

WORLD CURLING FEDERATION
ANNUAL REVIEW 2017-2018



Niklas Edin, skip of Sweden's men's team, was given the honour of carrying his country's flag into the arena at the head of the Swedish delegation at the Olympic Winter Games opening ceremony in PyeongChang.

Sweden went on to place sixth on the overall medal table, with seven gold, six silver and one bronze medal in total. Edin and his team of Oskar Eriksson (third), Rasmus Wranaa (second), Christoffer Sundgren (lead) and alternate Henrik Leek took silver, losing out to United States in curling's gold medal final. This added to the Olympic bronze Edin won in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games and his two world titles and six European titles. Edin won a third world title in Las Vegas a month after the Games.



The Korean women's team became a global sensation as they stormed to the top of the round robin on their way to a final showdown against Sweden, skipped by Anna Hasselborg.

Known as the 'Garlic Girls' because of the region in South Korea that they come from, the Koreans, under skip **EunJung Kim**, went on to take silver, a first-ever global medal for Korean curling. The popularity of the team was emphasised when EunJung Kim was asked to help Korea's wheelchair curling skip Soon-Seok Seo light the cauldron at the Paralympic Winter Games opening ceremony. The Korean wheelchair curlers themselves just missed out on medals, losing the bronze medal game to Canada.

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President's Message

Once again, it is my pleasure to introduce the World Curling Federation's Annual Review.

As you will see on these pages, the 2017-2018 season saw more remarkable progress for our sport, with one clear highlight being our successful, history-making competitions in the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games of PyeongChang, South Korea. Our involvement in these great multi-discipline sporting games benefits the Federation and the whole curling family. In this Review, you will see how some of our Member Associations have capitalised on this once-every-four-years "shop window", generating new involvement and growing participants along the way – not least, following Team Shuster's historic win in the United States.

Our venue at these Games benefitted strongly from the experiences of our test events and became the place to be, with games played in front of virtually sold-out audiences and many interested influential sporting and political guests. Things happen as a direct result of the connections that we can make at these events. For example, we have been able to persuade the Korean sporting authorities to maintain the Gangneung Curling Centre in top-notch condition as a dedicated curling facility for the next year so that it becomes a community hub as well as an international and national competition venue. This is Olympic legacy in action. While there was much to admire about curling's increasing role and profile through these Games, we also saw a negative doping result, when Olympic Athlete from Russia, Aleksander Krushelnitskii, failed a test. This issue is being dealt with.

There are many ways in which our sport is becoming more international, and this was brought home to me when, in applying for a visa, I had to list the countries I had visited on curling business this past year... 18.

Other international highlights of the year include China's wheelchair curlers winning a first-ever Paralympic gold medal for their country in any sporting discipline; the first-ever all-South American game in one of our world championships, with Guyana's mixed doubles debutants beating Brazil in the round robin; Korea's skip EunJung Kim having a prominent role in the Paralympic opening ceremony after her team had stolen hearts all round the world; and Sweden's men's skip Niklas Edin being given the honour of carrying his country's flag into the Olympic opening ceremony.

All our championship events were successful and memorable, with growing television and media exposure and history-making performances. Every event this season was terrific. We're now a professional organisation running a professional sport, and we're really happy with the people who work with us and who work for us. Our outstanding volunteers and local organising committees all work so well, and we are so grateful to them. Now we're at the stage where we just go in produce the show and then move on to the next one.

Our Congress was exceptional, and when we were there in Bled, I met with Slovenian officials who promised us they would develop a dedicated curling facility in Ljubljana – just another example of the type of spin-off that can happen.



During our men's championship in Las Vegas we said our formal farewell to our Director of Competitions and Development but more about Keith Wendorf later.

As reported later in this Review, two new facilities were opened this season – in Belgium – through the determined efforts of the local curling family – and in Finland, where our prototype Portable Curling Facility opened for business in Turku. I was privileged and delighted to be at both opening ceremonies. At the Turku event, a young curler who had raised money for junior curling and wished to present a cheque, could hardly speak and was very emotional because he was so happy they now had this dedicated facility. Among all the Olympic and global razzamatazz, this was a real reminder of the difference we can make as a Federation and as a sport.

I hope you find this Review enjoyable and informative.

Kate Caithness OBE, President

"Our outstanding volunteers and local organising committees all work so well, and we are so grateful to them"

Board & Staff

The Board



President
Kate Caithness OBE
Scotland (Elected to 2018)



Vice - president (Americas)
Graham Prouse
Canada (Elected to 2021)



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



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



Director
Hew Chalmers
Scotland (Elected to 2021)



Director
Toyo Ogawa
Japan (Elected to 2019)



Director
Cathrine Lindahl
Sweden (Elected to 2020)



Director
Andy Anderson
United States (Elected to 2018)

Staff

Colin Grahamslaw	Secretary General
Keith Wendorf	Director of Competitions and Development
Scott Arnold	Competitions and Development Officer
Eeva Roethlisberger	Competitions and Development Officer
Darrell Ell	Competitions and Development Officer
Paddy Kaeser	Competitions and Development Officer
Susan Wendorf	Competitions and Development Assistant
Richard Harding	Development Officer
Saskia Mueller-Gastell	Projects Officer
Joanna Kelly	Broadcast Manager
Cameron MacAllister	Communications and Media Relations Manager
Chris Hamilton	Digital Media Officer
Ashley Melville	IT Officer
Thelma Black	Finance Controller
Susan Keith	Anti-Doping Administrator
Liz Munro	Competitions and Development Administrator
Gill Amatt	Administrative Assistant
Jorge Vazquez	Curling World Cup Manager
Lesley McCrae	Curling World Cup Broadcast Officer


Key facts and figures - development



Historic first Olympic medals for **Korea (silver)** and **Japan (bronze)** women



Canada's John Morris and Kaitlyn Lawes become first Olympians to win **team** and **mixed doubles gold medals**



Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal and Saudi Arabia join **World Curling Federation**



Qatar win first ever international curling game (8 - 5 over Kazakhstan at PACC 2017)



Guyana win first ever international curling game (9 - 6 over Austria at WMDC 2018)



Australia hosts first international curling event in **21 years**



First ever all South American curling game - **Brazil v Guyana** at World Mixed Doubles 2018 (Guyana won 6 - 3)



United States men win **first ever Olympic gold medal**



China became **Paralympic wheelchair curling champions** for the **first time**




Single largest sponsorship investment for the World Curling Federation from **Kingdomway Sports** for **Curling World Cup**



World Curling Federation extends partnership with InFront to **2022**




First dedicated curling ice installed in **Belgium** after successful **crowd funding project**



Portable Curling Facility is completed in **Turku, Finland**



First World Curling Championship to be held on the **United States' west coast** and in **Las Vegas**



WCF/DCV Hummelt Junior Curling Camp in Füssen, Germany **celebrates 20 years**

Operations and integrity

Staffing

The end of this season saw the retirement of the Director of Competitions and Development, Keith Wendorf.

Keith's contribution to the World Curling Federation and curling in general cannot be underestimated, and he will be sorely missed. Keith's position is replaced by two posts - a Head of Competitions, filled by Eeva Roethlisberger, and a Head of Development, filled by Scott Arnold. Eeva and Scott took up these new positions on 1 July.

Another change in the Competition and Development team saw the appointment of Paddy Kaeser last September when he joined the team as a Competitions and Development Officer. Paddy and Darrell Ell were joined by Karri Willms on 1 July.

The Curling World Cup is a major new project for the World Curling Federation and there have been two new appointments over the past season – Jorge Vazquez leads the Curling World Cup as Project Manager and was joined on 1 July by Uli Kapp, as a part-time Sport Manager.

Finally, former World Curling Federation Sports Media Trainee, Emily Dwyer, joined the media team on 16 July as a Media Officer.

Anti-doping

The year was dominated by preparations for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Along with the World Anti-Doping Agency, the International Olympic Committee set up a pre-Games testing taskforce to ensure an adequate level of testing was in place for those countries competing in the Olympic Winter Games.

The World Curling Federation worked with the National Anti-Doping Organisations of the competing nations to ensure that as many of the athletes as possible were tested prior to the Games. This represented the most comprehensive set of tests carried out by the World Curling Federation before an Olympic Games.



Unfortunately, this did not prevent a positive test happening at the Games. Aleksander Krushelnitskii from the Olympic Athlete from Russia team was disqualified following a positive test for meldonium. Following the agreement made at last year's Annual General Assembly, the process for hearing the case has been passed to Court for Arbitration for Sport and is expected to be heard in September.

In total the World Curling Federation conducted 199 tests during the past season, with no recorded failures.

The McLaren Report continued to be the subject of on-going investigation as the World Anti-Doping Agency released further information during the season. All the available evidence has now been passed to a member of the World Curling Federation Anti-Doping Hearing Panel who will make an assessment of whether or not there is sufficient evidence available to declare an Anti-Doping Rule Violation against anyone.

The World Curling Federation has also continued to be involved in anti-doping education:

Olympic Winter Games 2018

Anti-Doping Administrator, Susan Keith, was invited to join the World Anti-Doping Agency Outreach Team during the 2018 Olympic Winter Games to deliver anti-doping education to athletes competing in PyeongChang. The programme provided face-to-face interaction with athletes from around the world to raise awareness about fair play and the values of clean sport.

Governance Commission

In the past year, the World Curling Federation Governance Commission has had in-person meetings during the Congress in Bled, Slovenia, and the Olympic Winter Games in Gangneung, South Korea.

At the Congress it was agreed to make a call for nominations to fill one vacant position in the Governance Commission and nominations were received from all regional zones. At the spring meeting in Las Vegas, the Board appointed Gregor Rigler (of Slovenia) as the new World Curling Federation Governance Commission member. His knowledge and expertise from a rapidly developing Members Association is expected to be extremely valuable and beneficial for the Governance Commission. It is also an encouragement for other developing Members in seeking positions under the World Curling Federation umbrella.

The Governance Commission has provided template policy documents for Member Associations to improve their governance structures. This includes templates for New Constitution, Conflict of Interest policy, Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics. The Governance Commission has also aided one Member Association in a process of reviewing and improving their constitution and governance structure. This reflects that the Governance Commission not only asks what the commission can do for the Federation itself, but what the Governance Commission can do for the Member Associations.

Good governance is costly – but bad governance can be even more costly, and that is why the Governance Commission will constantly monitor and look for initiatives to improve governance issues within the organisation as well as being a resource for Members who share the same ambition.

Governance Commission members:

- **Bent Ramsfjell** (Norway, Board liaison and chair)
- **Willie Nicoll** (Scotland)
- **Jennifer Stannard** (United States)
- **Gregor Rigler** (Slovenia)

World Junior Curling Championships 2018

The World Curling Federation promoted the clean sport message #CurlClean at the World Junior Curling Championship 2018 in Aberdeen, Scotland, in February delivering an anti-doping awareness Outreach Programme for the young curling athletes.

During the championships, athletes, coaches and their support personnel had the chance to visit the outreach booth to take part in fun and educational activities and to sign the Clean Sport Pledge.

Photos were posted on social media during the championship to promote the hashtags #CurlClean and #PlayTrue.

Integrity

In the run up to the Olympic Winter Games, the World Curling Federation worked with the International Olympic Committee to deliver education related to the prevention of result manipulation – more than two-thirds of the athletes competing completed the online course. The International Olympic Committee have also confirmed that there was no evidence of any manipulation of results during the Games.

The World Curling Federation continue to work with the Irregular Betting Information System to monitor major events during the season and once again there were no cases reported.





MEDALLISTS

SCOTLAND

Grant Hardie (*skip and fourth*)
Rhiann Macleod (*vice-skip and third*)
Billy Morton (*second*)
Barbara McFarlane (*lead*)

CANADA

Trevor Bonot (*skip and fourth*)
Jacqueline McCormick (*vice-skip and third*)
Kory Carr (*second*)
Megan Carr (*lead*)
Jim Waite (*coach*)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Jaroslav Vedral (*skip and fourth*)
Andrea Krupanska (*vice-skip and third*)
Lukas Klipa (*second*)
Denisa Postova (*lead*)
Jiri Candra (*coach*)

World Mixed Curling Championship 2017

Champéry, Switzerland, 6 - 14 October

International curling returned to Champéry, Switzerland when 37 teams took to the ice of the Palladium de Champéry for the 2017 World Mixed Curling Championship. This was the third World Mixed Curling Championship to take place.

Prior to the competition, the first-ever mixed world rankings were released by the World Curling Federation, ensuring that ranking points would be earned from this championship, and all future championships.

