

## Comox and Alaska Gold Medalists in PIC Championship Finals

Alaska's women and Comox Valley Curling Club's men were crowned champions of the 17th annual Pacific International Cup on Sunday, after convincing wins in the PIC finals.

The women's PIC gold-medal game was a battle of youth vs. experience—Alaska's 16 year old skip Cora Farrell against Campbell River's Kim Jonsson (a 7-time PIC participant and 2-time PIC champion). Farrell and Alaska broke open a tight game with a 3 in the 4th end, then stole singles in the 5th and 6th on their way to a 5-2 win. Farrell has a bright future in the sport, and hopes to play for the U.S. Olympic team in 2022 in Beijing. For Jonsson and teammate Lonnie Schopp, it was their 5th career medal at the PIC (2 gold, 2 silver, one bronze). And there was a silver lining to go with the silver medal—a chance to represent B.C. later this year in a Canadian championship.

Comox Valley CC managed to give B.C. a gold medal the men's PIC final, with a 7-3 win over Australia. Comox Valley skip Ron Schmidt—a financial advisor—was “on the money” all week, finishing the event with a perfect 9 and 0 record. Schmidt “cashed in” a hit and stick for 4 in the 2nd end, then stole two more in the 3rd to “bank” an early 6-1 lead against the Aussies. From there on, it was a matter of “avoiding a crash” for the Comox Valley team, who were the class of the field all week. For Australia skip Matt Panoussi and second Vaughan Rosier, the silver medal was their best career finish at the PIC—beating the bronze medal they won in 2010.

The B.C. Pool finals—arguably the most important games of the week—were both all-Vancouver Island affairs, and the Island men and women were not afraid to remind Mainlanders of that fact (numerous times!). Bragging rights for the entire province went to “Island North” teams, who swept both games and will now represent B.C. at the Travelers Curling Club Championship this November in Kelowna.

The Comox Valley men took a 5-1 lead after 3 ends on their way to a 9-4 win over Kerry Park Club of Mill Bay. In the B.C. women's final, Campbell River pulled out a see-saw affair against Nanaimo, winning 6-5 in an extra-end, after Nanaimo stole one in the 8th to tie. The loss ended quite a miraculous run for Nanaimo—seven straight wins after starting the round-robin 0 and 3. Including the B.C. finals loss (and two tie-breaker wins), they played 6 games in 30 hours.

In the International Men's final, Australia scored 4 in the 1st end against The Yukon, then stole 4 more in the 2nd for an 8-0 lead. The Yukon didn't give up, scoring singles in the next 3 ends, but it wasn't enough as Australia won 10-3.

The International Women's final was a much tighter affair, going to a nail-biting extra end, with Alaska beating California 6-5.

In the Sunday morning women's pool semi-finals, Nanaimo beat Cloverdale 9-5 and California beat Washington 9-2. The losers of those games took bronze medals. In the men's pool semi-finals, The Yukon beat Washington 8-4, and Kerry Park beat Langley 6-0 (“Now I have to go home and cut the grass”, said one Langley player leaving with his bronze medal around his neck.)

The PIC 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 club champions, and international club curling teams with an opportunity to showcase their skills, while fostering the social traditions of the game.

The PIC also raises money for the event's official charity: Spinal Cord Injury BC. Many thanks go to the generosity of the participating curlers and sponsors who contributed prizes to the silent auction, which raised a total of \$6,530.



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Use #PIC2016 for all your posts!

Team Comox Valley CC in PIC Finals (L-R) Ron Schmidt, Darren Richards, Norm Coté

## ***PIC Champions***

### Men's

## **Comox Valley CC**

### Women's

## **Alaska (Fairbanks CC)**

### ***B.C Pool Champions***

### Women's

**Gold:** Campbell River Curling Club

**Silver:** Nanaimo Curling Club

**Bronze:** Cloverdale Curling Club

### Men's

**Gold:** Comox Valley Curling Club

**Silver:** Kerry Park Curling Club

**Bronze:** Langley Curling Club

### ***International Pool Champions***

### Men's

**Gold:** Australia (Victorian Curling Association)

**Silver:** Yukon (Whitehorse Curling Club)

**Bronze:** Washington (Granite Club of Seattle)

### Women's

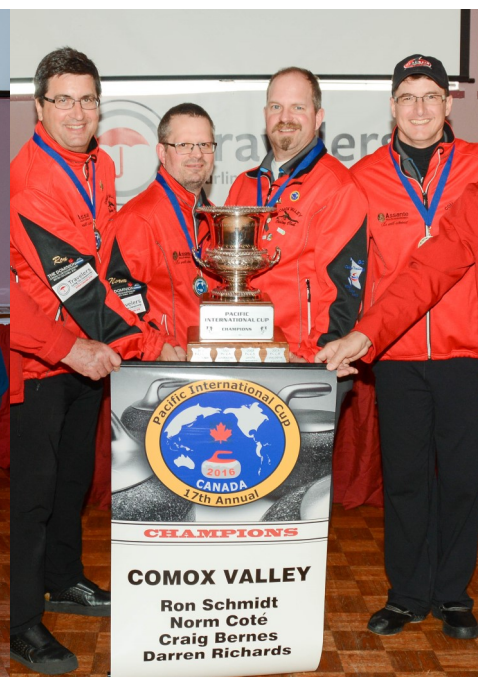
**Gold:** Alaska (Fairbanks Curling Club)

**Silver:** California (San Francisco Bay Area Curling Club)

**Bronze:** Washington (Granite Club of Seattle)



2016 PIC Women's Champs - Alaska (Fairbanks CC)



2016 PIC Men's Champs - Comox Valley CC

## **Final Standings**

### International Pool - Men's

Team	Wins	Losses
Australia	6	1
Yukon	6	1
Washington	5	2
Alaska	4	3
Arizona	4	3
California	3	4
Nevada	3	4
New Zealand	2	5
Oregon	1	6
Texas	1	6

### International Pool - Women's

Team	Wins	Losses
Alaska	6	1
Washington	5	2
Australia	4	3
California	4	3
Oregon	3	4
Arizona	2	5
Colorado	2	5
Yukon	2	5

### BC Pool - Men's

Team	Wins	Losses
Comox Valley	7	0
Kerry Park	4	3
Langley	4	3
Kimberley	3	4
Richmond	3	4
Summerland	3	4
Quesnel	2	5
Tunnel Town	2	5

### BC Pool - Women's

Team	Wins	Losses
Campbell River	5	2
Cloverdale	5	2
Sparwood	4	3
Nanaimo	4	3
Vernon	4	3
Royal City	3	4
Prince George	2	5
Tunnel Town	1	6