

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORLD CURLING FEDERATION**  
**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**  
**6 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2018**



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*PREPARED BY:*  
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# Distribution of Minutes

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## WCF Executive Board Meetings & Annual General Assembly 2018 Budapest, Hungary

### Executive Board

Kate Caithness	President
Graham Prouse	VP Americas
Hugh Millikin	VP Pacific Asia
Bent Ramsfjell	VP Europe
Toyo Ogawa	Director
Andy Anderson	Director
Hew Chalmers	Director
Cathrine Lindahl	Director
Beau Welling	Director (NEW)

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Colin Grahamslaw	Secretary General
Richard Harding	Curling Development Officer
Eva Röthlisberger	Head of Competitions
Scott Arnold	Head of Development
Joanna Kelly	Broadcast Manager
Chris Hamilton	Digital Media Officer
Cameron MacAllister	Head of Media
Thelma Black	Financial Controller
Liz Munro	Competitions Administrator
Saskia Müller-Gastell	Projects Officer
Jorge Vazquez Monroy	World Series of Curling Manager
Darrell Ell	Competitions & Development Officer
Jiri Snitil	Competitions & Development Officer
Karri Willms	Competitions & Development Officer

### Representatives

Bruce Crawford	Scotland	Mamanov Kanybek	Kyrgyz Republic
Bob Kelly	Scotland	Jaanbai Kyzy Aijan	Kyrgyz Republic
Bill Duncan	Scotland	Raimonds Vaivods	Latvia
Susan Kesley	Scotland	Ieva Krusta	Latvia
Azizullah Noori	Afghanistan	Peter Prasch	Liechtenstein
Bahara Mahboobi	Afghanistan	Marloes Fisscher	Liechtenstein
Josep Garcia	Andorra	Vygantas Zaliekas	Lithuania
Monica Lopez	Andorra	Evelina Aleksejenko	Lithuania
John Anderson	Australia	Alex Benoy	Luxembourg
Kim Forge	Australia	Susanne Benoy-Göbel	Luxembourg
Marcus Schmitt	Austria	Paula Herrero Moreno	Mexico
Veronika Huber	Austria	Rodrigo Velez Escudero	Mexico
Andrei Yurkevich	Belarus	Choiжkhuу Erdenetuya	Mongolia
Inesa Pauliuchyk	Belarus	Jargalsaikhan Dorjsuren	Mongolia
Dirk Heylen	Belgium	Bea Miltenburg	Netherlands
Sarah Megens	Belgium	John Kuijpers	Netherlands
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela	Brazil	Carroll De Pape	New Zealand
Anne Akemi Shibuya	Brazil	Lorne De Pape	New Zealand
Antoaneta Dimova	Bulgaria	Daniel Damola	Nigeria
Nikolay Runtov	Bulgaria	Henrietta O. Daniel	Nigeria
Resby Coutts	Canada	Morten Soegaard	Norway
Hugh Avery	Canada	Grethe Brenna	Norway
Peter Inch	Canada	Dagfinn Loen	Norway
Maureen Miller	Canada	Janusz Duda	Poland
Li Dongyan	China	Beata Rek	Poland
Lei Yi	China	Pedro Flavio Martins	Portugal
Neven Pufnik	Croatia	Isabel Gouveia	Portugal
Katarina Cadez	Croatia	Rashid Majed Al-Sulaiti	Qatar
David Šík	Czech Republic	Rahma Khaled Al-Tahrawy	Qatar
Karolina Frederiksen	Czech Republic	Allen Coliban	Romania
Freddy Frederiksen	Denmark	Camelia Clem	Romania
Kirsten Jensen	Denmark	Ekaterina Galkina	Russia
Alison Arthur	England	Olga Andrianova	Russia
John Brown	England	Olga Zharkova	Russia
Juuli Liit	Estonia	Konstantin Zadvornov	Russia
Fred Randver	Estonia	Alastair Fyfe	Saudi-Arabia
Olli Rissanen	Finland	Elaine Fyfe	Saudia-Arabia
Katja Kiiskinen	Finland	Marko Stojanovic	Serbia
William Naquin	France	Dara Gravara-Stojanovic	Serbia
TBA	France	Pavol Pitonak	Slovakia
Zakaria Khechuashvili	Georgia	Gregor Rigler	Slovenia
Nino Petelava	Georgia	Marusa Gorisek	Slovenia
Bernhard Mayr	Germany	Frank Gonzalez	Spain
Christina Haller	Germany	Irantzu Garcia	Spain
Georgios Smyrnaios	Greece	Michael Marklund	Sweden
Eva Mataranga	Greece	Anette Norberg	Sweden

## Distribution of Minutes

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Carolyn Hibberd	Ireland	Alex Perevezentsev	Ukraine
Sharon Cohen	Israel	Leland Rich	USA
Tzipi Zipper	Israel	Mark Swandby	USA
Eros Gonin	Italy	Jennifer Stannard	USA
Angela Menardi	Italy	Allison Pottinger	USA
Terri Johnston	Japan	John F. Foster	US Virgin Islands
Yuhei Kusui	Japan	Claire Foster	US Virgin Islands
Tomoyoshi Kinoshita	Japan	Adrian Meikle	Wales
Viktor Kim	Kazakhstan	Lisa Peters	Wales
Yekaterina Gorkusha	Kazakhstan	All Member Associations	
Jin Hui Lee	Korea		
Heung-Gi Youn	Korea		
Fierze Bajgora	Kosovo		
Peter Andersen	Kosovo		

**MINUTES  
of the Executive Board Meetings  
held in Budapest, Hungary  
on 5, 6, 8 and 9 September 2018**

**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
Hew Chalmers (HCH)	Scotland	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Japan	Director
Cathrine Lindahl (CLI)	Sweden	Director
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)		Secretary General
Eeva Röthlisberger (ERO) (in part)		Head of Competitions
Scott Arnold (SAR) (in part)		Head of Development
Richard Harding (RHA)		Curling Development Officer
Joanna Kelly (in part)		Broadcast Manager
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)		Projects Officer/Minute taker
Liz Munro (LMU) (in part)		Competitions & Development Administrator

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Apologies**

None

**I. Welcome / Housekeeping**

KCA welcomed everyone to Budapest. 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:

Toyo Ogawa: Member of JCA International Affairs Committee

**3. President's Business (KCA)**

**a) President's Report**

The President's report is attached to these minutes.

## 4. Competition and Rules Updates

### a) WMD format (HMI)

HMI reported that following the success at the 2018 Winter Olympics it had been agreed to look further into the structure and format of the Mixed Doubles World Championship. A Mixed Doubles working group had been established to ensure the competition integrity of the World Championship event meets with the standards of an Olympic discipline.

The group felt the rules, timing and other considerations should remain as is considering the infancy of the sport and the new awareness of the game to fans. It was agreed that it is not desired to confuse the fan base with changes to the core structure of the game at this time.

The working group had discussed, at length, perspective changes to the current structure. (Open entry options, qualifying event options, championship options, how many teams in pools etc.) and weighed the pros and cons of open and a variety of two-level structures.

The working group recommended that the following options be offered to the Congress for discussion:

- 1) Splitting the Championship into a World Challenge followed by the World Championship or
- 2) Maintaining a single Championship but with an A and B seeded pools
- 3) Keep the status quo

HMI showed the presentation to be used to the Board and summed up as follows:

- Both options 1) or 2) have merit as does the current open format (option 3)
- The working group recommended that the 2018 Congress provides a specific direction for the C&R Commission to create a motion for the 2019 Congress to be implemented for the 2020 World Championship.
- This would provide the MAs time to adjust their plans for the 2019 WMDCC.
- If a World Challenge is required, hosting requirements will need to be addressed as well as budgets adjusted for any financial impact.

The following comments were made:

- An extra challenge would cost approx. USD 40,000.00
- Even with the current open system only ¼ of the MAs (approx. 15) do in fact receive NOC funding, so an open entry format does not automatically guarantee NOC funding
- A better atmosphere must be created for WMDCC to make people want to go there more
- The current system has so many disadvantages that it cannot be considered as “going forward”
- The #1 priority for WMDCC is to have broadcast and build the sport

The Board agreed to present the proposals of the working group (three possible options above) to the Open Meetings for discussion.

### b) Competition priorities (GPR)

Graham Prouse (GPR) reminded the Board that in early 2018, the WCF had undertaken a survey of the Member Associations to ensure it had an accurate understanding of Member's views regarding the purposes and priorities of WCF championships and events. Once MA purposes and priorities are fully understood, it is the Board's intention to adopt a set of principles which will guide WCF management and staff relating to their work with WCF championships and events.

The Board agreed to present the draft of the Statement of Principles document to the MAs.

GPR added that when sharing this draft with the MAs the questions will be

- a) Are the WCF events put into the right categories?
- b) Should anything be added to the principles?

In order to involve every MA in the discussion and give everybody the chance to respond to this draft it was agreed that this draft would also be sent out by e-mail to get MA feedback.

### c) Delivery stick summit (HMI)

A summary report on the Delivery Stick Summit (DSS) which had taken place in Morris, CAN from 21-24 May 2018 had been distributed in advance and this was now discussed.

It was agreed the following principles will be the basis for the standards specified in the Wheelchair Curling Policy:

#### ACCEPTABLE

1. Push-pull function on delivery head
2. Adjustable pivot point in the interface between delivery head and stone's handle
  - a. We do not dictate how a hand grips of stone's handle
3. Enables athlete to transfer the energy from their body to the stone's handle

#### UNACCEPTABLE:

1. Any automatic weight manipulation and control
2. Any automatic aiming or assistance in aiming e.g. lasers
3. No electronic components
4. Any mechanism that can alter the amount of force initiated by the athlete to the stone handle

The following additional conclusions were reached:

- Enforcing commercially available equipment is extremely difficult at this time.
- In the field of play there is currently no standout piece of equipment that is being used that we feel provides an unfair advantage.
- Any device that is capable of sweeping must conform to WCF brush standards.
- In this instance WCF is only making rules and policies for wheelchair curling

The Board approved the proposed Rules Changes and Policy documents that will be presented to the MA's at the Congress.

GPR confirmed that further on-ice brush testing had taken place at the same time in Morris using a rock throwing machine designed by the local Curling Training Center and their sponsor. Testing was conducted to observe the affects of sweeping with currently conforming sweeping equipment . The findings were as follows:

- All tested equipment performed within an acceptable range, consistent with the Sweeping Survey conducted in 2016
- Testing consistently found that swept stones stayed straighter than un-swept stones, regardless of technique
- No ability to add curl by sweeping stones using a particular technique was observed during the testing
- No residual directional effect of sweeping was observed on successive stones thrown on the same path

### **d) Rule changes (ERO)**

ERO elaborated on the proposals relating to changes to The Rules of Curling and Rules of Competition to be presented to the AGA and these were briefly discussed by the Board.

### **5. World Cup Update (BRA/CGR)**

BRA outlined that the first Curling World Cup (CWC) in Suzhou, CHN was now only one week away.

Obviously a new event is a constant learning process. After the completion of CWC Leg I in Suzhou an evaluation will take place with Kingdomway Sports (KS), the WCF staff and the athletes. Having more and more events in China the hiring of a professional translator (Chinese-English) was discussed in order to facilitate the communication on-site.

It was also confirmed that the IOC Vice-President ZAIQING Yu IOC Member LINGWEI Li would attend the inaugural event in Suzhou.

Also, during the summer a host contract had been signed with Jönköping, SWE – host of Leg 3 of the CWC.

### **6. Athlete Commission Update (CLI)**

CLI reported that directly following the last Board meeting in Las Vegas this, the Athlete Commission (AC) had a two-day long meeting/work-shop with lots of different topics up for discussion. Among other things a working strategy for the Athletes commission was put together and a lot of work took place with a draft of an Athletes survey that should have been released before this summer. Unfortunately, time ran away for the AC when it lost contact with their previous skip shortly after the meeting so it was then decided to try to get a survey out in the beginning of 2019 instead. The AC has also worked on the question of Coach interaction and the initial thoughts are presented in the Congress documents.

In May Kim had represented the AC in Östersund, Sweden and had been able to meet and speak to almost all countries to gather important input and feedback. She had also been part of the Mixed Doubles working group.

Nolan and Patrick were involved and attended the WCF brush testing and Delivery Stick Summit in Manitoba in end of May.

In June the elections took place to replace Ann Swisshelm and Kelly Scott. The athletes elected Jill Officer, Canada and Anna Kubeskova, Czech Republic as our new Members from five valid nominations. The AC also elected Nolan Thiessen as their new skip. The new AC held one skype-meeting in August to welcome the new members and discuss the topics coming up at the Congress.

The AC representatives here at Congress will be Nolan, Patrick and Jill, and Kim is also here as Australian Representative. The next face to face meeting will be in Tallinn directly following the Europeans. Topics from the Congress and also work on the athlete survey will be discussed then.

### **7. Olympic 2022 Update and Paralympic Medal Events (KCA)**

KCA explained that BOCOG originally wanted to have another medal event at the Paralympics. However, in order to become a Paralympic Medal Event it is required that one World Championships has taken place in that discipline – a condition that could not be fulfilled by WCF, the Board agreed that it would not be appropriate to try and add an event to the Paralympic programme at this time.

The Beijing Olympic venue is progressing fast and BOCOG is very much ahead of things. However, the definite appointment of a local Sports Manager still seems to be pending.

CGR added that the IOC had shared some figures about the OWG 2018 in PyeongChang. He highlighted the following:

- Over 1 billion hours of Curling were watched (more women's than men's games were watched)
- 91,7% of all Curling tickets were sold (in Sochi it was 83%), for the women's events 97,5% of the tickets were sold)

### **8. Governance Update (BRA)**

#### Membership Issues

BRA informed the Board that assistance is currently being given to one MA in a process of reviewing and improving their constitution and governance structure. BRA said that the Board should keep monitoring that situation closely and the issue should be revisited at the next Board Meeting.