The 37 competing Members were split into five groups for the round-robin stage. They were:

- **Group A:** Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Japan, defending champions Russia, Slovenia and Wales
- **Group B:** Belarus, Brazil, China, France, Latvia, Sweden and United States

- **Group C:** Denmark, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Scotland and Spain
- **Group D:** Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Hong Kong, Israel, Norway, Slovakia and hosts Switzerland
- **Group E:** Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Turkey

The round robin saw both Hong Kong and Luxembourg make their international mixed curling debuts. It also saw a first mixed curling win for Brazil and a historic first win at world level for Hong Kong, by 11-5 over Finland.

At the conclusion of the round-robin stage, 16 teams progressed to the play-offs. The top three ranked teams in each group received automatic entries while the 16th place was given to the fourth placed team with the best Draw Shot Challenge score.

Later, in the semi-finals, undefeated Canada beat Norway 5-3, while Scotland beat Czech Republic 6-2 to progress to the gold medal final.

In that final, Scotland secured their first World Mixed Curling title by defeating Canada 8-5 in an extra-end. At the same time, Czech Republic claimed the bronze medals after fighting back from 5-0 down at the break to win 7-6.

The World Mixed Curling Championship 2018 will take place between 13-20 October in Kelowna, Canada.

<https://www.wcf.co/wmxcc2017results>



Zonal reports

Americas

Canada

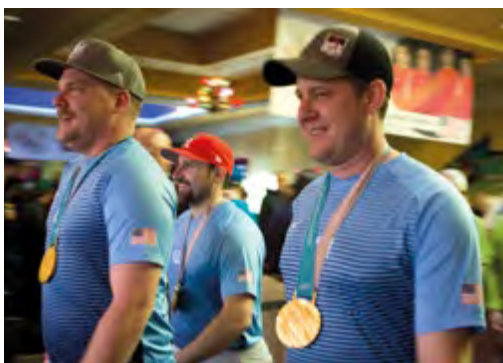
As Curling Canada continued its ambition to not only develop world and Olympic champions, but also recreational curlers from coast to coast - both young curlers and new Canadians - the Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings programme taught curling to more than 215,000 students, using gymnasium-friendly equipment. Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings also put on Brazilian Day and, in conjunction with the Korean Culture Centre in Toronto, took 106 people curling in April at the Bayview Golf and Country Club in Toronto.

In addition, Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings staged a series of Curling 101 learn-to-curl clinics across Canada, with 1,382 participants in 25 clubs.

Curling Canada is about to introduce the Hit Draw Tap youth skills competition for ages six to 13. The participants will perform three different shots – a Hit, a Draw and a Tap – with the difficulty of the skills modified based on age. The competition will start at club level then move onto regional level, with each member association hosting a Curling Canada Hit Draw Tap Provincial/Territorial Championship during their men's or women's championship.

Guyana

Guyana's debut in the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Oestersund, Sweden brought significant attention, with coverage in most of Guyana's major newspapers and television news programmes, as well as many messages of support on social media. This momentum will help to generate more coverage and gain the support of the government to integrate curling into the daily lives of Guyanese. The process of developing Guyana's first men's team to compete in the America's Challenge is underway, as well as continued efforts to recruit other Guyanese for both recreational and competitive curling.



United States

The United States Curling Association accepted 14 new curling clubs as members, meaning that curling is now established in 45 of the nation's 50 states.

Significant promotional activities took place around the Olympic and Paralympic year and highlights included:

- Partnering with the U.S. Olympic Committee on a "Road to PyeongChang" Olympic WinterFest Tour
- Monthly digital distribution of a "Preparing for the 2018 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games" newsletter
- Securing Cheetos as a major sponsor, with the Cheetos "Teach Me How to Curl" campaign registering 1.5 billion broadcast, print and online impressions
- Holding 18 days of Olympic and Paralympic giveaways, with over 11,600 entries (and emails to add to the U. S. Curling Association contact lists)
- Arranging an extensive post-Olympic media tour for the United States men gold medallists.

Because of that historic gold medal win, NBC broadcasts of the Olympic gold medal game drew over 7.5 million viewers, while TV coverage on the NBC networks began in October and continued until April, with over 600 hours in total.

Further junior and youth programme development will take place, while expanding wheelchair curling recruitment is a priority, as is expanding television and web streaming coverage.

Europe

Europe is the biggest zone within the World Curling Federation in terms of Member Associations. At the Congress last year Portugal was accepted as the 41st European Member.

In the last year the European Zonal Commission has met twice – in Bled, Slovenia, during the World Curling Congress and in St. Gallen, Switzerland, during the European Curling Championships.

These meetings represent opportunities:

- To consult about special topics that are arising and are of mutual interest
- To present and nurture European success stories
- To discuss proposals for use of the European Curling Federation monetary legacy (approximately \$USD 100,000)
- To look ahead to future championships on European ice.

In Bled, presentations included:

- The new curling facility in Belgium – a project in which crowdfunding was involved
- Curling development in Slovenia – from scratch to competitive in less than ten years
- Andorra's experiences with hosting European Curling Championships C-Division – a steep, but encouraging, learning curve
- Czech Republic's example of promotion of curling – with emphasis on initiatives for the upcoming Olympic Winter Games.

In St. Gallen similar presentation were made about:

- BEGASOFT – a Swiss web-based administration programme suitable to administer tournaments and membership information, amongst other things. This software is available to all Member Associations
- The Swedish Curling Development Platform, which is targeting courses for parents, a guide to arranging anti-doping leadership programmes, a forum for coaches, online courses and instruction videos.

Looking ahead, one of the key topics for discussion will be the selection process for the four European teams in the World Qualification Event.

The European Zonal Commission is constantly encouraging European Members to come forward with applications for use of the European Curling Federation monetary legacy. Viable projects should especially target youth, promote development and enhance cross-border co-operation.



Pacific - Asia

The hugely successful 2018 Olympic Winter Games in South Korea continued the Olympic Winter Games' impact on participation and enthusiasm in the Pacific-Asia region for curling. The 2018 legacy and the upcoming 2022 Beijing Games have also assisted in the development of new curling facilities in the region with South Korea and China leading the way.

One game in particular at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games captured the interest of millions of viewers across Asia. The women's semi-final between Korea and Japan was not just entertaining but was one of the best-played curling games shown on television.

The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2017 returned to Australia for the first time since 1996. The championships were preceded by the Australian National Championships and a Pacific-Asia mixed doubles tournament. The access to world-class ice and stones enabled all Australian curlers and the public to experience conditions never seen before in Australia.

The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018 will return to the Gangneung Curling Centre, South Korea as part of the legacy from the Olympic Winter Games.



MEDALLISTS

Women

● KOREA

EunJung Kim (*skip and fourth*)
KyeongAe Kim (*vice-skip and third*)
SeonYeong Kim (*second*)
YeongMi Kim (*lead*)
Chohi Kim (*alternate*)
MinJung Kim (*coach*)

○ JAPAN

Satsuki Fujisawa (*skip and fourth*)
Chinami Yoshida (*vice-skip and third*)
Mari Motohashi (*second*)
Yurika Yoshida (*lead*)
Yumi Suzuki (*alternate*)
James Lind (*coach*)

● CHINA

Yilun Jiang (*skip and fourth*)
Xindi Jiang (*vice-skip and third*)
Mingyue Yao (*second*)
Hui Yan (*lead*)
Xu Meng (*alternate*)
Marcel Rocque (*coach*)

Men

● KOREA

ChangMin Kim (*skip and fourth*)
SeHyeon Seong (*vice-skip and third*)
EunSu Oh (*second*)
KiBok Lee (*lead*)
MinChan Kim (*alternate*)
MyungSup Lim (*coach*)

○ CHINA

Dejia Zou (*skip and fourth*)
Qiang Zou (*vice-skip and third*)
Jingtao Xu (*second*)
Zhilin Shao (*lead*)
Yanlong Ma (*alternate*)
Marcel Rocque (*coach*)

● JAPAN

Yusuke Morozumi (*skip and fourth*)
Tetsuro Shimizu (*vice-skip and third*)
Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi (*second*)
Kosuke Morozumi (*lead*)
Kohsuke Hirata (*alternate*)
Hatomi Nagaoka (*coach*)

Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2017

Erina, Australia; 2-9 November

In 2017, the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships ventured to Australia for the first time in 21 years and were held on Australia's Central Coast, in the Erina Ice Arena.

A total of 15 teams took part representing nine Member Associations, and for the first time, they were competing for three places at each of the World Women's and Men's Curling Championships, with those events expanding to 13 teams.

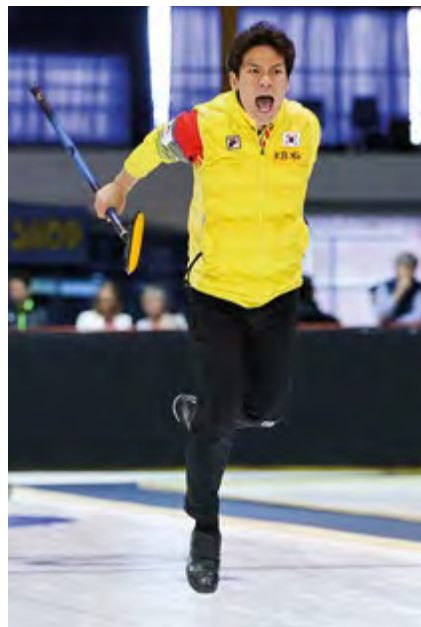
In the women's event six teams took part: Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. The men's teams were: Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand and Qatar.

Korea's women's and men's teams won their respective championships ahead of hosting the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 three months later. Also, during the men's round-robin competition, Qatar recorded their first international victory by beating Kazakhstan 8-5 and Hong Kong women qualified for their first-ever semi-final.

The women's semi-finalists were Korea, China, Japan and Hong Kong. Korea won their semi-final 14-2 over Hong Kong, while Japan beat China 6-5 to progress to the final.

In reaching the final, Korea and Japan guaranteed places at the Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2018 in North Bay, Canada. This left China and Hong Kong to play for bronze medals and the final worlds place. China were the third team to qualify with an 8-3 win over Hong Kong in the bronze medal game. Korea became Pacific-Asia champions with an 11-6 win over Japan, who collected silver medals.

In the men's event, the host nation Australia reached the semi-finals, along with China, Korea and Japan.



Korea won their semi-final 8-7 over Japan and China beat Australia 7-6, which guaranteed Korea and China's places at the 361st World Men's Curling Championship 2018 in Las Vegas, United States.

Japan claimed the final worlds place and bronze medals with an 11-4 win over Australia. In the gold medal game, after

the last stone had to be measured, Korea were confirmed as champions beating silver medallists, China, 9-8.

The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018 will take place between 3-10 November, in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games curling venue in Gangneung, South Korea.

Women -
<https://www.wcf.co/pacc2017womenresults>

Men -
<https://www.wcf.co/pacc2017menresults>

Athlete Commission

This was a special year, at the end of the quadrennial, which saw athletes' lifelong dreams come true at the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, with gold medal performances by Canada's mixed doubles team, Sweden women, United States men and China's wheelchair team. Now the attention has quickly turned to the Games in 2022 with plans already in motion to grow and showcase curling again.

The commission was busy in this period, with at least one team member attending and speaking to athletes at each of the Pacific-Asia, European, World Women's, World Men's and World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships. The commission was also able to meet in Las Vegas, following open meetings at the World Men's Curling Championship to plan and build for the future as well as discuss major topics to be worked on.

Key activities and initiatives:

- Commission member Kim Forge is working with a group of athletes and coaches on a mixed doubles working group which has been tasked with reviewing the game and any potential improvements, including the draw formats, following the discipline's success at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games
- Commission member Patrick McDonald led the Stick Delivery Summit in May 2018, which has led to recommendations, for wheelchair curling, that will be voted on at the World Curling Federation Congress
- Commission skip Nolan Thiessen helped lead a group of athletes as well as World Curling Federation representatives through a week of brush testing, to take another view of currently conforming brushes, to see if any additional adjustments were needed.

Two new members joined the commission in July 2018 – Anna Kubeskova (Czech Republic) and Jill Officer (Canada). They were both elected by an athlete vote to represent the two open positions from the World Women's discipline.

Other members of the Commission are:

- **Kim Forge** (Australia) World Mixed Doubles representative
- **Patrick McDonald** (United States) World Wheelchair representative
- **David Murdoch** (Scotland) World Men's representative
- **Nolan Thiessen** (Canada) skip of the commission and World Men's representative

Outgoing members Ann Swishelm and Kelly Scott are thanked for their efforts over the past six years. All Curling athletes thank them for representing the voice of the athlete community and growing this commission to what it is today.



