



World Curling Federation **Annual Review 2015 - 2016**





**Celebration!**



# President's Message

## It is my pleasure to welcome you to the World Curling Federation's (WCF) Annual Review for season 2015-2016.

This has been another remarkable season for our sport, highlighted by outstanding competitions, a purposeful annual Congress, and two new championship events. We were also able to start celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Federation. However, this was also a season that gave us some significant challenges - both in the organisation of our competitions and in the way our sport is played - and I believe the way we are resolving these issues says a lot about how we operate at the WCF, and the partnerships we can forge with Member Associations (MAs) and others.

The season started with a brand-new event - the World Mixed Curling Championship - successfully staged in Berne, Switzerland with a total of 36 Member Associations taking part. We then moved on to the first-ever WCF championships to be staged in Kazakhstan - the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2015, held in Almaty. Economic problems beyond the control of the local organisers or the WCF threatened the cancellation of the championships, but these were overcome and the event proved to be a great success. This was a major effort by a new federation that is endeavouring to become a strong member of the WCF.

Later in November, we returned to Esbjerg, Denmark, for the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2015. Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik joined us once more for the opening ceremony and an experienced organising committee did a first-class job. We look forward to going back there in the near future.

The second Winter Youth Olympic Games were staged in Lillehammer, Norway and this was terrific for curling. Our event was an outstanding success played in front of a full-capacity arena, with countries like Brazil and Turkey making their first appearances.

We then moved on to Lucerne, Switzerland for the World Wheelchair Curling Championship. The standard of play just gets better and better and the semi-final between Korea and Norway, played to a packed audience, was quite outstanding.

For a number of reasons, we decided that the World Junior Curling Championships 2016, originally due to be hosted in Erzurum, Turkey, would be held at the Taarnby Curling Club in Copenhagen, Denmark. At short notice, the Taarnby organisers successfully hosted this event, to which we welcomed a new title sponsor in the shape of USA-based VoIP Defender.

The Ford World Women's Curling Championship returned to Swift Current in Canada - a town with a small population, almost all of whom seemed to be involved in one way or another. In my experience, when you take a big event to a small location it always seems to work. Meanwhile, Swiss women once again took the championship title - for the fourth year out of five - a remarkable performance.

Basel in Switzerland would play host once more to the World Men's Curling Championship, a fitting venue to start the celebrations for our 50th anniversary.

We were joined by International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Dr Thomas Bach and his wife Claudia at a special celebratory banquet, held in the wonderful 15th Century Schlusselfest Restaurant,

**“This was a season that threw up some significant challenges...”**

and the following day at the championship opening ceremony. It was clear that Dr Bach felt very much at home among curlers, saying at one point "I want to say how much we appreciate what curling is doing. In your ambitions you are truly Olympic and your sport has a great reputation in and around the Olympic family."

We then moved on to Karlstad, Sweden for our World Mixed Doubles and Senior Curling Championships. As you can read elsewhere in this review, these were very successful, with record entry levels. I believe we are making great progress in the format, skills levels and participation of Mixed Doubles, with three different continents represented on the podium.

The competition season ended in Slovenia, with a re-timed European Curling Championships C-Division (ECC-C) - another event hosted for the first time by one of our smaller MAs, who did a great job.

Speaking of which, last year we took our Congress to Serbia, a small MA which perhaps could not have hosted a big event, but by hosting our Congress, brought focus to curling in their country.

We were delighted to be hosted at the restaurant of tennis' world number one, Novak Djokovic, as this event drew to a close.

As is commonly known, during this season, issues regarding sweeping and brushes emerged, with general agreement that a suitable way forward which preserved the "spirit of curling" needed to be found.



We hosted a special Sweeping Summit in Ottawa in May, with the intention of producing evidence-based and generally-agreed rules and regulations. These will be presented for ratification to our 2016 Congress in Stockholm in September, held as the Swedish Curling Association continues to celebrate its centenary.

On a personal note I was delighted to be invited to be a member of the Coordination Commission for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 which is the first time this has happened for curling.

In these pages you will find details of all these activities and more. I hope you enjoy it.

*Kate Caithness*

**Kate Caithness OBE**  
WCF President

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# WCF Board and Staff

## WCF Staff

<b>Colin Grahamslaw</b>	Secretary General
<b>Keith Wendorf</b>	Director of Competitions and Development
<b>Eeva Roethlisberger</b>	Competitions and Development Officer
<b>Allen Coliban</b>	Competitions and Development Officer
<b>Darrell Ell</b>	Competitions and Development Officer
<b>Scott Arnold</b>	Competitions and Development Officer
<b>Susan Wendorf</b>	Competitions and Development Assistant
<b>Richard Harding</b>	Development Officer
<b>Saskia Muller-Gastell</b>	Projects Officer
<b>Joanna Kelly</b>	Broadcast Manager
<b>Cameron MacAllister</b>	Communications and Media Relations Manager
<b>Chris Hamilton</b>	IT and New Media Officer

Director  
**Toyokazu Ogawa**  
Japan (Elected to 2019)

Director  
**Andy Anderson**  
USA (Elected to 2018)

Director  
**Hew Chalmers**  
Scotland (Elected to 2017)

Director  
**Laura Lochanski**  
Canada (Elected to 2016)



Vice President (Americas)  
**Graham Prouse**  
Canada (Elected to 2017)

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

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

Vice President (Pacific-Asia)  
**Hugh Millikin**  
Australia (Elected to 2016)

## 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
<b>Mok Lee</b>	Intern

# Key Facts and Figures



## Broadcast

YouTube subscribers  
now over

**20,000**



Silver medalists

**Norway**

and bronze medalists

**Korea**

fought off stiff competition to reach the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2016 podium, having qualified from the World Wheelchair-B earlier in the season



## Mary Fay

skips Canada to Youth Olympic Games and World Junior Curling Championship gold in space of a month (February/March 2016)



**Denmark** men win Silver for first time at World Men's in Basel, having qualified from European B-Division



## Slovenian Curling Association

host first international curling event, European Curling Championships C-Division - in Ljubljana, in April 2016



**Serbia, Qatar and Luxembourg** compete in first World Curling Championships - the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2016



Russia's wheelchair curling skip

## Andrey Smirnov

named Allianz Athlete of the Month for February 2016 after leading his team to a third World Wheelchair Curling Championship title



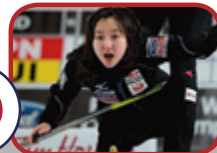
## Hong Kong

competed at their first international curling championship - Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2015



Historic first medal for **Finland women,**

bronze, at Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2015



## Japan women

win first ever World Women's medal - silver in Swift Current



Average time spent on **www.worldcurling.org** = **4m 10s** (up from 2m 43s the previous year)



**864,963** unique visitors to **www.worldcurling.org** through the season



## Kazakhstan's

women's and men's record first international wins at Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2015



## Brazil

score historic first Olympic curling points at the Youth Olympic Games against New Zealand



## Switzerland women

win fourth World Women's title in five years.



**140%** increase of visitors to **www.worldcurling.org**



**382%** growth in **Instagram** followers from beginning to end of season 2015-2016



## Australia

score 8-ender against Hong Kong at Pacific-Asia Curling Championship 2015 on Wednesday 11 November 2015

# Operations and Integrity

## Staffing

Following the departure of Danny Parker to the International Hockey Federation at the end of last season, Cameron MacAllister joined the WCF from the Scottish Rugby Union at the start of August 2015.

Cameron has already made a strong impact as our new Communications and Media Relations Manager and has settled well into the role. There have been no other permanent changes to the staff at the WCF during this past season, however the Board, at their meeting in Basel approved the splitting of the IT and New Media Officer's role, held by Chris Hamilton, into two separate positions. Chris will now focus on Digital Media whilst an IT professional will be recruited to concentrate on IT matters. The Board also approved the employment of an additional staff member in our broadcast team and recruitment for a Broadcast Projects Officer has begun.

In addition to the permanent staff, the WCF was joined, in February, by intern Mokeun Lee from Korea. Mok will be known to many around the WCF's Member Associations through his work with the Korean Curling Federation. This position is part of a Korean Olympic Committee-funded scheme to give Korean nationals wide experience of winter sports ahead of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, in PyeongChang.

## Offices

The WCF moved into its new offices in April 2015 and the past year has been a settling in period getting used to the new space and surroundings. The new offices have proved to be in a great location, providing much needed space for staff and storage. Our new intern has also been making use of the on-site accommodation. An application for planning permission to provide disabled access and a wheelchair-friendly meeting room is ongoing.

## Anti-Doping

The WCF Anti-Doping Rules have been reviewed following the acceptance of Mixed Doubles into the Olympic Programme and a number of changes will be proposed at the Annual General Assembly in Stockholm.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has now given their formal approval to the WCF's new Team Testing protocols and these will be implemented in the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines for the forthcoming season.

The WCF has continued to develop partnerships over the past 12 months with a number of national Anti-Doping Agencies, sharing intelligence and information to allow for a joined-up approach to testing programmes. Anti-Doping education was delivered through leaflets and information emails and an on-site outreach programme run by the Slovenian Anti-Doping Organisation at the European Curling Championships C-Division (ECC-C) in April 2016.

Over the past 12 months 45 tests have been delivered both in and out of competition. There were no missed tests and only two Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF).

Of those AAFs one was accounted for by a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE), however the other resulted in an Anti-Doping Rule Violation and as a result of this positive test, which took place at the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships in November 2015, Denmark's Helle Simonsen was suspended for 15 months effective from 12 February 2016.

This last year has been a difficult one for the world of sport in relation to doping issues. First the issue around the reclassification of meldonium has caused concerns especially following the confusion surrounding the time taken for the drug to leave the system. At this time there have been no results for meldonium in curling or wheelchair curling that would lead to any sanctions. Also of concern are the allegations surrounding the testing protocols and processes during the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Following a request by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) WADA has conducted an independent enquiry into the allegations. We will closely monitor their final report and if necessary discuss any issues relating to curling with WADA.

## Integrity

Working with the IOC's Irregular Betting Information System the WCF continues to monitor the main televised championships for patterns of behaviour that might indicate match-fixing or result manipulation. It is pleasing to report that there were no such indicators over the last season. As we move towards the 2018 Olympic Winter Games the IOC will be stepping up its efforts in this area to ensure a clean games.

# Governance Commission

**In the past year, the Governance Commission has completed work on a number of governance policies. In doing so, the Commission considered best-practice, and consulted with Member Association representatives. The following policies, now approved by the WCF Board, have been introduced:**

- Harassment/Bullying Policy
- Gifting/Hospitality Policy
- Communication Policy
- Escalation/Appeals Policy

The Governance Commission can also report that the following Commissions have completed their Terms of References. These have also been approved by the WCF Board:

- Governance Commission
- Athlete Commission
- European Zonal Commission
- Finance Commission
- Competition and Rules Commission
- Pacific-Asia Zonal Commission
- Americas Zonal Commission

The only remaining Commission to complete the Terms of Reference is the Hall of Fame which is being discussed further with the WCF Board.

All policies, Terms of References and Annual Reports can be located on our website at: [www.worldcurling.org/governance](http://www.worldcurling.org/governance)

The 2015-2016 Governance Commission members were:

- Willie Nicoll (Scotland)
- Olli Rissanen (Finland)
- Gerrit-Jan Scholten (Netherlands)
- Colin Grahamslaw (WCF Secretary General - Scotland)
- Laura Lochanski (WCF Board Member responsible - Canada)

Olli Rissanen and Gerrit-Jan Scholten have now completed their terms on the Governance Commission. On 1 July 2016 Jennifer Stannard (USA) and Susanne Slotsager (Denmark) joined the Commission.





# World Mixed Curling Championship

Berne, Switzerland, 12-19 September 2015

“ 36 Member Associations for the first-ever World Mixed Curling Championship...”

