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PREPARED BY:
THE SECRETARIAT (SMG)
3 ATHOLL CRESCENT
PERTH PH15NG
### Executive Board

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<th>Executive Board</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Caithness</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Colin Grahamslaw</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham Prouse</td>
<td>VP Americas</td>
<td>Richard Harding</td>
<td>Curling Development Officer</td>
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<td>Hugh Millikin</td>
<td>VP Pacific Asia</td>
<td>Keith Wendor</td>
<td>Director of Competitions &amp; Development</td>
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<td>Bent Ramsfjell</td>
<td>VP Europe</td>
<td>Joanna Kelly</td>
<td>Broadcast Manager</td>
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<td>Andy Anderson</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Chris Hamilton</td>
<td>Digital Media Officer</td>
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<td>Hew Chalmers</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Cameron MacAllister</td>
<td>Communication &amp; Media Relations Manager</td>
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<td>Laura Lochanski</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Thelma Black</td>
<td>Financial Controller</td>
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<td>Toyo Ogawa</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Liz Munro</td>
<td>Competitions Administrator</td>
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<td>Cathrine Lindahl</td>
<td>Director (new)</td>
<td>Eeva Rothlisberger</td>
<td>Projects Officer</td>
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### Representatives

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<tr>
<td>Bruce Crawford</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>Bob Kelly</td>
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<td>Bill Duncan</td>
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<td>Susan Kesley</td>
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<td>Josep Garcia</td>
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<td>John Anderson</td>
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<td>Kim Forge</td>
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<td>Marcus Schmitt</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<td>Liliana Schmitt</td>
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<td>Andrei Yurkevich</td>
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<td>Inesa Pauliuchyk</td>
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<td>Dirk Heylen</td>
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<td>RoseVan Doninck</td>
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<td>Marcelo Mello</td>
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<td>Isis Oliveira de Souza</td>
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<td>Antoaneta Dimova</td>
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<td>Nikolay Runtov</td>
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<td>Ron Hutton</td>
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<td>Hugh Avery</td>
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<td>Li Dongyan</td>
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<td>Alberto Skendrovic</td>
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<td>Katarina Cadez</td>
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<td>David Šků</td>
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<td>Karolina Frederiksen</td>
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<td>Freddy Frederiksen</td>
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<td>Susanne Slotsager</td>
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<td>Alison Arthur</td>
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<td>John Brown</td>
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<td>Marie Turmann</td>
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<td>Fred Randver</td>
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<td>Olli Rissanen</td>
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<td>Katja Kiiskinen</td>
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<td>Alain Contat</td>
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<td>Karine Caux</td>
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<td>Zakaria Khecuashvili</td>
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<td>Nino Petelava</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernhard Mayr</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Christina Haller</td>
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<td>Georgios Smyrnaious</td>
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<td>Rayad Husain</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<td>Farzana Hussain</td>
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# Distribution of Minutes

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Li Shek Chong</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>Ensar Sahiner</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Morrison</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>Semra Eser</td>
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<td>Andras Rokusfalvy</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Alex Perevezentsev</td>
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<td>Natalia Menzhega</td>
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<td>Hallgrimur Valson</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Jennifer Stannard</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Beau Welling</td>
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<td>John Burns</td>
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<td>Mark Swandby</td>
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<td>Carolyn Hibberd</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Leland Rich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Cohen</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>John F Foster</td>
<td>US Virgin Islands</td>
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<td>Tzipi Zipper</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Claire Foster</td>
<td>US Virgin Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luigi Alvera</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Adrian Meikle</td>
<td>Wales</td>
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<td>Ann Urquhart</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Lisa Peters</td>
<td>Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terri Johnston</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>All Member Associations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yuhei Kusui</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Tomoyoshi Kinoshita</td>
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<td>Viktor Kim</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>Yekaterina Gorkusha</td>
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<td>Kyung-Doo Kim</td>
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<td>Jin-A Kim</td>
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<td>Besim Hasani</td>
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<td>Fierze Bajgora</td>
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MINUTES of the Executive Board Meetings held in Belgrade, Serbia 06, 07 and 10 September 2016

Attendees

Executive Board
Kate Caithness (KCA) Scotland President
Graham Prouse (GPR) Canada Vice-President (Americas)
Bent Ånund Ramsfjell (BRA) Norway Vice President (Europe)
Hugh Millikin (HMI) Australia Vice-President (Pacific-Asia)
Andy Anderson (AAN) USA Director
Laura Lochanski (LLO) Canada Director (6th / 7th Sept)
Hew Chalmers (HCH) Scotland Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG) Japan Director
Cathrine Lindahl (CLI) Sweden Director (10th Sept)

Colin Grahamslaw (CGR) Secretary General
Keith Wendorf (KWE) - partly Director of Competitions & Development
Richard Harding (RHA) - partly Curling Development Officer
Joanna Kelly (JKE) - partly Broadcast Manager
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG) Projects Officer/Minute taker

Apologies
None

1. Welcome / Housekeeping

KCA welcomed everyone to Stockholm. The schedule of the forthcoming days was discussed.

2. Conflict of Interest / Disclosure (CGR)

A summary of relevant Conflicts of Interest of Board members had been compiled and distributed to the Board in advance and this was now discussed.

The following conflicts of interest were added/deleted:

Toyo Ogawa
Added: Technical Director of 2017 Asian Winter Games
Deleted: Chairperson of the Environmental Committee of the JCA

Kate Caithness
Added: Board Member of SportAccord / Board Member of International Masters Games Association / Member of IOC Program Commission and Coordination Commission
Bent Ramsfjell
Deleted: Member of the main committee of the Youth Olympic Games, Lillehammer 2016

Hew Chalmers
Deleted: Director of British Curling Limited
Added: Consultant of British Curling Limited

Hugh Millikin
Added: Player at WMxCC 2016 Kazan, RUS and WSCC 2017 at Lethbridge, CAN / Consultant to PACC LOC

CGR invited the Board members to confirm any new or possible conflicts of interest when the respective item on the agenda is discussed.

3. President’s Business (KCA)

a) President’s Report

KCA provided a full report on her activities since the Board meeting held in Basel. A copy of this report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

b) IOC Session Rio de Janeiro

During the Olympic Summer Games 2016 at Rio de Janeiro both WCF/POCOG and AIOWF meetings had been held, minutes of which had been previously circulated.

The following was reported from the IOC Session:

Elections: The IOC Executive Board elected a number of new members. Most relevant to WCF was the replacement of the AIOWF representative on the Board. Rene Fasel (IIHF) was replaced by Gian-Franco Kasper (FIS).

OC Reports: There were positive reports from the future Winter Games hosts in Korea and China, and Lausanne for the Youth Games. There was also a final report from Lillehammer. The Lillehammer report was very positive and showed how Youth Games could be delivered successfully on a budget.

Future of the Youth Games: The Session received a report on the future of the Youth Games and they will continue, although there will be further discussions regarding dates and programme. There is still considerable disquiet amongst the members regarding the Youth Games, many people see them as an expensive extravagance.

Olympic Channel: This went live on the close of the Rio Games.

Olympic Winter Games 2026: The IOC Session accepted the recommendation of the Olympic Winter Games 2026 Working Group which both KCA and CGR were members of. A news story on this can be found here: http://www.olympic.org/news/changes-to-olympic-winter-games-promote-legacy-and-sustainability
Youth Olympic Games, Lausanne 2020: A short meeting was held with Ian Logan CEO of Lausanne 2020. WCF was informed that good progress is being made on the local work that must be carried out on the rink at Morges to make it fit for purpose to hold the Curling event at the 2020 Youth Olympic Games.

4. McLaren Report (CGR)

CGR provided the Board with an update on the McLaren Report and its impact on Curling.

The Board discussed the situation and unanimously agreed the following:

- That the Russian Men’s team is added to the WCF Testing Pool for out of competition testing (Russian Women, Wheelchair and Mixed Doubles teams are already in this pool)
- That the WMxCC in Kazan continue as planned.
- That no further events will be awarded to Russia (as instructed by IOC) pending the outcome of the final McLaren Report and any outcomes from the various disciplinary proceedings that are in place across the sporting world
- That no action is taken against the Russian Curling Federation or teams in general pending the outcome of the final McLaren Report and any outcomes from the various disciplinary proceedings that are in place across the sporting world.
- That, if evidence is available, cases will be presented to the WCF Hearing Panel, unless WADA takes responsibility for the Results Management.

5. IT (LLO)

LLO provided the Board with an update on the work of the IT Group.

The following priorities were confirmed:

- Check list for host sites to complete prior to hosting an event.
- Hire new staff and contractor in place for 01 October 2016. Help both people to come up to speed on the work we need them to complete.
- World Curling NOW application ready for deployment.

Keith Wendorf joined the meeting.

6. Governance (LLO)

LLO reported that the Governance Commission had been working on the following since the last meeting in Basel:

- Ethics Policy
- Sweeping Constitutional Changes
- Minors Policy / Guideline
- Hall of Fame Survey
- Package for the new commission members to come up to speed on the commissions network
The Board discussed the draft of the Code of Ethics and it was proposed to approve the Ethics Policy as presented

Proposed by Andy Anderson
Seconded by Hew Chalmers
and carried unanimously

7. Competitions (KWE)

KWE gave an update on the forthcoming season. He informed the Board that all events in the season 2016/2017 had been awarded and that all 174 ITO positions had been assigned.

He added that the season 2017/2018 was also in progress. During that season the OQE will take place and so far three cities had indicated interest. In order to give the future OQE Organizing Committee one year of lead time it was agreed that the bidding deadline for this event be 15 November 2016 with a decision to take place as soon as possible after that.

8. Development (KWE)

KWE gave an update on the CDO activities since the 2015 WCF Congress. He explained that the CDOs would report in detail to the MAs later during the Congress.

Instructor Program: KWE explained that WCF had been asked to step in and certify ice-technicians, instructors etc. but this is an area that WCF does not want to get into. However, WCF has offered to assist MAs with the development of their own instructor/coach-programs.

KWE expressed his disappointment about the fact that only very few Member Associations make use of the various programs and courses that are offered by WCF.

Richard Harding joined the meeting.

9 Brushes and Sweeping

HMI gave a comprehensive presentation on the details and outcome of the recent Sweeping Summit.

The Board then discussed the following three issues:

WCF Curling Brush Head, Pad and Cover Application and Approval Process

The Board discussed the application and approval process as well as the appointment of individuals to conduct performance testing using a testing protocol approved by the WCF. However, it was agreed that the relevant draft document still needed some fine tuning. As soon as the revised draft would be available it would be sent out to the manufacturers followed by an official notice to the public.
Equipment items to be addressed

GPR presented a list of equipment items that need to be addressed in the near future. Guidelines, regulations, specifications and/or approval processes will for example need to be written for (in the order of priority):

- Broom handles and connections
- Bases, faceplates and brackets
- Balancing devices
- Footwear
- Fabric
- Commercial, team and sponsor markings
- Etc.

It was also noted that work was needed on the specification for Delivery Sticks within Wheelchair Curling.

