



Chips of Granite

August 2006

Granite Curling Club
1440 North 128th Street
P.O. Box 33057
Seattle, WA 98133

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MARK THESE BONSPIEL DATES

The clubs bonspiel dates have been set for the coming season and are listed below and have also been posted on the website. Open House dates have yet to be determined so be sure to watch the website for updated information. A full curling calendar is included in this issue but specific Bonspiel dates are:

- ◆ November 3 to 5 Autumn Spiel (*see details on inside*)
- ◆ November 24 to 27 Seattle Cash Spiel
- ◆ December 1 to 3 Holiday Spiel
- ◆ January 27 to 28 Mixed Spiel (*True Mixed: 2 men, 2 women*)
- ◆ March 10 to 11 Juniors Spiel
- ◆ April 12 to 15 April Open Spiel

Mary Melton - Bonspiel Chair

CLUB MERCHANDISER SOUGHT

Are you on the cutting edge of curling fashion? Do you think black is the color of curling champions? If so then the Granite Curling Club is looking for you. We are now accepting (ok begging) for a volunteer to help with club merchandise for the 2006/2007 season. In this position you have the ability to pick the logo design, applicable garments, colors and quantities.

This highly desirable job comes with a key to the storeroom plus the added bonus of meeting club members as they come to you with their opinion on why the colors, items, logo and prices you chose are all wrong... Qualifications: A pulse and a desire to make your fellow GCC members the best dressed curlers in Seattle.

If you're interested contact Lisa Rugen lrugen@microsoft.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is still summer, yet preparations for another season of curling are in full swing. With the approval of the club during the Annual Meeting, the ice plant is in the process of being replaced and we are confident that all will be ready for our early ice starting September 15th. As an added bonus, this year we have received a grant from the USCA to help support this early ice.

Other maintenance is going on to make ready the ice arena, both as normally occurs and with desire to put on our best look for the Junior National event in February. Thank you to all who have been down at the club helping out. (Thank you Darren Lehto for organizing the volunteers.)

The most noteworthy of news is that the IRS has finally completed the review of our application for 501(c)(3) status with positive outcome. We owe many thanks to Doug Potter for initiating and pursuing this to resolution. More information is provided further below.

In addition to the February Junior Nationals, in early January, our club will also host the United States Nationals Men's and Women's Western Regional Qualifying Round. I hope many male and female curlers from our club participate in this event. At the Annual Meeting, I presented what I and others believe is a reachable goal — that members from our club represent the USA at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. Reaching the Olympics won't happen overnight. But it is through competitions such as this Regional qualifier that members can gain experience and skills to compete on the international level. Having the event locally is a great opportunity.

Given these out-of-the-ordinary events, our calendar is very busy this season. A few events have had to be sacrificed, including many rental opportunities, one ladies event and a portion of the Li'l Rocks sessions. The Board will continue work to find the right balance of leagues, bonspiels and special events, ice maintenance, practice times, open houses and learning to curl sessions. All are important to maintain our membership at healthy levels.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the club. Good Curling!
Greg Smith - GCC President

USWCA HONORS

GCC will have great representation on the US Women's Curling Association this year as Linda Draper takes her post as the 60th USWCA President. Linda will also representing the USWCA on the 2007 Scott Tour. Marj Yalowicki has also been selected to represent the West on the 2007 USWCA Friendship tour, a rare honor as this only takes place every six years. Good curling to both Linda and Marj!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

With August drawing to a close the 2006 curling season is just a month and a half away! Keep your eyes on your mailbox in mid-September for this year's registration package. To help everyone get back into the swing of curling after a summer of rest and relaxation we are offering two different Learn to Curl sessions in early October.

The first, a Level I class on Monday and Wednesday nights starting Oct. 2nd, is perfect for people returning after a year of curling or those who are brand new to the sport. The second, a Level II class on Tuesday and Thursday nights starting Oct 3rd, is great for people who want a bit more advanced instruction to work on the finer points of delivery, sweeping, and strategy. Each session runs for two weeks and costs a mere \$50 with proceeds assisting our competitive curling programs. This is a great way to learn from the best players in our club! For more information or to register, send mail to memberships@curlingseattle.org.