**The first-ever World Mixed Curling Championship was staged in the Curling Bahn Allmend, Berne, Switzerland, in September 2015, with a total of 36 Member Associations taking part.**

The teams were divided into four groups:

**Group A:** Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden.

**Group B:** Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Norway, Spain and Wales.

**Group C:** China, Czech Republic, England, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

**Group D:** Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Estonia, Hungary, Japan, Scotland, Turkey and USA.

At the end of round-robin play in these groups, Sweden, Germany, Russia and USA all topped their tables to qualify directly for the quarter-finals.

The other eight teams that made progress – to the quarter-final qualification round – were Italy and – after a tiebreaker against France – Denmark from Group A; Norway and Canada from Group B; China

and Switzerland from Group C; and Scotland and Hungary from Group D.

In the qualification games Switzerland beat Scotland 6-4, China won by 5-4 against Hungary, Canada defeated Italy 7-4 and Norway were victorious against Denmark by 10-5.

Following these games, the quarter-final schedule was determined by the draw of a hat, while making sure that teams from the same group did not play each other. In the quarter-finals, Norway beat USA 7-5, Sweden defeated Switzerland 5-4, China won 8-3 against Germany and Russia beat Canada, 8-3.

An all-Scandinavian final was then ensured as, in the semi-finals, Sweden defeated Russia 6-5 with the last stone of the game, while Norway beat China 7-3.

After this, Norway went on to make history by winning gold at this inaugural championship, beating Sweden by 5-3. In the game for bronze medals, China beat Russia by 5-4.

***The World Mixed Curling Championship 2016 will be held between 14 - 22 October in Kazan, Russia.***



## Results

### ● Norway

Steffen Walstad (skip)  
Julie Molnar (third)  
Sander Roelvaag (second)  
Pia Trulsen (lead)

### ● Sweden

Rasmus Wrana (skip)  
Zandra Flyg (third)  
Joakim Flyg (second)  
Johanna Heldin (lead)

### ● China

Yansong Ji (fourth)  
Chunmei Zheng (third)  
Wenli Guo (second)  
Xuesong Gao (lead and skip)

ONLINE RESULTS:

<http://wcf.co/resultswmxc2015>

# Zonal Reports

## Pacific-Asia

With the next two Winter Olympics in Asia, curling is positioned well to see outstanding growth and interest, and the Pacific-Asia Zone continues to add new countries and competitors. For example, this year was the first appearance by Qatar who competed at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2016, and Hong Kong, who competed at the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2015.

In another first, the 2015 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships in which Hong Kong competed were held in Kazakhstan in November and were staged very successfully despite challenges caused by the current global economic situation.

These championships had competitors from Australia, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand, and Chinese Taipei. Japan and Korea claimed the two qualifying spots at the 2016 World Curling Championships in both the men's and women's events.

At the first World Junior-B Curling Championships, held in Lohja, Finland, Kazakhstan and Hong Kong competed, the first time at an international junior curling event, entering both women's and men's teams.

Japan women's and men's teams had very successful World Curling Championships, with the women winning historic first-ever silver medals and the men finishing fourth.

The 2016 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships will take place in Korea as part of the test events leading up to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The 2017 World Junior Curling Championships and World Wheelchair Curling Championship will also be staged in Korea to test the Olympic and Paralympic curling venue.

## Europe

The European Zonal Commission met twice in the year:

- In Belgrade, Serbia, during the 2015 World Curling Congress,
- And in Esbjerg, Denmark, during the 2015 Le Gruyère European Curling Championships.

At the Esbjerg meeting, a core group of people were selected to make proposals on the use of the monetary legacy of the European Curling Federation (ECF), which dissolved in 2015. These individuals are:

- Bill Duncan (Scotland)
- David Sik (Czech Republic)
- Morten Sogard (Norway)

Together with European WCF Board Members Hew Chalmers and Bent Ramsfjell, this group will consider proposals and make decisions regarding the use of this money.

This Commission currently works through working groups as it attempts to deliver positive benefits to the European curling community. Three working groups have been established:

- EU Funding and the Business of Curling
- Wheelchair Curling
- Youth Projects

Through the Youth Projects work, a Junior Recruitment Manual has been developed. In another youth-based initiative, the Nordic MAs (Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland) have agreed to reinstate the Nordic Junior Tour starting next season (2016-2017). From a WCF perspective this concept is especially interesting because it comprises cross-border cooperation, youth targeting - including new innovative ways to promote/present our sport - a long term perspective and

“With the next two Winter Olympics in Asia, curling is positioned well to see outstanding growth and interest...”

parent/coach interaction. Based on lessons learned in the Nordic region this concept has the potential to be transferred as a model for other regions.

The future and concept of using working groups in the current way will be discussed with the European Member Associations at the World Curling Congress in September 2016.

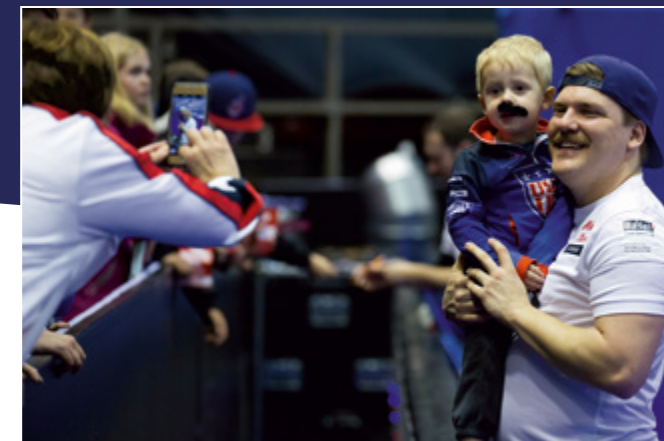
## Americas

The Americas Zone includes two of the traditional strong MAs - Canada and USA, but also other developing nations, such as Brazil.

The Americas - and members of the Americas Zonal Commission - played key roles in some high-profile curling activities, not least in the Sweeping Summit 2016, held in Ottawa, Canada and in supporting the 'Curling Night in America' prime-time television programmes in the USA.

In addition, Brazil competed at the Youth Olympic Winter Games for the first time, as well as appearing again at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, winning two games to rank 29th overall.

Other developments that are on-going include supporting and recruiting curling and curlers in other American countries.







# Pacific-Asia Curling Championships

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 8-14 November 2015

**Curling history was made when the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2015 (PACC) were staged in the Baluan Sholak Sports Palace in Almaty, Kazakhstan - the first WCF championship to be hosted in that country.**

Five women's teams and eight men's teams competed.

The five women's teams were defending champions China, Japan, hosts Kazakhstan, Korea and New Zealand, and these teams played a double round-robin before Japan emerged in top place with Korea second and China third. Kazakhstan and New Zealand were tied in fourth and required a tie-breaker to determine which of them would take up the fourth semi-final space. Kazakhstan won this by 10-6 to reach the semi-final stage of this championship for the first time in their history.

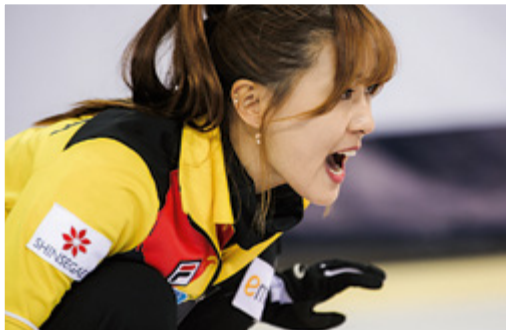
In the semi-finals, Japan beat Kazakhstan by 10-2, while Korea beat China by 7-6. China took bronze medals with a 16-0 win over Kazakhstan, while Japan beat Korea by 8-7 in the gold medal final. With these

results, both Japan and Korea qualified for the Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2016 in Swift Current, Canada.

The eight men's teams were: Australia, 2014 winners China, Chinese Taipei, newcomers Hong Kong, Japan, hosts Kazakhstan, Korea and New Zealand. These teams played a single round-robin programme to produce four semi-finalists - China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand.

In two close semi-finals, Japan beat New Zealand by 7-6, while Korea had an 8-6 win over China. The Chinese went on to secure bronze medals with a 5-4 win over New Zealand, while Korea won the title and gold medals by beating Japan by 11-7 - helped largely by a score of four in the fifth end. By reaching the final, both Japan and Korea qualified for the World Men's Curling Championship 2016, in Basel, Switzerland.

***The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2016 will be held between 5 - 12 November in Uiseong, Korea.***



## Results

### Women

#### ● Japan

Satsuki Fujisawa (skip)  
Chinami Yoshida (third)  
Yumi Suzuki (second)  
Yurika Yoshida (lead)  
Kotomi Ishizaki (alternate)

#### ● Korea

Un Chi Gim (fourth)  
Suel Bee Lee (third)  
Min Ji Um (second)  
Ji Sun Kim (skip and lead)  
Yoon Jung Yeom (alternate)

#### ● China

Sijia Liu (skip)  
Jinli Liu (third)  
Xinna Yu (second)  
Rui Wang (lead)  
Jie Mei (alternate)

### Men

#### ● Korea

Soo Hyuk Kim (skip)  
Tae Hwan Kim (third)  
Jong Duk Park (second)  
Yoon Ho Nam (lead)  
Min Hyeon Yoo (alternate)

#### ● Japan

Yusuke Morozumi (skip)  
Tetsuro Shimizu (third)  
Tsuoyoshi Yamaguchi (second)  
Kosuke Morozumi (lead)  
Kohsuke Hirata (alternate)

#### ● China

Jialiang Zang (skip)  
Xiaoming Xu (third)  
Dexin Ba (second)  
Jinbo Wang (lead)  
Xiuyue Ma (alternate)

### ONLINE RESULTS:

Men  
<http://wcf.co/pacc2015menresults>  
Women  
<http://wcf.co/pacc2015womenresults>

# Athlete Commission

“Athletes from around the world were invited to participate in the ground-breaking Sweeping Summit 2016

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 solidify best practices and communicate with the WCF.

One of the main activities for the Athlete Commission this season has been to help drive the solution-oriented process surrounding the general high levels of concern with sweeping, brush head technology and technique. In close collaboration with WCF Board members Hugh Millikin and Graham Prouse athletes from around the world were invited to participate in the ground-breaking Sweeping Summit 2016 held in Ottawa, Canada. The Athlete Commission will be present in the World Curling Congress in Stockholm, Sweden to help finalise the Summit recommendations.

Ann Swisshelm, Chair, represented the WCF at the IOC Athlete Forum in Lausanne, Switzerland in October 2015. The main topics for discussion at the Forum were the Olympic Agenda 2020, Women in Sport, the fight against doping, the Olympic Bid Process, and a newly integrated Olympic Athletes' Hub.

Terms of Reference for the Commission are being updated to include Mixed Doubles athletes.

## Commission Members

Skip: Ann Swisshelm (USA)

Vice Skip: Cathrine Lindahl (Sweden)

Bent Anund Ramsfjell  
(Vice President, Europe - Norway)

Andreas Schwaller (Switzerland)

Kelly Scott (Canada)

Bingyu Wang (China)

Mike McCreddie (Scotland)



# Facilities and Technical Assistance

## The Portable Curling Facility (PCF)

This is the most important project being developed by the Facilities and Technical Assistance Commission and it has seen significant movement in recent months. The selection process for suppliers had been completed and all technical specifications for the proposed two-sheet curling facility at the Copper Hill Curling Club in Turku, Finland have been agreed, to allow ongoing construction at the site.

Understandably, the PCF project is attracting the attention of other MAs worldwide, eager to get the benefits of this programme. The Commission is reviewing progress and will be making recommendations to the WCF Board on the future of the programme.

## Other Projects

The WCF manages a number of financial assistance programmes for MAs to build new rinks, renovate existing rinks, and/or purchase curling equipment such as stones and scrapers. We would like MAs to make more use of those programmes. In addition, appropriate WCF staff are available for consultation and site visits.

In the 2016-2017 season the WCF processed ten grants for Member Associations. Four of these were for Ice Bosses to improve ice making resources and six were for new stones.

