



Annual Review

2012-2013



2012-2013



President's Message

Welcome to what is the first-ever Annual Review published by the World Curling Federation.

In these pages you will find the story of a successful season of competition; outstanding development work across the globe; improving governance and environmental arrangements; sound financial performance; and mushrooming media attention for curling, universally acknowledged as the fastest-growing winter sport.

This is a very positive report, and these success stories reflect our passion to become one curling family - all the way from New Zealand to Scandinavia; involving our elite performers as well as players of all ages and stages - be they able-bodied or not; embracing our outstanding volunteers; and including our stakeholders and partners.

One of the year's major milestones was the staging of our first ever Annual Congress, and I was delighted that it took place at Turnberry in Scotland. In the past, our Assemblies have always been held during Championships, but this new stand-alone arrangement gave us the chance to have workshops, to meet and to socialise together. For this to be staged where curling has its roots was special for me - Scotland really pulled out the stops and made us very welcome.

You can read about our major championships in this review. They all produced great sport and fellowship and demonstrated that the spirit of curling is thriving. The Titlis Glacier Mountain World Women's Curling Championship was hosted by the Latvian Curling Association in Riga, a small association that put everything into this event. In Riga, we had the biggest media attendance at any of our championships to date, with TV beamed across the globe. Through this success, which may well help produce a bigger dedicated curling facility, Latvia has shown other small or new Member Associations what can be done.

In an important move, this year we introduced a new energy efficiency initiative, through which we offer Member Associations interest-free loans to help them improve energy efficiency and the environmental merits of existing curling facilities. This will not only help the environment but also improve facilities' operating costs and we are encouraged by the levels of interest we have received so far.

Through the year, we made progress by introducing new, fit-for-the-21st century governance arrangements, including the publication of this Review to allow us to report effectively to our members, stakeholders and partners. The creation of three Zonal Commissions - the Americas, Europe and Pacific-Asia - is a keystone of these arrangements and this work continues. I attended the inaugural meeting of the Pacific-Asia Zonal Commission when I made my first visit to the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships in Naseby, New Zealand. On that trip I was also able to visit and speak to key sporting contacts in both New Zealand and Australia, as well as make contact with other nations in this Zone who were present at the Championships. Everything I saw and heard there and since convinces me that, in the coming years, our members and potential partners in that part of the world will bring a new energy to our sport that will benefit us all.

As you will see in this Review, we have had many highlights this year, but two special occasions stand out for me personally. The first was to meet with Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, when I was invited to show him the Ice Cube Curling Centre in Sochi, which will be the curling and wheelchair curling venue in the Winter Games next year.

The second was to be appointed as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. While I was the recipient of this outstanding accolade, I believe that this honour was also recognition for the sport of curling and the progress we are making.

In the past, we have been an amateur sport trying to be professional. Now we're a professional sport being run by professionals. We have increased our staff and now have an excellent base of professional people in the organisation. They are all doing great work, but in any sport, volunteers are the hub, and I thank them all for the wonderful contributions they make.

I hope you find this Review interesting and informative.



WCF President



WCF President Kate Caithness watching curling with outgoing IOC President Jacques Rogge.

“In Riga, we had the biggest media attendance at any of our championships so far, with TV beamed across the globe...”

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Board & Staff

Management Committee



WCF President
Kate Caithness
Scotland



Vice President
Bent Ånund Ramsfjell
Norway



Director of Finance
Andy Anderson
USA



Secretary General
Colin Grahamslaw
Scotland

Members at large



Young C Kim
Korea



Toyokazu Ogawa
Japan



Leif Öhman
Sweden



Graham Prouse
Canada

WCF Staff

Keith Wendorf	Director of Competitions and Development
Eeva Röthlisberger	Competitions and Development Officer
Allen Coliban	Competitions and Development Officer
Darrell Ell	Competitions and Development Officer
Scott Arnold	Competitions and Development Officer
Susan Wendorf	Competitions and Development Assistant
Richard Harding	Development Officer
Joanna Kelly	Media Relations Officer
Daniel Parker	Assistant Media Relations Officer

WCF Secretariat

Perth, Scotland

Thelma Black	Finance Controller
Shirley Davies	Finance Assistant
Susan Keith	Anti-Doping Administrator
Saskia Krügl	Projects Officer
Liz Munro	Competitions and Development Administrator
Gill Amatt	Administrative Assistant



MEDAL TEAMS

MEN:

- **China:** Rui Liu (skip), Xiaoming Xu (third), Jialang Zang (second), Dexin Ba (lead), Dejia Zou (alternate).
- **Japan:** Yosuke Morozumi (skip), Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi (third), Tetsuro Shimizu (second), Kosuke Morozumi (lead), Yoshiro Shimizu (alternate).
- **Australia:** Hugh Millikin (third and skip), Ian Palangio (fourth), Sean Hall (second), Stephen Johns (lead), Angus Young (alternate).

WOMEN:

- **China:** Bingyu Wang (skip), Yin Liu (third), Qingshuang Yue (second), Yan Zhou (lead), Jinli Liu (alternate).
- **Japan:** Satsuki Fujisawa (skip), Miyo Ichikawa (third), Emi Shimizu (second), Chiaka Matsumura (lead), Miyuki Satoh (alternate).
- **Korea:** Eun-Jung Kim (skip), Kyeong-Ae Kim (third), Seon-Yeong Kim (second), Yeong-Mi Kim (lead), Min-Jung Kim (alternate).



Pacific-Asia Curling Championships

Naseby, New Zealand; 18 - 25 November 2012

New Zealand played host for the third time when the 2012 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships were staged in the Maniototo Curling International rink in Naseby, Central Otago, which is - so far - the only dedicated curling facility in the Southern Hemisphere.

Held annually since 1991, the event is open to teams from the World Curling Federation's (WCF) Pacific-Asia Zone, with 13 teams taking part this time - seven men's teams and six women's teams.

In the women's competition, teams from Australia, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea and New Zealand competed, while the men's teams were from Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea and New Zealand. Represented in both events, Kazakhstan were making their first appearance at a Pacific-Asia event.

In both events, the top two finishers were to qualify their Member Associations (MAs) for their respective World Championship events, enabling them to earn Olympic Winter Games Qualification points.

The women's teams played a double round-robin in their event, and Kazakhstan certainly had an interesting debut. In their first encounter with Australia, they were well in contention, but ran out of time to forfeit the game. They later made their own piece of curling history when they beat the Australians by 9-8 in their second encounter later in the week.

Eventually, China, who were led by former world champion Bingyu Wang, topped the round-robin table, losing only once in the round-robin - by 6-8 to Korea, with Korea in second place. These top two were joined by Japan and Australia in the play-offs.

Using a best-of-five format, with the two round-robin results counting as the first two games, China only needed one more win against Australia to qualify for the final and for the World Championship. They carved out a comfortable 6-4 victory in nine ends to do just that. In the other play-off, Japan beat Korea twice - by 9-4 and 7-3 - to grab their World Championship slot and face China for gold medals.

The final turned in the sixth end, when China's Bingyu Wang drew for four points on her way to a 10-4 win. Korea beat Australia by 9-3 to take women's bronze.

The men's event saw the teams contest a single round-robin and then best-of-three semi-finals.

China and Korea both emerged with 5-1 records from the round robin - China beating Korea by 6-4 to rank first overall, while Japan and Australia also qualified for the semi-finals, each on four wins and two losses.

In the semi-finals, China beat Australia twice - by 8-3 both times, while Japan turned the tables on Korea with victories by 8-4 and 9-4, after their 4-7 round-robin loss. These results gave the World Championship qualifying slots to China and Japan (as in the women's event).

China went on to take the title with a 6-2 win over Japan, while a 10-7 victory over Korea gave Australia bronze medals.

Online Results:

MEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=470>

WOMEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=469>

The 2014 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships (PACC) will take place 11 - 19 November 2013, Sanlin Sports Center, Shanghai, CHINA <http://pacc2013.curlingevents.com>

“Kazakhstan made their own piece of curling history...”



Operations & Integrity

In addition to detailing developments within the WCF itself, this section reports on Anti-Doping activities and covers the WCF's work in preventing illegal betting and match fixing in curling.

Operations

The new Competitions and Development Officers' team has been settling in over the last twelve months. The work and dedication of the group has exceeded expectations and the Board is delighted by the progress they have made and the additional support the Federation is now able to give to MAs through them. As a result, we have now increased capacity further in this team.

Another change to the staffing took place when Saskia Krügl joined as Projects Officer. Saskia was Secretary to the European Curling Federation and she joined the WCF following the decision by the members of the European Curling Federation to dissolve their organisation. As well as continuing to support the European events, Saskia will also take on the administration and organisation of the Annual Congress and Board meetings.

The first WCF Annual Congress at Turnberry, Scotland.