Development Assistance Programme

The World Curling Federation's Development Assistance Programme - aimed at assisting Member Associations – has been in existence for many years, with grants of up to \$USD 12,000 available for projects of different types. This grant aid has now been developed to allow Member Associations to claim for one four-year grant of up to \$USD 48,000 to complete a single or larger project.

Examples of projects the Development Assistance Programme can be used for include:

- Payments towards contracts for equipment with the World Curling Federation (such as stones, scrapers)
- Organisation of camps and courses
- Buying of ice making equipment
- Publishing brochures, rulebooks and manuals
- Running a Stepping Stone project.

Using the Development Assistance Programme to repay stones, scrapers and ice equipment is the single largest area of Member Association spend under this programme.

The largest single growth area in the last year has been the introduction of funds towards Street Curling sets. Over 12 Member Associations have purchased Street Curling sets since the World Curling Federation partnered with Rock Solid Productions. While there may be concerns that the game should always be on ice, there is a strong argument where Member Associations use this idea to develop interest by transporting Street Curling sets around many large cities allowing more people to see what the game is about.

The Development Assistance Programme is only one part of the development work done by the World Curling Federation and its global team of development officers. In total, an annual figure of \$USD 442,120 is committed to Member Association development by the World Curling Federation.





MEDALLISTS

Women

● SCOTLAND

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

○ SWEDEN

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

● ITALY

Diana Gaspari (*skip and fourth*)
Veronica Zappone (*vice-skip and third*)
Stefania Constantini (*second*)
Angela Romei (*lead*)
Chiara Olivieri (*alternate*)
Violetta Caldart (*coach*)

Men

● SWEDEN

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

○ SCOTLAND

Kyle Smith (*skip and fourth*)
Thomas Muirhead (*vice-skip and third*)
Kyle Waddell (*second*)
Cameron Smith (*lead*)
Glen Muirhead (*alternate*)
Viktor Kjaell (*coach*)

● SWITZERLAND

Benoit Schwarz (*vice-skip and fourth*)
Claudio Paetz (*third*)
Peter de Cruz (*skip and second*)
Valentin Tanner (*lead*)
Dominik Maerki (*alternate*)
Claudia Pescia (*coach*)

Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2017

St Gallen, Switzerland; 17 - 25 November

For many of the teams taking part, the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2017 was either a last championship warm-up for February's 2018 Olympic Winter Games, or a final dress-rehearsal for December's Olympic Qualification Event in the Czech Republic - the competition that would determine the last two teams in both the 2018 Olympic women's and men's line-ups.

A total of 27 Member Associations took part.

The ten A-Division women's teams were: Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, hosts Switzerland and Turkey.

The women's B-Division consisted of ten teams: Belarus, England, Estonia, Spain, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway and Poland.

In the women's A-Division semi-finals, Sweden beat Italy by 7-3 while Scotland were 7-5 winners over Switzerland. Italy went on to beat Switzerland by 7-6 to take the bronze medals. Scotland were champions, completing their 6-3 win over Sweden with single-point steals in both the ninth and tenth ends.

Finland emerged as women's B-Division gold medal winners, beating silver medallists Latvia by 8-7, while Estonia won bronze medals with a 5-4 victory over Norway. At the foot of the table both Poland and Belarus were relegated to the C-Division. Winning the B-Division gave Finland the right to challenge Denmark, who finished eighth in the A-Division for the final European place at the Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2018 in North Bay, Canada. However, Denmark won that challenge series.

The ten A-Division men's teams that competed were: Austria, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland, Slovakia and Sweden.

Another 16 teams competed in two groups in the men's B-Division. They were:

- **Group A:** Belgium, England, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Israel and Latvia.
- **Group B:** Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey and Wales.

In the semi-finals of the men's A-Division, Sweden beat Norway by 8-3 to keep their title defence alive, while Scotland beat Switzerland by 9-6. The Swiss then beat Norway by 6-5 before Sweden completed their title defence with a 10-5 win, taking what was this team's third successive European crown and a sixth European title in total for skip Niklas Edin.

Finland's men beat Poland by 8-3 to join their women as B-Division champions, while Czech Republic beat Spain by 8-4 for bronze. Meanwhile, Denmark and Belgium, at the bottom of the table, were relegated to the C-Division.

The men's world challenge series was won by Italy – eighth in the A-Division – over B-Division gold medallists Finland and they qualified for the 361st World Men's Championship 2018 in Las Vegas, United States.

The Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2018 will take place between 16-24 November, in Tallinn, Estonia.

Women -

<https://www.wcf.co/ecc2017womenresults>

Men -

<https://www.wcf.co/ecc2017menresults>





World Curling Federation
President Kate Caithness
writes:

As most readers will realise, Keith Wendorf, the organisation's long-standing Director of Competitions and Development, has retired. As we wish him a happy retirement, we can also reflect on Keith's achievements, of which there are many. Keith has stamped his personality on nearly every aspect of our sport – under his supervision championships have become truly first-class. He has also done much to preach the gospel of curling in many corners of the globe.

The Fuessen camp is only the first of many development projects he has nurtured.

We wish him well.



WCF/DCV Hummelt Junior Curling Camp celebrates 20 years

Curling's most popular junior camp - the WCF / DCV Junior Curling Camp held in Fuessen, Germany annually - has celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The camp was the brain child of Juliane Hummelt, who was the President of the German Curling Association at the time. Juliane collaborated with Keith Wendorf, the recently-retired World Curling Federation Director of Competitions and Development, who was then the German national coach, to create the beginning of the camp.

"Lilly [Juliane] said that I should do a camp for all the juniors in Germany and help organise it," says Keith, "she spoke to Fuessen and they had ice for it. It started with her suggestion, then my work."

"When I came up with the idea, I spoke to Keith about the prospect of making a camp for young German athletes and from there it just got bigger and bigger," says Lilly.

From these humble beginnings, the camp grew at a rapid pace.

The camp has had World Curling Federation backing and support since 2002 and has now expanded to include an umpire course and an ice-making course.

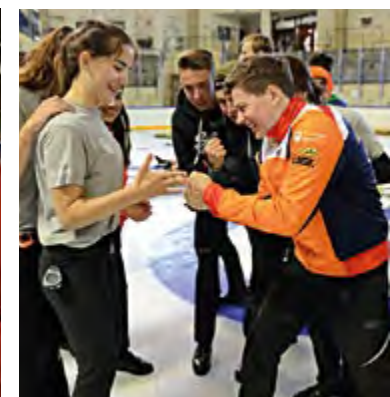
"The first year that we ran it, it was just me as an instructor and some untrained German assistants" Keith says. "In the second year I brought in three Canadians and I said I'd do a course on instructing and you can do the junior camp. That was successful, then we decided we should do an ice course and an umpire course."

"The one thing I regret is not keeping a record of the campers over the years," he says, "President Kate was at the World Junior Curling Championships and was speaking to the competitors and asked how many had been to the Fuessen camp, and about 70% of coaches and players had been."

"I thought it would've been fantastic to have had a record of our junior camp members and future coaches who had been to a major championship because I think that it would've been in the hundreds."

The 20th year for Fuessen was special, but, if past history is anything to go by, the athletes who attended this year could become as special as the camp itself.

Written by feature writer Michael Houston





World Junior Curling Championships 2018

Aberdeen, Scotland; 3 - 10 March

MEDALLISTS

Women

● CANADA

Kaitlyn Jones (*skip and fourth*)
Kristin Clarke (*vice-skip and third*)
Karlee Burgess (*second*)
Lindsey Burgess (*lead*)
Lauren Lenentine (*alternate*)
Andrew Atherton (*coach*)

○ SWEDEN

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

● CHINA

Ziqi Dong (*vice-skip and fourth*)
Zixin Wang (*skip and third*)
Meini Wang (*second*)
Chengyu Sun (*lead*)
Jiaxin Yu (*alternate*)
Yu Zhu (*coach*)

Men

● CANADA

Tyler Tardi (*skip and fourth*)
Sterling Middleton (*vice-skip and third*)
Jordan Tardi (*second*)
Zachary Curtis (*lead*)
Jacques Gauthier (*alternate*)
Paul Tardi (*coach*)

○ SCOTLAND

Ross Whyte (*skip and fourth*)
Robin Brydone (*vice-skip and third*)
Fraser Kingan (*second*)
Euan Kyle (*lead*)
Duncan McFadzean (*alternate*)
Alan Hannah (*coach*)

● SWITZERLAND

Jan Hess (*skip and fourth*)
Simon Gloor (*vice-skip and third*)
Simon Hoehn (*second*)
Reto Schoenenberger (*lead*)
Philipp Hoesli (*alternate*)
Annick Lusser Hess (*coach*)



With the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 concluded, the international focus moved to the World Junior Curling Championships 2018 in Curl Aberdeen, Scotland. This was the sixth time that Scotland had hosted the World Junior Curling Championships.

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 the championships are taking place".

Altogether, ten women's and ten men's teams, representing 12 Member Associations, took part. The teams qualified either by finishing in the top six qualifying places at the 2017 VolP Defender World Juniors or by finishing in the top three in the World Junior-B Curling Championships 2018, which had been held in Lohja, Finland in January. In addition, Scotland qualified as hosts.

The ten women's teams were (in qualification order): Sweden, Scotland, Canada, Korea, Switzerland, Russia, United States, China, Turkey and Norway.

In the women's semi-finals, the defending champions, Sweden, who had gone through the round robin unbeaten, faced Norway and beat them by 9-3 to go to the final. In the other semi-final, Canada beat China by 9-7, with a single point steal in the tenth end.

Canada then beat Sweden by 7-4 in the final to take gold and become junior world champions. This was a 12th women's world junior title by Canada, but in contrast, the bronze medal won by China, when they beat Norway by 11-5, was a first at this level for the Chinese Association.

The ten men's teams were: Korea, United States, Norway, Scotland, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, China, Russia and Germany.

In the men's semi-finals, Canada beat United States by 8-5 while Scotland, who had remained unbeaten through the round robin to top the rankings, had a



last-stone 5-4 win over Switzerland. Later, in the final, Canada beat Scotland by 6-5 to take the title and gold medals. With Canada's women also taking gold earlier, this completed a notable double. In the men's bronze medal game, Switzerland beat United States by 7-4.

At every World Junior Curling Championships, all the players vote for the women's and men's Sportsmanship Awards, for the player of their own gender who best exemplifies the spirit of curling.



Among the men, Norway skip Magnus Ramsfjell was voted the winner, while Scotland's third Amy MacDonald gained this accolade among the women.

The World Junior Curling Championships 2019 will take place between 16-23 February, in Liverpool, Canada.

Women -
<https://www.wcf.co/wjcc2018womenresults>
Men -
<https://www.wcf.co/wjcc2018menresults>

Audi quattro Winter Games New Zealand 2017

Ahead of making its Olympic Winter Games debut, international mixed doubles curling returned to New Zealand as part of the multi-sport event, the Audi quattro Winter Games NZ.

With nations able to enter more than one team, the 16 competing teams, several of whom would go onto compete at the Olympic Winter Games, were split into two pools of eight.

Defending champions, Canada – KayInn Park and Charley Thomas – completed their round robin with a perfect 7-0 record to progress directly to the semi-finals from Pool A. Pool B saw Korea's Olympic team of Hyeji Jang and Kijeong Lee also secure the direct semi-final place after their undefeated round robin.

The quarter-finals featured the teams finishing second and third in each pool

with Estonia and Hungary securing the places from Pool A and Norway and Scotland securing the Pool B places. In those quarter-finals, Estonia defeated Scotland, by 7-5, and Norway beat Hungary 7-4 to move into the semi-finals.

Those semi-finals saw Canada defeat Norway's Olympic team of Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten by a score of 9-8, while Estonia's Marie Turmann and Harri Lill defeated Korea 8-5.

In the final Estonia claimed a 7-6 victory over Canada with Estonia scoring two points in the final end. Olympic hopefuls, Norway, won bronze, beating Korea 10-2 in only six ends.

The Audi quattro Winter Games NZ has now become an annual event.

<https://www.wcf.co/wgnz2017results>

Curling Night in America



This made-for-TV event, developed with United States broadcaster NBC, has now had four successful seasons, making NBC Sports Network (NBCSN) the home for all things curling in the States.

Throughout its history, Curling Night in America has enjoyed growing viewership. It also has the distinction of being one of the few sports programmes that NBC will continually re-air. This feature has resulted in the Curling Night in America episodes receiving greater viewing numbers.

Due to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games occurring in the window that the 2018 Curling Night in America series would normally have been placed, the joint decision between USA Curling and NBC was made to move the series to late 2017 and position it as a lead up to

the U.S. Olympic Team Trials. This move resulted in a reduced number of Curling Night in America episodes, but was more than offset by ten days of United States Olympic Trials coverage. Combined, the programmes had a total of 2,264,000 viewers over the course of 30 broadcasts, which represents an increase over the already impressive Spring 2017 Curling Night in America total of 1.8 million viewers. In its original season in 2015, Curling Night in America attracted 810,000 viewers, so the viewership growth trend is clear.

