

## CHAPTER 34

## MEMORIES OF THE FRIARS' BRIAR 2012

March 5-9, 2012

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

A planning committee of a dozen or more, chaired by David Hunter, met monthly for the entire year prior to the Friars' Briar. Others on the committee were Allan Grundahl, Secretary, Dan Skaret, Treasurer, Paul Matheson, Registrar, Naomi Anderson, Hospitality & Facilities Coordinator, Don Barss, Accommodations and Opening Ceremony, Ken Watts, Transportation, Gary Williams, Draw Master, David Toth, Sponsorships, Ken Peterson, Public Relations and Brier Liaison, Rod Andrews, Opening Ceremony and Chaplain, and Harold and Elaine Hesje, Banquet. Other Saskatoon curlers also assisted in various ways before and during the event.

There were many firsts (we think) at the 2012 Friars' Briar, but the first 'first' that confronted most of those arriving on March 5<sup>th</sup> was the first really big snowstorm of the winter of 2011-12 that hit Saskatoon. The snow delayed some arrivals and on Tuesday morning some local curlers had trouble getting out of driveways to arrive on time for their draws.



Some of the firsts that were noted were that three teams were skipped by non-clergy, the exceptions being given by the FB executive committee. The Registration including payment of registration could be made 'on-line' thanks to the Nutana Curling Club. A brief service of Worship was conducted on at least three of the mornings at the Curling Club prior to the first draw. All teams were introduced as part of the Opening Ceremony.

Certainly the amount of newspaper, radio, and TV coverage would probably be an all-time high, that included a TV interview on Global about a month before the FB, and among the live or taped interviews for radio was Radio Canada who had an announcer interview two of the francophone participants.

Finally, there was the telecast of the Gold Medal Game that Shaw Cable did and it appeared on TV on Sunday and again during the week following in Saskatoon. Ken Peterson served as a colour commentator for this telecast along with Heath Mulligan from Shaw. On the following Monday, the Star-Phoenix included several inches about the Friars' Briar in its final 'Brier' report, including the names of the winning rinks in each division of the FB and a rather complete account of action in the Gold Medal Game. That article ended by informing us that none other than the Brier Bear (who had joined us for our Opening Ceremony) had

won the 50-50 raffle during a Page Playoff game on Saturday, collecting \$23,202 which made him he said "the richest bear in Canada."

In all 22 rinks participated. They were as follows:

Team Friedrich (George F, Phil Hink, Vern & Rosaline Begalke) – Alberta  
 Team Brown (Karen Gusek, Henry Suderman, Pat Ramage, Phyllis Harlton) – AB/SK  
 Team McMillan (Cliff M., Dennis & Amy Butcher, Eleanor McMillan) – Manitoba  
 Team Wall (Sieg W., Dave & Ann Winter, Teenie Wall) – Manitoba  
 Team Gilbertson (Leon G., Lee Luetkehoelter, Don Olsen, Don Sjoberg) MB/AB  
 Team Alton (Alton, Doug Wagner, Bob Shantz, Merv Roth) Ontario  
 Team Martin (David M., Maurice Martin, Keith Metzger, Keith Moyer) Ontario  
 Team Barss (Don B., Larry Eller, Bev Schenk, Gary Schenk) Saskatchewan/BC  
 Team Grant (Gene G., Dan Skaret, Alf Healey, Gwen Moggey) Saskatchewan  
 Team Grundahl (Allan G., Paul Matheson, Jim Winder, Tom Kehler) Saskatchewan  
 Team Hesje (Harold H., John Wall, David Hesje, Ken Peterson) Saskatchewan  
 Team Hunter (David H., Naomi Anderson, Don Hendry, Ernie Paetsch) Saskatchewan  
 Team Peters (Leroy P., Dennis Wesselingh, Len Zacharias, Harold Peters) Saskatchewan  
 Team Tysdal (Brian T., David Toth, Brian Knull, Chris Toth) Saskatchewan  
 Team Williams (Gary W., Ron Wegner, Rod Andrews, Wally Boymook) Saskatchewan  
 Team Kiesman (Bill K., Rolf Nostrud, Jonathan Kiesman, Jeremy Kiesman) BC  
 Team Perrett (Ken P., Wayne Johnston, Delmer Epp, Francine Perrett) Manitoba  
 Team Burton (Bob B., Jack Dyck, Fraser Muldrew, Jim Lawrence, Walter Cowan) MB  
 Team Baska (Patrick B., Jim Corrigan, Paul Moret, Martin Carroll) Alberta  
 Team Allan (Don A., Dan Eagle, Barry Morris, Kutch Imayoshi) BC  
 Team Schwanz (Chris S., Henry Zacharias, Kurt Sawatsky, Arch McCurdy) USA/Can  
 Team Clarke (John C., Jerry Borkowsky, Bob McWhirter, Charles Fillon) Saskatchewan