Anti-Doping

During the 2012/13 Season, we had a Registered Testing Pool of 33 athletes who were required to provide daily whereabouts information to allow a WADA compliant testing programme to be put in place. In total 55 out of competition and 32 in-competition tests were conducted during the year. From those tests we had one Missed Test and five Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF). Of those five AAF's only one was not covered by a Therapeutic Use Exemption. This one case related to Matt Dumontelle (CAN) who was the alternate player for the Canadian Men's team at the World Championships in Victoria. His case was put before an Independent Hearing Panel who found him guilty of an Anti Doping Rule Violation and suspended him for two years.

Mr Dumontelle's defence was that he was not aware that a supplement he was taking contained a banned substance. This incident highlights the need for all MAs to continually remind players to be aware of the Anti-Doping Regulations and the need to be responsible for any substance they are taking. This is now the third failure in recent years that can be attributed to a substance being taken in error or without the athlete being aware it was banned. The WCF will continue to provide information on testing and banned substances and asks for the support of MAs in doing all they can to ensure that athletes read and understand the information sent to them. Through such activity athletes will be reminded of their responsibility to know what they are taking, even when prescribed by a doctor, and ensure they take extra precautions with the content of nutritional supplements.

Illegal Betting and Match Fixing

This topic has become an increasing focus for the IOC and International Federations over the last few years. High profile betting and match-fixing scandals in many sports have led to the international sporting community looking at what action it can take to address the integrity of sport.

The IOC has adopted tough new betting regulations ahead of the Sochi Winter Games and has requested that all of the Winter International Federations do the same. The WCF Board have already agreed to adopt new rules in this area and will seek for formal rules to be adopted at the Annual Assembly. These rules are self-explanatory and the hope is that they will not need to be used, but it is important that the curling family shows commitment to the integrity of sport and the 'Spirit of Curling'.

We are working with SportAccord to provide educational material for athletes, coaches and officials on this topic ahead of the Sochi Winter Games. This will be distributed initially to those MAs competing at the Olympic and Paralympic Games before being provided to all other MAs.

Le Gruyère European Curling Championships

Karlstad, Sweden; 8 - 15 December 2012

“Sweden had the added pressure of playing in their home town...”



MEDAL TEAMS

MEN:

- Sweden: Niklas Edin (skip), Sebastian Kraupp (third), Fredrik Lindberg (second), Viktor Kjäll (lead), Oscar Eriksson (alternate).
- Norway: Thomas Ulsrud (skip), Torger Nergård (third), Christoffer Svae (second), Havård Vad Petersson (lead), Thomas Løvdal (alternate).
- Czech Republic: Jiří Snítíl (skip), Martin Snítíl (third), Jakub Bares (second), Jindřich Kitsberger (lead), Marek Vydra (alternate).

WOMEN:

- Russia: Anna Sidorova (skip), Liudmila Privivkova (third), Margarita Fomina (second), Ekaterina Galkina (lead), Nkeiruka Ezekh (alternate).
- Scotland: Eve Muirhead (skip), Anna Sloan (third), Vicki Adams (second), Claire Hamilton (lead), Sarah Reid (alternate).
- Sweden: Margaretha Sigfridsson (skip and lead), Maria Prytz (fourth), Christina Bertrup (third), Maria Wennerström (second), Agnes Knockenhauer (alternate).



Sweden hosted these Championships for the fourth time in the 38-year history of the event.

The 'A' Group games took place in Karlstad's Löfbergs Lila Arena (men and women), while the Karlstad Curling Club hosted the 'B' Groups.

In the men's Championship, Norway's 2010 and 2011 European champions, led by Thomas Ulsrud, were going for a hat-trick of victories, while last year's losing finalists, skipped by Sweden's 2009 European champion Niklas Edin, had the added pressure of not only representing the host nation, but also playing in their home town.

While there were several familiar teams in the men's 'A' line-up, Hungary were making their debut at this level. However they found the going tough and failed to win a single round-robin game, meaning that they will be relegated back down to the 'B' Group. Germany finished ninth overall to slip out of the 'A' Group for the first time. Hungary and Germany will be replaced in the 2013 'A' Group by Finland and Latvia. France were eighth, meaning they had to face a challenge from the eventual 'B' Group winners, for the last European spot in the World Curling Championships.

At the other end of the table, Sweden beat Norway by 7-6 in their concluding round-robin game, to finish at the top of the rankings and go onto the Page 1-2 Play-off, to be joined there by the Czech Republic who finished second - their highest-ever ranking. Despite their loss to Sweden, Norway moved onto the Page 3-4 game to face fourth-placed Denmark.

In the Page games, Sweden beat the Czech Republic by 9-3 to go to the final, while Norway beat Denmark 6-5. This put the Czech Republic and Norway into the sole semi-final, which Norway won by 6-4 to keep their hat-trick hopes alive.

In the bronze medal play-off, the Czech Republic picked up a historic first-ever Championship medal when they beat Denmark by 12-4. Sweden then went on to take gold, beating Norway by 8-5.

Online Results:

MEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=451>

WOMEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=452>

The 2013 Le Gruyère European Curling Championships will take place in Stavanger, Norway between 23 - 30 November 2013

<http://ecc2013.curlingevents.com>

Meanwhile, 'B' Group winners Finland beat France by two games to one in their challenge series, earning Finland the right to play in the 2013 Ford World Men's Curling Championship.

Also in the 'B' Group, Ireland and Wales have been relegated back to the ECC 'C' Group which will be played in Taarnby, Denmark, 7-13 October 2013. The top two teams from that event will move into the 2013 'B' Group.

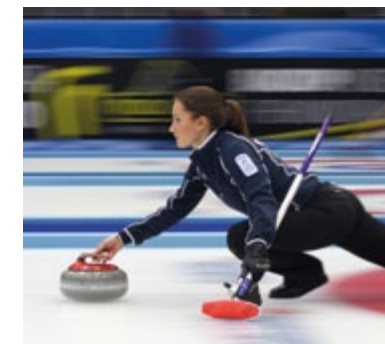
In the women's event, German skip Andrea Schöpp made a record-breaking 25th appearance. Scotland were defending women's champions, and they staged a strong title defence, finishing the round robin section in joint top place alongside the previous year's medallists Sweden and Russia.

Because of their better playing records in games among the three, Sweden and Scotland moved onto the Page 1-2 Play-off while Russia went to the 3-4 game, where they had to await a tie-breaker between Denmark and Switzerland, which Denmark won by 6-3.

Scotland moved onto the final with a 9-3 win over Sweden in the 1-2 game, while Russia beat Denmark by 7-6. Russia then beat Sweden by 8-6 with an extra-end steal of two points to go onto the final.

The final was also decided in an extra end, when Russia scored the one point needed for their 6-5 win, while Sweden beat Denmark by 9-3 for bronze.

Latvia won the 'B' Group, so a challenge series to decide the last European team at the WCC was not played against 'A's' 8th place (Germany) as Latvia was hosting the next World Women's Championship and was directly qualified. Also, Hungary and Finland, the bottom two teams in 'A' are relegated back to 'B' for 2013. They will be replaced by Latvia and Norway. Belarus and Slovakia move from 'B' down to 'C'.



Development

This season marked the first year for the newly formed Competitions and Development team, with Keith Wendorf as Director, and Eeva Röthlisberger, Darrell Ell, Scott Arnold and Allen Coliban as Competition and Development Officers (CDOs). Liz Munro and Susan Wendorf provided administrative support.



This team brings a huge amount of experience and initiative to the WCF, and activities included:

- team members taking up roles at various championship events including Technical Delegate, Timing Official, Media Assistant, Doping Control Officer, and various levels of Umpiring
- distributing an extensive questionnaire which gathered important data regarding the development of curling, providing a starting point for future projects
- visits to our North American Associations (CCA and USCA) to initiate sharing of programmes such as 'The Business of Curling' (CCA) and Technical, Ice Making and Officiating information
- developing a new Hosting Manual, which will be available to future Organising Committees when completed
- updating the Chief Umpire Manual
- developing Grants and Funding Guidelines, including a sample project application
- representation at international events - the Olympic Hopes tournament; the European Commission Sport Preparatory Action Seminar; the IOC Inter-cultural Seminar on Korea; the IOC Sport for All Conference

- re-writing and re-branding the WCF coaching courses. Two modules are now offered: Introduction to Instruction and Advanced Instruction / Introduction to Coaching

- refreshing WCF branding at all championships, courses and camps, including new participation certificates, standings boards and decals to WCF standardized accreditation at hosted championships.

A number of camps and courses were organised:

- a new camp in Eastern Europe – the WCF Adult Curling Week, Bratislava, Slovakia, which attracted 30 participants representing 11 MAs
- the seventh WCF Adult Curling Camp in Prague, Czech Republic, with 36 adults from 15 MAs
- the 15th annual WCF/DCV Hummelt Junior Curling Camp and Courses, Füssen, Germany, with a total of 56 participants from 17 MAs involved in the courses, and 120 juniors between the ages of 13 and 20 from 18 MAs attending the camp
- the first WCF Business of Curling Symposium in Prague, Czech Republic, with 20 participants from 14 MAs.

