



# World Curling Federation

Annual Review 2016-2017



# The next generation...



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# President's message

## It is my pleasure to welcome you to the World Curling Federation's (WCF) Annual Review for 2016-2017 - the season of the Federation's 50th year.

Altogether, on and off the ice, there were many memorable moments, celebrations and milestones achieved. Perhaps we could not have asked for much more from this anniversary! Our opening banquet in Basel, which featured in last year's Review, with International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Dr Thomas Bach present and so many Member Associations (MA) represented, was special. That was the first of many opportunities for the WCF to meet with the people who are making our sport happen in our 56 MAs around the world.

During this year, it was an honour to be in Stockholm to help one of our founding MAs, Sweden, celebrate its centenary. It was also very special to visit the individuals driving progress behind one of our new MAs in Mexico - their excitement and passion as they strive to provide a new dedicated curling facility on a university campus is fantastic to see.

Also, well done to Guyana, another new MA, who launched curling to huge media presence this season. Of course, it was just as much of a pleasure to hear of the successful opening of Belgium's first dedicated curling rink, in Zemst.

Getting around our MAs and seeing that our sport is going from strength-to-strength across the globe is a strong reminder that, while we may be a professional organisation and sport, we should never lose sight of the grassroots. We are one big curling family working together as a unit and this is paying dividends.

Another two significant milestones that happened this year were the ongoing development of the televised Curling Night in America in the United States, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese Curling Federation, which is huge for our sport.

In terms of our own championship events, we have enjoyed another outstanding season.

Our World Mixed Curling Championship 2016 in Kazan, Russia was terrific in every way and it is safe to say that this, our newest championship, is now firmly on the map.

The Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2016 were staged in Braehead, Scotland, allowing the sport to go back to its spiritual home with an opening reception in Paisley Abbey, where curling was born in 1541.

We had three events in the Republic of Korea this season. The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2016 in Uiseong was used to help train volunteers and staff for the upcoming 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, while our World Junior and Wheelchair Curling Championships 2017 were test events for the Olympic and Paralympic venue in Gangneung. These truly were test events - we discovered issues that are now being remedied - and we had the bonus of seeing Korea's junior men win their country's first world title.

The CPT World Women's Curling Championship 2017 took us back to Beijing in China and, again as noted elsewhere, our broadcast figures were outstanding. During this event, our Board members were able to visit the Water Cube - the swimming and diving venue for the 2008 Olympic Summer Games - which will be our venue at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. We were able to see first-hand the proposed construction which will transform the venue into a curling arena. Also during our time in Beijing, we had very helpful engagement with China's sporting officialdom.

We returned to Edmonton in Canada for the Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2017, where the organisation was terrific. Given the venue's rich curling tradition, it was also fitting that curling looks like being the last major sports championship to be held in the city's historic Northlands Coliseum.

Speaking of historic, it is important to salute the Canadian teams - led by Rachel Homan in Beijing and Brad Gushue in Edmonton - for being undefeated in their campaigns to win world gold medals - a unique double achievement.

We then moved onto the new ATB Centre in Lethbridge, Canada for the World Mixed Doubles and Seniors Curling Championships 2017 - a memorable week of curling in an outstanding new facility, marked by enthusiastic volunteers and big crowds. There was also a very special Hall of Fame inauguration - the legendary Richardson team, who did so much to put international curling on the map in the pioneering days of the Scotch Cup.



As well as our own major championships this season, we saw successful involvement in the University Winter Games in Almaty, Kazakhstan; the European Youth Olympic Games in Erzurum, Turkey and in the Asian Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan - where curling was a great success, with every single ticket sold.

At last year's Congress, we welcomed Sweden's Cathrine Lindahl as a new Board member, while, as she left, we thanked Laura Lochanski of Canada for her work on the Board.

As reported within this Review, we are in good shape financially. Our aim was that at the end of the four-year Olympic cycle to have sufficient capital to deal with any challenges that may appear and this has been achieved. While we've been very prudent with our investments, we're not in the business of making money, but in the business of looking after our money to allow us to develop our sport.

We can never be complacent about our Olympic status because of the many new sports working towards Olympic recognition. So, when reading this Review, I hope you will come to share my belief that together we are on a positive journey, and that these activities are all stepping stones to putting curling on the international map, looking to the future, and improving our sport.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Caithness". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Kate Caithness OBE,  
President**

# Board and Staff

## Staff

<b>Colin Grahamslaw</b>	Secretary General
<b>Keith Wendorf</b>	Director of Competitions and Development
<b>Scott Arnold</b>	Competitions and Development Officer
<b>Allen Coliban</b>	Competitions and Development Officer <i>(departed during season)</i>
<b>Darrell Ell</b>	Competitions and Development Officer
<b>Eeva Roethlisberger</b>	Competitions and Development Officer
<b>Susan Wendorf</b>	Competitions and Development Assistant
<b>Richard Harding</b>	Development Officer
<b>Joanna Kelly</b>	Broadcast Manager
<b>Lesley McCrae</b>	Broadcast Projects Officer
<b>Cameron MacAllister</b>	Communications and Media Relations Manager
<b>Chris Hamilton</b>	Digital Media Officer
<b>Ashley Melville</b>	IT Officer

## WCF Secretariat

Perth, Scotland

<b>Thelma Black</b>	Finance Controller
<b>Susan Keith</b>	Anti-Doping Administrator
<b>Liz Munro</b>	Competitions and Development Administrator
<b>Gill Amatt</b>	Administrative Assistant

Director <b>Hew Chalmers</b> Scotland (Elected to 2017)	Director <b>Toyokazu Ogawa</b> Japan (Elected to 2019)	Director <b>Cathrine Lindahl</b> Sweden (Elected to 2020)	Director <b>Andy Anderson</b> USA (Elected to 2018)
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Vice-president (Americas)  
**Graham Prouse**  
Canada (Elected to 2017)

President  
**Kate Caithness OBE**  
Scotland (Elected to 2018)

Vice-president (Europe)  
**Bent Anund Ramsfjell**  
Norway (Elected to 2019)

Vice-president (Pacific-Asia)  
**Hugh Millikin**  
Australia (Elected to 2020)

# Key facts and figures



**Korea's**  
junior men's team win  
first world gold medal  
for Korea Curling  
Federation



**186%**  
increase in YouTube  
minutes watched from  
12,622,449  
in 2015-2016 to  
**38,089,000**  
in 2016-2017



**Canada's**  
women's and men's  
teams completed a  
**WORLD TITLE DOUBLE**  
**undefeated**  
First Member Association  
to do so



Record number of teams at  
**Pacific-Asia**  
Curling Championships 2016  
**17 total**  
8 women | 9 men



**259**  
social media  
posts promoting  
**#CurlClean**  
during VoIP Defender  
World Junior Curling  
Championships 2017



**Twitter**  
following grows  
**181%**  
from 15,316 to  
**42,982**



**984,774**  
unique visitors to  
worldcurling.org


**413,000,000**  
known viewers for the season's  
**World Curling TV**  
coverage



**Two new**  
world curling  
championship  
trophies  
revealed for  
**50th**  
anniversary



Canada, China,  
Finland, Korea,  
Norway, Russia,  
Switzerland  
and United  
States become  
first Member  
Associations to  
qualify for Olympic  
Winter Games  
mixed doubles



**Le Gruyère AOP European  
Curling Championships 2016**  
takes place 3.9 miles from  
**Paisley Abbey**  
where curling began in  
**1541**



**Andorra and Croatia**  
compete in their first  
**world level event**  
at the World Mixed Curling  
Championship 2016 in  
Kazan, Russia.



@WorldCurling Twitter growth  
recognised by  
**insidethegames.biz**  
as one of the fastest growing  
**International Federations**  
profiles

# Operations and integrity

## Staffing

The past year has seen the addition of two new members of staff, IT Officer Ashley Melville and Broadcast Projects Officer Lesley McCrae, who both started in the Autumn and were straight into supporting the delivery of the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships in Braehead.

Ashley's appointment has allowed Chris Hamilton to move fully into his role as Digital Media Officer and we are seeing the benefits of this in the increased digital audience for the Federation.

During the season Allen Coliban was elected to the Romanian Parliament and this meant he had to step down from his position as a Competitions and Development Officer. We wish him well in his new role and we look forward to his replacement coming on board soon.

Additionally, a new Project Manager will start work with us shortly to take forward the World Series of Curling.

## Anti-doping

It has been another challenging year in the anti-doping world with the fall-out continuing from the McLaren Report into allegations surrounding the testing of Russian athletes.

The WCF continue to work with the International Olympic Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Russian Curling Federation to determine the implications for curling. The IOC has established two disciplinary commissions to look at the consequences in a wider sporting context.

Over the past 12 months, 82 tests have been delivered both in- and out-of-competition. There were zero missed tests and zero Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF).

The WCF in partnership with WADA conducted a highly successful outreach programme during the VolP Defender World Junior Curling Championships 2017 in the Republic of Korea, which helped to deliver a quality education programme - #CurlClean - to our junior athletes. Our Anti-Doping Administrator Susan Keith has been invited to join the WADA Outreach team to deliver anti-doping education during the 2018 Olympic Winter Games - this is a positive reflection on the WCF's efforts in the anti-doping arena.

## Integrity

The WCF continue to work with the IOC's Irregular Betting Information System and continues to monitor the main televised championships for patterns of behaviour that might indicate match-fixing or result manipulation. This past season no adverse reports were received.

A review of the current Betting and Result Manipulation rules has been conducted, with a proposal made to the Annual General Assembly in Bled, in September, to move away from our existing rules and adopt the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions. This will bring us into line with the other Olympic sports and enable the use of the IOC's Sports Integrity Hotline for reporting any concerns in the sport.



# Governance Commission

Over the last season, the Governance Commission saw a change in its chair. Laura Lochanski, who stood down following the end of her time on the Board, was replaced by Bent Ramsfjell. United States' Jennifer Stannard and Denmark's Susanne Slotsager also joined the commission. The commission met during the annual Congress in Stockholm and those members present in Beijing also met during the semi-annual open meetings.

The past season has seen the commission review the Terms of Reference of other commissions, with the aim of having more uniformity among them. They have also reviewed a number of the existing policies.

In particular, the commission has worked on updating the World Curling Federation's Rules on Betting and Manipulation of Results to bring them into line with the Olympic Movement Code. This has also required an update to the Escalation/ Appeals Policy to add in the ability to set up disciplinary panels to hear cases. The results of this work were presented at the World Curling Congress 2017 in Bled, Slovenia.

The Governance Commission was also pleased to note that the IOC used the WCF's Harassment and Bullying Policy as an example of best practice in their work on the prevention of harassment and abuse in sport.

