



WORLD CURLING FEDERATION

ANNUAL REVIEW

2018-2019

FANS AROUND THE WORLD



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

As you will see on these pages, the 2018-2019 season saw the introduction of a new World Qualification Event, successfully co-hosted by our New Zealand colleagues in Naseby, and a four-stop Curling World Cup. All this, as well as our regular world and regional championship events, staged in magnificent style by several Member Associations.

These pages also outline work carried out by our various Commissions and in our Zones, while the fiscal pages continue to report the good financial health of the Federation.

Regrettably, we have had to take the decision to suspend the Curling World Cup. However, we are convinced there is a place in our sport for the Curling World Cup and we are working diligently to source future partners.

This year, we saw championships staged in Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Scotland, South Korea, Sweden and the United States. Without exception, all provided terrific showcases for our sport and were run by helpful and efficient local organising committees and go-the-extra-mile volunteers. Every event televised achieved growing viewing figures and each event was a credit to curling and its athletes.

Thinking about our competitions, several thoughts come to mind.

The mixed doubles this year was fantastic. We had 48 teams. New countries played in this event and had a taste of where they can go with this latest Olympic discipline. Now, after consultation, we are splitting this event, but I am reassured by the knowledge that the athletes recognise that the split will help new countries to develop. I was particularly encouraged by watching players from established Member

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Associations taking the time to help emerging nations at the world championship in Norway. That's the curling family for you.

The wheelchair championship was staged in my home country, Scotland. Stirling was an ideal venue, with happy teams and web-streaming for the first time. Those who are new to wheelchair curling events are amazed at the skill and expertise of the players and I was particularly proud to see the athletes getting the recognition they deserve.

The men's championship was staged in Lethbridge, Canada, in front of a full house of knowledgeable fans. It was also expertly run by an efficient group of experienced volunteers. I was particularly touched by the reaction of Sweden's gold medal skip Niklas Edin, who admitted to being particularly emotional about this, his fourth world championship, win. That our sport can touch even the most experienced players in such a way says a lot. Also, there is something special about how our championships can light up small

communities when we come to town, as we saw in Liverpool, Canada and Silkeborg, Denmark.

On a personal level, I was humbled to be appointed as a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth and I also congratulate Board member, Hew Chalmers, on his well-deserved appointment as Member of the British Empire (MBE).

My various duties in the Olympic movement continue and I am delighted to be able to report that curling's reputation at that level continues to grow. In my conversations with International Olympic Committee President, Thomas Bach, it is clear he is very happy with where curling is going, including mixed doubles, and long may that continue.

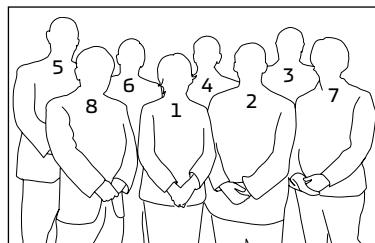
Kate Goodness

THE BOARD

BOARD AND STAFF



- 1 Kate Caithness** *(President):* Scotland, elected to 2022
- 2 Graham Prouse** *(Vice-President):* Canada, elected to 2021
- 3 Hugh Millikin** *(Vice-President):* Australia, elected to 2020
- 4 Bent Ramsfjell** *(Vice-President):* Norway, elected to 2019
- 5 Beau Welling** *(Director):* United States, elected to 2022
- 6 Hew Chalmers** *(Director):* Scotland, elected to 2021
- 7 Cathrine Lindahl** *(Director):* Sweden, elected to 2020
- 8 Toyo Ogawa** *(Director):* Japan, elected to 2019



STAFF

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Colin Grahmslaw | Secretary General |
| Scott Arnold | Head of Development |
| Eva Roethlisberger | Head of Competitions |
| Darrell Ell | Competitions and Development Officer |
| Jiri Snitil | Competitions and Development Officer |
| Karri Willms | Competitions and Development Officer |
| Cameron MacAllister | Head of Media |
| Emily Dwyer | Media Officer |
| Chris Hamilton | Digital Media Officer |
| Richard Harding | Head of Broadcast |
| Joanna Kelly | Broadcast Manager |
| Jorge Vazquez | Curling World Cup Project Manager |
| Uli Kapp | Curling World Cup Sport Manager |
| Lesley McCrae | Curling World Cup Broadcast Manager |
| Liz Munro | Office Manager |
| Gill Amatt | Administrative Assistant |
| Thelma Black | Finance Controller |
| Susan Keith | Anti-Doping Officer |
| Rhona Howie | Equipment and Logistics Officer |
| Ashley Melville | IT Officer |
| Saskia Mueller - Gastell | Projects Officer |



More mixed doubles
teams to earn
Olympic qualification,
from eight to ten

Nigeria
first African Member
Association

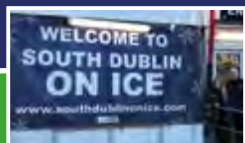


Development Assistance Programme
funded projects, totalling
\$USD 400,000
for **41** Member
Associations



Spain
reach first world
championship final
(World Mixed)

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES



Dublin, IRELAND
introduces curling with
Olympic Celebration Tour

Record
48
teams compete
at last open entry
**World Mixed
Doubles Curling
Championship**



World Curling
Twitter posts had
14,296,000
impressions, while the
Curling World Cup
account achieved
9,870,600
impressions



72,851,581
minutes watched on
World Curling TV,
13%
increase
from previous season



**Four year
partnership**
with
LGT
signed for
world championships



Chinese Taipei
(World Mixed),
Greece, Kosovo, Mexico,
Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and
Ukraine (World Mixed Doubles)
compete in first
**World Curling
Championship**



Korea
women
reach **second place**
in the women's
world rankings,
the highest of any
Pacific - Asia
team



Instagram
exceeds
20,000
followers



World Curling Federation
partners with
World Academy of Sport



Broadcasts
produced by
World Curling TV
in season
2018-2019
achieve a cumulative
audience exceeding
578
million



All participating
Member Associations
in the Stepping Stones programme
have gone on to qualify for a
world championship
for the first time:
Estonia and **Latvia**
in wheelchair curling and
New Zealand
in junior men's curling

OPERATIONS AND INTEGRITY



STAFFING

The new structure with separate Heads for competition and development is taking shape. The time this has created to focus on development is beginning to bear fruit with the introduction of the World Curling Academy platform and programmes.

In the competitions and development team Paddy Kaeser left for a new position based in Switzerland and was replaced by Jiri Snitil from the Czech Republic. Jiri brings a wealth of experience as an international player and coach.

With more equipment being transported from event to event and the challenges of international shipping, a dedicated Logistics Officer has become a valuable addition to the staff team – Olympic gold medallist Rhona Howie (nee. Martin) joined the team in spring 2019. At the same time Richard Harding, the organisation's longest serving member of staff, was given the new responsibility of Head of Broadcast. Additionally, our Broadcast Manager, Joanna Kelly, left at the end of her contract. Joanna started as Media Relations Officer nearly ten years ago before moving over to broadcast full time as that operation grew.

It has been an incredibly busy year in the administration with the addition of the four Curling World Cup events. The delivery of these is a testament to the hard work of the staff involved across all departments.

However, the uncertainty over the future of the Curling World Cup means that Curling World Cup Manager, Sports Manager and Broadcast

Manager positions are under review. Jorge Vazquez, Uli Kapp and Lesley MacRae fulfilled these roles in the Curling World Cup's inaugural season.

ANTI-DOPING

It has thankfully been a quieter year on the anti-doping front. In September 2018 the World Curling Federation declared that – following an independent review of the available evidence including written testimony from Gregory Rodchenkov, the whistleblower at the centre of the Russian doping crisis – no action would be taken against any curling athletes or the Russian Curling Federation.

In January 2019, the World Anti-Doping Agency conducted a successful operation to recover data from the Moscow Laboratory of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency and work continues to review this. Early indications are that this will not provide any information that would cause the World Curling Federation to review its position.

Also, in September the Court of Arbitration for Sport held its final hearing into the Anti-Doping Rule Violation of Mr. Aleksandr Krushelnickii. A suspension of four years was announced and back dated to the time of his failed test at the Olympic Winter Games 2018 in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Over the past 12 months 121 tests have been conducted both in and out of competition. They have resulted in no adverse findings.



The World Curling Federation delivered the latest edition of its successful Anti-Doping Outreach, #CurlClean, at the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2019 in Stirling, Scotland. It also continues to work with the World Anti-Doping Agency to maintain its Code compliance and to play its part in providing input to the 2019 Code Review Process. The organisation is also in discussions with the newly established International Testing Agency as to whether there would be any future partnership between the organisations.

INTEGRITY

The World Curling Federation adopted the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions at its Congress in 2017.

This has provided access to the International Olympic Committee Integrity Hotline. There have been no reported concerns around World Curling competitions either through the hotline or via the International Olympic Committee's Irregular Betting Information System, which monitors major events for unusual betting patterns.

Discussions are ongoing with the Integrity Unit at the International Olympic Committee around ways to improve education processes, which followed a review of the use of the International Olympic Committee education materials at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

GOVERNANCE

In the past year, the Governance Commission has worked on:

- ⊙ The Hall of Fame Induction Committee Terms of Reference, which were approved by the Board in December 2018.
- ⊙ Governance assistance to a Member Association, including participation at a workshop to draw up a new constitution.
- ⊙ The World Curling Federation's Conflict of Interest policy.
- ⊙ An update on the Bullying and Harassment policy, including safeguarding and how to work with young people.

At the World Curling Congress in Budapest, Hungary, in 2018, the Governance Commission was tasked with creating a proposal for a policy on Presidential succession. The importance of succession planning was further emphasised by the Member Associations at the open meetings held during the LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2019 in Silkeborg, Denmark.

The Commission is constantly monitoring and looking for initiatives to improve governance within the organisation as well as being available as a resource for Member Associations that need guidance or help with governance-related issues.

The Governance Commission comprises, Chair and Board liaison, Bent Ramsfjell (Norway), Willie Nicol (Scotland), Jennifer Stannard (United States) and Gregor Rigler (Slovenia). Nicol and Stannard are appointed until 2020, while Rigler's term is until 2022.



WORLD MIXED CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Kelowna, Canada: 13 - 20 October 2018



The Winn Rentals World Mixed Curling Championship 2018, hosted in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, marked the first time that this open-entry championship was staged outside of Europe.

Altogether 35 teams, including Chinese Taipei, who made their international mixed curling debut, took part. They were split into four groups for the round robin.

Group A: Belarus, England, **Germany**, Hong Kong, Italy, Kazakhstan, **Scotland**, **Turkey** and Wales

Group B: Australia, Brazil, **Denmark**, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, **Russia**, **Switzerland** and United States

Group C: Croatia, **Czech Republic**, **Spain**, Estonia, France, Latvia, Poland, **Sweden** and Chinese Taipei

Group D: Austria, **Canada**, Hungary, Japan, **Norway**, New Zealand, **Slovenia** and Slovakia

(**Bold** denotes all play-off qualifiers)

The first ranked team in each group received an automatic place in the quarter-finals, while the second and third placed

teams went into a qualification round prior to the quarter-finals.

After four games in the qualification round, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Turkey moved on to the quarter-final stage, joining round-robin leaders Scotland, Russia, Spain and Norway.

The quarter-final between Canada and Scotland went to an extra end, with Canada winning by 8-5. In the other quarter-finals, Norway beat Switzerland by 6-4, Russia were 11-2 winners over Turkey and Spain beat Germany by 6-4.