The CDO team is also responsible for the Development Assistance Programme (DAP) and at the end of the 2012-

2013 DAP programme there were 98 applications from 36 MAs. The total amount approved was US \$371,408.

A new Curling Equipment Programme (CEP) has been launched. This initiative is a partnership with three major curling equipment suppliers (Performance, BalancePlus and Goldline) who donated almost \$75,000 of curling equipment to be distributed through an application process to our MAs to support courses and camps.

The Pre and Post Sochi programme was introduced at the October Congress and formally distributed early in the New Year. This programme provides MAs with a number of strategies and ideas they could employ to exploit the exposure gained by the Sochi Olympics to attract and retain new curlers to their associations.

Medal Positions for 2012-2013 season

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
WWhCC	CAN	SWE	CHN
WJCC - W	RUS	SCO	JPN
WJCC - M	SCO	RUS	CAN
WWCC	SCO	SWE	CAN
WMCC	SWE	CAN	SCO
WSCC - W	CAN	AUT	SWE
WSCC - M	CAN	NZL	SUI
WMDCC	HUN	SWE	CZE



European Junior Curling Challenge

Prague, Czech Republic; 3 - 8 January 2013



QUALIFYING TEAMS

MEN

Italy: Andrea Pilzer (skip), Amos Mosaner (third), Daniele Ferrazza (second), Roberto Arman (lead), Sebastiano Arman (alternate)

WOMEN

Denmark: Stephanie Nielsen (skip), Jannie Gundry (third), Isabella Clemmensen (second), Charlotte Clemmensen (lead), Julie Dall Høgh (alternate).

The Roztyly curling rink in Prague hosted the 2013 European Junior Challenge, with 12 women's and 13 men's teams vying to become the top team of each gender, to qualify for the 2013 World Junior Championships.

For both men and women, the teams were split into two round-robin sections. The Men's 'A' section involved Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Turkey while Austria, England, Estonia, Latvia, Netherlands, and Slovenia made up the 'B' section.

In the women's event, the 'A' section included Estonia, Finland, Germany Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia, while the 'B' section featured Denmark, England, Hungary. Latvia, Poland and Turkey.

Online Results:

Men: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=471>

Women: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=472>

In the semi-finals, Denmark beat Estonia by 7-5, while Italy had a 5-4 victory over the Netherlands. Italy went on to win the final by 7-6, handing Denmark their only defeat of the event while clinching the World Championship qualifying slot.

In the women's event, Germany and Italy were first and second in the 'A' Group, while Denmark topped the 'B' Group ahead of Hungary. These two teams shared the same won four, lost one record, but Denmark were given top spot due to their 5-4 win over Hungary during the round-robin. In the semi-finals, Hungary beat Germany by 7-4, while Denmark beat Italy by 8-3. The Danes went on to beat Hungary by 4-1 in the final to go onto the World Championships.

The 2014 European Junior Challenge will take place in the Kisakallio Sports Institute, Lohja, Finland from 3 - 8 January 2014

“12 women's and 13 men's teams vying to become the top team of each gender...”



Pacific-Asia Junior Curling Championships

Kitami-City, Hokkaido, Japan; 10 - 16 January 2013



QUALIFYING TEAMS

MEN

China: Qiang Zou (skip), Zhilin SHao (third), Tianyu Zhang (second), Shuming Lian (lead), Zhi Ling (alternate).

WOMEN

Japan: Sayaka Yoshimura (skip), Rina Ida (third), Risa Ujihara (second), Mao Ishigaki (lead), Natsuko Ishiyama (alternate).

Following the late withdrawal of the Kazakhstan Junior Men, five nations took part in both events of these Championships - Junior Women and Junior Men from Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand.

The Championships took place in Tokoro, Kitami-City, Hokkaido, Japan.

In the women's event Japan emerged as overall winners, with the standings being:

1. Japan
2. China
3. Korea
4. New Zealand
5. Australia.

China were the men's winners, and the final table looked like this:

1. China
2. Korea
3. New Zealand
4. Japan
5. Australia

Both winning teams qualified to represent the Pacific-Asia region at the World Junior Curling Championships in Sochi, Russia.

Online Results:

Men: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=473>

Women: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=474>

The 2014 Pacific-Asia Junior Curling Championships will take place in Harbin, China from 9 - 14 January 2014.

“...five nations took part in both events of these Championships...”



Facilities & Technical Assistance

Our new Green Initiative Programme (GIP) aims to encourage MAs to cut the carbon footprint in dedicated curling facilities. This scheme offers interest free loans of up to US \$100,000 or up to 50% of the cost of a project where existing curling facilities demonstrate they can improve energy efficiency and environmental merits.

This new initiative will encourage MAs to cut energy usage and help to prevent energy loss - helping the environment, but also improving operating costs, which in turn leads to improved sustainability as energy costs continue to rise.

In addition to the GIP, we also offer a New Facility Assistance (NFA) programme which helps fund the provision of new curling facilities up to a maximum of US \$50,000 per curling sheet provided.

This programme has been running for 12 years and, in many cases, our financial assistance has unlocked support from other funding agencies. This programme has been used in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and USA.

All loan repayments made are held in a ring-fenced fund which should continue to grow as more projects are approved for support, and more repayments made. Currently, US \$1.3 million is available for GIP and NFA projects.

We also offer MAs the opportunity to take advantage of a deferred payment scheme to help with the purchase of major pieces of equipment, such as curling stones, ice scrapers and ice plants.

Up to 2013, this scheme has supplied 3,208 new curling stones, 3,986 reconditioned curling stones and 27 power scrapers.

In the past year, other notable technical and development projects include a research project conducted by Uppsala University in Sweden on why curling stones curl and technical assistance with the building of two new curling facilities in Karuizawa, Japan and Jönköping, Sweden.

In addition to continuing high quality maintenance to 24 sets of Championships stones, which are used at most World Curling Championships, the WCF Executive Board has also approved additional resources to fund the following technical resources and activities:

- holding a library of curling facility blueprints
- maintaining a Chief Ice Technicians' manual
- updating and maintaining the WCF's 'Curling Ice Explained' on a regular basis
- supporting the maintenance of the WCF's equipment and curling stones
- acting as Technical experts for competitions
- arranging Chief Ice Technician meetings and courses
- developing and delivering technical ice-making courses at various levels
- developing clear WCF technical standards
- leading Research & Development in the technical areas of the sport
- providing advice and support to MAs in technical matters
- conducting Technical site visits for major WCF events
- helping to review Facility Loans and Deferred Payment applications for major equipment items
- producing the handbook 'How to build a curling rink'.



The Ice Cube Curling Centre, Sochi - curling venue for the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

New curling facilities around the world

The curling world is growing and with it the numbers of dedicated curling facilities. In the last two years we have been involved (with economic help and/or technical advice) in projects or proposed projects in Brazil, Croatia, France, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA.



World Financial Group Continental Cup

Penticton, BC, Canada; 13 - 18 January 2013

“It will be all to play for when the event moves to Las Vegas in 2014...”



The World Financial Group Continental Cup was staged at the South Okanagan Events Centre, Penticton, BC, Canada.

This was the ninth edition of this unique international curling competition, featuring six teams from North America versus six teams representing The World in a variety of disciplines during the four days – Team Games, Mixed Doubles, Singles, Mixed Skins and Skins. Each segment awards points for wins (or ties), with a total of 60 points available, the first side to reach 31 points is declared the winner.

Before the event started, the Teams were tied on four wins each since the inaugural Continental Cup was contested in 2002 in Regina, SK, Canada.

Team World's colours were worn by teams skipped by Niklas Edin (Sweden), Tom Brewster (Scotland), Thomas Ulsrud (Norway), Margaretha Sigfridsson (Sweden), Mirjam Ott (Switzerland) and Eve Muirhead (Scotland). North America was represented by four teams from Canada - skipped by Glenn Howard of Coldwater, ON, Kevin Martin and Heather Nedohin of Edmonton, AB, and Jennifer Jones of Winnipeg, MB, and two teams from the United States - skipped by Heath McCormick of Sarnia, Ontario and Allison Pottinger of St. Paul, Minnesota.



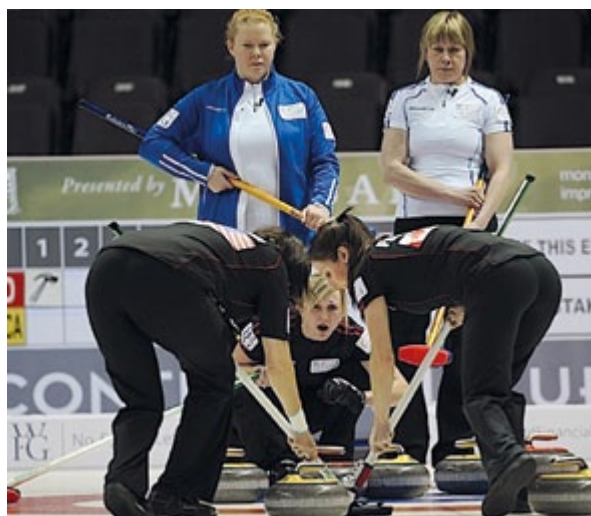
Eight-end team games were played on the Thursday and Friday, as well as two Mixed Doubles sessions. On Saturday and Sunday, the spotlight fell on Skins games and the singles competition.