The United States Olympic Trials and the most recent season's Curling Night in America were staged in Omaha, Nebraska, which will now host the second round of the inaugural Curing World Cup.

Numbers provided by NBC from Nielsen

Combined, the programmes had a total of 2,264,000 viewers over the course of 30 broadcasts, which represents an increase over the already impressive Spring 2017 Curling Night in America total of 1.8 million viewers



Olympic preparations

Olympic Celebration Tour



The Olympic Celebration Tour continues to be supported by the United States-based Foundation for Global Sports Development and is still proving to be a great tool for the promotion of curling in both new and established curling clubs.

In the past season, the Tour visited a record 11 cities in five countries, including for the first time Mexico.

A recent development in its activity has been the use of Floor Curling in schools, delivered through Rock Solid Productions, the World Curling Federation's preferred supplier for iceless curling products. This enables students to get an initial sense of what the game is about.

On its inaugural visit to Mexico, the Tour featured in the first-ever curling event in Mexico City in July. In Europe, the Tour participated in Winter Olympic Day in Lithuania, complete with a Floor Curling station set-up and a mini-sheet of ice on the local ice hockey rink. Olympian Shannon Kleibrink from Canada gave TV interviews which circulated on TV and social media.

The Tour visited several locations in the United States and each visit was successful with large numbers of participants. Curling clubs reported increased levels of new members, record levels of social media engagement, and sold out come-and-try sessions.

Canada's Olympic mixed doubles champion Kaitlyn Lawes has been involved in the Tour programme, including the visit to Mexico City. She said, "participating in the Mexico event was an absolute privilege that I don't take lightly. It was gratifying, of course, because I was able to share my Olympic gold medal with curling fans in Mexico. But, it was also inspiring because it reminded me again about why I love this amazing sport. Seeing those new curlers on the ice, seeing the smiles on their faces, was thrilling."

The support for the Olympic Celebration Tour from the Foundation for Global Sports Development is set to continue, and the World Curling Federation is keen to expand the programme into the Pacific-Asia zone. Any Member Association interested in having the Tour visit their country is encouraged to make contact.



Olympic promotion

Many Member Associations – from the largest to the smallest – developed and delivered promotional programmes to capitalise on curling's prominence in the Olympic and Paralympic year.

Take for example the United States, where public interest has never been higher, and many clubs put on highly-successful sessions. These included:

- **Evergreen Curling Club, Oregon** – two-hour curling lessons to over 500 people
- **Bowling Green Curling Club, Ohio** – 994 people attended Learn-to-Curl events
- **Coyotes Curling Club, Arizona** – 1,600 people introduced through a series of 20 plus Try Curling events.
- **Denver Curling Club, Colorado** – over 1,000 people tried curling in six Open House sessions. As a result, discussions are now underway to expand the club's four-sheet facility.

Even in smaller Member Associations, there was successful promotional activity.

Aljaz Pengov Bitenc of Curling Luxembourg explains what this Member Association did, "boys and girls from the class of Tom Courtehouste from Lycée Robert Schuman Luxembourg acquainted themselves with our wonderful game, culminating in a 'Curling Is Cool' tournament in which six teams played two-end games. Six weeks, six teams and 25 students, we are hopeful that events like this will help generate a small but dedicated following among the younger generation."



Olympic Qualification Event 2017

Pilsen, Czech Republic; 5 - 10 December

Olympic Qualifiers

Women

CHINA

Bingyu Wang (*skip and fourth*)
Yan Zhou (*vice-skip and third*)
Jinli Liu (*second*)
Jingyi Ma (*lead*)
Xindi Jiang (*alternate*)
Weidong Tan (*coach*)

DENMARK

Madeleine Dupont (*skip and fourth*)
Denise Dupont (*third*)
Julie Hoegh (*second*)
Mathilde Halse (*vice-skip and lead*)
Lina Almind Knudsen (*alternate*)
Ulrik Schmidt (*coach*)

Men

ITALY

Amos Mosaner (*vice-skip and fourth*)
Joel Retornaz (*skip and third*)
Simone Gonin (*second*)
Daniele Ferrazza (*lead*)
Andrea Pilzer (*alternate*)
Soren Gran (*coach*)

DENMARK

Rasmus Stjerne (*skip and fourth*)
Johnny Frederiksen (*vice-skip and third*)
Mikkel Poulsen (*second*)
Oliver Dupont (*lead*)
Morten Berg Thomsen (*alternate*)
Mikael Qvist (*coach*)

The Czech Republic's Winter Arena Košutka in Pilsen, hosted the Olympic Qualification Event 2017, between 5 and 10 December 2017.

This event saw seven women's teams and eight men's teams compete for the last chance to keep their Olympic dreams alive and join the field at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018. For each gender, the final two places in the ten-team curling competitions were up for grabs. Eight places had already been allocated for both the women's and men's Olympic curling events, either through performances at the 2016 and 2017 world championships or, in the case of Korea, as hosts.

None of the Member Associations competing in Pilsen had earned enough points from the 2016 and 2017 world championships for automatic qualification, but all had taken part in at least one of the world championships since the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, in Sochi, Russia.

The seven women's teams competing were: China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy and Latvia.

The eight men's teams involved were: China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Russia.

For both women and men, there was round-robin play to produce the top three teams. Those teams then played in a modified page play-off format, with the round-robin leader playing the second-placed team in the first play-off - with the winner grabbing the first of the two Olympic places - and the loser playing the third-placed round-robin team in a sudden-death game for the second and last available Olympic slot.

In the women's event, after the round-robin stage, the top three ranked teams were first-placed Italy, second-placed China and third-placed Denmark.

Italy and China faced each other in the first play-off game, which China won by 11-4. Italy then had a second chance for qualification when they faced Denmark in the second play-off game. This time Denmark emerged as victors, by 5-4 after an extra end, meaning that China and Denmark were the Olympic qualifiers.

Denmark topped the ranking in the men's event after the round-robin stage, with Italy in second place, on the same record as third-placed Czech Republic but ranked higher because of their 10-6 round-robin win over the Czechs.

Italy won the first play-off by 5-4 over Denmark after an extra end, but the Danes recovered to win the second play-off by 4-2. This meant that Italy and Denmark were the Olympic qualifiers.

Women -
<https://www.wcf.co/oqe2017womenresults>

Men -
<https://www.wcf.co/oqe2017menresults>



Olympic reports

Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018: Mixed Doubles

Gangneung, South Korea; 8 - 13 February

History was made at the Gangneung Curling Centre on Thursday 8 February, when Korea's Hyeji Jang delivered the opening stone of the first session of mixed doubles round-robin play, as curling's 21st century discipline made its Olympic debut.

With the opening ceremony not taking place until the next day, this was the very first action of the entire 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

Eight pairings had qualified for this competition, and the National Olympic Committees that qualified were, in finishing order after the two-year qualification programme, China, Canada, Russia – whose qualification slot was taken by Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR) – Switzerland, United States, Norway, Finland and as hosts, Korea.

At the end of the round robin, Norway grabbed the fourth and final place in the semi-final line-up with a 9-7 tie-break win over China. They went on to face table-toppers Canada in one semi-final, while Switzerland and the Olympic Athlete from Russia team faced each other in the other semi-final.

In the semi-finals, Canada beat Norway by 8-4, while Switzerland were 7-5 winners over the Olympic Athlete from Russia pair, to set up the medal games. The Olympic Athlete from Russia team then won the bronze game over Norway, by 8-4, a result that was overturned later because of a doping offence by Olympic Athlete from Russia Aleksandr Krushelnitckii.

Canada's duo of Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris then became the first ever Olympic mixed doubles curling gold medal winners, with a 10-3 victory over Switzerland – Jenny Perret and Martin

Rios – who took silver medals. With the bronze medal result reversed, the Norwegian duo of Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten returned to be presented with their bronze medals during the team curling medal presentations.

The inclusion of mixed doubles on the Olympic programme had been approved for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, with only eight teams taking part.

Over the summer months, the International Olympic Committee reviewed mixed doubles' position and agreed that for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 ten teams will compete.

<https://www.wcf.co/owg2018mdresults>



PyeongChang 2018



Medallists

● CANADA

Kaitlyn Lawes (*female*)
John Morris (*male*)
Paul Webster (*coach*)

○ SWITZERLAND

Jenny Perret (*female*)
Martin Rios (*male*)
Theo Schneider (*coach*)

● NORWAY

Kristin Skaslien (*female*)
Magnus Nedregotten (*male*)
Thomas Loevold (*coach*)



PyeongChang 2018



Medallists

UNITED STATES

John Shuster (*skip and fourth*)
Tyler George (*vice-skip and third*)
Matt Hamilton (*second*)
John Landsteiner (*lead*)
Joe Polo (*alternate*)
Phil Drobnick (*coach*)

SWEDEN

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

SWITZERLAND

Benoit Schwarz (*vice-skip and fourth*)
Claudio Paetz (*third*)
Peter de Cruz (*skip and second*)
Valentin Tanner (*lead*)
Dominik Maerki (*alternate*)
Claudia Pescia (*coach*)

Olympic reports

Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018: Men's teams

Gangneung, South Korea; 14 - 25 February

Following the inaugural Olympic mixed doubles contest, the Gangneung Curling Centre in South Korea became the venue for the women's and men's team curling competitions of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.

The ten men's National Olympic Committees taking part were (in qualification order): Canada, Sweden, United States, Japan, Switzerland, Great Britain (qualification points gained by Scotland) and Norway.

These National Olympic Committees qualified directly from the previous two years' World Curling Championships, while Italy and Denmark took the two remaining slots available from December's final Olympic Qualification Event in the Czech Republic. These nine National Olympic Committees were joined by hosts Korea.



Altogether 18 of the 50 male athletes returned to Olympic action at this event. They were:

Fifth appearance:
Torger Nergaard (Norway).

Fourth appearance:
John Shuster (United States).

Third appearance:
Niklas Edin (Sweden), Oskar Eriksson (Sweden), Johnny Frederiksen (Denmark), Haavard Vad Petersson (Norway), Mikkel Poulsen (Denmark), Christoffer Svae (Norway) and Thomas Ulsrud (Norway).

Second appearance:
Ben Herbert (Canada), Marc Kennedy (Canada), John Landsteiner (United States), Claudio Paetz (Switzerland), Joe Polo (United States), Joel Retornaz (Italy), Benoit Schwarz (Switzerland), Rasmus Stjerne (Denmark) and Markus Hoeiberg (Norway).

At the end of the round robin, Sweden qualified for the semi-final with the top ranking, followed by Canada in second place. United States, Great Britain and Switzerland all tied for third place.

However, United States had beaten both Great Britain and Switzerland during the round robin to take the third qualifying position and the direct route to the semi-final. This left Great Britain and Switzerland in a tie-breaker for the fourth place in the semi-final line-up.

In the tie-breaker, Switzerland beat Great Britain by 9-5 to take the fourth semi-final slot and face Sweden.

With Canada playing United States in the other semi-final, there were two North American and two European men's teams fighting it out for medals. Meanwhile, two European teams were joined by two Asian teams in the women's semi-finals – altogether making this the widest spread of nations at this level in Olympic curling

history, representing seven different National Olympic Committees.

In the semi-finals, Sweden beat Switzerland by 9-3, while United States were 5-3 winners over Canada. Switzerland then beat Canada by 7-5 for bronze medals while the gold medal final saw a historic curling first when United States produced their fifth successive win to beat Sweden by 10-7.

<https://www.wcf.co/owg2018menresults>

Olympic reports

Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018: Women's teams

Gangneung, South Korea; 14 - 25 February

The women's Olympic team competition took place in the Gangneung Curling Centre at the same time as the men's team event.

Altogether, 12 National Olympic Committees qualified ten women's and men's teams for these Games from the two-year qualification process.

The ten National Olympic Committees were (in qualification order): Canada, Russia (whose qualification slot was taken by the Olympic Athlete from Russia team), Switzerland, Great Britain (qualification points gained by Scotland), United States, Sweden and Japan.

These National Olympic Committees qualified directly from world championships, while China and Denmark took the two remaining slots available from December's Olympic Qualification Event in the Czech Republic. These nine National Olympic Committees were joined by hosts Korea.

Of the 50 female athletes taking part (including alternates), all were making their Olympic debuts, except Denise Dupont (Denmark), Mari Motohashi (Japan), Kelly Schafer (nee Wood) (Great Britain), Eve Muirhead (Great Britain), Bingyu Wang (China) and Yan Zhou (China), for this was their third Olympic outing.