Recently letters of concern had also been received from other MAs regarding specific governance issues within their own MAs which will be addressed.

#### Update on Policy Documents

The Governance Commission has developed/reviewed:

- Hall of Fame (WCHOF) Induction Committee (IC) Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Code of Ethics Template

- Conflict of Interest Policy Template

These documents will be presented to the Board for approval at the next Board Meeting. The WCF Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement is still “Work in Progress”.

### AIOWF review

CGR reported that WCF had gone through the self-assessment process on Governance which was conducted for the second consecutive year by a neutral third party. The questionnaire comprised the following five topics:

- Transparency
- Integrity
- Democracy
- Development/solidarity
- Checks and Balances / Control Mechanisms

WCF had presented its scores to the independent consultant experts who then had monitored and/or adjusted the scores. All seven Olympic Winter Sports were included and WCF had almost reached its target of 120 points. FIS had gone public with their score and the Board discussed if WCF should go public too. It was agreed to wait and see what the other Winter IFs chose to do.

## **9. Partnership Proposals (CGR)**

### **a) Proposal from Goldline**

BRA registered a conflict of interest and refrained from participating in the further discussion.

Following a review of the proposal the Board felt it should continue the principle of allowing the LOC's to make the contracts with companies to merchandise the events as this was a benefit to them. It further felt it was not appropriate for the WCF to sign a direct sponsorship contract with any one of the various brush manufacturers at the same time as being responsible for regulating sweeping equipment.

### **b) Proposal from ISS**

CGR explained that ISS (<https://iss4u.de/?lang=en>) are looking to arrange a partnership with the WCF in the same manner as Rock Solid. They would like to be named WCF's Official Partner for Ice Technology or Ice Facilities.

The Board discussed the issue and agreed that more information should be requested especially in view of the other potential manufacturers involved in this area.

## **10. Stone Manufacturers (CGR)**

The Board discussed the ongoing relationship with the various stone manufacturers and how this may develop over the coming seasons.

## II. Forward Plan Update

A Forward Plan Update had been compiled and distributed to the Board in advance and this was now discussed.

CGR highlighted that currently there are only three red areas where the WCF had not achieved its goals. These were:

- Sponsorship: Achieve a year on year increase in the sponsorship income (Drop of \$110k US on previous year, ECC increase, in Canada increase, outside Canada decrease, others decrease; foreign exchange rate also played a part)
- Broadcasting: To annually reduce the net cost per hour of the Broadcast output (Net cost per hour in 2017/2018 \$3231 vs 2016/2017 \$3191)
- Facilities:
  - o To develop a catalogue of previously used blueprints for curling facilities (This task is being passed to the new Technical Commission to take on and develop)
  - o To train 2 technical advisors and project leaders each year (This task is being passed to the new Technical Commission to take on and develop)

CGR added that this was the last year of the current plan. It was agreed that the updating of this plan was a task for the new Board and could take place during the expected Board meeting in Omaha in December.

**06<sup>th</sup> September**

## 12. Future Development Projects (HCH, SAR)

Darrell Ell (WCF CDO) as well as Karri Willms and Jiri Snilil, the two new Curling Development Officers (CDO) had joined the meeting and were introduced to the Board and vice versa. All CDOs then left the meeting.

SAR explained that an electronic survey had been carried out mainly to have a better understanding of the needs, demands, limitations and opportunities for development and growth of Curling among the MAs and to identify how the WCF best can provide development assistance to its MAs. All 60 MAs were invited to participate in the survey which was open from May 15<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. 72% of the MAs had replied.

The Board discussed the definition of a “Curler” and how often a person is supposed to play per week/month/year to justify calling him/her a Curler. No conclusion was reached.

The results had been segmented (MA size / Zones / Members / Development 2014-2018) and these not only show how diverse the WCF members are but also gave the Board some background information on what needs to be done to grow the sport.

This led into the second presentation regarding online education. The challenge in a growing International Federation is the ability to deliver consistent courses to an ever growing population. SAR with the World Academy of Sports (WAoS) has developed a proposal for an online education system. This WCF Academy delivers learning programmes for sports and event participants - athletes, managers, administrators, officials and coaches - through a series of tailored educational programmes.

SAR elaborated on the vision and how this would link to the future strategy of the development of Curling. It was confirmed that the vision is to empower MA growth through sustainable development activities.

The suggested development goals are:

1. Embrace robust education and development systems to support the implementation of the WCF development vision
2. Develop the required global workforce to facilitate the empowerment of the MAs
3. Work with the MAs and zones to ensure maximum return on investment from global development programmes
  - Assist the MAs to develop to their full potential and embrace local funding models
4. Establish commercially sustainable partnerships that will ensure the ongoing enhancement of the WCF development programme
5. Develop central frameworks that can be locally adapted to service stakeholder needs

The Board unanimously approved to move forward with WAoS and approved the initial budget for the project, in future years the costs were to be included in the annual budget.

The Board discussed the various Curling camps that are offered. SAR outlined that at the Füssen Camp it is difficult to work with groups of 20 athletes. The Board noted the proposal to reduce the total number of juniors to be admitted to the camp to 96 in future hence having 16 athletes per group instead of 20 and to increase the registration fee to USD 400. Having smaller groups would mean a more valuable experience for the athletes because they have more time with coaches which will help justify the increase.

### **13. Proposal for Technical Committee (TOG)**

Toyo Ogawa (TOG) explained that for the sport of curling the quality of the playing conditions is a key factor whether it is championship or club play. Good playing conditions enhance the experience for all curlers. In the past it has often proved challenging to get the best playing conditions, so this Commission would focus on providing advice and support to achieve the highest level of playing conditions possible at all levels of the game.

The other purpose of the Commission would be to assist in the development of curling facilities around the world both new and existing.

Initially this commission would need expertise to cover the areas above, a potential Commission membership of 4 to 8 people seems appropriate. The number of members in the commission and the skills within the group can be changed depending on how the duties will change.

The Board discussed the proposal and agreed to the setting up of a Technical Commission.

### **14. Anti-Doping Update (CGR)**

CGR explained that there are two main outstanding items within Anti-Doping; McLaren and the case from the Olympics.

### Olympic Case

The positive test from the Olympic Games will be dealt with by CAS on 19 September 2018. No further statements will be made on the detail of this case until CAS have made their decision public.

### McLaren

The Board noted that an Independent Lawyer had been asked by the WCF to prepare a report examining the depth and detail of the evidence available against the curling athletes named in the McLaren Report including responses to specific questions asked to the whistleblower Dr Rodchenkov. It accepted the recommendation by the lawyer that at this time there is insufficient evidence available to declare an Anti Doping Rule Violation against any of the curling athletes. It also noted that WADA had reviewed the report and agreed with this assessment and would not object to the WCF taking no further action.

One additional important aspect to note from the Doctor's responses is that there is no evidence from his part of any involvement by the Russian Curling Federation in any structured attempt to cheat the system.

The WCF has furthermore received the following quote from the Chief Operating Officer of WADA:

*"WADA commends the commitment of the WCF to clean sport. Recently, the WCF investigated its cases related to the McLaren Report and, subsequently, the Moscow Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) data provided by WADA, in a thorough and comprehensive manner. WADA sees WCF as a strong partner in the fight for clean sport."*

### WADA Athlete Commission

WADA have made a call for nominations for their Athlete Commission. Patrick MacDonald from the WCF Athlete Commission had offered to put his name forward and the Board agreed to support his nomination.

The Board thanked Susan Keith (Anti Doping Administrator at the WCF offices in Perth) for the great job she was doing.

## **15. Finance (AAN)**

### **a) 2017/2018 Final accounts**

AAN explained that the last year of the Olympic cycle is always a year where the WCF spends more than income received with significant one-off expenditures associated with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This last season was no exception and the Board had set a budget with the expectation of a deficit of just under US\$1m. Two exceptional items pushed the actual end of year deficit to just over US\$1.3m.

The two exceptional items relate to a Foreign Exchange Adjustment and a loss in the 4-yearly revaluation of the WCF Offices. WCF Policy is to revalue the offices in Perth at the end of every Olympic Cycle. Unfortunately, at this time the neighbouring building has been on the market for a significant period and has only recently sold. Taking this into account, the valuers

have reduced the value of the WCF Offices from GBP£385,000 to GBP£360,000, taking into account the change in exchange rates over the last four years, this translates to a one-off negative on the accounts of just under US\$120,000.

The Board noted the detailed finance report on the budget variances and the final audited accounts.

AAN thanked the WCF's Finance Controller Thelma Black and the Finance Commission for their continued work on the WCF accounts.

AAN added that the audit report had been clean again. No further questions were raised by the Board.

### b) 2018/2019 Management Accounts

AAN explained that the WCF has 5 million USD with the Royal Bank of Canada and 9 million USD with JP Morgan. The money has been invested conservatively so the WCF's risk is kept at a minimum. Face to face meetings with both are taking place on a regular basis to monitor the investments made.

The budget had been approved at the meetings in Las Vegas and currently no action by the Board was required.

AAN also thanked the members of the WCF Finance Commission (Marcus Schmitt – AUT / Hugh Avery – CAN / John Anderson – AUS) for their excellent work.

### 16. Update on new Infront Partnership (CGR)

CGR informed the Board that Andreas Biffiger had moved on to work on Infront's Basketball contract and would be replaced on their curling work by Claude Hollenstein and Giannina Rageth who would both be attending the Congress.

The Board noted the current contracts in place and expressed their wishes to see Infront secure more long terms deals for the Federation.

CGR confirmed that Infront holds the world-wide rights to market the WCF except for the WMCC/WWCC when held in Canada.

### 17. New Member Associations (CGR)

CGR explained that there are four MAs that are seeking promotion from conditional to provisional membership. These are Afghanistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kyrg Republic and Portugal. All four have shown that they are active members. Nigeria has also applied for membership and normally they would come in as conditional members. However, they wish to go straight to provisional membership which is to be decided by the MAs at the AGA. The reason is they have a Curling team of expats living in the USA and it would get them far more publicity and promotion in Nigeria if they had a team going to the WMDCC for example. They also have strong support from the Nigerian NOC. The Board felt that there was no reason to recommend against them becoming a provisional member. If accepted as members they would join the Pacific-Asia zone.

CGR added that an Indian representative is visiting the Congress as well. However, India can only be accepted as WCF once they have obtained their NOC's approval. Also, Singapore is close to submitting an application for WCF membership.

### **18. Portable Curling Facility (TOG)**

Toyo Ogawa gave a presentation on the Portable Curling Facility (PCF) in Turku, Finland, a project where the MA provides the land and the WCF builds the facility. The WCF retains the ownership of that PCF until fully paid for by the MA.

The facility in Turku is now open and has operated a full season with very good results for ice quality and energy consumption. The project was significantly challenging and there would need to be major changes in the way similar projects would be run before the WCF should consider doing so again. It was noted that the Facility Loan programme seemed to be a far more successful and cost effective way to deliver new facilities.

### **19. Location of Spring Board and Open Meetings (CGR)**

CGR informed the Board that Silkeborg, DEN the host of the WWCC 2019 had communicated some accommodation challenges. The WCF had identified Stirling, SCO and host of the WWhCC 2019 as an alternative. In the meantime, Silkeborg had solved the accommodation problem but by that time the papers had already gone out saying that Stirling could potentially be the host of the WCF meetings. The Board felt that given the circumstances the MAs should make the final decision on the location of the meeting.

### **Emergency Board Meeting** **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

#### **Present:**

KCA, HMI, GPR, BRA, CLI, HCH, TOG, AAN, CGR

The Board noted the request from a number of Members to consider the submission of an emergency motion relating to the format World Mixed Doubles Championship.

In the first instance the Board considered whether they had the authority to put forward an emergency motion to the Annual General Assembly. It was agreed that under the constitution this was the case.

The request had three parts:

1. There should be a World Championship and a separate World Challenge
2. The World Championship should be made up of 20 teams with the rest in the World Challenge with four teams qualifying to the World Championship each year from the World Challenge
3. There should be an Olympic Qualifying event in line with the Men's and Women's events.

The Board felt that parts 1 and 2 met the requirements to be considered an “emergency” because leaving a decision to next year’s Congress would leave it too late to make the arrangements for a Challenge event and that to call a Special General Assembly could present the risk of such an Assembly not being quorate. It was felt that part 3 did not reach the threshold to be considered an “emergency”.

Following a proposal from AAN which was seconded by GPR the Board unanimously approved the submission of the following “emergency motion” to meet parts 1 and 2 of the request:

World Mixed Doubles Championship & World Challenge  
To be implemented for the 2020 Championship  
World Championship (20 teams) World Challenge (All others)

- The top 16 Countries from 2019 WMDCC (all the playoff teams) qualify directly to the 2020 World Championship.
- The 4 top Countries from the World Challenge qualify for the 2020 World Championship.

A proposal by HMI which was seconded by BRA to reject the third part of the request at this time as it was not an emergency situation was also unanimously approved.

**Board Meeting**  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Present**

KCA, HMI, GPR, BRA, CLI, HCH, TOG, BWE, CGR

The Board approved the holding of a two-day meeting focusing on the future strategic plan around the Curling World Cup event in Omaha. BWE was asked to lead the word on the strategic plan with CGR.

It was agreed to review all Board responsibilities at that meeting once more detail on the future direction was known.

The following attendance at WCF Events was agreed:

WMxCC	GPR / HMI
ECC	KCA / BRA / HCH / CLI
PACC	KCA / HMI / TOG
AC	BWE

It was agreed to advertise for potential members for the Technical Commission and these could be discussed at the Omaha meeting.

### **Governance**

BRA updated the Board on the Governance meeting held earlier in the Congress. The Board noted the suggestion from the Commission that there be consideration of a change to the Constitution to elect a President-Elect in 2021 to work alongside KCA during her final year

in office. It was agreed the Commission should submit proposals for discussion at the 2019 Congress.

GPR passed on a request from the Americas Zone that the Governance Commission look at the need for a formal Consultation Policy for the WCF.