The semi-finals saw Canada defeat Norway by 7-3 while Spain advanced, to their first-ever world level gold medal game, after a 6-2 win over Russia.

The bronze medal game came down to the final stone where Russia stole the win against Norway by 8-7.

The gold medal final saw hosts Canada beat Spain by 6-2 - a first world mixed title for Canada.

The World Mixed Curling Championship 2019 will take place in Aberdeen, Scotland, from 12 to 19 October.



Winn Rentals World Mixed Curling Championship 2018

MEDALLISTS

● **CANADA**
Michael Anderson (skip and fourth)
Danielle Inglis (vice-skip and third)
Sean Harrison (second)
Lauren Harrison (lead)
Jim Waite (coach)

○ **SPAIN**
Sergio Vez (skip and fourth)
Oihane Otaegi (vice-skip and third)
Mikel Unanue (second)
Leire Otaegi (lead)

● **RUSSIA**
Alexander Eremin (skip and fourth)
Maria Komarova (third)
Daniil Goriachev (second)
Anastasia Moskaleva (vice-skip and lead)
Vasily Gudim (coach)



ZONAL REPORTS

AMERICAS



Brazil

During this season the 'Ice Brasil' brand was adopted for marketing purposes, by the Brazilian Ice Sports Federation.

The federation implemented a number of revised governance policies, with full transparency being adopted on institutional records and financial statements. These now have full public access online. The Ice Brasil President, Matheus Figueiredo, was elected to the Board of the Brazilian Olympic Committee.

This was a historic competition season for Ice Brasil – not only did both the women's and men's teams record their first-ever world-level wins in Naseby, New Zealand in the new World Qualification Event, the women's team finished fourth overall with three wins – over Estonia, Hong Kong and, the hosts, New Zealand. The men's only win came against Denmark and they finished in sixth-place.

The main project at present is the São Paulo Arena, which will have three dedicated curling sheets and a shared hockey and skating rink. The project benefits from the World Curling Federation's New Facility Loan, Deferred Payment for Equipment and Development Assistance programmes.

It is planned that construction on the project should be finished by October 2019, allowing for the first Brazilian championship on Brazilian ice to be held in mid-December.

Canada

Over the past year, Curling Canada's initiatives have helped grow the sport across the nation. An estimated 1.5 million Canadians now play the sport, which is a 27 per cent increase over the previous year.

Curling Canada continued to support its 975 dedicated curling facilities across the country through its revamped Curling Assistance Programme. The programme offers low-interest loans to help clubs remain sustainable over the long-term and provide capital for necessary infrastructure upgrades.

The organisation also took a significant step forward in protecting all curlers by formally signing a pledge to join the Responsible Coaching Movement – a nationwide initiative to protect all athletes in Canada. The pledge is a critical step forward in Curling Canada's ambition to keep sport healthy and safe for all. The pledge protects those who play the sport and offers coaches support in the form of training and resources to ensure a fun and safe experience for everyone.

Guyana

Guyana successfully fielded its first men's curling team at the America's Challenge, in November 2018. The team achieved two victories against Brazil.

The focus for the next year will be on beginning a school programme

using FloorCurl equipment by Rock Solid Productions Inc. The aim is to educate children about the game and to begin a formal league to generate interest in the sport.

Efforts continue to draw new members to the sport to build a sustainable base of players. This will be carried out by hosting clinics in Canada aimed not only at the Guyanese community but the greater Caribbean community.

United States

Following the 2018 Olympic success, USA Curling had an outstanding year introducing the sport of curling across the United States. Membership of the national organisation grew 12 per cent with the Association surpassing 25,000 members for the first time.

With Olympic gold medallist Tyler George leading the cause as sport ambassador, the excitement for curling continued with tour stops across the country. Adding to that excitement were 300 hours of televised curling on NBC's sports channels.

A new multi-year sponsorship agreement with Toyota brings much needed corporate support to both the Olympic and Paralympic programmes.

In collaboration with Curling Canada, USA Curling implemented a Hit-Draw-Tap programme to introduce the sport to young people across the country. Also, through sport education programmes USA Curling is filling out the Athlete Development Model to complete the pathway from grassroots to elite curling.

EUROPE

Europe is the biggest zone within the World Curling Federation, with 41 Member Associations.

At meetings during the season presentations of best practices and lessons learned were delivered and included:

- ⊙ Romania hosting its first international event – the European C-Division Curling Championships.
- ⊙ Development of curling rinks in Norway, including a multi-purpose arena with curling and shooting under the same roof.
- ⊙ An update on the curling rink in Belgium, which had doubled its membership after one season



Barton Grange Flower Bowl

and had introduced more than 5,000 people to curling.

- ⊙ Information about the second curling rink in England – the Barton Grange Garden Centre. The building is called the Flower Bowl and the ice, stones and scoreboard reflect the name.

The European Zonal Commission is constantly encouraging European Member Associations to come forward with applications to use the European Curling Federation Monetary Legacy. Viable projects should especially target youth,

promote development and enhance cross-border cooperation.

During the year the Irish Curling Association was awarded \$USD 2,000 from the Legacy Fund as a contribution to showcase curling in a temporary tented ice rink in Dublin, Ireland, in January 2019. The experiences from this promotion activity were shared two months later with Members Associations at the open meetings held during the LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2019 in Silkeborg, Denmark.

PACIFIC-ASIA

The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018 were staged in the Gangneung Curling Centre – the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic venue – a clear demonstration of Olympic legacy.

Other highlights from this zone include:

- ⊙ Three women's teams finishing in the top six at the LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2019 and the women's game drawing great fan support and driving growth in the zone.
- ⊙ Bronze by the Korean women was a first-ever World Curling Championship medal for this Member Association.
- ⊙ New Zealand junior men qualified for their first World

Junior Curling Championships and finished in sixth place to keep them in the top level again for 2020.

- ⊙ Japan, Australia and New Zealand finished in the top 16 in the World Mixed Doubles, qualifying them directly into next year's worlds. Australia had a best-ever finish – fourth place.

- ⊙ The inaugural World Qualification Event was successfully co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand in Naseby.

- ⊙ Japan has increased numbers of instructors – expanding to 400 instructors, 100 advanced instructors and three different levels of umpires.





PACIFIC-ASIA CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Gangneung, South Korea: 3 - 10 November 2018



In evidence of curling's Olympic legacy, the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018 took place at the Gangneung Curling Centre, the recent Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games curling venue, in Gangneung, South Korea.

Teams from nine Member Associations – seven women's teams and nine men's teams – were playing for places in the upcoming World Curling Championships. Two women's and two men's teams would qualify directly for their respective championship. Also, for the first time, two more teams from each championship would progress to the inaugural World Qualification Event.

The women's teams were Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, hosts Korea and Qatar.

With a 9-5 win over Australia in their last round-robin game, Hong Kong reached their first semi-final, joining Japan, China and Korea. In the semi-finals, Korea beat China by 7-4 while Japan were 13-3 winners over Hong Kong.

China then beat Hong Kong by 8-3 to take bronze medals while, in the gold medal final, Korea beat Japan by 12-8 to take the title. With these results, Korea and

Japan took the direct route to the world championship while China and Hong Kong went to the World Qualification Event.

The men's teams were Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, hosts Korea, New Zealand and Qatar.

After the round robin, China, who recorded eight wins to go through the round robin undefeated, Japan, New Zealand and Korea all qualified for the semi-finals.

In those semi-finals, China kept their unbeaten run going, defeating Korea by 9-6, while Japan beat New Zealand by 8-3.

In the bronze medal game, Korea beat New Zealand by 9-8 with a single-point steal in the tenth end. In the men's gold medal final, a single-point steal sealed the title and gold medals for Japan as they beat China by 9-7.

These results meant that Japan and China took the direct route to the world championship while Korea and New Zealand moved onto the World Qualification Event.

The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2019 will take place in Shenzhen, China, from 2 to 9 November.



**PACIFIC-ASIA CURLING
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018**
3-10 November 2018, Gangneung, Republic of Korea

MEDALLISTS: Women

- **KOREA**
Minji Kim (skip and fourth)
Hyerin Kim (vice-skip and third)
Tai Yang (second)
Sujin Kim (lead)
Sungjun Lee (coach)
- **JAPAN**
Satsuki Fujisawa (skip and fourth)
Chinami Yoshida (vice-skip and third)
Yumi Suzuki (second)
Yurika Yoshida (lead)
Kotomi Ishizaki (alternate)
J.D. Lind (coach)

- **CHINA**
Yilun Jiang (vice-skip and fourth)
Sijia Liu (skip and third)
Ziqi Dong (second)
Xindi Jiang (lead)
Rui Wang (alternate)
Carolyn McRorie (coach)

MEDALLISTS: Men

- **JAPAN**
Yuta Matsumura (skip and fourth)
Tetsuro Shimizu (third)
Yasumasa Tanida (second)
Shinya Abe (vice-skip and lead)
Kosuke Aita (alternate)
Bob Ursel (coach)

- **CHINA**
Qiang Zou (skip and fourth)
Zhiyu Wang (vice-skip and third)
Zhilin Shao (second)
Jingtao Xu (lead)
Dongxu Jiang (alternate)
Zhipeng Zhang (coach)

- **KOREA**
SooHyuk Kim (skip and fourth)
ByeongJin Jeong (third)
JeongJae Lee (vice-skip and second)
DongHyeong Lee (lead)
Hyeonjun Hwang (alternate)
JeHo Lee (coach)



During the season, the Athlete Commission started the process of formalising the group's processes to ensure a consistent work-flow.

This began in Tallinn, Estonia after the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2018. The topics discussed were:

- ⦿ **Format changes for the World Mixed Doubles**
- ⦿ **The Olympic qualification process for both genders**
- ⦿ **The formulation of an athlete survey**

The Commission's Chair, Nolan Thiessen (*pictured above*), attended the Competition and Rules Commission meetings in January as the athlete representative. He discussed recommendations for the draw for the new World Mixed Doubles format and the Olympic qualification system for the 2022 Games.

During the season, athletes from the Commission attended the Congress in Hungary and the World Wheelchair, Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles Curling Championships. Commission member, Czech, Anna Kubeskova, attended the Member Associations

open meetings held in Silkeborg, Denmark. Thiessen also represented curling at the International Olympic Committee Athlete Forum in Switzerland in April.

The Commission released a survey to the athlete population in June to gather feedback and direction on multiple topics, such as, the length and speed of games and potential variations for time-outs and the last stone draw system.

The Commission's goals for the next 12 months include formalising the structure, composition and succession plan for the group, including the rotation of Chairs. Defining specific areas of expertise and responsibility for the members of the Commission will help improve the Commission's ability to respond in a timely manner to issues arising and continue to ensure a positive contribution to the World Curling Federation.

The Commission members are skip Nolan Thiessen (Canada), Kim Forge (Australia), Anna Kubeskova (Czech Republic), Patrick McDonald (United States), David Murdoch (Scotland) and Jill Officer (Canada). Cathrine Lindahl (Sweden) is the World Curling Board liaison.



As part of the commitment to the advancement of curling and the recognition of the vital importance of places to curl, the World Curling Federation offers a number of options to support the development of dedicated curling facilities and programmes. Among these is the Development Assistance Programme.

During the 2018 - 2019 season approximately \$USD 400,000 was granted to fund projects from 41 different Member Associations. Altogether 124 unique applications were funded.

