

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORLD CURLING FEDERATION
CANCUN, MEXICO
3 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2019



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Distribution of Minutes
WCF Executive Board Meetings & Annual General Assembly 2019
Cancun, Mexico

Executive Board

Kate Caithness	President
Graham Prouse	VP Americas
Hugh Millikin	VP Pacific Asia
Bent Ramsfjell	VP Europe
Toyo Ogawa	Director
Beau Welling	Director
Hew Chalmers	Director
Cathrine Lindahl	Director

Staff

Colin Grahamslaw	Secretary General
Richard Harding	Curling Development Officer
Eeva Röthlisberger	Head of Competitions
Scott Arnold	Head of Development
Cameron MacAllister	Head of Media
Chris Hamilton	Digital Media Officer
Emily Dwyer	Media Officer
Thelma Black	Financial Controller
Liz Munro	WCF Office Manager
Saskia Müller-Gastell	Projects Officer
Darrell Ell	Competitions & Development Officer
Jiri Snilil	Competitions & Development Officer
Karri Willms	Competitions & Development Officer
Rhona Howie	Logistics & Equipment Officer
Ashley Melville	IT Officer

Representatives

Bruce Crawford	Scotland	Mamanov Kanybek	Kyrgyz Republic
Bob Kelly	Scotland	Omurbekova Albina	Kyrgyz Republic
Bill Duncan	Scotland	Raimonds Vaivods	Latvia
Susan Kesley	Scotland	Ieva Krusta	Latvia
Azizullah Noori	Afghanistan	Peter Prasch	Liechtenstein
Bahara Mahboobi	Afghanistan	Marloes Fisscher	Liechtenstein
Josep Garcia	Andorra	Vygantas Zaleckas	Lithuania
Monica Lopez	Andorra	Justina Zalieckiene	Lithuania
John Anderson	Australia	Alex Benoy	Luxembourg
Kim Forge	Australia	Susanne Benoy-Göbel	Luxembourg
Marcus Schmitt	Austria	Paula Herrero Moreno	Mexico
Veronika Huber	Austria	Rodrigo Velez Escudero	Mexico
Andrei Yurkevich	Belarus	Choiжkhuu Erdenetuya	Mongolia
Inesa Pauliuchyk	Belarus	Jargalsaikhan Dorjsuren	Mongolia
Dirk Heylen	Belgium	Bea Miltenburg	Netherlands
Sarah Megens	Belgium	John Kuijpers	Netherlands
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela	Brazil	Carroll De Pape	New Zealand
Anne Akemi Shibuya	Brazil	Lorne De Pape	New Zealand
Antoaneta Dimova	Bulgaria	Daniel Damola	Nigeria
Nikolay Runtov	Bulgaria	Henrietta O. Daniel	Nigeria
Resby Coutts	Canada	Morten Soegaard	Norway
Hugh Avery	Canada	Grethe Brenna	Norway
John Shea	Canada	Dagfinn Loen	Norway
Amy Nixon	Canada	Janusz Duda	Poland
Li Dongyan	China	Beata Rek	Poland
Lei Yi	China	Joao Antonio Branco Lobo Fidalgo	Portugal
Neven Pufnik	Croatia	Isabel Gouveia	Portugal
Katarina Cadez	Croatia	Rashid Majeed Al-Sulaiti	Qatar
David Šík	Czech Republic	Rahma Khaled Al-Tahrawy	Qatar
Karolina Frederiksen	Czech Republic	Allen Coliban	Romania
Henrik Christoffersen	Denmark	Camelia Clem	Romania
Rikke Jensen	Denmark	Ekaterina Galkina	Russia
Manuel de Jesus del Carmen	Dom. Republic	Olga Andrianova	Russia
Deivilet Ramirez	Dom. Republic	Olga Zharkova	Russia
Alison Arthur	England	Konstantin Zadvornov	Russia
John Brown	England	Alastair Fyfe	Saudi-Arabia
Juuli Liit	Estonia	Elaine Fyfe	Saudi-Arabia
Fred Randver	Estonia	Marko Stojanovic	Serbia
Olli Rissanen	Finland	Dara Gravara-Stojanovic	Serbia
Katja Kiiskinen	Finland	Pavol Pitonak	Slovakia
William Naquin	France	Gregor Rigler	Slovenia
TBA	France	Marusa Gorisek	Slovenia
Zakaria Khechuashvili	Georgia	Frank Gonzalez	Spain

Nino Petelava	Georgia	Irantzu Garcia	Spain
Bernhard Mayr	Germany	Maria Davidson	Sweden
Christina Haller	Germany	Stefan Lund	Sweden
Georgios Smyrnaios	Greece	Michael Marklund	Sweden
Eva Mataranga	Greece	Jürg Wernli	Switzerland
Rayad Husain	Guyana	Freddy Meister	Switzerland
Farzana Husain	Guyana	Michael Lips	Switzerland
John Li Shek Chong	Hong Kong	Imogen Oona Lehman	Switzerland
Julie Morrison	Hong Kong	Brendon Bor-Kai Liu	Chinese Taipei
György Nagy	Hungary	Meng-Sin Yeh	Chinese Taipei
Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta	Hungary	Murat Akin	Turkey
Hallgrimur Valson	Iceland	Nurcan Demirel	Turkey
Liney Rut Halldorsdottir	Iceland	Natalia Menzhega	Ukraine
Mohd Danish	India	Alex Perevezentsev	Ukraine
Dr. Rashmi Saluja	India	Leland Rich	USA
John Burns	Ireland	Rich Lepping	USA
Carolyn Hibberd	Ireland	Jennifer Stannard	USA
Sharon Cohen	Israel	Allison Pottinger	USA
Tzipi Zipper	Israel	John F. Foster	US Virgin Islands
Eros Gonin	Italy	Claire Foster	US Virgin Islands
Angela Menardi	Italy	Adrian Meikle	Wales
Terri Johnston	Japan	Lisa Peters	Wales
Yuhei Kusui	Japan		
Tomoyoshi Kinoshita	Japan		
Viktor Kim	Kazakhstan		
Yekaterina Gorkusha	Kazakhstan		
Jin Hui Lee	Korea	All Member Associations	
Jae Hong Kim	Korea		
Fierze Bajgora	Kosovo		
Peter Andersen	Kosovo		



MINUTES of the Executive Board Meetings held in Cancún, Mexico on 2 and 3 September 2019

Attendees

Executive Board

Kate Caithness CBE (KCA)	Scotland	President
Graham Prouse (GPR)	Canada	Vice-President (Americas)
Bent Ånund Ramsfjell (BRA)	Norway	Vice President (Europe)
Hugh Millikin (HMI)	Australia	Vice-President (Pacific-Asia)
Beau Welling (BWE)	USA	Director
Hew Chalmers (HCH)	Scotland	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Japan	Director
Cathrine Lindahl (CLI)	Sweden	Director
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)		Secretary General
Eeva Röthlisberger (ERO) (partly)		Head of Competitions
Scott Arnold (SAR) (partly)		Head of Development
Cameron McAllister (CMC) (partly)		Head of Media
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)		Projects Officer/Minute taker
Liz Munro (LMU)		WCF Office Manager

Apologies

None

I. Welcome / Housekeeping

KCA welcomed everyone to Cancún. The schedule of the forthcoming days was discussed.

2. Conflict of Interest / Disclosure (CGR)

A summary of relevant Conflicts of Interest of Board members had been compiled and distributed to the Board in advance and this was now discussed.

The following conflicts of interest were added/deleted:

Hugh Millikin

Added:

- Daughter and son are playing on Australian team at PACC
- Player himself at WMxCC 2019 and WSCC 2020

Hew Chalmers

Deleted: - Member of the Board of the British Olympic Association (as of Dec 2019)

3. President's Business (KCA)

a) President's Report

The President's report is attached to these minutes.

4. IOC/BOCOG (KCA/CGR)

The President explained that she had been asked to Chair the Spectator Experience for the 2022 Beijing Olympic/Paralympic Games which included Ticketing and Hospitality. She confirmed that she wished to ensure that during the Games, tickets which had been block booked by sponsors etc. and not being utilised would become available for spectators wishing to access the games.

CGR explained that the WCF receive accreditations for Board members and their partners and staff as agreed with the IOC. Additionally, the WCF receives 12 Transferable Guest passes. These are used to provide access to representatives of the member associations. For Beijing the following process was agreed:

1. MAs asked to note interest in receiving an accreditation
2. Once these were received, 1 pass will be allocated to each MA with a team at the Games
3. If more than 12 requests are received then a ballot will be conducted to decide who receives the Accreditation
4. Once those requests have been satisfied then a second pass could be allocated to the MAs with teams at the Games on a first come first serve basis
5. MAs with no teams at the Games can be allocated tickets
6. Reps and MA Presidents with teams at the Games who do not receive an accreditation can receive a ticket
7. IF Guest accreditations cannot be allocated to spouses / partners
8. Where available spare part-used accreditations will be offered to those MAs who have reps and Presidents with tickets

At the same time MAs are requested to confirm if they are interested in booking accommodation at the IF Family Hotel. Given the challenges with this process during the 2018 Games a non-refundable deposit will be requested at this time of US\$100 per room. At any point through the process any failure to meet a deadline may result in the room being cancelled. There may also be additional points where additional deposits or payments would be required to guarantee rooms.

New for 2022 is the possibility for IFs to buy additional spaces in the OF Lounge. No price is available yet and discussion would be required as to how many spaces could be bought and whether costs could be passed onto MAs who wished additional access. From the WCF point of view it may be appropriate to have a couple of these passes available in case we wish to invite someone into the lounge for ad-hoc meetings.

In 2018 WCF purchased a batch of tickets for every draw. Whilst many of these were used many were given away last minute in PyeongChang to ensure they were used. It is difficult to estimate the numbers required per draw and how many should be bought by the WCF. We will use best efforts to minimize the number we are left holding as unless rules are changed we are not allowed to sell these tickets on and can only give them away.

The appointment of a Special Advisor was discussed. The Board agreed to appoint Li (David) Dongyan as WCF Special Advisor to actively assist WCF on site in China. David will be invited to report to the Board when required. This position will have no budget implications.

5. Anti-Doping and Medical (CGR)

a) Appointment of Hon Medical Advisor

CGR said that Dr Brian Walker had retired from his position as Chair of the TUE Committee and Hon Medical Adviser. Following discussion with Brian about potential replacement Dr Janice Harvey (CAN) had been identified. She is currently on our TUE Committee and served as our Anti-Doping Officer at the Vancouver Olympics. The Board agreed to appoint her as new Hon Medical Advisor.

b) Anti Doping Rule Changes

CGR explained that the following three rule changes would come up at the Annual General Assembly:

- Addition of the Curling World Cup to the list of International Events
- For YOG the IOC have appointed CAS as the single disciplinary process. WCF needs to acknowledge within the Anti-Doping Rules that we are willing to operate under that process.
- To replace the use of the WCF Anti-Doping Hearing Panel in the WCF Anti-Doping Rules with the CAS Anti-Doping Division; to update the Rules as appropriate to reflect this change.

The Board acknowledged that Susan Keith (WCF Anti Doping Administrator) was doing a great job.

6. Governance Report (BRA)

Consultation Policy

Based on membership requirements at the last Congress in Budapest, the Governance Commission had developed a Consultation Policy which was approved by the WCF Board.

President Succession Policy

Based on membership requirements at the last Congress in Budapest as well as the Open Meetings in Silkeborg, the Governance Commission had discussed a President Succession Policy. The suggested timetable for this change would be as follows:

- 2019 Proposal to AGA to obtain agreement to create Policy
- 2020 Policy approved by the Board
- 2021 Election of an Individual to shadow the President
- 2022 Election of President

The Board discussed the proposed policy at length. The Board felt that:

- a year-long popularity contest which by no means fits to the nature of Curling should be avoided
- it should also be avoided that potential successors make outlandish promises that cannot be kept once elected
- shadowing the current President would be difficult especially at closed meetings (e.g. IOC, etc)
- having a rotating participation of the Vice-Presidents at the Sport Accord Meetings could be an option.
- eventually there must be an election, not a coronation
- the new President has to do the job his/her way

It was agreed that the MAs should be asked for input during the break-out session where Succession Planning and Structural Review would also be a topic.

7. Forward Plan (BWE)

Eeva Röthlisberger, Scott Arnold and Cameron McAllister joined the meeting.

Beau Welling (BWE) presented the latest version of the Forward Plan that takes into consideration the feedback received during the WCF meetings in Silkeborg. The main pillars of the plan are:

- Organizational sustainability
- Engagement
- Development
- Competitions

Each Area has a Primary Goal and Identified Needs to help provide direction. The Year One and Two outcomes are suggested priorities for the Board to consider but the ability to deliver will depend on the available resources. Further actions and outcomes will be identified for future consideration.

The Board and the senior staff agreed that the plan was an excellent way forward. Since the Denmark meetings some “meat had been added to the bones”. Once the Board is happy with the overall plan the financial implications and aspects would be discussed. The plan was to have some items of the Forward Plan be discussed during the forthcoming breakout sessions.

8. World Curling Academy - WCA (SAR)

World Curling Academy

Scott Arnold (SAR) gave an update on progress so far.

WCF is currently at step 2 of 5 of the WCA Development Goals (Step 2 = Develop the required global workforce to facilitate the empowerment of the MAs). SAR presented the WCA website that is currently being constructed and explained that people that are

interested need to register to see the content. Based on the people's registration/payment they will be able to see the relevant pages of the website.

The platform is now ready to populate and matches the design of the new WCF website. The Rules Course is complete and will be updated after the upcoming Congress. At this point, it will go live. SAR presented the various other Pathways that will be offered.

Priority had been given to the First Stone Programme (FSP), Learn2Curl (L2C), Ice Tech Level I and Umpire Level I. This was determined from feedback from our partners at Curling Canada and from meetings in China. Most of the content for these courses has been completed. It will now need to be adapted to an online learning model which will take some time. All of the courses should be live in 2020.

SAR highlighted the Athlete Pathway Development Programme (cost for MAs USD 6,000) which is designed for MAs to learn during a workshop more effective ways to leverage DAP and external funds for sustainable development projects. This programme could become a prerequisite for accessing DAP in the future.

Development Assistance Programme

Approximately \$400,000 had been spent funding DAP projects last season. This was a decrease of approximately 9%. The committee had made a conscious effort to challenge the MAs to spend their money on actual development and not "sliders and brushes". Approximately 66% of the MAs took advantage of the programme and of those, only 25% spent the full \$12,000. The only country to take up the offer of 4 years of funding was Nigeria. Their plan was coordinated with the WCF to ensure an understanding for the development of the sport.

The majority of funds were spent on equipment and camps/courses (20% each) with 16% of funding going to stone and scraper contracts and 15% funding floor and street curling. Come and Try sessions accounted for 14%.

WCF had provided each MA with a summary of how they had spent their DAP over the last 4 years compared to overall world averages and detailed graph showing their participation growth since the WCF started to keep these records. All feedback from this exercise was positive and WCF will continue to provide this report annually.