Also, Vicki Adams (Great Britain), Cheryl Bernard (Canada), Madeleine Dupont (Denmark), Lauren Gray (Great Britain), Agnes Knochenhauer (Sweden), Jinli Liu (China), Anna Sloan (Great Britain) and Chinami Yoshida (Japan) were at their second Games.

After the round-robin sessions, Korea topped the rankings, with Sweden second, Great Britain third and Japan fourth. This meant that Korea played Japan in one semi-final while Sweden faced Great Britain in the other.



In the semi-finals, table-toppers Korea avenged their only round-robin defeat when they beat Japan by 8-7 in the extra end of their semi-final game – described by seasoned observers as the best game of women's curling ever. Sweden's task was more straightforward, as they beat Great Britain 10-5 in the other semi-final.

These results meant that Japan and Great Britain went on to play for bronze medals, with Japan emerging as 5-3 winners to capture their country's first-ever Olympic curling medals.

The women's gold medal final between Korea and Sweden was scheduled for the last day of competition and then, with their country's two-times Olympic skip Anette Norberg in the audience, in the company of King Carl XVI Gustaf, Sweden beat Korea by 8-3.

Korea's silver was a first medal at either Olympic or curling world level for the host nation.



The bronze medal won by Japan earlier, added to the Korean silver, made this a historic, landmark Olympic Winter Games for Pacific-Asia curling, while Sweden, now with a third gold medal to add to a silver and bronze won in previous Games,

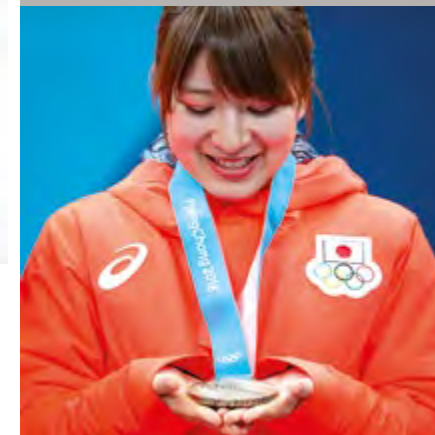
consolidated their position as women's curling's most successful National Olympic Committee.

<https://www.wcf.co/owg2018womenresults>



Medallists

- **SWEDEN**
 - Anna Hasselborg (*skip and fourth*)
 - Sara McManus (*vice-skip and third*)
 - Agnes Knochenhauer (*second*)
 - Sofia Mabergs (*lead*)
 - Jennie Waahlin (*alternate*)
 - Maria Prytz (*coach*)
- **KOREA**
 - EunJung Kim (*skip and fourth*)
 - KyeongAe Kim (*vice-skip and third*)
 - SeonYeong Kim (*second*)
 - YeongMi Kim (*lead*)
 - Chohi Kim (*alternate*)
 - MinJung Kim (*coach*)
- **JAPAN**
 - Satsuki Fujisawa (*skip and fourth*)
 - Chinami Yoshida (*vice-skip and third*)
 - Yumi Suzuki (*second*)
 - Yurika Yoshida (*lead*)
 - Mari Motohashi (*alternate*)
 - James Lind (*coach*)



Social media attention

Curling's Olympic and Paralympic participation certainly caught the imagination of social media users all around the world - many of them well-known personalities, as well as regular curling fans. The reach was huge, with the five examples on this page tweeted to a collective following of six million people.



Paralympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018: Wheelchair teams

Gangneung, South Korea; 10 - 17 March

Following the successful conclusion of the three curling events at the Olympic Winter Games, the international focus returned to the Gangneung Curling Centre when the wheelchair curling competition of the Paralympic Winter Games was staged.

Altogether, 12 teams took part. Korea, as hosts, received an automatic entry and the remaining 11 places were taken up by the National Paralympic Committees who gained the most qualifying points from the World Wheelchair Curling Championships held in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The qualified National Paralympic Committees were (in qualification order): Russia (who were represented by a team of Neutral Paralympic Athletes), Norway, China, Canada, United States, hosts Korea, Great Britain (qualification points gained by Scotland), Switzerland, Finland, Germany, Slovakia and Sweden.

Wheelchair curling has featured in every Paralympic Winter Games since it was introduced in Turin, Italy in 2006. It has the same rules as team curling, however,

the teams are mixed gender and each game lasts for eight ends instead of ten. In addition, there is no sweeping in wheelchair curling.

The competition saw teams face each other in a round robin staged over 17 sessions. At the end of the round robin, China topped the ranking to face fourth-placed Canada, while the other semi-final would see second-placed Korea play Norway, who finished third in the round robin.

In the semi-finals, Norway were taken all the way to an extra end before they defeated hosts Korea, while China defeated Canada by 4-3. This meant that Canada and Korea played for bronze medals while China faced Norway for gold.

Canada then won bronze with a 5-3 defeat of Korea while, in a dramatic final, in which the lead changed hands three times, China beat Norway by 6-5 after an extra end to win what was their nation's first-ever Paralympic Winter Games gold medal.

<https://www.wcf.co/pwg2018results>



"...their nation's first-ever Paralympic Winter Games gold medal..."



PyeongChang 2018
PARALYMPIC GAMES



Medallists

● CHINA

Haitao Wang (*skip and fourth*)
Jianxin Chen (*vice-skip and third*)
Wei Liu (*second*)
Meng Wang (*lead*)
Qiang Zhang (*alternate*)
Qingshuang Yue (*coach*)

○ NORWAY

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

● CANADA

Mark Ideson (*skip and fourth*)
Ina Forrest (*vice-skip and third*)
Dennis Thiessen (*second*)
Marie Wright (*lead*)
Jamie Anseeuw (*alternate*)
Wayne Kiel (*coach*)



The Olympic Winter Games

The spectacular opening ceremony of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games, held in the Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium on 9 February 2018, which uniquely saw the teams of Korea's two nations march in behind a unification flag, marked another significant step forward for curling at the Games.

The mixed doubles discipline made its Olympic debut at these Games, with eight teams already in action before the ceremony, while the women's team final was moved to the last day of competition to give more prominence to women's sport on a final day of competition that until then, had featured the men's ice hockey final as the marquee event. Sweden won that women's final, beating hosts Korea, while Japan took women's bronze, meaning historic first medals for two Member Associations from the Pacific-Asia zone. The United States won the men's gold medals – a result that gave curling a major boost in that country that continues to this day.

Later at the Paralympic Winter Games, China won their nation's first-ever gold medals in any Paralympic discipline, emerging from an expanded field of 12 teams.



Hall of Fame

Induction into the World Curling Hall of Fame is the highest non-playing honour that the World Curling Federation can bestow on someone and recognises outstanding contribution to the sport of curling whether through on-ice exploits or off-ice endeavours.

The latest four inductees are:



Elmer Freytag
United States (posthumously)

Elmer Freytag was a key influencer in the formation of the International Curling Federation — a precursor to the World Curling Federation — and was instrumental to it being founded in 1966. A Chicago attorney, Freytag drafted the original constitution for the new federation and became its American representative.

A founder of the Chicago Curling Club, Freytag was on the advisory board for the Scotch Cup and Air Canada Silver Broom — now the World Men's Curling Championship, an event that has grown to include an unprecedented 13 teams from three international zones.

In recognition of his contributions to the sport, the Elmer Freytag Award was introduced after his death in 1976. The award is now given to the inductees of the World Curling Hall of Fame and recognises both builders of the sport and its athletes.

Dotti Freytag and Stephan Beck von Peccoz accept the honour



Clarence 'Shorty' Jenkins
Canada (posthumously)

Shorty was one of curling's finest ice-makers and, with his pink cowboy hat, boots and jacket was an unforgettable character. But, he was also known for his determination and dedication to improving and understanding curling ice. Without his work, the quality of elite curling ice would not be what it is today.

He poured countless hours into understanding the ice temperatures and how the stones reacted to differences in the ice surface and he refined techniques for pebbling and cutting.

It is also believed that he was the first to time how fast stones moved along the ice — something that athletes and officials do widely today. Also, to ensure the high standards he set he delivered many courses all over the world.

Kitty Jenkins accepts the honour



Young C. Kim
Korea

Young C. Kim founded the Korean Curling Club in 1988 after some encouragement from the then World Curling Federation President Gunther Hummelt, who was seeking new Members Associations in Asia to support a bid for curling's reintroduction to the Olympic Winter Games programme.

Kim would fly in instructors to help get the sport up and running in the early days and in 1994 the Korean Curling Federation joined the World Curling Federation.

Kim was on the World Curling Federation Board from 2008 to 2014 and served as a special advisor to the World Curling Federation for the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games. Kim was also an advisor to the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2010 and 2014 bids and is a recipient of the Korean Government Medal for excellent trading in business.



Kevin Martin
Canada

Kevin Martin was an Olympic gold medalist in Vancouver, in 2010. He was the first Canadian curler to represent his country at more than one Olympic Winter Games, having competed at the 1992 Albertville Olympics in France, where curling was a demonstration sport, and at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, where he took home a silver medal.

He also has a World Men's Curling Championship title to his name, from Grand Forks, United States in 2008 and World Men's silver medals from Moncton, Canada in 2009 and Winnipeg, Canada in 1991. Martin won silver at the World Junior Curling Championship in Dartmouth, Canada in 1986. Also, in this impressive tally, he won 18 grand slam titles during his career.

On top of that, he is the only Canadian athlete to win the Tim Horton's Brier — Canada's national men's championship — back-to-back unbeaten, with a perfect tally of 30 games between 2008 and 2009.

More information about the World Curling Federation Hall of Fame, including all recipients, can be found at www.worldcurling.org/world-curling-hall-of-fame



Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2018

North Bay, Canada; 17 - 25 March

Medallists

CANADA

Jennifer Jones (*skip and fourth*)
 Kaitlyn Lawes (*vice-skip and third*)
 Jill Officer (*second*)
 Dawn McEwen (*lead*)
 Shannon Birchard (*alternate*)
 Wendy Morgan (*coach*)

SWEDEN

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

RUSSIA

Victoria Moiseeva (*skip and fourth*)
 Julia Portunova (*vice-skip and third*)
 Galina Arsenkina (*second*)
 Julia Guzieva (*lead*)
 Anna Sidorova (*alternate*)
 Sergei Belanov (*coach*)

The Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2018, held in North Bay's Memorial Gardens in Northern Ontario, was the 39th World Women's Curling Championship to be staged.

This was the first women's championship to take place after the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 and both the Olympic gold medallists from Sweden, skipped by Anna Hasselborg, and the silver medallists from Korea, skipped by EunJung Kim, were in the field. It was also the first time a World Curling Federation championship event had been staged in North Bay and also the first world championship at which the field had been increased to 13 teams.

The 13 teams represented were hosts and defending champions Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and United States.

In another first, reflecting the increase to 13 teams, the top six qualified for the play-off stage (rather than four as previously) after the round robin was completed. The teams ranked first and second – table-toppers Canada and Olympic champions Sweden – qualified directly for the semi-final games, while third-placed Korea played sixth-placed United States, and fourth-placed Russia faced Czech Republic, who ranked fifth.

In their semi-final, Canada beat United States by 9-7 after the Americans had defeated Korea by 10-3 in their qualification game, helped by a score of seven points in the ninth end. In the other semi-final Sweden beat Russia by 7-6 after the Russians had beaten Czech Republic by 7-3 in the other qualification game.

Russia beat United States by 6-5 to take the bronze medals, after which Canada beat Sweden by 7-6, in an extra end, of

a final played in front of a full house, to take gold.

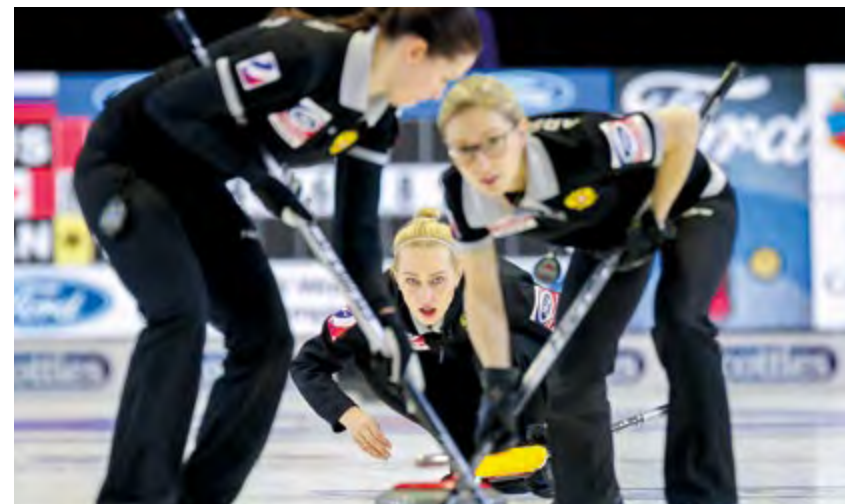
This was a second world title for Canadian skip Jennifer Jones, with her team going through the entire week undefeated, a feat that Jones had achieved previously when she took Olympic gold in Sochi in 2014.