Notably, the funding of Floor and Street Curling sets has increased by 73% over the previous season. As the expansion of curling into non-traditional winter sport nations increases, the need for alternative ways of introducing the sport are required.

Iceless curling products have proven beneficial in filling this need and have given Member Associations in warmer climates, without existing ice facilities, the ability to demonstrate the basics of curling as in the picture above in Nigeria highlights. These products are delivered in partnership with Rock Solid Productions Inc.

On ice, there were more Open Houses and Come and Try sessions than previous years. Funding for these sessions has increased by 292% since the 2015 - 2016 season.

The funding of video presentations has become a new way of using the programme. For example, Finland created a short marketing video to attract new people to the sport and to make curling look and sound interesting and exciting. The video is offered to clubs to market themselves on social media.

Canada also used funding to produce a video, but took a slightly different approach. The Curling Canada Foundation's video was aimed at reaching potential donors to fund programmes that support the development of junior curlers in Canadian member associations and clubs.

Online resources are often considered for funding. USA Curling provides an online training programme through the U.S. Center for SafeSport for members to be educated on recognising and preventing abuse, harassment and bullying. The Development Assistance Programme was used to assist in the funding of this initiative.

Finland produced another project worthy of note - Turku Curling Arena is now accessible and enjoying membership from new wheelchair curlers because of the programme. Now, one of the wheelchair athletes has joined the club board while another was selected for the Finnish wheelchair curling team.



EUROPEAN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tallinn, Estonia: 17 - 24 November 2018



International championship curling returned to Estonia when the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2018 were staged in Tallinn, with 20 women's and 26 men's teams taking part.

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

The ten B-Division women's teams were: England, hosts Estonia, Hungary,

Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

In the women's event, Switzerland, Sweden, Russia and Germany took the top A-Division spots to qualify for the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, Sweden beat Russia by 7-4 while Switzerland were 6-4 winners over Germany. Russia and Germany faced each other for bronze medals, a game which Germany won by 7-4. Later Sweden added European gold to their Olympic title when they beat Switzerland by 5-4.

The ten A-Division men's teams were:

Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland.

The 16 B-Division men's teams were:

Group A: Czech Republic, hosts Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey.

Group B: Austria, Belarus, Denmark, England, Israel, Lithuania, Slovenia and Wales.

After the round robin, the four men's semi-finalists were Germany, Italy, Scotland and defending champions Sweden. In the semi-finals, Sweden beat Germany by 6-3 while, after an extra end, Scotland were 9-6 winners over Italy.

Italy went on to beat Germany by 8-6 for bronze, the first Italian medal performance since 1979. Afterwards, Scotland won their first men's European title since 2008 when Bruce Mouat's team beat the Swedish world champions, 9-5.

In the B-Divisions, Norway took the women's title with a 7-6 victory over Estonia while on the men's side, Denmark claimed gold, beating England by 10-4.

The Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championship 2019 will take place in Helsingborg, Sweden, from 15 to 23 November.



Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2018

MEDALLISTS: Women

● SWEDEN

Anna Hasselborg (skip and fourth)
Sara McManus (vice-skip and third)
Agnes Knochenhauer (second)
Sofia Mabergs (lead)
Johanna Heldin (alternate)
Wayne Middaugh (coach)

○ SWITZERLAND

Alina Paetz (vice-skip and fourth)
Silvana Tirinzoni (skip and third)
Esther Neuenschwander (second)
Melanie Barbezat (lead)
Marisa Winkelhausen (alternate)
Manuela Netzer (coach)

● GERMANY

Daniela Jentsch (skip and fourth)
Emira Abbes (vice-skip and third)
Analena Jentsch (second)
Klara-Hermine Fomm (lead)
Lena Kapp (alternate)
Uli Kapp (coach)

MEDALLISTS: Men

● SCOTLAND

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

○ SWEDEN

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

● ITALY

Joel Retornaz (skip and fourth)
Amos Mosaner (third)
Sebastiano Arman (second)
Simone Gonin (vice-skip and lead)
Fabio Ribotta (alternate)
Soren Gran (coach)

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

The establishment of a Technical Commission was approved by the World Curling Federation Board at the end of 2018. Soon after nominations for commission members were called for.

A total of 13 nominations, from ten Member Associations, were received and seven people were selected to join Board member, Toyo Ogawa.

The Commission members are Chair, Ogawa (Japan), Hans Wuthrich (Canada), Mark Callan (Scotland), Tom Brewster (Scotland), Leif Ohman (Sweden), Stefan Roethlisberger (Switzerland), Greg Ewasko (Canada) and Gyoergy Nagy (Hungary). As part of their appointments, Wuthrich and Callan have been chosen as the Chief Ice Technicians for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games respectively.

The purpose of the Commission is two-fold. Providing advice and support to achieve the highest level of playing conditions possible at all levels of the game and assisting in the development of curling facilities – both new and existing – around the world.

The Commission's key tasks are:

- ⊙ Achieving outstanding playing conditions at elite international competitions
- ⊙ Helping clubs to build good curling facilities with good playing conditions

- ⊙ Maintaining and developing the handbook 'Curling Ice Explained' by drawing on the latest knowledge
- ⊙ Working to develop educational programmes within the technical area
- ⊙ Providing practical support to clubs wishing to build new curling facilities
- ⊙ Assessing potential research and development into playing conditions

The first Technical Commission meeting took place in June, in Scotland, at Greenacres – the storage base for World Curling's stones and equipment.

OLYMPIC CELEBRATION TOUR

The Olympic Celebration Tour continues to be supported by The Foundation for Global Sports Development and is 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 Ireland and Japan for the first time, as well as the United States.

On one of the few occasions when there has been curling ice in Ireland, the Irish Curling Association hosted Great British Olympians, 2014 silver medallist Michael Goodfellow and 2014 bronze medallist Anna Sloan. In 2018, Sloan was also a recipient of the Global Sports Development Athlete in Excellence Award.

A demonstration of wheelchair curling was included on the programme, which saw South Dublin Mayor, Councillor Mark Ward, throw stones while wearing his ceremonial chain. Representatives from other ice sports bodies attended with, as a result, curling now included in plans for a permanent ice rink.

The Tour had two stops in Japan – in Morioka and in Obihiro – with Olympians, 2006 bronze medallist Shannon Kleibrink from Canada and Japan's 2018 bronze medallist Mari Motohashi involved.

In the United States, three events were staged:

First in Bowling Green, Ohio, with the United States' 2018 Olympic gold medallist Tyler George.

11 schools were visited during the Tour stop at the Cape Cod Curling Club, in Massachusetts. United States' wheelchair curler Meghan Lino joined in some of the school visits.

As well as having school visits, the Marlborough Curling Club, also in Massachusetts, hosted a Chamber of Commerce Business after-hours meeting and a Learn to Curl session with Tyler George. This gave local business leaders a chance to experience curling and consider the many possibilities that would be available to them if they had a dedicated facility.





The 44th edition of the World Junior Curling Championships saw ten of the top women's and men's teams, representing 13 Member Associations, take part. This was the 19th time that these championships had been staged in Canada.

Canada won both titles in 2018 and with them being allocated the host spot in both the women's and men's events, the top six finishers in the 2018 championships qualified for this year. The final three places were gained at the World Junior - B Curling Championships 2019.

The line-ups were:

Women

- 📍 **Host:** Canada
- 📍 **Qualified from World Junior Curling Championships 2018** (in ranking order): Sweden, China, Norway, United States, Korea and Switzerland
- 📍 **Qualified from World Junior - B Curling Championships 2019** (in ranking order): Scotland, Russia and Japan

Men

- 📍 **Host:** Canada
- 📍 **Qualified from World Junior Curling Championships 2018** (in ranking order):



Scotland, Switzerland, United States, Germany, Norway and Sweden

- 📍 **Qualified from World Junior - B Curling Championships 2019** (in ranking order): New Zealand, Italy and China

Canada's men's skip Tyler Tardi returned to defend the title he won last year, while New Zealand - skipped by Matthew Neilson - made a first-ever appearance at the World Juniors.

After the women's round robin, Canada emerged as 8 - 2 winners, over Switzerland, while Russia won by 8 - 6, against China, in the semi-finals. This saw Canada and Russia go onto contest the gold medals.

In the bronze medal game, Switzerland beat China by 6 - 4. The women's final went to an extra end, and with a single stolen point, Russia claimed gold medals, beating Canada, 8 - 7.

In the men's semi-finals, Canada beat Norway by 7 - 5 to face Switzerland for gold, who were 10 - 9 semi-final winners over Scotland. The Scots then took the bronze medals, defeating Norway by 8 - 5.

Tyler Tardi successfully completed the defence of his world title when he led his Canadian team to a 9 - 4 win over Switzerland. With this win, Tardi and his team became the first nation to achieve back-to-back junior men's titles since 2007.

The Sportsmanship Awards, which are voted on by the players for the curlers who best exemplify the Spirit of Curling, were awarded to Germany men's second Joshua Sutor and Sweden women's lead Maria Larsson.

The World Junior Curling Championships 2020 will take place in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, from 15 to 22 February.



World Junior Curling Championships 2019

MEDALLISTS: Women

- 📍 **RUSSIA**
Vlada Rumiantseva (skip and fourth)
Daria Morozova (vice-skip and third)
Irina Riazanova (second)
Vera Tiuliakova (lead)
Anastasia Mishchenko (alternate)
Andrey Drozdov (coach)
- 📍 **CANADA**
Selena Sturmay (skip and fourth)
Abby Marks (vice-skip and third)
Kate Goodhelsen (second)
Paige Papley (lead)
Karlee Burgess (alternate)
Amanda-Dawn St. Laurent (coach)
- 📍 **SWITZERLAND**
Selina Witschonke (vice-skip and fourth)
Raphaela Keiser (skip and third)
Laura Engler (second)
Vanessa Tonoli (lead)
Nehla Meier (alternate)
Stephan Keiser (coach)

MEDALLISTS: Men

- 📍 **CANADA**
Tyler Tardi (skip and fourth)
Sterling Middleton (vice-skip and third)
Matthew Hall (second)
Alex Horvath (lead)
Rylan Kleiter (alternate)
Paul Tardi (coach)
- 📍 **SWITZERLAND**
Marco Hoesli (skip and fourth)
Philipp Hoesli (vice-skip and third)
Marco Hefti (second)
Jannis Spiess (lead)
Yves Stocker (alternate)
Rolf Hoesli (coach)
- 📍 **SCOTLAND**
Ross Whyte (skip and fourth)
Duncan McFadzean (third)
James Craik (vice-skip and second)
Euan Kyle (lead)
Ryan McCormack (alternate)
Greg Drummond (coach)

WORLD JUNIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada: 16 - 23 February 2019





WORLD WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Stirling, Scotland: 3 - 10 March 2019

The World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2019, staged in Stirling, Scotland, featured 12 teams for the first time. Previously, ten teams competed in this event.

The 12 teams were Canada, 2018 Paralympic champion nation China, Estonia, Germany, Korea, Latvia, defending champions Norway, Russia, hosts Scotland, Slovakia, Switzerland and United States.

Of these, Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia qualified from the World Wheelchair-B event in Lohja, Finland, in November 2018. This was the first world event Estonia and Latvia had qualified for. Scotland were hosts and the other eight teams qualified from their final placings at the last World Wheelchair event in 2017.

This event also featured the World Curling Federation's #CurlClean programme, after two successful campaigns at the World Junior Curling Championships. This programme was created three years ago, in partnership with the World Anti-Doping Agency, and is designed to assist International Federations in delivering sustainable anti-doping awareness programmes for their athletes.