9. Communications Strategy (CMC)

Cameron McAllister (CMC) explained that the World Curling Federation's Communications Strategy (Road to 2022) directs and demonstrates the activity of the organisation's media team (currently three staff members). The strategy sets out tools, resources and actions employed to help the World Curling Federation fulfil its mission which is "*To lead the worldwide curling community through the promotion and development of our unique sport and its distinctive culture and values.*"

He emphasized that the strategy runs in line with the Forward Plan and said that all the activities of the media team are designed to enhance and protect the brand of the WCF and the sport of Curling itself.

The three main goals of the WCF media team are:

- Maximize reach and engagement
- Empower Member Associations
- Sustainable and effective working

In future the media team wants to move from being reactive to being more proactive.

CMC also elaborated on the launch of the new WCF website which is now much more inviting. The process of its development was a large piece of work and took approx. 6 months. He thanked Chris Hamilton for his excellent leadership in this project. He also noted the successful launch of the new WCF Weibo Channel in China.

The Board congratulated CMC and his team for their excellent work.

10. Competitions (HMI/ERO)

a) Rules Changes and Formats

ERO elaborated on the proposals relating to changes to The Rules of Curling and Rules of Competition to be presented to the AGA and these were discussed by the Board.

ERO then presented a chart with the upcoming events for the next seasons. Hosts are still needed for the following events:

- WMxCC, PACC, ECC, WMDQE, WJBCC, WQE, WSCC/WMDCC: 2020, 2021 and 2022
- POQE, OQE and MDOQE: 2021
- WJCC, WMCC: 2022, 2023
- WWhCC and WWCC: 2023
- ECC-C: 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

The Board then discussed the advantages, disadvantages and the future of both the WMxCC and the WSCC as well as the costs involved for both events. With lack of hosts in the future these events might not be continued. Also, both the WMxCC and the WSCC as well as all the junior flights that WCF covers for both the WJBCC and the WJCC are a substantial cost. The possibility of charging entry fees for all or some WCF events was discussed as well. The Board also spoke about the possibility of licensing the WMxCC and the WSCC and perhaps change the titles of these events (deleting the word “championship”). The Board agreed to discuss this further at its next meeting.

The President showed a short video on the Winter World Masters Games 2020 to take place in Innsbruck, AUT. In January 2020 more than 3,000 athletes will gather in Tyrol to compete in twelve sports (Curling to take place in Kitzbühel). Any team can participate as they are not playing under their own flag. Brochures will be handed out during the Open Meetings.

11. Curling World Cup (KCA/BRA)

Following the announcement of the ending of the CWC the WCF had received approaches from two MA's (RUS and CAN) about potentially keeping the event going this coming season. Additionally, Beijing Sports Bureau had indicated their willingness to host the Grand Finals again. All three were sent information regarding the support WCF would see as necessary to continue with the CWC. This included the LOC taking on more responsibilities and potentially also proving a hosting fee in exchange for more of the marketing rights. The responses were not as positive as hoped, but in two cases willingness has been indicated to take on more of the costs without a hosting fee being offered.

The Board discussed if WCF should make a quick CWC comeback still this season or use the coming year to develop a more sustainable business concept and come back stronger in the near future. The Board agreed that the CWC was a great event pulled together from nothing and both the players and the media were happy about it. Unfortunately, the WCF had problems with the sponsor, but agreed that the concept is not dead. The Board agreed to "press the pause button" for the present.

The operational evaluation report put together by Jorge Vazquez and Uli Kapp is a legacy for the next CWC but also for other events and is a very valuable document that will be used by the WCF for any future CWC.

12. Finance and Budget (CGR)

Final accounts

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 IOC when they confirmed that the revenues received from the 2018 Olympic Winter Games had returned to the level received from the Vancouver Games after reducing slightly in 2014. There was also a tremendous result from the WMCC 2019 held in Lethbridge, Canada which delivered a WCF share of surplus in excess of US\$400,000.

These positives offset an overspend in the new World Cup and allowed investments to be made into the setting up of the new World Curling Academy and the development of new electronic handles which are also being designed to be ready to incorporate other new electronics to enhance the understanding of the sport.

The retained reserves sit at around US\$8.74m. The WCF have a policy to aim to hold around 18 months operating capital in reserve, excluding the operations of the Curling World Cup reserves are currently sitting at around 14 months operating funds.

Budget

Budgeting for the coming season is a challenging exercise given the continuing volatility in the foreign exchange markets. No attempt is made to anticipate potential future trends and budgets are based on exchange rates at this time. Until the Board approves a new Forward Strategy the budget has been based on the same priorities as previous seasons.

There are two major changes to the budget since it was approved by the Board in Silkeborg: WCF has received more IOC money and the Curling World Cup was removed.

The Board discussed the ongoing commitment to Curling Night in America and felt it was important to ensure the other partners were also on board before fully committing to the

project. It was agreed to speak with the USCA and NBC to find out not only their commitment to the project but also what USOPC were thinking at this time.

13. Technical Commission (TOG)

TOG gave an update on the work of the Technical Commission.

The first Commission Meeting had taken place on 25 and 26 June 2019 at Greenacres, SCO. At that meeting the commission's tasks were reviewed and priorities were set. Working groups were formed on

- Manual on how to build a curling rink
- Technical Site Visit Manual
- Educational Programmes

The next meeting of the Technical Commission will take place right after the WMCC 2020 at Glasgow, SCO.

14. World Team Ranking List (CGR)

CGR explained that following the meetings in Silkeborg matters relating to the opportunity for the WCF to take on the World Team Ranking List had moved ahead.

Agreement in principle had been reached with Gerry Geurts of CurlingZone and a detailed letter of agreement had been developed. Armin Harder of the WCT had indicated that they would not prevent Gerry from working with WCF.

The plan is to move forward with the lists using the points allocations as agreed already by the various partners for the coming season as it has already started. At this congress WCF will begin the process of consulting on what changes should be made to the ranking list moving forward and any changes would be adopted by 30 June for the start of the following season. This would include not only changes to points allocations but also which events are included. The ultimate decision on both of these rests with the WCF.

In addition to the first process of consultation at this year's Congress a formal consultation process will be developed to provide feedback on an ongoing basis. This would include seeking opinions from the MA's, the Athletes and others that use the ranking list such as the World Curling Tour and the Slams. This feedback would come back to the WCF, who can either set up a small group to review and make final recommendations (eg one from C&R, one from AC and one from Board) or just put the responsibility to the C&R. The ultimate aim would be for every curling event in the world to be eligible for earning points for the World Team List.

An announcement will be made during Congress that WCF is taking on the production of the Team Ranking Lists and they will be added to the new WCF website.

15. Congress Programme / AGA Presentations (CGR)

The Board discussed in detail the programme of the forthcoming days as well as the procedure for the breakout sessions.

16. Post AGA Items

The following event attendance was agreed:

WMxCC	KCA (OPEN); BR (CLOSE)
PACC	KCA; HMI; TOG
ECC	KCA (OPEN); BRA (CLOSE); CLI; HCH
AC	GPR; BWE depending on final dates
YOG	Potential Board meeting at YOG
WJCC	KCA
WWhCC	KCA
WWCC	KCA; GPR
WMCC	ALL
WMDCC	KCA; GPR

Other Events

Beijing Ice Test	TOG
Regional Sport Accord	Potentially BWE to join KCA

Update on Poland

Following a meeting with the Polish representatives a final demand for action will be made outlining the points that must be rectified.

There will be a clear timeline identified for this and at the end of this period a report on the actions will be made to the Board who can then consider what further action, including the potential for suspension, should be considered.

Finance Commission

One application had been received for the Finance Commission from the USA for Leland Rich. The Board agreed to appoint Leland to the Commission.

USCA

The Board were updated on the meeting with the Chair and Interim CEO of USCA. It was agreed that support for the 2020/21 CNiA should be offered but is contingent on the support of the other partners in the project including NBC and USOPC.

New Member Applications

The Board accepted the applications for conditional membership from Dominican Republic, India and Kuwait. Notification will be provided to the MA's and the new members.

Any Other Business

In response to the discussions at the Breakout Session it was agreed that the group looking at the future structure should be a stand-alone group with representation from the Governance Commission to ensure that the day to day work of the Commission was not overshadowed.

HMI updated the Board on a project he was working on to provide basic web-streaming coverage from the WMxCC. It was noted this was not an official WCF project.

It was noted that during the Americas Zone the issue of how the WCF incorporates its values into its hosting and other decisions was raised. It was agreed this would need further review.

The Board discussed the structure of future Board meetings. It was agreed to consider organising the next one, scheduled for during YOG, as 3 half days rather than a day and a half to see if this was a more efficient way of delivering the business.

It was noted that discussions with potential clothing sponsors are ongoing and if no decision was reached by the end of October then alternative arrangements would need to be put in place for the remainder of the season.



MINUTES of the Open Meetings held in Cancún, Mexico on 4 and 5 September 2019

Open Meetings Day I

The President welcomed the delegates with the following speech:

“Welcome Everyone to our 8th Congress!

This is really an exciting time for our great sport with so much happening. You will hear today how hard our staff have been working over the past twelve months to develop and promote our sport and the exciting plans for the future.

Curling is the buzz word internationally with so many more countries wishing to introduce our sport and become part of this great curling family. I had a private meeting in Lausanne earlier this year with the IOC President Thomas Bach who is very happy with where we are going - long may this continue.

Following on from Silkeborg where the interaction we the Board and staff had with you our members. was first class and the feedback from yourselves gave us the confidence to know that we are on the right track.

Now over the next couple of days this is your turn to interact with us once more and let's work together to ensure we continue this partnership

I look forward to hearing from you and as always my door is open should you wish to discuss any issue or plans you may have for the future. Together we can ensure the continued interest in our sport at all levels.

Thank you”

Competition and Rules – Competition Formats (HMI)

Hugh Millikin (HMI) informed the delegates who the members of the Competition & Rules Commission are and explained the principles of the C&R commission as well as the process for rule changes. He emphasized that the commission only proposes rule changes but does not make a final decision on these.

WMDCC

HMI elaborated on the format of the future World Mixed Doubles Championship (20 teams)

& World Mixed Doubles Qualifying Event (open entry – qualifying 4 teams for next WMDCC). He also presented an indicative draw of the future WMDCC.

Qualification for Olympic Winter Games

Men and Women:

The OQE has been a great success and with the addition of a Pre-Olympic Qualification (Pre-OQE) event for Women and Men and a potential MD OQE, a relook at the structure and qualification process had been undertaken by the C&R at the meeting in Las Vegas in January 2019.

The Pre-OQE format will be as follows:

- Open to all MAs which have competed in a qualification event for the M/W WCC in the quadrennial.
- MAs would enter if they have not already qualified directly to the WOG or directly to the OQE
- Two teams from the Pre-OQE qualify for the OQE
- System of play is based on number of entries and number of sheets available (could be knock-out or group based system)
- Number of entries could vary from 3-35

Regarding the OQE the C&R Commission is recommending an 8-team format.

Mixed Doubles:

The recommendations of the C&R Commission are as follows:

- Run immediately prior to or following the W/M OQE at the same venue
- OQE with 16 teams
 - No requirement for a Pre-OQE
 - High quality event for teams and broadcasters
 - Most WMDCC participants would qualify for the OQE
 - Draw size certainty
 - Maximum venue options
 - 15 teams from points + Host
- Point system modified for 20 team WMDCC
- Qualification system remains uses 2 years results prior to OWG

The following comment were made/questions were asked:

- It was requested that presentations be sent out immediately after Congress. HMI confirmed that this could be done.
- Have the various qualification systems and qualification time frames of other winter sports been studied? Have the athletes been asked or surveyed about the proposed changes? HMI confirmed that both the MD working group and the Athlete Commission had discussed the topic at length.
- Has a study been made right now or is it a very limited number of people involved in the decision making process? CGR explained that the IOC qualification system gives you a set of principles to work to. These obviously vary between the sports as there

are individual and team sports. The major input here came from the Athlete Commission. Athletes were not surveyed but the information was sent to all MAs who had this information for a number of months and WCF expects from its MAs that they speak to their athletes and get a feedback as well. WCF feels comfortable that there were enough possibilities for consultation.

Competition and Rules – Rulebook Changes (ERÖ)

CGR explained that at the forthcoming AGA rule changes that everyone agrees on will be voted together as a single unit. The WCF's legal advisors had indicated that they are happy with the WCF doing it like this. Prior to the Congress MAs were asked to identify rules that discussion should take place on. These would be discussed now.

ERÖ presented the following proposed rule changes where either an amendment had been received, where the wording was improved or where MAs had wished to have a discussion:

Sweeping R7

Currently we see a lot of skips / vice-skips doing "housekeeping" before their planned shot. The rule R7 (b) says, that a stationary stone must be set in motion before it can be swept. By the time the delivered stone reaches the house, the cleaning of the ice surface in this manner will not influence the stones (the heat will not stay on the ice), except it has helped with debris removal.

We recommend to add to the rule:

The person in charge of the house may clean the ice inside the hog line at the playing end prior to the delivery of the next stone.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment – Royal Caledonian Curling Club:

To clarify what is and is not allowed in terms of "housekeeping" not just in the house we suggest that the new rule instead states:

All players may clean the playing surface prior to the delivery of the next stone.

CGR explained that the timeline was too short for the C&R or the Athlete Commission to also discuss the proposed amendment of the RCCC. Asked about the process of making decisions within the two above mentioned commission it was asked if the commissions are actually voting for or against motions during their meetings. ERÖ explained that all requests for rule changes are collected and sent to every C&R commission member as well as to Nolan Thiessen who is representing the Athlete Commission (AC). Feedback is then provided by every single member of both commissions and each member sends in his "vote". The majority of votes then counts as to whether a motion is supported or not.

Wheelchair Curling R13 (b)

The rule says, that stones are delivered from a stationary wheelchair. It is not mentioned what the penalty is, if this rule is broken.

Add to the rule R13 (a): **If a violation occurs, the stone will be removed from play.**

NOTE:

This proposal is being withdrawn as upon further reflection it is felt that R13(f) covers the penalty.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Wheelchair Curling R13 (b)

The current rule states:

When the stone is delivered between the outermost edge of the top of the house and the hog line at the delivery end, **the chair must be positioned** so that at the start of the delivery the entire width of the stone is within the wheelchair lines.

When the rule was written, there was no pull-back in wheelchair curling and the issue that we need to rule on is the position of the stone not the position of the chair.

We recommend to change the rule R13 (b) to: When the stone is delivered between the outermost edge of the top of the house and the hog line at the delivery end, **the entire width of the stone** must be within the wheelchair lines **upon release**.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment 1 – Royal Caledonian Curling Club:

The RCCC believe that the important point to be considered is the start of the delivery not the point of release so the rule should read:

When the stone is delivered between the outermost edge of the top of the house and the hog line at the delivery end, **the entire width of the stone** must be within the wheelchair lines **at the start of the delivery**.