## **OPEN MEETINGS**

**Day I**

### **Welcome of the WCF President**

The WCF President opened the Congress with the following Welcome Speech:

“Welcome everyone with a special welcome to our new Representatives!

Well - since our Congress last year Curling has been on a fast moving journey. Of course the highlight being the Olympic and Paralympics in Pyeongchang which most definitely exceeded our expectations and a quite outstanding success with more than 1 billion hours of Curling viewed. These will be covered in more detail during our Open Meetings when IOC Director of Sport, Kit Mc Connell and Irina Gladkikh, Director of Winter Sport will present the Olympics and Eeva and myself will give a short presentation on the Paralympics.

Our Championships over the past year have been quite exceptional with every LOC ensuring their success and grateful thanks go to each of them.

We have had staff changes over the past year following the retiral of our Director of Competitions and Development Keith Wendorf and also hired more staff – two of our new CDOs are here with us Jiri Snilil and Karri Willms who you will have an opportunity to meet with during the coming days.

Also I am delighted that we have our two newly elected athletes on to our Athlete Commission also joining us: Jill Officer and Anna Kubeskova. Congratulations!

Finally Gregor Ridler has been appointed to join our Governance Commission and he takes no introduction. Congratulations as well!

During the Annual General Assembly each Member of the Board will give a presentation on their particular area of responsibility within the Federation together with the relevant staff member.

Before then of course we have two days of Open meetings, breakout sessions, zonal meetings and commission meetings.

All in all we are going to keep you busy. However, in the evening there is an excellent social calendar organized the first of which you enjoyed last evening which gave you a chance to mix and enjoy some networking with your colleagues from the other Member Associations.

But before handing over to Colin who will take you through the programme for the next few days I am delighted to welcome firstly Dr Tunde Szabo, Minister of State for Sport. Dr Szabo is a previous Olympian having won a silver medal for swimming at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona aged 18 and medalled at the 1991 World Championships in Perth, Australia and also at the 1991 European Championships in Athens. Currently she is a member of the Hungarian Olympic Committee as well as a member of the Hungarian Parliament. Dr Szabo.”

Dr Szabo addressed the meeting and gave a short speech of welcome.

The WCF President continued as follows:

"Now it gives me enormous pleasure to welcome Dr Pal Schmitt. Dr Schmitt won team epee gold medals at both the 1968 and 1972 Olympic Games and also won Team and Individual world Championships before retiring in 1977.

He served in various sports organisations before becoming President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee in 1990. He went on to become the Hungarian Ambassador in Spain and Switzerland and then to be sworn in as President of Hungary in 2010 a position he held until 2012. Dr Schmitt is also an IOC Member and I am delighted that he has joined us today to say a few words."

Dr Schmitt also addressed the meeting and gave a short speech of welcome.

### **Rules Changes and Policy Updates (Eeva Röthlisberger - ERÖ)**

ERÖ outlined all the proposed rule changes to be dealt with at the forthcoming Annual General Assembly.

The following comments/questions were raised:

#### Qualification for teams for the World Qualification Event:

- Why does the challenge continue in the Americas while in the other two zones eligibility is based on rankings from Championships? ERÖ explained that in the Americas there currently is no championship and therefore there is no ranking available.
- It was suggested the WCF should look at implementing an American Championship
- CGR explained that the rules for the European zone are much longer due to the fact that there are two divisions at the ECC compared to the Pacific or American zone where there is only one division.
- Statistical data on how many teams from the B-division have ever qualified for the World Championships in the past? Paul Ahlgren replied that this information could be made available.

#### Minimum Age for team officials

- Why has WCF picked the age of 16? ERÖ replied that WCF had to pick a year and there was no further reason behind that proposal.
- Is there any concern about discriminatory laws? CGR replied "No" and explained that it is covered under the same Swiss legislation that allows the WCF to have age group championships. He confirmed that he would investigate further if an age limit would be discriminatory.

#### New C9(f) Teams not starting or finishing a competition

- What happens if we have both a DNS and a DNF team? Who is then last?
- Any DNF should not get any points

#### Rule Changes proposed by Chinese Curling Association

Chinese Curling Association had presented three proposals regarding scoring, umpires and participating teams. Lei Yi (CHN) elaborated on these proposals and explained that these had been presented due to incidents that happened at the recent Olympic Winter Games. Umpires at WCF sanctioned events should become more proactive and less reactive.

ERÖ explained that the Chinese proposals are NOT supported by the C&R at this time. They feel there needs further discussion of the proposals and the implications of umpires being more proactive in the field of play.

Lei Yi added that it is sometimes very difficult for players to communicate in English when their native language is not English. ERÖ explained that each team is allowed to register an interpreter. CGR added that WCF would like to avoid an increasing number of people on the bench because, when is a translator a translator or is he maybe another coach? The President added that WCF of course wants to be sympathetic to those MAs whose native language is not English. Maybe a designated area for interpreters should be set up?

The following comments/questions were raised:

- Is there a coach as member of the AC? CGR replied that two AC members are now Team Leaders. This is not be design but very often coaching or team leading is the next part of the career of an ex-athlete.
- Li Dongyan (CHN) emphasized that the MAs should nominate officials for the WCF events / a better procedure is needed for nominating officials (ITOs)
- CGR invited all MAs to pass forward to WCF names of officials that they think are ready to be involved in WCF championships

### **Future of Coach Interaction (Nolan Thiessen – NTH)**

There are three components to coaching: technical, tactical and mental and teams use coaches for one or all of these components. The Athlete Commission (AC) values coaching and considers it important but ultimately to the greatest degree possible the competition should be settled by the four athletes on the ice. However, it is difficult to have only one set of rules for all kinds of competitions. The AC therefore recommends to allow for different coaching rules and policies for different events including application of timeouts and where coaches sit.

The following is recommended for consideration:

Elite Competitions including Men's and Women's WC, WMDCC, Olympics, European A/B and Pacific Asians

- Continue to allow only one time-out
- Allow coaches to continue to sit in the coach's box however if a team would like to come to the home end to discuss something with them between ends they should be allowed to access those resources
- The AC encourages the use of the upcoming Curling World Cup to attempt to try new rules of access for coaches in order to test out the effectiveness and whether future changes could be proposed

Developmental focussed competitions including Juniors, European C's, Winter Universiade and Youth Olympic Games

- Increase the number of time-outs allowed in order to facilitate education and growth. The number of timeouts can be split between halves of the game so all not put together in the last few shots of each game, however the AC feels that athletes in their developmental stages should have more access to coaching. Knowing that as they progress into the more elite competitions they are going to have less access to their coaches.
- Allow for coaches to sit behind the end boards and either move between the home and away end each end and/or have access to talk to their teams between ends.

### **Wheelchair Delivery Stick Proposals (Hugh Millikin – HMI)**

A summary report on the Delivery Stick Summit (DSS) which had taken place in Morris, CAN from 21-24 May 2018 had been distributed in advance and this was now presented in more detail.

During the summit it had been agreed that the delivery stick

1. SHOULD NOT automatically aim or assist in aiming the stone
2. SHOULD NOT have an automated way of adjusting the weight/speed of the stone

The conclusion of the summit was that a delivery stick certification would either be exceptionally limiting by restricting innovation and development or be too cumbersome and costly to implement.

It had been agreed that the following principles would be the basis for the standards specified in the Wheelchair Curling Policy (not part of the rules):

#### **ACCEPTABLE**

1. Push-pull function on delivery head
2. Adjustable pivot point in the interface between delivery head and stone's handle
  - a. We do not dictate how a hand grips of stone's handle
3. Enables athlete to transfer the energy from their body to the stone's handle

#### **UNACCEPTABLE:**

1. Any automatic weight manipulation and control
2. Any automatic aiming or assistance in aiming e.g. lasers
3. No electronic components
4. Any mechanism that can alter the amount of force initiated by the athlete to the stone handle

The following additional conclusions were reached:

- Enforcing commercially available equipment is extremely difficult at this time.
- In the field of play there is currently no standout piece of equipment that is being used that we feel provides an unfair advantage.
- Any device that is capable of sweeping must conform to WCF brush standards.

- In this instance WCF is only making rules and policies for wheelchair curling

The proposed Wheelchair Curling Policy was presented.

The following comments/questions were raised:

- Is the stick the extension of the hand or the handle? HMI: The stick is the connection between the athlete and the stone
- Mechanical advantage: What process is used to measure that force? HMI: That is measured electronically with an engineering software product that checks force at entry and exit through video technology. WCF will not approve devices but will provide guidance, advice and consulting service.
- How relevant was the survey? How big was the population of the survey? HMI: Every athlete at the Paralympic Games was interviewed and 115 responses were obtained out of which 55% were from athletes, 23% coaches, 14% officials and 9% MAs.
- Every athlete has his/her own preference regarding heads, tube length etc. How relevant is the result of the study based on the fact that only 2 or 3 athletes were used? HMI: Yes, there is a huge variance in the athletes but there is consistency in the way they go about it. During the study with the athletes available WCF felt it had a broad enough perspective as to all the athlete's capabilities that were required.
- Regarding rotation: What do we allow the equipment to do? Do we remove the skill of the right rotation from the list of skills that the athlete needs to develop? HMI: The athletes feels that when applying the rotation by themselves it is more accurate. So, the equipment does not provide a significant advantage.
- Are the players changing sticks from shot to shot? HMI: No, not typically. However, sometimes they lose confidence in one stick and then change to another.
- Was any research done to determine whether or not the stones could be released clearly before reaching the hog-line? HMI: This has never been an issue.

The WCF President thanked Hugh Millikin for all his work on behalf of the WCF regarding the delivery stick.

### **Competition Priorities and Principles (GPR)**

Graham Prouse (GPR) reminded the Members that in early 2018, the WCF had undertaken a survey of the Member Associations to ensure it had an accurate understanding of Member's views regarding the purposes and priorities of WCF championships and events. Once MA purposes and priorities are fully understood, it is the Board's intention to adopt a set of principles which will guide WCF management and staff relating to their work with WCF championships and events.

A preliminary report of the survey findings had been presented to the Member Association representatives in attendance at the Open Meetings in Las Vegas. The input from member representatives at that meeting had been incorporated into an initial draft of a statement of principles. The final report of the survey findings was presented to the Member Associations.

In addition, an initial draft of a principles document was shared with the Member Association representatives

GPR confirmed that the Draft Statement of Principles would be sent to WCF Member Associations, WCF Athlete Commission and WCF Competition and Rules Commission for comment and feedback. Following stakeholder input and feedback, the WCF Board would finalize the Statement of Principles at its next board meeting.

### **Future Format for the Mixed Doubles World Championship (HMI)**

HMI reported that following the success at the 2018 Winter Olympics it had been agreed to look further into the structure and format of the Mixed Doubles World Championship. A Mixed Doubles working group had been established to ensure the competition integrity of the World Championship event meets with the standards of an Olympic discipline.

The group felt the rules, timing and other considerations should remain as is considering the infancy of the sport and the new awareness of the game to fans. It was agreed that it is not desired to confuse the fan base with changes to the core structure of the game at this time.

The working group had discussed, at length, perspective changes to the current structure. (Open entry options, qualifying event options, championship options, how many teams in pools etc.) and weighed the pros and cons of open and a variety of two-level structures.

The working group had recommended that the following options be offered to the Congress for discussion:

- 1) Splitting the Championship into a World Challenge followed by the World Championship or
- 2) Maintaining a single Championship but with an A and B seeded pools
- 3) Keep the status quo (Open entry)

The pros and cons of each format were presented. HMI highlighted that there are a couple of key dates that must be looked at: At the Congress 2019 a decision needs to be made to have something in place for the 2020 WMDCC.

The following comments/questions were raised:

- Is the draw broadcast-optimized from the beginning? CGR: WCF spends a long time on draws to optimize. The procedure starts with a numbered draw and then the teams are slotted in depending on broadcaster's interest, time zones, consecutive games, etc.
- Does the MD working group have a favourite option? György Nagy (member of working group): Yes, I have the feeling that the group favours option 1. He personally thinks that playing in the B-Division is better for developing Curlers who would feel like tourists in the A-Division. This is a historical moment and we must change the format in the interest of the Curling sport.
- Could the world challenge be immediately prior to the WMDCC? HMI: Yes, this was discussed. However, it would be a challenge to have a venue for such a long event and it would be very challenging for a LOC.
- The event should be kept open. A match between BRA and EST is good for TV! If we close the event the whole development will be damaged. Should we decide for two pools, as many teams as possible should be moving up and down. Also, please confirm

that we have three options here including the current format. HMI confirmed that the status quo is also an option.

- There is currently a great variance of skills at the WMDCC. Playing in a WMDCC has nothing to do with development.
- Keeping the WMDCC open means that the door is kept open for funding for many MAs
- The development of our sport should be in the interest of all MAs. Media presence is important. No broadcaster will want to cover a qualifying event. They are only interested in higher levels. Also, the national funding is much better if you are able to compete at the highest level. One year ago we increased the number of teams at the Worlds because of broadcasting and now we want to decrease the number of teams also because of broadcasting.
- We need quality at the WMDCC – this is no longer a B-event. Also, we should consider having a junior MD event and also maybe an Olympic qualifying event for MD should be implemented. We need a change for sure. An OQE could convince everybody!
- Very often the stands at WMDCC are empty. Making the event smaller would perhaps make it a better event.
- There must be a world event for small nations.
- Getting to the WMDCC is not a hard work now. Development is not only to be there but to work to be there.

HMI asked for a show of hands to get a sense as to where the WCF is sitting right now. The show of hands showed that there was a consensus in the room to move away from the open entry format and moving towards a two-part event.

### **Finance Update (AAN/CGR)**

An update on the finances of the WCF was given to the members and CGR explained the major variances. The budget for the current year was also presented.

### **WCF Forward Plan Update (CGR)**

A Forward Plan Update had been compiled and distributed to the MAs Board in advance and this was now presented.