Equipment outside of WCF events

One important issue which remained outstanding was how the new specifications for sweeping devices might impact leagues or competitions outside of WCF Championships and elite competitions. The WCF and its Member Association have no legal jurisdiction regarding equipment used at competitions or events outside their own events. However, many within the sport are looking to the WCF as the governing body responsible for the sport worldwide, for guidance.

The Board felt that the following might provide some guidance for organizers and individual participants:

- For leagues, competitions or events contested primarily for recreation or fun or for competitions or events contested primarily by novice or inexperienced curlers it may not be necessary to limit which sweeping equipment can be used as a condition of competition.
- For leagues, competitions or events where substantial prizes or awards are earned it may be advisable to require sweeping equipment conforming to WCF specifications be used as a condition of competition.
- In keeping with the “Spirit of Curling”, individuals who are elite competitors or very proficient sweepers should consider whether it is ‘fair’ that they use non-conforming equipment in a recreational competition even if the rules allow it.

The WCF will continue to monitor Curling at all levels and, in consultation with its Member Associations and Curling equipment manufacturers re-evaluate the positions above not later than 1 September 2017 to determine if any amendment is required.

If approved by the AGA, effective 10 September 2016 all Curling brush heads, pads or covers used at WCF Championships and events would need to meet design and construction specifications listed in the WCF Specifications for Sweeping Devices and display a clearly
visible, valid WCF Product Code assigned by the WCF. Also, penalties for using non-compliant equipment would be enforced.

The new brush/sweeping rules would be applicable for the first time at WMxCC 2016 at Kazan. It was agreed that those countries not being able to obtain WCF compliant pads before the event would be offered to purchase pads from WCF on site in Kazan.

10 Athlete Commission (BRA)

BRA reported that during the past months the Athlete Commission had further been working on the athlete database.

He then explained the election process for the new Commission members to be elected (male, wheelchair, mixed doubles and Pacific-Asia region with a maximum of two per MA). Details would be launched during the forthcoming AGA and the new complete commission should be established by the end of October.

Andreas Biffiger and Rafael Buchli (both Infront) as well as Joanna Kelly (WCF) joined the meeting.

11 World Cup Concepts (CGR)

Andreas Biffiger (ABI) presented the concept of a future World Series of Curling (WSC) which had been developed because of two reasons:

- The WCF Member Associations had asked for more events
- All other Olympic Winter IFs have such a kind of event

The WSC foresees a minimum of 4 events including a Grand Final each over 4-game days and 8 participating teams from both sexes. The concept is based on various iconic host cities with a multi-year contract. The Host Cities will be responsible for the organization of the events under the governance and guidance of WCF and Infront. The goal is to have the best men’s and women’s teams of the top Member Associations in the competition, always including teams of the host nation. The WSC should start as of the season 2018/2019.

The majority of the income would derive from host city fees. In return the host cities would gain a selection of marketing rights and ticket income. Other income would derive from a title sponsor, centralized uniform and timing sponsors as well as broadcast revenues. Prize money and travel contributions of more than USD 2 million for the participating teams are forecast over the period of four years. The overall budget is forecast to produce a surplus for the WCF within that same time frame.

The aim over time is to extend WSC to a total of six events per season.

ABI added that there are two phases to the project as follows:

Phase 1: secure funding
Phase 2: start implementing the new event
At a later stage a joint-venture cooperation will be set up by WCF and Infront to operate and manage the WSC events.

The Board discussed the concept and agreed to both move forward with it and present it to the Member Associations at the forthcoming Open Meeting.

Andreas Biffiger and Rafael Buchli left the meeting.

12 Forward Plan (CGR)

The current WCF Forward Plan is split into various areas of operation and each of those areas has:
- An identified ‘Aim’ which is the goal to be achieved
- Outlines of ‘How’ the aim will be achieved. The ‘How’s represent the boundaries within which the Board expect the staff to operate and will be agreed between the Board and staff.
- ‘Measurable Outcomes’ that will be used to judge progress towards the ‘Aim’ by delivering the ‘How’.

For the seven identified aims a total of 32 measurable outcomes had been approved and after the season 2015/2016 these had been color-coded in the following way:
- Green: aim achieved
- Orange: on track, still needs to be finalized
- Red: aim missed

The measurable outcomes were discussed and it was noted that the vast majority of the aims could be achieved. Out of the 32 measurable outcomes 23 were marked green, 6 orange and only 3 in red. It was agreed that details on the measurable outcomes would be presented to the members at the Open Meetings.

13 Finance

a) Report on 2015/2016 Season (AAN)

AAN reported that the last season had been a challenging one for the WCF. Moving the WJCC from Turkey to Denmark at late notice, the cancellation of the broadcasting at the PACC, large variations in foreign exchange values and not least the brushing issue – all played their part in producing the final financial results. These challenges aside, the bottom line is the Federation made a surplus in excess of USD 800,000 which is an excellent outcome for such a turbulent year.

AAN added that the WCF had received a clean audit for the past financial year.
b) Budget 2016/2017

Sports Media Trainee Programme

CGR reported that the above programme was previously funded by Global Sports Development. Unfortunately they had now cut back the grants. While they were still supporting the Olympic Celebration Tour WCF was informed that they would not support the Sports Media Trainee Program any longer. The Board felt that this still is a good program and agreed that, in case the budget is tight next year, the program should continue at least with only one person instead of the previously two.

With this programme included, the budget prepared by the Management was presented to the Board. It was proposed to approve the budget as presented

*Proposed by Hew Chalmers
Seconded by Hugh Millikin
and carried unanimously*

The Board expressed its thanks to Thelma Black for her outstanding performance as a Financial Controller.

14 Transgender Rules (CGR)

CGR explained that over the last three months the WCF had received enquiries from various MAs regarding what the WCF policy is on Transgender Athletes in Curling. He reminded the Board that at the meetings in Champery the WCF had agreed to follow the IOC policy.

However, recently the IOC had stopped following their own policy and have instead moved to follow IOC guidelines, hence at the moment there is a disconnect. The question for the WCF now was whether we should amend our position to follow the current IOC guidelines rather than the IOC policy or wait until the IOC’s further guidelines are issued.

The Board discussed the issue and the following was proposed:

To follow the IOC guidelines for the time-being

*Proposed by Graham Prouse
Seconded by Andy Anderson
and carried unanimously*

The meeting reconvened following the Annual Assembly on 10th September.

KCA welcomed CLI to the Board and congratulated everyone on a successful Congress and Annual Assembly.

It was agreed that CLI would take over the Board liaison role for the Athlete Commission and BRA would move to take over the Governance responsibility.
The Board further agreed to meet again in December during the Swedish Curling Association’s 100th Anniversary celebrations to which the WCF had been invited. The main topic for discussion would be the development of the World Series of Curling.

15 Conditional Membership (CGR)
The Board received the applications for membership of the Mexican National Curling Federation and the Guyana Curling Federation. These applications for Conditional membership were unanimously approved.

Proposed by Graham Prouse
Seconded by Andy Anderson
and carried unanimously

16 Olympic Accreditation and Ticketing

The Board received a report from CGR on the process for allocating accreditations for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. It was noted that the WCF received a limited number of guest accreditations and these should be allocated with a bias towards the MA’s who were competing at the Games. It was agreed that the ticket allocation that the WCF receives should be used to provide tickets to WCF Representatives who wish to attend the Games but are not able to access accreditation. It was agreed these tickets would be made available to the representatives at no charge.

17 Decision Limits

The Board received the updated Decision Limits Report and noted its contents.

There being no further business the meeting was closed with thanks noted to KCA for her leadership over the past 12 months.
WCF President Kate Caithness and Michael Marklund, President of the Swedish Curling Association welcomed the delegates to Stockholm.

**RULES DISCUSSION**
Keith Wendorf (KWE) presented and explained the following proposals relating to Rules of the Game where a vote would be required during the AGA.

1) Permit team time-outs at events that do not have time clocks, Rule C7 (a):
Teams at junior and qualification events can gain the most from time-outs with their coach.
**Recommendation:**
Time-outs should be allowed at all WCF events, with or without time clocks.
There were no questions.

2) Double-touch during delivery. Rule R8 (a)(i):
It is impossible for an umpire at the opposite end of the sheet to notice. Some players re-set their hand when applying the handle, or run a finger across the back of the stone (consistently).
**Recommendation:**
Allow a double-touch if it is part of a player’s delivery technique.
**Amendment (RCCC)**
Delete “if it is part of a player’s delivery technique.”
It was confirmed that this does not affect electronic handles. Nobody was opposed to the amendment.

3) Playing out of proper rotation in Mixed Doubles, Rule R15 (d) NEW part (i):
(a) discovered before the next stone delivered,
(b) not discovered before the next stone delivered.
**Recommendation:**
(a) Stone should be removed from play.
(b) Play continues, player who delivered first stone can deliver a maximum of two stones.
There were no questions.

4) Starting a competition with 3 players. Rule C2 (j)
A team arrives at a championship with 4 or 5 players, but due to illness, accident or other circumstance(s), they cannot field a team of 4 players.
**Recommendation:**
With approval, allow teams to play with 3 players, including first game, without penalty.
There were no questions.

5) Scoring R11(i): (i) & (ii)
A team is unable to start a game at the designated time, end(s) are considered played, non-offending team receives point(s) and last stone in first end.
**Recommendation:**
Change: ... and will have choice of first or second stone in the first end of actual play. There were no questions.

6) Timing rule – no clock running. New – C6 Game Timing (p)
If a time clock should have been running, but is not, one team gains more time.
Recommendation:
A team whose time clock did not run due to a timing error will not have time deducted from its clock, but the same time will be added to the other team’s clock.
There were no questions.

7) Travel time during time-outs. Revised interpretation of Rule C7 (c)(iii)
Teams that do not have a coach or if the coach is not coming to the Field of Play, do not receive travel time.
Recommendation:
Allow a fixed amount of time for time-outs (travel time + 60 seconds) for all teams.
KWE confirmed that the fixed amount of travel time would be mentioned in the Team Meeting Document.

KWE advised that the possible changes to the sweeping rules (No. 8-12 in the presentation) would be presented later during the day.

He then presented the following further proposed rule changes:

13) Teams – Rule R3 (b)
Add the words “or positions” to enhance the rule.
Recommendation:
A team that deliberately changes its delivery rotation, or positions, during a game will forfeit the game, unless it was done when bringing in an alternate player.
There were no questions.

14) Touched Moving Stones – Rule R8 (d)
A moving stone touched by a stone deflecting off the sheet dividers.
Recommendation:
The non-delivering team shall place the stone where it reasonably considers the stone would have come to rest had the moving stone not been touched.
Hugh Avery (CAN) said that instead of putting the teams in the awkward position of having to make the call one should rely on an official to make the call in such a situation. KWE said that a solution would be to put in the rules that if a team is unwilling to make the decision then the umpire would be asked to step in.