Amendment 2 – Royal Caledonian Curling Club supported by Competition and Rules Commission

The full text of R13(b) includes another reference to the position of the Wheelchair in the first sentence. This should also be removed:

When the stone is delivered between the hack and the outermost edge of the top of the house at the delivery end, the chair must be positioned so that at the start of the delivery the stone is positioned on the centre line.

Bruce Crawford elaborated on the proposed amendments. No further questions were asked.

Mixed Doubles charts R15 (Page 24 and 25)

If you install the power-play markings in metric measurements, as per the chart, then they are not in a straight line. And measuring with multiple numbers after the comma, is simply not possible. **We therefore feel the metric amounts should be removed from both Mixed Doubles charts.**

NOTE: This proposal is being withdrawn to allow a more in-depth review of the consistent use of metric and imperial measurements in the rulebook.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Equipment C3 (e)

The rule currently says as a penalty: If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device the stone shall be removed from play.

The following might happen: A skip is delivering with a hair-brush. She is back in the head for the opponent's skip to play the last stone of an end. – The stone is travelling down the ice when she realises, that the shot is not perfect but also realises, that she cannot sweep with the hair-brush. She therefore grabs the brush from the Vice Skip to try and sweep out the opponents played stone.

By the rule that stone needs to be removed, but that is definitely wrong. If we remove that stone, we are penalising the non-offending team.

We believe the rule should be changed and a new sentence added:
Penalty: If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device **one of their own stones**, that stone should be removed from play. **If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device a stone belonging to the opponent, the stone should be replaced by the non-offending team where it would have come to rest, had the violation not occurred.**

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment – Royal Caledonian Curling Club

The RCCC feel it would add clarity to this rule by making it clear that the non-offending team place the stone where "it judges" it would have come to rest so it would read:

Penalty: If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device **one of their own stones**, that stone should be removed from play. **If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device a stone belonging to the opponent, the stone should be replaced by the non-offending team where it judges it would have come to rest, had the violation not occurred.**

No questions were asked.

World Mixed Doubles Events

World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC)

This needs to be updated as we now have a limited number of teams at the WMDCC and an additional event (WMDQE).

World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC)

- **20 teams ... 16 teams from the Associations which qualified from the previous WMDCC + 4 teams from the Associations which qualified through the World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event (WMDQE).**
- **Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top three teams in each group.**

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st in each group get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each group play in qualification games (A2 v B3 and B2 v A3). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals, with the 1st ranked team playing the lowest ranked winner (e.g. – 6th) and the 2nd

ranked team playing the other team. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game , the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.
Relegation: The bottom 2 MAs from each group will be relegated to the WMDQE in the following season.

World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event (WMDQE)

- Open to teams from Associations that have not already qualified for the next WMDCC. Four Member Associations will qualify from this event.
- The format of this "open" entry event is worked out to give every team the chance to win the event and to play as many games as possible.
- **Play-off System:** If there are fewer than 16 teams entered, there will be no play-off games played. The top 4 teams after a single round robin will qualify for the next WMDCC.
If the number of entries is more than 16, 8 teams will qualify for the play-offs. A double knock-out system will be used to qualify the 4 teams for the next WMDCC.
- The World Curling Federation reserves the right to adjust the system of play depending on the number of entries and the sheets of ice available.

At the same time we need to also remove the charts on page 52 and 53.

There are two amendments from the RCCC:

Amendment 1 – Royal Caledonian Curling Club

The RCCC feel that as there are two different groups to be consistent with other WCF events (ECC-B) there should be cross-over games for relegation. So the system should be:
Relegation: the bottom MAs from each group (A10 and B10) will be relegated to the WMDQE in the following season. There will be play-off games A8 v B9 and B8 v A9 where the losers of these games will be relegated to the WMDQE in the following season.

Amendment 2 – Royal Caledonian Curling Club supported by C&R

It is felt that in the description of the format it is not clear that fitting in as many games as possible is not the only criteria that should be considered. There is also the practical considerations such as size of venue and number of days of competition. Therefore, the wording should be:

- The format of this "open" entry event is worked out to give every team the chance to win the event and to play as many games as possible and practicable.

Bruce Crawford elaborated on the proposed amendments. No further questions were asked.

Qualification – World Championships Men & Women – Clarification on not taken slots within each zone

Right now only within the European Zone it is clearly written, what happens if an MA chooses not to accept their place at the WQE. That should be added to all zones:

Add to the Pacific-Asia Zone:

If an MA chooses not to accept its place at the WQE, then the slot will be offered to the next highest placed MA from the PACC.

Add to the Americas Zone:

If an MA chooses not to accept its place at the WQE, then the slot will be offered to the next highest placed MA from the Americas Challenge.

Also – add at the very end – who would be playing the WQE, should there be no more MAs within a zone. Our recommendation is to add:

In the event that one of the regions cannot fill up their teams at the WQE, the next highest team not already qualified in the official World Ranking will qualify for the WQE.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Hugh Avery (CAN) questioned whether the World Ranking system now that it is being added to the rulebook had ever been adopted as the official WCF World Ranking System? If not, it was suggested that this be done. ERÖ explained that the term World Ranking had already been used in the rule book and the rule (see page 43) had already been applied.

John Brown (ENG) added that it should not be the next team who qualifies but the next MA.

Canada agreed that the motion be put back into the main voting block and there was no need to vote on it separately.

Olympic and Pre-Olympic Qualification Events

This section of the rule-book needs updated with the new event formats.

Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) – Men & Women

- 8 teams for each gender... 1 team from the Host National Olympic Committee (NOC) + 5 teams from the NOCs which gained the most qualification points from the two previous Men's and Women's World Curling Championships but have not already qualified for the Olympic Games + 2 teams from the 2 NOCs qualified from the Pre-Olympic Qualification Event (Pre-OQE).
- Teams placed in one group, playing a round robin to establish the top three ranked teams.

Play-off System: 1 v 2 – winner qualifies their NOC for the Olympic Winter Games. The loser of the 1v2 game will then play the 3rd team. The winner of that game also qualifies their NOC for the Olympic Winter Games.

Pre-Olympic Qualification Event (Pre-OQE) – Men & Women

- Open to all Associations / Federations who have competed in a qualification event for the Men's / Women's World Championship in the quadrennial.
- ~~2 teams of each gender will qualify their NOC for the OQE.~~ MA teams will play to qualify their NOC for the last two spaces in the OQE, for each gender.
- The format of these "open" entry events are worked out to give every team the chance to qualify their NOC for the OQE. Teams will be advised of the playing system in the Team Meeting Documents, prior to the start of play.

- The World Curling Federation reserves the right to adjust the system of play depending on the number of entries and the sheets of ice available.

Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) – Mixed Doubles

- 16 teams ... 1 team from the Host National Olympic Committee (NOC) + 15 teams from the NOCs which gained the most qualification points from the two previous World Curling Championships but have not already qualified for the Olympic Games.
- ~~2 teams will qualify their NOC for the Olympic Winter Games. MA teams will play to qualify their NOC for the last two spaces in the OQE, for each gender. (Must read: Olympic Winter Games)~~
- The format of this event is worked out to give every team a chance to qualify their NOC for the OWG. Teams will be advised of the playing system in the Team Meeting Document, prior to the start of play.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Rule changes proposed by Member Associations

Motion I from Norwegian Curling Association

New Rule:

C7. TEAM TIME-OUTS / TECHNICAL TIME-OUTS

- (a) Team time-outs will be allowed at all WCF events, with or without time clocks being used.
- (b) Each team may call one 60 second team time-out during each game and one 60 second team time-out in each extra end.
- (c) Procedures for a team time-out are as follows:
 - (i) **Only the players on the ice may call a team time-out.**
 - (ii) **Team time-outs may be called by any on-ice team player only when that team's game clock is running. Players signal a team time-out by using a "T" hand signal.**
 - (iii) **A team time-out (when the game clock is stopped) starts as soon as the time-out is called and lasts for 60 seconds.**
 - (iv) **The team is notified when there are 10 seconds remaining in the team time-out.**
- (d) A technical time-out may be called by a team to request a ruling, for an injury or in other extenuating circumstances. Game clocks will be stopped during technical time-outs.

Morten Soegaard (NOR) said that this was an attempt to make the games more compressed.

Motion II from Norwegian Curling Association

Norwegian Curling Association hereby propose to change the rules regarding the length of the games, i.e. C5 in the Rules of Competition, and other documents (team meeting documents, etc.) where the number of ends are regulated.

In short, our proposal is to change the length of the games from 10 to 8 ends in championships organized by WCF.

Currently 8 ends are the rule for Wheelchair Curling, Mixed Curling, and Mixed Double. If the new proposed rule is accepted, these rules can be deleted in “The Rules of Curling”, since 8 ends will apply for all championships.

For other championships organized by WCF “The Rules of Curling and Rules of Competition” do not have a specific paragraph stating the number of ends to be played. The only other paragraph speaking about the length of the games is C5 in “Rules of Competition” and this must to be changed.

Morten Soegaard (NOR) spoke about the following reasons for this motion:

- The game will be more compact and exciting to the audience and attract new people,
- The feedback from the athletes are for most parts favorable towards 8 ends,
- The curling season keeps expanding and is now approx. 9 months long, giving the top athletes very little time for recovery and could cause more chronic injuries. Shorter games will help ease the physical pressure,
- Shorter games will make the game more interesting for TV, streaming and other online media,
- We believe that in the long run curling will become more valuable to the sponsors. The shortening of the game might hurt sponsors revenue sort time, but in the long run that will be more than offset by a higher number of viewers,
- Competing sport are continuously developing their games and curling need to the same to stay competitive.

The following implementation was proposed:

We (NOR) are fully aware of the fact that there are several factors that need to be managed in order to implement the new rule including stakeholders. However, WCF and the MA's have the full responsibility for developing the sport and manage the stakeholder – not the other way around.

NCF's proposal is to change the rule at the 2019 Congress and implement the new rule as soon as possible championship by championship and in no case later than from the start of the season in 2021 (i.e. from August 2021). That would allow enough time to both manage the stakeholders (e.g. broadcasters, athletes, sponsors, media, etc.) and to honor already signed contractual commitments.

As a secondary option we are positive to a stepped implementation approach, if it would make it easier for WCF to implement the new rule:

Step 1: Implement the new rule for all round robin games from the coming season,
Step 2: Implement the new rule for the playoff next season or the contractual commitments allow, but in no case later than from August 2021.

Further, we ask the Congress to task the board of WCF to work with IOC to convince them to implement the same rule in the Olympics.

Resby Coutts (CAN) asked if the discussion on this rule proposal could be deferred until after the presentation of the Maximizing the Value Project? This was agreed.

Motion from Austrian Curling Association

Marcus Schmitt (AUT) presented the following motion:

Ref: Rules of Competition C3 Uniforms/Equipment (a)

We (AUT) understand the intention of the 30/70 rule was well-meant, but actually the rule seems to be unsatisfactory for all parties involved. We therefore think it is necessary to change to the “old” rule in a first step, and clarify that undershirts are not covered by the policy to ensure a consistent application of rules to all teams.

In a second step, we would ask the WCF to investigate for alternative possibilities to “match” the stone colours to the teams. We were wondering if the handle of the stones could show the flag of the nation playing. Instead of aligning the colour of the shirts with the colour of the handles, handles could be marked according to the playing teams. This would have one more advantage: When the position of stones in the house is shown on TV, for inexperienced viewers it is hard to identify what teams are playing and which team is shot. If stones would carry some kind of “identification”, the situation would be easier to understand. We don’t know if such an identification is possible, however we would ask the WCF to take the idea into account.

He added that a lot of suppliers do not even have a collection with a yellow or white jacket that fulfils this 70% rule. Austria had been very happy with the rule as it was before (uniforms had to be predominantly white or yellow). For the smaller nations it is a huge financial issue to buy new uniforms.

ERÖ informed the delegates that apps are now used to analyse the uniforms.

Wheelchair Mixed Doubles presentation

CGR explained that during the World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Stirling WCF had been approached by a group of athletes and coaches about the potential for adding a new wheelchair discipline in Mixed Doubles. We asked the group to put more information together and to make a presentation here at the Congress so that the delegates could have a look at it and discuss with their MAs. CGR emphasized that there will not be any decision taken at the 2019 Congress but the forthcoming presentation would only be information on a potential new discipline. He invited Patrick McDonald (PMC) to give the presentation.

PMC pointed out that compared to able-body Curlers the wheelchair Curlers only have one event per season in which they can participate. Therefore, during the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2019 in Stirling, Scotland the idea of a possible Wheelchair Mixed Doubles discipline was introduced to the WCF Board, players and specialists by the coach of Team Russia, Anton Batugin. Investigations were made during the World Championship, and a real full tournament was planned to be held in July. Anton Batugin and WCF Athlete Commission member and former skip of Team USA Patrick McDonald started to organize this test event in which eventually 10 teams from 10 countries participated. These 10 pairs were registered within the first hours after the tournament had been announced and the organizers had to decline entries from many other pairs. Moreover, the tournament was in the off-season and during holiday time.

The following things were tested at the event:

Methods of the delivery when only 2 wheelchair players are on ice

- NO HELP FROM BEHIND AND WITH SKIP'S BRUSH: 75% of participated players could do it
- WITH HELP FROM BEHIND AND WITHOUT SKIP'S BRUSH: 100% of participated players could do it
- With help of volunteer or coach (The person who helps must be experienced and physically strong enough / Players wished to “trust” this person, not ready to let this person help if they don’t know him/her.)

Game time

Thinking time:

- First games were from 19 to 22 minutes per team (players didn’t care about the time)
- Next sessions were faster – from 17 minutes of thinking time.
- Players agreed that 19 minutes should be ok for the beginning

Attractiveness for players and spectators

The players noted that Mixed Doubles is:

- More active for players
- More socialized than for 4-players team
- Communication is closer during the game
- Easier to find players to build a team
- Easier to find money and hotel rooms
- More tactical, both players have to think

All players wished to continue to play Mixed Doubles. They also would like to play on official level: World Championships and Paralympic Games.

The President expressed her thanks to Patrick McDonald. She explained that if the WCF would like to take this event forward a decision would need to be taken at next year’s Congress to have the first World Championship in 2021.

Maximising the Value of Curling as a sports property

Graham Prouse presented to the MA’s an outline for an in depth review of the way curling works as a sports property.

He noted that in recent years, there has been increasingly passionate discussion about the merits of 10 ends versus 8 ends for championship curling. Discussion has been mostly about length of game but pace of play has become an important part of the debate, especially with the growth of mixed doubles curling and the pace at which that discipline is played. There are evenly-split, strongly-held views on both length of game and pace of play as demonstrated by the results of the recent WCF Athlete Commission survey. We know that if we reduce the number of ends for Championship curling, it won’t be possible to go back, even if it turns out to be a poor decision.

Therefore, we believe it is imperative that we properly consider the consequences of reducing the number of ends in a championship curling game before we take a decision. But instead of focusing solely on length of game and pace of play we see an opportunity to use this process

to maximise the overall value for the sport. By taking this approach, the downstream impact of any changes will be much better understood and the answers to the length of game questions will become much clearer.