After round-robin play, the top six performers qualified for the play-offs, with the top two teams



going directly to the semi-finals – leaders, China, and second-placed Norway. Meanwhile, Canada and United States joined Germany in being relegated to next season's World Wheelchair-B event.

In the play-off games, third-placed Scotland beat sixth-placed Slovakia, by 7-6, after an extra end, while fifth-placed Korea beat fourth-placed Switzerland, by 10-2, to complete the semi-final line-up. In the semi-finals, hosts Scotland beat defending world champions Norway, by 7-3, while Paralympic champions China were 5-2 winners over Korea.

The Koreans then went on to win the bronze medals, beating Norway by 10-3.

China added world gold to their Paralympic title when they beat Scotland by 5-2 – a first world title for China.

During the closing ceremony, the 2019 Sportsmanship Award winner, voted for by all the players, was announced – Norway's skip Rune Lorentsen. This was a fitting tribute to the three-time world champion in what was his last-ever international curling appearance.

The World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2020 will take place in Wetzikon, Switzerland, from 29 February to 7 March.





**World Wheelchair Curling
Championship 2019**

MEDALLISTS

● CHINA

Haitao Wang (skip and fourth)
Mingliang Zhang (vice - skip and third)
Xinchen Xu (second)
Zhuo Yan (lead)
Qiang Zhang (alternate)
Jianrui Li (coach)

○ SCOTLAND

Hugh Nibloe (vice - skip and fourth)
Aileen Neilson (skip and third)
David Melrose (second)
Robert McPherson (lead)
Gary Logan (alternate)
Sheila Swan (coach)

● KOREA

Huitae Yang (fourth)
Jinho Cha (skip and third)
Soonseok Seo (vice - skip and second)
Min - Ja Bang (lead)
Byongseok Min (alternate)
Jong Chul Beak (coach)



OTHER COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS



29TH WINTER UNIVERSIADE Krasnoyarsk, Russia: 3 - 10 March 2019

Curling was among the 11 sports that made up the 29th Winter Universiade in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, where ten teams each of women's and men's students took part.

The nations competing in the women's event were Canada, China, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Korea, hosts Russia, Sweden and Switzerland.

After six days of round-robin play, the top six teams advanced to the play-offs. They were (in qualification order): Sweden, Russia, Canada, Korea, China and Great Britain.

The two teams at the top-of-the-table, Sweden and Russia, qualified directly for the semi-finals. To join them, Korea beat China by 12-5 in one play-off game, while Great Britain were 6-4 winners over Canada to complete the semi-final line-up.

In the semi-finals, Korea beat Russia, 7-4, while Sweden advanced, 10-2, over Great Britain. Russia then took the bronze medals by beating Great Britain, 12-5, while Sweden claimed gold, with an 8-3 victory over Korea.

The gold medal team from Sweden was: skip and fourth Isabella Wranaa, third Jennie

Waahlin, vice-skip and second Almida De Val and lead Fanny Sjoeborg. They were coached by Margaretha Sigfridsson.

The men's teams were Canada, China, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Korea, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and United States.

The six teams that moved on to the medal stage were (in qualification order): Great Britain, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Czech Republic.

With Great Britain and Canada going directly to the semi-finals, Norway beat Sweden by 13-6 in one play-off game, while Switzerland beat Czech Republic, 8-4, in the other.

In the semi-finals, Norway defeated Great Britain by 8-6 and Canada were 9-8 winners over Switzerland.

Great Britain then beat Switzerland, 10-5, to take the bronze medals while Norway claimed gold with a 6-5 win over Canada.

The gold medal team from Norway was made up of skip and fourth Magnus Ramsfjell, third Martin Sesaker, second Bendik Ramsfjell and vice-skip and lead Gaute Nepstad. They were coached by Rune Steen Hansen.



WORLD QUALIFICATION EVENT 2019 Naseby, New Zealand: 18 - 23 January

The first-ever World Qualification Event, in Naseby, New Zealand, provided another qualification pathway to both the World Women's and Men's Curling Championships 2019 for Member Associations.

Altogether 16 national teams – eight of each gender – competed and reached this event through involvement in either the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2018, the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018, the annual Americas Challenge or as co-hosts.

In the women's field:

- ⊙ **The European contenders were: Estonia, Finland, Hungary and Poland**
- ⊙ **The Pacific-Asia participants were: China and Hong Kong**
- ⊙ **The Americas team was: Brazil**
- ⊙ **The co-host was: New Zealand**

After the round robin, the three women's play-off contenders were: unbeaten Finland, second-placed China and third-placed Hungary.

Finland and China faced each other in the first play-off game and China won, 4-3, to claim a place in the world championship. Finland then returned to beat Hungary by 8-1 to seal the second available world slot.

China were vice-skip and fourth Rui Wang, skip and third Jie Mei, second Mingyue Yao, lead Jingyi Ma, alternate Mein Wang and coach Zhipeng Zhang.

Finland were skip and fourth Oona Kauste, vice-skip and third Eszter Juhasz, second Maija Salmiovirta and lead Lotta Immonen.

In the men's event:

- ⊙ **The European teams were: Denmark, England, Netherlands and Poland**
- ⊙ **The Pacific-Asia teams were: Korea and New Zealand**
- ⊙ **The Americas team was: Brazil**
- ⊙ **The co-host was: Australia**

First-placed Korea, second-placed England and third-placed Netherlands qualified for the men's play-offs.

Korea faced England in the first play-off game and won by 7-3 to qualify for the world championship. England then faced Netherlands and the Dutch emerged victorious this time, with an 8-5 win that also qualified them for the world championship.

Korea were skip and fourth SooHyuk Kim, vice-skip and third JeongJae Lee, second ByeongJin Jeong, lead Hyeonjun Hwang, alternate DongHyeong Lee and coach JeHo Lee

Netherlands were vice-skip and fourth Wouter Goesgens, skip and third Jaap Van Dorp, second Laurens Hoekman, lead Carlo Glasbergen, alternate Alexander Magan and coach Shari Leibbrandt.



EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL 2019 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: 11 - 15 February

A total of 14 junior mixed curling teams – with athletes aged between 14 and 18 – took part in the multi-sport European Youth Olympic Festival 2019 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The teams were split into two round-robin groups:

Group A: Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Hungary, Russia and Turkey

Group B: Croatia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and Switzerland

After completing the round-robin stage undefeated, Great Britain won gold against previously undefeated Switzerland, 6-2. Hungary defeated Poland, by 10-3, to claim the bronze medals.

The winning team was skip and fourth Hamish Bruce Gallacher, vice-skip and third Robyn Dalrymple Munro, second Angus Craig Bryce and lead Inca Anna Lousie Maguire.



CURLING NIGHT IN AMERICA

Another successful Curling Night in America – which debuted in 2014 – was staged in August 2018 at the Chaska Curling Center in Chaska, Minnesota, United States. World Curling’s broadcast arm, World Curling TV, assisted in the production of nine episodes for NBC Sports Network.

The event featured teams from the United States, China, Japan and – for the first time – Italy, competing in women’s, men’s and mixed doubles competitions. The made-for-TV series aired between October and December 2018 on NBC Sports Network. As well as the nine episodes there were four re-airs and, overall, viewership increased 17 per cent from the previous year’s broadcasts. The 13 combined airings had a total viewership of 805,000.

Curling Night in America remains one of the few sporting events that NBC Sports Network continually re-airs.

The sixth edition was held in August 2019 in the Polar Iceplex in Raleigh, North Carolina. World Curling TV once again supported NBC, the Triangle Sports Commission and the United States Olympic Committee in delivering a further nine, two hour programmes, to be aired from January to March 2020.



DORDI NORDBY (Norway)

Nordby, from Snarøya, Norway, was inducted as an Athlete, for a glittering playing career that saw her amass 23 international curling medals. A mainstay of the Norwegian women’s team from 1981 to 2007, she competed in three Olympic Winter Games – plus two Olympic exhibition events – 18 World Women’s Curling Championships and 23 European Curling Championships.

Her first world title came in 1990, in Västerås, Sweden. The previous year, 1989, she collected her first silver medal, in Milwaukee, United States. More world medals followed in 1991 (gold), 1993, 1995, 1996 (all bronze), 1997 (silver), 2000, 2002 (both bronze), 2004 (silver) and 2005 (bronze). That last world medal was won in Paisley, Scotland.

In the European championships, Nordby collected two gold medals, two silver medals and six bronze medals. Though Nordby never won an official Olympic Winter Games medal she collected bronze in Calgary, Canada, in 1988 and silver in Albertville, France in 1992, when curling was a demonstration event. Nordby also received the Frances Brodie Award, for sportsmanship, at the 2003 World Women’s in Winnipeg, Canada.



MICHAEL BURNS, SR. (Canada)

Burns, inducted, posthumously, as a Builder, is considered curling’s photographer. A quick glance at the World Curling Federation’s own 50th anniversary book is enough to see the impact he had on the sport. He hailed from Edinburgh, in Scotland, but it was in Canada where he began taking pictures in the late 1950s.

He photographed the very first Scotch Cup in Scotland in 1959 and quickly developed an eye for strong curling imagery. He was renowned for being able to get into the right place for the right moment. His interest didn’t solely lie in curling, he photographed horse racing and motorsports too.

He is also a member of the Curling Canada and Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fames and he was the Canadian government’s photographer at five Olympic Games.

Presented to Michael Burns, Jr.

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.

More information about the World Curling Federation Hall of Fame, including all recipients, can be found at worldcurling.org



The Curling World Cup was a new four-competition series introduced in 2018.

The first leg was played at the Suzhou Sports Centre, in Suzhou, China, before heading to the Ralston Arena in Omaha, United States in December. The third stop at the Jönköping Curling Club in Jönköping, Sweden was played in January before the Grand Final drew proceedings to a close in May, in Beijing, China at the Shougang Arena.

Each leg involved all three Olympic disciplines – women's, men's and mixed doubles.

The competing Member Associations from the first three legs were the hosts, followed by five teams who qualified through the world rankings, with the highest ranked Member Associations from each of the Americas, European and Pacific-Asia zones added to the line-ups. To round out a field of eight teams in each discipline, two more teams were selected by the World Curling Federation Board.

The women's teams who competed in the first three legs were: Canada, China,

Japan, Korea, Russia, Scotland, Sweden and United States.

In the men's competition, the teams who competed in the first three legs were: Canada, China, Japan, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and United States.

In mixed doubles, the teams who competed in the first three legs were: Canada, China, Korea, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and United States

Each leg of the Curling World Cup ran for five days. In efforts to move away from most international championships, there were no extra ends, but instead, a one-stone shoot-out from each team decided tied games. The team with the stone closest to the button earned the win. Other variations were coach interaction at ice level during games and prize money winnings, something not available at other World Curling events.

The winners of each leg secured themselves places in the Grand Final.



Curling World Cup – Leg one
12 - 16 September 2018

WOMEN

● CANADA

Rachel Homan (skip and fourth)
Emma Miskew (vice-skip and third)
Joanne Courtney (second)
Lisa Weagle (lead)
Nolan Thiessen (coach)

MEN

● CANADA

Kevin Koe (skip and fourth)
B.J. Neufeld (vice-skip and third)
Colton Flasch (second)
Ben Hebert (lead)
John Dunn (coach)

MIXED DOUBLES

● CANADA

Laura Walker (female)
Kirk Muysers (male)
Nolan Thiessen (coach)

In women's play, Sweden's Anna Hasselborg topped Group A while Canada's Rachel Homan won Group B. In the final, Canada came out as 7 - 3 winners to claim the inaugural Curling World Cup gold medals and a spot in Beijing's Grand Final.