CGR highlighted that currently there are only three red areas where the WCF had not achieved its goals. These were:

- Sponsorship: Achieve a year on year increase in the sponsorship income (Drop of \$110k US on previous year, ECC increase, in Canada increase, outside Canada decrease, others decrease; foreign exchange rate also played a part)
- Broadcasting: To annually reduce the net cost per hour of the Broadcast output (Net cost per hour in 2017/2018 \$3231 vs 2016/2017 \$3191)
- Facilities:
  - o To develop a catalogue of previously used blueprints for curling facilities (This task is being passed to the new Technical Commission to take on and develop)

- To train 2 technical advisors and project leaders each year (This task is being passed to the new Technical Commission to take on and develop)

CGR added that this was the last year of the current plan. It was agreed that the updating of this plan was a task for the new Board and could take place during the expected Board meeting in Omaha in December.

### **OPEN MEETINGS**

#### **Day 2**

#### **IOC Presentation on PyeonChang , Agenda 2020 and the New Norm**

The WCF President introduced and welcomed both Kit McConnell, IOC Sports director Irina Gladkikh, IOC Head of Winter Sports and IF relations who gave a presentation on PyeonChang , Agenda 2020 and the New Norm.

Colin Grahamslaw highlighted some Curling figures of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games at PyeonChang:

##### **TV**

- Total viewer hours: 1 billion hours
- Higher TV audience for women than for men
- Biggest audience was Japan
- Total max. audience 125,308,000
- Average audience 18,807,000

##### **Digital media**

- Page views on POCOG website 10,228,073
- Page view on most popular websites 210,231,678
- Social media conversations 7,057,018

##### **Spectators**

- 91,7% of tickets were sold
- 83% in Sochi
- 97,5% of women's games tickets sold

Eva Röthlisberger reported the following details about the Paralympics 2018:

- There had been an increase in Wheelchair Curling and for the first time 12 teams participated
- After the Olympic Winter Games the venue and the ice had to be re-branded for the Paralympics
- The stands were packed! There were 343,000 spectators across all sports (15% more than in Sochi 2014)
- TV-coverage: Wheelchair Curling 251.6 million viewers (compared to ice-hockey which had 230.3 million viewers "only")
-

## **Development Projects and Partnerships (Scott Arnold – SAR)**

Scott Arnold reported on the recent development survey and highlighted its results. The following conclusions were made:

- Bigger MA's (>300 curlers) seem to have bigger focus on development than smaller MA's... especially juniors
- Critical development size for an MA seems to be at least 100 curlers
- Facilities with dedicated curling ice seems to be less of a challenge for the bigger MA's than for the smaller MA's
- The reduction of curlers among MA's does not seem to be related to (or lack of) development initiatives (more of the contrary)
- Why are the initiatives not working?

## **Further discussion on WMDCC format**

György Nagy informed the members that the MD working group had not put forward a motion to change the WMDCC format because they had been waiting for the IOC decision on the number of MD teams at future Olympic Winter Games. He added that the only possibility to put a motion forward still at this Congress would be to have an emergency motion. He proposed that the Board should check whether this can be done.

Colin Grahamslaw explained that the only way that something could be added to the agenda would be if the Board put forward an emergency motion. In such a case 2/3 of the eligible vote in the WCF would need to be present to consider it a valid motion and 2/3 of those must be in favour hearing it to allow the motion to be considered. However, first of all the Board must decide if this is an emergency motion.

Various representative requested that the Board should be very careful in considering putting forward an emergency motion. They said there would be the risk of setting a precedence. It was also mentioned that the constitution does not clearly define what “emergency” means.

CGR added that the only other alternative would be to have a Special General Meeting but the chances of having a quorum there are slim.

After some further discussion CGR confirmed that it would be within the Board's remit to decide whether this is an emergency motion or not and the AGA could then decide if it agrees with the Board. It was advised that there would be a separate Board Meeting before the AGA on this issue.

## **Panel Session – What is development?**

A short panel discussion took place on the stage for the first time. The participants were Katherine Henderson (CAN), Stefan Lund (SWE), Fred Randver (EST) and Chad McMullan (CAN). The four people on the stage were asked various questions:

What is development?

Fred:

There are different phases and meanings of development. 15 years back it was hard. Journalists joked about Curling. It took 10 years and the city gave us a brand new Curling rink. The most important thing is to have a good and proper club – that is the basis of all development. 50% of the WCF members are small. It is very important that each of them has a dedicated ice rink and that it works. Otherwise it is very hard to make other projects run.

Stefan:

There are many different aspects. The biggest challenge in Sweden is to keep the youngsters in the sport. At the age of 11 approx. 90% of the children are doing sports. When you come to the age of 13 it is down to 52%. Maybe other countries have the same challenge.

Chad:

Rock Solid Productions is not a Member Association. Development is bringing people into the sport whether that be juniors, adults or seniors. We must get people to try it.

Katherine:

The vast majority of Curlers in Canada (99,99%) are grass root Curlers. There are about 1,000 clubs in Canada. For Curling Canada the definition of development is: "A strategic process where resources are invested in systems and processes that strengthen our sport and enhance the sport experience for anyone that wants to play." Curling Canada is constantly looking at these processes. Canada is a country of immigration and it is an aim to have these people involved in the sport and to make sure that they know what Curling is. We make them try Curling and we create systems to make them to improve their skills and join clubs in order to keep them as members. There is also a foundation in Canada that we fundraise for and with that money three things are done:

- Provide scholarships
- fund initiatives that bring youth into the sport
- fund marketing programs

Chad:

We started the Rocks & Rings Programme 10 years ago. So far 1,400 schools across Canada have been visited where the floor Curling equipment has been used and approx. 1.5 million kids have been reached. You have to get people into the door. We use the Rocks & Rings program as a marketing vehicle. The children that participate in Rocks & Rings at school get an invitation to an open house event and to that they have to bring one parent. So, you do not only get kids to the clubs but also adults, that are also potential members. Between 18 and 30% of those people showing up for these events become club members. We keep those events short (1 hour) and we kick them out of the door and that makes them come back another time (instead of having them 2 hours standing there freezing on the ice).

Darrell Ell informed the Members that the floor curling is also used now at the Olympic Celebration Tours and it is a great way to introduce Curling to a lot of people.

Fred

The city of Tallinn supported Curling very much (a few million EUR) for them to have a 3-sheeter. This was a gift and Estonian Curling was really lucky. There is an agreement now with the city that the CC Tallinn has to pay rent for the whole year. We have to be profitable to

pay the people that we hired (currently 5). Funds are now derived as follows: 50% from corporate events, 30% from organizing tournaments, 10% membership fees, 5% from students. It is not that much important for us how many members a club has, it is very important for us to create awareness of Curling.

Scott Arnold reminded the delegates that there is the “2 minute guide to Curling” video that is excellent to introduce the sport to people who have no idea what Curling is. He confirmed that this video can be adapted into any language.

Stefan said that the key to converting people from first time Curlers to club members is to have good and passionate instructors. Swedish Curling had developed an online development platform called S-Cup. Free online material is available on this platform. We have also developed online courses for parents, a guide to arranging anti-doping leadership program, a forum for coaches, online courses and instruction videos. This program makes it easy to get involved.

Fred

We had 1,300 school visitors this year. Teachers are very influential and we try to get new teachers onto the ice. Also, Mixed Doubles has opened new doors for members. For new Curlers it is easier to get them to play Mixed Doubles.

Scott Arnold informed the members that the WCF would in future be working with the Academy of Sports (<https://www.worldacademysport.com/>). The World Academy of Sport (W AoS) delivers learning programmes for sports and event participants - athletes, managers, administrators, officials and coaches - through a series of tailored educational programmes. They are working both with IOC and IPC. They already work with skiing, basketball, rugby, hockey and badminton – just to name a few.

As there is a lot of expertise within the WCF Member Associations Fred Randver suggested having a mentoring programme.

### **Breakout Sessions on “Development”**

Mainly the following questions were discussed in different groups:

What is development?

What is the definition of Curler?

After the breakout sessions the following people summarized the discussions that their group has had as follows:

Hugh Avery

Depending on the size of the MAs there are differences in their development needs. There was consensus in the group that it is absolutely critical to have ice. This is what must be developed first. Also, when the members/representatives come together it would be more useful to break up into sessions where extra small MAs could talk amongst themselves and speak about what is unique to their situations. All WCF members are very important but all are very different. Regarding the definition of Curler the group came up with the following: various aspects such as: members, customers, enthusiasts for example.

### Ray Husain

Our group was composed of different MAs, some new and some old. So, there were different opinions as to what development is. For the smaller countries development is to create awareness about what Curling is. In order to push development we need ice. For more experienced associations like Switzerland or Norway development is to attract more Curlers.

### Paul Ahlgren

The group defined Curler as “registered Curler” – company Curlers are not considered Curlers. One of the smaller MAs said it would be good to have a mentoring system for DAP applications so that the smaller members get some help with that. School Curling was discussed and how to train teachers for that (maybe having teacher tournaments?). The possibilities of international scholarships were discussed (pupils from smaller countries going to experienced countries to work for example in Curling clubs)

### Sergio Mitsuo Vilela

We defined development as follows: “The process of developing or being developed” and then as follows: “An event constituting a new stage in a changing situation.” We then discussed what development actually means and what is important and came up with the following:

- having ice
- getting people into the sport
- setting goals and try to achieve them
- communicate with your customers
- try to find out what experience people are looking for
- make a small gift / make the person want to come back
- have clean toilets in your club

### John Brown

The group said all you need is ice and stones to try Curling. For first time Curlers simple rules and/or simple scoring systems are best. We must attract juniors and must try to keep them even though this is difficult. DAP was also discussed for some time and it was agreed that not only Curlers but also coaches and administrators need to be developed. WCF might need to develop a bank of Curling stones to assist with development in the various countries.

CGR thanked the members for their contributions.

**MINUTES  
of the Annual General Assembly  
held in Budapest, Hungary  
09 September 2018**

**I Reading of Notice of Meeting**

As per the Constitution the notice of this meeting was provided on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the agenda and papers had been circulated within the stipulated timeframes allowing the Annual General Assembly to be held today the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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 Bled, Slovenia. A copy of this report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

**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 Bled.

**2 Report on Credentials of Representatives and Quorum**

The following attendance was recorded:

**Executive Board**

Kate Caithness OBE (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
Cathrine Lindahl (CLI)	Sweden	Director
Hew Chalmers (HCH)	Scotland	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Japan	Director

Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Richard Harding (RHA)	Curling Development Officer
Eeva Röthlisberger (ERÖ)	Head of Competitions
Scott Arnold (SAR)	Head of Development
Darrell Ell (DEL)	Competitions & Development Officer
Karri Willms	Competitions & Development Officer
Jiri Snilil	Competitions & Development Officer
Joanna Kelly (JKE)	Broadcast Manager
Liz Munro (LMU)	Competitions & Development Administrator
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer

**Chris Hamilton (CHA)**      **Digital Media Officer**  
**Cameron MacAllister (CMA)**      **Communication & Media Relations Manager**  
**Ashley Melville (AME)**      **IT Officer**

## **Representatives of Full Members**

RCCC	Bill Duncan Bruce Crawford Susan Kesley Bob Kelly
Andorra	Josep Garcia
Australia	Kim Forge John Anderson
Austria	Marcus Schmitt
Belarus	Veronika Huber Andrei Yurkevich
Belgium	Inesa Pauliuchyk Dirk Heylen
Brazil	Sarah Megens
Bulgaria	Sergio Mitsuo Vilela
Canada	Nikolay Runtov Peter Inch Resby Coutts Hugh Avery Maureen Miller
China	Li Dongyan Lei Yi
Croatia	Neven Pufnik
Czech Republic	David Šík Karolina Frederiksen
Denmark	Freddy Frederiksen Kirsten Jensen
England	John Brown Alison Arthur
Estonia	Fred Randver Juuli Litt
Finland	Olli Rissanen Katja Kiiskinen
France	William Naquin
Germany	Bernhard Mayr
Hong Kong	John Li Shek Chong
Hungary	Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta György Nagy
Ireland	John Burns
Israel	Sharon Cohen
Italy	Eros Gonin
Japan	Yuhei Kusui Terri Johnston

Korea	Tomoyoshi Kinoshita
Latvia	Youn Heung-Gi
Lithuania	Raimonds Vaivods
	Vygantas Zalieckas
	Justina Zalieckiene
Luxembourg	Alex Benoy
	Susanne Benoy-Göbel
Netherlands	Alie Kramer
	Jules Broex
New Zealand	Lorne De Pape
	Carroll De Pape
Norway	Morten Søgård
	Grethe Brenna
Poland	Janusz Duda
	Beata Rek
Qatar	Rashid Al Sulaiti
Romania	Allen Coliban
	Camelia Clem
Russia	Konstantin Zadvornov
	Olga Zharkova
	Olga Andrianova
	Ekaterina Galkina
Slovakia	Pavol Pitonak
Slovenia	Gregor Rigler
	Marusa Gorisek
Spain	Frank Gonzalez
	Irantzu Garcia
Sweden	Stefan Lund
	Michael Marklund
	Anette Norberg
Switzerland	Jürg Wernli
	Patrik Loertscher
Chinese Taipei	Eddy Y.T. Wu
	Yuan Hon Liu-Koo
Turkey	Seyda Topuz
USA	Leland Rich
	Mark Swandby
	Jennifer Stannard
	Beau Welling

#### **Representatives of Provisional Members**

Greece	Georgios Smyrnaios
Georgia	Zakaria Khechuashvili
	Nino Petelava
Guyana	Rayad F. Husain
Kosovo	Peter Anderson
Mexico	Rodrigo Velez Escudero
	Paula Herrera Moreno

Ukraine                    Natalia Menzhega

**Representatives of Conditional Members**

Kyrgyz Republic	Mamanov Kanybek
	Jaanbai Kyzy Aijan
Portugal	Pedro Flavio Martins
Saudia Arabia	Alastair Fyfe
	Elaine Fyfe