It was proposed to set up a Working Group that will involve all three WCF Vice-President, WCF Member Associations (Representatives and staff), elite athletes (to be identified by WCF Athlete Commission) and the WCF staff.

The WCF Member Associations were introduced to this project in June 2019. It is the aim to give a first interim report in the fall of 2019 and a further presentation to the MAs during the Open Meetings at the WMCC 2020 at Glasgow. At the 2020 World Curling Congress detailed findings will be presented to all MAs and further conclusions and recommendations will be presented during the 2021 Open Meetings. The project is to be finalized at the WCF Congress 2021.

The following comments were made/questions were asked:

- We should not try and find a solution if we have not identified what the problem is. Does the WCF feel that this process is good enough to accomplish a decision on the discussion of 8v10 ends? GPR: Yes, absolutely. We will start with an analysis of the situation and use this as a basis for further discussion.
- Has there been a thought as to whether WCF moves all events to 8 ends or is it possible that there are some events with 8 and some with 10 ends? GPR: This will be discussed as part of the process. There are other sports who have different rules for different events or genders.
- Has there been any thought as to whether the number of the teams change when we move from 10 to 8 ends? GPR: Everything that has to do with competitions is fed to the C&R Commission and I anticipate that this commission will look as to whether this is appropriate or not.
- Will this process encompass the strategy around the World Cup as well? Is the WCF looking at the bundle of events that it offers to the world or is this a separate discussion? GPR: This is probably more of a parallel discussion. The CWC is already an 8-end event and as the CWC is part of our business I am sure there will be room to work alongside and incorporate that perspective.
- The change from 10 to 8 ends is overdue. WCF is now talking about a process of over two years and we have already had this discussion for decades. Why do we need to discuss two years on a subject that is well understood and well tested in top competitions. The process itself has the right elements and the right stakeholders but we should make a decision this week because we need to make the game more exciting and less predictable. GPR: When we first looked at the process we tried to have it completed within a year and it was felt it would be rushed. One issue is for example the discussions with the broadcast partners. It will be a challenge to get them engaged and understand what their wishes, needs and concerns are. We want the athletes to better understand what the ramifications of the business side of this are. It takes a lot of time to properly consult and package the information. CGR added that there is in fact a split opinion. Looking at social media polls the votes are quite tight. Every margin is tiny and this reflects the discussion in this room. Also, two thirds of the votes are needed to make a rule change. This process hopefully allows the WCF to come back and present an overwhelming set of evidence to allow the members to chose one way

or the other. Nolan Thiessen (Athlete Commission) confirmed that the split is currently approx. 45/55. We need to make our sport more compelling and we have to find out how this can be achieved. A Wimbledon final of 5 hours would not necessarily be more compelling if it were shorter.

- Having now 13 teams at the Worlds we also need to think of the athletes. 10 end games are exhausting for them with now more teams in the field.
- We need a two third majority to be able to pass a rule change. If the margins on social media are really that small we will never get this majority. Therefore, we should now at the start of the process make a commitment to honour the findings of the working group. The working group might come up with a strong proposal for one way or the other but then there is still a chance that the rule change is not passed. We should therefore at the start of the next Congress agree that we will accept the findings of the working group as long as they have a clear majority.

Finance

2018 – 2019

Colin Grahamslaw (CGR) informed the delegates that the year 2018-2019 was financially successful. WCF had budgeted a surplus of USD 35.000 and came out of the year with a surplus of USD 395.000. The two major positive variances were an additional IOC income as well as money received from the very stunningly successful WMCC in Lethbridge, CAN. Major negative variances were caused by additional development investment (World Curling Academy and development of new electronic handles), unrecoverable CWC costs as well as bad debts.

The WCF had to face various challenges being the Brexit, currency fluctuations, shipping and logistic costs as well as the end of sponsorship deals with VOIP defender and DB Schenker.

Unfortunately, WCF had to terminate the Curling World Cup (CWC) contract with the marketing partners. On the positive side WCF will receive all the income that it had expected to receive under that contract. WCF had received the first payment under that contract from Kingdomway Sports (KS) themselves. However, they refused to make the second payment. Despite significant time and investment in negotiations and discussions with them WCF came to the point where it became clear that they were not going to pay and so the contract was terminated. At that time WCF was holding money from the two Chinese host cities which related to host fees they had paid to WCF and which were due to KS. The WCF's lawyers advised that WCF was perfectly entitled to retain the money and set it off against the debts that KS had to the WCF. WCF additionally had a contract which the Chinese Curling Association in which they had underwritten the contract and had agreed to take on the rights and responsibilities should KS default.

The overspent related to the CWC related mainly to starting up costs.

Broadcast is a huge part of our expenditure each year and the net expenditure was USD 1.5 million compared to USD 2.4 million in the previous year. WCF is constantly narrowing the gap between broadcast expenditure and income.

The current WCF reserves (USD 8.7 million) are more than one year's operating cost. The target is to have reserves worth 18 months of operating costs (currently the reserves are at approx. 14 months of operating costs)

2019– 2020

The budget for 2019-2020 is subject to update after the Board Meeting. The current surplus target is approx. USD 330.000. It is important to make a surplus in non-Olympic years to allow for the additional expense of an Olympic year – Games costs, Pre-Qualifier, Olympic Qualifier etc.

On the income side the IOC income reflects the increase received from 2018 share over the Olympic cycle. WCF will receive from the IOC an additional grant to cover the costs of the YOG. Also, the World Curling Academy should start generating income.

On the expenditure side we need to add more equipment for the additional competitions so depreciation increases to cover the additional equipment held. Also, investment fees increase as more funds are held at this point in the Olympic cycle. There will also be further development costs with the World Curling Academy. However, the long term aim is for this to become an income generator for the WCF. WCF has an additional event (WMDQE). Within marketing there was a reallocation of expenses to provide a new social media channel in China. Also, the new Technical Commission has been added to the already existing WCF commissions.

WCF is facing various challenges that mean added costs such as the World Qualifier, splitting the Mixed Doubles, the Olympic Pre-Qualifier as well as new commissions. None of these are income generators they are purely expense items. Therefore consideration needs to be given as to potential areas where savings can be made:

- Current spend over US\$200k on flights for the Juniors – is this sustainable?
- Move to a grant that reduces over time?
- Only support those who need to fly more than once in a season (teams promoted from B to A)
- Entry fees for certain event?
 - ECF previously charged for both ECC and European Mixed
- Can MA's access NOC funding for the Pre-Qualifier and the OQE?

Cathrine Lindahl (Chair of Finance Commission) gave a short presentation on behalf of the WCF Finance Commission (Members: Marcus Schmitt (AUT), Hugh Avery (CAN) and John Anderson (AUS)). She thanked Colin Grahamslaw and Thelma Black (WCF Finance Controller) who do a great job concerning finance. The WCF finances are in good shape and WCF had received a clean audit.

During their most recent meeting the commission had agreed that WCF needs to save money in future in order to finance the new event/commission etc. so there is an urgent need to review all the WCF costs and look at them from a broader perspective. Cathrine Lindahl invited the delegates to approach the members of the Finance Commission in case there are any questions.

The following comments were made/questions were asked:

- We are hesitant reducing financial support for the juniors as they are the future of our sport. Has there been any thought given killing the WSCC and the WMxCC? CGR: There was a significant discussion at the Board Meeting on competitions. This issue is also subject to discussion in the Finance Commission.
- The financial support for juniors is significant not only to smaller countries but also to bigger countries. It is very powerful to tell local authorities that the WCF is investing money in their juniors.
- For the inaugural WMDQE a host had to be persuaded to host it. Potential hosts are more likely to be found among the top 16 MD nations than among the mostly smaller nations in the qualification event. Has there thought been given to the possibility of having both events together at the same time under one roof?? CGR: There are interested hosts for the 2020/2021 season for the WMDQE. Hosting the qualification event together with the WMDCC and the WSCC will pose problems to the host as the event will be extremely long and also needs an enormous arena or we would be restricted to places with three ice pads. Also, it is very early now to change back.

Curling World Cup (CWC)

Bent Ramsfjell (BRA) and Jorge Vazquez Monroy (JVM) gave a presentation on the past CWC season.

JVM reported that the commitment from athletes, coaches and MAs had been great. The new rules had been successfully implemented and the CWC format had been well received both by the athletes and the fans. Great competitions could be seen and the interaction with fans was fantastic.

On the positive side he reported that the CWC had

- good ice and competition conditions in all 4 legs despite difficult circumstances in some cases.
- good looking venues with consistency all around the series
- high social media engagement from fans, athletes and MAs
- a good start on TV audience (167.99 million cumulative TV audience)

On the negative side he reported that two of the hotels were not good. Also, transportation was not well organized at two events. The arenas were not always of the highest standard but nevertheless good competitions were organized. Unfortunately WCF had to rush every event as the time frames were always short.

BRA gave a presentation and explained that the WCF implemented the CWC for a number of reasons:

- Curling is the only Olympic Winter Sport without a World Cup organised by the world governing body
- TV exposure from a limited events per year
- Athletes' request
- Development and growth of our sport

- A demand to increase the promotion and awareness for Curling and to add visibility

How did the WCF design the event?

- A Curling World Cup comprising all WCF zones and a Grand Final in Beijing
- The best of the best athletes to showcase our sport and our primary disciplines in a best possible manner
- A Business Model allowing the concept to grow and become sustainable over this Olympic Quadrennial
- A brand and identity clearly distinct from our existing inventory

The CWC is a “made for television”-event and is designed to increase the professionalism among the athletes. It is also made to help development of Curling in China on The Road to Beijing 2022.

What happened? The CWC season of 2018/2019 was delivered successfully (168 million TV viewers, 10 million Twitter impressions). Kingdomway Sports breached the contract in January by refusing to make the outstanding payments (\$1.4million). The three-party agreement resulted in Chinese Curling Association taking the responsibility for the Grand Final. The WCF Board then decided in June to suspend the CWC for the next season.

There is a financial impact of USD 200.000 to the WCF but this includes items expensed that will be reused if/when CWC reinstated.

The overall message is that the CWC was a success for the WCF and BRA expressed his appreciation to Jorge Vazquez Monroy and Uli Kapp for a job well done under difficult circumstances! Everybody (athletes, fans, TV audience and the MAs) loved the Curling World Cup! The CWC business model will be reviewed with the aim to come back even stronger and better next year. Also, the CWC is highly aligned to the Forward Plan.

BRA thanked all parties involved: the athletes, the MAs, the hosts, the CWC team as well as all officials and volunteers.

The following comments were made/questions were asked:

- The CWC concept is very good. Do we have an evaluation from the marketing side? What is the real value of this product? What is the return on investment? CGR: The WCF has incredibly detailed information on the TV- and broadcast numbers as outlined in JVM’s presentation. This report had also been shared with Infront.
- In other sports it is easier for smaller nations to play in the World Cup than in the World Championships. In Curling it is different: the number of teams playing in the CWC is even smaller than in the worlds. So, from the perspective of the smaller nations it is hoped that this is reviewed.
- Before we jump back into the CWC it might be worth considering to direct the sponsorship money to other events (e.g. WMDCC). BRA: WCF had funding available which was dedicated to the CWC. We will use the information that Colin spoke about before to make knowledge-based decisions looking forward to maximize the value of our existing events.

- Why did Kingdomway Sports (KS) abandon the contract? WCF assumes that KS abandoned the contract because they wrongly estimated their marketing income. Once they noticed they would be short of money they backed out. It also seems KS had a completely different understanding of the contract they signed. However, the contract was watertight and left no room for interpretation.

IOC Presentation

Irina Gladkikh (Associate Director Winter and Recognised Sports & IF Relations) gave a presentation on the following three topics:

1. The International Olympic Committee
2. IOC Activities
3. Gender Equality

Copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Beijing 2022 OC Presentation

Sport Manager Betty Wang Bingyu gave a presentation on the Olympic Winter Games 2022 at Beijing, CHN.

Copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Open Meetings Day 2

Winter World Masters Games 2020 Innsbruck

President Caithness informed the delegates that the Winter World Masters Games 2020 would take place from 10-19 January 2020 in Innsbruck. Curling is part of these games and will be played in Kitzbühel. A short video was shown. The President stressed that there are still four spots available for mixed teams. Further details can be found here: www.innsbruck2020.com.

World Women's Curling Championships (WWCC) 2020

Katherine Henderson (CAN) explained that Curling Canada is hosting a world event each year and added that the last couple of years had been unbelievably successful in terms of spectatorship, TV audience and ticket sales.

She invited the delegates to come to the WWCC 2020 which will take place in Prince George (BC) from 14-22 March 2020. She introduced Prince George to the audience and had a short video of the host city shown.

World Men's Curling Championships (WMCC) 2020

Bruce Crawford (SCO) said that he was very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to the WMCC 2020 at Glasgow, SCO. A short video on the host city was shown.

Bruce Crawford said that the event was the fourth event to take place in Scotland in 4 years after the European Curling Championships 2016, World Junior Curling Championships 2018 and World Wheelchair Curling Championships 2019. The event will be delivered jointly by Scottish Curling, Glasgow Life, Event Scotland and UK Sport.

The event will take place in the Emirates Arena (opened 2012) which is home to the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, sports arena, Glasgow Club gym and fitness studios and Refresh Spa. This will be the first time the venue has staged a curling event. The LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020 will see a temporary rink being specially constructed within the venue.

He thanked the organizers of the 2019 Congress in Cancun for doing a great job.

World Curling Academy

Scott Arnold (SAR) gave an update on the progress so far.

WCF is currently at step 2 of 5 of the WCA Development Goals (Step 2 = Develop the required global workforce to facilitate the empowerment of the MAs). SAR presented the WCA website (worldcurlingacademy.org) that is currently being constructed and explained that people that are interested need to register to see the content. Based on the people's registration/payment they will be able to see the relevant pages of the website. The platform is now ready to populate and matches the design of the new WCF website.

There are two types of courses: online and face-to-face. The SAR presented the various Pathways that will be offered.

Priority had been given to the First Stone Programme (FSP), Learn2Curl (L2C), Ice Tech Level I and Umpire Level I. This was determined from feedback from our partners at Curling Canada and from meetings in China. Most of the content for these courses had been completed. It will now need to be adapted to an online learning model which will take some time. All of the courses should be live in 2020.

There is also a "Resources" section where people can see various videos in currently six languages.

SAR highlighted the Athlete Pathway Development Programme (cost for MAs approx. USD 6,000) which is designed for MAs to learn during a workshop more effective ways to leverage DAP and external funds for sustainable development projects. This programme could become a prerequisite for accessing DAP in the future.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked:

- Are the MAs paying for this or is this provided? SAR: The WCF is making a significant investment in this. Everybody who signs up will be paying for the courses. How the

attendants pay for is up to the MAs (either individually or through DAP). It is the long term goal of the academy to be financially sustainable.

- What about ice-techs and umpires who have already been doing courses under the old system? How does this compare to the new system? SAR: Discussions about this are taking place right now. The thought if the people can prove to the WCF in some way that their knowledge is sound then they pass that course and go to the next one.