Stay tuned for next month's Chips of Granite, and watch our website, where we'll announce dates for open houses
Neil Enns - Membership Chair

THE CANADA GALA

The Canada-America Society is holding their 7th Annual Canada Gala on Friday, October 6th at the Seattle Westin Hotel. Wouldn't it be great to have a few tables full of Granite Curling Club members joining in the celebration of the relationship between our two great countries? Who better to show how well Canadians and Americans play together?

Ruth Gunn, a Granite Curling Club member, has offered to be the contact person and to coordinate ticket purchasing to get the table price if enough folks are interested. She can be contacted by e-mail at: regunn@verizon.net or phone 425-338-2598 (home, so leave a message and she'll call back). Seating at the Gala is based on the date tickets are purchased so the sooner the payment is received, the better the seating. More details about the Gala can be found at: www.canada-americasociety.org - look for the link to 2006 Canada Gala. Tickets are just \$90 per person or \$800 for a table of 10 (save \$100). It features a 4 course gourmet dinner with wine, live entertainment, table favours and prizes, reception and a chance at the many spectacular door prizes.

COMPETITIVE CURLING OF WASHINGTON

With the welcome news that the Granite Curling Club has been granted charitable status by the IRS (see article, this issue), we at Competitive Curling of Washington (CCW) thought we should take time to tell you about the other organization operated in part by members of our club and to give you an update on what CCW has done to foster the sport of curling in recent months.

CCW is what Granite has just become, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization chartered to support national and international amateur athletic competition, as provided for in our tax code. As such, donations to CCW are tax deductible, and are eligible for matching donations from some employers (for example, Microsoft). Many members have donated to CCW in the past, and the CCW Board takes seriously its responsibility to see that those donations are put to good use. Recently, our focus has been in two areas:

- (1) To attract more people to the sport, and to support the use of equipment and training materials that allows these new curlers to build a foundation that will support a lifetime of enjoyment and improvement;
- (2) To invest in helping competitive curlers improve, so that they can take the next step in state, national or international competitions, thus increasing the exposure that curling receives on a local level, and also the number of highly-skilled curlers that can help attract more people to the game.

Last March CCW donated \$1,400 (the GCC donated \$1,000 and the WSCA donated around \$500) towards the purchase of a set of "Little Rocks," half-weight granite curling rocks that look, feel and behave like "real" curling rocks, and which can be used to help our youngest junior curlers learn a solid delivery as they start their curling careers. Unlike lightweight plastic rocks, which don't travel very far or run very smoothly, these little rocks don't encourage bad delivery habits like shoving that will then need to be undone when the junior gets big enough to move to full-sized rocks. These rocks have arrived, and we're already using them in our junior camps.

This summer, CCW allocated about \$500 to the purchase of a Speed Trap, a laser-equipped device that measures the speed of a delivered rock to the thousandths of a second and which can be used in training by curlers of all skill levels to determine whether their draw and hit weights are truly consistent. This device will arrive at the club shortly and will be available for use by all the club's members. The CCW and WSCA board will arrange for instructions on how to use the device properly, and this instruction will be required in order to use our new piece of equipment.

In the future we will work with club to determine whether we should keep CCW alive as a charitable organization with a mission separate from the club as a whole. Until then, we would encourage you to donate to either organization with the knowledge that your donations will help our club members and our sport. On behalf of CCW, we hope everyone has had a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you on the ice in a few short weeks! Good curling.

Mike Calcagno - On behalf of the CCW Board

GCC HOSTS 2007 JUNIOR NATIONALS

In February 2007, (only 5 months away!) GCC will be hosting the Junior National Curling Championships. Eighteen to twenty of the top junior curling teams from all over the United States will arrive to determine the USCA Junior Champion. These teams represent the best of the best in U.S. junior curling. The 8 day event will begin with Opening Ceremonies on Feb 3rd and culminate with the final games and Closing Ceremonies on Saturday, Feb 10th.

Granite CC will garner significant national and local exposure from hosting this USCA event. In addition to the eyes of the country being focused on us, we will generate a vast amount of local publicity and excitement for our club and local curling. This, coupled with the recent Winter Olympics, should translate into increased membership and rental activity, further solidifying our base as the premier curling club on the west coast.