All policies, Terms of References and the Governance Annual Report can be found on our website at:

[www.worldcurling.org/governance](http://www.worldcurling.org/governance)

The 2016-2017 Governance Commission members were:

Willie Nicoll (Scotland)

Jennifer Stannard (United States)

Susanne Slotsager (Denmark)

Colin Grahamslaw (WCF Secretary General)

Bent Anund Ramsfjell (WCF Board member responsible)



# World Mixed Curling Championship

Kazan, Russia, 14-22 October 2016



## MEDALLISTS

- **RUSSIA:**  
Aleksandr Krushelnitckii (skip and fourth), Anastasia Bryzgalova (vice-skip and third), Daniil Goriachev (second), Maria Duyunova (lead), Vasily Gudin (coach)
- **SWEDEN:**  
Kristian Lindstroem (skip and fourth), Jennie Waahlin (third), Joakim Flyg (second), Johanna Heldin (vice-skip and lead), Zandra Flyg (coach)
- **SCOTLAND:**  
Cameron Bryce (skip and fourth), Katie Murray (vice-skip and third), Bobby Lammie (second), Sophie Jackson (lead)

**ONLINE**  
<http://wcf.co/wmxc2016results>

**A record 37 teams competed in the second ever World Mixed Curling Championship, with Croatia and Andorra making their first appearance at a world level event.**

The competing teams were split into five groups:

- Group A:** Belarus, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Romania and Scotland.
- Group B:** Brazil, England, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Slovakia and Sweden.
- Group C:** Australia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia and Spain.
- Group D:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Korea, Latvia and United States.
- Group E:** Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey and Wales.

During the round-robin stage Andorra and Croatia recorded their first wins in a world event, with victories over Belgium and Slovenia respectively. The round-robin stage finished with all five group-winning teams progressing to the play-off stage undefeated.

After the round-robin, the field was reduced to 16 teams, the top three teams from each group and the fourth placed team with the best Draw Shot Challenge record. After the first set of games with these 16 teams, all five previously undefeated teams – Canada, Germany, Russia, Scotland and Sweden – progressed to the quarter-finals alongside Japan, Switzerland and Korea.

The four close quarter-final games saw Sweden defeat Japan 7-6, Russia beat Switzerland 4-3, Scotland win against Canada 6-5 and Korea beat Germany 6-4. The semi-finals saw Russia defeat Korea 5-2 and Sweden win 8-2 against Scotland to set up a gold medal game between the remaining two undefeated teams in the competition.

Korea faced Scotland for the bronze medals, a game Scotland won 8-4. Meanwhile, hosts Russia faced Sweden for the gold medals. This tense gold medal game went all the way to an extra end, where Russia drew for the single point with their last stone, claiming a 5-4 win, the world title and gold medals.

**The World Mixed Curling Championship 2017 will take place between 6-14 October in Champéry, Switzerland**



# Zonal reports

## Europe

**The European Zonal Commission met twice during the year, with success stories of developing and growing the sport in Europe spotlighted.**

Estonia, Slovenia, Sweden, Scotland and Norway shared some of their experiences and ideas, such as hosting a WCF event for the first time; establishing a curling rink in an existing storage building; implementing successful junior programmes and introducing new technologies. For instance, as a way to eliminate excessive travel the Swedish Curling Association has introduced the first step of its umpire training as an online resource.

Belgium presented a proposal for reorganisation of WCF championships, while Norway proposed the creation of a European Curling Calendar.

The finance group - Bill Duncan (Scotland), David Sik (Czech Republic) and Morten Sogard (Norway) - together with the European WCF board members Hew Chalmers and Bent Ramsfjell, put together guiding principles for use of the European Legacy Fund of \$USD 100,000.

It was agreed that successful applications should align with the WCF Forward Plan, promote development, and enhance cross-border cooperation, as well as provide evidence of financial sustainability.

An application from the Nordic MAs - Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland - for re-instatement of the Nordic Junior Curling Tour (NJCT) was awarded \$USD 8,000. Following this, the NJCT held one event in each of the Nordic countries, targeting new innovative ways to promote and present curling and build parent and coach interaction.

## Pacific-Asia

**The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2016 in Uiseong, Republic of Korea had the largest-ever field, with 17 teams, representing Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand and Qatar.**

The availability of two qualifying spots for the World Curling Championships makes the Pacific-Asia qualifying event hotly contested. Now, the continued success of the Pacific-Asia teams is adding pressure to expand the number of entries for Pacific-Asia teams in the world events.

Across the region, interest in curling is at an all-time high, with the Olympic Winter Games in February 2018 creating a lot of interest. All MAs are being encouraged to get ready for the influx of people wanting to curl after they see it every day on television.

Korea also hosted the VoIP Defender World Junior and World Wheelchair Curling Championships 2017 as Olympic and Paralympic test events in the Gangneung Curling Centre.

MAs continue to support each other throughout the year with visiting teams being hosted in Korea, China and Japan. As a result, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong and Qatar are developing quickly. New Zealand and Australia have pooled resources and have held joint development camps in August 2017.

## Americas

### CANADA

**Curling Canada's Youth Feeder System is being rolled out across the country.**

The system will attract, recruit, retain and develop youth curlers, including new Canadians, by clubs at the grassroots. The programme has some significant goals, including 750,000 youths to become involved in curling, and 100% of all Canadian children having a positive image of curling.

Events already carried out include the introduction of the Canadian Under-18 Boys and Girls Curling Championships, and the successful Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings programme, which had more than 200,000 participants in 2016-2017

### GUYANA

**The Guyana Curling Federation hosted a successful two-day 'Discover Curling' event in May at the Giftland Mall in the nation's capital, Georgetown, delivered through the WCF's Development Assistance Programme.**

The event had a highly-successful media launch, and afterwards, many individuals tried curling, with one highlight being the participation of a group of over 40 pupils from the Camille's Institute for Business & Science Studies.

### UNITED STATES

**USA Curling and the U.S. Olympic Committee are partnering on the National Amateur Curling Championship as part of a programme of 'Road to PyeongChang' rallies.**

This will commence with a '100-days-out' celebration in Times Square in New York City. It will then have many stops across the country - including at the 2018 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling in mid-November in Omaha, Nebraska. It will conclude with a 2018 Olympic Winter Games opening ceremony celebration in Park City, Utah, in February.







# Pacific-Asia Curling Championships

Uiseong, Republic of Korea, 5-12 November 2016



## MEDALLISTS

### WOMEN

- **KOREA:** EunJung Kim (skip and fourth), KyeongAe Kim (vice-skip and third), SeonYeong Kim (second), YeongMi Kim (lead), Chohi Kim (alternate), MinJung Kim (coach)
- **CHINA:** Bingyu Wang (skip and fourth), Yan Zhou (vice-skip and third), Jinli Liu (second), Ying Yang (lead), Jie Mei (alternate), Weidong Tan (coach)
- **JAPAN:** Satsuki Fujisawa (skip and fourth), Chinami Yoshida (vice-skip and third), Yumi Suzuki (second), Yurika Yoshida (lead), Mari Motohashi (alternate), James Lind (coach)

### MEN

- **JAPAN:** Yusuke Morozumi (skip and fourth), Tetsuro Shimizu (vice-skip and third), Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi (second), Kosuke Morozumi (lead), Kohsuke Hirata (alternate), Hatomi Nagaoka (coach)
- **CHINA:** Rui Liu (skip and fourth), Xiaoming Xu (vice-skip and third), Qiang Zou (second), Jialiang Zang (lead), Tianyu Zhang (alternate), Marcel Rocque (coach)
- **KOREA:** Soo Hyuk Kim (skip and fourth), Tae Hwan Kim (vice-skip and third), Jong Duk Park (second), Yoon Ho Nam (lead), Min Hyeon Yoo (alternate), Se Young Yang (coach)

### ONLINE

Men - <http://wcf.co/pacc2016menresults>  
 Women - <http://wcf.co/pacc2016womenresults>

**The 26th edition of the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships were held in the Republic of Korea - the host country for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games - with a record 17 teams taking part.**

The women's competition consisted of eight teams: **Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand and Qatar.**

In the men's competition nine teams took part: **Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand and Qatar.**

These championships marked international debuts for Hong Kong women and both the women's and men's teams from Qatar.

In the women's championship, during the round-robin stage Hong Kong claimed their first and second-ever wins in international competition, against Qatar and Kazakhstan. After the round-robin stage, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand progressed to the semi-finals, where Korea defeated New Zealand 12-4 and China beat Japan by 6-3.

These results meant Japan would play New Zealand for the bronze medals and that China would face Korea in the final. China, as hosts of the CPT World Women's Curling Championship 2017 being held in Beijing, received an automatic place in the

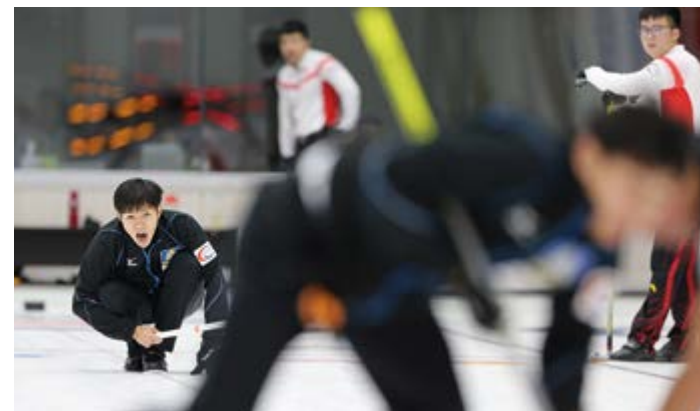
competition. By reaching the final, Korea secured the single other berth available in the world women's championship line-up.

In the bronze medal game Japan defeated New Zealand 10-3. In the final, hosts Korea recorded a 5-3 victory over China, to win the Pacific-Asia title and gold medals.

After the round-robin, in the men's championship four teams progressed to the play-off stage, Korea, China, Japan, and for the first time in their history, Chinese Taipei. In the semi-finals, Japan defeated hosts Korea 6-5. Meanwhile, China defeated Chinese Taipei 11-5. These results meant that Korea faced Chinese Taipei in the bronze medal game, while China faced Japan for the gold medals. China and Japan also secured the two available places for the Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2017, in Edmonton, Canada.

Korea collected the bronze medals when they defeated Chinese Taipei 8-6. In the final, Japan secured a 5-3 victory over China, giving their skip Yusuke Morozumi his first Pacific-Asia title, from his seventh appearance in the final.

***The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2017 will take place between 2-9 November in Erina, Australia.***



# Athlete Commission



**Ann Swisshelm**  
United States, Chair  
2003 World Women's Curling champion



**Cathrine Lindahl**  
Sweden, Vice-chair  
Double Olympic Winter Games curling champion



**Kim Forge**  
Australia  
Represented Australia 14 times



**Kosuke Morozumi**  
Japan  
2016 Pacific-Asia Curling champion



**Patrick McDonald**  
United States  
Two time Paralympian



**David Murdoch**  
Scotland  
2014 Olympic Winter Games silver medalist



**Kelly Scott**  
Canada  
2007 World Women's Curling champion



**Nolan Thiessen**  
Canada  
2010 World Men's Curling champion

**The focus of the Athlete Commission continues to be strengthening interaction with athletes through presence at championship events, collecting ideas, information and knowledge, in order to best communicate with the World Curling Federation.**

One of the most valuable aspects of the commission's Terms of Reference is that the members of the commission are athletes - elected by athletes, to serve as their representative voice.