Steffen Walstad from Norway qualified for the final from the men's Group A, while Canada's Kevin Koe won Group B. The two teams faced off in the final, where Canada made a hit for the win, 6 - 5, booking themselves a place in the Grand Final.

In mixed doubles, from Group A, Canada's Laura Walker and Kirk Muysers took the top place, while Sarah Anderson and Korey Dropkin from United States won Group B. In the final, Canada completed a clean sweep, winning 7 - 3, to earn another place in the Grand Final.



Curling World Cup – Leg two
5 - 9 December 2018

WOMEN

● JAPAN

Satsuki Fujisawa (skip and fourth)
Chinami Yoshida (vice-skip and third)
Yumi Suzuki (second)
Yuirka Yoshida (lead)
J.D. Lind (coach)

MEN

● UNITED STATES

John Shuster (skip and fourth)
Christopher Plys (vice-skip and third)
Matt Hamilton (second)
John Landsteiner (lead)
Don Bartlett (coach)

MIXED DOUBLES

● NORWAY

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

In the women's competition, Korea's Minji Kim qualified from Group A and Japan's Olympic bronze medallists, skipped by Satsuki Fujisawa topped Group B. In a rematch of November's Pacific-Asia gold medal final, Japan stole two points in the eighth end to win, 7 - 6, when the Koreans were inches heavy on their final draw. Japan collected the gold medals and booked their place in the Grand Final.

The men's competition featured hosts, United States, and their Olympic champion skip John Shuster, who won Group A. Meanwhile, their Olympic gold medal game rivals, Sweden, led by Niklas Edin, won Group B. In their first rematch since the Games, the Americans prevailed 3 - 1 to capture the title.

In mixed doubles, the Olympic silver medallists from Switzerland, Jenny Perret and Martin Rios dominated Group A while the Olympic bronze medallists, Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten from Norway topped Group B. In the final, the Swiss opened with four points in the first end. Norway fought back with consecutive steals in three ends, followed by four points in the seventh end to secure the 10 - 5 victory.



Curling World Cup – Leg three
30 January - 3 February 2019

WOMEN

● KOREA

Minji Kim (skip and fourth)
Hyerin Kim (vice-skip and third)
Taei Yang (second)
Sujin Kim (lead)
Sungjin Lee (coach)

MEN

● CANADA

Matt Dunstone (skip and fourth)
Braeden Moskovy (vice-skip and third)
Catlin Schneider (second)
Dustin Kidby (lead)
Scott Pfeifer (coach)

MIXED DOUBLES

● CANADA

Kadriana Sahaidak (female)
Colton Lott (male)
Scott Pfeifer (coach)

The women's groups saw the hosts and Olympic champions, Sweden's Anna Hasselborg, win Group A to advance to their second Curling World Cup final. For the second time in a row, Korea's Minji Kim won Group B. With both teams searching for their first Curling World Cup title after second place finishes in leg one and two, Korea came out on top with a double take-out for the win, 6 - 4.

In men's play, the hosts, Sweden, once again skipped by Niklas Edin, also made it through Group A to face Group B winners, Canada's Matt Dunstone, who were making their Curling World Cup debut. In a back-and-forth battle, Canada made a take-out that gave them the victory over the hosts, 5 - 4, to claim the leg three title.

The mixed doubles teams in both Group A and B were in a tight race towards the top of the standings, with the final round-robin game determining who would advance to Sunday's final. The young Canadian duo, Kadriana Sahaidak and Colton Lott, defeated Korea to win Group A while Norway's Kristin Skaslien and Thomas Ulsrud beat Russia to advance from Group B. Ulsrud was Skaslien's third mixed doubles partner across the first three legs.

In the final, Canada used their power play to score the two winning points in the eighth end to take the leg three title, 7 - 5.





Women's teams: Canada (Team Jennifer Jones), China (Team Yilun Jiang), Japan (Team Satsuki Fujisawa), Korea (Team Minji Kim), Russia (Team Anna Sidorova), Sweden (Team Anna Hasselborg), Switzerland (Team Silvana Tirinzoni) and United States (Team Nina Roth)

Men's teams: Canada (Team Matt Dunstone), Canada (Team Kevin Koe), China (Team Dexin Ba), Norway (Team Thomas Ulsrud), Scotland (Team Ross Paterson), Sweden (Team Niklas Edin), Switzerland (Team Yannick Schwaller) and United States (Team John Shuster)

Mixed doubles teams: Canada (Laura Walker and Kirk Muysers), Canada (Kadriana Sahaidak and Colton Lott), China (Cao Chang and Yuan Mingjie), Norway (Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten), Russia (Maria Komarova and Daniil Goriachev), Switzerland (Michele Jaeggi and Sven Michel), Switzerland (Jenny Perret and Martin Rios) and United States (Sarah Anderson and Korey Dropkin)

The Grand Final of the Curling World Cup took place at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Park in the Shougang Arena. The journey to Beijing varied for teams. China took their spot as hosts, while the winners from each of the three legs joined them – aside from Canada's Jennifer Jones who stepped in for the first leg's women's winner, Rachel Homan.

The top two teams from each discipline with the most Curling World Cup points who had not previously qualified also earned spots. The final two places were given to each discipline's world champions and a special invite team. With the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2019 being too close to the Grand Final, the 2018 world champions, Switzerland's Michele Jaeggi and Sven Michel were invited.

The prize money for the Grand Final increased, with women's and men's teams winning \$USD 3,000 per round-robin win and \$USD 27,000 for the champion. In mixed doubles, teams won \$USD 1,500 per round-robin win and \$USD 18,000 for winning the final.

The most recent Olympic medallists, world champions, European and Pacific-Asia champions all featured in the final leg of the Curling World Cup. Group A featured a battle between Canada's Jennifer Jones and Japan's Satsuki Fujisawa for first place, where the Canadians eventually came out on top. In Group B, the reigning world champions from Switzerland, Silvana Tirinzoni, advanced to the final in their Curling World Cup debut.

In the gold medal game, featuring the two most recent world champions, the game was 4-3 in favour of the Canadians after the fourth end. Switzerland took their first lead of the game in the sixth end with three points, but after a steal of two points in the eighth end, Canada claimed the inaugural title, 9-6.

The bronze medals went to Russia's Anna Sidorova for having the third highest amount of Curling World Cup points from the Grand Final.

The men's competition was the final curling event for Norway's Thomas Ulsrud, after his team had been competing together for 12 years. The Norwegians received the special invite from the World Curling Federation Board to play in Beijing alongside the worlds' best.

The final round-robin session held importance for several teams – with China being one of them. The hosts, skipped by Qiang Zou, beat Canada's Matt Dunstone with a steal in the eighth end to win, 4-3, and advanced to China's first Curling World Cup final. In Group B, Canada's Kevin Koe beat Scotland's Ross Paterson, 7-6, in the final round-robin game to book their ticket to Sunday's final.

The gold medal game featured a series of single points on both sides and was level, 2-2, after the fourth end. In the eighth end, Canada maneuvered around guards and made a precise tap-back on the button to score the single winning point, 5-3.

The bronze medals were awarded to Scotland's Ross Paterson for having the third most Curling World Cup points from the Grand Final.

Finally, in mixed doubles, Canada's Laura Walker and Kirk Muysers won Group A and Norway's Kristin Skaslien advanced to her third Curling World Cup final, with her partner Magnus Nedregotten, from Group B.

In the gold medal game, Canada opened with a steal, but Norway responded with three points in the second end. At the fourth end break, Norway held a 4-2 advantage. The Norwegians capped this lead with two points in the seventh end, to win 8-3.

United States took home the bronze medals after having the most Curling World Cup points from the Grand Final.



**Grand Final
Beijing, China:
8-12 May 2019**

WOMEN

● CANADA

Jennifer Jones (skip and fourth)
Kaitlyn Lawes (vice-skip and third)
Shannon Birchard (second)
Jill Officer (lead)
Nolan Thiessen (coach)

● SWITZERLAND

Alina Paetz (vice-skip and fourth)
Silvana Tirinzoni (skip and third)
Esther Neuenschwander (second)
Melanie Barbezat (lead)
Sebastian Stock (coach)

● RUSSIA

Anna Sidorova (skip and fourth)
Margarita Fomina (vice-skip and third)
Julia Portunova (second)
Julia Guizeva (lead)
Svetlana Kalalb (coach)

MEN

● CANADA

Kevin Koe (skip and fourth)
B.J. Neufeld (vice-skip and third)
Colton Flasch (second)
Denni Neufeld (lead)
Paul Webster (coach)

● CHINA

Dexin Ba (vice-skip and fourth)
Qiang Zou (skip and third)
Wang Zhiyu (second)
Xu Jingtao (lead)
Xiaoming Xu (coach)

● SCOTLAND

Ross Paterson (skip and fourth)
Kyle Waddell (vice-skip and third)
Duncan Menzies (second)
Michael Goodfellow (lead)

MIXED DOUBLES

● NORWAY

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

● CANADA

Laura Walker (female)
Kirk Muysers (male)
Geoff Walker (coach)

● UNITED STATES

Sarah Anderson (female)
Korey Dropkin (male)
Phill Drobnick (coach)



BROADCAST



Season 2018-2019 was special for World Curling TV with the addition of four new Curling World Cup events being broadcast. This brought the total number of events where World Curling TV had an involvement to a record 15.

It started in August 2018 with the annual Curling Night in America series which was shot in the Chaska Curling Center near Minneapolis and finishing in May 2019 with the Curling World Cup Grand Final in Beijing.

The guiding principle for World Curling TV is to provide a host broadcast service to all interested broadcasters around the world. The games selected for broadcast from each event are largely determined by the demand shown from broadcasters. In recent years, the demand has increased enormously with the addition of digital TV platforms in many of the territories which have traditionally shown interest in broadcasting curling. This allows the broadcaster to take limitless curling games on to one or other of their platforms.

In the United States, the World Curling Federation has worked for almost 20 years with NBC who became the Olympic broadcaster for that territory for the first time in 2002. Through their interest in curling, specifically driven by Peter Diamond their Executive Vice President, Programming, NBC Olympics (pictured right), they have moved from showing curling once a year on their main terrestrial platform to taking all 46 games produced by World Curling TV from the world women's and men's championships in the last two seasons.

This alone amounts to around 280 hours of curling coverage available to view in the United States. NBC have three main platforms where they can place this programming – NBCSN (main sports channel), now with a reach greater than ESPN in the United States, the NBC Olympic Channel which mostly shows Olympic Sports and their own digital platform.

Last season NBC extended their support for curling by being one of the first broadcasters to take the new Curling World Cup. They were happy to take any games involving teams from the United States.

Other interest for the Curling World Cup was shown from CCTV in China, who broadcast many games on their two channels, a useful exposure of the sport ahead of the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing in 2022. Also, in Canada, TSN was able to show the Curling World Cup on its sports channels when games involving Canada were provided.

The challenge ahead for World Curling TV is that as demand from other countries increases there is greater pressure to produce more games from the world women's and men's championships in particular.

At the world championships outside Canada in 2018 and 2019 World Curling produced 46 games using two production trucks and three TV crews, involving more than 80 people. The cost involved in such productions is high. All options are being explored to try to reduce the cost so that even more curling coverage can be provided to the increasing number of broadcast partners around the world.



