

Report of the 2011 Friars' Briar

The 2011 Friars' Briar was held in London, Ontario at the Highland Country Club. Participants were immediately struck by the opulence of the dressing rooms, finished in oak paneling. The rest of the facilities were equally impressive and the support staff was very helpful and hospitable. Lodging was provided at a group rate by Radisson Hotel & Suites, 855 Wellington Road South, London.

For a variety of reasons, it seemed difficult to recruit the number of teams we usually have. Finally, after beating the bushes we were able to field 16 teams, which included 8 teams from Ontario. We virtually dragged Don Sjoberg (MB) from his sick bed to bring a team! For this extraordinary effort he was awarded the Amazing Grace Trophy. The Heavenly Host Trophy was awarded to the Host club, London.

The group attended a Tim Horton's Briar Game on Tuesday evening, covered within the registration fees. Banquet entertainment musicians were Ben Bolt-Martin, cello and Angela Ishaka, soprano. Ben's use of a "looper" recording machine intrigued the audience, as he added layer upon layer of cello through the device. Angela added some classical as well as sentimentally romantic popular songs.

MAX Canada, the corporate sponsor (\$500.00) brought greetings at the dinner. David Martin, treasurer, reported a healthy bank balance thanks to the contribution of \$2,023 by the All Ontario Clergy Curling Association, \$500.00 from the Kitchener-Waterloo Clergy Curling Club, \$500.00 from MAX Canada, and the Friars' Briar Travel Grant - \$1,850, leaving a small operating surplus of \$166.61 to be returned to the Friars' Briar.

The Kuhn Team from Alberta skipped by Mike Kuhn (with Sid Kuhn, Melanie Kuhn, and Chris Schwanz from Wi) took the gold medal. Mike left the trophy behind, as he and his family were preparing to relocate for a mission assignment in Africa.

Dave Hunter's team from SK took Silver, and Doug Robertson (ON) won bronze. Fraser Muldrew won the Amos Event trophy and Cliff McMillan claimed the trophy in the Christmas Event.

In addition to cash prizes for the top three winners in each event, all players received 750 ml of Ontario Maple Syrup, and a Stainless Steel Water Bottle with the Friars' Briar logo.

The Draw Master Gerry Hofstetter worked creatively with the lower number of teams to develop a round robin with inter-divisional cross-over games. The Planning Committee was: Maurice Martin, Chair; David Martin, Treasurer; John Bowman and Kellie McComb. Dale Good and Victor Fast assisted with ground transportation.

2011 Friars' Briar Teams

1. David Martin (ON)

Maurice Martin
Doug Roeder
Pam Bartel

2. Ab Lorch (ON)

Doug Wagner
Merv Roth
Bob Shantz

3. Sieg Wall (MB)

Dave Winter
Teenie Wall
Anne Winter

4. Arch McCurdy (ON)

Rudy Plug
Lorne O'Neill
Denise/John Lacroix

5. Cliff McMillan (MB)

Dennis Butcher
Amy Butcher
Eleanor McMillan

6. Harold Hesje (SK)

Dan Skaret
Donald Barss
Ken Peterson

7. Bonnie Cole Arnal (ON)

Gerry Hofstetter
David Watson
Aden Frey

8. Mike Kuhn (AB)

Chris Schwanz (WI)
Melanie Kuhn
Sid Kuhn

9. Don Brown (AB)

Vernon Brubacher (ON)
Ruth Brown
Gary Schenk (BC)

10. David Hunter (SK)

Allan Grundahl
Ernie Paetsch (BC)
Vern Begalke (AB)

11. Barry Klink (ON)

Mark Winger
Robin Wardlaw
Ken MacDonald

12. Michael Bird (ON)

John Clinton
John Robertson
Blanche Robertson

13. Doug Robertson (ON)

Wayne Brown
Herb Frayne
Dave Borsellino

14. Fraser Muldrew (MB)

Jack Dyck
Walter Cowan
Jim Lawrence

15. Jeff Learmonth (ON)

Kellie McComb
Randy MacKenzie/Stephen Iverson
Harold Arnett

16. Donald Sjoberg (MB)

Lee Luetkehoelter
Lee Holland (ON)
Wilmer Mink (ON)

Final Standings – 2011 Friars' Briar

Medal Round

Gold – Kuhn

Silver – Hunter

Bronze – Robertson

4th – Learmonth

5th – Bird

6th – Klink

7th – Wall

8th – Lorch

Don Amos Event

Trophy – Muldrew

2nd – Brown

3rd – Martin

4th – Hesje

Hugh Christmas Event

Trophy – McMillan

2nd McCurdy

3rd – Arnal

4th - Sjoberg