Last summer, employing a staff generated global database, meant Olympians, Paralympians, and world-level curling athletes were engaged for the first time. As a result, the following athlete-elected athlete-representatives joined the commission:

- **Kim Forge** (Australia) - World Mixed Doubles
- **Patrick McDonald** (United States) - World Wheelchair and Paralympics
- **David Murdoch** (Scotland) - Worlds and Olympics
- **Nolan Thiessen** (Canada) - Worlds

In addition to the elections, many significant milestones were achieved by the commission this year:

- **Cathrine Lindahl** (Sweden), nominated to the WCF Board, now serves as liaison between the two groups.
- Athlete representatives observed and networked with athletes at the **World Wheelchair, Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles Curling Championships**.
- The commission created a **virtual meeting space** in order to streamline communications and keep projects moving.
- Co-operative work with the **Competition and Rules Commission** continued with great success.

The commission is committed to being represented by curlers from across disciplines, genders and regional zones. Going forward, it will use those strengths and the abundance of competitive history its representatives possess to engage with athletes and work on their behalf.

# Facilities and Technical Assistance

## Portable Curling Facility

As was the case last year, the Portable Curling Facility (PCF) has been the main focus of attention for this commission. The PCF two-sheet curling facility that has been under construction in Turku, Finland, will be opened on 30 September 2017.

After this, the PCF project in Turku will be reviewed, with hopes to continue creating similar facility-building assistance programmes.

## Other projects

Through this commission, the World Curling Federation manages a number of financial assistance programmes for Member Associations to build new rinks, renovate existing rinks, and/or purchase curling equipment such as stones and scrapers. More enquiries on these programmes by MAs would be welcome. In addition, appropriate WCF staff are available for consultation and site visits.

**The 2016-2017 Facilities and Technical Commission members were:**

- **Toyokazu Ogawa** (chair)
- **Darrell Ell**
- **Richard Harding**
- **Leif Ohman**



## MEDALLISTS

### WOMEN

#### ● RUSSIA:

**Victoria Moiseeva** (skip and fourth),  
**Uliana Vasileva** (vice-skip and third),  
**Galina Arsenkina** (second), **Julia Guzieva** (lead), **Julia Portunova** (alternate), **Sergey Belanov** (coach)

#### ● SWEDEN:

**Anna Hasselborg** (skip and fourth),  
**Sara McManus** (vice-skip and third),  
**Agnes Knochenhauer** (second),  
**Sofia Mabergs** (lead), **Maria Prytz** (alternate), **Ingemar Edstroem** (coach)

#### ● SCOTLAND:

**Eve Muirhead** (skip and fourth), **Anna Sloan** (vice-skip and third), **Vicki Adams** (second), **Lauren Gray** (lead), **Kelly Schafer** (alternate), **Glenn Howard** (coach)

### MEN

#### ● SWEDEN:

**Niklas Edin** (skip and fourth), **Oskar Eriksson** (vice-skip and third), **Rasmus Wranaa** (second), **Christoffer Sundgren** (lead), **Henrik Leek** (alternate), **Frederik Lindberg** (coach)

#### ● NORWAY:

**Thomas Ulsrud** (vice-skip and fourth), **Torgjer Nergaard** (skip and third), **Christoffer Svae** (second), **Haavard Vad Petersson** (lead), **Sander Roelvaag** (alternate), **Petter Moe** (coach)

#### ● SWITZERLAND:

**Benoit Schwarz** (vice-skip and fourth), **Claudio Paetz** (third), **Peter de Cruz** (skip and second), **Valentin Tanner** (lead), **Reto Gribi** (alternate), **Claudio Pescia** (coach)

### ONLINE

**Men** - <http://wcf.co/ecc2016menresults>

**Women** -

<http://wcf.co/ecc2016womenresults>



## Le Gruyère AOP

# European Curling Championships

Braehead, Scotland, 19-26 November 2016

**For the first time in seven years - since Aberdeen in 2009 - the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships returned to Scotland. This time the host venue was the intu Braehead Arena - just outside Glasgow - which was the site of the 2000 World Curling Championships. Altogether 27 Member Associations took part in what was the 42nd edition of these championships.**

The ten A-Division women's teams were: **Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland.**

The ten A-Division men's teams were: **Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland.**

At the same time, in the intu Braehead curling rink, the women's B-Division consisted of ten teams: **Belarus, England, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey.**

Another 16 teams competed in two sections in the men's B-Division.

Section A: **Czech Republic, France, Israel, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey and Wales.**

Section B: **Belgium, England, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia.**

In the women's championship, Victoria Moiseeva's Russian team beat previously undefeated Scotland in the semi-finals, 11-6, giving them the chance to defend the title - won by a different Russian team, skipped by Anna Sidorova the previous year.

In the other semi-final, Sweden defeated a Czech Republic team - making their nation's first appearance in the knock-out stages - by 9-2.

Scotland went on to beat Czech Republic by 6-2 to take bronze - for Scotland's skip Eve Muirhead and third player Anna Sloan, this win represented their

record seventh consecutive European medals. In the gold medal final, Russia retained the European crown with a 6-4 win over Sweden.

In the men's championship semi-finals, defending champions Sweden continued their unbeaten week with an 8-5 win over Russia. Norway beat Switzerland by 7-4 in the other semi-final, meaning that Russia and Switzerland played for bronze medals. In that game, the Swiss emerged as 8-6 winners. In the final, Sweden completed their campaign undefeated, with a 6-5 extra end win over Norway, giving their skip Niklas Edin his third successive European title and his fifth in total.

In the world challenge games between the eventual B-Division winners and the A-Division teams finishing in the last world championship qualifying slots, Italy's women beat B-Division winners Hungary by two games to nil. Meanwhile, Netherlands men, B-Division winners, bettered Austria by two games to one. This meant that Italy and Netherlands secured their spots at the 2017 World Curling Championships while, along with the Hungarian women, B-Division runners-up Turkey were promoted to the 2017 A-Division. The runners-up placing for the men from Slovakia means they will join Netherlands in the 2017 men's A-Division.

These championships were followed by the European Curling Championships C-Division 2017, in May. At that event, held in Andorra's Palau de Gel d'Andorra, Spain's women's and men's teams won the gold medals and qualified for the 2017 B-Division. Also, qualifying for the B-Division were Poland women and France men.

**The Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2017 will take place between 17-25 November in St Gallen, Switzerland.**



# Development

**The work of the World Curling Federation's Competitions and Development Officers (CDO) continued and expanded this season, with new programmes introduced and new countries visited. Here are some of the highlights:**

## Coach Mentoring Programme

The annual Coach Mentoring Programme was held in Braehead, Scotland at the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2016. Coaches from seven MAs – Robin Halliday (British Curling), Agnieszka Schröder (Poland), David Jones (Scotland), Martin Sutherland (Ireland), Lajos Belleli (Qatar), Gregor Verbinc (Slovenia), Jiri Snitl (Czech Republic) and Alison Kreviazuk (Sweden) – attended. To date, the Coach Mentoring Programme has graduated 52 coaches from 17 different MAs: Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, England, Estonia, Finland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Sweden and United States.

## Activity in Estonia

In August 2016, Estonia was host to a Wheelchair Curling Instructor Course, Wheelchair Curling Camp for regional athletes and the first annual Stepping Stones Programme. The programme was designed to help Estonia's national teams prepare for the upcoming season – introducing techniques for performance and mental analysis and developing season plans to help them peak at the right times. Teams participating included the junior women, mixed, mixed doubles, women and men. Then in August 2017, the Australian Curling Federation and New Zealand Curling Association partnered together to deliver Stepping Stones in Naseby, New Zealand.

## Activity in China

The Chinese Curling Association hosted their annual youth curling camp in Shanghai, China with the help of CDOs Scott Arnold and Eeva Roethlisberger. The two stayed on to run the first ever WCF Umpiring Course in China. Its success was demonstrated by the large number of graduates acting in official roles at the CPT World Women's Curling Championship 2017 in Beijing, China.

## Camps 2016

- The 18th WCF Fuessen Courses and the WCF / DCV Hummelt Junior Curling Camp took place between 25 June and 9 July. The courses offered were the newly designed Ice-Technician Course, the Introduction to Instruction Course, and the Basic Umpire Course. A total of 63 participants from 18 different MAs attended one or more of the offered courses.
- The Junior Curling Camp in Fuessen was again fully booked, with 120 juniors enjoying the camp-life, which featured different on- and off-ice activities. The juniors involved came from 19 MAs who all came together from around the world to learn from experienced coaches and assistants.
- The 10th WCF Adult Curling Camp was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 21-25 August, with 42 adults from 11 different MAs participating – Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Poland, Scotland and Switzerland.

- Three further camps were held:
  - Bratislava Adult Camp in Bratislava, Slovakia
  - Mixed Doubles Curling Camp in Budapest, Hungary
  - Sweetlake Junior Team Curling Camp in Zoetemeer, Netherlands



## MEDALLISTS

### WOMEN

#### ● SWEDEN:

**Isabella Wranaa** (skip and fourth), **Jennie Waahlin** (third), **Almida De Val** (vice-skip and second), **Fanny Sjoeborg** (lead), **Maria Larsson** (alternate), **Mathias Mabergs** (coach)

#### ● SCOTLAND:

**Sophie Jackson** (skip and fourth), **Naomi Brown** (vice-skip and third), **Mili Smith** (second), **Sophie Sinclair** (lead), **Laura Barr** (alternate), **Cate Brewster** (coach)

#### ● CANADA:

**Kristen Streifel** (skip and fourth), **Chantele Broderson** (vice-skip and third), **Kate Goodhelpsen** (second), **Brenna Bilassy** (lead), **Karlee Burgess** (alternate), **Amanda Dawn St. Laurent** (coach)

### MEN

#### ● KOREA:

**Ki Jeong Lee** (skip and fourth), **Ki Bok Lee** (third), **Yu Jin Seong** (vice-skip and second), **Jeong Uk Choi** (lead), **Gyeong Ho Woo** (alternate), **Myung Sup Lim** (coach)

#### ● UNITED STATES:

**Andrew Stopera** (skip and fourth), **Luc Violette** (vice-skip and third), **Ben Richardson** (second), **Graem Fenson** (lead), **Nicholas Connolly** (alternate), **Mark Lazar** (coach)

#### ● NORWAY:

**Magnus Ramsfjell** (skip and fourth), **Bendik Ramsfjell** (third), **Magnus Trulsen** (second), **Eskil Intervold** (vice-skip and lead), **Elias Hoestmaeligen** (alternate), **Bent Ramsfjell** (coach)

### ONLINE

**Men** - <http://wcf.co/wjcc2017menresults>

**Women** -

<http://wcf.co/wjcc2017womenresults>



**VoIP Defender**

# World Junior Curling Championships

Gangneung, Republic of Korea, 16-26 February 2017

**Women's and men's teams representing 13 Member Associations across the globe came together for the VoIP Defender World Junior Curling Championships 2017, in the Gangneung Curling Centre in Gangneung, Republic of Korea.**

Altogether ten's women's and ten men's teams took part. In each gender, six of these teams qualified through their performances in last year's VoIP Defender World Junior Curling Championships in Denmark, while, again in each gender, a further three teams gained qualification at the World Junior-B Curling Championships, held in Oestersund, Sweden in January. As host nation, the two Korean teams joined the others.