**Proxies**

<b>Member Association</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Proxy Holder</b>
Brazil	Anne Aremi Shibuya	Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (BRA)
Croatia	Katarina Cadez	Neven Pufnik (CRO)
Ireland	Carolyn Hibberd	John Burns (IRL)
Israel	Tzipi Zipper	Sharon Cohen (ISR)
Korea	Jin Hui Lee	Youn Heung-Gi (KOR)
Latvia	Ieva Krusta	Raimonds Vaivods (LAT)
Norway	Dagfinn Loen	Morten Søgård (NOR)
Switzerland	Louis Moser	Patrik Loertscher (SUI)
Wales	Adrian Meikle	Susan Kesley (SCO)
Wales	Lisa Peters	Alison Arthur (ENG)

**Observers**

Belarus	Natallia Shcherba
Bulgaria	Bojidar Momerin
Canada	Katherine Henderson
	Jill Officer
	Nolan Thiessen
	Chad McMullan
Chinese Taipei	Steve Poo Koo
Czech Republic	Karel Kubeska
Denmark	Rikke Jensen
Estonia	Harri Lill
India	P.N. Raju
Ireland	Eleanor Burns
Italy	Andrea Gios
	Ippolito Sanfratello
	Marco Mariani
Korea	Mok Eun Lee
Nigeria	Gideon Oluigbo
	Henrietta Daniel
Norway	Pål Trulsen
Poland	Witold Rek
Qatar	Lajos Belleli
Scotland	Graham Lindsay
	Willie Nicoll
Sweden	Paul Ahlgren

Switzerland	Claude Hollenstein (Infront)
	Giannina Rageth (Infront)
Turkey	Utku Yalcin
Ukraine	Iryna Kochyk
USA	Courtney Schmidt Mary Fields Rick Patzke

### **Attendance and Proxies**

Representatives present	81
Representatives by proxy	10
Votes present	192
Votes by proxy	19
Total votes present and proxy	211
Members present	43
Provisional Members present	6
Conditional Members present	3
Zones present	3

### **Presentation of Medals etc**

The following representatives received their WCF medals and badges

Austria	Veronika Huber
Belgium	Sarah Megens
Estonia	Juuli Litt
France	William Naquin
Hungary	György Nagy
Korea	Youn Heung-Gi
Netherlands	Jules Broex
Qatar	Rashid Al Sulaiti
Romania	Camelia Clem
Russia	Ekaterina Galkina
Slovakia	Pavol Pitonak
Slovenia	Marusa Gorisek
Spain	Frank Gonzalez
Spain	Irantzu Garcia
Chinese Taipei	Eddy Y.T. Wu
Chinese Taipei	Yuan Hon Liu-Koo

CGR advised the Member Associations (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), Willie Nicoll and Liz Munro.

### **3 Exclusion / Suspension of a Member Association**

None

#### 4 Approval of Agenda

CGR explained that at the Open Meeting on the previous day the Board were asked to consider bringing forward an emergency motion regarding the format of the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC). There were three parts to the request:

- that from season 2019/2020 there should be a WMDCC made up of 20 teams and a separate World Challenge for all remaining entries.
- that the top 16 teams at the 2019 WMDCC would qualify for the 2020 WMDCC and the remaining four teams would come from the World Challenge.
- to introduce an Olympic Qualifying event.

After discussion the Board had agreed that the first two parts did meet the requirements to be considered an emergency motion as leaving any decision on this to the next Congress would leave it too late to put arrangements in place for the 2019/2020 season and that relying on calling a Special General Assembly that would need to achieve a quorum was too risky. The Board did not agree that the introduction of an Olympic qualifying event met the requirement to be considered an emergency motion. This item will be brought back to next year's Annual General Assembly.

For an emergency motion to be considered by the AGA 2/3rds of all eligible votes must be present and 2/3rds of those present must vote in favour of consenting to deal with it.

CGR presented the following motion prepared by the Board:

World Mixed Doubles Championship & World Challenge  
To be implemented for the 2020 Championship  
World Championship (20 teams) World Challenge (All others)

- The top 16 Countries from 2019 WMDCC (all the playoff teams) qualify directly to the 2020 World Championship.
- The 4 top Countries from the World Challenge qualify for the 2020 World Championship.

CGR explained that the Assembly needs to first vote on whether the Member Associations accept the Board's assessment that this is an emergency motion. If this is accepted the motion would then be added to the list of resolutions. It was proposed that above motion should be considered as emergency motion:

*Proposed by Resby Coutts  
Seconded by Olga Zharkova*

Allen Coliban (ROU) asked why there is emergency to change because it does not impact negatively on the Olympic qualifying process. CGR explained that following the Open Meeting there seemed to be a clear view that change is desired. To leave any change to next year WCF would have to find a host for a World Qualifier in a couple of months and WCF would not be able to sign a contract for the World Championships host because WCF would not know if a host for 20 or 40+ teams is required.

*The motion was carried by majority (more than two thirds) and was added to the agenda*

With the addition of the emergency motion the agenda was then approved.

*Proposed by John Brown  
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 Terri Johnston  
Seconded by Gregor Rigler  
and carried unanimously*

## **6 Business arising out of the Minutes**

No business arising.

## **9 Report of the Executive Board and Committees**

### **a) Competitions (ERÖ)**

ERÖ presented charts on the medal winners of the 2017/2018 season.

With regard to future competitions ERÖ highlighted that the host cities for the season 2018-2019 are complete. She invited the MAs to send in their bids for various events in the 2019-2020.

### **b) Operations and Integrity (CGR)**

#### Operations

A chart was shown with the names of all current 20 staff members. The President provided some background on the scope of the work carried out by the office on a day to day basis.

The President thanked the hard-working staff for all they do.

CGR explained that the biggest change operation-wise in the past 12 months had been the retirement of Keith Wendorf. Following a review it had been agreed to split the portfolio into separate competition and development departments and appoint a lead staff member for each. As of 1 July 2018 the following appointments were made:

- Head of Competitions – Eeva Röthlisberger
- Head of Development – Scott Arnold

Referring to the WCF Curling Development Officers (CDOs) he advised the meeting that Paddy Käser had left the WCF and had accepted another job offer in Switzerland. An excellent replacement for him had been found in Jiri Snitil from the Czech Republic. In addition, earlier in summer the WCF had brought on Karri Willms from Canada as CDO, too. CGR welcomed Jiri

and Karri on board and thanked Paddy for his short but excellent contribution to the organisation.

New members of staff directly related to the Curling World Cup (CWC) are:

- Manager – Jorge Vazquez
- Sports Manager – Uli Kapp
- Broadcast Manager – Lesley McCrae

CGR added that on the media team Cameron McAllister had been promoted to Head of Media. Also, another staff member had been added to the media team and this is Emily Dwyer as Media Officer.

### Anti-Doping

CGR explained that 199 tests had been completed over the last season. There were no Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRV). There had been 1 positive test at the Olympic Games – this case is now with CAS and a hearing would take place on 19 September. He was pleased to say that the WCF had complied with all the IOC Pre Games Testing Recommendations and WCF had been the only Winter Sport to achieve full WADA compliance prior to the Games.

He noted Susan Keith (WCF Anti-Doping Administrator) had been invited to attend WADA's Outreach Team during the Games. With the learning and experience brought back from there she had run doping #curlclean and #playtrue education during WJCC2018.

### McLaren Update

Following the receipt of the McLaren Reports and the Moscow Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) data and in consultation with the Head of the WCF's Anti-Doping Hearing Panel it was agreed to appoint one of the members of the Panel who is a legal expert to review all the available evidence to determine if any Anti-Doping Rule Violations could be declared.

In addition to the reports and LIMS data we also received written answers to questions posed by the legal expert to the whistleblower Dr Rodchenkov. One important aspect to note from the Doctor's responses is that there is no evidence from his part of any involvement by the Russian Curling Federation or curlers in any structured attempt to cheat the system.

The recommendation from the legal expert is that at this time there is insufficient evidence to bring charges against any of the curling athletes named in the McLaren Report. This has been reported to the WADA Investigations and Intelligence team who have concurred with this assessment. Therefore, no action will be taken against the athletes named in the McLaren report.

Furthermore, we have received the following quote from the Chief Operating Officer of WADA which we can use during the presentation of this information to our members:

*"WADA commends the commitment of the WCF to clean sport. Recently, the WCF investigated its cases related to the McLaren Report and, subsequently, the Moscow Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) data provided by WADA, in a thorough and comprehensive manner. WADA sees WCF as a strong partner in the fight for clean sport."*

### **Integrity**

Prior to the Olympics WCF had worked with the IOC to deliver education to all the athletes and officials of the Curling family at the Olympics. More than 2/3rds of the curling athletes had completed the on-line course. CGR added that currently discussions are taking place that these online courses become a mandatory part of the accreditation process.

CGR also explained that the monitoring of WCF events by IBIS (Integrity Betting Intelligence System) has continued this year and they have not seen any evidence of manipulation at Olympics, Paralympics or any of the major WCF event.

### **c) Marketing (CGR)**

CGR expressed his thanks to all WCF sponsors for their support over the last 12 months. Many of them are long term supporters and WCF is very pleased to see them back year after year across multiple events. CGR thanked Infront and Curling Canada for their work. The total sponsorship income during the last two seasons was \$1.16m in 2017/2018 vs \$1.27m in 2016/2017. The slight drop is due to differences in exchange rates. Also, there was a lower sponsor value in Las Vegas compared to Beijing.

Looking forward there are still small sponsorship packages available for the European Curling Championships 2018 and the World Women's Curling Championship 2019. Regarding the PACC Infront is now taking the lead in this event under new contract. WCF is looking forward to reporting complete sell out's next season.

### **d) Governance Commission Repot (BRA)**

Bent Ramsfjell (BRA) provided an update on the work of the Governance Commission.

The Commission had met in person during the Congress and during the Olympics in PyeongChang/Korea and its main task is to provide recommendations and advice to the WCF Board. The commission had recently reviewed the Hall of Fame (WCHOF) Induction Committee (IC) Terms of Reference (ToR) and had assisted one MA in a process of reviewing and improving their constitution and governance structure.

BRA added that WCF had gone through the self-assessment process on Governance which was conducted for the second consecutive year by a neutral third party.

WCF is now ranked no. 3 among the seven Olympic Winter Sports (almost second) with FIS being the top Olympic Winter Sport (150 points).

BRA closed by thanking his Commission Team and emphasized that good governance is costly, but bad governance can be even more costly.

Hugh Avery (CAN) suggested that there should be a representative from Asia/Pacific on the Commission. He also emphasized he felt that there is definitely a need for a Consultation Policy.

### e) Development (HCH)

HCH noted the following in relation to the DAP fund:

- A total of US\$ 441'662 was approved
- 45 Member Associations asked for support
- A total of 174 DAP applications were approved

HCH reported the following camps and courses took place over the past year:

- Füssen Courses – 44 participants from 10 MAs
- Füssen Junior Camp – 114 athletes from 21 MAs (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary – again oversubscribed! Füssen Staff: 27 people from 11 MAs)
- Prague Adult Camp - 64 athletes from 17 MAs

There had been six applications for the Stepping Stones Programme which was awarded to Latvia. 20 athletes and 2 coaches had attended. Also, two Business of Curling courses were held: Dakota, United States with 17 participants from 13 curling clubs and Vilnius, Lithuania (first European BoC course with 12 participants from 6 MAs (POL, LTU, LAT, UKR, EST, LUX). The Olympic Celebration Tour went to 10 locations in three countries (USA, LTU, SLO).

HCH thanked both Eeva Röthlisberger and Keith Wendorf for all the work they had put in by looking at and evaluating hundreds of DAP applications. He welcomed Scott Arnold to his new position as Head of Development and said that with his knowledge and enthusiasm he will help the MAs to continue to develop Curling in the world.

### f) Facilities and Equipment (TOG)

Toyo Ogawa started by thanking Leif Öhman, Richard Harding and Darrell Ell for their continued support in the area of facilities and equipment. He then explained that the WCF Forward Plan contains the following tasks in the area of facilities:

- Provide loans to Member Associations
- Provide advice and support to achieve the highest level of playing conditions (the Board had just approved the formation of a WCF Technical Commission)

- Organise training courses for managers and ice technicians (WCF Business of Curling courses)

TOG 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)

## **g) Broadcasting (GPR)**

The season 2017-2018 had been a record-breaking season for the WCF. Over 200 games were produced live by the WCF's broadcasting arm 'World Curling TV' and there were over 5200 hours\* of TV exposure worldwide for WCF Championship events (\*figure based on markets where TV audience research data was gathered. Does not include online exposure hours.). The World Men's in Las Vegas, was the biggest production to date: two sheets were covered live throughout the entire event and 46 live games were produced in total.

GPR explained that since Sochi there had been a change in the WCF Broadcast Partner strategy: Previously WCF had to create interest in covering our sport, now the broadcasters are requesting coverage. Previously the broadcasters wanted national games now the broadcasters want ALL games produced (particularly from flagship World Championship events). Previously one-off TV rights deals were entered based on team qualification, now 'long-term' multi-year TV rights deals are agreed on.

In the US territory the Curling Night in America co-production continues to be a feeder for the growth of TV exposure for curling in the US market and the NBC interest in televising Curling and particularly WCF championship events is getting stronger year on year. During the 2017-2018 season ALL games produced live from Vegas, North Bay and Östersund were televised by NBC. The indications for the 2018-2019 season are that interest is to expand further and NBC is to televise the Curling World Cup.

Graham Prouse thanked Richard Harding and Joanna Kelly for their hard work and support in the area of broadcasting and for ensuring the high quality of the Curling's TV coverage.