## Facilities and Technical Assistance Commission:

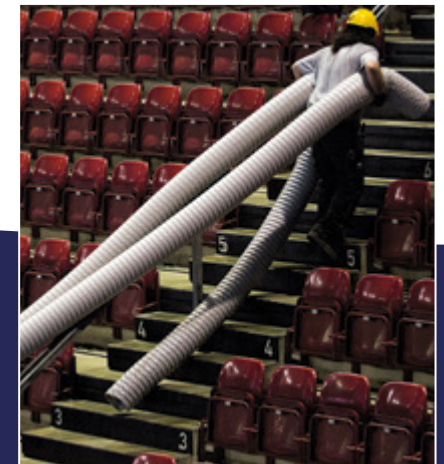
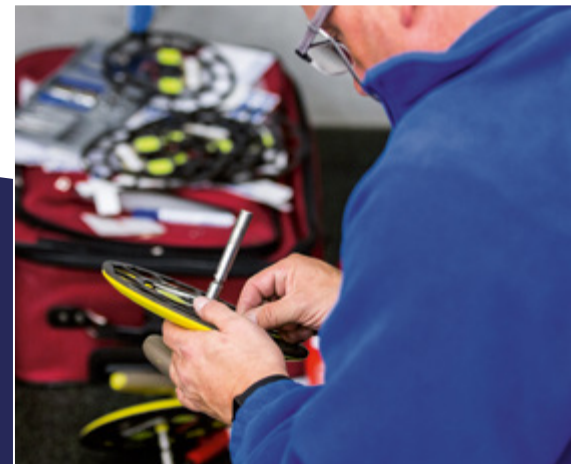
Chair: Toyo Ogawa (Japan)

Darrell Eil (Canada)

Richard Harding (Scotland)

Leif Ohman (Sweden)

The Commission is actively seeking to recruit new members, particularly individuals with architectural or civil engineering backgrounds. Please contact [info@worldcurling.org](mailto:info@worldcurling.org) for more information about this.







# Le Gruyère European Curling Championships

Esbjerg, Denmark, 19-28 November 2015

## International championship curling returned to Denmark when the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2015 took place in Esbjerg - in the Granly Hockey Arena and the Esbjerg Curling Club.

As was the case when Esbjerg hosted the 2011 World Women's Curling Championship, the event had the honour of a royal opening, with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark throwing the ceremonial opening stone.

This was the 41st edition of this event and the 14th time that Le Gruyère has acted as title sponsor. Altogether 26 men's teams and 20 women's teams took part.

The ten A-Division women's teams were: hosts Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden and defending champions Switzerland.

The ten B-Division women's teams were: Austria, Czech Republic, England, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the qualifiers from the C-Division, France and Slovakia.

Russia beat Denmark by 8-5 in the final women's round-robin session to finish top of the rankings and set up a repeat game against the Danes, who ranked fourth overall, in the semi-final. In the same session, Scotland beat Norway by 9-4 to rank second, while Finland beat Estonia by 7-4 to rank third. These results meant that the other semi-final would be between Scotland and Finland, with Finland ranking third over Denmark on the same record as they had beaten Denmark in the round-robin.

In the semi-finals, Russia beat the hosts by 6-5 while Scotland came from behind to beat Finland by 9-7. In the final, Russia claimed gold with a 6-4 victory over Scotland, while Finland won historic first-ever bronze medals by their women curlers, beating Denmark by 10-8.

The ten A-Division men's teams were: Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Scotland, defending champions Sweden and Switzerland.

The sixteen men's teams in the B-Division were:

- **Group A:** Belgium, hosts Denmark, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Turkey, Wales and newly qualified from the C-Division, Slovenia
- **Group B:** Austria, Croatia, England, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Spain and Slovakia, who also qualified from the C-Division

In the last men's A-Division round-robin session, Norway beat Russia by 10-5, to remain undefeated and rank first overall.

At the same time, defending champions Sweden played Finland, with both teams still in contention. Finland won by 7-5 to go into the semi-finals ranked second, while Sweden now faced a tie-breaker for the last semi-final slot. Switzerland played Netherlands and the Swiss sealed their semi-final place with a 10-6 win, to rank third and face Finland in the semi-finals.

Germany played Scotland, and the Scots beat Germany by 12-5 in this session, to face Sweden in a

“ His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik threw the ceremonial opening stone... ”



tie-breaker, with the winner going onto a semi-final against table-topping Norway.

The fifth game of the session, between Czech Republic and Italy, went to an extra end and was won 7-6 by Czech Republic. This meant these two teams would have to face each other again in a tie-breaker to determine which of them finished eighth, to stay in the A-Division next year, with the loser relegated.

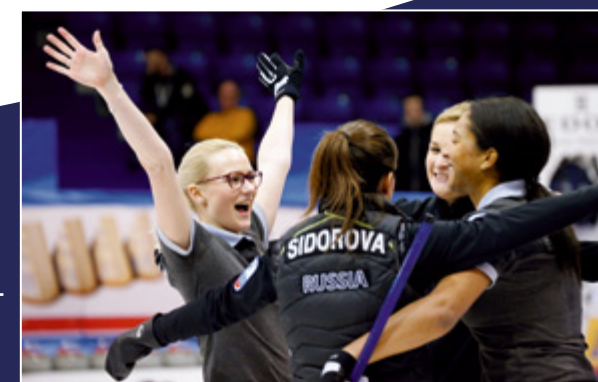
In the tie-breakers, Sweden beat Scotland by 8-7 to face Norway while at the bottom end of the table, Italy beat the Czech Republic by 7-6 after an extra end. This win secured eighth place for Italy and a slot in next season's A-Division, while the Czechs were relegated to the B-Division along with tenth-placed Netherlands. Italy would go on to face a best-of-three challenge series against the eventual B-Division winners for the last available European place in the 2016 World Curling Championships.

In the semi-finals, Switzerland beat Finland by 10-4 to reach the final while, after an extra end, defending champions Sweden beat Norway by 8-7 to join them. Denmark emerged as overall B-Division champions to challenge Italy for the last available place in the 2016 World Men's Championship - the Danes won. Similarly, in the women's championship, B-Division gold medallists Italy, won their challenge games against eighth placed A-Division team, Norway. Denmark and Italy went on to take their places at the 2016 World Curling Championships.

Sweden men went on to successfully defend their title, beating Switzerland by 7-6 after an extra end in the final. This was a fourth European title for Sweden's skip Niklas Edin. Norway beat Finland by 7-4 to take bronze.

In the B-Division, which was held in the Esbjerg Curling Club, the women's medallists were Italy (gold), Czech Republic (silver) and Latvia (bronze), while the men's medallists were Denmark (gold), Austria (silver) and Latvia (bronze).

**The Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2016 will be held between 19 - 26 November in Glasgow, Scotland.**



## Results

### Women

#### ● Russia

Anna Sidorova (skip)  
Margarita Fomina (third)  
Alexandra Raeva (second)  
Nkeiruka Ezekh (lead)  
Alina Kovaleva (alternate)

#### ● Scotland

Eve Muirhead (skip)  
Anna Sloan (third)  
Vicki Adams (second)  
Sarah Reid (lead)  
Rachel Hannen (alternate)

#### ● Finland

Oona Kauste (skip)  
Milja Hellsten (third)  
Maija Salmiovirta (second)  
Marjo Hippilä (lead)  
Jenni Rasanen (alternate)

### Men

#### ● Sweden

Niklas Edin (skip)  
Oskar Eriksson (third)  
Kristian Lindstroem (second)  
Christoffer Sundgren (lead)  
Henrik Leek (alternate)

#### ● Switzerland

Benoit Schwarz (fourth)  
Claudio Paetz (third)  
Peter De Cruz (skip)  
Valentin Tanner (lead)  
Michael Probst (alternate)

#### ● Norway

Thomas Ulsrud (skip)  
Torger Nergaard (third)  
Christoffer Svae (second)  
Haavard Vad Petersson (lead)  
Sander Roelvaag (alternate)

ONLINE RESULTS:  
<http://wcf.co/resultswmcc2015>

# Development



**The WCF's Competition and Development Officers (CDOs), led by Keith Wendorf, Director of Competitions and Development, continued to run a series of programmes during the 2015 - 2016 season.**

## Activities included: Camps and Courses

- The Füssen courses took place in June and July 2015, beginning with the Ice-Technician course. The instructors were Mark Callan from Scotland and Stefan Roethlisberger from Switzerland. The programme included the newly-created Wheelchair Curling Instructor course and an Advance Instruction and Introduction to Coaching course. The instructors for both of these courses were Wendy Morgan and Scott Arnold, both of Canada. The ten days of courses finished off with an Advanced Umpire course led by Alan Stanfield from Scotland and Eeva Roethlisberger from Switzerland. A total of 74 participants from 26 different Member Associations attended one or more of the courses on offer.
- The WCF / DCV Hummelt Junior Curling Camp was again fully booked. 114 juniors came together from all around the world to learn from experienced coaches and assistants and enjoy the camp-life, which included various on and off-ice activities. The juniors came from 19 Member Associations.
- The Sweetlake Junior Team Camp took place in August. Nine teams along with their team coaches took part, from Denmark, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom. The main instructors were Andrea Ronnebeck (Canada), Jiri Snitil (Czech Republic) and Shari Leibbrandt (Netherlands), assisted by Alison Kreviazuk (Canada).
- The ninth WCF Adult Curling Camp was held in Prague, Czech Republic, also in August. 37 adults from 11 different Member Associations participated - Belgium, England, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia and Spain.

- The first edition of the WCF Mixed Doubles Camp was held in Budapest, Hungary, at the beginning of December. Nine teams from six Member Associations participated - Belgium, China, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Romania. The instructors - Judith and Lee McCleary (both Scotland), Dorottya Palancsa and Zsolt Kiss (both Hungary) - conducted a mix of ice and classroom sessions, covering the specific aspects of this new Olympic discipline.
- Another WCF Adult Curling Camp was held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in January. This was the third time this camp had run. 24 athletes from eight Member Associations participated - Bulgaria, Croatia, Hong Kong, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.
- For the first time since the programme of WCF courses and camps started, the WCF also provided equipment for a Junior Camp in Pinerolo, Italy and to the fourth Mazury Curling Festival in Giżycko, Poland.
- Equipment was also provided to the Hong Kong Curling Association for a junior camp they were hosting in Korea.

## Coach Mentoring

After a request from the United States Curling Association, the annual WCF Coach Mentoring Programme for the 2015-2016 season was held in Jacksonville, Florida at their National Championships.

Added to this programme were sessions with the championship's Chief Ice Technician, Dave Staveteig, and Chief Umpire, Ken McPartin. To date, the Coach Mentoring Programme has graduated 44 coaches from ten different Member Associations - Canada, USA, China, Italy, Romania, Austria, Netherlands, Estonia, Israel and Finland - and WCF facilitators have had nine national coaches - from Canada, Switzerland, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, Austria, Denmark, Latvia and USA - help in round-table discussions about coaching at a major championship.

## Curling Equipment Programme (CEP)

The WCF's partners in this programme, BalancePlus and Goldline, continued their support and provided equipment to:

- the 17th WCF / DCV Hummelt Junior Curling Camp in Füssen, Germany
- the Sweetlake Junior Team Curling Camp in Zoetermeer, Netherlands
- and the ninth Adult Curling Camp in Prague, Czech Republic
- For the first time since the programme started equipment was provided for a junior camp in Pinerolo, Italy and to the fourth Mazury Curling Festival in Giżycko, Poland
- Equipment was also provided to the Hong Kong Curling Association for a junior camp they hosted in Korea.

The athletes who received this equipment have sent many thank you notes to the WCF and our partners expressing their gratitude for their brushes.

## Wheelchair Curling Instruction

The new Wheelchair Curling Instruction course was conducted in Incheon, Korea in December. It was well received by wheelchair athletes and coaches alike.