To be eligible to play in these championships, "a player must be less than 21 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year in which the championship is to take place."

As well as being a world championship event in its own right, this competition also acted as curling's test event for the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games, as the Gangneung Curling Centre is the Olympic and Paralympic venue in the coming season.

The ten women's teams were: **Canada, Hungary, Japan**, hosts **Korea, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey**, and **United States**. Of these, Scotland, Turkey and Japan qualified from the World Junior-B event.

At the end of the round-robin programme, table-toppers Scotland faced Sweden in the Page 1v2 play-off game, and it was Sweden who won, by 9-6, to take the direct route to the final. In the Page 3v4 play-off, Canada had a 7-5 win over Korea, to go on to face Scotland in the semi-final, while Korea would play the eventual semi-final loser for bronze medals.

In the semi-final, Scotland beat Canada by 13-2 to set up a third encounter of the week with Sweden, in the gold medal final.

Canada then played Korea in the bronze medal final and won by 6-3. In the gold medal final, Sweden gained their second win of the week over Scotland, with a 10-7 victory that gave them the title and the gold medals.

The ten men's teams were: **Canada, China, Italy**, hosts **Korea, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey** and **United States**. Of these, China, Italy and Turkey qualified from the World Junior-B event.

After the men's round-robin games, Canada and Norway found themselves tied for the fourth place in the play-off line-up, and it was Norway who emerged victorious, with an 8-7 win, in the tiebreaker. Later, in the Page 1v2 play-off game, United States beat Korea by 7-5 to go directly to the gold medal final, while in the Page 3v4 play-off, Norway beat Scotland by 8-7.

The semi-final saw Korea beat Scotland by 11-4 to set up the gold and bronze medal finals as repeats of the play-off games. Norway beat Scotland, by 10-3, to take bronze, while a 5-4 victory over United States in the gold medal final gave Korea their nation's historic first-ever curling world title.

During the closing ceremony, the Sportsmanship Award winners were announced - these awards are given to those "who exemplify the traditional values of skill, honesty, fair play, sportsmanship and friendship in the world of curling", as voted for by the athletes. Sweden's third player Jennie Waahlin added this to the gold medal she had already received, while bronze medallist Magnus Trulsen, second player for Norway, was the men's winner.

**The World Junior Curling Championships 2018 will take place between 3-11 March in Aberdeen, Scotland.**



# Olympic Celebration Tour



The Foundation for  
**Global Sports**  
Development

**With another year of support from the United States-based Foundation for Global Sports Development, the Olympic Celebration Tour (OCT) continued, featuring a number of Olympic medallists helping clubs and Member Associations to deliver instructional sessions for new and existing curlers alike - old and young.**

Altogether six OCT events took place, reaching well over 1,000 school children during school visits and with hundreds of participants trying curling for the first time. All the sites involved have now indicated increases in their junior participation and growth in their adult membership.

The countries visited, and the Olympians involved included:



**October 2016:** Latvian Curling Association in Riga, Latvia with Canada's 2010 Olympic gold medallist Jamie Korab:

*"We wanted to get maximum media coverage to draw the nation's attention to curling and to get more junior curlers playing the sport."*

*"We fulfilled the first target completely - it couldn't be better than to show up on our main broadcaster. We had over 350 people involved, including 250 children at FloorCurl sessions."*

*Artis Zentelis, Secretary General, Latvian Curling Association*

**October 2016:** Denver Curling Club in Denver, Colorado, United States with Canada's 2006 Olympic bronze medallist Shannon Kleibrink:

*"This was a resounding success for Denver Curling - we now have a nearly full Saturday morning junior programme as a direct result."*

*Phil Moir, President Denver Curling Club*

**November 2016:** Spanish Ice Sports Federation (curling) in Jaca, Spain, also with Shannon Kleibrink:

*"This event in Spain has given us support to promote curling with our youth and at the same time offer our curlers the opportunity to share the experience of two intense days alongside Shannon Kleibrink and Darrell Ell, with whom they learned much."*

*Frank González, President Spanish Ice Sports Federation*

**December 2016:** Nutmeg Curling Club in Connecticut, United States with Canada's 2010 Olympic silver medallist Carolyn Darbyshire (McRorie):

*"We had an extremely busy weekend - it was a great opportunity for both our members and the community."*

*Maura Cockey, President Nutmeg Curling Club*

**March 2017:** Estonian Curling Association in Tallinn, Estonia with 2014 Olympic gold medallist Kaitlyn Lawes, from Canada:

*"It was an extraordinary opportunity - it's not every day that an Olympic champion arrives in Estonia to give tips in person and introduce the sport of curling."*

*"Over 300 people came - it was great to see how everyone wanted to learn about the sport we love so much."*

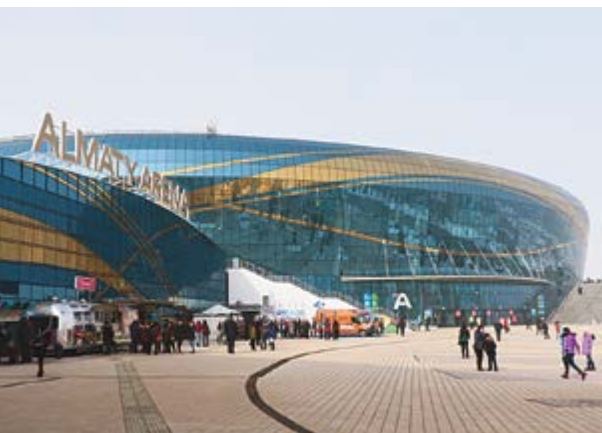
*Fred Randver, Estonian Curling Association*

**June 2017:** The WCF partnered with Curl Mexico and Rock Solid Productions to host an OCT event in Mexico City, attended once again by Kaitlyn Lawes.



# Other competition highlights

As well as presenting its own various regional and World Curling Championships, the World Curling Federation supported other major events in the past season. These included:



## Winter Universiade Games

The 28th Winter Universiade Games were staged in Almaty, Kazakhstan in January and February.

The ten women's teams were Canada, China, Germany, hosts Kazakhstan, Norway, Korea, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and Great Britain.

The ten men's teams were Canada, Czech Republic, Japan, hosts Kazakhstan, Norway, Korea, Russia, Sweden, Great Britain and United States.

The women's gold medals were won by Canada over silver medallists Russia, while the bronze medals went to Sweden. In the men's event, Great Britain took gold over silver medallists Sweden while Norway won bronze.



## Winter European Youth Olympic Festival

International curling returned to Turkey in February, with the 2017 Winter European Youth Olympic Festival being held in Erzurum. This event is a top-class opportunity for young winter sport athletes between the ages of 14 and 18.

The curling competition had five junior women's teams: Italy, Norway, Poland, Russia and hosts Turkey. From these, Russia won gold, Turkey took silver and Poland won bronze medals.

The six junior men's teams were: Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia and hosts Turkey. Russia won gold to complete a golden double for their country, while Netherlands took silver and Slovenia won bronze medals.



## Asian Winter Games

The eighth Asian Winter Games were hosted by Japan in February, with curling taking place in the Sapporo Curling Stadium.

The curling competition was formally opened by WCF president Kate Caithness and five women's teams - China, hosts Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea and Qatar - as well as six men's teams - China, Chinese Taipei, hosts Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea and Qatar - competed in front of packed houses, with every ticket sold.

China's women and men both took home gold medals, with Korea women and Japan men taking silvers. Japan's women took bronze medals as did Korea's men.



# World Paralympic Day

WCF feature writer Emily Dwyer (a graduate of the Sports Media Trainee Programme) was in Gangneung as part of the WCF media team at the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2017. This is her report from the World Paralympic Day celebration during the championship's opening ceremony.



Thursday 9 March may have just been another Thursday for most people, but for athletes, coaches, volunteers, and organising committees it marked a special day of importance. For many, it's the day that was circled on their calendars since they first heard the words PyeongChang 2018.

It marked one year to go until the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea, being held between 9 and 18 March.

In 365 days from then, Paralympic teams from approximately 45 nations, representing six

sports will begin the fight for Paralympic winter games medals in 80 disciplines - alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice sledge hockey, snowboarding and wheelchair curling will all take their turns on the world stage for the big show.

To celebrate the Paralympic Day, the Gangneung Curling Centre was host to over 3,000 spectators who radiated positivity towards the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games. That kind of turn-out is exactly what gives the PyeongChang Organising Committee Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, confidence that 2018's wheelchair curling will be well received by global audiences.



In attendance, there were plenty of special guests too including, Hee-beom Lee, President and CEO of PyeongChang 2018 and Korea's most successful Olympian - figure skater and 2010 Vancouver gold medallist Yuna Kim.

And, it was with great pleasure that they both joined President Kate Caithness on the ice to deliver the first stones as the championship was declared open.



## MEDALLISTS

### ● NORWAY:

**Rune Lorentsen** (skip and fourth), **Jostein Stordahl** (vice-skip and third), **Ole Fredrik Syversen** (second), **Sissel Loechen** (lead), **Rikke Iversen** (alternate), **Peter Dahlman** (coach)

### ● RUSSIA:

**Andrey Smirnov** (skip and fourth), **Konstantin Kurokhtin** (vice-skip and third), **Alexander Shevchenko** (second), **Daria Shchukina** (lead), **Marat Romanov** (alternate), **Anton Batugin** (coach)

### ● SCOTLAND:

**Aileen Neilson** (skip and fourth), **Gregor Ewan** (third), **Hugh Nibloe** (vice-skip and second), **Robert McPherson** (lead), **Angie Malone** (alternate), **Sheila Swan** (coach)

## ONLINE

<http://wcf.co/wwwcc2017results>



# World Wheelchair Curling Championship

Gangneung, Republic of Korea, 4-11 March 2017

**The World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2017 doubled as a test event for the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, which will be held from 9 to 18 March.**

The championship was the final chance for teams to gain qualification points to earn their Member Associations' a spot in the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games. Of the ten teams competing in the event, seven qualified based on their performance at the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2016, while two - Finland and Scotland - qualified through the World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship 2016, in Lohja, Finland. Korea qualified as hosts.