Forward Plan

Beau Welling (BWE) presented the latest version of the Forward Plan that takes into consideration the feedback received during the WCF meetings in Silkeborg. Since those Denmark meetings some “meat had been added to the bones”.

The strategic areas of focus are:

- Organizational sustainability
- Engagement
- Development
- Competitions

Each area has a primary goal and identified needs to help provide direction and make the sport of Curling better. The goals and needs were outlined in detail. The envisaged Year One and Two outcomes that were presented are priorities but the ability to deliver will depend on the available resources. Further actions and outcomes will be identified for future consideration.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked / comment were made:

- How can we evaluate or measure if we are making progress and if our plans come to fruition? BWE: The way WCF views this plan is not that we write a plan and then check sometime later if we have achieved X, Y or Z. This Forward Plan is a strategic document. It is also a living document. Some goals might be measurable, some less. The hope is that going forward all of us start to engage to look through this new strategy lens that the Forward Plan provides.
- WCF should put environmental sustainability at the core of our sport and our organisation.
- Has there been any work on demographics studies or analysis because technology is mentioned in the presentation and we are wondering if the technology concern is around ice and sport technology or technology around communicating through our demographics/members? BWE: It is a bit of both. From an engagement standpoint technology is increasingly important. But it is about what technology can offer in the sport presentation itself.
- We want to congratulate the Board for the initiative that it is taking in pursuing excellence. By moving away from an operational Board it gives the Assembly the permission to quit being an operational Assembly and we can stop talking about rules or operational decisions and we can begin to talk about the good of our great sport worldwide.

Breakout sessions wrap-up

The delegates were split to discuss the following topics within separate groups. After the various sessions the following summaries were presented:

Facility Development / Loan Program Case Study (Development Strategic Pillar): *Update from Technical Commission on support for building rinks and example of successful projects*

Comments presented by Lorne de Pape (NZL)

- Congratulations to Toyo Ogawa and the Technical Commission.
- Major part of the discussion was about having the tools at the MA's disposal so as to nobody needs to re-invent the wheel each time one of the MAs wants to have a Curling rink built. The eight steps from growing interest to a year later having an opening ceremony is a huge step forward. Huge compliment to the WCF as a whole and for creating the Technical Commission and for putting the people in place. Blueprints for 6-8 Curling rinks will be made available and can be used as models. Having these resources is great.

World Team Ranking List (Competition Strategic Pillar): *Discussions on the structure and content of a WCF Team Ranking List*

Comments presented by Colin Grahamslaw (WCF Secretary General):

- Two big groups had a look at the situation with the World Team Rankings. WCF will be running the World Team Ranking List from this season working together with Gerry Geurtz (Curling Zone).
- Both groups were interested in what the decision-making process is and how the WCF decides what points are allocated to what event. The WCF will take over means that going forward it will be the WCF that makes that decision. Both groups wanted to make sure that whoever within the WCF is taking that decision has knowledge and expertise.
- A lot of the discussion was about process and: How do people add events? WCF must be open and transparent about the process of adding events, information on what events are included and what points are allocated to each event.
- There was discussion in both groups about potentially having the system set so that the big-name teams have to play some smaller events to help those smaller events and to ensure that they are not just playing the big slam events.
- How do you do a Mixed Doubles ranking list if a lot of players play with different partners? Is the Mixed Doubles ranking list in fact two lists? One for the male player and one for the female player?
- How do we deal with a five-person team line-up?
- The clear message was that WCF must be open and transparent and that the rationale for any decisions taken is clear to everyone.

MA Mentoring Programme (Development Strategic Pillar): *Case Study: Sweden / Hungary*

Comments presented by Hew Chalmers (WCF Director):

- The case studies the group spoke about were Sweden and Hungary. The core concept was that the mature Curling nation would mentor and train the developing country over an initial period of over two years. This creates better networking opportunities and the Curlers enjoy friendship and fun. This is what lets things thrive. The core group age-wise are Curlers between 18 and 25.
- The advantage of starting with tested programmes is that nobody has to re-invent the wheel. That saves time and money. Knowledge should be shared and/or transferred.
- Equipment sourcing was discussed: Do certain nations have stones that they are not using? Could this equipment be made available?
- The aim should be to strengthen the Curling community.
- The mentoring country Sweden did not have a deaf programme, so they learned from Hungary and so this programme benefits both MAs involved.
- How can this be financed in the future? Are there staff resources available?
- A process needs to be developed to target the right people within the potential MAs to help drive the programme forward.

Succession Planning and Structural Review (Organisational Sustainability Strategic Pillar):

Discussions on WCF Succession Planning and constitutional review

Comments presented by Willie Nicoll (WCF Governance Commission):

- The main message received was that the WCF is a democratic organization controlled by the MAs. This must be maintained.
- It was suggested that the Board should decide on the next President from within the existing Board Members rather than having an election.
- A question was raised as to whether the MAs have the skill sets to support the Board and the organisation?
- The following topics were raised particularly in respect to the outgoing and the incoming President: knowledge transfer / mentoring / workload.
- Should we have a feeder system for candidates who serve their time on commissions with a view to eventually going forward and put themselves up to go on the Board?
- Is there a job description for the President? Can we identify the skills that we believe a President should have?
- It is about time that there is a review on the current WCF constitution (last amended in 2014).
- Should WCF have a nomination's committee? That committee would be instructed by the Board to look for the type of people that the Board believes it should have based on skills and diversity.

World Curling Family Club (Engagement Pillar):

Brainstorming session on the potential for a worldwide World Curling Family Club

Comments presented by Hugh Millikin (WCF Vice-President Pacific-Asia):

- Everybody was excited about the opportunity to do a World Curling Family which seems to be a long overdue initiative. This might help MAs to gather more membership and move people from enthusiasts, non-ice Curlers and then ice Curlers
- Any cost to the people who sign up is kept at a minimum and WCF must focus on the benefits of membership and how do we enhance the benefits and keep the Family Club growing.

- Existing members of the MAs should have a value-added membership.
- Language is an issue.
- How should this Family Club be marketed? The marketing strategy needs to be worked on with the MAs. It is the aim to have a plan by the end of January 2020.



MINUTES

of the Annual General Assembly

held in Cancun, Mexico

06 September 2019

I Reading of Notice of Meeting

As per the Constitution the notice of this meeting was provided on 3rd December 2018, the agenda and papers had been circulated within the stipulated timeframes allowing the Annual General Assembly to be held today the 6th September 2019.

In order to allow the registration desk to finish the registrations and counting of votes CGR proposed to slightly change the order of the agenda and to start with item No. 8 of the agenda which is the President's report. This was accepted by the meeting.

8 President's Report - Kate Caithness

KCA provided a full report on her activities since the last Annual General Assembly held in Budapest, Hungary. A copy of this report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

7 Minute of Remembrance for Friends and Colleagues no longer with us

Everyone was asked to be upstanding to have one minute's silence for friends who have passed away since the last meeting in Budapest.

2 Report on Credentials of Representatives and Quorum

The following attendance was recorded:

Executive Board

Kate Caithness CBE (KCA)	Scotland	President
Graham Prouse (GPR)	Canada	Vice-President (Americas)
Bent Ånund Ramsfjell (BRA)	Norway	Vice President (Europe)
Hugh Millikin (HMI)	Australia	Vice-President (Pacific-Asia)
Beau Welling (BWE)	USA	Director
Cathrine Lindahl (CLI)	Sweden	Director
Hew Chalmers (HCH)	Scotland	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Japan	Director
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General	
Eeva Röhlisberger (ERÖ)	Head of Competitions	
Scott Arnold (SAR)	Head of Development	
Darrell Ell (DEL)	Competitions & Development Officer	

Karri Willms	Competitions & Development Officer
Jiri Snilil	Competitions & Development Officer
Liz Munro (LMU)	Competitions & Development Administrator
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer
Chris Hamilton (CHA)	Digital Media Officer
Cameron MacAllister (CMA)	Communication & Media Relations Manager
Emily Dwyer	Media Officer
Ashley Melville (AME)	IT Officer
Rhona Howie	Logistics & Equipment Officer

Representatives of Full Members

RCCC	Bill Duncan Bruce Crawford Susan Kesley Bob Kelly
Andorra	Josep Garcia Monica Lopez
Australia	Kim Forge John Anderson
Austria	Marcus Schmitt Veronika Huber
Belarus	Inesa Pauliuchyk
Belgium	Jean-Marie van Lancker
Brazil	Sergio Mitsuo Vilela Anne Akemi Shibuya
Canada	Amy Nixon Resby Coutts Hugh Avery Maureen Miller
China	Li Dongyan
Chinese Tapei	Meng-Sin Yeh Brendon Bor-Kai Liu
Croatia	Neven Pufnik
Czech Republic	David Šik Karolina Frederiksen
Denmark	Henrik Christoffersen Rikke Jensen
England	John Brown Alison Arthur
Estonia	Fred Randver Juuli Litt
Finland	Olli Rissanen Katja Kiiskinen
France	William Naquin
Germany	Bernhard Mayr Christina Haller
Hong Kong	Jason Chang
Hungary	Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta György Nagy

Italy	Eros Gonin
Japan	Terri Johnston
	Tomoyoshi Kinoshita
Latvia	Raimonds Vaivods
Luxembourg	Karen Wauters
Netherlands	John Kuijpers
	Monique Kuijpers
New Zealand	Lorne De Pape
	Carroll De Pape
Norway	Morten Søgård
	Grethe Brenna
	Pål Trulsen
Poland	Janusz Duda
	Beata Rek
Romania	Allen Coliban
Russia	Olga Zharkova
	Olga Andrianova
	Ekaterina Galkina
Slovenia	Gregor Rigler
	Marusa Gorisek
Spain	Frank Gonzalez
	Irantzu Garcia
Sweden	Stefan Lund
	Michael Marklund
Switzerland	Freddy Meister
	Michael Lips
	Imogen Oona Lehman
USA	Leland Rich
	Rich Lepping
	Jennifer Stannard
	Allison Pottinger
Wales	Lisa Peters

Representatives of Provisional Members

Greece	Georgios Smyrnaios
Georgia	Zakaria Khechuashvili
Kosovo	Peter Anderson
Mexico	Rodrigo Velez Escudero
	Paula Herrera Moreno
Nigeria	TJ Cole
	Susana Cole
Portugal	Joao Antonio Branco Lobo Fidalgo
Saudia Arabia	Alastair Fyfe
	Elaine Fyfe
Ukraine	Natalia Menzhega

Proxies

Member Association

	Representative
Belarus	Andrei Yurkevich
China	Lei Yi
Croatia	Katarina Cadez
Ireland	Carolyn Hibberd
Japan	John Burns
Latvia	Yuhei Kusui
Luxembourg	Ieva Krusta
Russia	Alex Benoy
Sweden	Konstantin Zadvornov
Switzerland	Maria Davidson
Wales	Jürg Wernli
	Adrian Meikle

Proxy Holder

Inesa Pauliuchyk (BLR)
Li Dongyan (CHN)
Neven Pufnik (CRO)
John Brown (ENG)
Lorne De Pape (NZL)
Terri Johnston (JPN)
Raimonds Vaivods (LAT)
Karen Wauters (LUX)
Olga Zharkova (RUS)
Stefan Lund (SWE)
Freddy Meister (SUI)
Lisa Peters (WAL)

Observers

Brazil	Matheus Figueiredo
Canada	Katherine Henderson
Czech Republic	Chad McMullan
Denmark	Nolan Thiessen
France	Anna Kubeskova
Germany	Karel Kubeskova
Italy	Rosita Olvhoej
Korea	Didier Gailhaguet
Mexico	Ewald Doriat
Poland	Said Hakim
Romania	Giuseppe Antonucci
Russia	Yong Gil Choi
Scotland	Han Na Woo
Sweden	Jorge Vazquez Monroy
Switzerland	Witold Rek
Ukraine	Cristian Matau
USA	Olga Shashlova
	Tatiana Kharchenko
	David Murdoch
	Willie Nicoll
	Paul Ahlgren
	Claude Hollenstein (Infront)
	Irina Kochyk
	Rick Patzke
	Brian Krolicki
	Jon Killoran
	Courtney Schmidt
	Beth Lepping

Attendance and Proxies

Representatives present	70
Representatives by proxy	12
Votes present	181
Votes by proxy	27
Total votes present and proxy	208
Members Associations present	36
Provisional Members present	8
Conditional Members present	0
Zones present	3

Presentation of Medals etc

The following representatives received their WCF medals and badges

Brazil	Anne Akemi Shibuya
Canada	Amy Nixon
Denmark	Henrik Christoffersen
Denmark	Rikke Jensen
Lithuania	Justina Zalieckiene
Netherlands	John Kuijpers
Netherlands	Monique Kuijpers
Switzerland	Freddy Meister
Switzerland	Michael Lips
Switzerland	Imogen Oona Lehman
Chinese Taipei	Meng-Sin Yeh
Chinese Taipei	Brendon Bor-Kai Liu
USA	Rich Lepping

CGR advised the Member Associations (MAs) that there was a quorum. He also informed the MAs that the tellers who had been appointed, in case of any votes at the meeting, were Rick Patzke (Chief Teller), Willie Nicoll and Liz Munro.

3 Exclusion / Suspension of a Member Association

None

4 Approval of Agenda

The approval of the agenda was

*Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Terri Johnston
and carried unanimously*

5 Reading of the minutes of the last General Assembly and approval thereof

The minutes were taken as read.

*Approval proposed by Resby Coutts
Seconded by Sergio Mitsuo Vilela
and carried unanimously*

6 Business arising out of the Minutes

No business arising.

9 Report of the Executive Board and Committees

a) Competitions (ERÖ)

ERÖ presented charts on the medal winners of the 2018/2019 season.

With regard to future competitions ERÖ highlighted that the host cities for the season 2019-2020 are almost complete with just a host missing for ECC-C in 2020. She outlined for which events the WCF still needs host cities for the season 2020-2021 and invited the MAs to send in their bids for the various events.

b) Operations & Integrity Report (CGR)

CGR reported on the recent staffing changes. Rhona Howie has joined WCF as Equipment and Logistics Officer. Richard Harding's job title has changed. He now has become Head of Broadcast.

Joanna Kelly left the WCF and as WCF does not continue the Curling World Cup the WCF had to say good-bye to Jorge Vazquez Monroy, Uli Kapp and Lesley McCrae. He thanked them all for delivering outstanding services.

The new structure in Competition and Development is bedding in and paying dividends in more focus on development.

c) Anti-Doping (CGR)

There were 122 tests completed during the last season. There were no Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRV). 4 reprimands were issued for those on the Team Testing Pool.

WCF had maintained WADA Compliance. WCF ran #curlclean and #playtrue education during the WWhCC 2019.