## Other Development

- The multi-media assets for all of the instructional courses have now been made available on the WCF website for all Member Associations to use and translate into their native language.
  - [www.worldcurling.org/discover-curling](http://www.worldcurling.org/discover-curling)
  - [www.worldcurling.org/discover-wheelchair-curling](http://www.worldcurling.org/discover-wheelchair-curling)
- Under development by the CDO team is a presentation to help new Member Associations understand what to expect when competing at a championship.
- For development resources visit, [www.worldcurling.org/resources-menu](http://www.worldcurling.org/resources-menu)







**The second Winter Youth Olympic Games were staged in Lillehammer, Norway, with curling at the heart of the action.**

A total of 64 curlers represented 16 Member Associations, competing for medals in two unique curling competitions – Mixed and Mixed Doubles – at the Curling Hall in the Stampsletta Ice Venues.

The Mixed event was played with teams of two male and two female athletes split into two round-robin groups, before moving on to knock-out action.

**The Group A teams were: China, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey and USA.**

**The Group B teams were: Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Great Britain, Korea, hosts Norway and Sweden.**

Eventually, four semi-final teams emerged, with Canada, Russia, Switzerland and USA qualifying. At this stage, Canada beat Switzerland by 7-5, while USA were 8-6 winners over Russia.

This meant that Canada went into the final with a 100% record and they went on to claim gold, beating USA by 10-4. In the bronze medal game, Switzerland were victorious over Russia, by 11-3.

After the Mixed event, an innovative Mixed Doubles curling competition was staged, with one male and one female athlete from different countries playing together. The teams were determined by the athletes' position within their team and their nation's overall position following the Mixed competition.

In this discipline, 14-year-old Philipp Hoesli from Switzerland - the youngest curler competing who had won bronze in the Mixed event - won his second medal - this time gold. His partner, Yako Matsuzawa, 16, from Japan, became the first Japanese curler to win an Olympic medal.

The pair won their gold medal game by 11-5 against the China/Great Britain team of Yu Han, 15, and Ross Whyte, 17. There was a bronze medal for the host nation, Norway, and a second place on the podium for China, after Andreas Haarstad, 17, Norway's second, and China's third, Ruiyi Zhao, 16, beat a Japan/Canada pair, 10-1.

As well as the action on the ice, there was a programme of educational and cultural events for athletes and fans alike, under the 'Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow' vision, which aimed to make a lasting impact on the lives of the athletes. Athletes also had the opportunity to try other winter sports and attend 'Learn & Share' workshops, as well as taking professional direction from curling Athlete Role Model, Rasmus Stjerne, skip of the Danish men's curling team.

**The 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland.**



## Results

### Mixed

- **Canada**
- Mary Fay (skip)
- Tyler Tardi (third)
- Karlee Burgess (second)
- Sterling Middleton (lead)

- **USA**
- Luc Violette (skip)
- Cora Farrell (third)
- Ben Richardson (second)
- Cait Flannery (lead)

- **Switzerland**
- Selina Witschonke (skip)
- Henwy Lochmann (third)
- Laura Engler (second)
- Philipp Hoesli (lead)

### Mixed Doubles

- Philipp Hoesli (Switzerland)
- Yako Matsuzawa (Japan)

- Yu Han (China)
- Ross Whyte (Great Britain)

- Andreas Haarstad (Norway)
- Ruiyi Zhao (China)

**ONLINE RESULTS:**  
<http://wcf.co/resultswmcc2015>

# Off-Ice Development Programmes



## Olympic Celebration Tour (OCT)

With support from the US-based Foundation for Global Sports, the WCF's Olympic Celebration Tour continues to enjoy success.

Aiming to capitalise on the increased interest in curling brought about through Olympic participation, the Olympic Celebration Tour is a series of instructional sessions held around the world with curling Olympians. The Olympic Celebration Tour continues to be a successful way for clubs to promote curling and invite new curlers to their Learn to Curl clinics.

Almost two years after a visit to the Charlotte Curling Club, Club President Steve McKee reported, "I can say with confidence that the OCT event did more to drive awareness and membership than any other marketing event we have had."

### Tour stops in the 2015 - 2016 season included:

#### Milwaukee Curling Club, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA - November 2015

- The Milwaukee Curling Club, the oldest curling club in the USA, hosted the first OCT of the year with Swedish Olympian Sebastian Kraupp. In addition to introducing our sport to new curlers, one of the highlights of this visit was a student who posted an article and photos on the school website.

**“The Olympic Celebration Tour is a successful way for clubs to promote curling...**

#### Triangle Curling Club (TCC), Durham, North Carolina, USA - January 2016

- The TCC is another new dedicated curling facility with lots of growth potential. With 2010 Canadian silver medallist Carolyn McRorie, the Tour visited schools and for the first time brought a Rock Solid Productions Floor Curling kit along. This kit was a great hit for the kids to try the basics of curling.
- Club President Chris Jaun said: "the feedback from the members and the public has been outstanding. It really helped us get our winter membership drive off to a strong start."

#### Four Seasons Curling Club, Blaine, Minnesota, USA - March 2016

- 2014 Sochi silver medallists David Murdoch and Michael Goodfellow from Scotland visited local schools and provided over 500 students with an opportunity to experience curling using the Floor Curling kits provided by WCF partner Rock Solid Productions.
- USA Olympian and Four Seasons Director of Curling Operations John Benton arranged invitations for some selected guests, corporate sponsors and others to a special Friday night ice session that was also a fundraiser for their junior programme. The guests were all able to get up close and personal with David and Michael and this fundraiser raised more than US\$800 for their junior programme.



## Sports Media Trainee Programme

The Foundation for Global Sport also continued their support for the WCF Sports Media Trainee Programme.

Following the initial submission process, of 52 entries, a shortlist of ten journalists, seven photographers and three TV production students was considered. After the panel discussed these submissions the eight selected trainees were agreed upon unanimously.

Since undertaking the programme some of the trainees have gone on to gain more experience within the field of sport media. Patrick Butler (journalist) covered the 2016 Tim Hortons Brier in Ottawa in March for Curling Canada. Laura Godenzi (photographer) was a part of the 2nd Winter Youth Olympic Games Young Reporters programme in Lillehammer, Norway and will cover the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games for the International Paralympic Committee. In May, Marissa Dederer (photographer) started as the sports editor at the Whitehorse Daily Star in Whitehorse, Yukon.



The WCF received positive feedback about the programme from the 2015-2016 trainees. Here's what they said:

Laura Godenzi (Switzerland, photographer):

***"The WCF experience, where I met great professionals from the industry, gives me lots of courage and desire to go further in the sports world."***

Aaron Renfree (England, TV production):

***"I honestly cannot stress how incredible the experience was. From the remarkable team, to the work I was able to achieve, to the lessons learnt."***

Emily Dwyer (Canada, journalist):

***"My experience as a Sports Media Trainee journalist at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship gave me confidence to go outside of my comfort zone and put the skills I've learned in university to the test. I walked away from the programme with no doubt in my mind that this was the field I want to be working in after graduation."***

Linzi Armstrong (Scotland, TV production):

***"I still can't believe how lucky I was to be picked for the Sports Media Trainee Programme. This programme's not just about watching people to see how things are done, you actually get stuck right in there and do a bit of everything for yourself too."***

***"I honestly cannot stress how incredible the experience was..."***





# World Wheelchair Curling Championship

Lucerne, Switzerland, 21-28 February 2016

## The Eiszentrum in Lucerne, Switzerland was the venue for the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2016.

The ten teams qualified to compete were: Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Korea, Norway, defending champions Russia, Slovakia, hosts Switzerland and USA.

Korea and Norway had gained their places in the line-up by qualifying from the 2015 World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship 2015, held in Lohja, Finland, in November.

At the end of the round-robin stage of the competition, Korea and Norway progressed to the Page play-offs and were joined by defending champions Russia and hosts Switzerland.

Switzerland's loss to China, coupled with a win for Russia over USA on the final round-robin day, ensured that Russia secured second place and faced Norway in the Page 1v2 play-off, while the hosts would face Korea in the Page 3v4 play-off.

In the Page 1v2 game, Russia claimed a closely fought 5-3 victory over Norway to progress directly to the gold medal game. The Page 3v4 game saw the hosts, Switzerland, lose to Korea by a score of 6-4 after an extra end of play. This result meant that both newly promoted teams, Korea and Norway, competed in the semi-final for the final place in the gold medal game.

As the Page play-offs were taking place, Germany defeated Slovakia, 7-2, in the relegation tie-breaker game to seal eighth place and a direct route into the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2017.

Slovakia and Finland finished at the bottom of the rankings and were relegated to the World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship 2016 - to be held once again in Lohja, Finland.

In a tense semi-final, Korea skip, Hui-Tae Yang missed a difficult double takeout in the final end to give up a steal of one and hand Norway a 7-4 victory and a place in the gold medal game.

Despite trailing 5-2 after six ends against Switzerland, Korea secured three points in the seventh end of the bronze medal game to level the score. They then went on to steal a single point in the final end for a 6-5 win and picked up the bronze medals.

In the final, Russia took five points in the fifth end on the way to a 7-4 victory over Norway to retain the World Wheelchair Curling Championship title.

Russia's gold medals at this event add to the championship titles they secured in 2012 in Chuncheon, Korea and in 2015 in Lohja, Finland.

Following their achievements in this championship, Russian skip, Andrey Smirnov, was named the International Paralympic Committee Allianz Athlete of the Month for February 2016.

Germany's Christiane Putzich was the recipient of the World Wheelchair Curling Championship Sportsmanship Award. This was voted for by fellow participants and is awarded to the competitor who they believe exemplified the traditional values of skill, honesty, fair play, sportsmanship and friendship during the championship.

The gold medal win ensured Russia moved into first place in the World Wheelchair Curling Rankings, overtaking Canada, while Norway's silver medals saw them move up to fifth position.

**The World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2017 will be held between 4 - 11 March in PyeongChang, Korea.**



## Results

### ● Russia

Andrey Smirnov (skip)  
Konstantin Kurokhtin (third)  
Svetlana Pakhomova (second)  
Marat Romanov (lead)  
Alexander Schevchenko (alternate)

### ● Norway

Rune Lorentsen (skip)  
Jostein Stordahl (third)  
Ole Fredrik Syversen (second)  
Sissel Loechen (lead)  
Jan - Eirik Hansen (alternate)

### ● Korea

Seung-Won Jung (fourth)  
Soon-Seok Seo (skip)  
Jae-Goan Cha (second)  
Min-Ja Bang (lead)  
Hui-Tae Yang (alternate)

All World Curling Rankings can be seen on p22 - 23

ONLINE RESULTS:  
<http://wcf.co/resultswmxcc2015>



# Sponsorship and Marketing

Another challenging year on the foreign exchange markets have reduced the impact of a positive year on the sponsorship front for the WCF. New sponsors were brought on board in the form of Airboard and VoIP Defender, whilst LGT and Basel returned. EDOX extended their support for the Federation.