GPR also confirmed that further brush testing had taken place during the Delivery Stick Summit in Morris, Canada. Testings were made to confirm what the currently conforming fabric on top of the currently conforming foam was actually doing to the ice. GPR said that an update on the sweeping equipment would soon be published by the WCF in written form. However, the most important results of the recent testing were that the solutions introduced following the 2016 Sweeping Summit appear to be working and have ensured that the equipment is not the biggest factor in the successful delivery of a stone.

## **h) Curling World Cup (BRA)**

Bent Ramsfjell first of all thanked all MAs involved for their excellent team selection for the forthcoming Leg 1 of the Curling World Cup (CWC) in Suzhou, China. He also thanked Kingdomway Sports and the WCF staff for putting together the first edition of this new event.

He added that the WCF would constantly work on improving this new product and emphasized that this CWC is a huge step forward for the promotion and exposure of the sport.

BRA confirmed that after Leg 1 in Suzhou Leg 2 would take place in Omaha, USA, and Leg 3 in Jönköping, Sweden. The Grand Final would then be played in Beijing, CHN.

### **i) WCF Athlete Commission (AC) Report (BRA)**

Nolan Thiessen reported that Kelly Scott, Kim Forge, Patrick McDonald and he himself had attended the Open Meetings at the World Men's in Las Vegas this year and that they had a full 2-day AC meeting following this event. Among other things a working strategy for the Athletes commission was put together and a lot of work took place with a draft of an Athletes survey that should have been released before this summer. The Athlete commission has also worked with the question of Coach interaction and the AC's initial thoughts are presented in the Congress documents.

In May Kim Forge had represented the Athletes Commission in Östersund, Sweden and had been able to meet and speak to almost all countries to gather important input and feedback. She had also been part of the Mixed Doubles working group.

Nolan and Patrick had been involved and had attended the WCF brush testing and Delivery Stick Summit in Manitoba in end of May.

In June the elections took place to replace Ann Swisselm and Kelly Scott. The athletes elected Jill Officer, Canada and Anna Kubeskova, Czech Republic as new Athlete Commission Members. The AC also elected Nolan Thiessen as their new skip. The new AC held one skype-meeting in August to welcome the new members and discuss the topics up at the Congress.

The AC representatives at the Congress are Nolan, Patrick and Jill and Kim Forge. The next face to face meeting will be in Tallinn directly following the Europeans. Topics from the Congress and also work on the athlete survey will be discussed then.

### **j) Americas Zonal Commission (GPR)**

GPR explained that the Commission unfortunately can only meet once a year. The members in the American Zone feel that it is very invigorating to have new members that are culturally and geographically different.

He was proud to announce that next year there will be dedicated Curling facilities both in Mexico and Brazil which is a remarkable progress in such a short time. The Curling broadcast from the 2018 Olympics had also been remarkably well received in Mexico and Brazil and the latter is always under the top 5 when it comes to Curling coverage.

He added that the Rocks & Rings programme in Canada is a great success and helps a lot still increase the Curling population.

### **k) European Zonal Commission (BRA)**

BRA reported from the European Zonal Commission Meeting and said that this zone is happy to have two meetings per year, one at the Congress and a second during ECC. During the meeting in

Budapest England and Norway had given presentations on their new Curling facilities. The European members had been reminded of the ECF Legacy Fund and had been invited again to approach WCF with applications. During the meeting it had been discussed to perhaps develop a junior Mixed-Doubles competition with the ECF funds.

The European delegates had also seen two presentations during their meeting: one by the ECC 2018 host from Tallinn, EST and a second by the ECC-C 2018 host in Brasov, ROU.

## I) Pacific Asia Zonal Commission (HMI)

The PA Zone is still growing now also taking in the Middle East and Africa. HMI reported that the Zone had their first, hopefully annual Pacific-Asia garden party at congress. Thank you to Qatar and especially Lajos for hosting all of us.

The Pacific's in 2017 went back to Australia for the first time in 20 years and the mix of sun, sand, surf and curling proved to be a good combination. The 2018 Pacific's will be held back in the Olympic venue from PyeongChang 2018. Thank you for Kate and the KCF for the legacy after the recent games.

## 10 Report of Auditors (AAN)

The clean report of the auditors had previously been distributed. There were no requirements for changes of policy or reporting methodology. AAN thanked Thelma Black, WCF Financial Controller, for her outstanding work.

He highlighted that two exceptional items pushed the actual end of year deficit to just over US\$1.3m. These two exceptional items relate to a Foreign Exchange Adjustment and a loss in the 4-yearly revaluation of the WCF Offices. WCF Policy is to revalue the offices in Perth at the end of every Olympic Cycle. Unfortunately, at this time the neighbouring building had been on the market for a significant period and has only recently sold. Taking this into account, the valuers have reduced the value of the WCF Offices from GBP£385,000 to GBP£360,000. Also taking into account the change in exchange rates over the last four years, this translates to a one-off negative on the accounts of just under US\$120,000.

## II Receive the Financial Report, Audited Statement and Discharge to Board (AAN)

AAN presented the Final Accounts for the year end 30 June 2018 for the approval of the members and discharge to the Board.

*Proposed by Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta  
Seconded by Hugh Avery  
and carried unanimously*

AAN thanked the Finance Commission who review the Management Accounts on a quarterly basis on behalf of the WCF Members.

## **I2 Appointment of the Auditors (AAN)**

It was proposed that Mazars, Edinburgh be re-appointed Auditors for the year to 30 June 2019.

*Proposed by Marcus Schmitt  
Seconded by Alie Kramer  
and carried unanimously*

## **I3 Presentation of the Budget (CGR)**

CGR explained that the budget 2018/2019 had been presented the previous day during the Open Meetings. He highlighted the following:

- There will be a small surplus
- The CWC is budget neutral
- The WCF income will be over \$10m for first time
- Strong broadcast figures
- New staff had been hired
- Additional Competitions: Wheelchair/World Qualifier/World Cup

There were no questions from the floor.

## **I4 Approval of Annual Subscriptions (AAN)**

It was proposed not to increase the annual subscriptions.

*Proposed by Susan Kesley  
Seconded by Kim Forge  
and carried unanimously*

## **I5 Resolutions (CGR)**

### **WCF Classification Rules**

#### **Resolution**

The WCF Classification Code will meet the requirements of the International Paralympic Committee's Classification Code and will be updated moving forward as required to ensure compliance is maintained.

*Proposed by Peter Inch  
Seconded by Alison Arthur  
and carried unanimously*

### **Rules of Curling**

#### **i) R15 (g) (iii) Blanked End due to Equal Measure**

It is recommended that the following be added to rule R15 (g) (iii): In the case of a blanked end due to an equal measure, the team that had the decision on the placement of the "positioned" stones shall not change for the next end.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Kim Forge  
Seconded by Yuhei Kusui  
and carried unanimously*

**ii) LSD Chart Update for 13 team round robin**

The LSD chart with the minimum required LSD stones per player does not include 12 round robin games, which we now have at the World Men's and Women's. Amend the chart to include:

12 games, 24 stones, 5 stones, 2 clockwise + 2 counter-clockwise

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Katja Kiiskinen  
Seconded by Stefan Lund  
and carried unanimously*

**iii) LSD Chart Update for events with groups of different sizes**

Currently we have a policy to only count the same number of LSD stones when playing in groups of different sizes, but that is not reflected in the LSD chart. Add to the chart on page 39: "Considered" to the title 'Round Robin Games' and "Considered" to the title 'Number of LSD stones'.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Lorne de Pape  
Seconded by Patrick Loertscher  
and carried unanimously*

**iv) C8 (d) (i) LSD delivered by the alternate**

New wording for C8(d)(i): LSD stones delivered by the alternate can be combined at the end of the games that are considered in the calculation of the DSC with only one other player, so that this player fulfils the minimum required number of LSD stones.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Alie Kramer  
Seconded by John Burns  
and carried unanimously*

**v) C9(b)(iv) Clarify when players have reached their minimum number of LSD stones**

Add a new sentence in C9 (b) (iv): Where there is more than one group and these groups are of differing sizes, to ensure the DSC is calculated in the same way, only the LSDs from the first 'equal number' of games will be used. All players need to fulfil their minimum requirements within those considered games.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Peter Inch  
Seconded by Sergio Mitsuo Vilela*

Amendment: from Japan Curling Association: Clarification

The intention of this change is reasonable but JCA feel it also needs to be included in C8(d) which is where LSD minimum requirements are defined:

The new wording is shown here in red:

Based on the Original Team Line-up form, the four players (2 in Mixed Doubles) have to fulfil the minimum number of LSD deliveries **in games that are considered in the calculation of the DSC.**

*Proposed by Terri Johnston  
Seconded by Maureen Miller  
and carried unanimously*

The amendment was now part of the main motion and was carried unanimously.

**vi) C2(c) Establish a deadline for changing team personnel**

Currently we have teams that want to register, or change the team personnel, at different periods throughout an event. To establish a deadline, change Rule C2 (c): The players and team officials for each event must be declared at least 14 days prior to the start of the competition. Any changes / additions must be declared by the end of the team meeting.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Susan Kesley  
Seconded by Alex Benoy  
and carried unanimously*

**vii) Timeline America's Challenge**

Currently the rule book says the AC must be completed by the end of January. With the new WQE this is too late, so we need to change the dates.

Amend the chart on page 56 of the rule book:

- 1 May – prior to this date registration forms sent out by WCF Secretariat
- 31 May – deadline date for registration (forms returned to the WCF Secretariat)
- 31 July – prior to this date the hosting venue and dates approved by WCF
- the Challenge to be completed in October or November (or agreed date)

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Hugh Avery  
Seconded by Leland Rich*

Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (BRA) pointed out that teams withdrawing after the announcement of the host city for the WQE should not be punished. CGR replied that this would seem reasonable and said that the Board would look at the relevant policy.

*The motion was carried unanimously*

**viii) Number of teams at Youth Olympic Games**

The Winter Youth Olympic Games was played with 16 teams, but the IOC has now approved 24 teams.

Adapt the rule book (page 45) to match the new system approved by the IOC.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Jennifer Stannard  
Seconded by Marcus Schmitt*

*and carried unanimously*

**ix) C8(b) Alternate Delivering LSD**

The current rule C8 (b) states that: A player (alternate) that delivers an LSD stone does not have to play in that game. This covers deliveries, but not sweeping.

For clarification, change rule C8(b) to read: A player (alternate) that delivers **or sweeps** an LSD stone does not have to play in that game.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Jörg Wernli  
Seconded by Bill Duncan  
and carried unanimously*

**x) R13(h) Number of Athletes on Field of Play in Wheelchair Curling**

In R13 (h) additional wording is required to fix the anomaly in wheelchair curling of “must have 4 players during each end” and “alternates can only enter at the start of an end”.

If a player leaves during an end because of illness, accident or other extenuating circumstances (excluding ejection by an umpire):

- a) the player may return to the game, provided they deliver all their allocated stones.
- b) if the departing player’s stone(s) need to be delivered in that end, an alternate must be immediately brought into the game in the position of the departing player to deliver those stone(s), and the team still needs to be composed of both genders. Failure to do so results in forfeiture of the game. At the start of the next end the team may change the team line-up if desired (the revised rotation of play will apply for the remainder of that game), and the replaced player may not re-enter the game.
- c) if both stones have been delivered by the departing player, at the start of the next end the team must bring in an alternate and may change the team line-up if desired (the revised rotation of play will apply for the remainder of that game), and the replaced player may not re-enter the game.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Bob Kelly  
Seconded by John Burns  
and carried unanimously*

**xi) C5(a) Minimum Number of Ends**

Currently rule C5 (a) says: In competitions in which 10 ends are scheduled, a minimum of 6 ends must be completed in round robin games, and 8 ends must be completed in play-off games. There is nothing mentioned about any other post round robin games.

Change the rule to read: In competitions in which 10 ends are scheduled, a minimum of 8 ends must be completed in play-off games and a minimum of 6 ends must be completed in all other games.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Kim Forge*

*Seconded by Resby Coutts  
and carried unanimously*

**xii) C9(b)(vi) Ranking of Teams**

Currently rule C9 (b)(vi) says: In events where a single loss eliminates a team from the competition, teams eliminated during the same session will be listed alphabetically, by their three-letter code, and ranked equal. However, we need a clear ranking after the completion of the WMCC, WWCC and WWhCC because of the distribution of the Olympic and Paralympic qualification points.

Add to the rule: For the two losers of the qualification games in the WMCC, WWCC and WWhCC, the team ranked higher after the round robin will be ranked 5th, the other team will be ranked 6th.

*Proposed by Allen Coliban  
Seconded by Jules Broex  
and carried unanimously*

**xiii) R11(d) Observing Measurements**

Part of rule R11 (d) says: The person in charge of the house from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.

Change to: **Any one person** from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.

*Proposed by Peter Inch  
Seconded by Alex Benoy*

Amendment: By Japan Curling Association: Clarification of who may observe  
The current wording could be confusing and not prevent team officials or coaches from observing.  
Change the wording to:

Change to: Any one person **player on the ice** from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.

*Proposed by Terri Johnston  
Seconded by Bruce Crawford  
and carried unanimously*

The amendment was now part of the main motion and was carried unanimously.

**xiv) Remove 2018 Specific Regulations**

Remove from the rule book on page 49:

For the 2018 World Men's and Women's Championships there are 13 teams, selected in this manner:

- 2 American Zone (including host)
- 3 Pacific-Asia Zone
- 8 European Zone

Effective For the 2019 World Men's and Women's Championships there are 13 teams, selected in this manner: ...continue with existing rule book wording

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Kim Forge  
Seconded by Katja Kiiskinen  
and carried unanimously*

**xv) Qualification for teams for the World Qualification Event**

On page 49 of the rule book is an explanation of the number of teams participating in the new WQE. Below this, add how teams qualify from each of the Zones.

**Pacific-Asia Zone**

There are two places available at the WQE for Pacific-Asia MAs (not including the host). They will be allocated to the two highest ranked MAs in the PACC who have not qualified for the World Championships.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

**Americas Zone**

There is one place available at the WQE for the Americas MAs (not including the host). If there are only two MAs registered to play in the Americas Challenge and the challenge is played, the winning MA qualifies for the WCC and the other MA qualifies for the WQE.

