

The 19th Annual Pacific International Cup is Underway!

Australia teams are off to a perfect start at this year's Pacific International Cup, with the men and women both sitting at 2 and 0 in the International Division. PIC veteran skip Matt Panoussi beat Arizona and Nevada on Day 1. Meanwhile, Matt's fiancée Jennifer Westhagen skipped the women's team to wins over Oregon and Singapore. The second win was a comeback affair, as Australia was down 5-1 after 5 ends, but managed to take 3, then steal 3 more on their way to an 8-5 win.

Arizona is also 2-0 in women's play after wins over Nevada and Minnesota. Alaska is the only other undefeated team in the men's division, after wins over Oregon and Washington.

The B.C. Division had just one draw on Wednesday. 2015 PIC women's champion Leanne Andrews of Cloverdale opened with a 7-5 win over Royal City. Campbell River, Creston, and McArthur Island were other first game winners. On the men's side, the host team skipped by Richmond legend Vic Shimizu beat Royal City 8-1 (see PIC Bites on page 2). Juan de Fuca, Langley, and Kamloops also won their first games.

Thursday's first draw begins at 8 AM, with all 16 men's teams in action.

Wednesday's Opening Ceremony featured Richmond wheelchair curler Samantha Siu singing 4 different National Anthems—Australia, U.S.A., Canada, and Singapore.

Welcome Team Singapore!

The PIC is always excited to have new teams and new faces competing, and this year's addition is Team Singapore, representing the Equatorial Curling Club. Wednesday's opening game 7-3 loss to Washington was their first game on the ice together—in fact Skip Sarah Cai met her team in person for the first time on Monday! They've all been in communication for the last two years via email, Facebook, etc. but had never actually met. Sarah lives and curls in Denver, so forming a Singapore team from across an ocean wasn't easy. Especially when there's limited ice available in Singapore.

Sara, Elaine, Adelia and Charlotte all live in Singapore, saw curling on TV and wanted to try it. Some even showed their dedication by travelling to Nagano, Japan to find curling club ice and rocks (where they received some free coaching from a kind Japanese national team coach who happened to see

them on the ice). But still, their total practicing for the PIC amounted to 9 days before their first game.

Complicating matters, Skip Sarah Cai had a baby (Casey) 3 and a half months ago...but kept playing and practicing while pregnant—eventually throwing with a stick in her last month before giving birth. Cai was impressed with her team's "good spirits" in their first game, and they were all happy to have scored 3 points.

Lead Charlotte Yew started curling about 6 months ago. Why? "First, it looked ridiculous (what's with all that sweeping?) Second, it was a ridiculous idea - a bunch of creaky 50 year old women learning a new sport in the hope of putting Singapore's name in the international curling scene. Third, because it is ridiculously FUN!"



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Welcome to the PIC Team Singapore Women (Equatorial Curling Club)!



Royal City CC is in just a bit of trouble in their first game... facing eight!

PIC Bitters

8 Ender Avoided!

A murmur started spreading around the club in the 3rd end of the Draw 2 game between Richmond and Royal City. All eyes in the upstairs lounge turned to sheet 7, where Richmond (without last rock) was lying eight — seven of them in front of the T-Line! (See photo—left). With no chance to even score 1, Royal City Skip Will Sutton didn't mess around, firing a rock into the pile, and removing 4 rocks, but still giving up a steal of 4. Richmond ended up winning 8-1.

About the Pacific International Cup

The 2018 Pacific International Cup (The PIC) is the 19th annual championship of club curling teams from all over British Columbia, along with teams from the Yukon, seven U.S. states, Australia, and Singapore. Thanks to a dedicated volunteer committee and passionate curlers it has grown into one of the premier curling events in the world for the development of the sport at the grass-roots level. It provides B.C. club champions, American state club champions, and international club curling teams with an opportunity to showcase

their skills, while fostering the social traditions of the game.

At stake for the 16 British Columbia men's and women's club champions is a chance to represent the province at the 2018 Travelers Canadian Curling Club Championship this November in Miramichi, New Brunswick. That event—formerly known as The Dominion (which was hosted by Richmond in 2011)—gives provincial club curling champions the chance to play for a national championship.

Meet the Teams

Oregon Women (Evergreen Curling Club)

Skip - Cathy Shuttleworth is a retired Alaskan golfer, with a significant other named Steve.

Third - Yvonne Perceval is a Canadian who lives in Washington, works in Oregon as a nurse, and also has a significant other named Steve.

Second - Traci Holcomb is a native Oregonian who golfs, bikes, skis, snowshoes, surfs, scuba dives and snorkels with her significant other—you guessed it—named Steve.

Lead - Barbara Feist is a former theme park mascot from California, and is married to a man who is not named Steve.

Creston (Kootenays Men)

Skip - Josh Firman is originally from Forest, Ontario and has lived in Creston for 14 years. Josh has been curling for 30 years, and is an Ice-maker/Golf course irrigation Tech. He leads the team with 3 holes-in-one!

Third - Dave Drennan is originally from Mississauga, Ontario, and has lived in Creston for 18 years. Dave has been curling for 11 years, and is a Sole Proprietor. He has zero holes-in-one.

Second - Randy Nelson is originally from Calgary and has lived in Creston for 11 years. Randy has been curling for 7 years, and is a business owner (Creston Valley Winecrafters) with 2 holes-in-one

Lead - Garry Husband has lived his entire life in Creston. Garry has been curling for 9 years and is a business owner (Husband Plumbing), with 2 holes-in-one.

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