15) Scoring – Rule R11 (a)
A team is arithmetically eliminated before the minimum number of ends is reached.
Recommendation:
Insert in R11 (a): ...or when one team is arithmetically eliminated, provided the minimum number of ends have been completed.
There were no questions.
16) Add to the Glossary of Teams a definition of debris:
There is currently no definition.
Recommendation:
Debris: Any substance, including frost, snow or material originating from brushes, shoes or clothing.
There were no questions.

17) Insert a word into R1 (a) to confirm the sport is played on ice:
The IOC define Winter sports as being played on snow and ice, this would confirm that curling is played on ice.
Recommendation:
Change the wording of the rule to: R1 (a) The length of the ice sheet from...
There were no questions.

KWE then presented and explained the following information items where a vote would NOT be required during the AGA.

1) Slotting teams into groups at WCF events
Currently teams are slotted into groups according to the results of the previous season. One “off-season” could affect the equality of the groups, so using a three-year ranking list could result in better balanced groups.
Recommendation:
A three-year rankings list to slot teams into initial groups at WCF open-entry events.
KWE explained that the latest result would carry the most weight.

Do all stones have to be treated the same (remove, leave or position), since some of the stones could belong to the offending team and some stones to the non-offending team.
Recommendation:
Use existing rules (R8) to determine, on an individual basis, what happens.
There were no questions.

3) Handling Last Stone Draw (LSD) shots when game cannot be played - Clarification
If a game cannot be played but LSD stone(s) can be played according to the normal procedure.
Recommendation:
LSD stones played according to normal procedures are allowed and can be used to determine a team’s DSC.
KWE explained that if only one LSD stone could be played then the maximum distance would be registered for the second stone.

4) Video used to determine umpire decisions – Confirmation of current policy
Currently umpires do not use video for any Field of Play rulings.
Recommendation:
Continue with the policy of not using video to make umpire rulings.
Katherine Henderson (CAN) questioned if it was really better to ignore an infraction because of the fact that some sheets have video coverage and some have not. Why should the technology that we have not be used?
KWE replied that some teams are video taped more than others. That means some teams would have more opportunities to correct mistakes than others and this was not considered fair. However, once the WCF gets to the position that all games are broadcast the issue should be discussed again.
Hugh Avery questioned the definition of “fair”: The videos would be used per sheet, not per team. So always both teams would or would not use video evidence and it would always be fair to those two teams on the very same sheet.
KWE added that if a team constantly had the opportunity to appeal a ruling and others do not have that opportunity the games are fair in their own rights but the games are not equal. A question is also how to get to that video (angles, review, etc). He advised that this should be discussed again by the commissions.

5) Blue jeans at WCF Team Meetings
Some teams have a long wait before or after the meeting, or the meeting is first thing in the morning, so asking teams to be in playing uniform during this time is difficult.
Recommendation:
Allow blue jeans at Team Meetings. For all other functions, the “no blue jeans” policy stays in place.
There were no questions.

6) Rule C9 (a) Team Ranking Procedure
Request for in-depth work to be done each time a ranking is released during the round robin.
Recommendation:
Continue C9 (a) – During the round robin portion of a competition, teams with the same win-loss record will be listed alphabetically, by their three letter code, and ranked equal.
There were no questions.

7) Who can deliver during practices and which color of stones can be used
The recommendation clarifies the situation.
Recommendation:
Pre-competition and evening practices: the players and coaches can deliver all stones. Pre-game practices: the players and team coach can deliver only their game stones.
There were no questions.

8) Maintaining (‘papering’) the competition stones during events
WCF approval needed to maintain the stones prior to the start of WCF competitions.
Recommendation:
Support for a policy of maintaining stones at competitions in the best possible way. Teams will always be informed of any work done.
There were no questions.
9) Mixed Doubles playoff system. Changing the current policy (random selection of opponents)
Majority of coaches and teams prefer teams play against each other based on rankings.
Recommendation:
Establish a well defined playoff system, with 1 v 16 and 2 v 15, etc. on opposite sides.
There were no questions.

10) Transgender Policy
KWE informed the meeting that currently the WCF follows the IOC Policy on transgender issues. This has been updated to a new guideline the WCF Board have approved following the new IOC Guideline.

KWE then presented the following five items that are currently discussed by the commissions:

1) Replace the current U21 age group with U18 and U23 age groups
To increase the number of junior curlers and to keep the older “juniors” in the game until they are more prepared for adult competitions. This could result in a fairer age and maturity level with these two events.
To be discussed at Breakout Sessions

2) Equipment certification
Areas include: sponsor logos, color coordination for vests & undershirts, wearing shorts in competition, sweeping devices, sliding devices (crutch), footwear and clothing, etc. A certification process has to be developed for all equipment used in the Field of Play at WCF competitions.
KWE said this discussion would tie in on everything that will be reported about the brush issue.

3) Championship formats, playoff systems and qualifiers
Are some qualifiers and open entry events becoming too large to manage? Are the best teams at World Championships, or does the zonal qualification system need to be changed?
Does each event have the correct playoff format?
To be discussed at Breakout Sessions

4) Mixed Doubles rules
Areas to be discussed include: placement of the stones, thinking time changed to being allocated per end instead of per game, the team’s responsibilities when stones are being placed. (all post Olympics)
To be discussed at Breakout Sessions

5) Reducing the number of players on a wheelchair team.
The person delivering the stone needs their wheelchair anchored so reducing to 3 is reasonable. Perhaps a 4-person team, 2 female & 2 male, with three players on the ice for a game. First two players deliver 3 stones each & last player delivers 2 stones.
BRUSH PRESENTATION

The President thanked everyone involved in solving the brush issue.

Hugh Millikin and Graham Prouse gave a very detailed presentation (see attachment) on the brush issue including the following areas:

- Survey results
- Sweeping Summit and recommendations
- Manufacturers interactions
- Final recommendations
- Equipment specifications
- Rule Changes
- New equipment approval process
- WCF Decision Making Process

Hugh Millikin explained that both the constitution and the sweeping rules need to be changed. The proposed changes were presented as follows:

**Update to the Constitution**

**Rationale**
Based on what happened this past season with the Sweeping/Brush issue, the WCF Board was limited to enforcing the existing rules and unable to change any rules to address the issue until the next General Assembly. This Constitutional change would allow the WCF Board to make Rule changes between General Assemblies in emergency situations to allow the integrity of the sport to be upheld while still respecting the authority of the General Assembly.

**Resolution**
To adopt the changes shown in red to article 16.13 of the WCF Constitution v7 approved at the 2014 Annual Assembly in Reno.

16.13 The Board has the following powers:
16.13.5 when urgent, take decisions normally assumed by the General Assembly (as per Art. 15), except election of Board Members, expulsion of a Member Association, changes to the Constitution and dissolution of the WCF. In addition in emergency situations between General Assemblies, the Board may propose changes to the Rules of Curling and the Rules of Competition. Any changes proposed by the Board in an emergency situation will be circulated to the Member Associations and if more than 10% of the Member Associations, holding full membership and being in good standing object in writing to the Board within 72 hours of notice being given, the rule change will not be implemented and the matter will be referred to the next General Assembly of the WCF. Otherwise the Board’s decision to revise the rule(s) for the emergency situation will stand until the next General Assembly.
16.3.6 In such cases the decision must be approved by the next General Assembly in accordance with the constitutional requirements at the next General Assembly.

Amendment (RCCC)
Replace “72 hours” with “a minimum of 3 working days.” (Scottish working days)
Proposed five rule changes regarding sweeping

1) Sweeping Rules R7 (a)
Rationale:
The current rule says the sweeping motion is in a side-to-side direction (it need not cover the entire width of the stone). The Sweeping Summit decisions make the “side-to-side” term unnecessary.

Recommendation:
New wording for R7 (a): The sweeping motion can be in any direction (it need not cover the entire width of the stone), deposits no debris in front of a moving stone, and finishes to either side of the stone.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES;
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES
There were no questions.

2) Uniform / Equipment C3 – NEW
Rationale:
To prevent players from switching brushes (sliding them up and down the ice surface) and to promote the fairness of the game it is suggested new rules be added to the Rules of Competition.

Recommendation:
Add the following new rules:
C3 (e): Each player must declare his or her approved sweeping device at the start of a game, and only that player can use that device for sweeping during the game. Penalty: if a player sweeps with another person’s sweeping device the stone shall be removed from play.
C3 (f): A player may not change their brush head during a game, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission. Penalty: If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.
C3 (g): If an alternate player comes into a game, they must use the brush of the player they are replacing. Penalty: If a new sweeping device is brought into the game, the team will forfeit the game.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment (RCCC):
Add to the glossary of terms a definition of “brush head”.
Due to different sizes of the players John Brown (ENG) suggested that in C3e (g) it should read: “….. game, they must use the same brush HEAD....”

3) Remove the first sentence in – Rule R10 (e)
Rationale:
New rules cover this.

Recommendation:
In R10 (e) Remove: A player may change the type of brush or synthetic broom at any time during a game, provided there is no delay.
Also, remove the mention of corn brooms (2nd sentence of this rule).
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES;
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES
4) Performance Standards as part of the Rules of Competition – New – Rule C3 (h)

Rationale:
R10 (a) Equipment rule states that “no player shall cause damage to the ice surface by means of equipment…” Currently that is the only rule that can prohibit sweeping equipment from being used. It is felt that there should also be a rule that prevents players from using equipment that results in an exceptional performance result and consequently an unfair advantage.

Recommendation:
Create a New Rule
C3 (h): All Field of Play equipment used at WCF competitions must meet WCF Equipment Standards. Reasons for equipment being considered non-approved include, but not restricted to: damage to the ice surface, non-conformance with existing rules or standards (i.e. - electronic communication devices), performance testing results that give an unfair advantage, failing to register equipment with the WCF office by the deadline date.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment (RCCC):
Add at the end if the first sentence “as defined and published on the WCF website”.

There were no questions.

5) Penalty for using non-compliant equipment – New – Rule C3 (i):

Rationale:
The new approved equipment rule (C3 (h)) should have a strict penalty clause attached to it.

Recommendation:
Create new rule:
C3 (i): The penalty for using equipment in WCF competitions which does not conform to standards for Competition Equipment established by the WCF:

(i) First team offence during a competition – the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.

(ii) Second team offence during a competition – the team is disqualified from the competition and all players are not permitted to play in WCF competitions for a 12-month period.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment (RCCC):

(i) First offence: the team forfeits the game.

(ii) Second offence: the team is disqualified from the competition

KWE explained that the intent is to ban the players, not the country.
Alex Benoy (LUX) requested that the 12 months period be better defined (Exact start/finish).
Hugh Avery (CAN) wondered if coaches should be included in the ban as well. KWE replied that by definition the word “team” does include the coach.
Bruce Crawford (SCO) felt that the penalty was more severe than in doping and emphasized the imbalance between the two different types of penalties.

Graham Prouse expressed his hope that the above rule changes be approved at the AGA and informed the members that in future then:
- All equipment must meet the WCF specification for sweeping devices
- All equipment must pass WCF certified performance testing

He added that the details of the equipment approval process are currently under consideration.