If the two MAs agree that the challenge need not be played because one MA concedes, the MA winning by forfeit qualifies for the WCC, the other MA qualifies for the WQE. If more than two MAs are registered to play in the Americas Challenge, the challenge must be played. The winning MA qualifies for the WCC, the second ranked MA qualifies for the WQE.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

**European Zone**

There are four places available at the WQE for European MAs (not including the host). Two spaces will be allocated to the MAs that finish 1st and 2nd in the B-Division of the ECC, two spaces will be allocated to the two highest ranked MAs in the A-Division who have not qualified for the WCC. If an MA chooses not to accept their place at the WQE then the slot will be offered to the next highest placed MA in the A-Division not already qualified for the WQE. Failing that, it will be offered to the highest ranked MA in the B-Division not already qualified for the WQE. To clarify, there is no direct route from the ECC B-Division to the WCC as there would no longer be the best-of-three World Challenge at the ECC. The path to the Worlds is still open via the WQE for the B-Division MAs.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Hugh Avery  
Seconded by Susan Kesley  
and carried by majority*

**xvi) Rule R5(j) Delivering too many stones**

Rule R5 (j) says If a player inadvertently delivers too many stones in one end, the end continues as if the mistake had not occurred and the number of stones allocated to the last player of the offending team shall be reduced accordingly.

It is not clear what happens if the last player of a team is the person that delivered too many stones in an end.

Add for clarification:

If the player delivering the last stones of an end is the player that inadvertently delivers too many stones, the last delivered stone will be removed from play and any displaced stones are replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place.

*Proposed by Terri Johnston  
Seconded by Gregor Rigler  
and carried unanimously*

**xvii) C8(f) & (h) Choice of Stone and Handle Colour**

Rule C8 (h) says: In post round robin games where the team delivering the first stone in the first end has been pre-determined, the team delivering the first stone of the first end has the choice of stone handle colour.

If C8(f) is adapted as follows:

When round robin play (one group) is used at WCF competitions, with each competing team playing all other teams, stone colour and first stone in the first end of post round robin games is determined as follows:

The team with the better win/loss record has the choice of stone colour and playing first or second stone in the first end.

If the teams have the same win/loss record, the winner of their round robin game has the choice of stone colour or playing first or second stone in the first end.

Notwithstanding (i) and (ii), for competitions that use the Page play-off system, the team that wins the 1 versus 2 game has the choice of stone colour or delivering the first or second stone in the first end of the gold medal game; the team that loses the semi-final game has the choice of stone colour or delivering the first or second stone in the first end of the bronze medal game.

Then C8(h) is no longer required as it is covered in C8 (f) and (g) and C8(h) should be removed from the rule book.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Maureen Miller  
Seconded by Katja Kiiskinen  
and carried unanimously*

**xviii) Minimum Age for team officials**

Currently there is no minimum age for team officials which has led to situations where minors have been declared as a team official to gain a free accreditation.

Insert in C2 a new point as (h) and re-letter the subsequent items: To be eligible to be a team official at any WCF competition, an official must be not less than 16 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year in which the competition is to take place.

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

*Proposed by Resby Coutts  
Seconded by Kim Forge  
and carried unanimously*

#### **xix) New C9(f) Teams not starting or finishing a competition**

For a variety of reasons a team may not start or finish a competition, the rule book needs to cover how this is dealt with in each of the different circumstances.

Add a new rule C9 (f) to clarify "Special Circumstances for a team not starting or not finishing a competition".

##### A team does not start (DNS)

If the draw is re-worked, the team is not listed anywhere.

If the draw cannot be re-worked, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DNS'.

##### A team does not finish the competition (DNF)

During the round robin, all played games keep their results, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DNF'.

After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results. If the team has qualified for the start of the play-offs, the team exchanges ranking with the next highest ranked team. This exchange needs to occur at least 2 hours before the scheduled play-off game time. If that cannot be arranged, their next opponent will win the game by forfeit.

During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game(s) and is ranked accordingly.

##### A team is disqualified from a competition (DSQ)

During the round robin, all played games keep their results, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'.

After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results. The team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ', all lower ranked teams move up one position.

##### A team is disqualified from a competition (DSQ)

During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game, and is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. The final result of their last game is changed to W/L.

After the competition, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. All lower ranked teams move up one position.

##### Point of Clarification

A query was received regarding the allocation of world ranking points and Olympic/Paralympic Points. Teams that are DNF will be allocated points relating to where they are finally ranked in the event, teams that are DSQ will receive no world ranking or qualification points.

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

*Proposed by Terri Johnston  
Seconded by John Anderson*

Amendment 1 from Scottish Curling:

Where a DNF team is ranked

It is not necessarily a team's own fault that they DNF therefore they should not be penalised by being placed last in the ranking list. The wording should be amended as follows:

During the round robin, if a team does not finish all their scheduled games, all played games keep their results, any subsequent games are forfeited and the team is ranked as per Rule C9. the team is ranked last with the comment 'DNF'.

After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results. If the team has qualified for the start of the play-offs, the team assumes the ranking of the highest ranked team outside the play-offs and others above that position move up to fill the gaps exchanges ranking with the next highest ranked team. This exchange recalibration needs to occur at least 2 hours before the scheduled play-off game time. If that cannot be arranged, their next opponent will win the game by forfeit.

During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game(s) and is ranked accordingly.

CGR explained that this amendment from Scotland had been discussed by the members of the C&R present following the discussions at the Open Meeting and they would support this amendment.

*Proposed by Bruce Crawford  
Seconded by Hugh Avery  
and carried by majority*

The amendment was now part of the main motion.

Amendment 2 from Scottish Curling:

Treatment of results from a DSQ decision

It is not fair on teams that have played their games against a DSQ team that their results should stand as this could have an impact on the final ranking. The wording should be amended as follows:

During the round robin, all played games keep their results results from a DSQ team will be removed, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'.

After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results all results from a DSQ team will be removed. The team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ', all lower ranked teams move up one position.

During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game, and is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. The final result of their last game is changed to W/L.

After the competition, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. All lower ranked teams move up one position.

CGR explained that this amendment from Scotland had been discussed by the members of the C&R present following the discussions at the Open Meeting and they would not support this amendment.

*Proposed by Susan Kesley  
Seconded by Peter Inch  
and carried by majority*

(secret ballot: In favour: 114 / Against: 84 / Abstentions: 12)

Both Scottish amendments were now part of the main motion which was carried by majority.

**xx) Rule Changes relating to the Delivery Stick in Wheelchair Curling**

Following the recent Delivery Stick Summit and the consultations with players and officials over the past season the following Rule Changes are proposed to R10, R13 and C3.

New format for Rule 10(e) – (iv) (v) (vi) order changed, (iii) (iv) (v) addition of “For non-wheelchair curling”, addition of (vii).

- (iii) For non-wheelchair curling, the stone must be delivered along a straight line from the hack to the intended target.
- (iv) For non-wheelchair curling: The stone must be clearly released from the delivery stick before either foot of the player delivering the stone has reached the tee line at the delivery end. A stone is in play, and considered delivered, when it reaches the hog line at the delivery end.
- (v) For non-wheelchair curling: If a stick delivery violation occurs, the delivered stone shall be removed from play, and any displaced stones shall be replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place.
- (vi) The delivery stick shall not convey any mechanical advantage other than acting as an extension of the arm/hand.
- (vii) All delivery sticks must conform to the Wheelchair Curling Policy.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Replacing “by the use of an approved delivery stick” with “using a delivery stick conforming to Wheelchair Curling Policy”

R13 - Wheelchair Curling

- (d) The delivery of the stone is undertaken by the conventional arm/hand release or using a delivery stick conforming to the Wheelchair Curling Policy.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Addition of rule C3 (j) regarding penalties for equipment which will be outlined in the policy

Rule C3 – Uniforms/Equipment

- (j) For wheelchair curling equipment please refer the Wheelchair Curling Policy.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Yuhei Kusui  
Seconded by John Brown  
and carried unanimously*

## Rule Changes proposed by Chinese Curling Association

### Rule R11. Scoring (c)

*The score of an end is decided when the skips or vice-skips in charge of the house agree upon the score. If stones that may have affected the points scored in an end are displaced prior to that decision, the non-offending team receives the benefit that might have accrued from a measurement. What to do in the case of the stone being touched by players from both teams (at the same time). Suggestion is to use VAR (when available) to playback the incident and assist the umpire in making a decision or if both teams agree, replay that rock.*

*Proposed by Lei Yi  
Seconded by Jörg Wernli*

CGR explained that the proposed rules change by the Chinese Curling Association was not supported by the C&R Commission at this time. They feel there needs to be further discussion of the proposals and the implications of umpires being more proactive in the field of play.

Both Resby Coutts (CAN) as well as John Brown (ENG) said that none of the Chinese proposals contained an exact wording of the respective rule. Therefore these proposals could not be voted on.

*The motion fell.*

### 2. Rule R11. Scoring (d)

When determining the score of an end, if teams cannot visually decide which stones are closer to the tee, or whether a stone is touching the house, a measuring device is used. Measurements are taken from the tee to the nearest part of the stone. The person in charge of the house from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.

This rule only stipulates how to measure the stone but nothing in the rule indicates which player or umpire can remove the stones which do not need measuring. Suggestion is to have the umpire remove all “undesired” stones or, the umpire should supervise players as they remove their “undesired” stones which belong to their team.

*Proposed by Lei Yi  
Seconded by Allen Coliban*

CGR explained that the proposed rules change by the Chinese Curling Association was not supported by the C&R Commission at this time. They feel there needs to be further discussion of the proposals and the implications of umpires being more proactive in the field of play.

*The motion fell.*

### 3. Rule C10. Umpires (f)

All matters pertaining to the rules are adjudicated by an umpire. In the event that there is an appeal against an umpire's decision, the decision of the Chief Umpire is final.

This rule stipulates that only the umpire can make all decisions during the game. If a team appeals the decision of the umpire during the game then the Chief Umpire's judgment is final. Suggestion is to have a deadline for the appeal with a limit of 12 hours after each game. Also, there should be a third party involved in the final judgement on the appeal. The Technical Delegate or the arbitration commission should be involved in the process.

*Proposed by Hugh Avery  
Seconded by Allen Coliban*

CGR explained that the proposed rules change by the Chinese Curling Association was not supported by the C&R Commission at this time. They feel there needs to be further discussion of the proposals and the implications of umpires being more proactive in the field of play.

*The motion fell.*

**4. Rule C2. Participating Teams (k)**

While a game is in progress, the coach, the alternate player, and all other team officials are prohibited from communicating with their team or being within the playing area except during specifically designated breaks or a team time-out. This restriction applies to all verbal, visual, written, and electronic communication, including any attempt to signal for the implementation of a team time-out. The coach, the alternate player, and one team official may participate in the pre-event and the pre-game practices, but may not communicate with their team during the LSD. During the game, there shall be no unauthorised communications or broadcasts of any sort from the coach bench to anyone who is not sitting in that designated area. Coaches and other team personnel sitting on the coach bench cannot watch or listen to broadcasts. For any violation, the offending person will be removed from the coach's bench for that game.

This rule stipulates that coaches, alternates and other team officers cannot communicate with the players except during specifically designated breaks or a team time out but it does not stipulate emergency situations that may occur during a game. This invariably creates a problem for players whose native language is not English. Players should be allowed to have the assistance of their coach, team leader or translator when they cannot communicate with umpires or opponents. This will avoid any confusion and remedy the situation much quicker.

*Proposed by Hugh Avery  
Seconded by Allen Coliban*

CGR explained that the proposed rules change by the Chinese Curling Association was not supported by the C&R Commission at this time. They feel there needs to be further discussion of the proposals and the implications of umpires being more proactive in the field of play.

*The motion fell.*

**Emergency Motion**

Following the votes at the start of the AGA the following motion was added to the list of resolutions:

**World Mixed Doubles Championship & World Challenge  
To be implemented for the 2020 Championship  
World Championship (20 teams) World Challenge (All others)**

The top 16 Countries from 2019 WMDCC (all the playoff teams) qualify directly to the 2020 World Championship.

The 4 top Countries from the World Challenge qualify for the 2020 World Championship.

*Proposed by Hugh Avery  
Seconded by György Nagy*

A lengthy discussion on the motion took place during which the following comments were made:

- There needs to be a cut-off somewhere if there is not going to be an Open event
- Currently the WMDCC is a festival for new MAs. An open entry allows aspiring countries to participate. If small nations are excluded WCF runs the risk of having a two-tier federation
- Players should develop gradually. Only when they are good players they should participate in WMDCC. We should try and make this new format.
- Why was the possibility of having one event with two divisions left out?
- The WMDCC must be an elite competition but why only 20 teams? We should have a better look at the statistics
- We need to move forward. It is risk but we have to take it.
- 4 teams is a very small group to move up. Why is this motion really so urgent?
- The concern is the threshold of 20 and it should be higher than 20 as two former medallists would not be in the top 20 right now

*The motion was carried by majority*

## **16 Further Business (CGR)**

None

## **17 Elections**

The following WCF Board members were elected by acclamation:

Kate Caithness (SCO), President

After her election the President addressed the meeting with the following words:

“I wish to say how honoured I am to be re-elected for what will be my final term in office. I can hardly believe that 8 years have passed since I first became your President and together we have been on a journey to bring our sport to where it sits today on the international stage.

We have seen an increase in our member associations to 60 as it sits at this moment. We have increased our staff from 7 to 20. We own our own headquarters in Perth.

Our financial position is on a sound footing with an almost 10 million \$ annual turnover and sufficient capital as advised by IOC to ensure 18 months of operation.

You have seen over the past two days of what is already in place and what our plans are for the future to continue to grow and develop our sport.

