



# The PIC Times

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## Day 1 Activities – by Mike Hanafin

The 16th annual Pacific International Cup (“The PIC”) is underway after 3 draws on Wednesday at the Richmond Curling Centre.

Many of the international teams had 2 games Wednesday. Washington State and Illinois each got off to 2-and-0 starts in the women’s event, while the Illinois men and New Zealand were also 2-and-0 after day one. New Zealand’s Kieran Ford of Auckland won an all-Southern Hemisphere battle over Australia (skipped by former Richmond CC member Matt Panoussi) in the late evening draw.

B.C. teams only played one draw on the opening day, but they’ll be very busy Thursday—starting at 7:30 AM! In the men’s pool, the local favourites from the host Richmond club were 9-4 winners over Creston. In all Lower Mainland battle, Chilliwack held off Vancouver 5-4. In the women’s pool, strong local teams from Cloverdale and Royal City (New Westminster) were both winners, along with Campbell River and McArthur Island (Kamloops).



For scoreboard watchers, the craziest game of the day was in the B.C. women’s pool between Coquitlam and Royal City. Coquitlam took 4 in the first end (partly thanks to 8 Royal City misses). But Elisha Yager’s team bounced back with a 5-ender in the second end (thanks to 8 made shots!), then scored 3 more in the 7th to win 10-6.

Round Robin play continues Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with the playoffs wrapping up with the championship finals on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 PDT.

The PIC features club curling championship teams from all over British Columbia, along with teams from the Yukon, eight U.S. states, Australia, New Zealand, and for the first time—Brazil! It is one of the premier curling events in the world for the development of the sport at the grass-roots level. Only true “club” teams are eligible. It provides B.C. club champions, American state 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 British Columbia men’s and women’s club champions is a chance to represent the province at the 2015 Travelers Canadian Curling Club Championship in Ottawa this November. That event—formerly known as The Dominion (which was hosted by Richmond in 2011)—gives club curling teams the chance to play for a national championship, while being treated like the curling stars we see on TV at the Brier, Scotties and Olympics.

The PIC also raises money for the event’s official charity: Spinal Cord Injury BC, thanks to the generosity of the participating curlers who have contributed prizes to a silent auction.

Available on the PIC web site under the Competition -> Daily News link