As with any USCA national event, there will be a few modifications to our routine. For example, leagues will be on 'holiday' for one, possibly two sessions just before and through competition week; lockers will need to be made available to the guest teams and you'll see improvements being made to the facility throughout the next few months.

While the competition is in early 2007, planning began over a year ago. Preparations have continued from that time and are in full swing as you read this. Please consider the contribution you can make; either by helping with the event itself or in the preparation leading up to the actual competition week. Volunteer wherever you think you'll have the most fun or where you feel your talents will shine. Some areas to consider include Promotions (sponsors, ads, merchandise, etc...), Competition (officiating), Hospitality, Arrangements, Awards and Fundraising. If you'd like to help but aren't sure how, contact Sarah Booth or Sahara Pirie and we'll connect you with the right committee or person. Your involvement is greatly appreciated and your participation will ensure that we provide a wonderful, memorable, and exciting experience for juniors from around the nation.

In the coming weeks a number of things will happen. We will unveil our GCC designed Junior National logo, we will hold the second of our Officiating Classes for timer and official training (there is still room, contact Jay Booth) and we will be helping the club put on it's best face for this National Event. Check the Jr. Nationals bulletin board (near the front door) for updates and details. Thank you in advance for your help!

Sarah Booth & Sahara Pirie
Jr. National Committee co-chairs

JR NATIONALS COOKBOOK

I've been working on a cookbook for the last several months as a fundraiser for the Junior Nationals which will also contain photos that have been taken around the club over the years during different bonspiels and league play. Thank you to everyone who sent recipes and the few who also sent pictures. If anyone does not want their photo to appear in the book, please contact me by August 31, 2006 either by telephone at 425-823-7767 or via email at mmelton2@verizon.net.

Mary Melton

GRANITE CURLING CLUB ACHIEVES TAX-EXEMPT CHARITABLE STATUS

Near the beginning of my terms as President (some five years ago now), we decided to pursue becoming a charitable organization. That process ended last week when the IRS granted our application. The basis for this tax status, which Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, provides that our primary organization mission is to foster national and international amateur sports competition.

Besides being exempt from federal income tax, donations to our club are now tax deductible. We are eligible to receive tax deductible bequests, transfers, and gifts. Students required to perform community service as a graduation requirement can perform that service at our club. Donations to our club can be eligible for matching funds from some employers. It is important to note that dues, league fees, and other fees paid for services you receive (drinks at the bar for example) are not tax deductible, but any money you choose to donate to the club can now be deducted from your taxes.

There are accounting and other requirements for maintaining this status that we will need to be careful to follow. If you have any experience or are interested in this area, please let Phil Draper or me know. We are looking for members of the finance committee.

Past President James Pleasants provided invaluable assistance in putting together our application and subsequent supporting material. Please be sure to thank him when you next see him. Don McKay, a member of the US Curling Hall of Fame (now deceased), and his son Rob served as our representatives to the IRS and were a vital part of our obtaining this status. My thanks to all for their help and assistance. For those interested, I will be posting many of the documents associated with our application on our web site.

I am truly excited about our having achieved this great result. It is a great foundation for our future – and provides as the government intended, for us to be even more effective in fostering curling in the United States.

Doug Potter, Past President

JR NATIONALS YARD SALE SUCCESS

The yard sale was held on Saturday July 8th and 15th. It was two hot sunny days and though we were hoping to draw more of a crowd but we did sell quite a bit of the items. We were able to raise \$426 for the Jr National gift basket fund so it was a good 2 weekends worth of work.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for us to sell and who helped move the tables down into the ice arena area and to those who moved them back up the stairs and put them away.

Special thanks to Alice Simmers, Ian McLean, Derrick McLean, Scott McLean, Melissa Metzger and Miyo Konno. Tim Adlington and Ray Melton for helping us pack up and deliver the left over items to Dessert Industries

2005-2006 CHAMPIONS

As we quickly approach the start of a new curling season and all the hopes for crystal spring anew, we should take the time to recognize the winners from last year.