1 sanction had been issued by CAS but that related to a case from 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The sanction was a 4-year suspension.

d) Integrity (CGR)

CGR explained that integrity covers matters like match manipulation, sports betting trying to make sure that the game is played fairly. WCF is actively involved in supporting the IOC development of new education programmes. The monitoring of major WCF events indicates no evidence of match manipulation or suspicious betting patterns.

e) Marketing (CGR)

CGR reported that there was a good range of sponsors during the last year. Le Gruyère (ECC) have been with the WCF for a long time and they continue to be with us. In detail the WCF's sponsors are the following:

European Curling Championships: Le Gruyere AOC; Mount 10; LGT;
World Women's Curling Championship: LGT; Pioneer; AJ; Le Gruyere AOC
World Men's Curling Championship: Pioneer

The WCF's suppliers are Jet Ice and 361.

The WCF's development partner is Rock Solid Productions Inc.

During the last year WCF had three marketing agents: Infront, Curling Canada and Kingdomway Sports.

The total sponsorship income has reduced year on year by approx. USD 150,000. VOiP Defender and DB Schenker are not sponsoring Curling anymore. Also, there were exchange rate differences who have an impact on the WCF income.

This is the first year of multi-year deal with LGT. WCF together with Infront are also developing packages for the PACC which WCF sees as the next most marketable event based on TV numbers. WCF is also developing work to value the digital assets. WCF is also assessing the value of MA positions at World Championships and options for monitoring their coverage.

Extension of the WCF CCA Marketing Agreement to 2028

CGR was pleased to announce the extension of the WCF-CCA Marketing Agreement to 2028. It is a very valuable agreement to the WCF. In the last years WCF has benefitted over CAD 1 million WCF President Kate Caithness and Curling Canada Chair Board of Governors Maureen Miller came forward and signed the new agreement.

f) WCF Development (SAR)

SAR thanked both WCF Director Hew Chalmers as well as the whole CDO team for their tremendous help in the development area.

Development Assistance Programme

SAR reported the following concerning the Development Assistance Programme (DAP):

- Approx. USD 400,000 have been spent last year on DAP
- 41 MAs had taken advantage of the DAP programme
- 25% of the MAs had spent the full USD 12,000 (one MA took advantage of the 4-year DAP programme)
- 20% of the money has been spent on camps and courses
- 20% of the money has been spent on equipment purchases
- 16% of the money has been spent on stone & scraper purchases
- 15% of the money has been spent on floor & street Curling
- 14% of the money has been spent on come & try sessions
- 7% of the money has been spent on promotional materials & website

Camps and Courses

The following amount of MAs took part in the following courses:

- Ice Technician Course: 11 MAs
- Umpire Course: 14 MAs
- Instructor Course: 12 MAs
- Business of Curling: 8 MAs
- Junior Curling Camps: 21 MAs
- Adult Curling Camps: 23 MAs
- Olympic Celebration Tour: JPN / IRL / USA

g) Technical Commission (TOG)

TOG explained the following:

For the sport of curling the quality of the playing conditions is key whether it is championship or club play. Good playing conditions enhance the experience for all curlers. In the past it has often proved challenging to get the best playing conditions, this Commission will focus on providing advice and support to achieve the highest level of playing conditions possible at all levels of the game.

The other purpose of the Commission is to assist in the development of curling facilities around the world both new and existing.

The tasks of the commission are to:

- Secure good playing conditions on WCF Competitions
- Help clubs to build good curling facilities
- Maintain and develop the Curling Ice Explained (CIE)
- Develop educational programmes within the Technical area.
- Provide practical support to clubs that want to build new curling facilities, and assess potential Research and Development

TOG thanked the MAs for the 13 nominations that had been received for the commission members. The following members had been appointed to the commission:

- Tom Brewster (SCO) – 4 year term
- Leif Öhman (SWE) – 4 year term
- Stefan Röthlisberger (SUI) – 4 year term
- Greg Ewasko (CAN) – 2 year term
- György Nagy (HUN) – 2 year term

In addition there are two appointed chief-ice makers: Hans Wüthrich (Olympics) and Mark Callan (Paralympics).

The first commission meeting had taken place from 25-26 June 2019 in Greenacres, SCO. During that meeting the tasks were reviewed and the priorities were set. Working groups had been formed on:

- Manual on how to build a curling rink
- Technical Site Visit Manual
- Educational Programmes

TOG also explained the details of the WCF Loan/Equipment Assistance Programmes.

h) Broadcasting (GPR)

CGR explained that Richard Harding could unfortunately not come to the Congress because of illness. He wished him a speedy recovery.

Graham Prouse said that the WCF is producing very high-quality programming which is recognized as such by the broadcasters around the world.

CGR reported that last year was the WCF's busiest year in broadcasting. A vast number of events had been covered. 8,300 hours of TV coverage were created. The coverage went to over 50 countries. All the WCF sponsors combined reached exposure worth over USD 560 million in classic TV coverage. The new additional exposure value created for sponsors by the Curling World Cup was USD 58 million. 570 million cumulated TV viewers were reached across all events.

CGR informed the delegates of the events that would be covered the following season.

There are three different broadcast models: Full-up Production / HD Lite Production Suitable for Broadcast / HD Lite Production for Webcasting. He shortly explained the differences between the models.

Curling Night in America – 6th edition in Raleigh, NC, had been produced the previous week by the WCTV crew. This event is produced in partnership with Carr-Hughes Productions who take the shows and make them into 9 programmes to be shown by NBCSN from January to March 2020 leading into coverage by NBC of the World Men's and Women's Championships. In 2019 NBC had shown all 46 games produced at these two Championships.

The innovations for the upcoming season 2019/2020 include:

- a combination of a Full-up and HD Lite productions in Glasgow – if this works then this is an opportunity to reduce overall costs.
- Introduction of a lighter weight track camera running the length of the sheet instead using cameras over the houses at each end.

i) Media (CMC)

Cameron Mc Allister (CMC - WCF Head of Media) said that the strategic aims of the WCF's media team are furthering the reach, improving the effectiveness to current audiences and keeping up-to-date with the latest digital trends as well as providing professional and easy to use and easy to access services.

Two significant projects were finalized during the off-season. WCF launched its new website and also the first Chinese social media channel.

Since the 2018 PyeongChang Games WCF has seen significant growth in the number of readers and visitors to the WCF's website. WCF had approx. 1.5 million unique visitors during the season. Most of the content is consumed on mobile devices. CMC thanked Dan Field and Al Gowen for developing the WCF website over the years. The new website had been developed by "Blue 2 Digital" that contributed an award winning design and user experience expertise. Blue 2 are already consulting on future projects to improve what is available to Member Associations through the website. He thanked Chris Hamilton (WCF Digital Media Officer) for leading this project.

The second project that had been in the minds for a number of years was finding a way to reaching the Chinese market. Beijing 2022 and the Curling World Cup had highlighted the importance of the Chinese market. Time was taken to decide on the best approach and the best partner. Also, the colleagues at the International Skating Union shared their best practice. Due to great collaboration with Infront the Chinese Weibo Channel was launched the previous week. Weibo is a microblogging

site with similar features to Twitter and Facebook and is the most used social media channel in China with 486 million active users every month and 211 million active users every day. In the first 30 hours after the launch there were 5,126 followers, 5,896,930 people reached and 16,374 video views.

j) Governance Commission Report (BRA)

Bent Ramsfjell (BRA) introduced the following commission members:

- Willie Nicoll (SCO)
- Jennifer Stannard (USA)
- Gregor Rigler (SLO)

BRA reported that there was an in-person meeting held during the Congress in Budapest as well as two telephone conferences in December and in August.

The commission had focused on:

- Continued Governance Assistance to one MA
- Governance Templates developed as resource for use by MA's
- Annual Assembly Process – suggestions to improve the meeting efficiency
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Consultation Policy developed
- Succession Planning, including the Presidential Succession, under discussion
- Safeguarding Policy integration with existing WCF Bullying and Harassment Policy (in progress)

The commission will continue providing recommendation and advice to the Board on

- AIOWF Governance Questionnaire
- WCF policies
- process to gather opinions from Commission members
- consultation and raising awareness of confidentiality
- commission Term Limits and Succession Planning

BRA highlighted that the Governance Commission does not only ask what the commission can do for the Federation itself, but what the Governance Commission can do for the Member Associations. He invited the MAs to approach the commission in case there are any questions.

k) Athlete Commission Report (CLI and NTH)

Cathrine Lindahl (CLI) presented the current members of the Athlete Commission (AC). She explained that the mission of the AC is to communicate the interests of the Athletes in cooperative support of the WCF achieving its mission. The Athlete Commission acts as the link between high performance athletes, the Board, the WCF Rules and Competition Commission as well as the IOC Athletes Commission.

Nolan Thiessen (NTH) (skip of AC) explained what the AC had been doing since the last Congress: An in-person meeting had taken place in Tallin immediately following the 2018 European Championships (All AC Members plus the Executive Board liaison had attended). NTH had also

participated in the Competition & Rules Commission Meetings in January, whereas Anna Kubeskova had participated in the Open Meeting in Silkeborg in March. At least one of the AC Members had attended the European CC, PACC, World Wheelchair, World Women's and World Men's Championships to discuss topics and support the athletes. The AC had also provided feedback and ideas for the format for new World Mixed Doubles as well as 2022 Olympic Qualification procedures. An athlete survey had been created, administered and completed.

NTH had attended the IOC AC Forum on behalf of the sport of Curling. At this forum discussion took place on funding models, the fight against doping, the candidature process for host cities for the Olympic Games, the transition of athletes out of the sport following their careers and athlete's mental health. During an open discussion ideas were shared on how to best support the voice of the Athlete in all NOCs, IFs and indirectly NSOs.

The AC's goals for the upcoming season are:

- Review of Terms of Reference and update if necessary
- Review new and alternative strategies to speak to athletes
- Review succession planning for members of the AC and Chair position
- Work with WCF Executive Board to provide the athlete voice during the completion of the "Maximizing the Value" Project
- Attend C&R Commission and Open Meetings and support work projects that come out of each
- Athlete Elections following next season for two male positions as well as dedicated Wheelchair and Mixed Doubles representative

NTH thanked the MAs for asking for the athlete's voice and for asking for and supporting the Athlete Commission.

I) Americas' Zonal Commission (GPR)

Graham Prouse (GPR) reported that the commission had talked about a number of items relating to business arising from last year's Zonal Commission meetings. Unlike the European Zone the Americas' Zonal Commission has only got one chance for a face to face meeting.

The members of the commission had talked about the Consultation Policy, the world qualification structure relating to the Americas' challenge, the need to make evidence-based decisions and risk analysis throughout the whole organisation. The members felt that it is a really good timing with the strategic planning process.

GPR said that he was really excited to learn that both the Mexican and the Brazilian Associations will have ice this year in their territories. Also very exciting is the fact that soon there will be the first Brazilian championships on Brazilian soil and that it will have live TV-coverage. The last three Olympic Winter Games Brazil has consistently been in the top five in world-wide audience for the Curling broadcast. So, we are talking about millions of people here.

m) European Zonal Commission (EZC)

Bent Ramsfjell (BRA) reported that the commission has two meetings: one at the Congress and one at the European Curling Championships. At these meetings topics of mutual interest are discussed and success stories are shared. He added that during those meetings he is helped by Hew Chalmers (WCF Director) and Saskia Müller-Gastell (WCF Projects Officer).

Three applications to the European Legacy Fund have been approved this year but more applications are welcome.

n) Pacific-Asia Zonal Commission (EZC)

Hugh Millikin (HMI) said that his zone was growing fast and that the co-operation between its members is fantastic. The zone is excited about the lead-up to the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Beijing, CHN. How this is captured and how we keep growing the number of Curlers is what we worry about, where our focus is and what we are working for. At PACC 2019 there will be 11 men's and 8 women's team competing. Next year the event will take place in Japan. HMI also reported about Nigeria's first win at a Mixed Doubles World Championship.

10 Report of Auditors (CLI)

Cathrine Lindahl (CLI) reported that the WCF had received a clean audit. It had been confirmed by the auditors that the financial statements give a true and fair view of Federation's affairs. The financial statements had also been properly prepared in accordance with accepted standards.

11 Receive the Financial Report, Audited Statement and Discharge to Board (CGR)

CGR presented the Final Accounts for the year end 30 June 2019 for the approval of the members and discharge to the Board.

*Proposed by Marcus Schmitt
Seconded by Hugh Avery
and carried unanimously*

12 Appointment of the Auditors (CLI)

It was proposed that Mazars, Edinburgh be re-appointed Auditors for the year to 30 June 2020.

*Proposed by Rich Lepping
Seconded by Stefan Lund
and carried unanimously*

13 Presentation of the Budget (CGR)

Colin Grahamslaw explained that the surplus target is approx. USD 330,000. It is important to make a surplus in non-Olympic years to allow for the additional expense of an Olympic year – Games costs, Pre-Qualifier, Olympic Qualifier etc.

There were no questions.

14 Approval of Annual Subscriptions (CGR)

CGR reported that this had been discussed briefly within the Finance Commission but it is felt that this topic needs to be part of a wider review. Currently there is no proposal to increase the amount of the annual subscriptions.

15 Resolutions (CGR)

CGR explained that there are three resolutions regarding out Anti-Doping regulations. These will require a simple majority.

Update to WCF Anti-Doping Rules

Resolution:

To add the Curling World Cup to the list of International Events

*Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Katja Kiiskinen
and carried unanimously*

Update to WCF Anti Doping Procedures for 2020 YOG

Resolution:

For Anti-Doping Rule Violations committed at the Youth Olympic Winter Games 2020 the World Curling Federation agrees to accept the authority and procedure of the IOC Anti-Doping Rules in force for the 2020 Youth Olympic Winter Games and the process of the Arbitration Rules of the CAS Anti-Doping Division. The WCF agrees to recognise any verdicts delivered by the CAS Anti-Doping Division relating to the curling event at the 2020 Youth Olympic Winter Games. This resolution supersedes the current WCF Anti-Doping Rules for the period of the 2020 Youth Olympic Winter Games.

*Proposed by Amy Nixon
Seconded by Josep Garcia
and carried unanimously*

Replace the WCF Anti Doping Hearing panel with the CAS Anti Doping Division

Resolution:

To replace the use of the WCF Anti-Doping Hearing Panel in the WCF Anti-Doping Rules with the CAS Anti-Doping Division; to update the Rules as appropriate to reflect this change.

*Proposed by Alison Arthur
Seconded by Bill Duncan
and carried unanimously*

CGR said that after the last AGA WCF had been asked if the voting process on rules could be simplified. This year the representatives will only vote individually on the motions that had been identified in advance, the other changes will be grouped together and taken in a single vote.

Sweeping R7

Currently we see a lot of skips / vice-skips doing “housekeeping” before their planned shot. The rule R7 (b) says, that a stationary stone must be set in motion before it can be swept.

By the time the delivered stone reaches the house, the cleaning of the ice surface in this manner will not influence the stones (the heat will not stay on the ice), except it has helped with debris removal.

