

Radschläger is coming home!

For a year, our Radschläger (= cartwheeler) Cup was cartwheeling far, far away from home. As it is a challenge cup it wandered to southern climes last year. There it explored new civilizations, strange new cellars and new cupboards. Because it had to boldly go, where no cartwheeler has gone before - to Cologne.

A year ago, the Cologne Team had managed to take it with them to these unexplored galaxies after a close neck-and-neck competition of four teams with even points, due to their advantage of 2 Ends. In contrast, this year the fight on the top of the table was not that tight, but one team could win all four games and thus had a clear advantage of 2 points on the chasing teams. It was a combined team mainly composed of our Greek curlers of the old "Hellas" team, together with our Alfred, thus calling themselves "Hellfred". Actually, they wanted to start with four players, but due to an illness one player had to resign already before the tournament started. But even with three players they managed to bring the Düsseldorf Cartwheeler back to Düsseldorf. Congratulations and respect for this clear victory despite the reduced team!

And that happened, although Cologne came even with two teams this year: Team Köln and "Kölle Alaaf" (which is the call during carnival in Cologne) since we are still deeply in the carnival season. But even this "clownish" trick did obviously not help to defend the title. However, one has to admit that Kölle Alaaf did a good job and just missed the podium by reaching rank 4.

On the podium, on rank 2 the young team Awesomesauce ended up, four guys, who come to us every year quite early, already on Friday, from the Netherlands and who improved by 5 positions in the final table compared to last year. They are followed closely by the "Curl Girls", four "girls" of the Curling Club Düsseldorf.

The traditional teams of Unna and Wiehl managed to climb out of the cellar of the table upwards. Only Frankfurt stayed at last years quite low numbers although they could make 10 stones more than 2016. Nevertheless, there must be hidden potential and a lot of curling talent in that team, because they are the best this year in two categories: They scored the most stones, namely 33, a value not even achieved in the previous year. Additionally, they are the best in the X-factor-classification, which is the number of stones divided by the ends won. The X-factor thus says with how many stones you win your ends on average. Here, the Frankfurt team is absolutely at the very top with 2.2 stones per end! Thus, heads up, with a little bit more luck it should be possible to climb in the rankings - maybe on the next Radschläger Tournament.

Directly behind them in the X-factor-classification comes the Fiesian team Fryslân from the Netherlands, that was our guest for the first time. They made exactly 2 stones per end on average. One of their players was a wheelchair curler, who obviously felt quite good at our tournament and who made us aware of the fact that our ice is accessible without stairs and the break room accessible by a lift. Therefore, we invite and encourage all wheelchair curlers to come to our next tournaments.

Unfortunately, there was again a team with no points, a ragtag team from Unna and Düsseldorf with young and old players, experienced and new players, who named themselves NRW-Express (NRW=NordRhein-Westphalen, the region where Düsseldorf lies). As a consolation prize each of them got a bar of chocolate and a pack of wiping cloths, to improve the sweeping. We cross our fingers and wish that this Express train will evolve into an ICE superspeed train next time and leaves the rest behind.

We had again a Belgian team from the Campina region: the partly new team "Campina Challenge". As in the previous years the Belgians were very competitive and thus reached rang 5.

The Curly Beavers turned into the "Catering Beavers" this year, as they took care of the kitchen duties and did a big part of the organisation this time supported by the Curl Girls. Despite their many new tasks, the Beavers could improve by 3 positions and one point. They consisted of 5 players to be able to rotate, i.e. one was working in the kitchen while the other four were playing.

We thank all the teams for their participation, the good mood and hope that everyone had a lot of fun, above all. Next year we hope to see everyone again on our ice. Until then, have a good curling season and Gut Stein!