

## Vancouver - Gaelic Games Open Day:

VANCOUVER GAELIC GAMES DAY 2007

Saturday, June 16th, 2007 - John Hendry Park, Trout Lake

Approx 80 players (Ladies & Men) from both the Seattle Gaels (30) and Vancouver Harps (50) descended on Trout Lake, Vancouver to play in a very successful Gaelic Games Day and Fundraising event for the Vancouver Harps Club.

From 10am the players started arriving, and the first of 5 Ladies Games that day started at 10:45am on the button.

The format for the day was individual points scoring based on results in games played in three sports (Hurling, Ladies & Men's Gaelic Football). All registered players names went into a hat, from which teams were selected. The teams played and individuals 'scored' points based on results and performance. Once a game was done, names went back in the hat for selection into new teams. And so on.

The format worked great, and 5 Ladies Football, 4 men's, & 2 Hurling Matches were played over the course of the day. If that wasn't good enough, the ladies of the ISSC had prepared lunchbags to feed the masses. Everyone appreciated the effort and the lunchbags were emptied in every case.

The winners in each code were as follows, Jackie Carr [Seattle] (Ladies Football), Kevin Murray [Vancouver] (Men's Football), and Denis O'Sullivan [Vancouver] (Hurling). There were several runners-up also and all were rewarded with excellent prizes (Kudos again to the ISSC Board for their work in securing the prizes).

The BBQ & celebrations at Scribes Hall that night rivalled anything you would expect at a Tournament, with set-dancing, folk-singing, and even some rounds for the whole bar (by some unwilling Harps, ignorant of Scribes protocol with respect to Bell-Ringing)

An excellent ethos of cooperation has re-developed between the Seattle Gaels & Vancouver Harps, and the success of this event was founded on that. In July, Vancouver will travel to Seattle to play on full-size fields in their summer tournee, and Seattle will be back this side of the border again to play Hurling & Football in August.

Already the Harps men & women have played more Gaelic Football (and Hurling & Aussie Rules) than they did in the whole of 2006. And the Western Canadian Championships doesn't start until next June 30th in Edmonton. A great season already played, so 2007 has been an unprecedented success no matter what unfolds in the Championship (Don't tell Calgary & Edmonton that, though).

The ISSC Board for 2007 has been working incredibly well, and their efforts are reaping untold rewards.

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