It was confirmed that the WMxCC 2016 event to be held in Kazan would be the first event where the new rules (if approved) would apply. In that case WCF would make available for purchase conforming brush heads in Kazan to those nations having difficulties buying the right heads in time.

**CDO PROGRAMMES UPDATE**
KWE introduced the CDO team. He mentioned that unfortunately very few Member Associations were taking advantage of the programs offered. This is why they now wanted to update the Members on the various programs that are on offer. For more details please see the attached presentation.

**PRESENTATION PYEONGCHANG 2018**
Representatives of POCOG 2018 made a presentation on the forthcoming Olympic Winter Games 2018 at PyeongChang, Korea. For more details please see the attached presentation.

Gunilla Lindberg, Swedish IOC Member and Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games then welcomed the members to Stockholm. She informed the members that the concept for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games was very good and compact, also Pyeongchang with the new rail link will be easily accessible from Seoul. Mixed Doubles had now been added to the program and she said that she was convinced that this was a very good decision. She mentioned that she had noticed that Korea had made a lot of progress in Curling and she was therefore hoping that many Korean spectators would come to see the sport during the games. The WCF President thanked Gunilla Lindberg for her continued support.

**PRESENTATION BEIJING 2022**
A representative of the Beijing 2022 Organising Committee made a presentation on the forthcoming Olympic Winter Games 2022 at Beijing, China. The President thanked her for the comprehensive presentation.

**PRESENTATION OF SWEDISH NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**
A representative of the Swedish NOC invited the members to dinner on that evening. He emphasized that the collaboration with the Swedish Curling Association was excellent. He announced that Stockholm, Sweden was considering hosting the Olympic Winter Games in 2026.
WORLD CUP PRESENTATION (INFRONT)

Colin Grahamslaw (CGR) introduced Andreas Biffiger of Infront to the meeting. Andreas Biffiger (ABI) presented the concept (see attachment) of a future World Series of Curling (WSC) which had been developed because of two reasons:

- The WCF Member Associations had asked for more events
- All other Olympic Winter IFs have such a kind of event

The WSC foresees a minimum of 4 events including a Grand Final each over 4-game days and 8 participating teams from both sexes. The concept is based on various iconic host cities with a multi-year contract. The Host Cities will be responsible for the organization of the events under the governance and guidance of WCF and Infront. The goal is to have the best men’s and women’s teams representing the Member Associations in the competition, always including teams of the host nation. The WSC should start as of the season 2018/2019.

The majority of the income would derive from host city fees. In return the host cities would gain a selection of marketing rights and ticket income. Other income would derive from a title sponsor, centralized uniform and timing sponsors as well as broadcast revenues. Prize money and travel contributions of more than USD 2 million for the participating teams are forecast over the period of four years.

ABI added that there are two phases to the project as follows:

Phase 1: secure funding
Phase 2: start implementing the new event

At a later stage a joint-venture cooperation will be set up by WCF and Infront to operate and manage the WSC events.

Morten Sogard (NOR) said that his feeling towards a World Cup was generally positive and supporting but expressed his hope that there should be a benefit for all four parties concerned (WCF, Infront, LOC, MAAs). He emphasized that the selection of the teams is crucial as it should not be just another World Championship. CGR explained that an event cannot be brought into a country without the permission of the respective Member Associations who are the key to driving local interest.

Katherine Henderson (Curling Canada) asked where the WCF would geographically see this event. CGR replied that there would be probably one event in each of the zones.

Hugh Avery asked if WCF really wanted to have the best teams there or if it was rather a developmental event. He added that Curling Canada has already a huge calendar of events and that scheduling was a nightmare already now. With regard to the teams CGR replied that there should be a geographical spread and balance between the best teams. It might be one team per nation, in the final event maybe two teams per nation but this was still subject to discussion. The Athlete Commission was still keen to put a new event on and maybe WCF could build on existing events.
PRESENTATION ROCK SOLID PRODUCTIONS

CGR explained that Rock Solid Productions were now a preferred WCF Development Partner. He introduced Chad McMullan (owner and President of the company) who explained that his company was specialized in “iceless” Curling products that can be used for Curling promotions, where ice access is limited.

A presentation was made which you can find attached.

FINANCE


Andy Anderson (AAN) and Colin Grahamslaw presented the financial report 2015/2016. AAN reported that the last season had been a challenging one for the WCF. Moving the WJCC from Turkey to Denmark at late notice, the cancellation of the broadcasting at the PACC, large variations in foreign exchange values and not least the brushing issue – all played their part in producing the final financial results. These challenges aside, the bottom line is the Federation made a surplus in excess of USD 800,000 which is an excellent outcome for such a turbulent year and the WCF finds itself in a strong position at the end of the financial year.

AAN added that the WCF had received a clean audit for the past financial year.

AAN also thanked the members of the Finance Commission (Gerrit-Jan Scholten, Marcus Schmitt, Hugh Avery, John Anderson). Hugh Avery reminded the members that Gerrit-Jan Scholten sadly could not attend due to severe illness. Kate Caithness replied that the Board had sent him a video message saying that the Board and the members were thinking of him.

Budget 2016/2017

AAN reported that the Board had requested a ‘Balanced Budget’. He explained that the budget as presented and approved by the Board was taking into account the decisions of the Board at the Basel and Stockholm meetings. These new spending commitments included:

- A new IT Officer
- Funding for broadcasting the Champions Curling Tour
- Funding for the Curling Night in America
- Funding to develop a broadcast archive

On the income side CGR pointed out the following:

- There will be a reduction in Marketing compared to 2015/16 Budget due to $ exchange rate
- Broadcast income does not budget on Japanese success
- Investment income reduces as we are now in the period where we are drawing down the investments

On the expenditure side CGR pointed out the following:
- Board costs will increase to take account of meeting locations and additional activity
- Operations increase due to additional staff and allowance for office maintenance
- Programme and Services reduce due to changes in exchange rates
- Competitions reduce due to WJCC and WWhCC status as Test Events
- Marketing costs reduce compared to last year’s budget due to the currencies in which costs are incurred
- Broadcasting increases due to new CCT and Broadcast Archive Projects, also costs of delivering the WWCC in China will be higher than the WMCC in Basel

FORWARD PLAN

CGR explained that after 21 drafts there was now a “live” Forward Plan where the comments from Basel and since had been incorporated. However, the WCF would continue to review and update the plan.

The current WCF Forward Plan is split into various areas of operation and each of those areas has:

- An identified ‘Aim’ which is the goal to be achieved
- Outlines of ‘How’ the aim will be achieved. The ‘How’s represent the boundaries within which the Board expect the staff to operate and will be agreed between the Board and staff.
- ‘Measurable Outcomes’ that will be used to judge progress towards the ‘Aim’ by delivering the ‘How’.

For the seven identified aims (Development, Competitions, Finance, Sponsorship, Broadcasting, Facilities & Technical, Governance) a total of 32 measurable outcomes had been approved and after the season 2015/2016 these had been color-coded in the following way:

- Green: aim achieved
- Orange: on track, still needs to be finalized
- Red: aim missed

The measurable outcomes that are reported to the Board on a regular basis were presented and discussed and it was noted that the vast majority of the aims could be achieved. Out of the 32 measurable outcomes 23 were marked green, 6 orange and only 3 in red.
MINUTES
of the Annual General Assembly
held in Stockholm, Sweden
10 September 2016

1 Reading of Notice of Meeting

As per the Constitution the notice of this meeting was provided on 20th May 2016, the agenda and papers had been circulated within the stipulated timeframes allowing the Annual General Assembly to be held today the 10th September 2016.

In order to allow the registration desk to finish the registrations and counting of votes CGR proposed to slightly change the order of the agenda and to start with item No. 8 of the agenda which is the President’s report. This was accepted by the meeting.

8 President’s Report - Kate Caithness

KCA provided a full report on her activities since the last Annual General Assembly held in Belgrade, Serbia. A copy of this report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

2 Report on Credentials of Representatives and Quorum

The following attendance was recorded:

**Executive Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kate Caithness OBE (KCA)</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham Prouse (GPR)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Vice-President (Americas)</td>
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<td>Bent Ånund Ramsfjell (BRA)</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Vice-President (Europe)</td>
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<td>Hugh Millikin (HMI)</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Vice-President (Pacific-Asia)</td>
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<td>Andy Anderson (AAN)</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>Laura Lochanski (LLO)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Hew Chalmers (HCH)</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>Toyo Ogawa (TOG)</td>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
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<td>Richard Harding (RHA)</td>
<td>Curling Development Officer</td>
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<td>Keith Wendorf (KWE)</td>
<td>Director of Competitions &amp; Development</td>
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<td>Eeva Röthlisberger (ERÖ)</td>
<td>Competition &amp; Development Officer</td>
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<td>Darrell Ell (DEL)</td>
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<td>Scott Arnold (SAR)</td>
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<td>Allen Coliban (ACO)</td>
<td>Competitions &amp; Development Officer</td>
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<td>Joanna Kelly (JKE)</td>
<td>Broadcast Manager</td>
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<td>Liz Munro (LMU)</td>
<td>Competitions &amp; Development Administrator</td>
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<td>Thelma Black</td>
<td>Financial Controller</td>
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<td>Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)</td>
<td>Projects Officer</td>
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<td>Chris Hamilton (CHA)</td>
<td>Digital Media Officer</td>
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<td>Cameron MacAllister</td>
<td>Communication &amp; Media Relations Manager</td>
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<td>Mok Lee</td>
<td>WCF intern</td>
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### Representatives of Full Members

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<th>Country</th>
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<td>RCCC</td>
<td>Bill Duncan</td>
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<td>Bruce Crawford</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>Terri Johnston</td>
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<td>Beata Rek</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>Dan Barna</td>
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Russia
Olga Andrianova
Konstantin Zadvornov
Olga Zharkova

Serbia
Marko Stojanovic

Slovenia
Gregor Rigler

Spain
Xavier Cherta
Beatriz Cureses

Sweden
Stefan Lund
Michael Marklund
Anette Norberg

Switzerland
Louis Moser
Sandra Stauffer
Jürg Wernli
Patrik Loertscher

Turkey
Ensar Sahiner
Semra Eser

USA
Leland Rich
Mark Swandby
Jennifer Stannard
Beau Welling

Wales
Lisa Peters
Adrian Meikle

Representatives of Provisional Members
Andorra
Josep Garcia

Belarus
Andrei Yurkevich
Inesa Pauliuchyk

Bulgaria
Nikolay Runtov
Antoaneta Dimova

Chinese Taipei
Eddy Y.T. Wu

Greece
Georgios Smyrnaios
Eva Mataranga

Hong Kong
John Li Shek Chong

Qatar
Rashid Majed Al-Sulaiti

Ukraine
Natalia Menzhega

Proxies

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<tr>
<th>Member Association</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>John Anderson</td>
<td>Kim Forge (AUS)</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Karoline Frederiksen</td>
<td>David Sik (CZE)</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Carolyn Hibberd</td>
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<td>Morten Søgård (NOR)</td>
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### Annual General Assembly, Stockholm, Sweden

