

**AUGUST 2010**

## Honorary President

I would like to start this newsletter by paying tribute to our dear friend, Günther Hummelt. By now you will all know of the sad passing of our Honorary President.

I attended a memorial service in Munich on the 21st of July, the day that would have been Günther's 79th birthday. The service was a celebration of a life that was filled with many aspects of business and sport. Curling colleagues from around the world came to pay tribute and showed the high esteem in which he was held.

Keith Wendorf, a close family friend for some 30 years, gave a wonderful eulogy with special emphasis on his contribution to our sport of curling. Günther will be sadly missed.

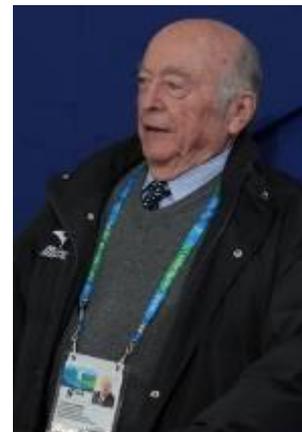
## World Senior Curling Championships and World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship

The World Senior and Mixed Doubles Championships in Chelyabinsk, Russia in April were disrupted by the volcanic ash cloud from Iceland. Regrettably, despite their best efforts to get there, the following teams were unable to attend:

- WSCC Men – Estonia, Scotland, Wales, Netherlands
- WSCC Women – Scotland
- WMDCC – Canada, Korea, Scotland, Sweden, Norway

Congratulations go to Keith Wendorf for rescheduling the draw at such short notice to accommodate late arrivals. Sadly, my own travel plans were also disrupted due to the ash cloud and I too was unable to attend. However, I was in daily contact with Keith and even managed to watch part of the finals via Keith's computer web-cam on the final day.

The Championships were highly successful. Well done to the local organising committee, Keith Wendorf, WCF Media Officer Joanna Kelly and Chief Ice Technician Hans Wuthrich along with the officials and volunteers. As the first world curling championships ever to be held in Russia, the event proved to be an excellent platform to build on for Sochi 2014.



*Günther Hummelt attending the Vancouver 2010, Winter Olympic Games  
Photo: WCF/Michael Burns*



*WSCC 2010 Men's Champions – USA.  
Photo: WCF/Goran Roxin*



*WSCC 2010 Women's Champions – Canada.  
Photo: WCF/Goran Roxin*

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## SportAccord Convention & International Olympic Committee (IOC)

I did manage to get to the SportAccord International Convention in Dubai at the end of April where Mike Thomson and I attended the General Assembly of AIOWF (the Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations). René Fasel, President of the International Ice Hockey Federation, was re-elected AIOWF President. Discussions took place on the feedback from each of the Winter Sports following the Vancouver games. There was also a presentation from Sochi 2014.



At a meeting of the AIOWF and the IOC Executive Board, IOC President Jacques Rogge began by welcoming me and saying how pleased he was that I had been elected the first female President of the WCF and indeed the first of any Winter Sports Federation. He hoped that this would be a trend for the future as he wished for more female representation. He also thanked Mike Thomson for his contribution to the AIOWF through the years and wished him well for his retirement. Mike was presented with a signed plaque in recognition of his contribution to WCF, AIOWF and IOC.

Other meetings which took place during our time at the conference included discussions with Marsh, (our risk and insurance managers), D B Schenker (one of our new sponsors), Event Scotland to discuss the World Juniors in Perth and Sport Event Denmark regarding the Women's Worlds in Esbjerg next year. We also met representatives from Sochi 2014 and I confirmed the appointment of Leif Öhman and Keith Wendorf as our Technical Delegates for the event.

Young C Kim was also present at SportAccord as a guest of the Korean Olympic Committee and was able to join us at many of the meetings.

In May Patrick Hürlimann, our Vice President, accompanied me to Lausanne to have meetings with the IOC Sports Department to discuss the Vancouver 2010 'Debrief' and the Post Games Questionnaire. We also had meetings with WADA and the Canton du Vaud regarding our presence in Switzerland.

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## AIOWF Secretary Generals' Meeting

In July I attended the AIOWF Secretary Generals' Meeting in Salzburg, Austria in place of Mike, who was on holiday. A debrief was held following Vancouver 2010 and presentations were made by Sochi 2014 and the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games team from Innsbruck. Best practices were also shared from each of the seven Olympic Winter Sport Federations and I found this meeting to be very useful and informative.



*The Secretary Generals of the International Winter Sports Federations (from left) Nicole Resch (Biathlon), Svein Romstad (Luge), Ermanno Gardella (Bobsleigh, Skeleton), Kate Caithness (President Curling), Fredi Schmid (Skating), Josef Fendt (President), Horst Lichtner (Ice Hockey and Secretary General AIOWF), Irina Gladkikh (Organizing Committee for Sochi 2014), Christoph Schweiger (future Executive Director FIL), Hartmut Kardaetz (Executive Director FIL), Babett Wegscheider (Dep. Executive Director FIL). Photo – International Luge Federation*

## Curling Development Officer

Eeva Röthlisberger from Switzerland was appointed as our new Curling Development Officer and started in mid-May. Many of you will already know Eeva from her umpiring duties at many of our championships.

In her new role, Eeva will be responsible for administering the World Curling Federation's Development Assistance Programme, as well as coordinating our curling camps, training courses and continuing the development of wheelchair curling.