The ten Member Associations who competed were: **Canada, China, Finland, Germany, hosts Korea, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland and United States.**

With eight round-robin wins and one loss, back-to-back defending champions Russia earned themselves a spot in the Page 1v2 play-off game. In that game they beat Scotland 4-2. Earlier, Norway beat Canada by 5-4 in a tiebreaker to play China in the Page 3v4 play-off game. Norway won this play-off game, 6-3, to set up a semi-final match against Scotland.

Norway beat Scotland by 7-3 in the sole semi-final, setting up a re-match of the previous year's final, against Russia.

Scotland fought back from an early setback to earn the bronze medals with a 9-5 win over China. In the gold medal final Norway, 2016 silver medallists, ran the Russian defending champions out of stones to claim an 8-3 win and the World Wheelchair Curling Championship title.

The 2017 Sportsmanship Award was given to Russia's third player Konstantin Kurokhtin. The award is voted on by all the athletes for those who exemplify the traditional values of skill, honesty, fair play, sportsmanship and friendship during the championship.

- **At the conclusion of this event, the 12 Member Associations that qualified to compete at the 2018 PyeongChang Paralympic Winter Games were decided. (details on page 28)**
- **There is no World Wheelchair Curling Championship in a Paralympic Winter Games year**



# World Curling Hall of Fame

**During the season, the WCF announced the induction of the first complete team as new members of the World Curling Hall of Fame - the 1959, 1960 and 1962 Scotch Cup winners, Team Richardson of Regina, Canada.**

**This was the sixth year that the WCF accepted nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame, which is described as “the highest ‘non-playing’ honour” that the WCF can bestow. This recognises outstanding achievements and contribution to the world of curling.**

Previously, the WCF presented the Elmer Freytag Award and then the World Curling Freytag Award to recognise outstanding contribution to the sport. Previous winners of the Elmer Freytag Award and the World Curling Freytag Award have all been inducted to the World Curling Hall of Fame.

There are two classes of award - curler and builder.

Speaking about the latest inductees, President Kate Caithness, said, “The Hall of Fame exists to recognise outstanding contribution to our sport, whether that be through on ice success or off ice endeavours. We usually induct individuals. However, the submission we received for this team stated, ‘a skip is only as good as his teammates.’ That’s why we felt one of curling’s finest teams should be recognised equally, from lead to skip.”

For more information on the World Curling Hall of Fame, go to:  
[www.worldcurling.org/world-curling-hall-of-fame](http://www.worldcurling.org/world-curling-hall-of-fame)



## The Richardsons

**The Richardson team - curling’s very first world champions - was made up of Ernie and brother Garnet - or Sam - and their cousins Arnold and Wes Richardson.**

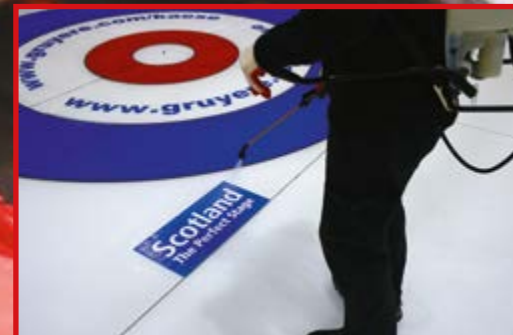
**As well as their on-ice achievements, this team played a significant part in taking the Scotch Cup from its two-nation beginnings - Canada and Scotland - to the global spectacle curling is today - where there are 56 Member Associations, in the World Curling Federation, taking part in various international competitions, camps and courses across the globe.**



# The ice makers

No matter where in the world the next big curling competition takes place, a lot of work and precision will go into preparing the playing surface to allow the competitors' skill to shine through.

Often that work starts from a basic concrete floor, and, in the build-up to the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2016 at the intu Braehead Arena, World Curling Federation photographer Richard Gray recorded exactly what went on.





## MEDALLISTS

### ● CANADA:

**Rachel Homan** (skip and fourth), **Emma Miskew** (vice-skip and third), **Joanne Courtney** (second), **Lisa Weagle** (lead), **Cheryl Kreviazuk** (alternate), **Adam Kingsbury** (coach)

### ● RUSSIA:

**Anna Sidorova** (skip and fourth), **Margarita Fomina** (vice-skip and third), **Alexandra Raeva** (second), **Nkeiruka Ezekh** (lead), **Alina Kovaleva** (alternate), **Svetlana Kalalb** (coach)

### ● SCOTLAND:

**Eve Muirhead** (skip and fourth), **Anna Sloan** (vice-skip and third), **Vicki Adams** (second), **Lauren Gray** (lead), **Kelly Schafer** (alternate), **Glenn Howard** (coach)

### ONLINE

<http://wcf.co/wwcc2017/results>



CPT

# World Women's Curling Championship

Beijing, China, 18-26 March 2017

**The CPT World Women's Curling Championship 2017, staged in Beijing's Capital Gymnasium was the second time that a World Curling Championship has been held in China. In 2014, in the same arena, which was used as a volleyball venue during the 2008 Olympic Summer Games, the CPT World Men's Curling Championship took place.**

This event represented a significant step forward in curling's journey towards the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and came in the wake of the WCF and the Chinese Curling Association joining together to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding, for the development of curling in China and worldwide, in December 2016.

The top 12 women's teams from the international world of curling took part, representing **Canada**, hosts **China**, **Czech Republic**, **Denmark**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Korea**, **Russia**, **Scotland**, defending champions **Switzerland**, **Sweden** and **United States**.

The field included three former world champion skips - Bingyu Wang from China, Scotland's Eve Muirhead and Switzerland's Alina Paetz. Italy's Diana Gaspari was making her tenth appearance at this level.

Canada's Rachel Homan was making her third appearance at world championship level and she led her team through the round-robin undefeated. Other Page qualifiers were Russia, Scotland and Sweden. Canada continued their unbeaten run with a 7-3 win over Russia in the Page 1v2 play-off game to secure their place in the final. In the Page 3v4 play-off game, Sweden beat Scotland 8-5 and went on to face Russia in the sole semi-final, leaving Scotland to eventually play for bronze medals.

In the semi-final, Russia beat Sweden by 9-3 to face Canada again, this time with gold medals and the title up for grabs. Scotland took bronze by beating Sweden 6-4. Canada then beat Russia by 8-3 in the gold medal final to complete their unbeaten week and give Homan the complete set of bronze, silver and gold medals from her three world championship appearances so far.

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that Bingyu Wang, skip of the host team, China, was the Frances Brodie Award winner for 2017. This award is voted for by all the athletes, to recognise the curler they think best exemplified curling's values and sportsmanship throughout the event.

As well as a new World Curling Championships trophy being awarded for the first time, the combined audience figures for the week exceeded 90,000.

- **At the conclusion of this event, the ten Member Associations for the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games were known. (details on page 28)**
- **The Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2018 will take place between 17-25 March in North Bay, Ontario, Canada.**



# Curling Night in America

*“Our investment in this event has now come to fruition with a great NBC partnership”*



**Now in its third season, this special made-for-tv event features both team and mixed doubles action - with curlers competing from United States, China, Japan and Scotland.**

Recorded in Duluth, Minnesota, each of the nine episodes were broadcast on NBC's Sports Network throughout early 2017. It was the host nation that earned the most points to win the overall American Cup ahead of second-placed Scotland.

Viewing figures for this event have increased over the three seasons, reflecting the growth of the sport in the United States. Speaking about the WCF's support for this event, President Kate Caithness said: "Our investment in this event has

now come to fruition with a great NBC partnership that is bringing benefits. The yield from our original investment is massive and with ice rinks being built all over America. Our sleeping giant has woken up! Sometimes strategic decisions bring benefits which are much more than the original plan."

A fourth season of Curling Night in America has been confirmed. This time it was produced in Omaha, Nebraska, in August 2017 and will be aired from October 2017. These new programmes will be broadcast in the build-up to the USA Curling Olympic Team Trials and Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Trials, which will also take place in Omaha, in November and December.



# Broadcast

**The 2016-2017 season was the most productive in the history of World Curling TV (WCTV) - the television-making arm of the Federation.**

Notably, the season saw a return to broadcasting from the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships, expanded production from European and World Curling Championships (women's men's and mixed doubles), a collaborative project to web-stream coverage from the Curling Champions Tour along with a continuation of the Curling Night in America programmes in the United States.

There has been a sharp rise in viewing figures for the season, partly due to this increased coverage but also because of further improvements to TV viewing figure gathering and analysis.

For the 2016-2017 season, the cumulative global TV viewing audience was over 400 million - in territories where broadcast analysis was carried out.\*

Boosting these figures is the fact that the women's world championship was held in China and subsequent coverage of the event by the WCF's Chinese broadcast partner, CCTV.

The improved audience and channel data has, once again, led to a significant increase in the number of hours known to have been televised worldwide.

Over 300 hours of curling coverage was produced live by WCTV this season for TV broadcast which commuted to over 4600 known TV broadcast hours.

The WCF's YouTube channel now has over 27,000 subscribers - a 35% increase on the season before. Over 150 games were added to the channel over the

season creating over 2.3 million live and video-on-demand views to 1 May 2017.

*\*Data from NIELSEN and WCF broadcast partners.*



# Media

**At the beginning of the 2016-2017 season a communications strategy was developed to direct the work of the Communications and Media Relations team in the build up to and through the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.**

The ultimate goal of the strategy is to grow interest in the sport of curling globally and to ensure that resources for members of the media and our Member Associations are readily available and easy to use.

In its first year, the goals of the strategy were achieved. For instance, in the 12-month period from 1 May 2016 to 1 May 2017 [www.worldcurling.org](http://www.worldcurling.org) had 984,774 unique visitors, a 14% increase from the previous season.

On social media, we had significant growth across our platforms - Facebook grew by 63% from 12,528 fans to 20,377; YouTube added 35% more followers

from 20,474 to 27,729; we grew our Instagram following by more than double again in the past season from 2,569 followers to 5,351; but, it was Twitter which had the most significant rise going from 15,316 followers to 42,982, equating to a 181% growth rate.

The Media Assistance Programme continues to be utilised by media representatives from Canada, Finland, Hungary, Sweden, United States and, for the first time, Netherlands. These people were a welcome presence on the many busy media benches around the world.

In 2016-2017 we had four Sports Media Trainees. Our trainees, at the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2016 - Jolene Latimer, a journalist from the United States and Jeffrey Au a photographer from Canada - and VoIP Defender World Junior Curling Championships 2017 - Katie Maryschuk, a journalist from Canada and Tom Rowland, a photographer from England - were



excellent additions to our team and took away valuable experiences that should aid them in their future careers.