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

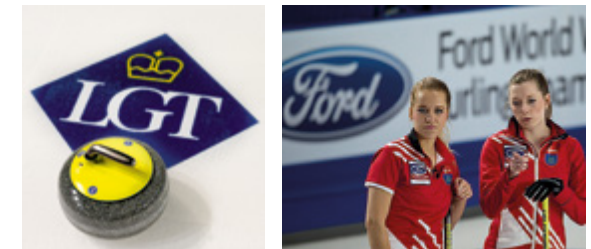
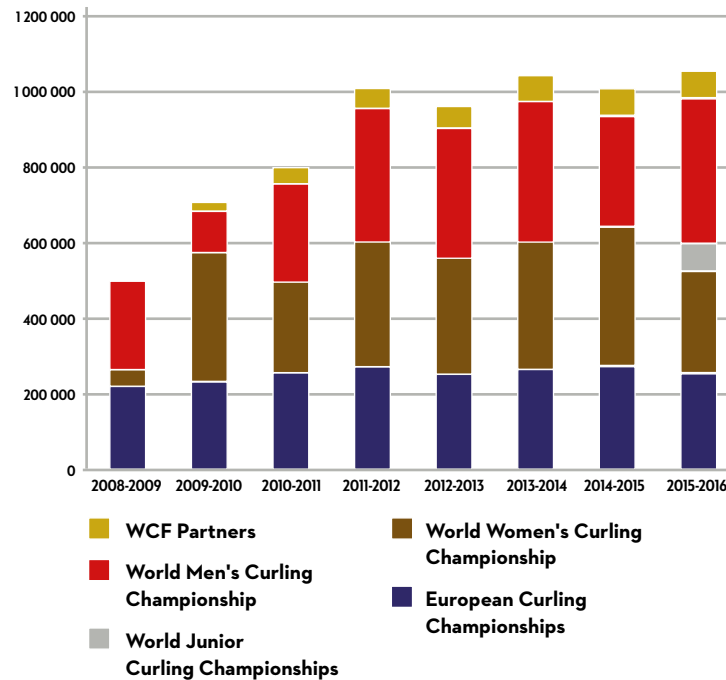
The Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2015 attracted a new sponsor in the form of Airboard, they joined EDOX and Mount 10 as main sponsors for the championships, which have a long term title sponsor in the form of Le Gruyère.

The World Curling Championships continue their strong performance over the past few years, the World Men's Curling Championship in Basel, Switzerland sold out its sponsorship inventory and the Ford World Women's in Swift Current, Canada was supported under the marketing deal the WCF has with Curling Canada.

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

For the first time in a number of years the World Junior Curling Championships attracted a title sponsor in the form of United States based,

Summary of WCF net sponsorship revenues by year (2008 - 2016) in US\$

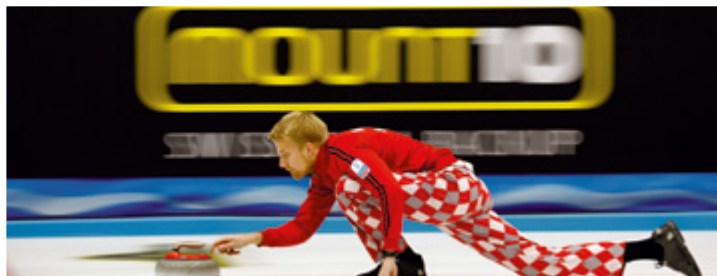


VoIP Defender. This was particularly helpful in offsetting some of the costs associated with the late move of the event from Turkey to Denmark.

The focus in the coming season will be to continue to build the sponsorship for events outwith the three main televised championships and to increase the value of the sponsorship for the televised events.

Our thanks to our marketing agents Infront and Curling Canada and to the sponsors who have supported us this season:

**Le Gruyère; Mount 10; EDOX; Airboard; Ford of Canada; Basel; LGT; 361; DB Schenker; Jet Ice; VoIP Defender and Atom AMPD.**







# VoIP Defender World Junior Curling Championships

Taarby, Denmark, 6-13 March 2016



“ Ten women’s and ten men’s teams qualified to take part, representing 12 different Member Associations...”

In a change from the original hosting arrangement, the VoIP Defender World Junior Curling Championships 2016 (WJCC) were staged at the Taarby Curling Club, on the outskirts of Copenhagen - Denmark’s capital city.

To be eligible to play in the World Junior Curling 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. Together ten women’s and ten men’s teams qualified to take part, representing 12 different Member Associations.

The ten women’s teams were: defending champions Canada, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and USA.

The ten men’s teams involved this year were: defending champions Canada, Denmark, Korea, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and USA.

For this event onwards, the WCF had introduced a new qualification arrangement. Instead of separate qualification via the European Junior Curling Challenge and the Pacific-Asia Junior Curling Championships, a new World Junior-B Curling Championships had been introduced. From this event, held in Lohja, Finland in January 2016, Russia, Japan and Hungary qualified for places in the women’s field, which meant a first-ever appearance at this level by Hungary, who were skipped by two-times World Mixed Doubles champion Dorottya Palancsa. Turkey, the original planned host nation, also made a first appearance at this level.

After the women’s round-robin, unbeaten leaders Canada, as well as USA and Korea all qualified for the weekend Page play-off section of the championships, with Canada facing USA in the Page 1v2 game. While Korea finished third overall, they had to wait for the result of a tie-breaker

between Hungary and Sweden to discover who their opponents would be.

In accordance with the new qualification arrangements, three teams from this year’s event were to be relegated to the 2017 World Junior-B Championships qualifier, and while bottom-placed Japan and second-bottom Scotland already knew their fate at the end of round-robin play, Turkey and Russia had to play a tie-breaker to determine which would become the third team to drop into the Junior-B event. In the tie-breakers, Hungary beat Sweden by 10-4, while Russia were 7-5 winners over Turkey.

In the Page play-offs, USA beat previously unbeaten Canada by 8-7, despite giving up a score of three in the third end. In the other women’s game, Hungary beat Korea by 12-11 to move onto the sole semi-final against Canada, with the winner of that game facing USA for gold and the loser playing Korea for bronze. In the semi-final, Canada beat Hungary by 9-4 to set up re-runs of the two Page play-off games, this time with medals up for grabs.

In the final, 17-year-old Mary Fay, from Nova Scotia, led Canada to the title with a 7-4 win over USA, adding to the Winter Youth Olympic gold she had won a few weeks previously. Korea beat Hungary by 8-4 to secure bronze.

In the men’s championship, at the end of the round-robin, USA finished at the top of the rankings to face second-placed Scotland in the Page 1v2 play-off game. The Page 3v4 play-off was between third-placed Canada and Switzerland. At the other end of the table, with tenth-placed Korea acting as 2017 hosts, Russia, Denmark and Turkey – in seventh, eighth and ninth places – were relegated to the 2017 World Junior-B Curling Championships.

The men’s Page play-offs saw Scotland beat USA by 7-5 to qualify directly for the final, while in the other game, Switzerland beat Canada by 6-4, to face USA in the semi-final. USA were victorious in the semi-final, beating Switzerland by 5-2 and these results meant that – as in the women’s event – the medal games would be re-runs of the Page play-offs.

In the final, Scotland beat USA again, by 6-4, to take the men’s gold medals, while Canada were 8-4 winners over Switzerland to reverse the Page result and take bronze.

During these championships, all competitors were invited to nominate a fellow competitor who, in their view, had best exemplified the traditional values of skill, honesty, fair play, sportsmanship and friendship. The athletes chosen were Canada’s Mary Fay and Sweden’s Fredrik Nyman, who became recipients of the 2016 WJCC Sportsmanship Awards.

**The World Junior Curling Championships 2017 will be held between 16 - 26 February in PyeongChang, Korea.**



## Results

### Women

#### ● Canada

- Mary Fay (skip)
- Kristin Clarke (third)
- Karlee Burgess (second)
- Janique LeBlanc (lead)
- Sarah Daniels (alternate)

#### ● USA

- Cory Christensen (skip)
- Sarah Anderson (third)
- Taylor Anderson (second)
- Madison Bear (lead)
- Christine McMakin (alternate)

#### ● Korea

- Min Ji Kim (skip)
- Hye Rin Kim (third)
- Tae I Yang (second)
- Su Yun Oh (lead)
- Ji Young Lee (alternate)

### Men

#### ● Scotland

- Bruce Moutat (skip)
- Bobby Lammie (third)
- Gregor Cannon (second)
- Angus Dowell (lead)
- Robin Brydone (alternate)

#### ● USA

- Korey Dropkin (skip)
- Thomas Howell (third)
- Mark Fenner (second)
- Alex Fenson (lead)
- Quinn Evenson (alternate)

#### ● Canada

- Matt Dunstone (skip)
- Colton Lott (third)
- Kyle Doering (second)
- Rob Gordon (lead)
- Wade Ford (alternate)

### ONLINE RESULTS:

#### Men

<http://wcf.co/wjcc2016menresults>

#### Women

<http://wcf.co/wjcc2016womenresults>



# 50th Anniversary Celebrations

**Fifty years ago, on the first of April 1966, curling representatives from Scotland, Canada, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland got together to form what was originally to be called the 'International Council of Curling' but was quickly changed to the 'International Curling Federation', and that is how the World Curling Federation started its journey.**

To kick-start the celebration of this 50-year milestone, the WCF hosted a special gala banquet in the wonderful 15th Century Schlüsselzunft Restaurant in Basel, on the eve of the World Men's Curling Championship 2016.

The guests of honour were Dr Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee, and his wife Claudia. The banquet, hosted by Scottish TV personality Alison Walker, featured a special audio-visual presentation, which covered many of the significant WCF developments through the last 50 years.

To keep the celebration in mind throughout the year, a new version of the WCF logo was developed - and can be seen on the front cover of this book - and, later, a special commemorative book will be published to help make this 50th Anniversary an extra special year to remember.







# Ford World Women's Curling Championship

Swift Current, Canada, 19-27 March 2016

**The Credit Union iPlex in Swift Current, Saskatchewan was the venue for the Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2016. This was the second time that Swift Current had hosted this event, the last time being in 2010.**

Twelve of the top women's teams from the international world of curling took part, representing hosts Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, defending champions Switzerland and USA.

This was the first event at which points to qualify for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea [9-25 February 2018] were up for grabs. The qualification process involves this Championship and the World Women's Curling Championship 2017 in Beijing, China. As hosts, Korea will qualify for PyeongChang, as will the seven teams with the best qualifying points tally from 2016 and 2017. The final two places on the Olympic line-up will be decided at a special WCF Olympic Qualification Event, to be held at the end of 2017.

By the time of the last session of round-robin play, Switzerland, Japan and Russia all knew they would be involved in the Page play-offs. The fourth place in that line-up came down to a winner-takes-all round-robin game between Canada and Scotland. It was Canada who emerged as winners, by 9-4, to take the fourth Page slot and face third-placed Russia, while leaders Switzerland would play Japan.

In the Page 1v2 play-off, Switzerland beat Japan by 8-4 to move directly to the final while, in the Page 3v4 game, Russia beat Canada by 7-4 to face Japan in the semi-final. Canada had to wait to play the semi-final losers for bronze medals.

The semi-final between Japan and Russia went all the way to an extra end before Japan emerged as 7-5 winners to go onto the final, for a historic first time.

The bronze medal game went all the way to the last stone and Russia clinched a 9-8 win for what was a third successive bronze medal.

The gold medal final saw Switzerland, the defending champion nation, keep their winning streak going, when they beat Japan by 9-6. This is the fourth world women's title for Switzerland in the past five years and the second for Bina Feltscher's team, who last won in 2014.

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that Irene Schori, third player for Switzerland, was the winner of the Frances Brodie Award, voted for by all the players, to recognise the athlete they think best exemplified curling's values and sportsmanship throughout the event.

As was the case when the Ford World Women's Curling Championship was last staged in Swift Current in 2010, the cumulative audience figures exceeded 50,000 for the week.

***The World Women's Curling Championship 2017 will be held between 18-26 March 2017 in Beijing, China.***



## Results

### ● Switzerland

Bina Feltscher (skip)  
Irene Schori (third)  
Franziska Kaufmann (second)  
Christine Urech (lead)  
Carole Howald (alternate)

### ● Japan

Satsuki Fujisawa (skip)  
Chinami Yoshida (third)  
Yumi Suzuki (second)  
Yurika Yoshida (lead)  
Mari Motohashi (alternate)

### ● Russia

Anna Sidorova (skip)  
Margarita Fomina (third)  
Alexandra Raeva (second)  
Nkeiruka Ezekh (lead)  
Alina Kovaleva (alternate)

### ONLINE RESULTS:

<http://wcf.co/wccc2016results>

All Olympic and Paralympic qualification points can be seen on p22-23



# Media and Broadcasting

## Media

The WCF's media channels and resources for MAs and media contacts continued to grow in the 2015-2016 season.

