



MINUTES of the Virtual Annual General Assembly 06 September 2020

WCF President Kate Caithness welcomed the attendees to the Virtual Annual General Assembly 2020.

CGR thanked software supplier Lumi Global for their help in setting this meeting up.

I Reading of Notice of Meeting

As per the Constitution the notice of this meeting was provided on 5th June 2020, the agenda and papers had been circulated within the stipulated timeframes allowing the Annual General Assembly to be held today the 6th September 2020.

In order finish the roll call for the meeting 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.

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

Everyone was asked for one minute's silence for friends who have passed away since the last meeting in Cancun including Christian Leibbrandt (victim of the Covid-19 pandemic) and Jean-Paul Bidaud (Member of the WCF Hall of Fame).

8 President's Report - Kate Caithness

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

2 Report on Credentials of Representatives and Quorum

The following attendance was recorded:

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	
Richard Harding (RHA)	Head of Broadcasting	
Eva Röthlisberger (ERÖ)	Head of Competitions	

Scott Arnold (SAR)	Head of Development
Darrell Ell (DEL)	Competitions & Development Officer
Karri Willms (KWI)	Competitions & Development Officer
Jiri Snitil (JSN)	Competitions & Development Officer
Liz Munro (LMU)	Office Manager
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer
Chris Hamilton (CHA)	Acting Head of Media
Emily Dwyer	Media Officer
Ashley Melville (AME)	IT Officer
Rhona Howie	Logistics & Equipment Officer
Susan Keith	Anti-Doping Officer
Gill Amatt	Administrator
Sylvie Aubrit	World Curling TV
Belinda Bantle-Carboni	World Curling TV

Representatives of Full Members

RCCC	Rob Niven Bruce Crawford Susan Kesley Bob Kelly
Andorra	Josep Garcia
Australia	Kim Forge
Austria	Veronika Huber
	Philipp Eichinger
Belarus	Andrei Yurkevich
	Inesa Pauliuchyk
Belgium	Dirk Heylen Sarah Megens
Brazil	Sergio Mitsuo Vilela Anne Akemi Shibuya
Canada	Amy Nixon John Shea Chana Martinau Mitch Minken
China	Li Dongyan Yu Haiyan
Chinese Taipei	Amanda Yi-Hsuan Chou Brendon Bor-Kai Liu
Croatia	Neven Pufnik
Czech Republic	David Šík
Denmark	Karolína Frederiksen Henrik Christoffersen Rikke Jensen
England	John Brown Alison Arthur
Estonia	Fred Randver Juuli Litt
Finland	Katja Kiiskinen
Germany	Bernhard Mayr

	Christina Haller
Guyana	Rayad F Hussain
	Farzana A Hussain
Hong Kong	Jason Chang
	Yuen Ting Ashura Wong
Hungary	Gyorgy Nagy
	Blanka Dencsö
Ireland	John Burns
	Carolyn Hibberd
Italy	Eros Gonin
Japan	Yuhei Kusui
	Terri Johnston
Korea	Tomoyoshi Kinoshita
Kosovo	Choi, Soung Ae
Latvia	Peter Andersen
Lithuania	Raimonds Vaivods
Luxembourg	Tadas Vyskupaitis
	Alex Benoy
Mexico	Susanne Benoy-Göbel
	Ramy Cohen
	Paula Herrera Moreno
Netherlands	John Kuijpers
	Bea Miltenburg
New Zealand	Lorne de Pape
Norway	Morten Søgård
	Grethe Brenna
	Dagfinn Loen
Romania	Cristian Matau
	Octavia Traila
Russia	Ekaterina Galkina
	Olga Andrianova
	Konstantin Zadvornov
	Olga Zharkova
Saudi Arabia	Alastair Fyfe
	Elaine Fyfe
Slovakia	Slavka Makovnikova
Slovenia	Gregor Rigler
	Marusa Gorisek
Spain	Frank Gonzalez
Sweden	Michael Marklund
	Alison Kreviazuk
	Stefan Lund
Switzerland	Freddy Meister
	Marco Faoro
	Michael Lips
	Imogen Oona Lehman
Ukraine	Alex Perevezentsev
	Natalia Menzhega
USA	Leland Rich

Wales	Rich Lepping Jennifer Stannard Allison Pottinger Adrian Meikle Lisa Peters
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Representatives of Provisional Members

Greece	Timoleon Tsourekas Eva Mataranga
Nigeria	Daniel Damola Henrietta O. Daniel
Portugal	Fiona Grace Simpson

Representatives of Conditional Members

India	Mohd Danish Dr Rashmi Saluja
Kuwait	Meshal AlAjmi

Proxies

Member Association	Representative	Proxy Holder
Australia	John Anderson	Kim Forge (AUS)
Croatia	Katarina Cadez	Neven Pufnik (CRO)
Latvia	Ieva Krusta	Raimonds Vaivods (LAT)
New Zealand	Carroll de Pape	Lorne de Pape (NZL)
Slovakia	Pavol Pitonak	Slavka Makovnikova (SVK)