Lastly, one of our former trainees Emily Dwyer was contracted to work with the Federation, predominantly on social media at three of our World Curling Championships and two other former trainees, Michael Houston and Jolene Latimer, were commissioned to write features for our website.



With the Olympic and Paralympic season ahead of us we are anticipating unprecedented attention for our sport from the world's media, something we are working hard to ensure we capitalise on.

*The facts and figures on this page are taken from a 12-month period between 1 May 2016 and 1 May 2017.*



# Ford World Men's Curling Championship

Edmonton, Canada 1-9 April 2017

The Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2017 was staged in Edmonton's Northlands Coliseum, the second time this venue has hosted - previously in 2007 - and the 23rd time Canada has hosted a world men's championship in its 58-year history. The 2017 event attracted 85,214 fans in total.

The 12 national teams competing were: hosts and defending champions **Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland** and **United States**.

Canada was represented by their national champions, led by Brad Gushue, whose last appearance wearing the Maple Leaf was in his Olympic gold medal performance in Pinerolo, Italy at the 2006 Turin Olympic Winter Games. Gushue led his men to the Page 1v2 play-off game against Sweden with a flawless 11-game undefeated round-robin programme. A 7-4 win in that play-off game kept the Canadians' unbeaten record intact and moved them directly to the gold medal final.

The Page 3v4 game saw Switzerland face United States and it was the Swiss who won this - by 11-4 - to set up a semi-final showdown with Sweden. This semi-final went to an extra end before Sweden emerged as 6-5 winners, to face Canada again, this



time with gold medals up for grabs. Meanwhile, the Swiss would play United States for bronze.

Switzerland then beat United States by 7-5 to take bronze medals. For this particular Swiss team this was a second bronze medal, as they had previously come third in the 2014 World Curling Championship in Beijing, China.

Later, in a tense final that featured four blank ends, played in front of a packed house, hosts Canada beat Sweden by 4-2 to take gold medals and the world title.

In doing so, they completed their 13-game campaign undefeated, matching the same unblemished record achieved by Canada's women, skipped by Rachel Homan, at the CPT World Women's Curling Championship in Beijing three weeks earlier. This is the first time that 100% World Curling Championship records have been achieved by men and women from the same country in one season.

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that Carlo Glasbergen, lead player for Netherlands, was the winner of the Collie Campbell Award, voted for by all the players to recognise the athlete they think best exemplified curling's values and sportsmanship throughout the event.

- *At the conclusion of this event, the ten Member Associations that qualified for the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games were known. (details on page 28)*
- *The World Men's Curling Championship 2018 will take place between 31 March-8 April in Las Vegas, USA.*



## MEDALLISTS

- **CANADA:**  
**Brad Gushue** (skip and fourth), **Mark Nichols** (vice-skip and third), **Brett Gallant** (second), **Geoff Walker** (lead), **Tom Sallows** (alternate), **Jules Owchar** (coach)
- **SWEDEN:**  
**Niklas Edin** (skip and fourth), **Oskar Eriksson** (vice-skip and third), **Rasmus Wranaa** (second), **Christoffer Sundgren** (lead), **Henrik Leek** (alternate), **Fredrik Lindberg** (coach)
- **SWITZERLAND:**  
**Benoit Schwarz** (vice-skip and fourth), **Claudio Paetz** (third), **Peter de Cruz** (skip and second), **Valentin Tanner** (lead), **Romano Meier** (alternate), **Claudio Pescia** (coach)

## ONLINE

<http://wcf.co/wmcc2017/results>









# World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship

Lethbridge, Canada 22-29 April 2017



## MEDALLISTS

### ● SWITZERLAND:

**Jenny Perret** (female), **Martin Rios** (male), **Laurence Bidaud** (coach)

### ● CANADA:

**Joanne Courtney** (female), **Reid Carruthers** (male), **Jeff Stoughton** (coach)

### ● CHINA:

**Rui Wang** (female), **Dexin Ba** (male), **Zhipeng Zhang** (coach)

## ONLINE

<http://wcf.co/wmdcc2017results>

**The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2017 was staged at the brand new state-of-the-art ATB Centre in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.**

This was the tenth edition of this championship, and the second to take place since mixed doubles was confirmed as a new discipline on the programme of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea.

With a total of 39 teams involved, from all of the World Curling Federation zones - Americas, Pacific-Asia and European - it is clear that the global popularity of mixed doubles continues.

The teams were divided into five groups:

**Group A:** Belarus, Brazil, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Japan and Latvia.

**Group B:** Bulgaria, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Scotland, Serbia and Wales.

**Group C:** Australia, Austria, China, Israel, Korea, Netherlands, Poland and Sweden.

**Group D:** hosts Canada, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Turkey and United States.

**Group E:** New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

After the round-robin, the field was reduced to 16 teams still in with a chance of gathering Olympic Qualification Points. Following a round of classification games, the eight quarter finalists emerged - Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Korea, Latvia, Norway and Switzerland. Then, from these two tight semi-finals, Canada beat China by 5-4 after an extra end, while Switzerland beat Czech Republic by 7-6.

These results meant that China and Czech Republic faced each other for bronze medals, a game which China won 6-2. Canada and Switzerland contested the gold medal final. In this dramatic game, a score of four points with the very last stone in the last end gave Switzerland the victory, the world title and gold medals.

- **At the conclusion of this event, the eight Member Associations that qualified for the inaugural mixed doubles event in the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games were decided. (details on page 28)**
- **The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2018 will take place between 21-28 April in Oestersund, Sweden.**



# Sponsorship and marketing



## The World Curling Federation continues to develop its sponsorship offering in partnership with Infront Sports & Media and Curling Canada.

Once again, all spaces in this season's championships were sold which, along with improved broadcast coverage, helps to push the value up for future seasons.

In US dollar values the WCF's net sponsorship income increased by more than \$USD 25,000 with gross sponsorship income exceeding \$USD 1.25m for the first time.

The Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2016 saw Le Gruyère AOP continue as title sponsor, supported by Mount 10 and EDOX. LGT renewed their partnership with the WCF, signing up as a main sponsor for the 2016 and 2017 editions of the European Curling Championships.

The CPT World Women's Curling Championship in Beijing, China saw CPT once again support curling along with EDOX, Ford of Canada, and LGT. Ford also continued their role as title sponsor for WCF events in Canada, this year acting as title

sponsors of the Ford World Men's Curling Championship in Edmonton.

361, Atom AMPD, DB Schenker and Jet Ice all renewed their WCF partnership deals, which provide valuable support both in cash and in-kind.

United States-based technology company, VoIP Defender extended their support of the World Junior Curling Championships into a second year and discussions are underway to put a longer-term agreement in place.

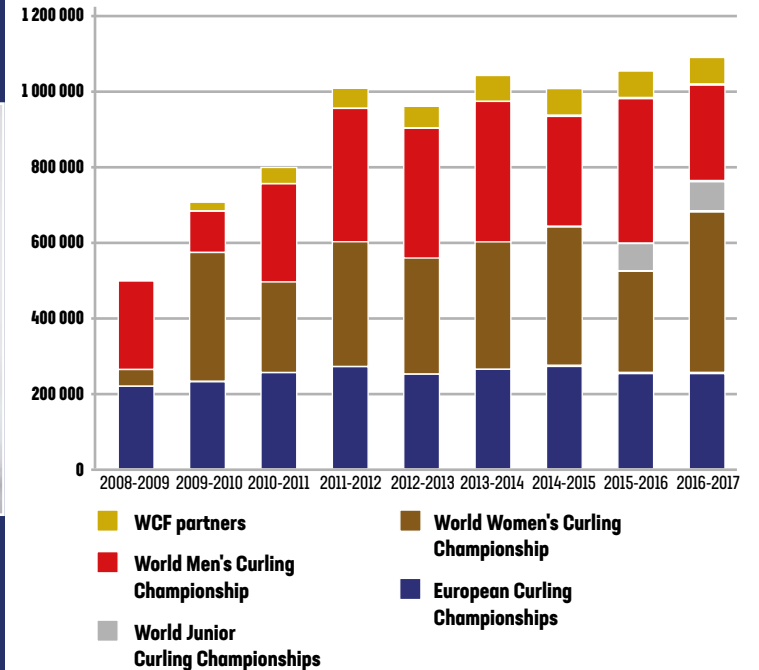
With the agreements with Curling Canada and Infront Sports & Media both due for renewal in 2018, discussions have begun for an extension of the existing agreements taking into account the growth of the sponsorship market for curling over the last four years.

Finally, let us record our thanks to the sponsors who have supported us this season:

Le Gruyère AOP, Mount 10, EDOX, Ford of Canada, CPT, LGT, 361, Mount Titlis, Lucerne, DB Schenker, Jet Ice, VoIP Defender and Atom AMPD.

## Summary of WCF net sponsorship revenues by year

(2008 - 2016) in \$USD





# World Senior Curling Championships

Lethbridge, Canada; 23-29 April 2017



## MEDALLISTS

### WOMEN

#### ● CANADA:

**Colleen Jones** (skip and fourth), **Kim Kelly** (third), **Mary Sue Radford** (second), **Nancy Delahunt** (vice-skip and lead), **Helen Radford** (coach)

#### ● SWITZERLAND:

**Cristina Lestander** (skip and fourth), **Anne Marie Mueller** (vice-skip and third), **Monika Gafner** (second), **Daniela Gygax** (lead), **Irene Beck** (alternate), **Daniel Zimmerman** (coach)

#### ● SCOTLAND:

**Jackie Lockhart** (skip and fourth), **Christine Cannon** (vice-skip and third), **Isobel Hannen** (second), **Margaret Richardson** (lead), **Janet Lindsay** (alternate)

### MEN

#### ● SWEDEN:

**Mats Wranå** (skip and fourth), **Mikael Hasselborg** (vice-skip and third), **Anders Eriksson** (second), **Gerry Waahlin** (lead)

#### ● CANADA:

**Bryan Cochrane** (skip and fourth), **Ian MacAulay** (vice-skip and third), **Doug Johnston** (second), **Ken Sullivan** (lead), **Howard Rajala** (alternate), **Bill Tschirhart** (coach)

#### ● IRELAND:

**Peter Wilson** (skip and fourth), **Johnjo Kenny** (vice-skip and third), **Bill Gray** (second), **David Whyte** (lead), **David Hume** (alternate), **Gillian Russell** (coach)

### ONLINE

**Men** - <http://wcf.co/wsc2017menresults>

**Women** -

<http://wcf.co/wsc2017womenresults>

**With the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship taking place under the same roof, the Lethbridge Curling Club in the ATB Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada hosted the 16th edition of the World Senior Curling Championships for women's and men's teams.**

To be eligible to take part in these championships, players "must be not less than 50 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June in the year immediately preceding the year in which the championship is taking place". Altogether, this event attracted 15 women's and 23 men's national teams.