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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>Michael Stepanyants</td>
<td>Olga Zharkova (RUS)</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
<td>Dara Gravara-Stojanovic</td>
<td>Marko Stojanovic (SRB)</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Jasna Plazl</td>
<td>Gregor Rigler (SLO)</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Susanne Slotsager</td>
<td>Beau Welling (USA)</td>
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### Observers

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<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Emilio Strapasson</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Chad McMullan</td>
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<td>Rayad Husain</td>
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<td>Carlos Sanchez Tejera</td>
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<td>Clive Thomson</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>Rick Patzke</td>
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<td>Jon Killoran</td>
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<td>Athlete Commission</td>
<td>Cathrine Lindahl</td>
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<td>Governance Commission</td>
<td>Willie Nicoll</td>
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<td>Compet. &amp; Rules Comm.</td>
<td>Paul Ahlgren</td>
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<td>POCOG</td>
<td>Byungchul Kim</td>
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<td>Junpyo Hong</td>
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<td>PACC</td>
<td>Banseok Jang</td>
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### Attendance and Proxies

- Representatives present: 67
- Representatives by proxy: 10
- Votes present: 178
- Votes by proxy: 25
- Total votes present and proxy: 203
- Members present: 34
- Provisional Members present: 8
- Zones present: 3

### Presentation of Medals etc

The following representatives received their WCF medals and badges:
Belgium  Dirk Heylen  
Finland  Katja Kiiskinen  
Germany  Bernhard Mayr  
Israel  Sharon Cohen  Tzipi Zipper  
Japan  Tomoyoshi Kinoshita  
Latvia  Artis Zentelis  
Spain  Xavier Cherta  
Sweden  Stefan Lund  
Switzerland  Louis Moser  
Turkey  Ensar Sahiner  Semra Eser  
Wales  Adrian Meikle  

CGR advised MAs that there was a quorum. He also informed the MAs that the tellers who had been appointed, in case of any votes at the meeting, were Rick Patzke (Chief Teller), Liz Munro and Thelma Black.

3 Exclusion / Suspension of a Member Association

None

4 Approval of Agenda

Proposed by Terri Johnston  
Seconded by John Burns  
and carried unanimously

5 Reading of the minutes of the last General Assembly and approval thereof

The minutes were taken as read.  
Approval proposed by Alberto Skendrovic  
Seconded by Susan Kesley  
and carried unanimously

6 Business arising out of the Minutes

No business arising.

7 Minute of Remembrance for Friends and Colleagues no longer with us

Everyone was asked to be upstanding to have one minute’s silence for friends who have passed away since the last meeting in Belgrade.

9 Report of the Executive Board and Committees
Annual General Assembly, Stockholm, Sweden

a) Competitions (KWE)

With regard to future competitions KWE highlighted the following three items:

- All events in the season 2016/2017 have been awarded
- The ECC C-Division 2017 will take place in Andorra from 6-13 May 2017
- The WMxCC 2017 will take place in Champery, SUI

Regarding the Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) 2017 he advised that all Member Associations that are interested in hosting this event should send their bids to WCF already by 15 November 2016 as WCF wishes to give the organizers sufficient lead-time.

KWE then presented a chart on the medal winners of the 2015/2016 season as well as a chart of the medal winners of the past 10 years (2007–2016). KWE also gave an update on the Olympic Qualification Points for the Olympic Winter Games 2018 at PyeonChang, KOR.

b) Operations and Integrity (CGR)

Anti-Doping

CGR informed the members that a review of the WCF Anti Doping Rules had been completed following the acceptance of Mixed Doubles onto the Olympic Programme. Also, the new WCF Team Testing protocol had been approved by WADA and WCF has worked hard to increase the number of partnerships with National Anti-Doping Organizations.

45 tests both in and out of competition had been conducted. Unfortunately there had been one Anti Doping Rule Violation which had led to an athlete receiving a 15 month suspension. The reclassification of Meldonium at the start of this year had caused some issues but there have been no cases within Curling.

Probably the biggest issue in Anti-Doping this year related to the McLaren report. WADA had commissioned an independent report by Prof. McLaren into the procedures in the Moscow Lab and the testing process in Sochi during the Olympics and Paralympics in 2014. Within that report Prof. McLaren had made allegations of a ‘state sponsored’ doping system. Following the release of the report the priority on follow-up work was focussed on the summer sports ahead of the Rio Olympic Games.

The IOC had now taken the following actions:

- Further investigations had been started as to whether any disciplinary action is required
- Decision on participation at the Rio Olympics had been passed to the individual IFs
- The Winter Sports had been asked to put a freeze on events in Russia

Following discussion it had been agreed with the IOC that the WMxCC 2016 in Kazan would go ahead as planned.

WCF was now awaiting the complete McLaren report with further information on the tests in Curling identified in the report as being part of the ‘disappearing positives’ from the Moscow Lab. WCF currently does not have the evidence to allow a case to be brought against any athlete. There are allegations against individuals, there have been no allegations made against the Russian Curling Federation. CGR explained that the IPC ban on the Russian Paralympic Committee has no
immediate impact on the WCF and confirmed that WCF was liaising with WADA and the IOC on the next steps.

Operations

CGR reported that the new Communications and Media Manager (Cameron McAllister) had now been in post for a year. He was pleased to say that through the season WCF had the support of an Intern (Mok Lee) through a programme run by the Korean Olympic Committee. The Board had approved the splitting of the current IT and New Media Officer post into the two following positions:

- Digital Media Officer
- IT Officer

Also, a new Broadcast Projects Officer position was now being offered. In the offices in Perth the WCF was now growing into the new office space and was working with planning authorities regarding wheelchair accessibility of the office premises.

CGR expressed his thanks to the staff for their hard work and efforts throughout the year and on behalf of the staff thanked the Board and the President for their unstinting support

IT

CGR reported that Dan Field (USA) and his companies had provided Information Technology services to the WCF since 2007. This includes: servers, backups, load balancing, storage, host website, technical support, developers, project managers, and technical expertise. He had provided this service as a value in kind (VIK). This support has been worth a significant amount to the WCF and Dan’s support should be acknowledged.

Annually WCF’s and Dan’s teams meet in Chicago to review what needs to be completed for the next year and by whom. The priorities for the coming season are:

- Database of Athletes information – links to the IOC data feed project
- Mobility of the Website – makes the website more robust
- Administration Website – the backend of the website needs upgrading
- The "World Curling NOW" application – Will allow people to get up to date results, etc on their mobile devices.
- Create a check list for host sites of Information Technology tasks to complete prior to hosting an event.

So far WCF had used a working title of World Curling NOW for the app. CGR informed the members that WCF would like to ask its members what they would like the mobile application to be called. He advised that proposals could be sent to WCF by 30 September 2016.

c) Marketing (CGR)

CGR reported on the marketing and sponsorship highlights of the season:
- There is a small increase in sponsorship income to over $1.25m
- The World Men’s Championship in Basel – SOLD OUT
- WCF had the first title sponsor for the WJCC for a number of years
- There were renewals of partnerships with 361, Atom APD, DB Schenker, and Jet Ice

He added that there were two new sponsors during the season: VOIP DEFENDER and AIRBOARD. Also, an extended development partnership agreement had been signed with Rock Solid Productions. CGR also advised that Edox had created a beautiful Curling watch. Through the sales of this watch some money will come back to the WCF junior development programs.

CGR thanked both Infront and Curling Canada, the WCF marketing partners.

d) Development (HCH)

DAP

HCH reported that a total of USD 403,000.00 had been spent for DAP projects in the 2015-2016 season. 40 Member Associations had asked for support and a total of 134 DAP applications had been administered (participation in camps and courses and purchase of equipment being the most favourite projects).

Camps & Courses

HCH reminded the members of the camps and courses that had been delivered during the past season. HCH emphasized that WCF is always looking for new destinations and any country that is interested in hosting a camp or a course should please contact the WCF.

The summary of attendees in the past season in figures looked as follows:

- Courses 158
- Junior Camps 192
- Adult Camps 70
- Stepping Stone 21
- OCTs 1600+

35 Countries (34 MAs) were represented

HCH thanked Keith Wendorf and Eeva Röthlisberger for all the work they do in looking at and debating over the many DAP applications over the year.

e) Facilities and equipment (TOG)

TOG reported that the work on the first Portable Curling Facility (PCF) continues in Finland. A building permit had now been obtained and the tent for the 2-sheet Curling rink had been ordered. Currently the work on the foundation details was being done and the completion of the facility is anticipated for January 2017. TOG emphasized that while the project was taking longer than previously anticipated it is important that we take our time and get a great model that can be
replicated. Also, a side benefit to the program had been that a number of clubs that had initially submitted an application are continuing on with the process of building their own club. He thanked Leif Öhman, Richard Harding, Darrell Ell, Colin Grahamslaw and the staff members for their support with this project.

TOG then reminded the members of the following loans/support programs that are available from the WCF:

- Energy Efficiency Loans (energy saving >50%)
- Facility loans (loans for a new Curling rink)
- Economic support for equipment (stones, scrapers, ice plants)

f) Broadcasting & Webcasting / HD Lite (GPR)

GPR informed the members that Broadcasting continued to being well looked after. He presented the TV broadcast figures of both seasons 2014/2015 as well as 2015/2016 and highlighted the following:

- WCF did not go forward with broadcast of PACC
- The hours broadcast has more than doubled in the last year
- There are various reasons for the significant drop of viewers: Having WWCC outside of Japan, less ECC coverage (that will return to full coverage for ECC 2016), China did not qualify for WMCC

GPR reported that since Eurosport are now under the umbrella of the US Discovery channel the future looks very positive.

Curling Night in America (CNiA)

The ‘Curling Night in America’ (a tape production shown from January through March) was produced for the second time during the last season in corporation with the USCA and NBC Sports Network. Mixed Doubles had now been included. In this second year NBC has stepped up and has provided a large bond of value in airtime and financial support. Almost 2 million viewers could be reached (100% increase compared to the previous season) and also the demand from NBC to broadcast the full World Curling Championships has increased dramatically. The taping for the third CNiA will take place in December 2016 in Duluth and will be broadcast in the first quarter of 2017 on NBC Sports Network.

Youtube numbers

GPR reported that during the past season 450.000 hours (both live and on-demand) had been watched by up to 1.27 million viewers.

GPR added that last year a pilot project with the Curling Champion’s Tour (CCT) had been started through broadcasting the Stockholm Ladies Cup. The event could be viewed on the WCF’s
GPR thanked the Swedish Curling Association for getting this project off the ground. For the coming season the Stockholm Ladies Cup will again be broadcasted as well as the Curling Masters from Champéry. Depending on the success of both events, which is anticipated, there is a possibility of doing two more events with CCT.

GPR thanked the great WCF broadcast team in particular Joanna Kelly and Richard Harding for their excellent work.

**g) Athlete Commission (BRA)**

BRA asked Cathrine Lindahl (CLI) as the “Vice-Skip” of the Athlete Commission to report on the activities of the commission. She reported that the commission had been established in 2013 and was working with the WCF in athlete related matters. Having such a commission is a recommendation by the IOC. The commission that is “skipped” by Ann Swisshelm has 7 members that have now been working together for three years.