Team World took a one point lead into day two of competition, edging the first day by five points to four, but Team North America reversed things on the second day, emerging as 13 - 8 leaders. Thanks largely to an outstanding Mixed Doubles performance, Team North America extended their lead to nine clear points at the end of the third day of play.

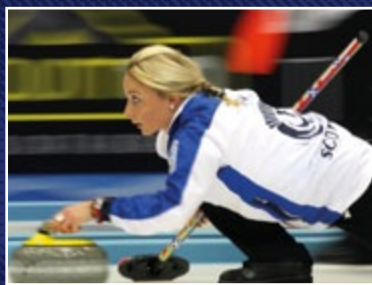
Team North America was not to be caught, with Glenn Howard defeating Thomas Ulsrud in the final Skins game to take his squad over the finish-line with an eventual fourteen point lead, at 37 - 23.

North America has now won the World Financial Group Continental Cup five times where as Team World have won it four times in the event's history. No team has ever won consecutive titles therefore it will be all to play for when the event moves out of Canada for the first time, to be staged in the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, USA between 16 - 19 January 2014. <http://www.curling.ca/2014continentalcup>

Online Results:
<http://www.curling.ca/championships/continentalcup/scores-and-results/draw-schedule>



Zonal Reports



WCF business is now routed through three regional Zones - the Americas, Europe and Pacific-Asia. This new set-up is a key component of the governance changes the WCF is currently introducing.

The Americas

The inaugural meeting of the Americas Zonal Commission took place during the first World Curling Congress in Turnberry, Scotland in October 2012.

The Americas Zone has the smallest number of WCF MAs, including the two largest.

Present at the 2012 Zonal Commission were Brazil, Canada and the USA.

Although those members typically deal directly with the WCF on important day-to-day items, all in attendance at the inaugural meeting recognised the value in working together on matters of mutual interest and the new Commission would provide an opportunity to do just that.

Items that came out of the inaugural meeting were

- the desire to meet in person more than once per year
- starting the creation of an Americas Zone championship
- financial and logistical support of zonal competitions
- funding options for Congress attendance at future WCF Congresses.

The next Zonal Commission meeting will be in Copenhagen at the second WCF Annual Congress.

Europe

The inaugural meeting of the European Zonal Commission was held during the first WCF Annual Congress at Turnberry, Scotland. MAs present included: Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; England; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russia; Scotland; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland and Wales.

Discussions centred round the future role the Commission could have and the implications this had for the European Curling Federation (ECF). This was followed in December 2012 by an Open Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the ECF held in Karlstad, Sweden. At these meetings the Members of the ECF formally agreed to dissolve the organisation over the next two years in a controlled shutdown. It was agreed to ask the WCF to continue the organisation of the existing European championship events. A new ECF Board was elected to oversee the running of the Federation until it closed down.

The Open Meeting held alongside the ECF AGM allowed the members the chance to discuss what were the priority issues for European Curling Associations over the coming years - communications, development and competitions came out as the main issues and those discussions will be taken forward by the Zonal Commission.

Pacific-Asia

The Annual General Assembly of the Pacific-Asia Curling Federation (PACF) was held in Naseby, New Zealand on 23 November 2012.

Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and New Zealand were all present, along with WCF President Kate Caithness, and heard reports on the increasing level of activity throughout the Zone.

In addition, full reports were given on the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and Pacific-Asia Junior Curling Championships. The future hosts of these events were agreed in principle.

There was discussion on the future role of the Pacific-Asia Curling Federation following WCF constitution changes and an application for membership by the Mongolian Curling Federation was approved, as a conditional member.

Young C Kim was elected President, while Ken Sato was voted in as Vice-President.

The Assembly heard detailed national reports from individual MAs, and the following general points were noted:

- the increase in memberships of the PACF
- the increase in participating teams at PACF Championship events
- the increasing number of planned national events.

World Wheelchair Curling Championship

Sochi, Russia; 16 - 23 February



MEDAL TEAMS

- 🇨🇦 **Canada:** Jim Armstrong (skip), Dennis Thiessen (third), Ina Forrest (second), Sonja Gaudet (lead), Mark Ideson (alternate)
- 🇸🇪 **Sweden:** Jalle Jungnell (skip), Glenn Ikonen (third), Patrik Kallin (second), Kristina Ulander (lead), Gert Erlandsson (alternate)
- 🇨🇳 **China:** Haitao Wang (skip), Wei Liu (third), Guangqin Xu (second), Jun He (lead), Qiang Zhang (alternate)



The Ice Cube Curling Centre in Sochi, Russia hosted its first international championship when the World Wheelchair Curling Championship was staged there as a test event for the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games curling event.

Ten teams had qualified for this event - Canada, China, Finland, Korea, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Slovakia, and the USA. Of these, Russia qualified as hosts while Finland and Norway had come through a qualifying event, held in Finland in November 2012. The others qualified based on their rankings at the 2012 World Championship.

Canada and Sweden dominated the round-robin stages, both suffering just one loss. Sweden went down by 4-5 to the USA in their third round-robin game, but crucially defeated Canada by 8-7 later in the week, a win which eventually gave them top place ahead of the Canadians despite both having the same win/loss record.

Behind these two, USA ranked in a clear third place while China, Russia and Scotland were all level on four wins, tied for the final Page Play-off position.

China had the best record in games among these three teams so they went straight to the second tie-breaker, waiting for the winner between Russia and Scotland. Russia beat Scotland by 7-5, and China then beat them by 8-3 to complete the Page Play-off line-up, with Sweden against Canada in the 1-2 game and USA against China in the 3-4 game.

Meanwhile Slovakia beat Finland by 8-4 in their tie-breaker further down the table to rank seventh and eighth while Korea and Norway shared bottom-place on the table and will now play in the next qualifying event in autumn 2014.

Online Results:

<http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=475>

As it is Paralympic year, there will be no World Wheelchair Curling Championship in 2014.

Sweden won a tight Page 1-2 game by 6-5 to move straight to the gold medal final, while, in a Page 3-4 game that featured steals in five of its eight ends, USA beat China by 8-4 to go into a semi-final against Canada.

In that semi-final, Canada emerged as 6-3 winners over USA, setting up a gold final that was a re-match of the Page 1-2 game, while the bronze medal game saw a re-match of the Page 3-4 game.

However, in both cases, the Page results were reversed. China took bronze - for the second successive year - with a 6-5 win over USA that featured a take-out by skip Haitao Wang to score two points and seal the win.

Later Canada emerged with a 4-3 win over Sweden in a tightly-fought final, to take gold - a third World Wheelchair Curling title for Canada in the history of the event.

During the closing ceremony, Swedish skip Jalle Jungnell was announced as winner of the Wheelchair Championship Sportsmanship Award. It is the third time he has won this Award.

“Canada and Sweden dominated the round-robin stages, both suffering just one loss...”



“Scotland beat Sweden by 6-5 to win only the second world title by a female Scottish team.”



MEDAL TEAMS

- **Scotland:** Eve Muirhead (skip), Anna Sloan (third), Vicki Adams (second), Claire Hamilton (lead), Lauren Gray (alternate).
- **Sweden:** Margaretha Sigfridsson (skip and lead), Maria Prytz (fourth), Christina Bertrup (third), Maria Wennerström (second), Agnes Knochenhauer (alternate).
- **Canada:** Rachel Homan (skip), Emma Miskew (third), Alison Kreviazuk (second), Lisa Weagle (lead), Stephanie Le Druw (alternate).



Titlis Glacier Mountain World Women's Curling Championship

Riga, Latvia; 16 - 24 March 2013

The 2013 Titlis Glacier Mountain World Women's Curling Championship was the first world curling event to be staged in Latvia, when the Volvo Sports Centre played host to the top teams in the world, from Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, hosts Latvia, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

As the round-robin unfolded, the top three teams - Sweden, Scotland and Canada all sat out the final session, knowing that they had qualified for the Page Play-offs.

Meanwhile, Russia and the USA faced each other, with both still capable of keeping their medal hopes alive. This game went to an extra end before USA scored the one point needed for a 6-5 win. In the same final session, Switzerland beat Denmark by 8-5, putting themselves into a tie-breaker scenario alongside Russia and the USA to determine the last slot in the Page Play-offs. USA had the best draw shot challenge record of the three, so they moved directly to the second tie-breaker to face the winner of the re-match between Switzerland and Russia.

In the tie-breakers, Switzerland beat Russia by 7-6 and then faced USA, only to go down by 7-4, a result that gave the final Page Play-off slot to the Americans.

Despite strong home support, the Latvian team had a challenging week and could only record one victory - by 8-7 over Switzerland - in their round-robin programme. At the end of their campaign, Latvian skip Iveta Stasa-Sarsune said: 'It has been a great experience which we have enjoyed incredibly.'



Online Results:

<http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=454>

The 2014 Ford World Women's Curling Championship will take place in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada on 15 - 27 March 2014.

