**CHAPTER 42**

2020 Friars’ Briar

Waterloo, Ontario

March 2-6, 2020

This year's Briar began on a warm March Monday in Waterloo. 18 teams gathered from across Canada for a week of curling and fellowship at the Granite Club. Upon arrival teams picked up their welcome kits and began picking over the snack table provided by the organizing committee. Everything from prepackaged chips and granola bars, to fruit, to some home baked muffins from the Friar’s Briar Association President Pam Bartel. Once players were fueled up, we began to hear the roar of rocks and calls to sweep as they made their way out to the ice for the first games of the week.

After those morning games, the Friar’s assembled for the first of many delicious lunches provided by the hosting committee. Over lunch the friars heard from Joe Mancini, head of the Working Centre, a Kitchener Waterloo non-profit focused on meeting the needs of homeless, loincome, and immigrant peoples in Waterloo Region. He asked us to look at this region of 3 cities and many towns and villages as a model for decentralized and grassroots leadership. Seeing as the Working Centre grew from a faith perspective, he was a fitting welcome to our friars crew into Waterloo Region.

After that welcome and lunch, the entire friars crew was piped out onto the ice for the ceremonial opening rock. It was excellently thrown by Peter Corner, winner of the 1993 Labatt Briar and 1993 World Curling Championship, and most importantly ice maker at the Westmount Golf and Country Club, home of the Kitchener Waterloo Friars.

As the week went by the competitive spirit might have come out on the ice but it was nowhere to be found after the games with teams sitting down to laugh and catch up over snacks and drinks. Our wonderful hosts at the Granite were just as happy to serve the winners as the losers, and keeping with tradition the losers were happy to drink at the winners expense.

At the banquet the friars were entertained by local KW musician Matt Weidinger. A mixture of blues, soul, and jazz kept everyone tapping their feet and singing along. His performance of one of the few songs written about curling, “Tournament of Hearts” by the Weakerthans, was a treat as well. Even the AGM had its share of excitement with the raffling off of a vintage curling tie courtesy of Gerald Heimpel.

At the final banquet there were also the usual moments of special recognition. The Heavenly Hosts went to the West, which this year were those west of Ontario (along with a couple teams from Ontario included to make the numbers work). The Amazing Grace award was presented to Cory Weiss as the one Friar making us an interfaith Bonspiel this year. Finally, the winners of the President's challenge were the Diller Harder team for scoring the most three enders.

On Friday the week finished with the final games for each division. In the Medal Event Team Bartel took Gold in their hometown, Team Nichol taking Silver, and Team Borsellino taking Bronze. The Don Amos event ended with Team Wardlaw in first place, Team Short in second place, and Team Friedrich in Third Place. The Hugh Christmas event was won by Team M Martin, with Team Winger in second place, and Team Folio in third place.

**2020 Friars’ Briar Teams**

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| **Team Victoria** (BC)Don AllenGreg PrudenBrian MorinVern Begalke | **Team Ludolph** (ON)Fred LudolphWendell Caron GrahlmanBrian WilkerGwenanne Jorgensen |
| **Team D Martin** (ON)David MartinTerry DelionJoel KuhlMarcus Baker | **Team Wall** (MB)Sieg WallKeith McFarlaneJack DyckTeenie Wall |
| **Team Bartel** (ON)Pam BartelDoug WagnerReid KennelGerald Heimpel | **Team M Martin** (ON)Maurice MartinKeith MetzgerKeith MoyerGerry Steingart |
| **Team Winger** (ON)Roger WingerJim KellerEd NowakFrank Neugebauer | **Team Borsellino** (ON)Dave BorsellinoHerb FrayneDes BrennanWayne BrownMike Howard |
| **Team First Rocks** (ON)Jeff LearmonthKellie McCombHarold ArnettJennifer Canning | **Team Short** (ON)Dean ShortLee HollandBrenda ShortLisa Maloney-Knox |
| **Team Schwanz** (WI/ON)Chris SchwanzMark WingerPeter MumfordHeidi Schwanz | **Team Diller Harder** (ON) Mark Diller HarderBob ShantzWayne SchroederKevin Peters Unrau |
| **Team Niagara Rocks** (ON)Jody BeckBob PattersonIan PrattEd Bradica | **Team Nichol** (ON)Lloyd NicholRon LeducStan HutchinsonRalph Meiszinger |
| **Team Wardlaw** (ON)Robin WardlawCory WeissMin Kyu ParkJohn Torrance | **Team Foliot** (ON)Bert FoliotGeorge SpringleFred ChungVincent Lim |
| **Team Friedrich** (AB)George FriedrichAlex HarrisonCarmelo PerriDavid Waltner-Toews | **Team Spare Rocks** (ON)Douglas MercerWayne BeamPaul Richard DekarLeroy ShantzDuane Eby  |