Observers

Bolivia	Grecia Galean Yerko Castro
Canada	Katherine Henderson Chad McMullan Nolan Thiessen
China	Yanxia Wang Bingyu Wang
France	Alexandre Vanhoutte
Greece	Georgios Smyrnaios
Hong Kong	Kelvin Cheung
Ireland	Eoin McCrossan
Italy	Andrea Gios Giuseppe Antonucci
Kosovo	Besim Hasani
Luxembourg	Karen Wauters
Netherlands	Jules Broex
Norway	Paal Trulsen
Poland	Janusz Duda

Scotland	David Murdoch
	Willie Nicoll
Sweden	Leif Öhman
Switzerland	Irina Gladkikh (IOC)
	Claude Hollenstein (Infront)
USA	Jeff Plush
	Courtney Schmidt
	Mark Swandby

Attendance and Proxies

Representatives present	87
Representatives by proxy	5
Votes present	195
Votes by proxy	11
Total votes present and proxy	206
Members Associations present	43
Provisional Members present	3
Conditional Members present	2
Zones present	3

CGR advised the Member Associations (MAs) that there was a quorum.

CGR confirmed that the WCF regalia (medals and badges) for new WCF representatives would be presented at the next Annual General Assembly 2021.

3 Exclusion / Suspension of a Member Association

BRA explained that the current situation with the Polish Curling Association is the end of a lengthy process which had started approx. 3 years ago. During this period WCF had been extremely patient.

The resolution that is now being put forward to the members is:

To suspend the World Curling Federation membership of the Polish Curling Association (PCA)

BRA explained that if the AGA suspended the PCA, then PCA would not be able to

- enter events
- attend meetings
- vote
- access DAP funding

He added that suspension is not the same as expulsion. He also said that the current process is an approach to help Poland to sort out their governance issues.

BRA gave a presentation on the background and the rationale as follows:

- As of Friday, 31 January 2020 the PCA has been suspended as a Member Association of the WCF by the Board
- The WCF Board considers the PCA to be in breach of the WCF Constitution by “bringing the sport into disrepute” (section 6.6.2.3)

The rationale:

- The WCF has received reports with concerns about the governance situation in Poland for more than a decade
- In recent years the WCF has assisted the Polish curling community trying to draw up a new constitution
- Since October 2018 the PCA has failed to respond satisfactorily to WCF requests for information and clarification
- In October 2019 the Polish Minister of Sports and Tourism approached the Polish courts with an application for dissolution of the PCA based on issues they have with the PCA
- Since the initial suspension the WCF Board has asked the PCA to provide the necessary information to enable the suspension to be lifted before this AGA – this has not been successful
- The WCF Board has not seen any sign of willingness from the PCA to provide information requested and to resolve outstanding governance issues
- The PCA continues to operate outside the terms of their existing constitution
- The Polish court process for dissolution of the PCA is still on-going – and could last for years
- Polish curlers have repeatedly pleaded with the WCF to resolve the situation – and they support the suspension

BRA also answered the following rhetorical questions:

Is this a domestic problem?

It has always been the aim of the WCF to unite the Polish Curling community. One of the demands put forward to the PCA was to prove that all clubs are actively involved in Curling. WCF needs to be certain that curlers are in control of the governing body in Poland. PCA consists of multi-discipline sports clubs like karate, skating and basketball. The implication of this is that if other sports are in control then they also have an impact on the decision-making processes within the WCF. The currently acting President also seems to be the President of the Polish Karate Federation.

Why cannot the Polish court decide before the suspension of the PCA membership?

It might take years until the Polish court takes a decision.

Why cannot the stakeholders sort out the issues by themselves?

This had basically been the WCF's strategy. WCF has been communicating with the Ministry of Sports and Tourism and they have carried out several audits and have reported organisational and financial irregularities. WCF has also been in contact with the Polish Olympic Committee. The latter is important because they need to acknowledge and support the governing body of Curling in Poland. A letter had been received from the Polish Olympic Committee stating that they hope that the issue be resolved in the interest of the athletes. One of the reasons for suspension is to help Polish authorities to solve the outstanding issues by themselves.

The Board's decision in January implies that today's AGA either confirms PCA's suspension or lifts the suspension.