The women were divided into two groups:

**Group A:** hosts **Canada, England, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden.**

**Group B:** **Australia, Czech Republic, Finland, Scotland, Switzerland, Slovakia and United States.**

The three men's groups were:

**Group A:** **Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway, Poland and Sweden.**

**Group B:** **Australia, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Switzerland and United States.**

**Group C:** hosts **Canada, England, Finland, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland and Wales.**

At the conclusion of the round-robin, the women's event, group leaders Canada and United States qualified directly for the semi-finals. Tiebreakers were then needed to determine which teams would compete in the semi-final challenge games, between the eventual second and third-placed teams from each group.

In these, Russia beat Japan by 7-4 and Italy were 9-3 winners over Sweden, to rank third in their groups. These results meant that Russia played Scotland in the challenge round, but lost by 10-0, while Italy faced Switzerland. Switzerland won 7-3.

In the semi-finals, Canada beat defending champions Scotland by 5-3, while Switzerland had an 8-5 win over United States, scoring three points in an extra end.

The bronze medal game saw Scotland beat United States by 8-5, while, in the gold medal final Canada's Colleen Jones led her team to a 10-5 win over Switzerland. Jones' team became the third Canadian team this season to go through a world championship programme undefeated.

In the men's championship, Israel and Switzerland played a tiebreaker which Israel won by 5-4 to move onto the qualification game that would determine the last place in the quarter-final line-up. Wales emerged victorious over Israel in this qualification game, 8-6.

Wales went on to meet Canada in the quarter-finals, with the Canadians winning by 8-1. In the other quarter-finals Ireland beat Denmark 5-4; Germany won against Australia 10-4 and defending champions Sweden beat New Zealand, 5-4.

In the semi-finals, Canada beat Ireland 5-2 and Sweden emerged as 7-3 winners over Germany. Then, in the medal games, Ireland beat Germany by 6-3 to take bronze, while an extra-end, last-stone draw to the button, by skip Mats Wranå, to beat Canada by 5-4 meant that this Swedish team took gold and retained their world senior crown. These results meant that the same three nations won the same medals for the second year in succession.

- **The World Senior Curling Championships 2018 will take place between 21-28 April in Oestersund, Sweden.**



# Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Points

## Olympic Qualification Points

The Olympic men's and women's curling competitions will be held with ten teams while the mixed doubles competition will be held with eight teams.

Korea, as host, received an automatic entry. Seven places were offered to the National Olympic Committees (NOC) of the Member Associations of the World Curling Federation, who gained the most

qualifying points from the World Women's (WWCC), World Men's (WMCC) and World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDC) held in 2016 and 2017.

In the men's and women's competition the top two teams from the 2017 Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) will fill the remaining two places. NOCs enter the OQE if they have not gained enough qualification points to directly qualify, or

have participated in the 2014 or 2015 WWCCs/WMCCs, or placed third in the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships during the current Olympic cycle.

Teams were ranked at the WWCCs, WMCCs and WMDCs and Olympic Qualification Points were awarded, according to the WCF Rules of Competition C9 - Team Ranking Procedure.

## Paralympic Qualification Points

The Paralympic curling competition in PyeongChang in 2018 will comprise 12 teams.

Korea, as host, received an automatic entry. The remaining 11 places were offered to the 11 National Paralympic Committees of the Member Associations of the World Curling Federation who had gained the most qualifying points from the World Wheelchair Curling Championships (WWhCCs) held in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Teams were ranked at the WWhCCs, and Paralympic Qualification Points were awarded, according to the WCF Rules of Competition C9 - Team Ranking Procedure.

## WOMEN

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Olympic points
<b>1 Canada</b>	Yes	Yes	9	14	<b>23</b>
<b>2 Russia</b>	Yes	Yes	10	12	<b>22</b>
<b>3 Switzerland</b>	Yes	Yes	14	5	<b>19</b>
<b>4 Great Britain*</b>	Yes	Yes	8	10	<b>18</b>
<b>5 United States</b>	Yes	Yes	7	8	<b>15</b>
<b>6 Sweden</b>	Yes	Yes	4	9	<b>13</b>
<b>7 Korea**</b>	Yes	x	6	7	<b>13</b>
<b>8 Japan</b>	x	Yes	12	x	<b>12</b>

The Member Associations below have qualified for the Olympic Qualification Event 2017 where two more teams will qualify for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games

1 Germany	Yes	Yes	3	4	7
2 Czech Republic	Yes	x	x	6	6
3 Denmark	Yes	Yes	5	1	6
4 Italy	x	x	1	3	4
5 China	Yes	Yes	x	2	2
6 Finland	x	Yes	2	x	2
7 Norway***	x	Yes	x	x	0
8 Latvia	Yes	x	x	x	0

\* Points for Great Britain are gained by Scotland at World Women's Curling Championships.

\*\* Korea as host country for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games has guaranteed qualification.

\*\*\* Olympic Qualification Event not entered

## MEN

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Olympic points
<b>1 Canada</b>	Yes	Yes	14	14	<b>28</b>
<b>2 Sweden</b>	Yes	Yes	7	12	<b>19</b>
<b>3 United States</b>	Yes	Yes	10	9	<b>19</b>
<b>4 Japan</b>	Yes	Yes	9	6	<b>15</b>
<b>5 Switzerland</b>	Yes	Yes	4	10	<b>14</b>
<b>6 Great Britain*</b>	Yes	Yes	6	7	<b>13</b>
<b>7 Norway</b>	Yes	Yes	8	5	<b>13</b>
<b>8 Korea**</b>	x	x	2	x	<b>2</b>

The Member Associations below have qualified for the Olympic Qualification Event 2017 where two more teams will qualify for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games

1 Denmark	Yes	x	12	x	12
2 China	Yes	Yes	x	8	8
3 Finland	x	Yes	5	x	5
4 Italy	x	Yes	x	4	4
5 Germany	Yes	x	1	3	4
6 Russia	Yes	Yes	3	1	4
7 Netherlands	x	x	x	2	2
8 Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	x	x	0

\* Points for Great Britain are gained by Scotland at World Men's Curling Championships.

\*\* Korea as host country for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games has guaranteed qualification.

## MIXED DOUBLES

	2016	2017	Olympic MD points
<b>1 China</b>	12	10	<b>22</b>
<b>2 Canada</b>	8	12	<b>20</b>
<b>3 Russia</b>	14	4	<b>18</b>
<b>4 Switzerland</b>	0	14	<b>14</b>
<b>5 United States</b>	10	3	<b>13</b>
<b>6 Norway</b>	4	8	<b>12</b>
<b>7 Finland</b>	6	6	<b>12</b>
<b>8 Korea**</b>	0	7	<b>7</b>
9 Great Britain*	9	2	11
10 Czech Republic	0	9	9
11 Estonia	7	0	7
12 Latvia	0	5	5
13 England*	5	0	5
14 Slovakia	3	0	3
15 Austria	2	0	2
16 Italy	0	1	1
17 Ireland	1	0	1

\* Points for Great Britain are gained by Scotland at World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships.

\*\* Korea as host country for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games has guaranteed qualification.

## WHEELCHAIR

	2015	2016	2017	Paralympic points
<b>1 Russia</b>	12	12	10	<b>34</b>
<b>2 Norway</b>	1	10	12	<b>23</b>
<b>3 China</b>	10	6	7	<b>23</b>
<b>4 Canada</b>	5	4	6	<b>15</b>
<b>5 United States</b>	6	5	4	<b>15</b>
<b>6 Korea**</b>	0	8	5	<b>13</b>
<b>7 Great Britain*</b>	3	0	8	<b>11</b>
<b>8 Switzerland</b>	0	7	3	<b>10</b>
<b>9 Finland</b>	8	1	1	<b>10</b>
<b>10 Germany</b>	4	3	2	<b>9</b>
<b>11 Slovakia</b>	7	2	0	<b>9</b>
<b>12 Sweden</b>	2	0	0	<b>2</b>

\* Points for Great Britain are gained by Scotland at World Wheelchair Curling Championships.

\*\* Korea as host country for the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games has guaranteed qualification.

**At time of publication, MAs in bold have qualified for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games**

# World rankings 2016-2017

## WHEELCHAIR

	WCF Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Russia	780	0
2	China	576	1
3	Norway	551	2
4	Canada	550	2
5	Scotland / Great Britain	461	1
6	United States	425	2
7	Korea	412	0
8	Slovakia	362	0
9	Finland	329	1
10	Sweden	294	1
11	Switzerland	250	1
12	Germany	233	1
13	Czech Republic	112	1
14	Latvia	111	1
15	Italy	107	2
16	Japan	102	0
17	Denmark	88	0
18	Slovenia	74	0
19	England	72	1
20	Poland	67	1
21	Estonia	57	1
22	Israel	36	2
23	Turkey	35	2
24	Lithuania	21	3
25	Chinese Taipei	18	1

## WOMEN

	WCF Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Canada	842	1
2	Switzerland	726	-1
3	Russia	637	2
4	Scotland / Great Britain	628	0
5	Sweden	582	-2
6	United States	419	1
7	Japan	412	-1
8	Korea	385	2
9	Denmark	337	-1
10	China	320	-1
11	Germany	258	0
12	Czech Republic	203	2
13	Italy	179	0
14	Finland	154	-2
15	Norway	136	0
16	Latvia	117	0
17	Hungary	114	1
18	Estonia	114	-1
19	Turkey	96	2
20	England	92	-1
21	New Zealand	80	1
22	Austria	76	-2
23	Poland	75	0
24	Slovakia	68	0
25	Netherlands	67	1

## MEN

	WCF Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Canada	868	0
2	Sweden	764	0
3	Norway	564	0
4	Scotland / Great Britain	512	0
5	United States	500	1
6	Switzerland	494	1
7	China	421	1
8	Denmark	392	-3
9	Japan	354	0
10	Russia	268	0
11	Germany	249	0
12	Finland	234	0
13	Czech Republic	187	0
14	Italy	184	0
15	Korea	137	0
16	Netherlands	133	1
17	Latvia	109	-1
18	Austria	100	4
19	New Zealand	90	-1
20	Hungary	85	0
21	England	83	0
22	Turkey	73	2
23	Poland	66	3
24	Slovakia	64	9
25	Israel	64	9

## MIXED DOUBLES

	WCF Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Canada	457	5
2	Switzerland	449	5
3	China	416	5
4	Russia	403	-2
5	Norway	388	-1
6	Hungary	351	-3
7	Sweden	350	-6
8	United States	333	-3
9	Czech Republic	288	3
10	Scotland / Great Britain	283	-1
11	Finland	234	2
12	Korea	201	8
13	Estonia	196	-3
14	Austria	175	-3
15	Spain	157	0
16	Latvia	156	7
17	Italy	147	2
18	England	138	0
19	Denmark	133	-5
20	Japan	123	-3
21	New Zealand	115	-5
22	Slovakia	102	-1
23	Ireland	85	2
24	Australia	73	0
25	France	59	-3

# Competition and Rules

Last year was extraordinary, with the completion of the Sweeping Summit 2016. The proposed rules from the Summit were passed unanimously by the Member Associations at our Annual General Assembly 2016 in Stockholm, Sweden. Significant effort continued after the Summit to work diligently with the brush manufacturers to create certified products for the start of the 2016-2017 season.