<http://www.curling.ca/2014worldwomen-en/>

In the Page 1-2 game, Sweden beat Scotland by 7-5, blanking the ninth end and then scoring three in the tenth end to seal their win. Canada then beat the USA by 7-6 in the Page 3-4 play-off, to set up a semi-final show-down with Scotland.

The semi-final went all the way to the last stone before Scotland stole the one point they needed for their 8-7 victory and to set up their third game of the week against Sweden, this time for the world title and gold medals.

Before that show-down, Canada faced the USA for bronze medals, and it was the Canadians who were successful, winning by 8-6 to finish third overall.

In the gold medal final, Scotland beat Sweden by 6-5 to win what is only the second world title by a female Scottish team.

During the closing ceremony, Germany's lead Corinna Scholz was declared the winner of the Frances Brodie Award - voted for by all competitors - for the athlete who best exemplified the spirit of curling throughout the Championship.



Ford World Men's Curling Championship

Victoria, BC, Canada; 30 March - 7 April 2013



MEDAL TEAMS

- 🇸🇪 **Sweden:** Niklas Edin (skip), Sebastian Kraupp (third), Fredrik Lindberg (second), Viktor Kjäll (lead), Oskar Eriksson (alternate).
- 🇨🇦 **Canada:** Brad Jacobs (skip), Ryan Fry (third), Eric 'EJ' Harnden (second), Ryan Harnden (lead).
- 🇪🇸 **Scotland:** David Murdoch (skip), Tom Brewster (third), Scott Andrews (second), Michael Goodfellow (lead), Greg Drummond (alternate).



The 2013 Ford World Men's Curling Championship was staged in Victoria, BC, Canada, with the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre playing host to the event for the second time - the 2005 Ford Worlds took place there just after it opened.

The twelve teams who qualified were: hosts Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

Scotland were the first team to confirm their place in the Page Play-offs with a 7-4 win over China in their second-last round-robin game. Despite then losing to Finland by 9-10, the Scots remained assured of a place in the 1-2 Play-off. The Scots then sat out the final round-robin session, with each of the four games in that session having a potential effect on the final Page Play-off line-up.

Canada faced Sweden in this session, and lost by 7-11. This result gave Sweden the same 7-4 round-robin record as Canada and Denmark, but, after comparing the head-to-head results among these three, Sweden were ranked second overall, to face Scotland, while Denmark out-ranked Canada as they faced each other in the Page 3-4 game.

The Page 1-2 game between Scotland and Sweden was tight all the way, with Sweden making the early breakthrough when they scored two points in the second end for a 2-1 lead. Eventually, European champions Sweden beat table-topping Scotland by 6-5 to go straight to the gold medal final.

In the tenth end of the Page 3-4 game, Canadian third player Ryan Fry set up the win for his team with a crowd-pleasing double take-out, and when the final attempt by Danish skip Rasmus Stjerne rolled too far, Canada had the 8-6 win without their skip Brad Jacobs having to play his last stone.

The Canadians, who had lost four of their final six round-robin games, then went on to face Scotland in the semi-final. They won

by 6-3 to move onto the final when Scottish skip David Murdoch drew into an empty house in the ninth end to score one point and reduce the Canadian lead before conceding the game.

The Scots then came back onto the ice to play Denmark for bronze medals, and made up for their two consecutive play-off losses by beating Denmark by 7-6. This Scottish victory came despite Danish skip Stjerne producing a candidate for shot-of-the-week in the ninth end, with an outrageous multiple clear-out to score two points and keep his team's hopes alive for one more end.

Sweden then faced the hosts in the gold medal final, and took the early advantage by scoring two points in the first end when their skip Niklas Edin delivered a nose-hit.

The Swedes then closed in on the title in the eighth end when Edin drew his final stone into the house to score two for an 8-4 lead. Canada closed the gap to 8-6 in Sweden's favour in the ninth, and Sweden eventually ran Canada out of stones in the tenth, to add the world title to the European crown they had won earlier in the season. The rare achievement of holding the European and world titles has only been done one other time, by David Murdoch from Scotland when his team grabbed the 2008 European and the 2009 World titles.

During the closing ceremony, Sweden's skip Edin gained even more honour when he was chosen by his peers as the winner of the Collie Campbell Memorial Award for best exemplifying the spirit of curling throughout the Championship.



“Sweden's skip Edin gained even more honour when he was chosen as the winner of the Collie Campbell Award”



Online Results:

<http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=455>

The 2014 World Men's Curling Championship will take place in Beijing, China on 29 March - 6 April 2014.

<http://wmcc2014.curlingevents.com>

Broadcasting & Webcasting



Broadcasting

TV coverage of our championship events was seen by a global cumulative audience of over 87 million people over the 2012-2013 season. In the four global TV markets where viewing figures were analysed (North America, South America, Europe & Asia), over 550 hours of WCF curling championship coverage were broadcast, with over two-thirds being aired live¹.

Through our broadcasting arm, World Curling TV (WCTV), we continue to produce televised 'host broadcast' coverage for broadcasters worldwide of three flagship events - the European Championships and the Men's and Women's World Championships.

Because of rights deals established in collaboration with our media rights agency Infront Sports & Media, we now have television broadcast partnerships in 65 countries. Canada remains a key market where curling remains one of the most-watched sport properties on Canadian television, with, for example, 1.13 million viewers tuning in to watch the final of the Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2013 from Victoria, BC on TSN.

Average audiences of 2.5 million in China watched CCTV-5's live coverage of round robin games featuring the Chinese women's team at the Titlis Glacier Mountain World Women's Curling Championship. The Asian TV market remains a growth and target area for broadcast development, particularly with the 2014 World Men's Championship being held in Beijing, China.

The Japanese women qualifying for the Worlds in Riga brought renewed interest from Japanese broadcasters, and, working in collaboration with Japan's NHK, WCTV mounted its biggest onsite host broadcast operation to date at this event. Two High Definition (HD) outside broadcast trucks produced simultaneous live televised coverage of two games per session. In total, WCTV produced 34 live televised games over nine days. Ten WCF broadcast partners accessed this live coverage from the event, with six of these channels sending crews or commentary teams to cover the event onsite in Latvia.

¹ Source: REPUCOM Reports



Webcasting

A new development in the WCF's partnership with YouTube saw game footage from the WCF's flagship events - European, Women's and Men's Championships - being available live on the World Curling TV YouTube channel for the first time. Geoblocking restrictions were applied to each individual live game feed to protect WCF broadcast partner rights, but fans in countries with no broadcast rights agreements could view the coverage live.

While YouTube is still fine-tuning how to gather viewing figures from this live coverage, the World Curling TV YouTube channel is an essential window and resource in exposing curling to new countries and offering fans a chance to follow the sport at World Championship level.

The channel now counts over 3,400 subscribers and has had over a million views for the video-on-demand footage available (full length games, highlights and features). Footage has been viewed in 190 countries, with the top ten being Canada, USA, UK, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland, Russia, Brazil, Germany and Italy. Fans were able to follow 126 live games with English commentary over the 2012-2013 season (from the European, Junior, Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles Championships).

All this has been made possible through the WCF's partnership with Sweden's LiveChannel which has invested in HD production equipment to make for the best possible web-streamed viewing experience. Over 20% of the viewing of the channel was done on mobile devices (smart phones and tablets).

“a full test event in what will be the 2014 Winter Olympics curling venue”



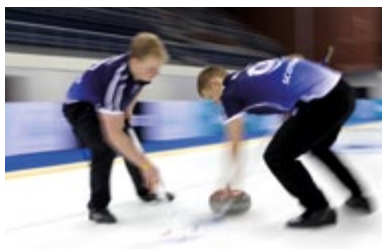
MEDAL TEAMS

JUNIOR WOMEN:

- **Russia:** Yulia Portunova (skip), Alina Kovaleva (third), Alexandra Saitova (second), Oksana Gertova (lead), Olesya Glushchenko (alternate).
- **Scotland:** Hannah Fleming (skip), Lauren Gray (third), Jennifer Dodds, (second), Abi Brown (lead), Vicky Wright (alternate).
- **Japan:** Sayaka Yoshimura (skip), Rina Ida (third), Risa Ujihara (second), Mao Ishigaki (lead), Natsuko Ishiyama (alternate).

JUNIOR MEN:

- **Scotland:** Kyle Smith (skip), Thomas Muirhead (third), Kyle Waddell (second), Cameron Smith (lead), Hammy McMillan (alternate).
- **Russia:** Evgeny Arkhipov (skip), Sergey Glukov (third), Dmitriy Mironov (second), Artur Ali (lead), Timur Gadzhikhanov (alternate).
- **Canada:** Matthew Dunstone (skip), Colton Lott (third), Daniel Grant (second), Brendan McCuish (lead), Josh Barry (alternate).



World Junior Curling Championships

Sochi, Russia; 28 February - 10 March 2013

The 2013 World Junior Curling Championships were staged in Sochi's Ice Cube Curling Centre, with ten men's and women's teams competing in a full test event for what will be the 2014 Olympic Winter Games curling venue.

This was the first time that Russia had hosted the World Junior Curling Championships.