MEDIA



Retaining new audiences generated by the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, was a priority for the media team in season 2018-2019.

Statistics pointing to the success of this goal are, once again, having more than one million unique users – 1,298,407 – visiting www.worldcurling.org and almost half of them travelling directly to the site, rather than arriving from an external source.

This is a 64% increase in direct traffic. Also, in 2019, 60,000 more users visited the World Men's Curling Championship than in 2018 – the biggest increase for an individual event.

Japan had the largest single country audience increase, with Japanese users more than doubling the amount of times they visited and interacted with the site – 574,284 sessions in 2018 up to 1,245,133 in 2019. This makes Japan the second largest national audience group behind Canada – 1,837,056 sessions.

Other data highlights are:

- **Twitter posts achieved 14,296,000 impressions on @worldcurling and another 9,870,600 on @curlingworldcup**
- **72,851,581 minutes of curling coverage viewed on World Curling TV's YouTube channel – a 13% increase from the previous season**
- **Instagram exceeded 20,000 followers.**

In 2018, Scottish based, QTV Sports and The Stats Zone and Sport Acuity, from England, were hired to produce content to supplement what was being produced in-house.

QTV Sports cut and posted video highlights of individual shots, for Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, and posted live games on Twitter and Facebook. These short videos were some of the furthest reaching posts in the season, with one – a shot from Kevin Koe at the Pioneer Hi-Bred World Men's Curling Championship 2019 – amassing 300,000 views on Twitter and another 100,000 on Facebook.

The Stats Zone and Sport Acuity were appointed to produce content for the Curling World Cup, with a brief to establish a different tone of voice to other World Curling Federation events. They did this through extensive preview content for the four legs of the series and through a live match centre on www.curlingworldcup.com.

The Sport Media Trainee Programme handed six more aspiring photographers and journalists the chance to work at an international event. Trainees attended the Europeans in Tallinn, Estonia, the World Juniors in Liverpool, Canada and the World Mixed Doubles in Stavanger, Norway.

Looking forward, All Star Partner has been appointed as a Chinese media partner. Initially, All Star Partner will set up and create content for a new World Curling Sina Weibo channel, aimed at delivering more content to Chinese audiences ahead of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing.

The facts and figures laid-out on this page are taken from a 12-month period between 1 May 2018 and 1 May 2019, and compared against the same period the previous year.



After the increase in exposure brought to curling from the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, it was decided that in order to fully engage with its audiences, the World Curling Federation required a modern and mobile responsive website.

Towards the end of 2018 a tender process began, to find a partner to design and develop a new website for the Federation. The project had several requirements. The website had to be:

- ⦿ built on an open source or commercially available content management system
- ⦿ completely mobile responsive for visitors on tablets and phones
- ⦿ globally distributed and scalable to ensure that all curling fans experience a fast and enjoyable website experience
- ⦿ integrated with the Federation's other digital channels - Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube

In February 2019 the project was awarded to Blue2 Digital.

Blue2 Digital are an award-winning design and development agency based in Dundee, Scotland with a client list, in both the public and private sectors, that includes multiple sports brands.

With their design and technical skills, Blue2 Digital have created a clean website with an exciting user experience that will allow the Federation to expand its global audience.

A dedicated project team from Blue2 Digital, along with the World Curling Federation media team have put together the new website.

Visit worldcurling.org





WORLD WOMEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Silkeborg, Denmark: 16 - 24 March 2019



Marking the event's 40th anniversary, 13 of the top women's teams took part in the LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2019 in Silkeborg, Denmark.

They qualified through four different routes:

Host: Denmark

From the Pacific - Asia championships (in qualification order): Korea and Japan

From the European championships (in qualification order): Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, Latvia and Scotland

From the Americas Zone: Canada and United States

From the World Qualification Event (in qualification order): China and Finland

Danish skip Madeleine Dupont and her sister, third player, Denise both made their 11th world championship appearances.

After 20 sessions of round-robin play, the top six teams qualified for the play-off stage. Top-ranked Sweden and second-placed Korea moved directly to the semi-finals. Meanwhile, third-placed Russia and sixth-placed Japan faced each other in a semi-final qualification game, as did fourth-placed Switzerland and fifth team China. In these games, Switzerland beat China by 7-6, to face Korea in the semi-finals, while Japan were 11-3 winners over Russia, before going on to meet Sweden in the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals, Switzerland emerged as 5-3 winners over Korea, after an extra end, while Sweden beat Japan, 6-3 in the other.

In the bronze medal game, curling history was made when Korea won their nation's first world championship medal, by either women or men, beating Japan by 7-5.

In the gold medal final between Sweden and Switzerland, the score was tied at 6-6 after eight ends. In the ninth end, Sweden's Anna Hasselborg elected to hold onto last stone advantage for the tenth end and rolled out her last stone, giving Switzerland a single stolen point and a 7-6 lead. Sweden only scored one point in the tenth end, to tie the score at 7-7 and put the game into an extra end.

In the extra end, Switzerland's fourth player Alina Paetz drew her final stone into the four-foot ring to score the one point that gave her team an 8-7 win and the world title.

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

The World Women's Curling Championship 2020 will take place in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, from 14 to 22 March.





LGT WORLD WOMEN'S
CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP
SILKEBORG | DENMARK 2019

LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2019

MEDALLISTS

● SWITZERLAND

Alina Paetz (vice - skip and fourth)
Silvana Tirinzoni (skip and third)
Esther Neuenschwander (second)
Melanie Barbezat (lead)
Marisa Winkelhausen (alternate)
Manuela Netzer (coach)

○ SWEDEN

Anna Hasselborg (skip and fourth)
Sara McManus (vice - skip and third)
Agnes Knochenhauer (second)
Sofia Mabergs (lead)
Johanna Heldin (alternate)
Wayne Middaugh (coach)

● KOREA

Minji Kim (skip and fourth)
Hyerin Kim (vice - skip and third)
Taei Yang (second)
Sujin Kim (lead)
Sungjun Lee (coach)



WORLD MEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada: 30 March - 7 April 2019





A total of 13 teams took part in the Pioneer Hi - Bred World Men's Curling Championship 2019, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, as the event celebrated the 60th anniversary of the World Men's Curling Championship.

The Member Associations involved qualified through a variety of routes for this championship. Canada were the hosts, while United States took up the available slot for countries in the Americas Zone by beating Brazil and Guyana in the Americas Challenge.

Seven European teams qualified from the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling

Championships 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia. They were (in qualification order) Scotland, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Russia.

Japan and China qualified from the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018 in Gangneung, South Korea, while, lastly, Korea and Netherlands were the first teams to reach this championship through the newly introduced World Qualification Event, which had its debut in Naseby, New Zealand.

The teams battled through 20 sessions of round-robin play to produce the top six teams that qualified for the play-off stage. The teams ranked first and



second – defending champions Sweden and Switzerland – qualified directly for the semi-final games. Third-ranked Canada faced sixth-ranked Scotland in one qualification game and fourth-placed Japan lined up against fifth-ranked United States. The winners of these two games then went onto the semi-finals.

Canada beat Scotland by 6-5, to face Switzerland in the semi-finals. A 7-6 extra end win for Japan in the other qualification game, against United States, also put them into the semi-finals, to face Sweden. The Swedes then beat Japan by 8-2 in eight ends to go onto the gold medal final, where they faced Canada,

who, after an extra end, beat Japan by 6-5 in the other semi-final.

Switzerland then faced Japan for bronze medals and won by 8-4 to give this Swiss team a third bronze to go alongside previous medal successes in 2014 and 2017.

Sweden then successfully defended their title when they beat Canada by 7-2 in the gold medal final, a win that gave their skip Niklas Edin a fourth world crown.

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that Korean skip, SooHyuk Kim, was the winner of the Collie Campbell Award. This award is voted for by all the players to recognise the athlete they think best exemplified curling's values and sportsmanship throughout the event.

The LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020 will take place in Glasgow, Scotland, from 28 March to 5 April.



Pioneer Hi - Bred World Men's Curling Championship 2019

MEDALLISTS

● SWEDEN

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

○ CANADA

Kevin Koe (skip and fourth)
B.J. Neufeld (vice-skip and third)
Colton Flasch (second)
Ben Hebert (lead)
Ted Appelman (alternate)
John Dunn (coach)

● SWITZERLAND

Benoit Schwarz (vice-skip and fourth)
Sven Michel (third)
Peter de Cruz (skip and second)
Valentin Tanner (lead)
Claudio Paetz (alternate)
Thomas Lips (coach)



WORLD MIXED DOUBLES CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Stavanger, Norway: 20-27 April 2019





World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2019

MEDALLISTS

● SWEDEN

Anna Hasselborg (female)
Oskar Eriksson (male)
Fredrik Lindberg (coach)

○ CANADA

Jocelyn Peterman (female)
Brett Gallant (male)
Jeff Stoughton (coach)

● UNITED STATES

Cory Christensen (female)
John Shuster (male)
Derek Brown (coach)

With a record 48 Member Associations represented, and a new qualification system now adopted that will reduce future fields to 20 teams, this will go down as the largest-ever World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship.

For Kosovo, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine, this was their first time competing at a World Curling Federation event. Also, this was Chinese Taipei's first time competing in World Mixed Doubles and for Greece, the first time they competed at a world level event.

The 48 teams were placed in six groups, based on a World Curling Federation ranking established over the last three years. Each group played a round robin to produce a ranking for first, second and third position. The top two teams in each group qualified directly for the round of 16, as well as the four third-ranked teams with the best draw shot challenge result.

The groups were:

Group A: Belarus, **Canada**, Denmark, Hong Kong, **Japan**, Romania, **Sweden** and Ukraine

Group B: Austria, Brazil, Guyana, Hungary, Netherlands, **Switzerland**, Chinese Taipei and Turkey

Group C: Australia, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Nigeria and Wales

Group D: Belgium, **Estonia**, Germany, Lithuania, Mexico, hosts **Norway**, **Scotland** and Slovakia

Group E: England, Finland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and **New Zealand**

Group F: Greece, Kosovo, Latvia, Poland, **Russia**, Slovenia, **Spain** and **United States**

(**Bold** denotes the top 16 play-off qualifiers who also qualified directly for the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020)

During the round robin a number of notable firsts took place, including:

- a first world-level victory by an African Member Association, Nigeria, who beat France by 8-5.
- a historic first-ever win for Greece, when they beat Kosovo by 7-4.
- a first win for Croatia, by 7-4 over Nigeria, in this Member Associations third appearance at this event.

- a first-ever win for Chinese Taipei in mixed doubles when they beat Austria by 8-6.

Also, notably, the women's and men's reigning Olympic gold medal skips competed. John Shuster partnered Cory Christensen for United States, while Sweden's Anna Hasselborg joined up with Oskar Eriksson, who had just won his second-successive men's team world title.

Eventually, Sweden, United States, Canada and for the first time ever, Australia, reached the semi-finals. Sweden and Canada won to proceed to the final and in the bronze medal game, United States (5-9 semi-final losers to Canada) won by 5-4 over Australia (who had lost by 5-7 to Sweden in the semi-finals), after an extra end.

In the last end of the final, Sweden's Hasselborg executed a draw on her last stone to win the game and the title for Sweden, by 6-5.

The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020 will take place in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada from 18 to 25 April.