The new qualification system for next year's world men's and women's championships means that the team that finished last this year lost a guaranteed qualification slot for the zone of which they are a member – the American, European and Pacific-Asia zones, with that slot being up for grabs in a new qualification event. That team was Italy.

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that Jill Officer, second player for Jones' team, was the winner of the Frances Brodie Award, voted for by all the athletes to recognise the player they think best exemplified curling's values and sportsmanship throughout the event.

The World Women's Curling Championship 2019 will take place between 16-24 March, in Silkeborg, Denmark.

<https://www.wcf.co/wwcc2018results>







361° World Men's Curling Championship 2018

Las Vegas, United States; 31 March-8 April

Medallists

● SWEDEN

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

● CANADA

Brad Gushue (*skip and fourth*)
Mark Nichols (*vice-skip and third*)
Brett Gallant (*second*)
Geoff Walker (*lead*)
Tom Sallows (*alternate*)
Jules Owchar (*coach*)

● SCOTLAND

Bruce Mouat (*skip and fourth*)
Grant Hardie (*vice-skip and third*)
Bobby Lammie (*second*)
Hammy McMillan (*lead*)
Ross Paterson (*alternate*)
Alan Hannah (*coach*)

Teams representing the world's top men's curling nations competed at the 361st World Men's Curling Championship 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States.

The 8,000-seater Orleans Arena, close to the famous Las Vegas Strip, was the venue for what was the first World Curling Federation world championship to be staged there.

This was the 59th edition of the World Men's championship. The silver medallists from Sweden at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, skipped by Niklas Edin, were in the field, as well as the Olympic teams from Italy and Korea.

This was the first men's world championships at which the field had been increased to 13 teams. The Member Associations represented were: Canada (the defending champions, skipped by Brad Gushue), China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway,

Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and hosts United States.

At the end of the round robin, Sweden and Scotland topped the table on identical 11-1 records. However, Sweden were ranked first because of their 7-6 win over the Scots in the round robin. The other four teams who qualified for the play-offs were third ranked Canada, who faced the sixth-placed United States in one qualification game, while fourth-placed Korea played fifth-placed Norway. In these games, Canada beat United States by 6-4, while Korea were 7-5 winners over Norway.

In the semi-finals, Sweden beat Korea by 9-8, while Canada were 9-5 winners over Scotland. The Scots went on to take bronze medals when they beat Korea by 11-4 in a game that featured some crowd-pleasing alternative deliveries in the eighth and final end.

Sweden beat Canada by 7-3 in the gold medal final, having gone into the fifth-

end break with a 5-0 lead. This gave their skip Edin and third player Oskar Eriksson their third world titles.

Germany finished last and, under the new qualification system for next year's world men's and women's championships, they lost a guaranteed qualification slot for the European zone, with that slot being up for grabs in a new qualification event.

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that Markus Hoeiberg, third player for Norway, was the winner of the Collie Campbell Memorial Award,

voted for by all the players to recognise the player they think best exemplified curling's values and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Also, at the closing ceremony, it was announced that the total spectator attendance for the event was just under 75,000.

The World Men's Curling Championship 2019 will take place between 30 March-7 April, in Lethbridge, Canada.

<https://www.wcf.co/wmcc2018results>





Broadcast

Once again, new records were set for World Curling TV, the television-making arm of the Federation, during the 2017-2018 season.

This was the most productive season to date, with over 200 games covered live from the Pacific-Asia and European regional championships, the women's, men's and mixed doubles World Curling Championships, along with the Olympic Qualification Event. In addition, World Curling TV continues to web stream the World Juniors. The collaborative project with the World Curling Tour and the Curling Night in America programmes also continue to be part of the season's productions.

Over 500 hours of live curling coverage were produced by World Curling TV this season for TV broadcast which commuted to over 5,200 known TV broadcast hours.

While TV numbers are boosted by the 'once every four years' Olympic Qualification Event, they also reflect an increase in demand by World Curling Federation broadcast partners. This season, the Federation has secured more long-term rights holding agreements which, in turn, have meant more live coverage from the flagship women's, men's and mixed doubles world championships. In Las Vegas, two of the four sheets were covered live throughout the entire event.

The cumulative global TV viewing audience for the season was approximately 350 million (in territories where broadcast analysis was carried out).*

These figures reflect the fact that the world championships were held outside Asia.

Comparing these figures to four years ago, it is clear that there has been a strengthening of positioning and broadcast reach for curling over the latest Olympic cycle. World Curling Federation broadcast partners are now increasingly inclined to televise championship curling regardless of whether their national teams are competing.

It is also interesting to note the change in general viewing habits, as the Federation's YouTube channel has almost doubled its subscriber base in one year – currently 47,000. The 200 games streamed live and available on 'video on demand' created almost four million views by 1 May 2018, more than double what was measured in 2017. Over 60 of these games were also available on the World Curling Federation Facebook page via Facebook Live. This exposure created an additional five million views, with the live posts themselves reaching 32 million Facebook users.

**Data from NIELSEN and World Curling Federation broadcast partners.*

Media



It was another productive season for the World Curling Federation media team, particularly with the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games being held in South Korea.

In season 2017-2018, 13 photographers and writers were contracted to deliver consistent content, during a year where many more people were aware of curling, from its exposure at the Games.

With a higher level of coverage, a significant rise occurred in the number of people interacting with www.worldcurling.org – a record 1.8 million visitors – and the Federation's social media channels. This growth was acknowledged in the REDTORCH #SportonSocial report.

The REDTORCH #SportonSocial report "analyses the presence and performance of 35 International Olympic Committee recognised International Sport Federations on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube". Curling climbed ten places on the report's ranking – the biggest of any Federation. World Curling also achieved 13 of the top 50 Facebook posts and three of the top 50 tweets for engagement in 2018, amongst the Federations.

The key media figures from season 2017-2018 can be seen opposite.

The Sport Media Trainee Programme once again handed five journalist and photography students the chance to work at an international sporting event and gain invaluable experience within the industry. Kristian Ross from England, Hayden Nollenberger from the United States and Dakshiani Palicha from India were the journalists, while United States' Eakin Howard and Russia's Emile Gareev were the photographers.



18-year-old Eakin, is a great example of how life-changing this programme can be – his trip to Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships in St Gallen, Switzerland was his first time outside of North America and, on a plane. The programme gave him confidence that is helping him make significant strides in pursuing a photography career in sports.

Looking ahead, the introduction of the Curling World Cup offers the media team an opportunity to look at new ways of reporting on championships and for the first time, to partner with an outside media organisation to collaborate on new content ideas.

The World Curling Federation is pleased to welcome Rob Esteva and Andy Elliott and their team from The Stats Zone and Sport Acuity as its media partner for the World Cup.

Emily Dwyer, a graduate of the trainee programme, who has worked at various world championships and the Olympics, also joins the team as Media Officer. Emily comes with a vast knowledge of the game, having competed at Canadian junior national championships, and is passionate about creating engaging social media content.

After a successful Olympic season, it's an exciting time ahead for this growing team.

The facts and figures opposite are taken from a 12-month period between 1 May 2017 and 1 May 2018, and compared against the same time the previous year.



Key facts and figures



1,847,520

unique visitors to
worldcurling.org
(first time over a million)



53.7%

of people visiting the site reached it
by organic search –
they were searching 'curling'
in search engines



The most popular post on Facebook reached over
3,000,000
people

ECC 2017 women's gold medal
live stream



903,303

reached the site by **mobile**,
the first time this number
exceeded **desktop**



Subscribers to **YouTube** almost doubled
27,729 to

47,902

4,711,553

views on YouTube – **more than double**
the previous year

64,422,044

estimated hours watched on YouTube

11,917%

increase in users arriving at
worldcurling.org
from YouTube



2,813%

increase in minutes of video watched on
Facebook (**9,969,934 minutes**)
– thanks to introduction of **live streaming**
directly to Facebook



Over
1 billion

hours of curling viewed from
Olympic Winter Games



World Curling tweets were seen more than

15,824,400

times

1,832%

increase in impressions of the most popular post –
Team Fujisawa bronze medal graphic

Twitter exceeded

50,000

followers

– **making it the most**
popular social channel



According to Nielsen Sport's figures
wheelchair curling at the Paralympic
Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 drew

251.6
million

viewers



The total number of people where content from or about
World Curling entered their Facebook feed exceeded

55,729,500



Grew Instagram following
from **5,351** to

14,031

25,365

image downloads
from the World Curling
image library



World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2018

Oestersund, Sweden; 21 - 28 April

Medallists

● SWITZERLAND

Michele Jaeggi (*female*)
Sven Michel (*male*)
Sebastian Stock (*coach*)

○ RUSSIA

Maria Komarova (*female*)
Daniil Goriachev (*male*)
Vasily Gudim (*coach*)

● CANADA

Laura Crocker (*female*)
Kirk Muyres (*male*)
Jeff Stoughton (*coach*)

The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2018 was held at the new Östersund Arena, in Oestersund, Sweden, at the same time as the World Senior Curling Championships.

The event saw the Olympic teams from Finland and Korea return to the ice, while Japan's Satsuki Fujisawa and Tsuyushi Yamaguchi, who also competed at the Olympics, made their mixed doubles debuts.

A total of 40 teams competed, from Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America and South America, and among them, Guyana made their first-ever international championship appearance, while Hong Kong had a debut in this discipline.

The teams were divided into five groups, based on the World Curling Federation ranking established over the last three years. They were:

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

The round robin featured the first-ever championship game between two South American teams, in which Guyana beat Brazil by 6-3. Later, the semi-final line-up saw Switzerland beat Canada by 9-6 to move onto the gold medal finals, while Russia were 6-4 winners in the other semi-final to join the Swiss.

In that final, Switzerland beat Russia by 9-6 to win gold and retain the title won by Switzerland in 2017. This was Switzerland's seventh world mixed doubles title and Sven Michel's second, after his previous win in 2011. At the same time as the gold medal final, the Canadian pair won the bronze medals after defeating Korea by 8-3.

Overall, the top 12 ranking was **Gold:** Switzerland, **Silver:** Russia, **Bronze:** Canada, 4: Korea, 5: Japan, 6: Hungary, 7: Sweden, 8: Turkey, 9: Scotland, 10: Czech Republic, 11: Norway and 12: Italy.

The World Curling Federation has now set up a working group to consider possible changes to the format and entry rules of this Championship. The members of that group are: Hugh Millikin (Australia), Jeff Stoughton (Canada), Graeme Thompson (Scotland), Kim Forge (Australia), Darrell Ell (Canada), Harri Lill (Estonia), Gyorgy Nagy (Hungary) and Alison Kreviazuk (Sweden).

The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2019 will take place between 20-27 April, in Stavanger, Norway.

<https://www.wcf.co/wmdcc2018results>





Sponsorship and Marketing



The World Curling Federation works with its marketing partners Infront and Curling Canada to deliver a strong sponsorship programme for the sport.

It is worth noting that in the last ten years sponsorship revenues have doubled.

Both marketing agreements were due for renewal this past season. The agreement with Curling Canada was extended for two more years to bring it in-line with the existing broadcast agreement with TSN, whilst the Infront agreement was extended for a further four years taking in the full Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 cycle.

Sponsorship revenues dropped slightly over the past 12 months with the Worlds in Las Vegas unable to match the outstanding returns from the previous year's 'out-of-Canada' event in Beijing. That said revenues from sponsorship will still be over \$USD 1.1 million, a strong performance in hard market conditions.

There was a new partner at the World Men's Curling Championship in the form of **Storage Vault**. The World Curling Federation thanks its long term partners:

- Le Gruyère AOP
- Mount 10
- EDOX
- LGT
- Ford
- 361°
- Lucerne
- Titlis Glacier Mountain
- DB Schenker
- Jet Ice
- Atom AMPD

In addition to these existing sponsors and partnerships, the World Curling Federation celebrated its biggest sponsorship arrangement, with China's **Kingdomway Sports** agreeing to a \$USD 13 million four-year deal to establish the brand-new Curling World Cup.

Discussions are underway with a potential title sponsor for the future 'out-of-Canada' World Curling Championships and with potential sponsors for the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships. Both the Pacific-Asia event and the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship are now receiving strong broadcast coverage, which is beginning to make them attractive options for sponsors to consider.





