

July 30, 2008 E-news flash.



## 2008 AMERICAS CUP REPORT

This year's Americas Cup was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Our team was welcomed to the island by members of the Trinidad & Tobago dart team. They came with refreshments for the team, knowing that we had been travelling all day from Canada and we still had another hour's drive to our hotel, The Cascadia Hotel and Conference Center.

Upon arrival at the hotel, we were greeted by the hotel management and the tournament organizers..... talk about making people feel welcome in a strange country!

On Thursday, our first day in Trinidad, the team hired a tour van and we were taken downtown to do some shopping. On the way, the driver told us some of the history of the island and the city of Port of Spain. We spent a couple of hours shopping, buying souvenirs and stopped to have a drink at one of the local restaurants. Back at the hotel, the team gathered for drinks and supper in the hotel restaurant and everyone retired early as we knew that the next few days were going to be very busy.

Friday began with a team manager's meeting and then everyone assembled in the hall for the march-in of the teams and the opening ceremonies. Following the opening, the teams prepared to play the first two rounds of the team event. Canada met the team from the Bahamas in the first round and the final score was 11-2 for Canada. The next round was against the team from USA and our team took their first loss, losing 8-5.

On Saturday, we played the final three rounds of the team event and finished second in our section with the following scores: Canada-8 / Jamaica-5, Canada-13 / Brazil-0, and Canada-8 / Belize-5. The team also played the first three rounds of the Americas Cup Singles, which saw 3 of the 4 players advancing to the semi-finals on Sunday. Unfortunately, Ken MacNeil was defeated by Gary Mawson of the USA and finished joint 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday began with the teams playing the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the team event. Canada beat St. Lucia by a score of 7-3 and went on to beat Jamaica 7-5. The finals, which were played later on in the day, saw Canada and the USA going for the cup. The final score was 8-2 for the USA, but every match went to the final leg. Our team played their hearts out and they wanted to take the cup away from the USA, but it just was not to be.

In the semi-finals of the singles event, Brenda Moreau met Maureen Shepherd of the Barbados. This match went the full games and unfortunately Maureen was the first to hit the double and she would be heading for the finals. In the other semi-final match, it was Kim Whaley-Hilts against Shelly Taylor of the Barbados, and here we saw Kim win the match by a score of 3-1.

In the semi-finals for the men, Jerry Hull met Sudesh Fitzgerald from Guyana. Jerry won this match by a score of 3-1. In the other semi-final match, Gary Mawson of the USA won by a score of 3-1 over Harry Brown of the Bahamas.

The finals for both the ladies and the men were played on stage with a great number of the players, from all teams, rooting on the players from Canada. Kim's game against Maureen Shepherd went the full 5 games with Kim taking the victory by a score of 3-2.

However, it was a different story for the men's final. Jerry played well but was defeated by Gary Mawson of the USA with a final score of 3-0.

The closing ceremonies saw all teams assembled one more time. Each team was called on stage and presented with a keepsake from the Trinidad & Tobago organization. The awards presentation saw Canada take 8 of the 16 trophies that were handed out, plus medals for each member of the team.

Americas Cup 2008 Runners-Up	=	Team Canada
Men's Singles Runner-Up	=	Jerry Hull
Women's Singles Winner	=	Kim Whaley-Hilts
Women's Singles, Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup>	=	Brenda Moreau
High Check Out for the men	=	Jerry Hull (160 twice)
High Check Out for the ladies	=	Kim Whaley-Hilts (140)
Most 180's for the ladies	=	Kim Whaley-Hilts (2)
Lowest Darts Game / Men	=	Ken MacNeil (11 darts)

Special mention should be made that Jerry Hull was second on the list for having scored 180's; Jerry had a total of 12 for the event.

A team supper was held at one of the cities' best restaurants. Everyone had a chance to relax, have a couple of drinks and tried some of the local delicacies.

Canada should be very pleased with the results of our team; I know that I am. These four players shot incredible darts for three days and I know that there are a few countries that are going to remember the names of Jerry, Kim, Ken and Brenda for a long time to come.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Dezan.

Team Canada Manager and Executive in attendance.

Visit [www.ndfc.ca](http://www.ndfc.ca) for more information on darts.

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