Monday Night League: First half winners were Michael Taylor, Greg Higgins, Ruth Gunn, Heather Hovey and Bob Prince, Steve Lundeen, Ryan Palmer, Barb Miller. Second half winners were Keith Schreiber, Dennis DuRoff, Jeff Gray, David Doan and Jim Sullivan, Bill Wellington, Katherine Steuart, Don Ranger

Tuesday Early League: Everyone in that league is a winner as we do a banquet dinner instead of prizes. Who needs a mug when you get to eat a great meal and have tons of desserts to choose from!

Tuesday Super League: Team First Independent Mortgage - Greg Romaniuk, Darren Lehto, Doug Kauffman, Bill Rugen. Runner-up was Tom Violette, Philip Tilker, Bob Combs, Jeff Johnson

Wednesday Night Women's: *Flight A* - Nancy Richard, Jackie Ainsworth, Leslie Frosch, Marion Frosch; *Flight B* - Carla McAlister, Lois Harness, Carol Knievel, Bonnie Tilghman

Thursday Morning League: Betty Kozai, Dan Boerner, Sahara Pirie, Dani Thibodeaux and Harvey Meulbroek, Peter Sommer, Nancy Harsh, Reilly Mannery

Thursday Afternoon League: Joe Benson and Dick Hartry

Thursday Night Men's: *Points Champion* - Cory Yalowicki, Ryan Yalowicki, Jacob Purvis, Bret Tvrdy; *'A' Division Champions* - Mike Calcagno, Severin Larson, Steve Lundeen, Peter Sommer; *'A' Division Runner-Up* - John Shoemith, Jay Booth, Andrew Ernst, John Harrison; *'B' Division Champions* - Matt Thomas, Sam Galey, Nick Pleasants, Paul Berggren

Friday Night League: *A Division* - Betty Kozai, Steve Lundeen, Bob Thibodeaux, Dani Thibodeaux and Adrian Powlowski, Janet Powlowski, Mike Reimbold, Mark Odegard; *B Division* - Wendell Hall, Tom Violette, Linda Taylor, Machiko Henderson and Cindy Kozai, Brian McLain, John Rasmussen, Barry Van Wieringen

Sunday Night Mixed: *A Division* - Darren Lehto, Lisa Rugen, Bill Ruddick, Katie Kauffman and Brady Clark, Cristin Clark, Bev Walter, Steve Lundeen; *B Division* - Elizabeth Booth, Charles Jay Booth, Jackie Ainsworth, Eric Lofquist and Mike Calcagno, Audra Sommer, Peter Sommer, Ashley Carson

Congratulations to all of last year's winner and good luck to everyone for this year! **Jim Sullivan - League Chair**

AUTUMN SPIEL SIGN-UP

The first bonspiel of the season is scheduled for November 3rd thru 5th 2006. If you're interested in signing up please call 425-823-7767 or email to mmelton2@verizon.net and state if you're signing up as a team or individual.

COST: \$130 per team

FORMAT: Open, 3 games guaranteed, 4 rock free guard zone Banquet dinner will be served Saturday night from 5:30 to 6:30. 28 Teams maximum so don't delay and sign up now!

Last year this spiel filled up before the doors were even open for leagues so if you want to play please let me know as quickly as possible. **Mary Melton - Bonspiel Coordinator**

'BONE' SPIEL RESULTS

The First Annual "Bonespiel" was held Saturday, July 22nd, and we had 34 participants who signed up to play dominoes along with a few others who came to watch and join in the fun.

Melissa Metzger, Severin Larson and Doug Lawson put the "draw" together and mixed the teams up as the day wore on. There was plenty of food to be had and of course the bar was open so I don't think anyone went home hungry or thirsty! Thank you to Tashia Stelmaszek for stocking the bar and for Scott McLean for being our bartender for the day and into the night.

The club was a tad HOT but everyone made the best of it even though we were all praying for rain. I'm not sure who found it first but the basement was the coolest spot in the club and everyone was thinking about sleeping down there the rest of the evening. You'd swear there was air conditioning on it was so cool :-)

The results of the bonespiel are as follows:

Advanced group = Joe Roberts

Intermediate group = Mark Kramer

Novice group = Dani Thibodeaux

Thank you to everyone who participated in helping make this a fun event. The proceeds will be put to good use as this was also a fundraiser for the Junior National food committee. Everyone's support was much appreciated!