The current members are: Ann Swisshelm, Cathrine Lindahl, Kelly Scott and Bent Ramsfjell as WCF Board Liaison. The remaining three members had dropped out for various reasons so now new members have to be elected. She then explained the election process for the new Commission members (male, wheelchair, Mixed Doubles and Pacific-Asia region with a maximum of two per MA. A representative for Mixed Doubles would be added as this is now an Olympic discipline)

Election process:

- Call for nominations would be announced today
- Nominees need support from their MAs
- Deadline for nominations is 26 September 2016
- The election will be based on athletes elected by athletes

The plan was for the new complete commission to be established by the end of October.

CLI then reported on the key activities during the past season. These had been:

- Attendance at the IOC Athlete Forum in Lausanne (October)
- Commission Members were important stakeholders in the sweeping process
- Interaction with Athletes through presence at major WCF events
- Preparations for election of the four new Athlete Commission members

CLI added that during the next season the Athlete Commission would continue to support the WCF and its member associations achieving the overall mission. The then new Athlete Commission members will have to be brought up to speed. The interaction with the commission’s target audience through presence at major WCF events will be continued.
h) Governance Commission (LLO)

LLO explained that a Governance Commission exists to make sure Curling takes a professional approach and is seen as a well-run and respected International Sports Federation. With all the challenges for sports that could be seen this year (crisis in athletics, football, Anti-Doping ...etc. ) the IOC will in future have an increasing interest in sports Governance. WCF has now had a Governance Commission for the past seven years so our Federation is well ahead of the game. She thanked the following Commission Members:

Olli Rissanen (Finland) – Term Completed July 1, 2016
Gerrit-Jan Scholten (Netherlands) - Term Completed July 1, 2016
Willie Nicoll (Scotland)
Susanne Slotsager (Denmark) – Term Started July 1, 2016
Jennifer Stannard (USA) – Term Started July 1, 2016
Colin Grahamslaw – WCF Secretary General
Laura Lochanski - WCF Board Member – Commission Chair

She expressed her special thanks to Olli Rissanen and Gerrit-Jan Scholten who had been commission members since the very beginning.

She added that during the past year the Governance Commission had completed working on the following five WCF Policies, which had been approved by the WCF Board:

- Harassment and Bullying Policy
- Gift and Hospitality Policy
- Escalation/Appeals Policy
- Communication Policy
- Ethics Policy

LLO explained that all policies could be viewed online at http://www.worldcurling.org/governance

LLO also gave an update on the commission’s work on Terms of References as follows:

- Americas Zonal Commission Terms of Reference was discussed at the Americas meeting in Belgrade and the amendment approved by the Board.
- Hall of Fame Commission – To be reviewed by the Governance Commission and WCF Board for possible changes to Awards and Recognition.

The next steps will be the review of the Hall of Fame Terms of Reference and a review of all recognition. The commission is also working on a Minors Policy/Guideline.

i) Americas Zonal Report (GPR)

GPR reported that at the zonal meeting on the previous day they were joined by representatives of Guyana and Mexico. The topics that had been addressed during that meeting included:
Second meeting planned for Beijing, need for MAs to contribute to agenda
- How do we keep more MAs eligible for Olympics and NOC funding
- DAP discussions
- America’s zone club championship
- Purpose of the zonal commission
- Implementation of Group communication system
- Support for U18 and U 21/23 concept
- Working with broadcast partners to be able to get unblocked content
- Key stakeholders’ meeting

j) European Zonal Commission Report (BRA)

BRA reported that in order to keep the MAs engaged and active three working groups had been established two years ago. Some results had been achieved (for example the recruitment kit put together by the Youth Project). For other goals it is not very likely that they can be achieved so it was decided to now take a different approach in order to secure further growth and development of Curling in Europe. New projects and cross-border initiatives will now be identified. One project in the pipeline is the “Nordic Junior Tour” which covers all the four Nordic Member Associations.

BRA also explained that at last year’s meeting in Esbjerg the European Zonal Commission (EZC) had agreed that a core group of three people plus Bent Ramsfjell and Hew Chalmers should be formed to look at applications for funding from the ECF legacy that is held by the WCF. In the meantime the following three people had been appointed: Morten Sogard (NOR), Bill Duncan (SCO) and David Sik (CZE). Criteria for applications and guidelines were now being put together.

Sharing knowledge and success stories had become part of the EZC meeting the previous day and presentations from Estonia, Sweden and Scotland could be seen. BRA highlighted the presentation by Gregor Rigler from Slovenia on the first WCF event they had ever hosted (ECC-C in 2016). He emphasized that even small WCF members with a short history in Curling can achieve incredible things if there are Curling enthusiasts in the country. Sharing those success stories helps the development of Curling in Europe and avoids the feeling that one has to re-invent the wheel over and over again.

BRA thanked the working groups and their team leaders for all the work they had done.

k) Pacific Asia Zonal Commission Report (HMI)

HMI said that having the Summer and Winter Olympic Games in the Pacific Region for the next six years would certainly drive a huge amount of media interest and the impact can already be seen due to the success of the Pacific teams at the WCF championships.

For the upcoming PACC the largest field ever will participate and he expressed his happiness about the new members joining this event.

The President thanked the Board Members for their reports.
10 Report of the Auditors (AAN)

The clean report of the auditors had previously been distributed. There were no requirements for changes of policy or reporting methodology.

11 Receive the Finance Report, Audited Statement and Discharge to the Board (AAN)

AAN presented the Final Accounts for the year end 30 June 2016 for the approval of the members and discharge to the Board.

Proposed by Jennifer Stannard
Seconded by Terri Johnston
and carried unanimously

12 Appointment of the Auditors (AAN)

It was proposed that Mazars, Edinburgh be re-appointed Auditors for the year to 30 June 2017.

Proposed by Jürg Wernli
Seconded by Susan Kesley
and carried unanimously

13 Presentation of the Budget (AAN)

AAN presented the updated budget 2016/2017. There were no questions from the floor.

14 Approval of Annual Subscriptions (AAN)

There will be no increase in annual subscriptions.

Proposed by Gregor Rigler
Seconded by Marcus Schmitt
and carried unanimously

AAN thanked Thelma Black for the tremendous job she is doing as Finance Controller. He also thanked the members of the Finance Commission (Gerrit-Jan Scholten, Marcus Schmitt, Hugh Avery, John Anderson) who are in charge of implementing the Terms of Reference of the commission. He thanked them on behalf of the Federation for their efforts.

15 Resolutions

CGR again informed the MAs that the following tellers had been appointed: Rick Patzke (Chief Teller), Liz Munro and Thelma Black.
Update to Anti-Doping Rules

Resolution
To adopt the changes shown in red to Article 11 Consequences to Teams of the WCF Anti-Doping Rules

11.1 Testing of Team Sports
Where one or more than one members of a team in a Team Sport has been notified of an anti-doping rule violation under Article 7 in connection with an Event, the ruling body for the Event shall conduct appropriate Target Testing of the team during the Event Period.

11.2 Consequences for Team Sports
If more than one members of a team (or one or more members of a team in the case of Mixed Doubles) in a Team Sport are found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during an Event Period, the ruling body of the Event shall impose an appropriate sanction on the team (e.g., loss of points, Disqualification from a Competition or Event, or other sanction) in addition to any Consequences imposed upon the individual Athletes committing the anti-doping rule violation.

Proposed by Marko Stojanovic
Seconded by Alberto Skendrovic
and carried unanimously

Update to the Constitution

Resolution
To adopt the changes shown in red to article 16.13 of the WCF Constitution v7 approved at the 2014 Annual Assembly in Reno.

16.13 The Board has the following powers:
16.13.5 when urgent, take decisions normally assumed by the General Assembly (as per Art. 15), except election of Board Members, expulsion of a Member Association, changes to the Constitution and dissolution of the WCF. In addition in emergency situations between General Assemblies, the Board may propose changes to the Rules of Curling and the Rules of Competition. Any changes proposed by the Board in an emergency situation will be circulated to the Member Associations and if more than 10% of the Member Associations, holding full membership and being in good standing object in writing to the Board within 72 hours of notice being given, the rule change will not be implemented and the matter will be referred to the next General Assembly of the WCF. Otherwise the Board’s decision to revise the rule(s) for the emergency situation will stand until the next General Assembly.
16.3.6 In such cases the decision must be approved by the next General Assembly in accordance with the constitutional requirements at the next General Assembly.

Proposed by Jennifer Stannard
Seconded by Patrik Loertscher

Amendment (RCCC)
Replace “72 hours” with “a minimum of 3 working days.”
Proposed by Bruce Crawford
Seconded by Beau Welling

The first vote was on the amendment of the motion which was passed by majority.
The second vote was on the amended motion including “a minimum of 3 working days”.
The motion was passed by majority.

Proposals relating to Rules of the Game

1) Permit team time-outs at events that do not have time clocks, Rule C7 (a):

Recommendation:
Time-outs should be allowed at all WCF events, with or without time clocks being used.

Proposed by Bill Duncan
Seconded by Marcus Schmitt
and carried unanimously

2) Double-touch during delivery. Rule R8 (a)(i)

Recommendation:
Allow a double-touch, if it is part of a player’s delivery technique.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Alberto Skendrovic
Seconded by Jürg Wernli

Amendment (RCCC):
Delete “if it is part of a player’s delivery technique.”

Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Carroll de Pape

Bruce Crawford explained that the reason for the amendment was that it is difficult to interpret what the normal way of the delivery technique is.
The first vote was on the amendment of the motion which was passed by majority.
The second vote was on the original motion without the words “if it is part of a player’s delivery technique.” The motion was passed by majority.

3) Playing out of proper rotation in Mixed Doubles, Rule R15 (d) NEW part (i)

Recommendation:
For (a) above: Stone should be removed from play. For (b) Play continues and the player that delivered the first stone of the end, can deliver a maximum of two stones in that end.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES
Proposed by Alberto Skendrovic  
Seconded by Mark Swandby  
and carried unanimously

4) Starting a competition with 3 players. Rule C2 (j)

Recommendation:
With approval, allow teams to play with 3 players, including the first game of an event, without penalty.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Kim Forge  
Seconded by John Burns  
and carried unanimously

5) Scoring R11(i): (i) & (ii)

Recommendation:
Change the last part to say ... and will have choice of first or second stone in the first end of actual play.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Terri Johnston  
Seconded by Gregor Rigler  
and carried unanimously

6) Timing rule – no clock running. New – C6 Game Timing (p)

Recommendation:
To ensure the teams have the same amount of thinking time in a game, insert the new rule: C6 (p)
A team whose time clock did not run due to a timing error (no clock running) will not have time deducted from it time clock, but the appropriate amount of time will be added to the other team’s time clock.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Yuhei Kusui  
Seconded by Bob Kelly  
and carried unanimously

7) Travel time during time-outs. Revised interpretation of Rule C7 (c)(iii)

Recommendation:
Allow a fixed amount of time for all time-outs (travel time + 60 seconds) and give this to all teams, whether or not they have a coach, and whether or not a coach is coming to the Field of Play.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES
8) Sweeping Rules  R7 (a)

Recommendation:
New wording for R7 (a): The sweeping motion can be in any direction (it need not cover the entire width of the stone), deposits no debris in front of a moving stone, and finishes to either side of the stone.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Hugh Avery
Seconded by Sandra Stauffer
and carried unanimously

9) Uniform / Equipment C3 – NEW

Recommendation:
Add the following new rules:
C3 (e): Each player must declare his or her approved sweeping device at the start of a game, and only that player can use that device for sweeping during the game. Penalty: if a player sweeps with another person’s sweeping device the stone shall be removed from play.
C3 (f): A player may not change their brush head during a game, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission. Penalty: If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.
C3 (g): If alternate player(s) comes into a game, they must use the brush head of the player they are replacing. Penalty: If a new sweeping device is brought into the game, the team will forfeit the game.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Stefan Lund
Seconded by Olli Rissanen

Amendment (RCCC):
Add to the glossary of terms a definition of “brush head” and “sweeping device”.