These 22 rinks were divided into four divisions for round-robin play (Faithful Abraham and Peaceful Isaac each had six teams and Crafty Jacob and Dreaming Joseph had five teams). Teams in the five team division each played one cross over game versus a team from the other.

After the first draw the opening supper and ceremony was held. Helping out in the ceremony was Brier Bear, and the first rock was thrown by the former premier of Saskatchewan, the **Honourable Lorne Calvert** (right). RCMP also lent colour to the ceremony. When all teams had been piped onto the ice and the national anthem was sung by Maureen Krall, each team was introduced.



After round-robin play, two teams (Martin and Williams) had 5-0 records, and they were joined by Teams Kiesman, Schwanz, Peters, Hunter, Baska, and Tysdal in the Gold Medal Event. In the B or Don Amos Event were Teams Grundahl, Gilbertson, Alton, Allan,

Wall, Friedrich, Burton, and Barss. In the C or Hugh Christmas Event were Teams Hesje, Perrett, McMillan, Clarke, Brown, and Grant.

In an exciting (and as we've mentioned televised) Gold Medal final Team Baska won in the last end 9-8, stealing the winning point, over Team Martin. Television and newspaper took interest in the fact that it was four Roman Catholics from Alberta who beat four Mennonites from Ontario for the championship. However, when Team Martin scored four in the sixth end to go ahead for four, it appeared victory was theirs, but Team Baska came back with three in the 7<sup>th</sup> and two in the 8<sup>th</sup> to win. Truly an exciting ending to a fine week of curling by all the rinks! As it turned out in the B Event won by Team Burton and the C Event won by Team Hesje, the final games both went to shoot outs. Team Tysdal won the Bronze Medal in the A Event.

Scoring the most points in the opening shoot out that determined positions when teams were tied in win/loss after round robin were Teams Allan and Williams who also received prizes at the banquet. It was also announced that the Visitors (rinks not from Saskatchewan) won the Heavenly Host Award.



AMAZING GRACE: Chris Schwanz

Tuesday night all the curlers as well as some of the local drivers went to the Brier, battling the snowy streets of Saskatoon. A fun evening was had by all.

The Thursday night banquet held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of Luther Tower was a festive affair with much entertainment. Following the banquet the Annual Meeting was led by President Sieg Wall. But the week had its more difficult moments. A fall on the curling ice sent Amy Butcher to the hospital, and on the way to the banquet, Lee Luetkehoelter fell and suffered a broken arm that still 12 months later is bothering him. The Amazing Grace Award was presented to our sole American participant, Lutheran Pastor Chris Schwanz from Wisconsin. This award is presented each year to a Friar who has made a significant contribution to the Friars' Briar events over the years.





Gold Medal BASKA team, Alberta



Silver Medal MARTIN team, Ontario



Bronze Medal TYSDAL team, Saskatoon



Shaw TV crew on the ice, Gold Medal Game



Don Amos Event, BURTON, Winnipeg



Hugh Christmas Event, HESJE, Saskatoon