Mary Melton - Bonspiel Chair

APRIL SPIEL RESULTS

The 2006 April Spiel A-Event winners were Ryan Yalowicki, skip, Cory Yalowicki, third, Jake Vukich and Derrick Pawlowski. This tough rink worked very hard and long to achieve this goal. Ryan and Cory both said they could not have done it without their wonderful front end, sweeping, delivery, and grunting as well as they did. These young junior curlers are to be applauded for their efforts. They were very tired but never gave up. Well done!!!

CLUB GETS NEW ICE PLANT

As you read this newsletter, finishing touches will be made to the new ice making equipment at the club. Gone will be the circa 1950/60's compressors, chillers, and controllers and a new high-efficiency ice plant will be occupying the secret space behind "Doug's Door". Approved by the membership at the 2006 Annual Meeting, the club has invested approximately \$100,000 in state-of-the-art ice making equipment which will be more energy efficient and will be more responsive in assuring good ice over a wider range of outside air temperatures. The fact that the unit uses 4 compressors staged in sequence also assures us a redundant capability to continue making ice should any single one of the components fail.

Long-time GCC vendor Bowman Mechanical has been our contractor for the work with electrical work provided by Evergreen Power Systems. Many thanks to our Ice Plant Committee consisting of Mike Carlisle, Doug Williams, Greg Smith, Doug Potter, Keith Schreiber, Greg Romaniuk, and Phil Draper who was "Mr. Access" ready to open doors to any contractor needing to get in the club...as well as getting rid of unwanted wasps!

IS THERE A HELPER IN THE HOUSE?

Yes, the rumors are true that I have taken over as the house committee chairperson for the club. Thanks to you that have already offered congratulations (or condolences) to me. For those of you that don't know the House committee is generally responsible for everything in the club that isn't directly associated with the ice or ice making (or the Coke machine). When I accepted this position I inherited several projects that were in-progress or at least in the planning stages. These include projects involving the snack bar, the main floor carpeting and some projects for the bar that I suggested before I realized that I would be the one that had to do the work.

Right now I am looking for two things from you; ideas and help. Specifically I would like to hear from the people that work, or would like to work in the snack bar, the kitchen or the bar as well as those of you that use the locker room, the bar, the banquet area, the restrooms or the parking lot (have I left anyone out?) I want to know what you think that needs to be fixed, changed, improved, expanded, amended, enlarged, folded, spindled, stapled, mutilated, removed, destroyed, etc., etc. This is brainstorming time so no ideas are too big or too outlandish to mention. After all we have an unlimited budget to work with (just kidding Greg).

The second thing that I need (you guessed it) is help. Once I have the ideas I'll need some other people to help me to read, sort, evaluate, prioritize, research, plan, shop (did someone say shopping???) and eventually to actually do the work. Right now I could really use some advice from someone that is knowledgeable about carpets and carpet repairs.

Please let me hear from you about your ideas and your willingness to help. I'd like to set up a meeting when it's convenient in order to hash out our plans. Don't forget, I have the keys to the bar!

Natassia "Tasha" Stelmaszek - House Committee Chair,

Note: Please respond directly to Tasha via email at Natstelm6552@msn.com or call her at (206) 654-5227

CURLING CALENDAR (Note: Little Rocks schedule will be in the next Chips)