The outcome has been a great success and an example of cooperation between athletes, administrators and manufacturers.

Over the next few years the Competition and Rules Commission will look at other equipment standards and certification, to ensure the highest standards in our sport are attained.

Looking ahead there has been substantial changes proposed to the format and structure of the World Women's and World Men's Curling Championships.

A Competition and Rules meeting was held in Frankfurt in February to look at various options and that was followed by feedback from the Members and further discussions in open meetings in Beijing, China, in April. The principles for any change needs to ensure the best teams in the world are competing, adhering to International Olympic Committee values, good and fair competition, regional representation, maximising marketing opportunities and ensuring the desire to host events.

At the \*World Curling Annual General Assembly 2017 in Bled, Slovenia, the MAs voted on any new or amended rules and competition structures, as well as when they will come into effect.

*\* The Annual Review 2016-2017 was published on 17 September 2017 - the same day as the Annual General Assembly 2017, therefore no decisions were known at the time of publication*

# Fiscal year

**The year to 30 June 2017 was a financially successful year for the World Curling Federation with actual performance ahead of budgets in many areas. The final result for the year saw a surplus of just under \$USD 700,000 against what was expected to be a break-even position.**

**There are several reasons for this - primarily another positive year for broadcast income and the realisation of profits from investments sold.**

Income increased over the previous season by some \$USD 400,000, around half of this can be attributed to investments which were sold during the year to fund the day-to-day running of the Federation. This is part of the normal pattern where money received from the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games is released each year to fund the activities of the Federation.

The rises, particularly in the UK stock markets, resulted in gains in investments sold which are shown in our Income and Expenditure statement. Income from interest and dividends dropped as the total invested dropped from the previous year.

Broadcast income rose once again benefiting from the decision of NHK to fully cover their men's team at the World Curling Championship in Edmonton. Additionally, the WCF generated income from the coverage of the Pacific-Asia (PACC) and World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships which had not been expected. It is hoped that we can continue to produce income from these two events over the coming seasons. The WCF also continued to operate the satellite distribution of the TV production from our various events and this was able to produce a surplus for the Federation.

Miscellaneous income also increased partly due to the development of the approval process for brush pads where manufacturers are charged an annual fee to maintain their place on the approved list of manufacturers and for the testing of any new products. This is not designed to create a surplus for the WCF and the costs associated with this programme can be found under Programme and Services. These costs are not obvious due to the drop in the amount in Programme and Services which was very high last year because of the costs associated with the brush issue, in particular the cost of the Sweeping Summit.

Areas that saw an increase in expenditure included broadcasting which for the first time this year included a project to cover four Champions Curling Tour events, and an increased level of coverage from the PACC and WMDCC. In particular it should be remembered that the broadcast from the PACC 2015 was cancelled at late notice which reduced the expenditure in the 2015-2016 season.

The surplus for the year means that the level of reserves held by the Federation continue to increase and we are now approaching the Board's target reserves equal to 18 months operating costs. As at 30 June we had met 95% of that target or just over 17 months.

Financial reports are shared monthly with Board members and staff budget holders and on a quarterly basis with the Finance Commission for their input and comments. The commission works on behalf of the Member Associations. The members of the commission are Director Andy Anderson, Finance Controller Thelma Black and MA representatives Marcus Schmitt (Austria), John Anderson (Australia) and Hugh Avery (Canada). Gerrit-Jan Scholten (Netherlands) was a member of the commission until his death just after last year's annual Congress. The commission places on record their thanks for his valuable contribution.



**Income and expenditure summary**  
for the year end 30 June 2017 \$USD

	2017	2016
<b>Income</b>		
Member Subscriptions	<b>\$36,150</b>	\$36,450
Rights and Marketing	<b>\$6,163,783</b>	\$6,264,708
Broadcast License Fees	<b>\$725,463</b>	\$505,169
Programme and Services	<b>\$85,742</b>	\$76,899
Investments	<b>\$375,953</b>	\$172,783
Miscellaneous	<b>\$40,663</b>	\$4,826
	<b>\$7,427,754</b>	\$7,060,835
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Governance	<b>\$460,951</b>	\$418,767
Operations and Administration	<b>\$1,277,761</b>	\$1,202,997
Programme and Services	<b>\$737,752</b>	\$774,237
Competitions	<b>\$643,802</b>	\$699,819
Marketing	<b>\$1,304,611</b>	\$1,186,774
Broadcasting	<b>\$2,097,040</b>	\$1,654,212
Olympic Games	<b>\$588</b>	\$91,045
Anti-Doping Programme	<b>\$48,132</b>	\$35,178
Bad Debt	<b>\$811</b>	\$1,152
Gain/Loss on Capital Asset		\$(1,343)
Gain/Loss on ForEx	<b>\$153,100</b>	\$182,601
ECF Legacy Expenditure	<b>\$8,000</b>	\$881
	<b>\$6,732,548</b>	\$6,246,320
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>\$695,206</b>	\$814,515

**Balance Sheet**  
\$USD

	2017	2016
Fixed Assets	<b>\$9,915,828</b>	\$13,424,206
Other Assets	<b>\$2,074,047</b>	\$1,770,882
Current Assets	<b>\$3,464,842</b>	\$3,951,781
Current Liabilities	<b>\$5,794,826</b>	\$5,422,809
Net Current Assets / Liabilities	<b>\$(2,329,984)</b>	\$(1,471,028)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<b>\$9,659,891</b>	\$13,724,060
Long Term Liabilities	<b>\$-</b>	\$4,759,375
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities	<b>\$9,659,891</b>	\$8,964,685
Reserves Brought Forward	<b>\$8,964,685</b>	\$8,150,170
Surplus for the Year	<b>\$695,206</b>	\$814,515
Reserves Carried Forward	<b>\$9,659,891</b>	\$8,964,685

# A look forward



**Clearly, as we look ahead, the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic competitions in the Gangneung Curling Centre will be our main focus, but there are other developments happening in the coming months which, in their own ways, provide further evidence that our sport is building a healthy future.**

The 2018 PyeonChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will provide more TV coverage than ever before and because of this TV exposure - from before the opening ceremony all the way through to the very last day - it's going to be curling non-stop. Mixed doubles is making its Olympic debut and this will really help to promote the sport. In addition, for the first time we will have 12 teams in the Paralympics.

It is important to say that while mixed doubles is helping to provide a successful future, the traditional version of curling will always remain.

We know this is our big event every four years and we are helping the Member Associations to get ready for the Games. We want our MAs to understand how they can best promote curling in their own countries. At our Congress in Bled, Slovenia, one of the open meetings concentrated on preparing MAs for the future.

The turning point for curling in the Olympic Winter Games came in Vancouver in 2010 when our sport became very popular with viewers in places

like Brazil and we became a sport which was attracting even more young people. Building on that popularity, we are now poised to launch four made-for-TV events in iconic cities around the globe, which will increase our visibility.

However, before next year's competitions, the Portable Curling Facility opening in Turku will mark a major milestone for us. This is a vital development for the growth of our sport.

The Olympic Qualification Event, to determine the final Olympic teams is taking place in Pilsen, Czech Republic, in December. It's pleasing to note that with our Congress in Slovenia, and Czech Republic hosting the Olympic Qualification Event - every year, more of our smaller MAs are becoming involved and playing their part in the development of our sport.

Furthermore, Australia will for the first time since the 1990s host our Pacific-Asia Curling Championships, another huge step forward which hopefully will encourage 'the powers that be' to build a dedicated curling facility in this part of the world.

Over and above this, we will become involved in a new schools' event - the first ISF Schools Winter Games - that will take place in February in Grenoble, France. The European-based International Schools Sport Federation are running a world championship for school pupils and we've been invited to be part of the programme.

Looking further ahead, preparations for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are underway. It is China's ambition to have over 500 ice rinks built between now and 2022 - in turn, it is our ambition to work with them to ensure that curling is played in as many of those rinks as possible.

As the work of the Federation continues to grow, we continue to employ more staff, with a new Competitions and Development Officer and a Project Manager for the World Series of Curling about to join the organisation. Also, we are poised to add more Member Associations to the curling family.

Of course, curling could not flourish without the work of the hundreds of volunteers involved in our sport. At every event this past season they were first class and deserve a huge vote of thanks.

On an individual note, let me mention that Keith Wendorf, our Director of Competitions and Development, will be leaving us in 2018. He has been a cornerstone of our organisation for so many years and leaves behind an outstanding legacy and will be hard to replace.

I said last year and wish to say once more, that curling is in great shape and I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a successful year in this important season ahead.

## International curling events 2017-2018

**25 August-10 September** - Naseby, New Zealand  
Audi quattro Winter Games New Zealand  
[www.wintergamesnz.kiwi](http://www.wintergamesnz.kiwi)

**14-17 September** - Bled, Slovenia  
6th World Curling Congress  
[www.worldcurling.org](http://www.worldcurling.org)

**6-14 October** - Champéry, Switzerland  
World Mixed Curling Championship 2017  
[www.worldcurling.org/wmxc2017](http://www.worldcurling.org/wmxc2017)

**2-9 November** - Erina, Australia  
Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2017  
[www.worldcurling.org/pacc2017](http://www.worldcurling.org/pacc2017)

**17-25 November** - St Gallen, Switzerland  
Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2017  
[www.worldcurling.org/ecc2017](http://www.worldcurling.org/ecc2017)

**5-10 December 2017** - Pilsen, Czech Republic  
Olympic Qualification Event 2017  
[www.worldcurling.org/oqe2017](http://www.worldcurling.org/oqe2017)

**3-10 January** - Lohja, Finland  
World Junior-B Curling Championships 2018  
[www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2018)

**8-25 February** - Gangneung, Republic of Korea  
PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games  
[www.worldcurling.org/owg2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/owg2018)

**3-11 March** - Aberdeen, Scotland  
World Junior Curling Championships 2018  
[www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2018)

**9-18 March** - Gangneung, Republic of Korea  
PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games  
[www.worldcurling.org/pwg2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/pwg2018)

**17-25 March** - North Bay, Canada  
Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2018  
[www.worldcurling.org/wwcc2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/wwcc2018)

**31 March-8 April** - Las Vegas, United States  
World Men's Curling Championship 2018  
[www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2018)

**21-28 April** - Oestersund, Sweden  
World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2018  
[www.worldcurling.org/wmdcc2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/wmdcc2018)

**21-28 April** - Oestersund, Sweden  
World Senior Curling Championships 2018  
[www.worldcurling.org/wsc2018](http://www.worldcurling.org/wsc2018)

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