Dedicated curling facilities have always been and will continue to be my priority, however knowing how quickly the last eight years have passed, I must look to the future regarding succession planning to ensure when it is time for me to hand over the baton, the knowledge and experience I have gained during my terms in office will be passed on to my successor.

I am delighted to welcome our 61<sup>st</sup> Member – Nigeria – our first member from Africa.

I will close now by thanking you once more for the faith you have shown in me to allow me the huge honour of being your President for the next 4 years and I can promise you that I will continue to give 100% effort and together we can grow Curling in to the number one Winter Sport. Thank you!"

### Beau Welling (USA), Director Position 4

Beau Welling said it was an honour and privilege to work with the WCF Board and also to serve the WCF Member Associations. He said that Curling people are very special, they are family. He hoped to be able to offer new perspectives even though he is coming from another sport (golf). He admitted that he was coming from a very developed country Curling-wise but the region he comes from (South Carolina) is still a very developing part in Curling. He therefore is able to offer both a large country perspective but also a developing country perspective. If the world had more Curlers it would be a better place. He said he was aware that he has big shoes to fill with Andy Anderson taking off but promised to do his best.

Kate Caithness addressed the departing WCF Director Andy Anderson with the following words:

"Now it is our time to say goodbye to our dear friend Andy!

I have known Andy since 2002 when he became involved with WCF as a Rep for USCA and at that time I was the WCF Disabled Project Leader. Then in 2010 he was elected as a member to the WCF and took over the role as Director of Finance and although this title changed two years ago his responsibility to the Board was finance. A position he has carried out meticulously over the years and to be honest he will be a hard act to follow.

Over the 16 years he has always been fun to be around and certainly has enjoyed his time with the WCF to the full. He has been a great ambassador for the sport and from my side during my time in office has always but always been there to help when asked particularly representing me at many Championships and occasions which I was unable to attend –and so can I say a very special thank you.

Only recently he was proposed and accepted into the USA Curling Hall of Fame in the builder category which says volumes of his contribution to the sport of curling over the past 46 years.

In the last few years he brought along his partner Mary to events and how well Mary has fitted in to the WCF Family. Strangely enough I met Mary in 1991 when I was on the Scot/US Tour to America and we were skips of competing teams and played against each other in Chicago. It was not until Mary arrived together with Andy that we met again. What a well matched couple they are and I can only wish them good health and happiness in the future.

It now gives me enormous pleasure to present Andy with a gift from the Federation in appreciation for all that he has done to ensure the future stability of our sport – Thank you."

Andy Anderson then thanked the Federation and its members for their help and support over his time in office. He felt he had carried out his duties to the best of his ability and leaves with the WCF stronger than when he joined. He hoped that the transparency he had introduced to the finances would continue. He said he hoped the sport would continue to grow in the future with not just more countries but more importantly more people playing. He also said he hoped that finally the

differences in the stick rules between the biggest member associations and the WCF could be resolved for those older curlers who use the stick.

The membership gave AAN a standing ovation to recognise his contribution.

## **18 Acceptance of a new Member Association**

CGR reported that there are several applications for WCF membership. Written reports on the activities of the various associations within their countries had been duly received.

### Afghanistan

To accept Afghanistan as Provisional Members of the World Curling Federation.

*Proposed by Jennifer Stannard  
Seconded by Bruce Crawford  
and carried unanimously*

### Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

To accept the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Provisional Members of the World Curling Federation.

*Proposed by Lorne de Pape  
Seconded by Susan Kesley  
and carried unanimously*

Alastair Fyfe said that the Curling Association of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is greatly honoured and thankful for being accepted into the world of Curling.

### Kyrgyz Republic

To accept Kyrgyz Republic as Provisional Members of the World Curling Federation.

*Proposed by Terri Johnston  
Seconded by Gregor Rigler  
and carried unanimously*

### Portugal

To accept Portugal as Provisional Members of the World Curling Federation.

*Proposed by Sergio Mitsuo Vilela  
Seconded by Irantzu Garcia  
and carried unanimously*

### Nigeria

CGR explained that Nigeria had not been a conditional member yet but their association had worked diligently with the WCF over the last 6-8 months. The Board felt that they are at a stage where provisional membership could be considered by the Assembly.

To accept Nigeria as Provisional Members of the World Curling Federation.

*Proposed by Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta*

*Seconded by Resby Coutts  
and carried unanimously*

Henrietta Daniel of the Nigerian Curling Federation addressed the meeting and thanked the members for accepting Nigeria as new WCF member.

## **19 Date and location of next General Assembly**

CGR explained that at the time the agenda was issued it was understood that Silkeborg was not able to hold the Spring Open Meetings, however they have now informed us that they do have the hotel accommodation available to hold the meetings. As we had informed the membership that we would be going to Stirling it was felt appropriate that the membership should be given the choice as to whether we do in fact go to Denmark. It should be noted that the 2020 Spring Meetings will be in Scotland to be held alongside the World Men's Curling Championship. The Assembly agreed to have the Open Meetings in Denmark.

Open Meetings for Member Associations will therefore be held at the World Women's Curling Championship in Silkeborg, Denmark.

The 2019 Annual Congress will be held in Cancun, Mexico Open Meetings 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Annual Assembly to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Both host cities (Silkeborg and Cancun) gave presentations about their forthcoming events.

## **Infront presentation**

Claude Hollenstein (CHO), new Infront Director of Winter Sports expressed his thanks for having the honour to address the WCF Assembly. Looking forward to becoming part of this group of committed people who are so dedicated to develop the sport of Curling. He thanked the members for the warm welcome they had given not only to him but also to his colleague Giannina Rageth.

Claude explained that in future he will be responsible for Curling at Infront. He briefly introduced himself and so did Giannina Rageth. He also informed the Assembly on who is part of the Curling Team at Infront. CHO emphasized that with Infront the WCF has constant revenues on a high level as well as strong and long-term partnerships with loyal WCC and ECC sponsors. The TV coverage had reached a peak in the 2017/2018 season. The future approach at Infront and focus will be on:

- Increase Marketing Sales
- Integration of digital elements in sales process
- Creation of exclusive activations – 'Money can't buy' experiences
- Unique sponsor activations to further increase fan engagement on- and offline

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

Graham Prouse thanked the President on behalf of all members, the Board and the staff for her hard work and dedication.

As always Olympic and Paralympic Year is special and this past year has certainly come up to expectations.

**September-** following the Congress I attended the opening of the first dedicated facility in Brussels. The Organising Committee were not successful in their bid for the PCF, however were undaunted and went ahead raising funds, the result being this excellent three sheet facility. I was even presented with my personal named stool in the wonderful bar area which is quite unique.

The following weekend it was the Official Opening of the PCF in Finland. I know this took longer than expected because of challenging ground works at the site but it certainly was well worth the wait. This will make a huge difference to the Finnish curlers -none more so than the Juniors who were so happy to have this dedicated facility at last.

**October** I attended the IMGA (International Master Games Association) Board Meeting in Kansai Japan and from there I travelled to Champéry for the World Mixed Curling Championship which was to set the excellent standard for the rest of the season.

**November** – En route to Erina, Australia for the Pacific/Asia Championships I stopped over in Auckland, New Zealand for meetings regarding a dedicated curling facility. I understand that at long last something positive will happen soon there and thank you to Lorne and Carole for your kind hospitality.

Erina proved a popular venue for the athletes and who can blame them. Spending time on the beach before travelling in shorts to the Arena – quite unique. I should say that the venue was challenging and I congratulate the LOC, officials and venue owner together with Hugh and Kim for ensuring the success of this Championship.

Straight from there to Lausanne to meet up with Colin for the IF Forum where we attended the usual meetings with our Winter Sport Colleagues, IOC and POCOG as the focus for us of course was the Olympics in February and the last time we would all be together as a group. From there I headed to Omaha for the US Olympic Trials and for important meetings with Peter Diamond from NBC. I was so very impressed with this LOC.

**December** – together with Bent we travelled to Warsaw for meetings with the Polish Curling Association and from there I travelled to Pilsen for the Olympic Qualifying Event. Naturally this was such an important challenge for all the competing teams with so much at stake and I congratulate the LOC, who together with the Czech Curling Association ensured that everything was well prepared.

**January** – The second week in January Bent and I attended a formal Press Conference in Beijing prior to the official signing of the Curling World Cup together with the Chairman of the Kingdomway Group. The following week I was in Lausanne for Board Meetings with GAISF.

**February** – 3<sup>rd</sup> February saw Colin and I fly out to Pyeongchang for 5 days of meetings during the IOC Congress prior to the Olympic Opening Ceremony. As a result of Mixed Doubles being included in the programme, curling began one day before the Opening Ceremony and continued until the final day before the Closing Ceremony when the Women's Gold medal game took place. We enjoyed unprecedented TV Coverage with every game being broadcast and the media attendance for the women's final breaking all records. The Olympics exceeded our expectation –with 98.4% capacity crowds in the stands and our biggest Media attendance

ever. Mixed doubles proved to be an outstanding success and caught everyone's imagination. Sadly of course we had the doping issue which was handled well and for the first time ever in Olympic history the medals were re -presented during the Games. I should like to say a huge thank you to all the teams who showcased our sport, not only in a professional manner, but also in the true spirit of curling and each and every team should be commended. Congratulations to all our medallists, in the Men's discipline –USA, Sweden and Switzerland; Women' discipline – Sweden, Korea and Japan; Mixed Doubles discipline, Canada, Switzerland and Norway. Finally grateful thanks to the Board for their ambassadorial roles and to the ITOs and WCF Staff whose contribution to the Games ensured the huge success of our sport.

**March** – I was home for a couple of days in time to attend the opening of WJCC Aberdeen with teams having problems arriving due to the snowy weather and thereafter further problems with flooding resulting in the games being delayed. Our TD who became known as Mr COOL -i.e. Scott -who together with our ITOs, took care of every issue in a very professional manner - thank you. Curl Aberdeen put on a first class show and our Junior Curlers once more showcased our sport.

Now it was back to Korea for the Paralympics – a really busy time – with many NPCs and dignitaries attending. Once more curling was played to packed audiences. Every game being broadcast with new viewing records set. Congratulations also to all our Wheelchair Teams who as ever exemplify the true spirit of the Game and of course congratulations to our medallists – China, Norway and Canada. This was a first Winter Paralympic Medal for China. Finally grateful thanks to the ITOs and WCF Staff and Board who were instrumental in the success of these Games.

Home for two days and off to North Bay – one of the best Championships I have enjoyed, with new attendance records set in Canada for a Women's Championship. All the people in North Bay really embraced the Championship. We played to packed audiences in the stands and following the games fans queued outside to attend the Briar Patch. The atmosphere the entire week, together with the curling, was quite fantastic. Well Done!

### **April**

On Monday 3am I left with the TV Crew and travelled by coach to Toronto where they boarded a plane for Las Vegas and I flew for three days to visit with my son and family in San Diego. I arrived in Las Vegas late on Thursday evening to be told that I had a live tv news piece at the arena at 5.30am the next morning! I attended the Team meeting later that day and the formal dinner in the evening where John Schuster and Matt Hamilton were special guests. Saturday was the Opening Ceremony with a march through the hotel for the teams and dignitaries behind pipers and show girls and thereafter for the Opening Ceremony on ice with Elvis and Marilyn Munroe!

A Championship played once more in warm weather and with the Patch being held around the swimming pool –it was quite unique. Again grateful thanks to the LOC and USCA for hosting an excellent Championship. I should add that during the Championship we said a formal tearful farewell to Keith and made a presentation in gratitude for all his hard work over the past 17 years. I also gave a gift to his wife Sue who has also worked with us over the past 12 years.

Well, home for three days and then Colin and I travelled to Bangkok for SportAccord. We attended the usual meetings with IOC together with our fellow winter colleagues, the Annual

Congress for GAISF of which I am a Board member, Annual General Assembly IMGA where I am also a Board Member and many side meetings.

Then it was off to Östersund for the final event of the season – the World Mixed Doubles and World Senior Championship. This LOC has organised many successful Championships and this was to be no different. A really first class Championship and for the teams an opportunity to say a final farewell to Keith.

May month was time spent in Scotland. We had meetings regarding Annual Review and also enjoyed a small celebration for Roy Sinclair's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **June**

Colin and I attended the IOC POCOG Debrief which took place in Beijing and also attended and participated in Open Meetings regarding Beijing 2022. During my time there I was asked by Kingdomway Sport if I could visit Suzhou to meet with the local Government officials and the LOC involved in our Curling World Cup's inaugural event. I flew to Shanghai and travelled by car to Suzhou returning the following day to Beijing for the final wrap up of the IOC debrief meetings.

Later in the month I attended –IOC Programme Commission meetings in Lausanne where of course, on the Agenda, were the applications from the Winter Sports for new disciplines, and in our case, additional teams for Beijing 2022. I enjoyed dinner the previous evening with President Bach and Members of the Commission.

**July** – I attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Fuessen Camp which was truly exceptional. In the past I had instructed wheelchair curling courses, but this was a first for me to attend the start of the summer camp where some 114 young people took part.

During my time there we had the good news that 2 more teams for Mixed Doubles would be included in Beijing 2022. This would bring us into line with the other disciplines in the Olympics - 10 Men's teams, 10 women's teams and 10 mixed doubles teams.

**August** - I travelled to Chateauroux in France to give a 6 hour lecture twice to 50 Professors and Research Fellows from Beijing Sports University –of course the subject being Curling. And now we are here in Budapest –following two exciting and rewarding days of open meetings and wonderful social occasions organised by our Hungarian Curling Friends and family-thank you

All in all it has been a really busy year – which of course it always is during Olympic and Paralympic Year.

Our sport continues to increase. However, while we develop and grow - as well as face up to the challenges that come our way from time to time - we are still able to keep the feeling of family within our sport. A family with every member trying in his or her own way to make things better for everyone. As I look around this room, I know that each of you are determined to play your part in developing and promoting our sport and its values, and always within the 'spirit of curling', so can I say once more - thank you!