We recommend to add to the rule:

The person in charge of the house may clean the ice inside the hog line at the playing end prior to the delivery of the next stone.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Irantzu Garcia
Seconded by Katja Kiiskinen*

Amendment – Royal Caledonian Curling Club:

To clarify what is and is not allowed in terms of "housekeeping" not just in the house we suggest that the new rule instead states:

All players may clean the playing surface prior to the delivery of the next stone.

*Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Rikke Jensen
and carried unanimously*

The amendment was now adopted into the main motion and was carried unanimously.

Wheelchair Curling R13 (b)

The rule says, that stones are delivered from a stationary wheelchair. It is not mentioned what the penalty is, if this rule is broken.

Add to the rule R13 (a): **If a violation occurs, the stone will be removed from play.**

CGR explained that this proposal is being withdrawn as upon further reflection it is felt that R13(f) covers the penalty. Nobody wished to propose this motion.

The motion fell.

Wheelchair Curling R13 (b)

The current rule states:

When the stone is delivered between the outermost edge of the top of the house and the hog line at the delivery end, **the chair must be positioned** so that at the start of the delivery the entire width of the stone is within the wheelchair lines.

When the rule was written, there was no pull-back in wheelchair curling and the issue that we need to rule on is the position of the stone not the position of the chair.

We recommend to change the rule R13 (b) to: When the stone is delivered between the outermost edge of the top of the house and the hog line at the delivery end, **the entire width of the stone must be within the wheelchair lines upon release.**

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Jennifer Stannard
Seconded by Katja Kiiskinen*

There were two amendments to this motion which were dealt with individually.

Amendment I – Royal Caledonian Curling Club:

The RCCC believe that the important point to be considered is the start of the delivery not the point of release so the rule should read:

When the stone is delivered between the outermost edge of the top of the house and the hog line at the delivery end, **the entire width of the stone must be within the wheelchair lines at the start of the delivery.**

Proposed by Bruce Crawford

*Seconded by Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta
and carried by majority*

Amendment 2 – Royal Caledonian Curling Club supported by Competition and Rules Commission

The full text of R13(b) includes another reference to the position of the Wheelchair in the first sentence. This should also be removed:

When the stone is delivered between the hack and the outermost edge of the top of the house at the delivery end, the chair must be positioned so that at the start of the delivery the stone is positioned on the centre line.

*Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Hugh Avery
and carried unanimously*

Both amendments were now adopted into the main motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mixed Doubles charts R15 (Page 24 and 25)

If you install the power-play markings in metric measurements, as per the chart, then they are not in a straight line. And measuring with multiple numbers after the comma, is simply not possible. **We therefore feel the metric amounts should be removed from both Mixed Doubles charts.**

CGR explained that this proposal is being withdrawn to allow a more in-depth review of the consistent use of metric and imperial measurements in the rulebook.

Nobody wished to propose this motion.

The motion fell.

Equipment C3 (e)

The rule currently says as a penalty: If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device the stone shall be removed from play.

The following might happen: A skip is delivering with a hair-brush. She is back in the head for the opponent's skip to play the last stone of an end. – The stone is travelling down the ice when she realises, that the shot is not perfect but also realises, that she cannot sweep with the hair-brush. She therefore grabs the brush from the Vice Skip to try and sweep out the opponents played stone. By the rule that stone needs to be removed, but that is definitely wrong. If we remove that stone, we are penalising the non-offending team.

We believe the rule should be changed and a new sentence added:
Penalty: If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device **one of their own stones**, that stone should be removed from play. **If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device a stone belonging to the opponent, the stone should be replaced by the non-offending team where it would have come to rest, had the violation not occurred.**

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Leland Rich
Seconded by John Brown*

Amendment – Royal Caledonian Curling Club

The RCCC feel it would add clarity to this rule by making it clear that the non-offending team place the stone where “it judges” it would have come to rest so it would read:

Penalty: If a player sweeps with another person’s sweeping device **one of their own stones**, that stone should be removed from play. **If a player sweeps with another person’s sweeping device a stone belonging to the opponent, the stone should be replaced by the non-offending team where it judges it would have come to rest, had the violation not occurred.**

*Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Alison Arthur*

John Brown (ENG) said, if we put in “it judges” into this rule there are numerous other rules where “it judges” needs to be incorporated as well.

The amendment was defeated.

The main motion was carried unanimously.

The Playdown Systems

World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC)

This needs updated as there are now a limited number of teams at the WMDCC and an additional event (WMDQE).

World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC)

- 20 teams ... 16 teams from the Associations which qualified from the previous WMDCC +
4 teams from the Associations which qualified through the World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event (WMDQE).
- Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top three teams in each group.

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st in each group get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each group play in qualification games (A2 v B3 and B2 v A3). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals, with the 1st ranked team playing the lowest ranked winner (e.g. – 6th) and the 2nd ranked team playing the other team. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.

Relegation: The bottom 2 MAs from each group will be relegated to the WMDQE in the following season.

World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event (WMDQE)

- Open to teams from Associations that have not already qualified for the next WMDCC. Four Member Associations will qualify from this event.
- The format of this "open" entry event is worked out to give every team the chance to win the event and to play as many games as possible and practicable.

Play-off System: If there are fewer than 16 teams entered, there will be no play-off games played. The top 4 teams after a single round robin will qualify for the next WMDCC. If the number of entries is 16 or more teams, 8 teams will qualify for the play-offs. A double knock-out system will be used to qualify the 4 teams for the next WMDCC.

- The World Curling Federation reserves the right to adjust the system of play depending on the number of entries and the sheets of ice available.

At the same time the charts on page 52 and 53 need to be removed.

*Proposed by Terri Johnston
Seconded by Bob Kelly*

Amendment 1 – Royal Caledonian Curling Club

The RCCC feel that as there are two different groups to be consistent with other WCF events (ECC-B) there should be cross-over games for relegation. So the system should be: Relegation: the bottom MAs from each group (A10 and B10) will be relegated to the WMDQE in the following season. There will be play-off games A8 v B9 and B8 v A9 where the losers of these games will be relegated to the WMDQE in the following season.

*Proposed by Bruce Crawford
Seconded by Allen Coliban
and carried by majority*

Allen Coliban (ROU) added that for future events it should be considered that the host country always has a spot. CGR confirmed that this would be discussed at the Competition & Rules Commission.

Amendment 2 – Royal Caledonian Curling Club supported by C&R

It is felt that in the description of the format it is not clear that fitting in as many games as possible is not the only criteria that should be considered. There is also the practical considerations such as size of venue and number of days of competition. Therefore, the wording should be:

- The format of this "open" entry event is worked out to give every team the chance to win the event and to play as many games as possible **and practicable**.

*Proposed by Bruce Crawford
Seconded by Kim Forge
and carried by majority*

Both amendments were now adopted into the main motion and it was carried unanimously.

Qualification – World Championships Men & Women

There are a few points missing in the part of the World Qualification Event (WQE). We recommend to add: All MAs who want to compete in the WQE, even if hosting, must have played in the zonal qualification event of that season.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by John Brown
Seconded by Allen Coliban*

Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (BRA) had hoped to be able to say something before the motion was proposed. He now asked that the motion be put off to next year. The Seconder Allen Coliban withdrew his support for the motion.

The motion fell.

Olympic and Pre-Olympic Qualification Events

This section of the rule-book needs updated with the new event formats.

Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) – Men & Women

• 8 teams for each gender... 1 team from the Host National Olympic Committee (NOC) + 5 teams from the NOCs which gained the most qualification points from the two previous Men's and Women's World Curling Championships but have not already qualified for the Olympic Games + **2 teams from the 2 NOCs qualified** from the Pre-Olympic Qualification Event (Pre-OQE).

• Teams placed in one group, playing a round robin to establish the top three ranked teams.

Play-off System: 1 v 2 – winner qualifies their NOC for the Olympic Winter Games. The loser of the 1v2 game will then play the 3rd team. The winner of that game also qualifies their NOC for the Olympic Winter Games.

Pre-Olympic Qualification Event (Pre-OQE) – Men & Women

• Open to all Associations / Federations who have competed in a qualification event for the Men's / Women's World Championship in the quadrennial.

• ~~2 teams of each gender will qualify their NOC for the OQE. MA teams will play to qualify their NOC for the last two spaces in the OQE, for each gender.~~

• The format of these "open" entry events are worked out to give every team the chance to qualify their NOC for the OQE. Teams will be advised of the playing system in the Team Meeting Documents, prior to the start of play.

• The World Curling Federation reserves the right to adjust the system of play depending on the number of entries and the sheets of ice available.

Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) – Mixed Doubles

• 16 teams ... 1 team from the Host National Olympic Committee (NOC) + 15 teams from the NOCs which gained the most qualification points from the two previous World Curling Championships but have not already qualified for the Olympic Games.

• ~~2 teams will qualify their NOC for the Olympic Winter Games. MA teams will play to qualify their NOC for the last two spaces in the Olympic Winter Games.~~

• The format of this event is worked out to give every team a chance to qualify their NOC for the OWG. Teams will be advised of the playing system in the Team Meeting Document, prior to the start of play.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Susan Kesley
Seconded by Marcus Schmitt
and carried unanimously*

xxi) Qualification – World Championships Men & Women – Americas Zone

Right now the rule-books says, that the winner of the Americas Challenge gets a spot at the WCC, the other MA qualifies for the WQE. In the case that one of the MAs from that zone finishes last at the previous World Championship, that is not true, as that zone would then lose a spot.

Change the wording to:

Americas Zone: There is one place available at the WQE for the Americas MAs (not including the host).

~~If the two MAs agree that the challenge need not be played because one MA concedes, the MA winning by forfeit qualifies for the WCC, the other MA qualifies for the WQE. If more than two MAs are registered to play in the Americas Challenge, the challenge must be played. The winning MA qualifies for the WCC, if there is a spot available, otherwise they qualify for the WQE. The 2nd ranked team of the Challenge qualifies for the WQE, but only if the winner does not already occupy that spot.~~

Supported by the C&R Commission – Yes

Supported by the Athlete Commission – Yes

*There was no proposer for the motion.
The motion fell.*

Consolidated Rule Changes Motion

With the agreement of the Members, the rest of the rule changes were grouped into a single motion for the approval of the Assembly

- i) Position of players – Delivering Team – R4 (b) (iii)
- iii) Scoring R11 (i)
- vii) Participating Teams C2 (i)
- ix) Game timing C6 (g)
- x) Game timing C6 (j)
- xi) Stone assignment C8 (f) (iii)
- xii) Stone assignment C8 new paragraph g and subsequent renumbering
- xiii) Stone assignment C8 - new sub paragraph for MD
- xiv) Team Ranking Procedure C9 (b-iv)
- xv) Team Ranking Procedure C9 (b) (vi)
- xvi) Team Ranking C9 (f)
- xvii) Team Ranking C9 (f)
- xviii) Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
- xxii) Qualification – World Championships Men & Women – Clarification on not taken slots within each zone
- xxiii) Seeding teams into groups
- xxiv) Play-off System (clean up)

*Proposed by Resby Coutts
Seconded by Sergio Mitsuo Vilela
and carried unanimously*

Motions from the Norwegian Curling Association

C7. TEAM TIME-OUTS / TECHNICAL TIME-OUTS

- (a) Team time-outs will be allowed at all WCF events, with or without time clocks being used.
- (b) Each team may call one 60 second team time-out during each game and one 60 second team time-out in each extra end.
- (c) Procedures for a team time-out are as follows:
 - (i) Only the players on the ice may call a team time-out.
 - (ii) Team time-outs may be called by any on-ice team player only when that team's game clock is running. Players signal a team time-out by using a "T" hand signal.
 - (iii) A team time-out (when the game clock is stopped) starts as soon as the time-out is called and lasts for 60 seconds.
 - (iv) The team is notified when there are 10 seconds remaining in the team time-out.

(d) A technical time-out may be called by a team to request a ruling, for an injury or in other extenuating circumstances. Game clocks will be stopped during technical time-outs.

*Proposed by Morten Søgård
There was no seconder
The motion fell*

C5. LENGTH OF GAMES

Norwegian Curling Association hereby propose to change the rules regarding the length of the games, i.e. C5 in the Rules of Competition, and other documents (team meeting documents, etc.) where the number of ends are regulated.

In short, our proposal is to change the length of the games from 10 to 8 ends in championships organized by WCF.

Currently 8 ends are the rule for Wheelchair Curling, Mixed Curling, and Mixed Double. If the new proposed rule is accepted, these rules can be deleted in "The Rules of Curling", since 8 ends will apply for all championships.

For other championships organized by WCF "The Rules of Curling and Rules of Competition" do not have a specific paragraph stating the number of ends to be played. The only other paragraph speaking about the length of the games is C5 in "Rules of Competition" and this must to be changed.

Rationale:

The rationale behind the proposal is:

- The game will be more compact and exciting to the audience and attract new people,
- The feedback from the athletes are for most parts favorable towards 8 ends,
- The curling season keeps expanding and is now approx. 9 months long, giving the top athletes very little time for recovery and could cause more chronic injuries. Shorter games will help ease the physical pressure,
- Shorter games will make the game more interesting for TV, streaming and other online media,
- We believe that in the long run curling will become more valuable to the sponsors. The shortening of the game might hurt sponsors revenue sort time, but in the long run that will be more than offset by a higher number of viewers,
- Competing sport are continuously developing their games and curling need to the same to stay competitive.

*Proposed by Morten Søgård
Seconded by Marcus Schmitt*

Graham Prouse (WCF Vice-President Americas) said that after some discussion there was concern raised about whether the timeline for the Maximizing the Value Project (18 months) was too long. WCF committed that it would take every effort to do it quicker as long as it did not compromise the integrity of the process.

The Norwegian Curling Association proposed to postpone the motion to next year's Annual General Assembly.

*Postponement proposed by Morten Søgård
Seconded by Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta
and carried unanimously*

The motion is carried forward to the Agenda of the Annual Assembly in 2020

Motion from Austrian Curling Association

Ref: Rules of Competition C3 Uniforms/Equipment (a)

Summary:

We understand the intention of the 30/70 rule was well-meant, but actually the rule seems to be unsatisfactory for all parties involved. We therefore think it is necessary to change to the “old” rule in a first step, and clarify that undershirts are not covered by the policy to ensure a consistent application of rules to all teams.

In a second step, we would ask the WCF to investigate for alternative possibilities to “match” the stone colours to the teams. We were wondering if the handle of the stones could show the flag of the nation playing. Instead of aligning the colour of the shirts with the colour of the handles, handles could be marked according to the playing teams. This would have one more advantage: When the position of stones in the house is shown on TV, for inexperienced viewers it is hard to identify what teams are playing and which team is shot. If stones would carry some kind of “identification”, the situation would be easier to understand. We don’t know if such an identification is possible, however we would ask the WCF to take the idea into account.

*Proposed by Marcus Schmitt
Seconded by Allen Coliban
The motion was defeated*

I6 Elections (CGR)

The following WCF Board members were elected by acclamation:

Bent Ramsfjell (NOR) - Vice-President Europe

The Vice-President thanked the WCF, the MAs and the Norwegian Curling Federation. He encouraged everybody to bring people forward to stand for elections. It is important to engage people because the WCF needs good people to survive. He thanked his family for their support. He added that he had brought his wife for the first time and hoped it would give her a better understanding about what this great sport is all about.