The ten women's teams taking part represented Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Japan, Norway, hosts Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. The ten men's teams involved were Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Italy, Norway, hosts Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

At the 2012 World Women's Junior Championship in Östersund, Sweden, skip Hannah Fleming led Scotland to gold and, in the defence of their title, Fleming's 2013 team lost only their final round-robin game, going down by 6-8 to Japan. Their performances in other round-robin games put these two teams at the top of the round-robin, leading to top-placed Scotland facing Japan again in the Page 1-2 Play-off.

Meanwhile, Sweden completed a remarkable turn-around in their round-robin programme. After losing their first four games they beat Switzerland by 8-3 to secure a place in the tie-breakers. The Czech Republic, Denmark, Russia and Sweden all shared the same won five, lost four record, behind leaders Scotland and second-placed Japan.

However, the Swedish campaign ended with a 1-8 tie-breaker loss to Russia, which put Russia into the Page 3-4 play-off, where they were joined by the Czech Republic after their 8-4 tie-breaker defeat of Denmark.

Scotland beat Japan by 4-3 in a tight Page 1-2 game to go directly to the final, while Russia defeated the Czech Republic by 4-2 in the 3-4 game to move onto the semi-final, where they came from behind to beat Japan by 8-6.

Online Results:

WOMEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=479>
MEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=476>

The 2014 World Junior Curling Championships will take place in Flims, Switzerland from 26 February to 5 March 2014.

<http://wjcc2014.curlingevents.com>

In the gold medal final, Russia again came from behind to make their own bit of curling history, beating Scotland by 6-5 after an extra end to win their country's first world junior title. Japan beat the Czech Republic by 8-4 to take bronze.

Norway were relegated to the women's 2014 European Junior Curling Challenge and the Sportsmanship Award was presented to Sara McManus from Sweden.

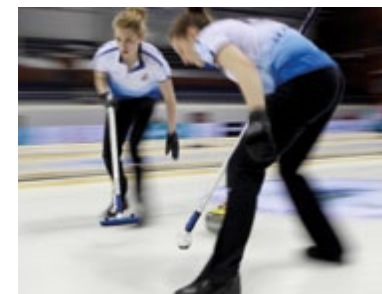
In the men's event, Scotland, the previous year's bronze medallists, suffered only one round-robin defeat, by 4-5 at the hands of Russia. They therefore qualified for the Page 1-2 game, where they faced Canada, who were given second place over Russia as, despite both teams having the same won seven, lost two record, the Canadians had beaten Russia by 5-4 in an early round-robin game. Russia therefore faced Sweden in the Page 3-4 game.

Scotland beat Canada by 8-6 in the 1-2 Play-off, while Russia defeated Sweden by 6-4 to win the right to face Canada in the semi-final.

In this game, Canada suffered their second successive defeat going down by 8-11 in an extra end. Russia now faced Scotland for gold, with Canada scheduled to battle with Sweden for bronze medals.

In the gold medal game, the Scots avenged their round-robin loss by beating Russia 6-2. Canada won bronze medals with a 6-4 victory over Sweden.

The Czech Republic were relegated to the men's 2014 European Junior Curling Challenge and the Sportsmanship Award was presented to Thomas Howell (pictured below) from the USA.



Media & Communications

The 2012-2013 season saw tremendous growth in the numbers of people following news and information about the sport of curling via our websites, social media platforms and information resources.

The key for our Media & Communications operation is to keep abreast of all the changes and developments in the digital world while at the same time staying relevant and a reliable source of information for the media and wider public.

There has been a 34% increase in the number of 'unique visitors' to the WCF website, while Facebook continues to be one of the most popular social media platforms. The WCF's Facebook page now has over 5,000 followers.

Twitter remains popular, while there has been a remarkable boom in subscribers to the WCF's YouTube Channel – World Curling TV – up 394% on last season.

Media Operations

There has been a significant increase in members of the media attending WCF events in person.

This has been helped by our Media Assistance Programme (MAP) which is designed to assist MAs with media communications from WCF events. It helps MAs by covering accommodation costs of their media or communications representative at an event. Having MAs media and communications representatives on-site has helped spread the word about championship events. During the 2012-2013 season, six MAs took advantage of MAP funding.

Our Image Library <http://photos.worldcurling.org> currently has over 122 users who have access to over 13,000 images.

With the Olympic and Paralympic season ahead, we are bracing ourselves for record-breaking numbers as people look for and want to follow more and more information about curling.



WCF Trainee Reporter & Photographer Programme



The WCF Trainee Reporter and Photographer Programme was launched this year. This world-wide competition which drew 70 entries, allowed one student journalist and one student photographer to join the hands-on WCF media team on-site at the World Junior Curling Championships. It was won by student journalist Kyle Jahns from Manitoba, Canada, and photographer Alina Pavlyuchik from Minsk, Belarus.

Alina: 'I love sports reporting about curling. It has been invaluable for me to work in a team of professionals, watching and learning from the experience. I've enjoyed every day spent here.'

Kyle: 'It has been amazing, one of a kind. I'm so thankful for the people that I've met and all the experiences. I've learned a lot and I want to take that forward in my career. I was surprised to see how long the days were and how extreme everything is.'

Kyle added, 'the WCF should run this competition again. They get that extra set of hands on-deck and whoever they select, the experience is absolutely invaluable. I'm just incredibly thankful to be here. It's given me a good idea of what I want to do in the future now, and it's the best experience that you could ever get.'

34%

increase in visitors to WCF website
www.worldcurling.org
Total number of unique visitors:

2013 345,876

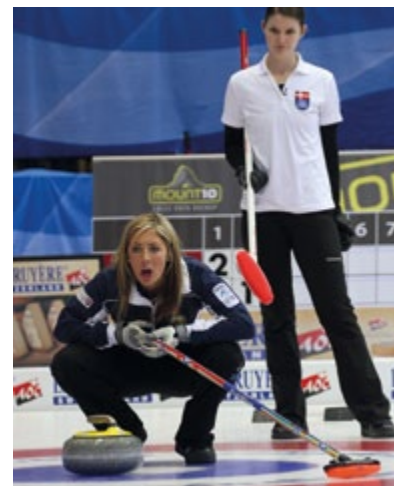
2012 258,395

171%

increase in visitors to WCF
curlingevents.com websites.
Total number of unique visitors:

2013 462,512

2012 170,417



Most popular photo from
WCF Image Library
<http://photos.worldcurling.org>:

Eve Muirhead (Scotland) and
Lene Nielsen (Denmark)
at Le Gruyère European Curling
Championships 2012

28 downloads

67% more users

15% more logins

84% more downloads

137% more images

Most popular video on
World Curling TV – WCF YouTube channel:
Canada v USA, Bronze Medal game highlights.
Titlis Glacier Mountain World Women's
Curling Championship 2013.

12,167 views



86% more uploads

394% more subscribers



49%

increase in Facebook followers
Most-viewed Facebook photo:
Ford World Men's Curling Champions
2013 – Sweden.

13,781 views



334%

increase in LinkedIn
followers

19%

more media releases

2013 155

2012 130



@WCFmedia

72%

increase in followers

155%

increase in average
monthly growth



@worldcurling

182%

increase in followers

22%

increase in average
monthly growth

Sponsorship & Marketing



There was a slight dip in 2012-13 marketing revenues in comparison with the previous year, but the overall trend is that our marketing revenues continue to grow, with the 2012-13 season's income being more than double that of five seasons ago. The even better news is that, with solid arrangements and contracts in place, the net income from WCF marketing activities is set to break through the US \$1 million mark again in the coming season.

Major activities in 2012-13 include:

- the renewal of the partnership contract with the Canadian Curling Association until 2018, which will produce an increase in revenues for the WCF
- the start of negotiations around a contract renewal with marketing agents Infront
- renewal of the Eurosport contract
- renewal of the Le Gruyère sponsorship of the European Championships
- new timing sponsor to be announced shortly.

The WCF enjoys good relationships with its sponsors, resulting in solid and long-term partnerships. But we are always looking for new opportunities and partners as we try to generate even more sponsorship revenue. If we manage to do this, it will become more attractive for our MAs to consider hosting major events. Increased revenue will also give us the ability to provide financial support for more curling facilities and programmes across the world.

The marketing potential for curling is still large, and with the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and World Men's Curling Championship in Beijing on the horizon, the possibilities are exciting!



“That’s the biggest result in Hungary’s curling history. I hope everyone is happy back home!”



MEDAL TEAMS

- **Hungary:** Dorottya Palancsa (female), Zsolt Kiss (male).
- **Sweden:** Elisabeth Norredahl (female), Fredrik Hallström (male).
- **Czech Republic:** Zuzana Hajkova (female), Tomas Paul (male).



World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship

Fredericton, NB, Canada; 13 - 20 April 2013

Hungary’s Zsolt Kiss and Dorottya Palancsa made history when they won their MA’s first-ever World Curling title, defeating Sweden 8-7 in the gold medal game of the 2013 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in the Grant Harvey Centre in Fredericton, NB, Canada.

27 teams from around the world competed in the Championship, and this was the first time that Canada had hosted a world championship of this exciting new curling discipline, which staged its first national championship as recently as 2008.