Proposed by Bill Duncan
Seconded by Jennifer Stannard

CGR explained that in the two above proposals there are two additions (underlined) which are not considered material from the Open Meetings.

The first vote was on the amendment of the motion which was passed unanimously.
The second vote was on the original motion including the addition of the two items to the glossary of terms. The motion was passed by majority.
10) Remove the first sentence in – Rule R10 (e)

Recommendation:
In R10 (e) Remove: A player may change the type of brush or synthetic broom at any time during a
game, provided there is no delay.
Also, remove the mention of corn brooms (2nd sentence of this rule).
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Jennifer Stannard
Seconded by Alberto Skendrovic
and carried unanimously

11) Performance Standards as part of the Rules of Competition – New – Rule C3 (h)

Recommendation:
Create a New Rule
C3 (h): All Field of Play equipment used at WCF competitions must meet WCF Equipment
Standards. Reasons for equipment being considered non-approved include, but not restricted to:
damage to the ice surface, non-conformance with existing rules or standards (i.e. - electronic
communication devices), performance testing results that give an unfair advantage, failing to
register equipment with the WCF office by the deadline date.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Alberto Skendrovic
Seconded by Marcelo Mello

Amendment (RCCC):
Add at the end of the first sentence “as defined and published on the WCF website”.

Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Marko Stojanovic

The first vote was on the amendment of the motion which was passed unanimously.
The second vote was on the original motion including the additional sentence at the end of the
first sentence. The motion was passed unanimously.

12) Penalty for using non-compliant equipment – New – Rule C3 (i)

Recommendation:
Create new rule:
C3 (i): The penalty for using equipment in WCF competitions which does not conform to standards
for Competition Equipment established by the WCF:
   (i) First team offence during a competition – the player is disqualified from the
       competition and the team forfeits the game.
(ii) Second team offence during a competition – the team is disqualified from the competition and all players are not permitted to play in WCF competitions for a 12-month period.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Leland Rich
Seconded by Marcelo Mello

Amendment (RCCC):

(i) First offence: the team forfeits the game.
(ii) Second offence: the team is disqualified from the competition

Proposed by Bob Kelly
Seconded by Alberto Skendrovic

CGR explained the following:

From the discussions it is recognised that further clarification is required on the exact terms of the 12 month period, this can be further discussed by the C&R Commission and a recommendation on the interpretation be given to be used in any disciplinary ruling.

At the Open Meeting it was discussed as to whether Coaches should also be included in any ban – it was felt that adding this in at this time would constitute a material change so the wording will be left, however the C&R commission will consider their view on the inclusion of a Coach in any ban and make a recommendation to next year’s Congress.

A point was raised on the banning of ‘non-offending’ players in a team. It was recognised that there are cases in many sports where non-offending players suffer penalties due to the actions of their team-mates. At this time the wording will be left as it is – any appeal against a ban would in the first instance go through a WCF Appeals Process before going to CAS so it would be possible at that time to consider whether the team-mates held any responsibility or not.

With regard to a banned player acting as a coach, it was felt that they would not be given accreditation to act as a coach whilst serving a ban.

Bruce Crawford spoke on the amendment: He explained that the RCCC felt that the proposed sanctions would be non-proportionate with the anti-doping penalty. By incorporating the amendment one would reduce the potential number of appeals.

Bent Ramsfjell spoke against the amendment of behalf of the Athlete Commission: He said that he would like to speak on behalf of the athletes that attended the Sweeping summit. During the past season they had gone through pain and agony and they feel that athletes using non-compliant equipment should have a severe penalty.

The first vote was on the amendment of the motion. The amendment was defeated. The second vote was on the original motion. The motion was passed by majority.
13) Teams – Rule R3 (b)

Recommendation:
In R3 (b) A team that deliberately changes its delivery rotation, or positions, during a game will forfeit the game, unless it was done when bringing in an alternate player.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Ron Hutton
Seconded by Terri Johnston
and carried unanimously

14) Touched Moving Stones – Rule R8 (d)

Recommendation:
Create New Rule
R8 (d) If a moving stone is touched by a stone deflecting off the sheet dividers, the non-delivering team shall place the stone where it reasonably considers the stone would have come to rest had the moving stone not been touched.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

CGR explained the following: During the Open meeting it had been discussed whether it would be more reasonable to have the umpire make the decision on the placement of the stones. This rule is a mirror of the rule for touched stationary stones so to have umpire involvement in this one but not in the other would not really make sense – it is therefore suggested that the rule is accepted as worded and the C&R Commission will consider the involvement of the umpires in situations such as these across the rule book and make recommendations to the next Congress.

Hugh Avery explained that this rule was only meant for cases where teams cannot settle a dispute.

Proposed by Katja Kiiskinen
Seconded by John Brown
and passed by majority

15) Scoring – Rule R11 (a)

Recommendation:
Insert in R11 (a): ...or when one team is arithmetically eliminated, provided the minimum number of ends have been completed.
Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Proposed by Marko Stojanovic
Seconded by Patrik Loertscher
and carried unanimously
16) Add to the Glossary of Terms a definition of debris:

Recommendation:
insert into the Glossary of Terms - Debris: Any substance, including frost, snow or material originating from brushes, shoes or clothing.

Proposed by Bob Kelly
Seconded by Jürg Wernli
and carried unanimously

17) Insert a word into R1 (a) to confirm the sport is played on ice:

Recommendation:
Change the wording of the rule to: R1 (a) The length of the ice sheet from...

Proposed by Lorne de Pape
Seconded by Marko Stojanovic
and carried unanimously

Motions from Member Associations

Members Meetings (submitted by Canada, Denmark and USA)

Recommendation:
That the World Curling Federation shall hold a minimum of two in-person meetings with its Member Associations per year.

Hugh Avery spoke on the motion. He explained that this motion is a follow-up on last year’s meeting in Serbia where the MAs almost unanimously agreed that this is important. By having limited the meetings to one meeting per year he did not think that relationships could be built that are fundamental to growing the sport across the entire world. Beau Welling added that a second meeting would make the organization stronger.

John Burns wished to speak for the small nations. He explained that he had attended WCF meetings for the past 15 years and had paid everything out of his own pocket. The meetings had always been useful for his association but in the era of e-mails and in the era of commissions he felt that it was unnecessary nor a good use of WCF money to have a second meeting. He quoted the original rationale for the Congress “Let us do it once and let us do it well” and felt that this still would apply.

CGR clarified that the proposal for this second meeting was to have an Open Meeting, not a voting Meeting. Bruce Crawford mentioned that with the new IT team in place maybe it might be technically possible to have video conferences in future.

Proposed by Beau Welling
Seconded by Hugh Avery
and carried by majority
16 Further business

Katherine Henderson (Curling Canada) gave a short presentation on the forthcoming world event in Edmonton.

17 Elections

The following WCF Board members were elected:

Hugh Millikin (AUS), Vice-President Pacific-Asia
Elected by acclamation

Cathrine Lindahl (SWE), Director (Position 3)
Elected by majority (winning against Laura Lochanski)

Cathrine Lindahl thanked the members for putting their trust in her.

The President expressed her thanks to Laura for her extraordinarily hard work during the past two years on the WCF Board mainly for Governance but also on the IT sector. Laura Lochanski thanked the members and said that she had thoroughly enjoyed her time on the Board. She congratulated Cathrine and said that she was sure that she would do a great job.

18 Acceptance of a new Member Association

CGR explained that the Board later that day would consider two applications for conditional membership, one from Mexico and the second one from Guyana.

19 Date and location of next General Assembly

Open Meetings for Member Associations will be held in Beijing, China, 24th and 25th March 2017.

The 2017 Annual Congress will be held in Bled, Slovenia, 14th -17th September 2017, the Annual Assembly to be held on the 17th September. A presentation of Sava Hotels and Resorts in Bled was shown.

CGR then took the opportunity to thank the staff, the Board and the President for their hard work.

Hugh Millikin expressed how fortunate the WCF was to have Kate as its leader. She provides a great leadership, she has an outstanding relationship with the IOC and its President. He added that her recent appointments to SportAccord and the IOC reflect her standing in sport. She is on the road 150 days a year – the WCF is in really good hands.

Kate in return thanked Hugh for his kind words and offered the following comments:

Well it really has been another first class Congress. I have listened to the feedback from you the Representatives and what I am hearing is that these days together just keep getting better and better.
We must thank the Swedish Curling Association for being our host here in Stockholm together with the members of the Curling Academy. You have looked after our every need and always with a smile – thank you.

The hotel and their staff should also be congratulated – this has been an excellent location and also very good food.

Your elected Board has worked tirelessly throughout the past year as has been demonstrated throughout these meetings and I must take this opportunity to thank them on your behalf.

To the hard working staff as ever you have done a great job not only here but over the past twelve months – thank you.

To each of you in this room thank you for your contribution – the net working and camaraderie within the curling family as I have said so many times is the envy of many sporting bodies and long may this continue.

Finally to Colin you have shown once more what an excellent job you do as our Secretary General not only here at the Congress and in our headquarters in Perth but on the International Stage – Thank you.

Once more I wish to say once more – how honoured I am to be your President and I look forward to meeting each of you over the coming season.

CGR then closed the Assembly.
President’s Report Stockholm 2016

PRESIDENT’S REPORT STOCKHOLM 2016

Welcome everyone and as always a special welcome to our new representatives in this our 50th Anniversary Year.

In Belgrade my final remark in my President’s report at our AGA was –‘our sport has never been in better shape’ –and this remains to be the case, despite possibly the biggest challenge to face our sport to date during the past 12 months–the Brush/Sweeping situation which will be covered in this report.

September

Some 10 days following the Congress I attended the Inaugural successful World Mixed Curling Championships in Berne which was to set the standard for all our Championships.

The following week Colin and I travelled to PyeongChang together with the IOC Coordination Commission and spent our time in meetings and visits to the various 2018 venues.

A few days later it was off to Nice for the International Masters Games Association Board Meetings during their World Championships

October

This was when we were first made aware of the Broom Issue and would be our focus for most of the season as we were faced with a huge amount of circulating publicity.