This was the first full season that event websites were fully integrated into [www.worldcurling.org](http://www.worldcurling.org), and the increase in engagement on our website was significant, demonstrating the success of this move.

[www.worldcurling.org](http://www.worldcurling.org) had 864,963 unique visitors - a 140% increase from the previous 12 months. Apart from the home page, the World Men's Curling Championship 2016 homepage ([/wmcc2016](http://wmcc2016)) was the most popular site, with 628,096 unique views. Between 3 and 9 April 2016 was the busiest period on the website, during the World Men's Curling Championship, which was the same as the previous year, however, it was 282% busier than in 2015.

The average time spend on all of [www.worldcurling.org](http://www.worldcurling.org) and its subsidiary sites and pages was four minutes and ten seconds, up from two minutes and thirty-four seconds the previous year. This was most likely due to viewers keeping the website open and following the live score updates that were available to them.

## Broadcast

The 2015-2016 season saw World Curling TV (WCTV), the television-making arm of the Federation, produce broadcast coverage from six events: the European, World Junior, Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles Curling Championships. This season WCTV worked once again in conjunction with the United States Curling Association on the Curling Night in America series of programmes for NBC.

Overall viewing figures for the season remained strong, despite broadcasting plans for the 2015 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships having to be curtailed for organisational issues.

The cumulative global TV viewing figure was over 190 million in territories where broadcast analysis was carried out.\*



Our social media channels continue to grow. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram all added around 2,000 followers each. This is a 19% increase for Facebook, 15% for Twitter and incredibly 382% for Instagram, which went from having 533 followers in May 2015 to 2569 by May 2016. In the coming year we hope to continue this growth by posting more unique content and increasing engagement on our social media channels.

Our media resources were also received well this year. We saw a 71% increase in downloads of our newsletter, despite moving to a three-newsletters-a-season model rather than a quarterly newsletter. Our image library now has 314 users, up from 245, and received 20,131 downloads.

Finally, six Member Associations benefitted from our Media Assistance Programme (MAP), which covers the cost of accommodation for MAs' media personnel at events.

Those benefitting were Canada, Finland, Hungary, Russia, Sweden and USA. This was the first time Russia had utilised MAP, while Hungary's Mariann Bardocz-Bencsik who has attended events on the MAP for a number of years was contracted as a social media officer for the WCF at the Winter Youth Olympic Games, to create unique behind-the-scenes content for our social media channels. It is our intention to promote MAP widely in the coming year, in order to help more Member Associations, produce native language coverage of their teams competing at our championships.

*The figures laid-out on this page are taken from a 12-month period between 1 May 2015 and 1 May 2016, and compared against the same time the previous year.*

The figures this season reflect the effect of when a world championship is hosted outside of Asia. In addition, the failure of both the Chinese men's and women's teams to qualify for the world championship resulted in a significant drop of viewers in China.

However, improved audience and channel data has led to a sharp rise in the number of hours known to have been televised. A total of 184 hours of curling coverage was produced live by WCTV this season which converted to over 1200 known TV broadcast hours, (over double the exposure recorded in the previous season).

The WCF's YouTube Channel continues to show tremendous growth with subscribers now over 20,000. The 115 new games made available on the channel over the season created over 1.25 million live or video-on-demand views.

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







# World Men's Curling Championship

Basel, Switzerland, 2-10 April 2016



**The teams that competed for the World Men's Curling Championship 2016 in Basel, Switzerland were packed with experience, with three former world champions among them. Also, the venue - the St Jakobshalle - was used the last time the World Men's Curling Championship was staged in Basel, in 2012.**

The former world champion skips were Kevin Koe (Canada, 2010), Thomas Ulsrud (Norway, 2013) and Niklas Edin (Sweden, 2015).

The twelve teams were: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Norway, Russia, Scotland, defending champions Sweden, hosts Switzerland and USA.

In the last session of round-robin play, Canada, Denmark, Japan and USA all won - performances that sealed qualification for the Page play-offs.

Canada took the direct route to the gold medal final when they beat second-ranked Denmark by 5-3. The Page 3v4 play-off was a tight affair and eventually USA emerged as 5-4 winners over Japan, scoring the winner with the last stone of the game. This result meant that USA would play Denmark in the sole semi-final, with the winner going on to face Canada for the title and gold medals and the loser playing Japan for bronze medals.

Denmark won the semi-final against USA by 9-3, thanks to a steal of three in the third end and a further score of three in the fifth.

The USA were back onto the ice for the bronze medal game against Japan and won it by 8-6 to land their nation's first world medal since 2007.

Canada then faced Denmark in a re-run of the Page 1v2 game. The Canadians again proved to be too strong for Denmark and took the title and the gold medals with another 5-3 win, after running Denmark out of stones in the tenth end. While this was a second world title for Canada's Kevin Koe, it was a notable result for Denmark too, who had qualified for this championship from the B-Division of the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2015, in November.

Altogether over 49,000 people attended the championships and, during the closing ceremony it was announced that Kosuke Morozumi, lead player for Japan, was the winner of the Collie Campbell Award, voted for by all the athletes to recognise the player they think best exemplified curling's values and sportsmanship throughout the event. This was the second year in succession that Morozumi had won this accolade.



**The Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2017 will be held between 1-9 April in Edmonton, Canada.**



## Results

### ● Canada

Kevin Koe (skip)  
Marc Kennedy (third)  
Brent Laing (second)  
Ben Hebert (lead)  
Scott Pfeifer (alternate)

### ● Denmark

Rasmus Stjerne (skip)  
Johnny Frederiksen (third)  
Mikkel Poulsen (second)  
Troels Harry (lead)  
Oliver Dupont (alternate)

### ● USA

John Shuster (skip)  
Tyler George (third)  
Matt Hamilton (second)  
John Landsteiner (lead)  
Kroy Nernberger (alternate)

### ONLINE RESULTS:

<http://wcf.co/wmcc2016results>

# World Curling Hall of Fame

During the season, the WCF announced the induction of three new members to the World Curling Hall of Fame - Warren Hansen of Canada, Sweden's Elisabeth Hogstrom and Italy's Franco Zumofen.

This was the fifth 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. There are two classes of award - *curler* and *builder*.

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



**Warren Hansen**

Warren Hansen has made influential contributions to the development of curling for more than 50 years. His contributions have been multi-faceted, from developing many of the umpiring procedures in use today as well as establishing coaching, officiating and ice making guides. Many of the marketing and design features - four sheets of ice for championships and events held in large ice-hockey arenas - of national and international competitions that make up the spectacle that we know today can be attributed to Hansen.

As well as playing a significant role in developing Curling Canada's Canada Cup and Continental Cup he worked hand-in-hand with Calgary's Ray Kingsmith in producing and presenting the proposal to the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the 1988 Olympic Winter Games that resulted in curling being accepted as a demonstration sport that year, and which, among other initiatives, eventually saw curling become a full medal sport in 1998.



**Elisabeth Hogstrom**

Throughout an international playing career that spanned more than a decade, Elisabeth Hogstrom represented Sweden at four World Women's Curling Championships, the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada - where curling was an exhibition sport - and seven European Curling Championships. She won six gold medals - one at the 1981 World Women's in Perth, Scotland and a further five at the European Curling Championships in 1976, 1980, 1982, 1983 and 1988. She added to this tally with four silver medals. These were won at the World Women's in 1980 in Perth, Scotland and 1982 in Geneva, Switzerland; and one each at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games and the 1981 European Curling Championships.

Hogstrom has also spent time working with Swedish junior curlers and coached Sweden's junior men's team in 1999.



**Franco Zumofen (1938 - 2016)**

Widely regarded as the face of Italian curling, Franco Zumofen made significant contributions to the development of the curling in Italy, most notably ensuring its place in the Italian Ice Sports Federation.

He was a driving force behind a number of high-profile international curling events during his career, most notably the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino.

He was the founding member of the Curling Club Dolomiti Cortina d'Ampezzo, in 1965, and he held senior positions on the organising committees for international curling championships - the 2003 Le Gruyère European Curling Championships, in Courmayeur, the 2005 World Junior Curling Championships, in Pinerolo, the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2009 and Capital One World Men's Curling Championship 2010, which were both in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

*The world curling community lost a dear friend on Saturday 25 June 2016, shortly after he received his award, when Franco passed away at the age of 78.*





# World Senior Curling Championships

Karlstad, Sweden, 15-23 April 2016



**The Karlstad Curling Arena, in Sweden, hosted the 15th edition of the World Senior Curling Championships. The event attracted record entry levels, with 17 women's and 26 men's teams taking part.**

To be eligible to take part in these championships, players must be no 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.

The women were divided into two groups:

**Group A:** Australia, defending champions Canada, Czech Republic, England, Finland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania and hosts Sweden.

**Group B:** Austria, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland and USA.

In the women's championship, England completed their Group A round-robin programme undefeated to finish at the top-of-the-table on eight wins. In the same group, Canada finished second, while Sweden qualified in third place.

Scotland topped the rankings in women's Group B, undefeated. Switzerland also qualified from this group in second place, while the Americans and Germans went into a tie-breaker battle for the last qualifying place. It was Germany who won that by 7-6 to complete the knock-out qualifiers.

As group leaders, England and Scotland moved on directly to the semi-finals, while Switzerland faced Sweden and Canada played Germany in semi-final challenge games. In these games, Sweden beat Switzerland by 8-2 while Germany were 6-4 winners over Canada. In the semi-finals, Germany beat England by 11-4 while Scotland beat Sweden by 8-6. In the game for bronze medals, Sweden beat England by 10-5, while Scotland won the final by 5-4 over Germany after an extra end to become the new world champions.

The three men's Groups were:

**Group A:** Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland, defending champions USA and Wales

**Group B:** Canada, Finland, France, Israel, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Slovakia and hosts Sweden.

**Group C:** Australia, Denmark, England, Italy, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia and Turkey (who withdrew after the draw was made).

In the men's event, the top two teams in each group and the best of the three third-placed teams - determined by Draw Shot Challenge performance - were to proceed to the quarter-finals, while the remaining two third-placed teams would play-off for the last available quarter-final place.

The USA qualified as Group A winners while Scotland and Germany also progressed. The three qualifiers from Group B were leaders Canada, second placed Sweden and Ireland and, in Group C, unbeaten New Zealand led the way with Norway and Denmark also qualifying.

The challenge game for the last available quarter-final slot was won by Ireland, who beat Germany by 4-3. In the quarter finals, Ireland beat New Zealand by 6-5, while Canada beat Scotland, 4-3. Denmark beat USA, 5-4 and Sweden beat Norway, 10-4.

The semi-finals saw Canada beat Ireland by 7-3, while Sweden were 7-1 winners over Denmark. Subsequently, Ireland took the bronze medals with a 7-2 win over Denmark, while Sweden took the title with a 7-4 win over Canada.

**The World Senior Curling Championships 2017 will be held between 22 - 29 April in Lethbridge, Canada.**



## Results

### Women

#### ● Scotland

- Jackie Lockhart (skip)
- Christine Cannon (third)
- Isobel Hannen (second)
- Margaret Richardson (lead)
- Margaret Robertson (alternate)

#### ● Germany

- Monika Wagner (skip)
- Manon Harsch (third)
- Anneliese Haertle (second)
- Carina Schoenberg (lead)
- Andrea Schoepp (alternate)

#### ● Sweden

- Gumilla Arfwidsson Edlund (skip)
- Eva Olofsson (third)
- Karin Oesterberg (second)
- Haide Stensson (lead)
- Anta Hedtroem (alternate)

### Men

#### ● Sweden

- Mats Wrana (skip)
- Mikael Hasselborg (third)
- Anders Eriksson (second)
- Gerry Wahlin (lead)
- Lars Lindgren (alternate)

#### ● Canada

- Randy Neufeld (skip)
- Dean Moxham (third)
- Peter Nicholls (second)
- Dale Michie (lead)

#### ● Ireland

- Peter Wilson (skip)
- Peter J Wilson (third)
- Ross Barr (second)
- Tony Tierney (lead)
- Neil Fyfe (alternate)

### ONLINE RESULTS:

#### Women

<http://wcf.co/wsc2016womenresults>

#### Men

<http://wcf.co/wsc2016menresults>

# History made in Mixed Doubles Championship

**Journalism trainee Emily Dwyer from Canada joined the WCF Media Team at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2016, in Karlstad, Sweden. She witnessed history in the making. Here is her report:**

## **This Championship was a historic event for three countries.**

Serbia, Qatar, and Luxembourg had never competed at a World Curling Championship until now. In a 42-team field – a record number for this event, there were curlers with varieties of backgrounds – some world champions, some beginners. But, for all there was great interest in this version of the game, with this championship being the first time that Olympic qualification points were on offer.

