



Boston World Skating Trip Notes **March 25 – April 4, 2016**

Is this crazy?

Many days of sitting on my butt for 10-12 hours at a time. Why?

- World's Competition is truly 'Best of the Best.' It's special that we see the top skaters vs wanna-be at Nationals.
- Handy that it's in Boston. Where I attended my real skating first event.
- This event had two record setting performances, and both were one's I felt an affinity to even before I knew the scoring. A little young Russian skater, and an older Spaniard guy.
- Nice to meet up with sister. We hardly knew each other before our parents died. Odd that brought us together. She has followed skating for years and as a child and teen was a skater.

Comments/Surprises

- Costumes are enhanced on many European gals whereas our American and Asian gals have the chests of a boy. European gals fill out costumes nicely.
- Country diversity is clear in what we might call tacky costumes.
- No radio commentary. I'm half relieved. Half missing the education but having no commentary releases me to fully enjoy the show.
- Judging. I'm pleased to finally realize that there is generally a correlation between beauty and enjoyment and a good score. The exceptions are many of the Asians are more into athletics than grace.
- Spectators are generally an overweight motley looking group. Note to self: exercise between sets.
- Audience didn't always like the judges rating and one time there was an overall loud boeing.
- Music used to be song/word free. I haven't gotten used to the diversion of having words.
- Advertisements and videos in Japanese. We later realized (when all the Japanese flags were held up) there was a large population of Japanese in the audience.
- Odd how little they show up for the formal practice in front of an audience. There were lots of no-shows especially by the Russians who were said to be practicing out of the spotlight in a NJ location. Turns out that if they show up, they are limited to the time.

Other skating events I've attended

Boston Nationals 2014; Chicago Skate America 2014; St. Paul Nationals 2016. Next up is Kansas City Nationals 2017, then maybe Helsinki Worlds 2017.

Missed Greenville 2015 due to a conflict. The skating associations don't announce events early enough.

Secondary entertainment

We showed up at Boston's Sheraton Hotel at the Hynes Convention Center and found an Anime conference going on with thousands of kooks in wild costumes.



We exposed our age by not knowing what any of the costumes represented. Anime and Marvel comic readers would have known. They ALL liked having their picture taken and we had plenty of posers.

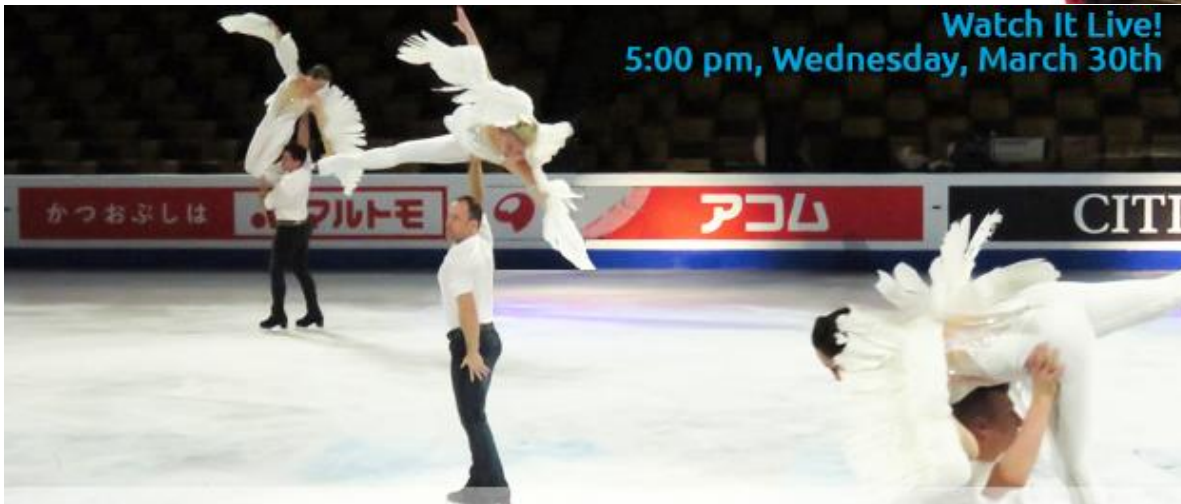
I didn't know the costume characters, but I recognized a TWIT or two for what they were – even in costume here's a couple who were glued to their phones. Smile.