Later in the month I received a message to say that the PACC 2015 was cancelled!! The timing could not have come at a worse time so close to the Championships. The next few days were spent on the telephone and sending letters and emails to the powers that be in Almaty. There had been a sharp economic decline in Kazakhstan with the currency losing some 30% and we were told there was nothing left in the budget for the Championships. Cutbacks were made including our webcasting and with the efforts of Viktor Kim and the Organising Committee for the International Sports Events in Almaty who waived the $72,000 venue rental fee, the Championships went ahead and proved to be a great success.

November

Colin and I attended the IF Forum in Lausanne in November where meetings took place with the IOC and our other winter colleagues. The focus of the forum being Good Governance and it is clear that going forward, the IOC will take a more active role in monitoring the governance of the International Federations, Also during the Forum meetings were held with the AIOWF, POCOG and FISU.

A few days later the European Curling Championships took place in Esberg and the Board had taken the decision to place a moratorium on the rules pertaining to the brooms. This was expertly handled by our officials and a huge thank you to all the teams who embraced
this. Once more we were honoured to have His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark deliver the opening stone - another first class event.

December

In December I attended the 120th Anniversary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee in Budapest with IOC President Thomas Bach being present. During my visit I met with officials of the Hungarian Government, visited the Hungarian Olympic Committee Headquarters, dined with the CEO together with members of the Hungarian Curling Association, held a TV interview at an outdoor Ice Extravaganza where curling was featured and spent time at the Curling Rink during the finals of the Seniors Championship.

The Curling Night in America in the middle of the month went extremely well and justified our investment over the years.

January

In January I attended the Continental Cup in Las Vegas together with Hugh Millikin and Keith to review the application of the new Mixed Doubles rules and conduct meetings relating to the hosting of the WMCC in 2018.

During this time we had been closely monitoring the situation in Turkey with regards to both security and the required repairs to the venue in Erzurum, the venue for the World Junior Curling Championships. We took the decision to relocate the WJCC to Taarnby, Copenhagen which was well received.

February

The 2nd Youth Olympic Games were held in Lillehammer in February. The event went very well with a great atmosphere generated in the club and played to a packed house. The opening stone was delivered by Crown Prince Hakan of Norway and we enjoyed a special visit during the event by IOC President Thomas Bach who met with some of the young athletes and volunteers.

My plans were to go straight from there to Oslo to represent the IOC Programme Commission to view one of the potential sports to be included in Tokyo 2020 – however this was cancelled late the night before, and so I took the opportunity to spend a few days at home before attending the World Wheelchair CC which were held in the curling club in Lucerne and played to packed audiences. The standard of wheelchair curling just gets better and better and once more was a great event.

From there it was on to the World Junior CC - Our grateful thanks to Taarnby for hosting these first class Championships at such short notice and a huge thanks to Dan Field – VOIP Defender for stepping in as our major sponsor.

Three days at home and then it was off to Lausanne for two days of meetings of the IOC Programme Commission and dinner with President Bach.
I travelled directly from there to Swift Current for the Ford World Women’s CC—a quite outstanding championship with everyone in the community involved and played to packed audiences.

I returned home Tuesday afternoon and left at Sam Thursday morning for Basel. Friday would see the Opening Ceremony of the World Men’s CC followed by our 50th Anniversary Celebration dinner with many invited guests including our guest of honour IOC President Thomas Bach together with his wife Claudia. A really special evening and a huge thank you to everyone who attended and for the wonderful gifts we received to commemorate the occasion. The following day saw President Bach deliver the Opening stone which was a great start to a first class Championship.

The following week Colin and I attended Sportaccord in Lausanne where both the future of the Convention and Sportaccord were voted on. It was during this time that I was invited to become a member of the Sportaccord board and only recently attended my first board meeting in Rio.

I moved on from Lausanne to Karlstad the venue for the World Seniors CC and World Mixed Doubles CC where the first qualification points were earned for our Mixed Doubles teams. The LOC did an excellent job.

Every year deserved recipients are inducted in to the Hall of Fame and this year was no exception. In Basel I was delighted to induct Warren Hansen in to the Hall of Fame during the World Mens CC and Elisabeth Hogstrom during the World Seniors CC and World Mixed Doubles CC in Karlstad. Franco Zumofen was ill and could not attend the World Mens CC to receive his honour and it had been arranged that I should present this to him in Cortina, Italy during the Summer Bonspiel. Together with Richard Harding I travelled to Cortina and Franco’s best friend’s son received this honour on his behalf. The following day I visited the hospice and was hugely honoured to present this to him personally with his family in attendance. I cannot tell you how happy this was for Franco and this will be something I will never forget – very sadly our dear friend passed away 7 days later and will long be remembered.

Olympics Rio

Colin and I arrived on 31st July in Rio de Janeiro to attend 4 days of the IOC meetings prior to the Opening Ceremony. On the Agenda of course was the recent decision taken by the IOC Executive Board regarding RUSADA and a vote was taken by Members in support of the IOC decision with only one vote against the IOC decision. Together with our AIOWF associates we had a separate meeting with WADA together with the IOC. We also had many side meetings including a breakfast meeting with POCOG’s new President, President Lee.

I stayed on for one week following the Opening Ceremony and apart from attending many receptions including Thomas Bach’s President’s dinner where many heads of state were present, I had a personal invitation to lunch with President Lui Peng Chairman of the Chinese Olympic Committee in China House, I also attended the PyeongChang reception together with President Bach and very importantly visited a possible dedicated curling venue in Rio. I attended my first Board Meeting of Sportaccord since being recently elected and happily managed to take in many of the sports and found time to pay a visit to the Olympic Village.
I arrived here on Monday via Vancouver where I attended the IMGA Board meetings during the America Masters Games where curling was featured at the legacy venue from 2010 Olympics and Paralympics. I was delighted to visit Hillcrest – which now supports an 8 sheet facility – quite outstanding. I was shown round the venue by Neil Houston who you will remember was the sport manager for curling for both Olympics and Paralympics. Neil and his team took part in the Masters games and incidentally won the gold medal.

All in all another busy year.

As I said at the start of my report a great deal of time over the period had been spent on the Brush/sweeping situation. As you can imagine there has been a huge amount of communication, a meeting with the manufacturers in February, legal work all of which led to the sweeping summit in Ottawa in June.

I was delighted to attend the final days of the summit where I was particularly happy with the co-operation that we received from all of our stakeholders trying to find the best way forward. At our Sweeping Summit in Ottawa, all attendees came together as one unit, with everyone working side by side to help our sport move on. The athletes worked from dawn to dusk knowing that the outcome/findings would affect both their and their fellow athletes’ future and they certainly deserve special mention.

I must highlight the work done by the small group who worked diligently on this issue headed up by Graham Prouse and Hugh Millikin. Together with Curling Canada namely Gerry Peckham and Danny Lamoureux and not forgetting Bent Ramsfjell together with the Athletes Commission, and Keith Wendorf from the Rules & Competition they should be congratulated. Last but by no means least, Colin for all the hours spent pulling everything together – WELL DONE!

- The positives – Our camps and courses continue to be highly popular with demand higher than supply
- Our congress continues to grow and give value to all those who attend
- We have seen record entries for competitions including teams from our newest members Hong Kong and Qatar
- We have taken events to new locations each of whom have proved to be amazing hosts
- We have more broadcasters interested in taking our games
- We are selling out sponsorship inventory at our major events
- We are financially secure with funds available to see us through tough times and to allow us to invest in staff and programmes to deliver what the members have asked through our forward plan
- On a personal note I was appointed to the Co Com Commission for Beijing 2022, the first time someone from curling has been appointed to a Co Com Commission and as already stated I had been appointed to the Sport Accord Board, both show the regard that our sport is held in international sporting circles
In closing I should like to thank the Board members who stood in for me at the Championships in my absence and pay tribute to all the work done in the past year by all the Board and Staff with special mention of course to Colin – thank you.

I should like to finish how I started by saying that ‘the sport has never been in better shape’ and I very much look forward to the season ahead.
The full notes from the feedback sessions will be provided to the Commissions and Operational staff working in each area to help when planning or developing new proposals.

**Competition Formats**

**World Men’s, Women’s and Olympics**

It was recognised that changes to the Olympics and Paralympics were not in the hands of the WCF.

The connection between certain events such as the Olympic Qualifier and the Worlds and funding was believed to be important and increasing the access to these events would help promote additional funding into more of the MAs. Could the OQE become an open entry event?

There were concerns that a WCQ event would remove some prestige from the ECC and PACC and that the suggestion shown during the Open Meeting was not fair to the Americas. It was clarified that this had just been a suggestion to promote discussion and was not indicative of any pre-conceived idea. There were also concerns about paying for an additional event.

A move to a 16 team World Championship could be considered at Men’s and Women’s level which would expand access to the event but there were concerns about the impact on the quality of the event and the loss of the tradition of every team playing each other during the round robin.

Perhaps the top teams from the previous World Championships for Men and Women should be guaranteed a place the following year to help ensure that the Worlds had the best teams, on the other side was the concern that a team could break up or there could be other changes that mean they are not as good the following year and would not deserve to be there.

It was felt to be important that the World Championships still had some kind of geographical diversity.

The commercial impact of certain countries eg. CAN/JPN was noted.

Would we consider a format like Ice Hockey (and the ECC) at World level and have A and B Divisions etc. Would this help a country like Brazil to progress? Could we replace the PA Zone with a Southern Hemisphere Zone?

**Mixed Doubles**

For Mixed Doubles the prevailing view was to keep the Open entry event and that even though there were some one sided games the pro’s of the Open event at this time outweighed the con’s. Maximising the games available at the Championships was felt to be important.

The challenge of Tie Breaks for a Local Organising Committee was noted, they put a hole in the schedule right when the event is building to a climax – do we need them?

Is it time to break this event away from the Seniors?
Summary of Breakout Groups

Juniors
No clear support for changing to U18/U23, most against the idea due to concerns about numbers, finance and commitments for young people and their parents

Concerns re the costs to the LOC of paying the Accommodation of teams at the WJCC, is it also fair that the top teams get this paid but those playing the B Championship don’t. Should WCF continue to support the flights or just pay a grant to all the teams who enter the Juniors and they can choose how to use it – flights or accommodation etc.,

Wheelchairs
Support for increasing the Worlds to 12 teams, should ask the Wheelchair curlers about the possible change to the number of players etc., as they are more involved in it.

If the Worlds go to 12 teams then promotion and relegation should be 3 teams

Development Assistance Programme
Feedback shows that DAP is considered important for the MA’s and the concept of a four-year DAP system was to be welcomed. It might also encourage MA’s to work together on larger regional projects

MA’s were keen to get examples of how DAP is being used and some would like consideration to be given to whether salaries for development or coaching staff would be considered. It would also be useful to know what kind of projects are being rejected.

Support in developing long term plans for MAs or creating coaching / development programme was felt to be something that would be highly beneficial.

What would happen if the full allocation of DAP is not spent within the four year period, could it be carried forward or could it be reallocated to other MAs?