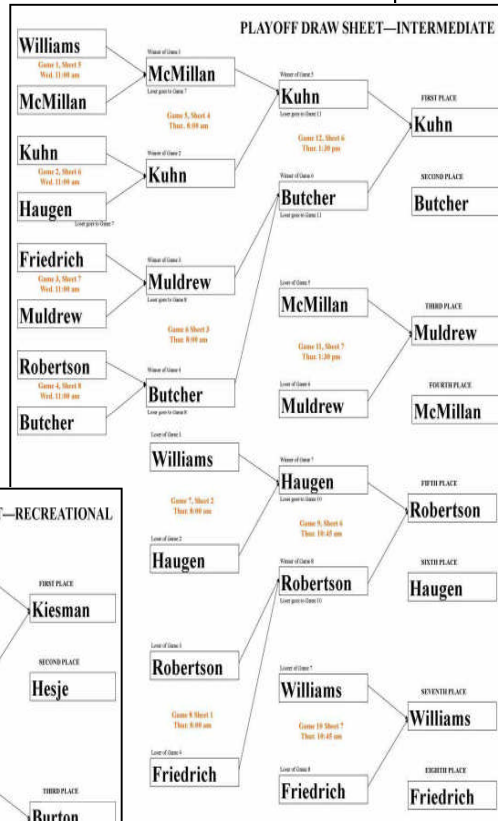
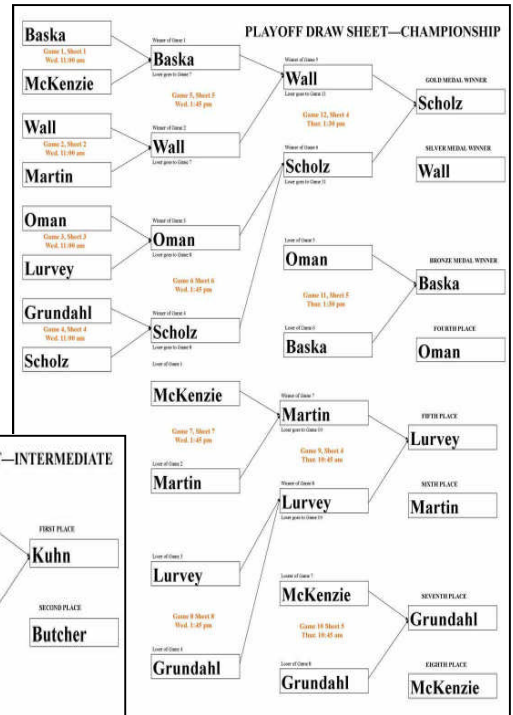
*Rusty, Willy and Marty in the Middle*  
 Authors of 'The Friars' Briar Blues'



Guy Hemming talking to the Friars

**Winnipeg Local Planning Committee**  
**Chair:** Sieg Wall  
**Registrar/Treasurer:**  
 Peter Douglas, Jim Lawrence  
**Secretary:** Cliff McMillan  
**Transportation:** David Winter  
**Drawmaster:** Tom Lurvey  
**Banquet/Accommodations:**  
 Eleanor&Cliff McMillan, Bob Burton, Ken Anstie  
**Local Webmaster/Criar:** Ken Murdoch

# The



# Playoffs