DATE	Day	Event	Category	Location
Sep 15-23		Practice Ice	Training	GCC
Sep 24-30	Sun-Sat	Open House Week	Open House	GCC
Oct 2, 4	Mon, Web	Minicamp - Session A	Training	GCC
Oct 3, 5	Tue, Thur	Minicamp - Session B	Training	GCC
Oct 6	Fri	Open House	Open House	GCC
Oct 7	Sat (AM)	Jr. Instruction Clinic	Clinic	GCC
Oct 7	Sat (PM)	Open House (possible priority to Juniors)	Open House	GCC
Oct 8	Sunday	Open House	Open House	GCC
Oct 9, 11	Tue, Thur	Minicamp - Session A	Training	GCC
Oct 10, 12	Tue, Thur	Minicamp - Session B	Training	GCC
Oct 13	Fri (PM)	League Play Begins	League	GCC
Oct 14	Sat	Open House and Chili Cookoff	Open House	GCC
Oct 21	Sat (AM)	Officiating Class	Training	GCC
Oct 28	Sat-Sun (AM)	Evergreen Bonspiel (possibly Chinese/Taipei also)	Bonspiel/Guest	GCC
Nov 3-5	Fri, Sat, Sun (AM)	Autumn Open Spiel	Bonspiel	GCC
Nov-18	Sat (AM)	Officiating Class	Training	GCC
Nov 21-22		Ice Maintenance	Maintenance	GCC
23-Nov	Thur	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	Holiday	United States
Nov 24-27	Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon (AM)	Seattle Open Cash Spiel	Bonspiel	GCC
Nov 23-26		Continental Cup	International	Chilliwack, BC
TBD		Entry Deadline: Sr. Nationals, Jr. Playdowns, Men's Open	Deadline	USCA Office
Dec 1-3	Fri, Sat, Sun	Holiday Bonspiel	Bonspiel	GCC
TBD		Entry Deadline: Women's Open, Men's & Women's Nationals	Deadline	USCA Office
25-Dec	Monday	<i>Christmas Day</i>	Holiday	United States
Dec 26-29	Tue-Fri (AM)	Ice Maintenance	Maintenance	GCC
Dec 29-31	Fri, Sat, Sun (AM)	Junior State Championships	State	GCC
Dec 30-31	Fri, Sat, Sun (AM)	Sr. Mens and Womens State Championship	State	GCC
31-Dec	Sunday	Junior Fundraiser Party	Bonspiel	GCC
31-Dec	Sunday	<i>New Year's Eve</i>	Holiday	United States
Jan 1	Monday	<i>New Year's Day</i>	Holiday	United States
Jan 4-7	Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun	Women's Qualifier - Western Region	Regional	GCC
Jan 4-7	Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun	Men's Qualifier - Western Region	Regional	GCC
Jan 13-14	Sat-Sun	Washington College Championship	State	GCC
Jan 13-14	Sat-Sun	State Mixed Championship	State	GCC
Jan 13-14	Sat-Sun (AM)	MoPac Mixed Championship	Guest	GCC
Jan 18-21		M/W Senior National Championships	National	TBD
Jan 20-21	Sat-Sun	U-18 State Championship	State	GCC
Jan 20-21	Sat-Sun (AM)	Men's and Women's State Championships	State	GCC
Jan 25-28	Thur-Sun	Men's and Women's Challenge Round for Nationals	Regional	TBD
Jan 27-28	Sat-Sun	Mixed Bonspiel	Bonspiel	GCC
TBD		Entry Deadline: Mixed Nationals	Deadline	USCA Office
Jan 29-31		Ice Maintenance	Maintenance	GCC
Feb 3-10		Junior National Championships	National	GCC
Feb 9-12		58th Annual National Women's Bonspiel	National	Chicago, IL
Feb 17-24	Sat-Sun	World Wheelchair Championships	International	Solleftea, Sweden
Feb 17-18	Sat-Sun	Seattle/Langley Junior Bonspiel	International	Langley BC
19-Feb	Monday	<i>President's Day</i>	Holiday	United States
btw 29-21 Feb		Junior Minicamp — Mid Winter break	Training	GCC
Feb 17-24	Sat-Sat	Men's and Women's Nationals (formerly World Trials)	National	Utica, NY
Feb 24-25		Ice Maintenance	Maintenance	GCC
Mar 3-4	Sat-Sun (AM)	Five Year and Under Spiel	Bonspiel	GCC
Mar 4-10		Mens and Womens Club National Championships	National	TBD
Mar 3-11		Junior World Championships	International	Eveleth, Minn
Mar 10-11	Sat-Sun (AM)	Junior Bonspiel	Bonspiel	GCC
Mar 18-25		Mixed National Championship	National	TBD
Mar 17-18	Sat-Sun (AM)	USWCA All American Event	Bonspiel	GCC
Mar 17-25		Women's World Championship	International	Aomori, Japan
Mar 23-30		Senior World Championships	International	Edmonton, Alberta
Mar 31-Apr 8		Men's World Championships	International	Edmonton, Alberta
Apr 8		<i>Easter</i>	Holiday	United States
Apr 12-15	Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun	April Open Spiel	Bonspiel	GCC
Apr 18-22	Wed-Sun	Pacific International Cup	International	Richmond BC