By Sunday afternoon most of the costumes were gone so we only had the crowds and that entertainment for the weekend. A group stayed over for Monday meetings but most costumes were gone except as parts of their suitcases. I wondered how some of the swords or props got through security.

Opening Ceremonies Sneak Peak

<http://worlds2016.com/opening-ceremonies-sneak-peek/>

You can see some of it at the above link. It was spectacular! These “birds” were of our favorite.



They played some of this at the event -- 10 skating great moments

<http://worlds2016.com/10-favorites-from-the-last-24-years-of-world-championships/>

Lots of social media

Beverly loves the Facebook and Twitter stuff. It was ongoing by many in the audience and some of the Twits sent Twitter messages that were up on the huge TV screen. Many of them reminded me why I have not yet indulged in social media. Yet Beverly being ‘ON’ was helpful to me as she’d learn what was going on. Such clutter is this TWIT stuff.



Yes, that’s the only picture of me: Beverly and I are ant size and I’m sitting next to the lime green sweatshirt of Bev.

Beverly wore this lime green sweatshirt so her social media friends could find her. There we are. Does it pass the so-what test? I suspect it didn't for Beverly either after about 30 seconds. Smile.

Much more interesting were pictures of the little 'sweepers' who go out onto the ice to pick up the gifts. The little boys were decked out in suits. Some looked about 3 years old. They would skate with their arms fully out for balance. So cute!



Clashes!

I'd wondered how practice and warm ups didn't result in crashes and in fact at the practice rink it did. Maybe not a crash but a clash. Here is the Hanyu and Ten clash, and if you scroll down more you'll find nice videos.

http://olympics.nbc.com/2016/03/31/yuzuru-hanyu-denis-ten-practice-figure-skating-world-championships/?utm_network=facebook&utm_post=5496354&utm_source=FB%20-%20NBC%20Olympics&utm_tags=srm%5Bolympics%2Carticle%2Cfigure%20skating%5D

One evening we were tourists with our Boston friends

Kelly was my tour leader for Marathon Tours, and I'd met her intended John (since married) while in Ireland, and the last time in Boston Beverly and I had dinner with them. We indulged this time at a lovely seafood restaurant across the (cold) bridge into Charlestown. Of course there were drinks before, drinks after, and a fun time hopefully by all.

If you're wondering how blonde and blue eyed Beverly could be the sister of a dark haired (used to be) brown eyed gal, it was always a question but no doubt she is! I'd love to have those wide eyes and big smile. She clearly takes on the maternal side whereas I take on the paternal looks.



Tourist

We did manage some touring this time. The art museum took a full day. We had a nice meal there, I took two docent tours, and there was so much to see and do that we gave up the Isabella Gardener museum just around the corner. The Church of Christian Scientists gave us a most interesting tour and then we returned for Sunday services to their Mother Church and to hear the 8th largest organ in the country. Their original church tour was a treat like European special churches, full of old stained glass and mosaics. A hop on/hop off bus tour gave us an overview and kept us warm as it was brutally cold and windy. We walked the Rodeo Drive of Boston called Newbury Street. Got to tour inside the famous Fairmont Hotel. Shopped some at Saks.

Weather

It was colder in the stadium some days than outside. We had weather in the 20s, and weather in the 70s, lots of wind too. But always the stadium is kept around 55 degrees and with their a/c running there's always a breeze, and sitting still meant that we would be inside wearing a velour, a coat, a scarf and oftentimes gloves.

Transport to and from

Beverly and I both got to Boston just fine. My trip home had to be moved up so I could go to U. of Philadelphia with Tom for his facial surgery.

Snow started coming down our last and transport day, so Beverly went to the airport early. They moved her up to an earlier flight but it got held up on the runway with a de-icing mechanical problem and was canceled. Her later flight was already booked solid. Thus she spent the night in Boston.