Toyo Ogawa (JPN) – Director Position I

The Director said that he was happy to work for the WCF another term which makes him feel really happy and humble to work for all the good Curling family members.

I7 Acceptance of new Member Associations (CGR)

CGR explained that there are no membership applications to be put forward to the Assembly today. The Board would consider this afternoon some applications for conditional membership from Kuwait, India and the Dominican Republic.

I8 Date and location of next meetings and next General Assembly (CGR)

Open Meetings for Member Associations will be held in Glasgow, Scotland at the World Men’s Curling Championship – 3-4 April 2020.

The 2020 Annual Congress will be held in St Petersburg, Russia - Open Meetings 4th & 5th September 2020, the Annual Assembly to be held on the 6th September.

Olga Zharkova gave a presentation on Saint Petersburg and invited all the delegates to come to St. Petersburg Russia in 2020. She informed the delegates that the Park Inn by Radisson Pribaltiyskaya would be the official Congress Hotel.

The President added that she was very much looking forward to returning to St. Petersburg. She closed the Congress with the following words:

"Well everyone it is now time to close the 8th Annual Congress in what has been another excellent gathering together. Grateful thanks are extended to Rodrigo, Paula and their team and we will thank them formally at the Closing Banquet. This time last year we welcomed a new Board Member Beau Welling who was tasked with the job of a Strategic Planning Process for the WCF which we wished to implement for the future.

During this past twelve months Beau has truly embraced this project and has included input from the Board at our December Board meetings and you the delegates at both Silkeborg and here in Cancun. Following his SWOT analysis we, and you, have identified areas which we need to address and I hope you all agree that we are now in the process of working together to develop our forward plan and the future of our sport.

We are so very fortunate to have a truly amazing staff who are all passionate about curling and this has been evident during this Congress with their excellent presentations.

Competitions and Rules - Eeva who unbelievably has only been at the helm for one year and who with her team of CDOs - Darrel, Jiri, and Karri consistently run each Championship in a professional manner.

Development – and our partnership with the World Academy of Sport under the leadership of our Head of Development Scott who in his first year in the position has done a quite amazing job.

Media – Launch of our New Website and Weibo Social Media in China where within 30 hours more Chinese had viewed the post than the population of my country – Scotland! This has all been achieved with the hard work of our newly appointed Head of Media Cam and his team of Chris and Emily not forgetting of course our IT expert Ashley.

Broadcasting – Richard who regrettably has been unable to join us, is now in his official new role as Head of Broadcasting which is something he has been heading up over all the years I have been involved with the Federation – some 21 years – is travelling the globe, meeting with our TV partners and LOCs ensuring our Window to the World .

Office - Our newly appointed Office Manager Liz who has been with the Federation nearly as long as I have and is our engine room within the office and ably assisted by Susan who looks after Anti-Doping and Gill our administrator and of course Saskia who has been with the WCF longer than I have and has now moved to a fulltime position.

Finance -Thelma who is our Finance controller and does an amazing job ensuring that our finances are in excellent shape which is evident with once more a clean audit.

Finally – Rhona newly appointed in charge of logistics and equipment, and not forgetting Paul Ahlgren who has over the years looked after our World Rankings and Historical results.

Now all these people report to our first class Secretary General Colin and this gives you an indication of how our sport has evolved over time when I first became involved when the Federation which was run by 3 staff.

Our Athletes who continually showcase our sport in the true spirit of curling, all our Commissions – Technical Commission, Competition & Rules, Governance and Finance who all do an amazing job can I say a huge thank you.

To the hardworking Board who will endeavour to move their focus to strategic matters as we all work together to implement the new forward plan –thank you - and to our wonderful staff for everything you do to promote and what we all recognise as the best and fastest growing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Olympic Sport –thank you.

Every year I state what an honour it is to be your President of this amazing and ever increasing curling family and I promise to give 100% effort during my final term in office. I know together with the help of you our MAs we can work together as a team to ensure the continuing success of Curling on both the Domestic and International stage.”

Hugh Millikin expressed everybody's thanks to Kate. It is incredible to see how hard she works. The delegates applauded upstanding.



President's Report

Welcome everyone to our Annual Congress here in beautiful Cancun!

The following is my annual report since Budapest

Following the Congress in September I headed off to Suzhou to open the first leg of the Curling World Cup. The wonderful Opening Ceremony heralded the start of what was to be a very successful event and thoroughly enjoyed by the participating teams. The venue however had proved challenging because of dehumidification problems and grateful thanks to Hans Wüthrich and Mark Callan who managed to produce very good ice. I could only stay for a few days and left on Saturday when Bent took over and closed the event with Canada sweeping the boards in all three events.

I left there to go to Beijing for the 2022 IOC Co-ordination Commission which included site visits of the Olympic Venues in Beijing. Following these two days of meetings during which I chaired my first meeting as Chairman of the IOC Spectator Experience which includes ticketing and hospitality, I moved hotels and then attended the World Winter Sport Expo 2018 where I was joined by Scott. I was invited to give a presentation to all the delegates and thereafter attended formal lunches and dinners. During my time in Beijing, Scott and I had meetings at Beijing Sports University and were warmly welcomed by the students who are now in the curling programme. Scott had a further meeting with the sports department to pave the way ahead. I also had dinner with the Mr Gou, Chinese Olympic Association President together with members of BOCOG (Beijing Olympic Committee) and met with the Beijing Sports Bureau to discuss their hosting of the final leg of the World Cup which was agreed.

Home for 10 days and then Colin and I headed to Buenos Aires for the IOC Congress and the start of the Summer Youth Olympic Games. As always our time at the Congress apart from attending the session was spent with many side meetings and our Annual meeting with AIOWF and IOC. We also had the opportunity to attend some of the sports which were part of the games for the first time – break dancing and climbing.

Sadly on my return home I received a letter from President Bach informing me of the tragic and sudden death of IOC Member Patrick Baumann President of GAISF.

I attended Patrick's very moving memorial service in Lausanne Cathedral some two weeks later.

I remained in Lausanne for the IF Forum which for me was preceded with the GAISF meeting to discuss the way ahead following the death of Patrick. Colin then joined me for the IF Forum

for the next two days. I left from there to travel to Gangneung for the final weekend of the PACC which was held in the Olympic Venue. Part of the reason for my attendance was to have meetings with the new Mayor to ensure that the venue would remain as a dedicated curling facility and I was delighted to confirm this.

A few days at home and then I travelled to Tallinn for the European Curling Championships with the Prime Minister delivering the opening stone. As ever Estonian Curling Federation hosted an outstanding championship. I had the opportunity while there to speak to many of the European countries who wanted to either discuss their problems or bring me up to speed with their progress.

Home for the weekend and then off for my most challenging trip since becoming President when I travelled round the globe.

Tokyo was the first port of call where I attended ANOC (Association of National Olympic Committees). Since becoming President 8 years ago each year I have been invited to attend and this was my first time. I should say it was a perfect opportunity to meet with NOCs. I should also add this was the biggest attendance ever with 206 countries and more than 1600 delegates.

I had separate meetings with NZ, Poland, Stockholm 2026 bidding committee, India, Qatar, Ukraine, Turkmenistan. The Gala Awards evening was fantastic and even more so when the first award to be presented was for the best team from the Pyeongchang Olympics- Sweden's Curling team - and then the second award for the best Male team – USA Curling Team!! And all in all it was a very worthwhile trip!

From there it was off to Osaka by bullet train for the IMGA (International Master Games Association) Board Meetings and also presentations from Kansai 2021 where some 50,000 athletes are expected to participate in the summer games. Within the 9 person board there are three IOC vice presidents and 4 IOC members who are all presidents of their International Federations.

Next it was off to China to attend the 7th edition of the Chinese Snow & Ice Festival in Shanghai with all seven IOC winter sports in attendance. I arrived into my hotel late afternoon with only 30 minutes to change as I had arranged while in China to travel to Suzhou which was a 2 hour car ride to meet and have dinner with Government officials and the LOC from the CWC. Following dinner we had a discussion about Suzhou hosting next year. However, there has been a change in Local Government and their budget had been dramatically cut and although keen to host for this coming season it wasn't possible. I travelled back that evening to Shanghai and next day had a morning meeting with the CCA and lunch with Mr Ni and Mr Goa to discuss the curling situation in China and the way forward.

In the evening all 7 Winter Sports were taken on an evening cruise of Shanghai –hosted by Shanghai Sports Bureau.

Next day we had a tour of the second largest building in the world – lunch and then I had meetings with BOCOG and signed the Olympic Sport Delivery Plan. The Test event in the Water Cube in December next year was discussed – and also the WCF Headquarter Hotel for 2022. Following this I had a TV Broadcast interview with the main paper in China -China Daily.

Then it was off for a banquet with the Mayor of Shanghai whom I was honoured to sit next to. Everyone headed from the dinner to the Gala Opening of the Snow and Ice Sports Festival where curling featured well in the Ice Show which was quite spectacular.

From China it was straight to Omaha for Board Meetings taking place during the CWC. The very experienced LOC excelled themselves and the event final day had 6 different Associations taking part in the final with the Men's event being a re-run of the Olympic final where once more USA were successful. The Women's final a re-run of the Olympic semi-final and this time Japan were the victors and the Mixed Doubles final being contested with the Silver and Bronze Olympic medallists with Norway being victorious.

From there I spent a few days in San Diego with my family and then the final leg of this round trip travelling home in time for Christmas.

Early January my husband Ron and I were invited to join the teams at the formal dinner of the Perth Masters. – We have supported the Tour for webcasting \$60,000.

At the end of January I attended the GAISF Board Meetings in Lausanne and travelled directly from there to Jönköping for the third leg of the CWC. Really a first class event which everyone enjoyed. The venue was the Curling club which was built with the expertise of Leif Öhman which is his home club. The accommodation for the teams was in the same building and they had supplied slippers for each team member to go from their room to the Arena

From Jonkoping Richard Harding and I drove to Stockholm to meet with their Bid Committee to discuss their plans for curling within their bid for Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games 2026

We spent the night in Stockholm and then travelled to Milan to meet with the Bid Committee Milan/Cortina to discuss their plans for curling within their bid for Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games 2026

The middle of February I travelled to Liverpool Nova Scotia for the World Juniors. The venue, accommodation and transport were first class and all in all an outstanding Championship. Many thanks to Graham for Opening the Championships and indeed for joining me throughout.

Home for 5 days and then I travelled to Stirling for the WWHCC – Great Organising Committee –accommodation and transport so important – everything worked so well. I invited the CEO of Glasgow Life to attend –they are the hosts for next year's WMCC. Throughout the week our other sponsors EventScotland and UK Sport also attended which gave us the chance to discuss 2020 WMCC.

Thanks to Hew who joined me for a few days which allowed me to attend the IOC Programme Commission Meeting in Lausanne where among other things we discussed the added sports requested for 2024 Paris Olympic Games. This decision will be taken in November 2020 following the Tokyo Olympic Games.

The evening prior to the meeting of the Programme Commission the members had dinner with the IOC President.

I was home for four days before travelling to Silkeborg to attend the WWCC and also our Board Meetings. The Opening Ceremony was excellent during which we had the Hall of Fame presentation to Dordi Norby. Once more the experienced LOC organized a first class event. Towards the end of the week we held Open Meetings for the 25 delegates from 11 MAs who attended. Breakout sessions during the meetings took place to discuss among other things

our Forward Plan which were very fruitful and enjoyed by everyone. In closing the meetings I made a small presentation to Mark Swanby in recognition of his 20 years service as a WCF Rep and wished him well in the future.

From there it was off to Lethbridge where we enjoyed full houses throughout the week and proved to be one of our biggest audiences at any World Championship –this very experienced LOC excelled themselves and should be congratulated. During the Bronze Medal game I was delighted to induct Mike Burns Senior into the Hall of fame and this great honour was accepted by his son Mike Burns on behalf of the family.

Next it was the WMDCC and WSCC held in Stavanger in what was our biggest ever number of teams attending. 48 teams took part in the Mixed Doubles and 44 in WSCC with a first appearance at these Championship for new MAs.. This was our second visit to Stavanger and again the very experienced LOC must be congratulated.

A short few days at home and then together with Colin I travelled to the Gold Coast where we attended a very busy Sportaccord. The usual IOC/AIOWF meetings took place and the AGMs of IMGA and GAISF. Hugh Millikin joined us later in the week where he had the opportunity to visit all the stands and also the various Open Meetings.

I left immediately following the AGM of GAISF to travel to Beijing for the Final of the Curling World Cup. This took place in Shougang the home of BOCOG and in the newly built Ice Hockey Arena. The final was hosted by Beijing Sports Bureau and they certainly pulled out all the stops – really a fitting end to the CWC. I also took the opportunity at the closing banquet to thank the Ulsrud Team for their contribution to curling over the years as this was their final appearance as a team. During my time there Bent accompanied me at several meetings with the CCA and Kingdomway sport who regrettably will no longer be sponsoring the event. The final games were quite exceptional with Kevin Koe's team –Canada winning the men's title, Jennifer Jones's team –Canada taking the women's title and Norway's mixed doubles team Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten taking Gold.

June – Colin and I attended the IOC Congress in Lausanne which was organized to coincide with the Opening of the wonderful new IOC Headquarters. The evening prior to the opening I was honoured to be one of the presenters of the IOC Golden Rings Awards at a Gala evening. I had been invited some weeks previously to be part of the jury.

Apart from the session meetings during the congress we attended many side meetings with AIOWF, IOC and YOG to discuss next year's Games in January in Lausanne, with curling being hosted in Champéry. Of course there was much lobbying taking place prior to the vote by the IOC members as to the venue for 2026 Olympic/Paralympic Games and of course as you all know Milan/Cortina won.

July – It was once more travelling to China for the– IOC Co-Comm Meetings 2022 Beijing. I arrived a couple of days early to meet with the Chinese Curling Association and also to visit the Beijing Sports University where I met with and had lunch with the President and visited the two sheet dedicated curling facility.

Thereafter I travelled to Heibei Province where I met up with the other members of the IOC Co-Comm. Dinner was held the first evening with dignitaries from the Province and the following day we had site visits of the Skiing and Biathlon venues, the Bobsleigh/ Skeleton and Luge tracks and the site of the Olympic/Paralympic Athlete village. The next two days were taken up with meetings with BOCOG and also a formal dinner. On the final evening Colin, who had arrived in time for the meetings together with the other Secretary Generals and IF

Presidents, and I had a tour of the proposed WCF Headquarters hotel for the 2022 Olympic Games which we have now formally signed and agreed upon.

At the end of the month I travelled to Torino for Board meetings of the International Master Games Association during the European Masters Games where a presentation was given from next year's Winter Games to take place in January in Innsbruck with mixed curling being hosted Kitzbhüel..

August was spent in Scotland for a short holiday and time finalizing our Annual Review and working together with Colin on the Agenda and reports for this AGA.

All in all a really busy year but a very productive and enjoyable one.