SPONSORSHIP AND MARKETING

The addition of new title sponsors, LGT and Pioneer Hi-Bred, for the World Women's Curling Championship held in Denmark and the World Men's Curling Championship held in Canada respectively, showed a strong appetite for the sport.

Paired with the organisation's long-term relationships with Infront and Curling Canada our partners have provided vital income for the Federation.

Sponsorship revenues for the year fell with EDOX and DB Schenker not renewing their support. Additionally, exchange rates continue to work against the total sponsorship generated as many of the fees are in Swiss Francs (CHF), Canadian Dollars (\$CDN) or Euros.

The European Curling Championships continue to receive support from long term sponsor Le Gruyère AOP and Mount 10. As part of their title sponsorship of the World Women's, LGT also took a main sponsor package for the Europeans.

The LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2019 held in Silkeborg, Denmark was a sell out and generated higher revenues than the previous season's out-of-Canada event - the 361° World Men's Curling Championship 2018 held in Las Vegas, United States.

Scandinavian furniture maker AJ Products and Le Gruyère AOP joined the new long-term title sponsors LGT and presenting sponsor Pioneer Hi-Bred.

361° and Jet Ice continued their relationship with the World Curling Federation, but the agreement with Atom AMPD has concluded with the organisation having appointed a new website provider.

Discussions are underway with Curling Canada about an extension to the existing agreement, which sees the women's and men's World Curling Championships held in Canada in alternate years. The current agreement ends with the World Women's Curling Championship 2020 in Prince George, British Columbia.

The new contract in place with Infront now also gives them rights to sell sponsorship at the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships. Along with detailed broadcast data from the last two years it is hoped this event can begin attracting sponsorship at the same level as the Europeans.

The Curling World Cup was supported in season 2018-2019, by Kingdomway Sports, Newbailun LP and the Chinese Curling Association. The series will not take place in season 2019-2020.

Thanks to the World Curling Federation sponsors for their support this season:

- LGT
- Pioneer Hi-Bred
- Le Gruyère AOP
- Mount 10
- AJ Products
- 361°
- Jet Ice
- Atom AMPD





WORLD SENIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Stavanger, Norway: 20 - 27 April

Canada won both the women's and men's gold medal at the World Senior Curling Championships, completing this double for a second year running.

Sherry Anderson and her women's team successfully defended their title while this was a first win for the Canadian men, skipped by Bryan Cochrane.

This was the 18th edition of these championships and featured 16 women's and 27 men's national teams. Also, this was the first time these championships have been hosted in Norway.

The women were divided into two groups:

Group A: Australia, **Canada**, Finland, Hong Kong, Lithuania, Russia, **Sweden** and **United States**

Group B: **Denmark**, England, Italy, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, **Scotland** and **Switzerland**

(**Bold** denotes all play-off qualifiers)

The four men's groups were:

Group A: **Australia**, Czech Republic, France, Hong Kong, **New Zealand**, **Sweden** and Turkey

Group B: **Canada**, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway and Russia

Group C: England, Ireland, Japan, **Poland**, **Scotland**, Slovakia and **Switzerland**

Group D: Belgium, **Denmark**, Finland, Latvia, **Wales** and **United States**

(**Bold** denotes all play-off qualifiers)

After round-robin play, six women's and 12 men's teams advanced to the play-offs.

In the women's competition, Canada, the only team to go unbeaten in the round robin, finished first in Group A to progress directly to the semi-finals. Likewise, finishing first in Group B gave Denmark a direct semi-final berth.

In the semi-finals, Canada had a 7-3 win over Scotland, while Denmark beat Switzerland by 9-2. After this, Switzerland took bronze medals, beating Scotland by 8-3 and Canada completed their successful title defence with a 10-1 victory over Denmark.

After the men's round-robin, undefeated Sweden topped Group A, while Canada, also undefeated, topped Group B and



likewise undefeated Scotland topped Group C. These top three finishers advanced straight to the quarter-finals along with Denmark, who finished first in Group D.

A qualification round determined the other quarter-finalists - Australia, Norway, Switzerland and United States. After that, in the semi-finals, Scotland beat Switzerland by 6-1, while Canada beat Denmark by 7-4. Denmark then beat Switzerland by 7-4 to win bronze medals, while Canada had an extra end 7-5 win over Scotland to take gold and the title.

The World Senior Curling Championships 2020 will be staged in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada from 18 to 25 April.



World Senior Curling Championships
2019

MEDALLISTS: Women

● CANADA

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

○ DENMARK

Lene Nyboe Bidstrup (skip and fourth)
Susanne Slotsager (vice-skip and third)
Trine Qvist (second)
Lillian Froehling Hansen (lead)
Gabriella Qvist (coach)

● SWITZERLAND

Chantal Forrer (skip and fourth)
Liliane Huwyler (vice-skip and third)
Karin Sohmer (second)
Ursula Miller (lead)
Monika Lutz (alternate)

MEDALLISTS: Men

● CANADA

Bryan Cochrane (skip and fourth)
Ian Macaulay (vice-skip and third)
Morgan Currie (second)
Ken Sullivan (lead)
Paul Adams (alternate)
Bill Tschirhart (coach)

○ SCOTLAND

David Smith (skip and fourth)
Mike Hay (vice-skip and third)
Peter Smith (second)
Sandy Hay (lead)
Gordon Sneddon (alternate and coach)

● DENMARK

Ulrik Schmidt (skip and fourth)
Mikael Qvist (vice-skip and third)
Niels Siggaard-Andersen (second)
Keld Henriksen (lead)
Per Svensen (alternate)

FISCAL

The World Curling Federation audited accounts for the year ending 30 June 2019 show a healthy financial position despite some challenging circumstances.

The sport received positive news from the International Olympic Committee when it confirmed that the revenues received from the 2018 Olympic Winter Games had returned to the level received from the Vancouver Games in 2010. In 2014 there had been a slight reduction.

There was also a tremendous result from the Pioneer Hi-Bred World Men's Curling Championship 2019 held in Lethbridge, Canada, which delivered the World Curling Federation's share of the surplus in excess of \$USD 400,000.

These positives offset an overspend in the new Curling World Cup and allowed investments to be made for setting up the new World Curling Academy and into the development of new electronic handles. Innovative new handles are being designed to incorporate electronic features that will enhance the understanding of curling.

Outwith the sport, the ongoing international currency fluctuations continue to make accurate budgeting a challenge, but until the position in Europe regarding Brexit is resolved matters are unlikely to stabilise. The World Curling Federation continues discussions with our finance and V.A.T. advisers to try and understand what the implications of Brexit will be on the ongoing operations. However, it is still difficult to predict exactly what the outcomes of the Brexit process will be.

The major change in the World Curling Federation's finances over the last 12 months was the introduction of the Curling World Cup. A four-year contract with the Chinese company, Kingdomway Sports, had been signed and was worth \$USD 3.4 million per annum.

Unfortunately, having only paid the first instalment of \$USD 2 million, the company refused to make any additional payments and, therefore, breached the contract. Despite significant efforts to resolve the situation, there was no alternative but to terminate the contract with Kingdomway Sports.

The deficit in payments due in the first year has been met by the World Curling Federation retaining Host City fees which were due to be passed onto Kingdomway Sports and through an underwriting of the project by the Chinese Curling Association. This means that the World Curling Federation expects to receive the full \$USD 3.4 million that was due for the first year of the project. Discussions are ongoing as to whether the Curling World Cup can be funded in future seasons.

Expenses for the Curling World Cup totalled just under \$USD 3.6 million. The additional expenditure can be attributed to items which were purchased in the first year of the series, which would have been used as the series continued, and some costs which should have been recharged to Kingdomway Sports, which were not possible to recover following the termination of the contract.

The new World Curling Academy in partnership with World Academy of Sport sees the development of a new online platform to deliver educational courses to support the sport. Initial investment into the implementation of the platform and the first courses should then provide an income to fund ongoing developments.

Competition costs other than the Curling World Cup increased, with the flights to the World Juniors making up a significant proportion of costs.

Broadcast income and expenditure dropped with one less event – no Olympic qualifier in non-Olympic seasons – and the net cost of broadcast to the World Curling Federation was less than the previous season – \$USD 1.5 million versus \$USD 1.9 million.

Sponsorship fees dropped following the end of a Value in Kind deal with DB Schenker and the end of the VoIP Defender agreement for the World Junior Curling Championships.

Additionally, the failure of VoIP Defender to pay outstanding invoices has meant that, whilst promises are still being made these debts will be serviced, \$USD 150,000 has been written-off as a bad debt at this time due to the length of period this debt has been overdue.

The Balance Sheet shows the expected increase in Assets and Investments at this point in the Olympic cycle as we have now received all the monies due from the International Olympic Committee for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. It also reflects that a number of facility loans have been made in the last 12 months and the amount available for loans is now just over \$USD 500,000. This number fluctuates as repayments on existing loans are received and new loans are made.

The retained reserves sit at around \$USD 8.74 million. The World Curling Federation has a policy to hold around 18 months operating capital in reserve. These exclude the Curling World Cup reserves which are currently around 14 months operating funds.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$USD	2018 \$USD
Income		
Membership subscriptions	37,750	37,750
IOC monies	5,356,528	4,899,448
Marketing fees	1,033,301	1,156,143
Bank interest	64,206	28,473
Dividend income	109,211	86,324
World Cup income	3,405,000	-
Realised profits on investments	43,478	180,731
Rights fees	526,083	157,936
Programs and services clinics	77,296	84,449
Miscellaneous income	78,073	64,270
Broadcasting	903,640	1,137,204
	11,634,566	7,832,728
Expenditure		
Board expenses & congress	400,289	380,974
Standing / ad hoc committee expenses	50,321	41,586
Operations	1,580,064	1,419,251
Programs and services – development	769,642	652,789
Programs and services – facilities and technical	21,878	65,598
Programs and services – other	75,661	101,912
Competitions	881,039	712,692
World Cup	3,592,676	-
Finance	18,348	35,246
International and corporate relations	9,592	12,110
Media expenses	257,569	280,765
Administrative expenses	331	7,533
Marketing	759,940	1,352,601
Broadcasting	2,403,708	3,033,007
Bad debts	153,484	63,686
Gain on capital assets	-	4,344
Olympic Games	(13,223)	523,527
World Anti-Doping Agency	86,910	91,341
Exceptional item – deficit on property revaluation	-	119,286
Loss on foreign exchange transactions	190,998	249,452
	11,239,227	9,147,700
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	395,339	(1,314,972)
Reserves Brought Forward	8,344,919	9,659,891
Reserves Carried Forward	8,740,258	8,344,919

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2019

	2019 \$USD	2018 \$USD
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	1,563,431	1,584,564
Investments	16,886,577	7,230,473
	18,450,008	8,815,037
Other Assets		
Stock	202,714	279,392
Debtors and prepayments – due after one year	1,678,261	1,524,931
	1,880,975	1,804,323
Current Assets		
Debtors and prepayments – due within one year	2,831,290	2,194,008
Cash and cash equivalents	2,350,949	11,955,217
	5,182,239	14,149,225
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	6,411,773	6,471,166
Net Current (Liabilities) / Assets	(1,229,534)	7,678,059
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	19,101,449	18,297,419
Long Term Liabilities	10,361,191	9,952,500
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities	8,740,258	8,344,919
Represented by:		
Retained reserves	8,740,258	8,344,919