For me, I like Amtrak. The time for driving, or air, or Amtrak is pretty much the same, but the Amtrak is so stress free, there's no wait time, no airport security lines, there's Wi-Fi and electricity on board. The coach seating is like business class on the airlines. Or I should say, it should be wait free. On the way to Boston, there'd been an accident so we were about an hour late, sort of like the airlines being late?

Hotel, food stuff, security

We had a mini suite of two rooms thanks to an employee deal. With a refrigerator, we did grocery shopping and always took breakfast in. Very convenient and helped balance out the stadium junk food so that I didn't gain more weight this time.

We learned to sneak in Dunkin Donuts sandwiches in our coat pocket. To stuff small zip bags of dried fruit and nuts to the bottom of our bag. I even managed to sneak in alcohol miniatures.

The security into the stadium was a big harassment since food and drinks were not allowed. The lines were at best a big inconvenience, and at worst a bit frightening to be within the hoards pushing and shoving. They made us clear out of the stadium at each event, so we might have practice in the morning, clear out, afternoon event, clear out, evening event, clear out. So we had lots of security lines and crowds. This TD Garden just couldn't fix it and we suppose the recent terrorists actions coupled with the memory of the Boston Marathon bombs caused it.

Backpacks and briefcases were not allowed and yet many brought them and that held up the line.

Then at the end of the day the T-subway was jammed necessitating sometimes waiting two or three trains until we could get on, and even then it was like a Japanese train that used pushers. Funny story about pushers. We were in an elevator with a bunch of youngsters, some dark skinned, right after the pressed train car and when I mentioned that we needed pushers, I sure got an odd look.

Next up?

A hike in NM to the Canyons d' Chelly and Chaco. Then meeting up with more friends in Santa Fe.

Itinerary

Fri Mar 25 – Beverly

5:10am Depart Columbia COU via AA#3482
6:50am Arrive Chicago ORD for plane change

8:20am Depart Chicago ORD via AA#1299
11:30am Arrive Boston BOS

Note: there is a free Silver Line bus available? Ask hotel?

- Diana

10:15am Depart home
11:31am Depart Metro Park Iselin MET via Amtrak #86
4:28pm Arrive Boston Back Bay BBY

Back Bay .20 miles from Sheraton. Covered or taxi or Orange Line to Prudential or Copley South Station is 2.0 miles from Sheraton.

Hotel Sheraton – 10 days – junior suite - Starwood form in file
39 Dalton Street, Boston, MA 02199 Tele 617 236 2000

Transport:

Sheraton is under covered walkway with Prudential Center and Copley; also within connection of Green (Prudential Center Stop) and Orange (Back Bay Stop) Lines

MBTA aka the Boston T - \$19 weekly pass or \$2.65 each or Charlie Card at \$2.10 each – check on senior rate

Mon Mar 28

Practices – refer to the Official ISU Schedule
Tickets are in Section 14, Row 12, Seat 14-15

Tue Mar 29

Practices - refer to the Official ISU Schedule in file

Wed Mar 30

10:45am Short Dance to 3:14 PM

5:00pm Opening Ceremonies to 5:45 PM

6:15pm Men's Short Program to 10:51 PM

Thu Mar 31

12:10pm Ladies Short Program to 5:54 PM

7:30pm Free Dance to 10:49 PM

Fri Apr 1

1:15pm Pairs Short Program to 4:53 PM

6:45pm Men's Free Skate to 10:52 PM

Sat Apr 2

12:54pm Pairs Free Skate to 3:53 PM

7:00pm Ladies Free Skate to 10:55 PM

Sun Apr 3

2:00pm Exhibition of Champions aka Spectacular to 4:15 PM

Mon Apr 4 - Diana

9:36am Depart Boston Back Bay BBY via Amtrak #93 (new schedule)

2:32pm Arrive MetroPark Iselin MET

-Beverly

3:45pm Depart Boston BOS via AA#197

5:45pm Arrive Chicago ORD for plane change with 2:51 hours layover

8:14pm Depart Chicago ORD via AA#3453

9:34pm Arrive Columbia COU

36 hours in Boston - <http://nyti.ms/1ihLqAZ>

Policy - Hello Figure Skating Fan!