The competing teams were: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and USA.

The newly-built Grant-Harvey Centre also hosted the World Senior Curling Championships at the same time.

Mixed Doubles curling is for teams of two players - one male, one female - and is played on the same sheets of ice as traditional curling. Teams have six stones (one placed on a pre-determined spot, while the other five stones are delivered) and, among other differences with the traditional game, each game is scheduled for eight ends, rather than the traditional ten ends for championship events.

The 27 teams were divided into three round-robin groups, trying to qualify for the quarter-final stage.

In Group ‘A’, Scotland, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands all sat on six wins and two losses at the end of their round-robin games, but Scotland and Sweden were ranked first and second to qualify for the quarter-finals while third-placed Norway beat the Netherlands by 9-5 in their tie-breaker for third place - a result that took the Dutch pairing out of quarter-final reckoning and kept Norwegian hopes alive.

Online Results:

<http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=480>

The 2014 World Mixed Doubles Championship will take place in Dumfries, Scotland from 23 - 30 April 2014.

<http://wmdcc2014.curlingevents.com>

In Group ‘B’, New Zealand and Austria finished first and second to qualify direct, with the Czech Republic staying involved as third-placed finishers. Group ‘C’ saw Switzerland and Hungary top the rankings to qualify, with Russia in third place.

Their draw-shot challenge performances throughout the event meant that Norway were the best-placed of the third teams, and this put them straight into the quarter-finals. The last remaining quarter-final slot was decided by a tie-breaker between the other two Group third-placed teams - the Czech Republic and Russia, which the Czechs won by 8-3.

In the quarter-finals, Norway beat the Swiss by 9-4, Sweden were 6-4 winners over Scotland, Hungary beat Austria by 7-4 and the Czech Republic were victorious over New Zealand, by 9-2.

Sweden then went on to beat Norway by 7-5 in the semi-finals and Hungary beat the Czech Republic by 10-5.

The Czechs then gave themselves the consolation of bronze medals with an 8-1 win over Norway in the bronze medal game, while Hungary beat Sweden by 8-7 in a tight gold medal final that went all the way to an extra end.

After their historic win, Hungary’s Dorottya Palancsa said, ‘I think that’s the biggest result in Hungary’s curling history. We are just a small federation with not such a big history. We achieved this within ten years and that’s amazing. I hope everyone is happy back home!’



The World Curling Federation Hall of Fame



The WCF administers and convenes the World Curling Hall of Fame.

Curling is a sport held in great affection and the Hall of Fame reflects that. Induction into the World Curling Hall of Fame is the highest 'non-playing' honour that the WCF can bestow on someone and recognises outstanding contribution to the sport of curling whether through on-ice exploits or off-ice endeavours.

2012 was the first year the WCF accepted nominations for this honour. Previously, the WCF presented the World Curling Freytag Award to recognise outstanding contribution to the sport. Now, inductees into the World Curling Hall of Fame are presented with the Freytag Medal to mark their induction and all previous winners of the Elmer Freytag Award and the World Curling Freytag Award have been inducted to the World Curling Hall of Fame.

There is no requirement to induct members into the Hall of Fame each year, the honour is bestowed on merit only.

There are two classes of honour:

Curler: Demonstrated World Championship level playing ability, sportsmanship and character, and who has achieved extraordinary distinction and outstanding results in the sport of curling.

Builder: Given distinguished service and has made a major contribution to the development and advancement of curling internationally.

Two of Canada's most accomplished curlers were inducted into the World Curling Hall of Fame this year.

Three-time world champion Ron Northcott (right in picture) and two-time world champion Don Duguid (left in picture) were inducted into the Hall during the closing banquet of the Ford World Men's Curling Championship in Victoria, BC, Canada.

Ron Northcott, born December 31, 1935, put together a team in Calgary that followed in the footsteps of the legendary Ernie Richardson foursome from Saskatchewan. Northcott put together a 23-2 cumulative record en-route to winning world titles (known as the Scotch Cup from 1959 until 1967) in 1966 (8-0 at Vancouver), 1968 (8-1 at Pointe-Claire, Quebec, when the event became known as the Air Canada Silver Broom) and 1969 (7-1 at Perth, Scotland).

Northcott had the same front end — lead Fred Storey and second Bernie Sparkes — for all three of those titles, and three different thirds: George Fink in 1966, Jim Shields in 1968 and Dave Gerlach in 1969. Known as the 'Owl', Northcott won six Alberta championships. He was also named to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1970 and the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 1973, before being appointed to the Order of Canada in 1976.

Don Duguid, born January 25, 1935, took up the Canadian cause the year after Northcott's last world title. Backed up by third Rod Hunter, second Jim Pettapiece and lead Bryan Wood, the Winnipeg powerhouse swept to back-to-back unbeaten world championships, going 8-0 in 1970 at Utica, N.Y., and 9-0 a year later in Megève, France. Previously, Duguid had played third for Terry Braunstein's 1965 Brier championship quartet, and made it to the final of the 1965 world championship in Perth, Scotland, finishing second (5-2) after losing the final to Bud Somerville of the United States.

Duguid, who turned to broadcasting after his competitive playing career was over (working for CBC and NBC), was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 1974 and Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

World Curling Hall of Fame

Year	Curler/Builder	Award Recipient/Country
2013	Curler	Don Duguid, Canada
2013	Curler	Ron Northcott, Canada
2012	Builder	Gunther Hummelt, Austria (posthumously)
2012	Builder	Jean-Paul Bidaud, Switzerland
2012	Curler	Elisabet Gustafson, Sweden

World Curling Freytag Award Recipients

Year	Curler/Builder	Award Recipient/Country
2011	Builder	Ray Kingsmith, Canada (posthumously)
2010	Builder	Malcolm Richardson, Scotland
2009	Curler	Sandra Schmirler, Canada (posthumously)
2008	Builder	Leslie Ingram-Brown, Scotland
2007	Builder	Roy Sinclair, Scotland
2006	Builder	Kunio Nando, Japan
2004/2005	Not awarded	
2003	Builder	Bob Whitehead, USA (posthumously)
2002	Builder	Franz Tanner, Switzerland
2001	Builder	Shirley Morash, Canada
	Curler	Raymond (Bud) Somerville, USA
2000	Builder	Bob Hardy, USA
	Curler	Ernie Richardson, Canada
1998/1999	Not awarded	
1997		Erwin Sautter, Switzerland
1996		Elizabeth Paterson-Brown, Scotland
1995	Not awarded	
1994		Keith Wendorf, Germany
1991/92/93	Not awarded	

Elmer Freytag Award Recipients

Year	Award recipient/Country
1990	Colin Campbell, Canada (posthumously)
1989	Don McKay, USA
1988	Kay Sugahara, USA
1987	Bob Picken, Canada
1986	Art Cobb, USA
1985	Don McLeod, Canada
1984	Robin Welsh, Scotland
1983	Mabel Deware, Canada
1982	Sven Eklund, Sweden
1981	Doug Maxwell, Canada
1980	Bob Grierson, Scotland
1979	Chuck Hay, Scotland
1978	Ken Watson, Canada

“The gold medal game was much more one-sided...”



MEDAL TEAMS

WOMEN

- **Canada:** Cathy King (skip), Carolyn Morris (third), Lesley McEwan (second), Doreen Gares (lead), Christine Jurgenson (alternate)
- **Austria:** Veronika Huber (skip), Edeltraud Koudelka (third), Anna Reiner (second), Heidlinde Gasteiger (lead), Adelheid Wallner (alternate)
- **Sweden:** Ingrid Meldahl (skip), Ann-Catrin Kjerr (third), Birgitta Törn (second), Sylvia Liljefors (lead), Marie Lehander (alternate)

MEN

- **Canada:** Robert Armitage (skip), Keith Glover (third), Randy Ponich (second), Wilf Edgar (lead), Lyle Treiber (alternate)
- **New Zealand:** Hans Frauenlob (skip), Lorne De Pape (third), Allan Langille (second), Pat Cooney (lead), Dan Mustapic (alternate)
- **Switzerland:** Werner Attinger (skip), Peter Attinger (third), Ronny Müller (second), Tony Knobel (lead), Bernhard Attinger (alternate)



World Senior Curling Championships

Fredericton, NB, Canada; 13 - 20 April 2013

Both the Canadian senior men and women's teams won gold in the World Senior Curling Championships on home soil at the Grant-Harvey Centre in Fredericton, NB.

In their final, the Canadian women defeated Austria 13-1 in seven ends for their victory, while the Canadian men beat New Zealand by 6-4.

This was the 12th edition of these Championships for players of 50 years or older, and altogether 20 senior men's teams and 14 senior women's teams took part.

The women's teams were divided into two Groups: 'A' - Austria, Canada, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Russia and USA. The 'B' Group consisted of Australia, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland.

The men's teams were also divided into two round-robin groups: 'A' - Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, and Norway, Scotland and Switzerland, while the 'B' Group was Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Sweden and the USA.