Although for all three newcomer nations their stories were different, their passion for curling is just the same.

Mother and son Mixed Doubles pair, Dara Gravara Stojanovic and Filip Stojanovic, explain that 2016 marks a ten-year celebration of curling in Serbia, where the interest in the sport is growing.

“In Serbia we have more than 350 official curlers, and 20-30 active curlers,” said Dara.

Dara, the Vice President of the National Curling Association and the President of the Belgrade Curling Association, explains that they have no ice to practice on in Serbia, but they find ways to continue playing. “We made a sheet of ice under a tent in front of a shopping center,” Filip said.

Dara added: “In less than two months, more than 2000 people tried to play curling, which tells us people are interested.”

To practise, the team travels twice a year to meet with coach, and Olympian, Camilla Skaarberg Jensen – who won Silver at the World Women’s Curling Championship 2007, in Aomori, Japan – in Copenhagen, Denmark, for intensive training sessions.

The pair hopes to have ice in Serbia one day and they believe that competing at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship is a stepping stone to achieving that for their country.

Team Qatar were facing a different challenge. Yazid Alyafei and his partner Mayam Binai had been curling for just one month and they were up against many world-class teams.

“We just practiced for one month. So I think at the beginning it was difficult for us,” Yazid said. Binai said: “We went to Belarus for a camp. It was helpful for us because in our country we don’t have real ice, like this arena ice, we train on hockey ice, so it’s different.”

Curling in Qatar is new to most people. Both Yazid and Mayam take pride in representing all countries from the Middle East. “As you know, the only Arab country in the Worlds is Qatar, but we are celebrating all that curling is about, so it was like a motivation to represent Arab countries and the Middle East” said Yazid. He added, “In our country there are just 20 players, and all of them are beginners.”

Despite the scores in the games, the pair valued their experience in Karlstad, and hope to improve in future championships. Yazid concluded: “It is very enjoyable, because even if we are losing, the other teams are nice to us.”

Luxembourg’s Karen Wauters shared how it felt to win the country’s first-ever curling match at a World Curling Championship when they beat Romania, by 8-3.

“Being a new country here, it’s a fantastic feeling to finally pull up and feel like we played a good game and had a solid competition,” she said.

Wauters’ team-mate, Marco Etienne agreed: “I liked it as well. The result doesn’t reflect that Romania played very well – It was very close, with lots of stones in the house. It was a very nice game.”

***Mixed Doubles will make its debut at the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea, between 9 – 25 February 2018.***







# World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship

Karlstad, Sweden, 16-23 April 2016



**The Löffbergs Arena, in Karlstad, Sweden, was the venue for the ninth edition of the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, and the first to take place since the discipline had been confirmed for the programme of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea [9-25 February 2018].**

With a new record total of 42 teams involved, from Asia, Australasia, Europe, North and South America, including newcomers to World Mixed Doubles Belgium, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Serbia and Qatar, the global popularity of Mixed Doubles continues to grow.

The teams involved were divided into six groups:

**Group A:** Belgium, Bulgaria, defending champions Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Switzerland and Slovakia.

**Group B:** Austria, Finland, Germany, Korea, Lithuania, Slovenia and hosts Sweden.

**Group C:** England, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania and Turkey.

**Group D:** Australia, Canada, China, France, Ireland, Italy and Serbia.

**Group E:** Belarus, Denmark, Spain, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand and USA.

**Group F:** Brazil, Czech Republic, Estonia, Qatar, Russia, Scotland and Wales.

Round-robin play was needed to determine the top-ranked 16 teams, who went on to play in a head-to-head format. As this was the first event at which Olympic qualification points



were available, all of the top 16 teams had to play on - win or lose - to determine final rankings and points allocation among them.

The top 16 nations were Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, and USA.

Of these, China, Russia, Scotland and USA all reached the semi-finals, where China beat Scotland by 7-5 and Russia beat USA by 8-6. The Americans went on to beat Scotland by 9-7 for bronze, while Russia beat China by 7-5 to take gold.

***The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2017 will be held between 22 - 29 April in Lethbridge, Canada.***



## Results

● **Russia**  
Anastasia Bryzgalova and  
Alexander Krushelnitskiy

● **China**  
Rui Wang and  
Dexin Ba

● **USA**  
Tabitha Peterson and  
Joe Polo

ONLINE RESULTS:  
<http://wcf.co/wmdcc2016results>

# World Rankings

The World Rankings and Olympic and Paralympic qualification points displayed here are up-to-date at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 season. These will change during the course of the 2016-2017 season. The most up-to-date data can be found on [worldcurling.org](http://worldcurling.org)

## Olympic Winter Games 2018 curling qualification system

The Olympic Men 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 (1), receives an automatic entry. Seven (7) places will be offered to the National Olympic Committees of the Member Associations of the World Curling Federation, who have gained the most qualifying points from the World Women's Curling Championships (WWCC), World Men's Curling Championships (WMCC) and the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDCC) held in 2016 and 2017.

In the Men and Women's competition the top two teams from the 2017 Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) will fill the remaining two (2) places. NOCs can 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.

Points are awarded according to final ranking of the 12 participating teams in the championships as follows:  
14 - 12 - 10 - 9 - 8 - 7 - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1.

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

## Paralympic Winter Games 2018 curling qualification system

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

Korea, as host (1), receives an automatic entry. The remaining 11 places will be offered to the 11 National Paralympic Committees of the Member Associations of the World Curling Federation who have gained the most qualifying points from the World Wheelchair Curling Championships (WWhCCs) held in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Points are awarded according to final ranking of the ten participating teams in WWhCCs as follows:  
12 - 10 - 8 - 7 - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

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



## 1. World Rankings: Wheelchair

Association	2015-2016 +/-	Points	
Russia	1	1	822
Canada	-1	2	650
China	0	3	610
USA	1	4	466
Norway	5	5	452
Scotland/Great Britain	-2	6	439
Korea	1	7	430
Slovakia	-1	8	425
Sweden	-3	9	375
Finland	-1	10	359
Germany	0	11	216
Switzerland	1	12	213
Italy	-1	13	125
Czech Republic	2	14	121
Latvia	-1	15	116
Japan	-1	16	99
Denmark	0	17	91
Slovenia	0	18	54
Poland	2	19	35
England	2	20	28
Lithuania	1	21	26
Estonia	0	22	22
Bulgaria	-4	23	22
Israel	-2	24	20
Turkey	-5	25	12

Visit our website [worldcurling.org](http://worldcurling.org) for the complete list of world rankings.

	2015	2016	2017	Paralympic Points
1 Russia	12	12	-	24
2 China	10	6		16
3 Norway	1	10		11
4 USA	6	5		11
5 Canada	5	4		9
6 Slovakia	7	2		9
7 Finland	8	1		9
8 Korea**	0	8		8
9 Switzerland	0	7		7
10 Germany	4	3		7
11 Great Britain*	3	0		3
12 Sweden	2	0		2

\* 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.

## 2. World Rankings: Women

Association	2015-2016 +/-	Points	
Switzerland	1	1	900
Canada	-1	2	884
Sweden	0	3	660
Scotland/GBR	0	4	637
Russia	0	5	618
Japan	3	6	509
USA	1	7	432
Denmark	-1	8	429
China	-3	9	402
Korea	0	10	399
Germany	0	11	260
Finland	4	12	162
Italy	1	13	154
Czech Republic	-2	14	152
Norway	-2	15	143
Latvia	-1	16	132
Estonia	0	17	115
Hungary	0	18	111
England	2	19	92
Austria	-1	20	88
Turkey	1	21	86
New Zealand	-2	22	80
Poland	0	23	76
Slovakia	2	24	68
Spain	-1	25	56

Visit our website [worldcurling.org](http://worldcurling.org) for the complete list of world rankings.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Olympic Points
1 Switzerland	Yes	Yes	14	-	14
2 Japan	x	Yes	12		12
3 Russia	Yes	Yes	10		10
4 Canada	Yes	Yes	9		9
5 Great Britain*	Yes	Yes	8		8
6 USA	Yes	Yes	7		7
7 Korea**	Yes	x	6		6
8 Denmark	Yes	Yes	5		5
9 Sweden	Yes	Yes	4		4
10 Germany	Yes	Yes	3		3
11 Finland	x	Yes	2		2
12 Italy	x	x	1		1
13 China	Yes	Yes	x		0
14 Czech Republic	Yes	x	x		0
15 Latvia	Yes	x	x		0
16 Norway	x	Yes	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.



# Competition and Rules

## 3. World Rankings: Men

Association	2015-2016+/-	Points
Canada	0	962
Sweden	0	824
Norway	0	691
Scotland/Great Britain	0	608
Denmark	3	492
USA	1	487
Switzerland	-2	460
China	-2	446
Japan	3	339
Russia	0	313
Germany	-2	275
Finland	1	264
Czech Republic	-2	231
Italy	1	146
Korea	2	140
Latvia	0	117
Netherlands	2	105
New Zealand	0	102
France	-5	93
Hungary	0	88
England	0	87
Austria	2	84
Australia	-1	73
Turkey	5	65
Estonia	-2	61

Visit our website [worldcurling.org](http://worldcurling.org) for the complete list of world rankings.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Olympic Points
1 Canada	Yes	Yes	14	-	14
2 Denmark	Yes	x	12		12
3 USA	Yes	Yes	10		10
4 Japan	Yes	Yes	9		9
5 Norway	Yes	Yes	8		8
6 Sweden	Yes	Yes	7		7
7 Great Britain*	Yes	Yes	6		6
8 Finland	x	Yes	5		5
9 Switzerland	Yes	Yes	4		4
10 Russia	Yes	Yes	3		3
11 Korea**	x	x	2		2
12 Germany	Yes	x	1		1
13 China	Yes	Yes	x		0
14 Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	x		0
15 Italy	x	Yes	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.

## 4. World Rankings: Mixed Doubles

Association	2015-2016+/-	Points
Sweden	0	466
Russia	3	462
Hungary	-1	441
Norway	0	366
USA	3	364
Canada	0	353
Switzerland	74	350
China	3	331
Scotland/GBR	4	303
Estonia	14	254
Austria	-1	220
Czech Republic	-5	198
Finland	6	192
Denmark	-2	190
Spain	-6	184
New Zealand	-1	149
Japan	-1	145
England	5	139
Italy	-2	135
Korea	1	126
Slovakia	3	116
France	-4	107
Latvia	-3	95
Australia	-2	65
Ireland	6	62

Visit our website [worldcurling.org](http://worldcurling.org) for the complete list of world rankings.

	2016	2017	Olympic Points
1 Russia	14	-	14
2 China	12		12
3 USA	10		10
4 Great Britain*	9		9
5 Canada	8		8
6 Estonia	7		7
7 Finland	6		6
8 England*	5		5
9 Norway	4		4
10 Slovakia	3		3
11 Austria	2		2
12 Ireland	1		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.

## Competition and Rules Commission

The Competition and Rules Commission involves itself in the consideration of changes to the competitions and rules of curling and serves as an independent and a consultative body to the WCF Board and Assembly, working in conjunction with the Athlete Commission and the three WCF Zonal Commissions.