MEDALLISTS

Women

● CANADA

Sherry Anderson (*skip and fourth*)
Patty Hersikorn (*vice-skip and third*)
Brenda Goertzen (*second*)
Anita Silvernagle (*lead*)
Bill Tschirhart (*coach*)

● UNITED STATES

Margie Smith (*skip and fourth*)
Norma O'Leary (*vice-skip and third*)
Debbie Dexter (*second*)
Shelly Kosal (*lead*)

● SWITZERLAND

Dagmar Frei (*skip and fourth*)
Esther Kobler (*vice-skip and third*)
Rosmarie von Rotz (*second*)
Sylvia Schaepper (*lead*)
Susanne Affeltranger (*alternate*)

Men

● CANADA

Wade White (*skip and fourth*)
Barry Chwedoruk (*vice-skip and third*)
Dan Holowaychuk (*second*)
George White (*lead*)
Bill Tschirhart (*coach*)

● SWEDEN

Mats Wranaa (*skip and fourth*)
Mikael Hasselborg (*vice-skip and third*)
Anders Eriksson (*second*)
Gerry Waahlin (*lead*)
Mikael Ljungberg (*alternate and coach*)

● UNITED STATES

Jeff Wright (*skip and fourth*)
Russell Armstrong (*vice-skip and third*)
Sean Silver (*second*)
Russ Brown (*lead*)
Steve Waters (*alternate*)

World Senior Curling Championships 2018

Oestersund, Sweden; 21 - 28 April

The new Östersund Arena in Oestersund, Sweden hosted World Senior Curling Championships 2018 for women and men's teams, while the World Mixed Doubles Championship 2018 took place under the same roof.

To be eligible to take part in these Championships, players "must be not less than 50 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June in the year immediately preceding the year in which the championship is taking place".

Altogether, this event attracted 15 women's and 28 men's national teams.

The women were divided into two groups:

- **Group A:** Australia, Canada, Japan, Lithuania, Russia, Sweden and United States.
- **Group B:** England, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, New Zealand, Scotland and Switzerland.

In the women's event, the group winners – United States and Switzerland – qualified directly to the semi-finals, while the teams that finished second in each group played the third-placed team from the other group to complete the semi-final line-up.

In these qualification games, Canada emerged after beating Finland by 10-6, as did Sweden, with a 6-5 win over Scotland.

In the semi-finals, Canada defeated Switzerland by 7-5, while United States beat Sweden by 6-3. Switzerland went on to beat Sweden by 5-3 for the bronze medals, while Canada took gold and the title with a 5-4 win over United States in the final.

The four men's groups were:

- **Group A:** Australia, Czech Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Scotland, Slovenia and Sweden.
- **Group B:** Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Switzerland and Turkey.



- **Group C:** Croatia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Russia and United States.
- **Group D:** Denmark, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Poland, New Zealand and Wales.

In the men's event, the top teams in each group proceeded to the quarter-finals, while the second and third-placed teams in each group went into qualification games, with only the winners proceeding to the quarter-finals.

In the quarter-finals, Canada defeated Norway to face Scotland, who beat Australia, in the semi-finals. At the same

time, Sweden beat Denmark and United States beat Switzerland to complete the semi-final line-ups.

In the semi-finals, Canada beat Scotland by 9-3 while Sweden won by 6-4 over United States.

United States went on to take bronze by beating Scotland by 7-2 while the Canadians denied Sweden their third successive title when they won by 8-2 in the final to give Canada a golden double.

The World Senior Curling Championships 2019 will take place between 20-27 April, in Stavanger, Norway.

Women –
<https://www.wcf.co/wsc2018womenresults>

Men –
<https://www.wcf.co/wsc2018menresults>

World rankings

Mixed

Member Association	Points	+/-
1 Scotland	423	2
2 Russia	387	-1
3 Sweden	385	-1
4 Canada	347	1
5 Norway	308	-1
6 Czech Republic	238	12
7 Korea	171	1
8 Switzerland	171	-3
9 Turkey	166	8
10 Germany	163	-5
11 China	159	-2
12 United States	155	-2
13 Estonia	143	8
14 Hungary	131	-2
15 Japan	124	-4
16 Poland	115	0
17 Denmark	85	-3
18 Italy	80	-6
19 England	78	7
20 Finland	71	-5
21 Spain	69	8
22 New Zealand	66	-3
23 Slovakia	59	2
24 Latvia	57	-4
25 Ireland	56	-1

Wheelchair

Member Association	Points	+/-
1 China	878	1
2 Norway	808	1
3 Russia	784	-2
4 Canada	752	0
5 Korea	580	2
6 Scotland / Great Britain	534	-1
7 United States	406	-1
8 Switzerland	404	3
9 Slovakia	402	-1
10 Finland	350	-1
11 Germany	346	1
12 Sweden	337	-2
13 Czech Republic	77	0
14 Latvia	76	0
15 Japan	70	1
16 Italy	67	-1
17 Denmark	59	0
18 England	57	1
19 Slovenia	56	-1
20 Poland	51	0
21 Estonia	44	0
22 Israel	28	0
23 Turkey	27	0
24 Lithuania	16	0
25 Chinese Taipei	14	0

Women's

Member Association	Points	+/-
1 Sweden	1084	4
2 Canada	1072	-1
3 Scotland / Great Britain	830	1
4 Russia	804	-1
5 Switzerland	788	-3
6 Korea	784	2
7 Japan	729	0
8 United States	625	-2
9 China	556	1
10 Denmark	435	-1
11 Czech Republic	262	1
12 Germany	232	-1
13 Italy	174	0
14 Finland	144	0
15 Norway	125	0
16 Hungary	117	1
17 Latvia	114	-1
18 Estonia	113	0
19 Turkey	109	0
20 England	93	0
21 New Zealand	87	0
22 Netherlands	72	3
23 Poland	71	0
24 Belarus	64	2
25 Slovakia	62	-1

Men's

Member Association	Points	+/-
1 Sweden	1210	1
2 Canada	1081	-1
3 United States	951	2
4 Switzerland	820	2
5 Scotland / Great Britain	772	-1
6 Norway	732	-3
7 Japan	502	2
8 Korea	447	7
9 Denmark	425	-1
10 Italy	382	4
11 China	353	-4
12 Russia	274	-2
13 Germany	229	-2
14 Finland	201	-2
15 Netherlands	169	1
16 Czech Republic	160	-3
17 Austria	111	1
18 Latvia	97	-1
19 Slovakia	86	5
20 Poland	81	3
21 Turkey	80	1
22 New Zealand	77	-3
23 England	76	-2
24 Israel	75	1
25 Hungary	73	-5

Mixed doubles

Member Association	Points	+/-
1 Canada	987	0
2 Switzerland	948	0
3 Norway	712	2
4 China	641	-1
5 Korea	539	7
6 Russia	499	-2
7 United States	481	1
8 Finland	410	3
9 Hungary	361	-3
10 Sweden	329	-3
11 Czech Republic	292	-2
12 Scotland / Great Britain	283	-2
13 Japan	204	7
14 Estonia	164	-1
15 Italy	161	2
16 Turkey	139	10
17 Spain	135	-2
18 Latvia	125	-2
19 England	114	-1
20 Austria	109	-6
21 Denmark	108	-2
22 Australia	83	2
23 Slovakia	76	-1
24 New Zealand	73	-3
25 France	68	0



Competitions and Rules Commission

The Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2018 were the highlights of an extremely busy and successful 2017-2018 season – especially with the introduction of the mixed doubles discipline on the Olympic stage and 12 wheelchair teams participating in the Paralympics.

Overall, there were 344 teams competing at events, which included:

- **World Mixed Curling Championship** (37 mixed teams)
- **Pacific-Asia Curling Championships** (six women's and nine men's teams)
- **European Curling Championships** (ten A-Division and ten B-Division women's; ten A-Division and 16 B-Division men's teams)
- **Olympic Qualification Event** (seven women's and eight men's teams)
- **World Junior-B Curling Championships** (22 women's and 23 men's teams)
- **Americas Challenge** (two men's teams)
- **Olympic Winter Games** (eight mixed doubles, ten men's and ten women's teams)
- **World Junior Curling Championships** (ten women's and ten men's teams)
- **Paralympic Winter Games** (12 mixed teams)
- **World Women's Curling Championship** (13 women's teams)
- **World Men's Curling Championship** (13 men's teams)
- **European Curling Championships C-Division** (seven women's and eight men's teams)
- **World Senior Curling Championships** (15 women's and 28 men's teams)
- **World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship** (40 mixed teams)

For the first time the World Men's and Women's Curling Championships had 13 teams and a new six-team play-off system. This gave more games for the spectators, and all teams had a game on Friday, the last day of the round robin. This new format allowed North Bay to set an attendance record for a World Women's Curling Championship hosted in Canada.

Some new events will be coming to the World Curling Federation calendar next season, including the World Qualification Event, which will have eight teams (two Pacific-Asia, one Americas, four Europe and one host) and the new four-stop Curling World Cup.

Working hard to ensure competitions were run well and the rules were updated and improved were the Competition and Rules Commission consisting of Hugh Millikin (Australia, Chair), Keith Wendorf (Germany), Graham Prouse (Canada), John Brown (England), Olga Zharkova (Russia), Mark Swandby (United States), Paul Ahlgren (Sweden), Danny Lamoureux (Canada) and Hans Frauenlob (New Zealand). The Athlete Commission also attended Competition and Rules meetings.



Curling World Cup



**CURLING
WORLD CUP**
SUZHOU 2018-19



**CURLING
WORLD CUP**
OMAHA 2018-19



**CURLING
WORLD CUP**
JÖNKÖPING 2018-19



**CURLING
WORLD CUP**
FINAL BEIJING 2018-19



The new Curling World Cup – a four-leg international series – will commence in September.

The event dates and venues for 2018-2019 are:

- **Suzhou Sports Center, Suzhou, China:**
12-16 September
- **Ralston Arena, Omaha, United States:**
5-9 December
- **Jönköping Curling Club, Jonkoping, Sweden:**
30 January-3 February
- **Beijing, China:**
8-12 May

The Curling World Cup has its own dedicated media channels, on Twitter, Instagram (@CurlingWorldCup) and Facebook (/CurlingWorldCup) and at www.curlingworldcup.com

Each event, including the Grand Final, will have competitions for women, men and mixed doubles and will last five days, starting on Wednesday and finishing on Sunday.

Games will be eight ends and, in each discipline, there will be two groups of four. Teams will play a double round robin, with the teams finishing top of their groups moving into finals that will decide the winners.

In a move away from other international curling championships, there will be no extra ends to decide tied games, instead, there will be a one stone shoot-out, for each team, with the team closer to the button winning the game.

Teams will be handed three points for a win in eight ends and two points if they win after a shoot-out. The team that loses the shoot-out gets a single point and a losing team after eight ends gets no points. An additional single stone shoot-out will take place between teams tied for first place at the end of the round robin.

Other variations include having coaches positioned at ice level, who are able to interact with the athletes between ends, and rather than thinking time allocated for the full game, teams will have time allocated for each end.

For the first three legs, the host Member Associations will receive places. Then, the world rankings will be used to qualify the highest ranked Member Associations from each of the Americas, European and Pacific-Asia zones. Another two teams, for each discipline, will be selected by the World Curling Federation Board, based on broadcast interest, marketing potential and/or promotional opportunities.

Further details about qualified Member Associations and prize money – A total of \$USD 165,000 will be distributed at each of the first three events, which will then rise to \$USD 283,500 for the Grand Final – can be found at www.curlingworldcup.com

CURLING'S
**GREATEST
NATIONS
COLLIDE**

Development

2017-2018 marked another successful season for the World Curling Federation's development team. The Olympic Winter Games always generate more interest in the sport and this was evident from the number of Olympic Celebration Tours conducted over the season. In total, there were 11 visits by Olympians to 11 cities in five countries.

To help capitalise on the buzz of the Olympics, the Business of Curling symposium was conducted twice in the United States. This programme will expand into Europe next season giving Member Associations an opportunity to understand better the way to grow the sport in their countries.

Once again Fuessen, Germany was the main hub of development activities for the World Curling Federation. Three courses were delivered. The newly developed Ice Technician Course had 21 participants representing 12 Member Associations. This was followed by the Basic Umpiring Course which saw 23 participants from ten Member Associations. Next was the Advanced Instruction and Introduction to Coaching Course where ten different Member Associations were represented by 16 participants.