FISCAL

WORLD RANKINGS

MIXED

	Member Association	Points	+ / -
1	Canada	75.000	3
2	Russia	70.114	0
3	Scotland	63.485	-2
4	Norway	55.955	1
5	Sweden	52.083	-2
6	Spain	38.008	15
7	Czech Republic	36.636	-1
8	Switzerland	34.545	0
9	Turkey	34.538	0
10	Germany	33.636	0
11	Estonia	21.508	2
12	United States of America	20.432	0
13	Korea	19.432	-6
14	Denmark	18.970	3
15	Japan	18.803	0
16	Hungary	17.098	-2
17	China	16.705	-6
18	Poland	13.947	-2
19	Finland	13.803	1
20	Italy	13.121	-2
21	Slovenia	12.008	11
22	Slovakia	11.636	1
23	Belarus	10.682	5
24	Latvia	10.167	0
25	England	9.886	-6

WHEELCHAIR

	Member Association	Points	+ / -
1	China	87.857	0
2	Norway	80.238	0
3	Korea	64.643	2
4	Russia	59.048	-1
5	Scotland / Great Britain	56.429	1
6	Canada	53.810	-2
7	Switzerland	47.500	1
8	Slovakia	35.476	1
9	Germany	32.024	2
10	United States of America	29.345	-3
11	Finland	23.810	-1
12	Sweden	22.452	0
13	Estonia	14.548	8
14	Latvia	13.048	0
15	Czech Republic	8.810	-2
16	England	8.476	2
17	Italy	7.333	-1
18	Poland	7.024	2
19	Denmark	6.667	-2
20	Japan	6.619	-5
21	Slovenia	6.571	-2
22	Lithuania	5.048	2
23	Turkey	4.476	0
24	Israel	2.381	-2
25	Chinese Taipei	1.286	0

WOMEN'S

	Member Association	Points	+ / -
1	Sweden	81.569	0
2	Korea	65.907	4
3	Canada	63.382	-1
4	Switzerland	59.559	1
5	Japan	56.520	2
6	Russia	55.588	-2
7	Scotland / Great Britain	50.098	-4
8	United States of America	45.441	0
9	China	40.147	0
10	Denmark	27.059	0
11	Czech Republic	19.593	0
12	Germany	19.338	0
13	Italy	13.284	0
14	Finland	12.627	0
15	Latvia	10.186	2
16	Norway	9.461	-1
17	Turkey	8.980	2
18	Hungary	8.873	-2
19	Estonia	8.863	-1
20	England	7.235	0
21	Hong Kong	6.716	8
22	New Zealand	5.824	-1
23	Lithuania	5.804	7
24	Poland	5.706	-1
25	Spain	5.167	2

MEN'S

	Member Association	Points	+ / -
1	Sweden	89.020	0
2	Canada	75.980	0
3	United States of America	71.029	0
4	Switzerland	65.196	0
5	Scotland / Great Britain	52.059	0
6	Japan	44.118	1
7	Norway	40.392	-1
8	Korea	35.343	0
9	Italy	34.461	1
10	Denmark	24.520	-1
11	Russia	19.412	1
12	Germany	18.578	1
13	China	18.358	-2
14	Netherlands	16.951	1
15	Finland	12.333	-1
16	Czech Republic	8.863	0
17	Austria	8.784	0
18	Poland	8.324	2
19	Latvia	7.461	-1
20	Slovakia	7.147	-1
21	New Zealand	7.039	1
22	England	6.922	1
23	Israel	6.299	1
24	Chinese Taipei	5.985	3
25	Spain	5.696	3

MIXED DOUBLES

	Member Association	Points	+ / -
1	Canada	84.608	0
2	Switzerland	66.569	0
3	United States of America	47.721	4
4	Norway	46.814	-1
5	China	46.152	-1
6	Russia	39.118	0
7	Korea	39.049	-2
8	Sweden	34.422	2
9	Finland	32.230	-1
10	Czech Republic	25.941	1
11	Japan	21.902	2
12	Scotland / Great Britain	21.029	0
13	Australia	19.069	9
14	Estonia	17.740	0
15	Hungary	17.451	-6
16	Turkey	12.529	0
17	England	11.559	2
18	Italy	11.490	-3
19	Spain	9.578	-2
20	Latvia	8.863	-2
21	New Zealand	7.113	3
22	Denmark	6.539	-1
23	Austria	6.520	-3
24	Slovakia	6.132	-1
25	Belarus	5.784	2

The Way Forward:

COMPETITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



In 2018, existing staff members Eeva Röthlisberger and Scott Arnold took up the new roles of Head of Competitions and Head of Development. One season in, both Eeva and Scott are convinced their redeployments make sense from a curling point of view and are having fun fulfilling their duties.

Eeva said, "I've enjoyed this new role. There are a lot of new challenges but it's definitely something I like doing." Asked to name a highlight she said, "The one thing that was great this season was that we've been able to use an Olympic facility again", referring to the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2018 being staged at the Gangneung Curling Centre, the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games curling venue.

During the season there have been changes, one of which was the introduction of the new World Qualification Event. About that Eeva said, "It's hard to say after just one season that the World Qualification Event is the way forward. We need to see it take place a couple more times before we can make a judgement. However, it does give more countries the chance to make it to the world championships."

This season also saw a record entry at the World Mixed Doubles. Eeva said, "Mixed doubles is definitely going the right way. The rule changes we made have improved the discipline and I feel we should stick with what we have now before we change any more. It is a great addition to the calendar. I haven't heard anything negative about our changes. Hopefully, we'll improve the top teams and also motivate the middle teams to do more to get to that level."



Eeva has led a review of all the season's competitions and about that she said, "One of the struggles we often have is finding enough officials. However, the officials we do have are amazing. They are willing to take on extra tasks to make everything work. Simply, we just can't run an event without volunteers."

Looking forward, Eeva added, "One big point coming up is eight ends versus ten ends. That's a big debate and I'm not sure which way it will go yet. We're now studying ten-end games to try to be ready with information and analysis. But, we also need to consider existing contracts with broadcasters and others. However, it's a vital discussion to figure out what the goal is."

Scott Arnold shares Eeva's enthusiasm for their new roles. He said, "It's been fantastic. It's given me the chance to delve deep into the development side, which we really haven't had dedicated time to do in the past."

He explained further, "I've been able to look at things in a different light. The Member Associations have been really forthcoming in giving us information to try to help us help them – that has been key. Struggles that Member Associations have with their own development seems to be consistent across the board. The size of the Member Association doesn't matter, they've all got similar difficulties and I think we're starting to address those now."

During the season, the World Curling Federation established a partnership with the World Academy of Sport and a new World Curling Academy is being developed, mainly through online education. Scott said,

"I've been studying different online education platforms. The World Academy of Sport has been a great partner, they've given us expertise from different sports to get us started. Now we have curriculum advisory groups in three different areas – for officials, ice technicians and coaches."

He added, "A new World Curling Academy website is nearly ready to go. The platform is developed and now it's a matter of getting the courses online. We're hoping that these tools will help Member Associations."

"I've been really happy with the way the Member Associations have taken to the fact that we're starting to help them with their needs and development. They've come open armed and ready to collaborate in the process."





The Way Forward:

LOOK AHEAD

In the upcoming season, we will be visiting new arenas and communities as well as re-establishing connections with some of our traditional homes.

For example, while we have had many events staged in Russia, we have not yet taken an event to Krasnoyarsk in Siberia. This city was an outstanding host of the 2018 Winter Universiade, so our World Junior Curling Championships 2020 there should be memorable. Likewise, although we have been to British Columbia in Canada on several occasions, this will be a first visit to Prince George, in the north of the Province, when the next World Women's Curling Championship is staged there.

These are only two examples of our balance of new places beside better-known venues, as we try to make sure that we host our events globally. Speaking of better-known venues, it will be special in taking our LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020 to Scotland, the mother country of our sport, and Glasgow's iconic Emirates Arena.

However, our main competition focus will be on the Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, Switzerland – the Olympic capital – with Champéry staging the curling events. The future well-being of our sport and its unique values will eventually be in the hands of the athletes who will be taking part there.

Meanwhile, preparations for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing are ramping up, including the provision of a dedicated five-sheet curling facility at the Ice Cube, which will be left behind for general use – another example of curling's ability to produce Olympic legacy benefits. This comes in the wake of the Gangneung Curling Centre (2018 curling venue)



President Kate Caithness with Norway's Team Thomas Ulsrud at the Curling World Cup Grand Final. This was a final appearance for the former world champion team and their outlandish, colourful playing uniforms.

now having year round curling; Pinerolo (2004) being a centre of curling activity in Italy; Kariuzawa (1998) continuing to host major events in Japan; and the Vancouver Curling Club in Canada (2010) going from strength to strength.

As part of my role in the 2022 Beijing Games, I am honoured to chair the Internal Olympic Committee working group for ticketing, spectator experience and hospitality.

Among other curling developments in China, there is now a dedicated two-sheet facility at the Beijing Sport University. We are also looking forward to seeing two new dedicated curling facilities in America, beyond Canada and the United States, in Brazil and Mexico.

This is all clear evidence that we're really stamping our brand in global sport – now, everybody knows about curling. This is a big step forward for us, especially with so many more countries eager to get involved.

On the development side, our new partnership with the World Academy of Sport is an ambitious project, which will only improve. Our members have been asking for a long time if we can certify their officials, volunteers and ice makers, and now we will. In recent years we've been growing so much that we had to split our development and competition activities. We're beginning to reap the benefits of that move. Scott Arnold and

Eeva Roethlisberger are both doing excellent jobs in taking us forward on this twin-track.

Now, we also have established Member Associations mentoring newer members of the curling family with, for example, Sweden supporting Hungary. This is all helping us become a more professional sport, with the further benefit of improving our Federation's relationships with Member Associations.

As most people know, 2022 will be my final year as President. While I'm looking forward to the Beijing Games, we now know that my successor will have the 2026 Milan-Cortina Games to anticipate. As 2022 approaches, I'm working hard towards leaving this sport in a good place and I will commit 100 per cent effort over the coming years.

I look forward to seeing as many members of the curling family as possible in the coming season.

Kate Caithness

EVENTS CALENDAR

2019-2020 SEASON

8th World Curling Congress	Cancun, Mexico	3 - 7 September 2019
World Mixed Curling Championship 2019	Aberdeen, Scotland	12 - 19 October 2019
Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2019	Shenzhen, China	2 - 9 November 2019
Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2019	Helsingborg, Sweden	16 - 23 November 2019
World Wheelchair - B Curling Championship 2019	Lohja, Finland	27 November - 2 December 2019
World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event 2019	Greenacres, Scotland	2 - 7 December 2019
World Junior - B Curling Championships 2019	Lohja, Finland	11 - 18 December 2019
Youth Olympic Games 2020	Lausanne, Switzerland	10 - 22 January 2020
World Qualification Event 2020	Lohja, Finland	13 - 18 January 2020
World Junior Curling Championships 2020	Krasnoyarsk, Russia	15 - 22 February 2020
World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2020	Wetzikon, Switzerland	29 February - 7 March 2020
World Women's Curling Championship 2020	Prince George, Canada	14 - 22 March 2020
LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020	Glasgow, Scotland	28 March - 5 April 2020
World Senior Curling Championships 2020	Kelowna, Canada	18 - 25 April 2020
World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020	Kelowna, Canada	18 - 25 April 2020
European C-Division Curling Championships 2020		28 April - 5 May 2020

For more information about all the World Curling Federation events visit worldcurling.org/events

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