*Eeva Röthlisberger from Switzerland. Photo: WCF*

## New WCF Secretary General

Colin Grahamslaw, from Scotland, has been recently appointed as our Secretary General. Colin is well known within the Federation family as he was previously Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and attended many of our Assemblies over the past few years. He takes over from Mike Thomson who is retiring after 18 years in the post. We were delighted with the response to our advertisement with a high calibre of applications submitted. Colin takes up the post on the 16th of August and we are confident that he will rise to the many challenges that lie ahead. Mike has kindly agreed to support Colin for a short period with a transfer of knowledge being vitally important to the smooth running of our Federation.



*Colin Grahamslaw from Scotland. Photo: WCF*

## WCF Camps & Courses

The **4th WCF Adult Curling Camp** was held in Prague, Czech Republic from 29 May to 1 June. Fifty curlers from sixteen countries attended, including Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Croatia, Turkey, Russia, Germany, Canada, England, Luxembourg, France, Scotland and Romania. The four Instructors from Canada (Brian Rice, Jerome Gazdewich, Wendy Morgan and Wayne Kiel) were ably assisted by four high performance athletes (Kim and Tom Brewster from Scotland, and Heike and Andi Schwaller from Switzerland). Participants enjoyed the busy schedule filled with on-ice and classroom lessons. The evaluation forms confirmed that the experience was once again very worthwhile and thanks must go to all the participants and our instructors.



*Group photo from the 4<sup>th</sup> WCF Adult Curling Camp held in Prague  
Photo: World Curling Federation*

The WCF Courses in Füssen included an ice making course from 27 June to 1 July with 23 participants. Leif Öhman and Hans Wuthrich once again provided an excellent course for novice and experienced icemakers. A two day Level 2 Technical Instructor Course followed, taught by Canadians Louise Hickey and Tom Coulterman. This course was so popular that the registration list had to be closed early after 35 applications had been accepted.

The 12th Füssen Junior Curling Camp (4 - 10 July) was run with 115 juniors from 20 countries developing their curling skills and making friends from around the world. The six instructors (Tom Coulterman, Louise Hickey and Megan Balsdon from Canada, Bjorn Schroeder from Switzerland, Gesa Angrick from Germany and Mark Neeleman from the Netherlands) and twelve assistants (from as far away as Australia, who all provided their own transportation to and from the camp) were superb and ensured the camp was a great success.

The facilities for Prague and Füssen have already been booked for next year, as the demand for all these camps and courses continues to be high and their value as development projects cannot be underestimated.

I would like to thank Keith and Sue Wendorf for all their work over the years to ensure the success of these camps.

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*Group photo from the  
12<sup>th</sup> Junior Curling  
Camp held in Füssen  
Photo: Ana Arce*

## Mixed Doubles Curling

After very careful consideration your Board has decided not to submit the WCF proposal for the Mixed Doubles Curling discipline to be included in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

We are still of the view that a strong case can be created for an expansion of a curling activity within the Olympic movement but it must be our aim to ensure that we have a thoroughly tried and tested discipline worthy of complimenting the huge success of Curling in its present format.

We believe that Mixed Doubles has gained a rapid and popular inclusion in many of our Member Association curling calendars, but the standard must be seen to be as good as the current four man/four woman team discipline.

We will be monitoring this new discipline closely on the world stage and it is hoped that our expectations can be fully realized. It will be great for our sport to be allowed to achieve a second discipline within the Olympics but we want it to be a resounding success and worthy of inclusion.

## WCF Board

The responsibilities of the Board are as follows and each has been working on your behalf over the period since the Annual Assembly in April:

- Kate Caithness - Operations, Competitions & Rules
- Patrick Hürlimann - Marketing, Sponsorship & Media Rights
- Andy Anderson - Finance & Constitution
- Leif Öhman - Facilities & Technical
- Niels Larsen - Development Assistance Programme
- Young C Kim - Website & Pacific Region Activities
- Graham Prouse - Broadcasting & Media
- Doping matters will continue to be the responsibility of the Secretary General

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*Winner of the World Mixed  
Doubles Championship  
2010 – Russia - Yana  
Nekrasova and teammate  
Petr Dron  
Photo: WCF/Goran Roxin*

## New Curling Facilities

We have been made aware of a variety of projects around the world to introduce dedicated curling facilities. Leif Öhman has been providing valuable technical advice to a number of them and will update you on their progress in Champéry in December.

## WCF/CCA/Infront

I am delighted that we have recently signed an agreement which will run until 2014 with our largest Member Association, the Canadian Curling Association. This will ensure that the alternating World Championships will continue to be held in Canada. This news is welcomed by Infront who themselves found a partnership agreement to work with the CCA.

## Think Tank

A two day 'Think Tank' will take place at the end of August during our Autumn Board Meetings. We have invited some 12 guests to join the Board and staff in this exercise to discuss the future of curling especially as we embark upon our next 4 year cycle. This will take place in Lausanne at the Olympic Museum and the IOC Headquarters. We look forward to sharing the thoughts from this exercise with you, our members, in Champéry in December during our two days of Open Meetings.

## Youth Olympic Games

I have been invited to attend the Summer Youth Olympic Games in Singapore later this month. I am very interested to find out how each sport incorporates education and culture within their discipline.

## Stefano Dimai

In June I received a letter from Karen Dimai who is the mother of Stefano the young man who fell and was badly injured during the Opening Ceremony of the World Men's Curling Championship in Cortina last April. She said that Stefano is still in hospital and recently had an operation on his pelvis which was smashed, particularly on his left side, where he landed. None of his vital internal organs were damaged and as Karen says he certainly had his guardian angels with him that evening. I will keep you informed of his recovery.

I hope everyone enjoys the remainder of the summer and I look forward to seeing you in December

Yours in curling

*Kate Caithness*

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