It accepts submissions from the WCF Board, Member Associations (MAs), members of the Athlete Commission, and the general public. The Commission meets to review each submission and provides their recommendations on any rule change proposals.

The Member Associations vote on all proposals at the WCF Annual General Assembly (AGA) and a 75% affirmative vote is required for a change or new rule to be accepted.

During this year, most of the focus has been around brush certification and sweeping rules. A sweeping summit was held in May in Ottawa, Canada which resulted in a number of recommendations. These are to be voted on at the 2016 AGA in Stockholm.

Other issues currently being investigated include:

- Mixed Doubles rules,
- qualification systems for World Curling Championships and Olympics (post 2018),
- Under-18 and Under-23 world championships,
- As well as various minor rule changes.

## Commission Members

Chair: Hugh Millikin  
(Vice President, Pacific-Asia - Australia)

Paul Ahlgren (Sweden)

John Brown (England)

Hew Chalmers (Director - Scotland)

Hans Frauenlob (New Zealand)

Danny Lamoureux (Canada)

Graham Prouse (Vice President, Americas - Canada)

Mark Swandby (USA)

Olga Zharkova (Russia)

Keith Wendorf  
(Director of Competitions and Development - France)

Leif Öhman  
(Technical Delegate, PyeongChang 2018 - Sweden)



# Fiscal Year

**The last season was a challenging one for the WCF for a number of reasons outlined elsewhere in this review. Moving the World Junior Curling Championships (WJCC) from Turkey to Denmark at late notice, the cancellation of the broadcasting at the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships (PACC), large variations in foreign exchange values, and not least the brushing issue, were factors that played a part in producing the final financial results we present here.**

The brush issue involved a major investment of time and effort for the staff and Board members of the WCF. There was also a financial cost for the Federation to find a solution for not just the coming season, but future seasons also. A meeting with the manufacturers in Toronto, scientific analysis of compliant and non-compliant brush pads throughout the season, and the Sweeping Summit itself, meant an unbudgeted expenditure of over US\$150,000.

Moving the WJCC to Denmark at late notice also meant a higher than anticipated expenditure. However, here we were able to offset that with a new sponsor, in VoIP Defender. Our thanks go to them for their support. We were also able to minimise the overspend due to lower flight costs to Denmark than we would have faced in Turkey.

These challenges aside, the bottom line is the Federation made a surplus in excess of US\$800,000, which is an excellent outcome for such a turbulent year, especially as the original budget had targeted a surplus of under US\$100,000.

The main part of this surplus can be attributed to a highly successful year in broadcast income where around US\$350,000 additional income was achieved against budget. This came from additional TV rights deals and from a change in how we dealt with satellite distribution fees. In the past, the broadcasters have dealt with these directly with the distributor. But this year we took this in-house and charged the broadcasters ourselves, which subsequently led to this surplus. Unfortunately, going forward it is difficult to predict if we can achieve these income levels on a regular basis as so much depends on who qualifies for the World Curling Championships and whether their national broadcasters are interested in bidding for coverage.

Our investment portfolio also outperformed expectations with an additional US\$50,000 income produced compared to what had been predicted and we received around US\$100,000 in additional grants from Olympic and Paralympic sources that had not been budgeted for.

The bulk of our income comes from the IOC revenues from the Olympic Games and as usual we show one quarter of the Sochi monies in this year's income account.

Marketing fees show a small increase over last year. This small increase does not reflect the actual increase in the number of sponsors due to the impact of currency fluctuations. For example, one marketing fee was worth around US\$40,000 less than expected due to the change in the US\$ versus the CDN\$.

On the expenditure side, as the Board became aware of some of the issues that were going to lead to unbudgeted expenditure, some expenditure was put on hold until the coming season.

However, the greatest savings again came through the impact of currency fluctuations in marketing. We saved US\$170,000 against our budget due to the change in the Euro vs US\$ rate at the time of expenditure compared to when the budget was set. Similarly, the change in the Euro and GBP versus US\$ rate helped generate a saving of over US\$100,000 in the operations budget.

Both of the WCF's investment advisors have delivered the portfolio requirements of producing a return ahead of the inflation rate which protects the capital the WCF hold on reserve. We are now at the point in the Olympic cycle where some of these investments will be drawn down to cover the day to day running cost of the Federation and discussions are on-going with both advisors to manage this in the best possible way.

The balance sheet is in a strong position with US\$8.9m in reserve. When this is viewed against the expenditure for the past year of around US\$6m, it can be seen that the Federation has practically achieved the target of having 18 months operating costs in reserve.

The 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 Commissions' work, on behalf of the Member Association representatives, is appreciated. The members are Marcus Schmitt, John Anderson, Didi Kolb (until April 2016), Gerrit-Jan Scholten (from April 2016) and Hugh Avery (from April 2016).



**Income and Expenditure Summary**  
for the Year End 30 June 2016 US\$

**Income**

	2016	2015
Member Subscriptions	36,450	26,450
Rights and Marketing Income	6,264,708	6,102,078
Broadcast License Fees	505,169	143,759
Programme and Service Income	76,899	93,345
Investment Income	172,783	332,126
Miscellaneous Income	4,826	86,175
	<b>7,060,835</b>	6,783,933

**Expenditure**

Governance Expenses	418,767	426,453
Operations and Administration	1,202,997	1,242,320
Programme and Services	774,237	590,368
Competitions	699,819	612,421
Marketing Expenses	1,186,774	1,257,358
Broadcast Expenses	1,654,212	1,674,919
Olympic Games Expenses	91,045	7,609
Anti Doping Programmes	35,178	52,935
Bad Debt	1,152	
Gain / Loss on Capital Asset	-1,343	-6,316
Gain / Loss on ForEx	182,601	433,949
ECF Legacy Fund Expenditure	881	-
	<b>6,246,320</b>	6,292,016
Surplus for the year	<b>814,515</b>	491,917

**Balance Sheet**  
as at 30 June 2016 US\$

	2016	2015
Fixed Assets	13,424,206	12,858,479
Other Assets	1,770,882	2,071,244
Current Assets	<b>3,951,781</b>	8,310,632
Current Liabilities	<b>5,422,809</b>	5,571,435
Net Current Assets / Liabilities	<b>-1,471,028</b>	2,739,197
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<b>13,724,060</b>	17,668,920
Long Term Liabilities	<b>4,759,375</b>	9,518,750
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities	<b>8,964,685</b>	8,150,170
Reserves Brought Forward	<b>8,150,170</b>	7,658,253
Surplus for the Year	<b>814,515</b>	491,917
Reserves Carried Forward	<b>8,964,685</b>	8,150,170

# A Look Forward

As we look forward to hosting our test events in the curling venue for of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea, I should mention the continued growth in this region with curling being part of next year's Asian Winter Games and a record 17 entries for the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships in November. Combining these together with all our major championships in the 2016-2017 season we are well prepared.

Other aspects of our activities include the important project of building a temporary curling facility which is taking shape in Turku, Finland. Although this has taken longer than we hoped it is our blueprint for future builds and it is important to take the time to get it right. This project is interesting many MAs and we remain hopeful this type of facility will play a key part in helping them develop and grow. As this project exemplifies, the continued development of our sport at grassroots level and finding ways to make our sport more accessible, in more countries, are vital to our future.



Another priority is expanding the visibility of our sport. The Olympic Winter Games in 2018 will be another fantastic opportunity to showcase curling and with the inclusion of Mixed Doubles, curling will be broadcast every day throughout the games which will give us unprecedented exposure. In addition to this we look forward to playing a prominent role in the new Olympic Channel which has recently been unveiled. You will have read elsewhere in this review that other television markets are opening up for us - none more so than in the United States. We have invested in the USA market in past years and this effort is now coming to fruition with more visibility from our championships to be shown in front of a huge potential audience.

Our 50th anniversary so far has proved to be a real success story for our sport. We have an excellent relationship with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and our sport is held in high regard within the Olympic Movement, as we heard when Dr Thomas Bach spoke at our 50th anniversary banquet. The Olympic family has shown great faith in the Federation and has supported and helped us to develop our sport. Now we need to make sure that we keep our side of the bargain.

I said last year that curling has never been in a better place and then of course, as recorded in these pages, we faced the

challenges of last season, and were robust enough to deal with them. Let me make the point that, because of our good financial health over the years we were able to meet those challenges. However, importantly, we have learned that challenges can happen anywhere and at any time and it is vital that we stay in good shape in order to deal with the unexpected.

Regarding the sweeping situation which emerged last season, I was particularly happy with the co-operation that we received from all of our stakeholders in trying to find the best way forward. At our Sweeping Summit in Ottawa, all attendees came together as one unit, with everyone working side by side to help our sport move on. The athletes worked from dawn to dusk knowing that the outcome and findings would affect both their and their fellow athletes' future and they certainly deserve special mention. I am sure delegates at our Congress will move this situation on in the same spirit of co-operation.

In closing I would like to thank everyone involved in curling for their role in making our great sport so special. I know, from my conversations with other sporting bodies, that they recognise just how strong a spirit we have in all sectors of our sport and in all corners of the world.

I wish everyone all success in the future as our sport continues to develop positively.

*Kate Loachness*



# Diary

## WORLD CURLING FEDERATION AND MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016 - 2017

### 2016

Dates	Month	Location	Country	Event	Venue	Event Website
7-10	September	Stockholm	Sweden	5th World Curling Congress		<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/">www.worldcurling.org/</a>
14-22	October	Kazan	Russia	World Mixed Curling Championship 2016	Kazan Sports Palace	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2016">www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2016</a>
4-10	November	Lohja	Finland	World Wheelchair B-Curling Championship 2016	Kissakallio Sports Institute	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org">www.worldcurling.org</a>
5-12	November	Uiseong	Korea	Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2016	Uiseong Curling Club	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/pacc2016">www.worldcurling.org/pacc2016</a>
19-26	November	Braehead	Scotland	Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2016	Braehead Arena	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/ecc2016">www.worldcurling.org/ecc2016</a>

### 2017 (At time of publication not all event URLs are live)

Dates	Month	Location	Country	Event	Venue	Event Website
3-10	January	Oestersund	Sweden	World Junior B-Curling Championships 2017	Oestersund Arena	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org">www.worldcurling.org</a>
29 Jan - 8 Feb		Almaty	Kazakhstan	28th Winter Universiade	Various	
16-26	February	PyeongChang	Korea	World Junior Curling Championships 2017	Olympic & Paralympic Curling Venue	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2017">www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2017</a>
4-11	March	PyeongChang	Korea	World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2017	Olympic & Paralympic Curling Venue	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/whcc2017">www.worldcurling.org/whcc2017</a>
18-26	March	Beijing	China	World Women's Curling Championship 2017	Capital Indoor Stadium	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/wvcc2017">www.worldcurling.org/wvcc2017</a>
1-9	April	Edmonton	Canada	Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2017	Rexall Place	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2017">www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2017</a>
22-29	April	Lethbridge	Canada	World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2017	Crossings Ice Complex	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/wmdcc2017">www.worldcurling.org/wmdcc2017</a>
22-29	April	Lethbridge	Canada	World Senior Curling Championships 2017	Crossings Ice Complex	<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org/wsc2017">www.worldcurling.org/wsc2017</a>
April/May				European C-Division Curling Championships 2017		<a href="http://www.worldcurling.org">www.worldcurling.org</a>



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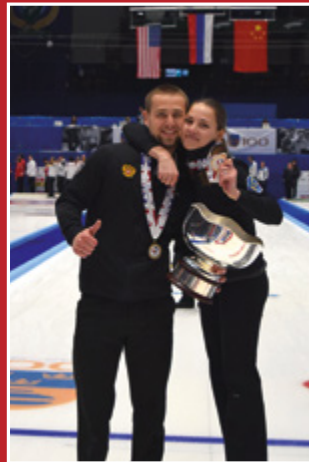
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# 2015 - 2016 Champions