Please carefully read the important event policies below and be sure to note them as you finalize your preparations for attending the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships! For a complete list of important policies and frequently asked questions, please [visit the event website](#).

Food and Drink - Guests may not bring food or beverages into TD Garden during events or practice sessions, except that tea, coffee and small breakfast items will be allowed until 11am. Guest Service Centers will not check-in or store any food or beverage items. Guests with specific/special dietary needs due to medical conditions or religious requirements should contact the TD Garden at 617-624-1331 or send an email to customerservice@tdgarden.com.

Concessions During Practice Sessions - A select group of TD Garden concession stands will be open during practice sessions, beginning with lunch service at 11:00 am. TD Garden has made special arrangements for additional menu items to be available during these times, including soups, salads and sandwiches. For a full listing of the concessions that will be open during competitions at TD Garden, please visit www.tdgarden.com/the-garden/concessions/.

Smoking - Smoking is not permitted in the arena at any time.

Video and Camera Policy - The event will follow U.S. Figure Skating's video and camera policy. No flash photography. No cameras that interfere with other fans' enjoyment. No resale of photography or posting photos on websites. No video recording. Only accredited coaches and team managers may be permitted to videotape their own skater/team from the rink-side during that skater's/team's practice or performance.

Bags - Bags, backpacks, luggage, laptops, coolers, parcels, briefcases and like articles will be strictly prohibited from the facility. All guests will be subject to search, at TD Garden's discretion, of their person and/or possessions (including women's handbags of normal size that may be allowed entry after such search). Patrons with prohibited articles will be turned away at the entrances and no storage or check area will be provided for such items.

When Does the Arena Open? - The TD Garden will be open 30 minutes before each practice session and 60 minutes before each event, unless otherwise noted. Doors for the Exhibition of Champions will open 90 minutes before the event at 12:30pm.

Between Events - The TD Garden will be cleared of all spectators, including all-event ticket holders, between each event. Fans may stay in the arena following the short dance competition only.

Entering the Arena for Practices - All-event ticket holders with a practice pass may enter the TD Garden lobby from Legends Way and head to the main turnstiles on level two. You will be directed in the appropriate direction from there. This will be the only available entrance during practice sessions. Please remember that the Sunday morning practice sessions are not part of the competition and will be closed to the public. An all-event tickets practice pass will not be valid for admission.

Fan Banners - Fans are permitted to bring in personal banners of support for their favorite skaters. Banners are to be horizontal, 24 inches by 36 inches or 60cm by 90cm. They can be dropped off at the turnstiles on level 2. Only TD Garden staff may hang fan banners. Banners with hateful or non-supportive language or offensive images will not be hung. Banners will not be hung if space is no longer available. Once hung, banners may not be moved until the conclusion of the Exhibition of Champions. Banners will not be returned after the event.

Re-Entry Policy - There will be no re-entry during competition events or the Exhibition of Champions. However, re-entry during TD Garden practice sessions will be permitted. If you need to leave the building for emergency reasons, please ask an usher or security staff person for assistance.

Security Notice - Please know that for the safety and security of our fans, participants and event staff, security for these World Championships will be very strict. Working with members of local, state and federal law enforcement, as well as TD Garden management and experienced private security officials, the organizing committee has put together a comprehensive security plan for the benefit of everyone attending the championships. Spectators should expect any combination of bag checks, metal detectors and personal wandings when entering TD Garden. We request your patience and cooperation to help our security team ensure a safe event for everyone involved. Security is also at its best when there is a shared sense of safety and security. If you see anything unusual or that you think may be of concern, please contact TD Garden security at 617-624-3000, and also alert the nearest member of the TD Garden staff. Please also follow the event on Twitter [@Worlds2016](https://twitter.com/Worlds2016) for updated real-time information during the event.

The World Comes to Boston!

The Local Organizing Committee
2016 World Championships, LLC