



## Vancouver 2007 Report

The second and final round of the Western Canadian Championship was played out in glorious sunshine on the rugby fields at Burnaby Lake on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The Western Canadian Teams were joined by a strong showing from the Seattle Gaels (2 ladies teams and the Hurlers), and Vancouver fielded four teams, with Shamrock Rovers & the Harps playing Gaelic Football, the Harps ladies and a Hurling selection also fielding teams.

### Western Canadian Championship Round-Up – Final Round

The **Men's** Championship was not going to be pried away from the leaders after the first round. The Calgary Chieftains arrived in town with their backs up, knowing that they could afford one loss in their days play. The Harps however did make them sweat a little, recording a relatively comfortable win to give themselves a chance. A chance only if Edmonton were able to do the business. Alas, for the Harps, the Chieftains knuckled down, and a fine display from Brendan O' Hara & Tim Hammill in the middle of the park sent the Championship back to Calgary for the first time since 2004.

The **Ladies'** Championship fizzled out in the sun in Burnaby. The ladies of Edmonton and Calgary had difficulty in making the trip this year, and so combined to form an Albertan team. In doing so, they forfeited their games in the final round. This in no way takes away from the efforts of the Harps in their victory. Witnesses of Saturday & Sundays play will feel safe in the knowledge that the best team had won the Championship. Rene McGloin and Tara Philips have begun to play a type of football that the West's more experienced Men would be proud of.

Ledcor, one of the largest construction companies in North America, & a large employer in Western Canada will be delighted that their first year of sponsorship of the Western Canada Division proved such an interesting one.

Men's 2007 WCC Table (FINAL)	W	D	L	Pts
Calgary Chieftains	3	0	1	6
Vancouver Harps	2	1	1	5
Edmonton Wolfe Tones	0	1	3	1

Ladies' 2007 WCC Table (FINAL)	W	D	L	Pts
Vancouver Harps	3	0	1	6
Edmonton Wolfe Tones	2	1	1	5
Calgary Chieftains	0	1	3	1

The round-robin Gaelic Football action of Saturday was followed by two games of hurling between a combined AB/ BC Team and the Seattle Gaels Hurlers. Some fine Hurling, in two closely contested fixtures, had to compete for an audience with the De Danaan Irish Dancers, who put on an incredible performance in the Burnaby Lake Clubhouse.

That Night the ISSC hosted a beautiful dinner at the Cambrian Hall with some rocking music provided by Mark Downey & the Jolly Rogers. Conversation centered on the whereabouts of the Western Canada trophies, the origins of the Siege of Ennis, and how the Chieftains had coaxed Doug Maynard back from the Island.

### Vancouver Tournament Results:

Sunday was a day of emotions. The Calgary Chieftains were unable to contain a revitalized Wolfe Tones, and they were dumped out at the semi-final. The Harps & Rovers played out an entertaining scrimmage. The final then was a game that Vancouver simply wanted more. The club, as if making up for its shortcomings in the Championship, made up for it with their second tournament title of the year. Derek Healy and Cathal O'Loughlin leading from the half-forward line. Brian Daly, of Edmonton, the Tournament MVP, could not lift his team and though they never gave up, there was only going to be one winner.

The Ladies provided the cherry on the icing on the cake however. Allowing the Seattle team to combine, the Harps borrowed 3 Albertans, and played out an enthralling game against the Gaels. It was end-to-end stuff played at a frenetic pace. The Harps controlled much of the first half, but somehow the Gaels managed to stay in touch. Katrina McAndrew (Harps) and January Chay (Gaels, & tournament MVP) were relentless in their pursuit of each other, the ball & anyone else that thought they were coming through the middle of the park. An early Seattle flurry in the second half and, though they rallied, the Harps could not claw back the deficit.

So Meg Starbird collected the Kevin McFadden Memorial Cup on behalf of Seattle. Kevin Murray, in potentially his last match with the Harps, collected the Men's. Aidan O'Callaghan, pretending to be a hurler, picked up the West Limerick Holdings North West Challenge Cup.

Thanks to all the Irish Sporting & Social Club of Vancouver for making the Weekend run smoothly and efficiently. Marcus Treacy, with a bathtub full of sweat equity, really out-did himself, but maybe that's all in a days work for a Kerry man.