In the women's Championship, Scotland completed their six-game 'A' Group round-robin programme undefeated to top the table and qualify for the semi-finals, where they were joined by second-placed Sweden, who had only been beaten by the Scots. In the 'B' Group, undefeated Canada emerged on top while Austria and Japan tied in second place. Austria then went on to win the tie-breaker between these two by 11-7 to complete the semi-final line-up.



Online Results:

WOMEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=482>

MEN: <http://results.worldcurling.org/Championship.aspx?id=481>

The 2014 World Senior Curling Championships will take place in Dumfries, Scotland from 23 - 30 April, 2014.

<http://wscc2014.curlingevents.com>

In the semi-finals, Canada beat Sweden by 7-6 after an extra end, while Austria defeated Scotland by 11-6. In the bronze medal game, Sweden found themselves involved in an extra end again, but this time they came out as winners, beating Scotland by 9-8 to take bronze. The gold medal game was much more one-sided, with Canada defeating Austria by 13-1 in just six ends.

In the men's Championship, undefeated Canada topped the 'A' Group rankings, with Sweden in second place, while New Zealand and Switzerland finished in the top two places in the 'B' Group.

The semi-finals saw New Zealand beat Sweden by 10-2 and Canada overcoming Switzerland by 11-3.

Switzerland went on to take bronze medals, beating Sweden by 7-2, while Canada completed their unbeaten performance by beating New Zealand 6-4 in the gold medal final, thanks largely to a score of three points in the sixth end.



Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Report

The financial position of the World Curling Federation continued to strengthen as a result of the year's operations. Supported by the WCF's share of the surplus from the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games and our Marketing fees, our retained reserves continued to grow to planned levels for anticipated future needs.

It is the WCF's policy to defer Income received from the Olympic Winter Games distribution and to take it into Income over the next four years. This year, this income amounted to \$5,789,602 compared to last year's income of \$4,789,602. As of the end of this year, the balance remaining to be taken into Fiscal Year 2014 is \$5,789,602.

Investment Income was minimal despite our large cash positions. This was primarily due to the low interest rates available through our normal banking arrangements. We expect to improve on this in the future as a result of appointing an International Investment Banking firm to provide investment advice in suitable low risk securities respecting the fact that these funds ultimately belong to our MAs.

Rights fees reflect there was no share of profit to the WCF from the WWCC in Lethbridge, Canada as a result of lower than expected ticket sales.

Broadcasting revenues increased as a result of growing interest in markets which reflect the performance of MA teams, specifically in Asia. This includes traditional television as well as web-casting from our Championships.

Miscellaneous income reflects a change in accounting policy to highlight any stock gains.

On the Expense side, operations were generally well within budget plans for the year. Expenses of the Executive Board included costs attributed to the first WCF Congress, held in lieu of the winter meeting at the site of the European Curling Championships. This successful event will continue with the Copenhagen Congress in September 2013.

The increase in Operations Expense is the result of additional Competitions and Development Officers to oversee the various services and programs currently in effect or assisting our MAs in growth and development of curling around the world.

2012 Development costs were inflated by US \$180,226 which related to 2010-11.

The cost of the various competitions supported by the WCF increased over last year with most of the excess cost due to significant lower ticket sales at the Continental Cup, and higher than expected expenses associated with the Seniors' and Mixed Doubles Championships.

Broadcasting expenses are significantly impacted by the location of the event. Costs of the Women's event in Riga, Latvia increased compared to the Canada event last year while the men's event in Canada decreased compared to the event in Switzerland the year before.

The WCF carries cash positions in four currencies as it has major expenses in each of these. Balances are adjusted to reflect changes in the value of the US Dollar against these other currencies which can result in 'paper' gains or losses. The impact of these adjustments was lower in comparison to last year.

The Balance Sheet of the WCF remains strong. Fixed assets were reduced as a result of depreciation. Financial support to MAs, in the form of non-interest loans for curling sheet building, stone purchases, and equipment purchases, increased. MA repayments of previous loans remain on schedule. The WCF has classified over \$1.3 million of its cash position as available for future loans to MAs when qualified requests are made. The major liability is the deferred income from the Winter Games surplus distribution which will be used in Fiscal Year 2014.

Income and expenditure account

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 US \$	2012 US \$
Income		
Membership subscriptions	24,180	24,000
IOC monies	5,926,262	4,958,854
Marketing fees	1,206,767	1,285,544
Investment income receivable	39,552	25,046
Rights fees	131	190,361
Broadcasting	412,758	325,352
Programs and services clinics	73,574	84,244
Miscellaneous income	29,021	3,496
	<u>7,712,245</u>	<u>6,896,897</u>
Expenditure		
Executive board meetings & Congress	180,471	161,143
Management committee expenses	58,129	38,948
Standing/ad hoc committee expenses	17,516	16,869
Operations	971,800	763,365
Programs and services - development	478,249	664,639
Programs and services - facilities and technical	823	635
Programs and services - other	62,968	113,244
Competitions	790,412	748,406
Finance	36,036	37,802
International and corporate relations	16,813	14,077
Media representation	208,826	174,625
Administrative expenses	8,823	5,221
Marketing	725,939	628,472
Broadcasting	1,911,484	1,805,144
Bad debt	-	1,430
Loss on capital assets	144	-
Loss on foreign exchange transactions	87,138	154,914
Olympic Games	8,044	56,413
World Anti Doping Agency	58,560	154,652
	<u>5,622,175</u>	<u>5,529,557</u>
Surplus for the Year	2,090,066	1,367,340
Exceptional item - stock valuation uplift	-	140,827
Reserves Brought Forward	<u>5,013,491</u>	<u>3,505,324</u>
Reserves Carried Forward	<u>7,103,557</u>	<u>5,013,491</u>

Balance sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 US \$	2012 US \$
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	289,587	323,269
Investments	758,870	-
	<u>1,048,457</u>	<u>323,699</u>
Other Assets		
Stock	156,688	178,712
Debtors and prepayments - due after one year	846,431	446,864
	<u>1,003,119</u>	<u>625,576</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors and prepayments - due within one year	1,160,667	1,580,148
Cash at bank and in hand	10,563,575	14,961,170
	<u>11,724,242</u>	<u>16,541,318</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	6,672,262	6,687,070
	<u>6,672,262</u>	<u>6,687,070</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>5,051,980</u>	<u>9,854,248</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>7,103,557</u>	<u>10,803,093</u>
Long Term Liabilities	-	5,789,602
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities	<u>7,103,557</u>	<u>5,013,491</u>
Represented by:		
Retained reserves	<u>7,103,557</u>	<u>5,013,491</u>



A forward look

WCF President Kate Caithness looks forward to another exciting and ground-breaking curling season...

The obvious place to start is the Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. It will be a great success and it will put our sport in the spotlight like never before. The Vancouver Games were huge for us and Sochi will be equally important. The Coastal Cluster at Sochi is going to be special – for the first time the ice sports will all be within walking distance of each other. We get the chance to showcase our sport like this every four years, and I'm sure we'll be up there.

Before Sochi, we will host our second Annual Congress, in Copenhagen, and this will be another landmark event. For us, holding our Congress away from our competitions is the way forward, and this particular Congress will see the setting-up of our new Athlete Commission and a new Rules Commission. Also our new Zonal Commission structure will take further steps.

Another exciting development is that we will take our Men's World Championship to Asia for the first time when we go to Beijing in April. Before that we are staging the Pacific-Asia Championships in Shanghai. The arena in Beijing holds 18,000 spectators and has the potential of being the largest attendance of any World Championship so it's clear to see that curling is taking a hold in China. I'm sure that these Championships, particularly the World Championship, will be catalysts for growth in our sport.

As well as China, our sport is growing in other countries too. I think Sochi is going to help our situation in Russia, while already having the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang means we will have new developments in Korea, a nation that is that is doing so much for our sport, particularly with wheelchair curlers.



Away from competitions, we will continue the progress being made by our development teams and in our partnership work with our MAs as well as other sports organisations and agencies. In our dealings with all external bodies, our ambition is to become their partner of choice.

Our sound financial situation puts us in a strong position to develop our sport, and we will do this by supporting and expanding all of our existing programmes and events. Our new environmental initiative and our Olympic Celebration Tour are good examples of where our focus will lie.

The Olympic Celebration Tour - now boosted by a \$50,000 (US) donation from the Foundation for Global Sports Development - is a series of instructional tours with curling Olympians intended to attract interest and promote curling. While all our MAs can benefit from these activities, they will be particularly important for newer MAs, helping them to gain the benefits that being involved in our sport can bring, as we strive to build and strengthen our curling family.

Exciting times ahead...

Reno Tahoe in Nevada, USA will host the third WCF Annual Congress in September 2014.



WCF President Kate Caithness, Andreas Biffinger, Associate Director, Winter Sports at Infront Sports & Media AG (left) and Canadian Curling Association (CCA) Chief Executive, Greg Stremmler (right) following the extension of the World Curling Championships agreement with the CCA.



WCF President Kate Caithness with Chinese Curling Association President, Ni Huizhong, after signing the contract for the WMCC 2014 which will take place in Beijing.



Copenhagen Marriott, venue for our second Annual Congress



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