- The **WCF/DCV Hummelt Junior Curling Camp** saw 120 junior athletes from 20 Member Associations in attendance, and they were taught all aspects of the sport and were able to enjoy time with peers from around the world.
- **Zoetermeer, Netherlands** was the host of the World Curling Federation Junior Team Camp. Six teams from six different Member Associations participated in the week-long camp.
- **Prague, Czech Republic** was once again the host of the World Curling Federation Adult Curling Camp. A fully subscribed camp had participants from 16 Member Associations.
- The last camp of the season was held in **Naseby, New Zealand**. The Stepping Stone Programme saw a total of 45 high performance athletes and seven coaches from New Zealand and Australia taught by world renowned experts on how to take their game to the next level.

The upcoming development season is promising to expand the reach of the development team. Current camp registrations show more interest from different Member Associations. The success of the Junior Team Camp has meant a change of venue is needed. The camp will not run this upcoming season

but will hopefully return in a new, larger home. The Coach Mentoring Programme will once again be held in Europe at the World Junior-B Curling Championships in Lohja, Finland. Lastly, the World Curling Federation is looking at ways of expanding its development reach using technology to help Member Associations grow the sport worldwide.



Portable Curling Facility



The World Curling Federation's portable curling facility in Finland - The Turku Curling Arena - was officially opened by President Kate Caithness in September 2017.

Now operated by the Copper Hill Curling Club, the venue has seen extensive use, with:

- over 300 people taking part in beginners' courses
- school come-and-try sessions
- more than 200 corporate bookings – involving more than 2,000 players
- a 16-team local league programme and a regional league also established
- open championships staged, for club players and over-60s.

With all this activity and more taking place during a Finnish winter, conditions have proven to be good and predictable, with mostly relatively level temperatures and stable humidity. Not surprisingly, because of this brand-new facility, Copper Hill's membership levels have risen considerably, with more growth expected.

With thanks to Ari Lehtonen



"Total income was \$USD 1.3 million ahead of budget, mainly due to the aforementioned Broadcast income, however there were also strong figures from Investment Income and the company's share of surpluses from the 2017 and 2018 World Men's Curling Championships and the Olympic Qualification Event 2017."

The last year of the Olympic cycle is always a year where the World Curling Federation spends more than income received with significant one-off expenditures associated with the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

This last season was no exception and the Board had set a budget with the expectation of a deficit of just under \$USD 1 million. Two exceptional items pushed the actual end of year deficit to just over \$USD 1.3 million.

The two exceptional items relate to a Foreign Exchange Adjustment and a loss in the four-yearly revaluation of the organisation's offices. World Curling Federation policy is to revalue the offices in Perth at the end of every Olympic Cycle. Unfortunately, at this time the neighbouring building has been on the market for a significant period and has only recently sold. Taking this into account, the valuer has reduced the value of the offices from £GBP 385,000 to £GBP 360,000. Also, considering the change in exchange rates over the last four years, this translates to a one-off negative on the accounts of just under \$USD 120,000.

If these exceptional items are removed then the final result is in line with the budget, however this figure does not tell the whole story.

Once again Broadcast has outperformed expectations. Whilst expenditure was \$USD 0.7 million above budget – including webcasting – income was \$USD 0.9 million ahead of budget meaning that broadcast had a \$USD 0.2 million positive impact on the World Curling Federation position.

Total income was \$USD 1.3 million ahead of budget, mainly due to the aforementioned Broadcast income, however there were also strong figures from Investment Income and the company's share of surpluses from the 2017 and 2018 World Men's Curling Championships and the Olympic Qualification Event 2017.

Under expenditure, Board expenses were \$USD 18,000 higher than expected but this can be attributed by the decision to increase the President's Honorarium which was taken by the Finance Commission last year after the budget had been set and some higher than expected costs at the Board and open meetings held in Las Vegas.

Operations continued to feel the effects of the volatile exchange rates with budgets having been set with the £GBP/\$USD at 1.2 and the rate over the year around 1.3 but going as high as 1.4 and for the €EUR/\$USD was at 1.06 at budget time and around 1.16 during the year and as high as 1.25 at certain times.

In Programmes and Services, there was a large unexpected cost which related to the staging of the Delivery Stick Summit in Manitoba and for the first time in a number of years Development Assistance Programme claims exceeded the budget.

Our extensive competition programme was brought in under budget.

Two particular areas led to an overspend in Marketing, one area was webcasting which covers the budgets for the World Mixed Doubles and the World Junior Curling Championships. The spend in mixed doubles was higher than expected, but did result in additional income which is covered under the Broadcast income. The overspend here of nearly \$USD 0.2 million is included in the figures above, given for the total Broadcast figures. In future seasons this code will be moved from Marketing and placed more correctly under Broadcasting. The second area relates to the Commercial Airtime agreement with Eurosport, the new contract was signed after the budget was set and allowed for greater coverage on the channel but resulted in higher costs.

The final area where there was significant variation from budget was under the Olympic Winter Games. The World Curling Federation must now purchase tickets, whereas in the past these were provided free of charge or were deducted from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) monies. Additionally, the insurance premium for the Games was higher than in previous years.

In the Balance Sheet there is significant improvement in our total current assets following the receipt of the first payment from Kingdomway Sports for the Curling World Cup and the first two payments from the IOC relating to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. As is the normal policy both of these items will be shown as Deferred Income until they are due to be released, the World Cup money during this coming season and the IOC monies over next four years of the Olympic cycle.

The deficit on the year has meant that the overall reserves of the World Curling Federation have dropped to \$USD 8.35 million, which not including the Curling World Cup would allow the World Curling Federation to operate at full capacity for almost 14 months, which is slightly under the Board's target of 18 months. This will be a matter for discussion at future Board meetings.

In conclusion this was a tough year financially but not altogether unexpected. Thanks go to Thelma Black, the World Curling Federation's Financial Controller and the Finance Commission for their continued work on the accounts.

Income and expenditure summary
for the year end 30 June 2018 \$USD

	2018	2017
Income		
Member Subscriptions	37,750	36,150
Rights and Marketing	6,213,527	6,163,783
Broadcast License Fees	1,137,204	725,463
Programme and Services	84,449	85,742
Investments	295,528	375,953
Miscellaneous	64,270	40,663
	7,832,728	7,427,754
Expenditure		
Governance	469,917	460,951
Operations and Administration	1,426,784	1,277,761
Programme and Services	820,300	737,752
Competitions	712,818	643,802
Marketing	1,633,366	1,304,611
Broadcasting	3,033,007	2,097,040
Olympic Games	523,527	588
Anti-Doping Programme	91,341	48,132
Bad Debt	63,686	811
Gain/Loss on Capital Asset	4,344	
Gain/Loss on ForEx	249,452	153,100
ECF Legacy Expenditure	0	8,000
Exceptional Expenditure	119,286	
	9,147,828	6,732,548
Surplus for the Year	(1,315,100)	695,206

Balance Sheet
\$USD

	2018	2017
Fixed Assets	8,815,038	9,915,828
Other Assets	1,803,198	2,074,047
Current Assets	14,150,350	3,464,842
Current Liabilities	6,471,295	5,794,826
Net Current Assets / Liabilities	7,679,055	(2,329,984)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	18,297,291	9,659,891
Long Term Liabilities	9,952,500	-
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities	8,344,791	9,659,891
Reserves Brought Forward	9,659,891	8,964,685
Surplus for the Year	(1,315,100)	695,206
Reserves Carried Forward	8,344,791	9,659,891

A look forward



After another outstanding Olympic and Paralympic season, it is now time to look forward, and, while this Review adds further evidence of the importance of curling's participation in the Olympic and Paralympic movements, from this season on, we will have another exciting flagship event to look forward to – the Curling World Cup.

Till now, we have enjoyed exceptional exposure and thrilling games in the shop window every four years, but one of the reasons behind launching our new World Cup was to try to increase curling's media, broadcast and social media exposure every year.

Thanks to having our sponsors in place – Chinese company Kingdomway Sports – we now have our inaugural Curling World Cup format and venue programme. We will have two events in China. The first one will be in Suzhou near Shanghai in September, our final event will be in Beijing.

In between these places in December we will be going to Omaha, where they did an outstanding job for the U.S. Olympic Trials, and in January to Jonkoping in



Sweden. We have already had requests to expand the series, but, first things first, we need to embed this new format, which will feature eight women's teams, eight men's teams and eight mixed doubles teams. With this series, we're going to have our own "Road to Beijing", similar to golf's "Road to Dubai".

I now have had the honour of being unopposed as the World Curling Federation President for another four-year term, and this will be my final term. I view myself as holding the baton for another four years, and, with succession planning becoming a priority, I have a lot to think about to make sure that I leave the Presidency and the sport in good shape. While we will always welcome new countries and Member Associations, we must keep in mind that our existing Members are all at different stages of development, and we need to remain as engaged with them as possible, to ensure that we are being as effective as we can be in supporting them, regardless of their needs. In particular, I'm happy that, over the last four years, we've seen new facilities being built and hopefully this will continue over the next four years.

During the coming season, I am particularly looking forward to having the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2019 on home territory in Scotland. Wheelchair curling was my first big project in international curling, so I'm really keen to see the 'wheelies' in action in Stirling.

As ever, we will see several more changes in the coming season – a new women's and men's world championships qualifying format; the new five-stone free guard zone rule will come into operation, and an agreement in place for us to have ten teams involved in the next Olympic mixed doubles competition.

Having all these changes, and others, including shaping our broadcast arrangements to match up with technological developments, show that our sport is moving with the times, and while we need to be aware of the environment that we are operating in, we must always strike the balance of protecting the interests of the sport.

Elsewhere in this Review we have focussed on the 20th anniversary of the Fuessen Camp – one of the many



















pathfinding achievements of our now-retired Director of Competitions and Development, Keith Wendorf. I would like to see that type of development activity echoed in other places too, and the time is right. For example, ice rinks are happening everywhere, particularly in China where winter sports are growing, and happily the focus seems to be on curling. The Chinese seem to love our sport as the combination of its physical and mental aspects really appeals to their culture.

On the other side of the world, our sport has really taken a hold in the United States, with the exciting prospect of a new facility happening in California.

All in all, exciting – and challenging – times lie ahead for curling and the great people who work with us all around the globe.

The Curling Family is ever-growing and I am looking forward to my final term in office, where I know together we can endeavour to make curling the number one winter sport.

International curling events 2018-2019

Date	Location	Event	Website information	
24 Aug-8 Sep 2018	Naseby, New Zealand	Audi quattro Winter Games New Zealand	www.wintergamesnz.kiwi	
6-9 Sep 2018	Budapest, Hungary	7th World Curling Congress	www.worldcurling.org	
12-16 Sep 2018	Suzhou, China	Curling World Cup first leg	www.curlingworldcup.com	
13-20 Oct 2018	Kelowna, Canada	Winn Rentals World Mixed Curling Championship 2018	www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2018	
3-10 Nov 2018	Gangneung, South Korea	Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018	www.worldcurling.org/pacc2018	
9-15 Nov 2018	Lohja, Finland	World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship 2018	www.worldcurling.org/wwhcc2019	
16-24 Nov 2018	Tallinn, Estonia	Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2018	www.worldcurling.org/ecc2018	
5-9 Dec 2018	Omaha, United States	Curling World Cup second leg	www.curlingworldcup.com	
3-10 Jan 2019	Lohja, Finland	World Junior-B Curling Championships 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2019	
18-23 Jan 2019	Naseby, New Zealand	World Qualification Event 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wqe2019	
30 Jan - 3 Feb 2019	Jonkoping, Sweden	Curling World Cup third leg	www.curlingworldcup.com	
16-23 Feb 2019	Liverpool, Canada	World Junior Curling Championships 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wjcc2019	
2-12 Mar 2019	Krasnoyarsk, Russia	29th Winter Universiade Games	www.krsk2019.com	
3-10 Mar 2019	Stirling, Scotland	World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wwhcc2019	
16-24 Mar 2019	Silkeborg, Denmark	World Women's Curling Championship 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wwcc2019	
30 Mar -7 Apr 2019	Lethbridge, Canada	World Men's Curling Championship 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wmcc2019	
20-27 Apr 2019	Stavanger, Norway	World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wmdcc2019	
20-27 Apr 2019	Stavanger, Norway	World Senior Curling Championships 2019	www.worldcurling.org/wsc2019	
8-12 May 2019	Beijing, China	Curling World Cup Grand Final	www.curlingworldcup.com	

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This year's front cover is based on a picture, taken by Richard Gray, of the pre-game light projection at the Olympic Winter Games.

In a history-making move, the United Korea team marched together at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018. Curling history was also made at these Games as the mixed doubles discipline made an acclaimed Olympic debut. Because of this success, the mixed doubles field for the 2022 Games in Beijing has been expanded to ten teams.



Championship and Olympic winners