Unfortunately, suspension of the PCA is the only action that the WCF Board sees which will unite the Polish curling community and nurture the growth and development of the sport of curling in Poland under a democratic, robust and future-oriented constitution

PCA was given the opportunity to speak. **Janusz Duda**, PCA representative stated the following:

- I am astonished that there is such a bad conclusion on the WCF side despite the fact that we have the same aim
- The information that WCF has and has now presented to the MAs is to a large extent not true. It is not true that the majority of the Polish curlers is against PCA it is only a small but very active minority.
- We sent a detailed letter to all MAs a few days ago and we rejected all accusations point by point
- PCA has an acting Board of four people and is part of the Polish Olympic Committee. Polish Olympic Committee had asked WCF to wait with the suspension until after the Polish court has made a decision.
- We should trust each other and should follow the rules of fair-play. What is happening now is against fair-play and I ask WCF to withdraw the motion for suspension
- I was not prepared for such a presentation from WCF. Copy of the presentation should have been sent to PCA at least 2 days in advance.
- Since March we have the Covid-19 situation which stopped all actions that were being taken.
- It is not true that PCA does not accept any new clubs. If PCA is suspended today WCF creates a terrible situation that is very difficult to solve. If suspended, no Polish curler can participate in any WCF event.
- You used the word “corruption”. There is no corruption within PCA. WCF has received the financial statements so how can WCF state that there is corruption? It is the other way round: A lot of Polish curlers put a lot of effort into the sport to do the best for Curling in Poland.

BRA replied as follows:

- I have not used the word corruption at all. I have only spoken about “organizational and financial irregularities”.
- Through the whole process PCA has always responded at very last minute. It is not fair to say that WCF should have shared the presentation in advance.
- I would like to quote the letter from the Polish Olympic Committee dated 2 Sep 2020: “Dear Mrs. President,

On behalf of the Polish Olympic Committee and myself I would like to thank you for the letter you sent on the situation of Curling in Poland and for the information about the upcoming Annual General Assembly of the World Curling Federation on 6 September 2020 during which this matter will be settled. I sincerely hope that after the end of the proceedings initiated by the Minister of Sport to the Polish Curling Association the issue of Curling in Poland will be resolved in the interest of the athletes. I truly believe that all actions taken by the Minister of Sport will have a positive impact in the development of Curling. I take the occasion of this letter to wish you, dear Mrs. President, a lot of success with Curling and satisfaction with your involvement in the world-wide sport.”

The following questions were asked:

Bruce Crawford (SCO) If the PCA is suspended today, and subsequently meets the demands of the WCF, what timescale will Poland be able to be readmitted into the WCF? **WCF reply (CGR):** If the AGA suspends PCA then only the AGA can re-admit Poland. So, the next possibility for re-admission would be the AGA in 2021.

Lisa Peters (WAL): Has the Polish Olympic Committee suspended the PCA? **WCF reply (CGR):** No, they have not.

Alex Benoy (LUX): What has the Polish court to decide? **WCF reply (CGR):** The court is deciding whether to dissolve the PCA at the request of the Ministry of Sport in Poland.

Yanxia Wang (CHN): What is the reason to raise the request by the Ministry of Sport in Poland? **WCF reply (CGR):** There have been a number of audits and issues that the Polish Ministry have raised with the PCA over the years and they do not feel they had satisfactory answers to those to the point where last October the Polish Ministry raised action with the Polish court to dissolve the PCA.

Alex Benoy (LUX): What about the Polish curlers? Are we sure, they want the suspension??

WCF reply (CGR): You may have seen online some responses of the Polish curlers. We have had regular meetings with Polish teams that have attended WCF events during which they have stated that they do support the suspension. If that represents the majority or all of the Polish curlers – we cannot answer this question.

WCF President Kate Caithness added the following:

“This is a very sad day for curling when you are being asked to suspend a Member Association from membership of the WCF.

As Bent stated the WCF Board have had ongoing concerns regarding the governance situation in Poland for many years and since becoming President I have had regular meetings with the PCA raising my concerns. This culminated in December of 2017 when I travelled to Warsaw together with Bent to have a face to face meeting with the PCA and the PKFC. Sadly, the President of PCA did not attend. The outcome from the meeting was that we would assist the Polish curling community to draw up a new constitution which would be ratified at the AGM the following December.

Willie Nicoll representing the Governance Commission travelled to Warsaw for a joint meeting together with PCA & PKFC to revise the constitution. This meeting sadly did not have a successful outcome as both parties could not agree.

In April 2019 during the WMDCC and WSCC in Stavanger Bent and I met once more with the PCA who promised to put their house in order as a matter of urgency and sadly despite countless communications this has not happened

I would urge you today to support the Governance Commission and the Board’s recommendation to suspend the Polish Curling Association.”

MOTION

“To suspend the World Curling Federation membership of the Polish Curling Association (PCA)” was

*Proposed by Gregor Rigler
Seconded by György Nagy*

Janusz Duda (POL) was again given the opportunity to speak to the delegates. He again asked the representatives to wait for the verdict of the Polish court and not to vote for the suspension. Following this final comment the vote was taken:

*The motion was carried by majority
(157 votes in favour, 17 votes against, 32 abstentions)*

4 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

The minutes were taken as read. The minutes were approved unanimously.

6 Business arising out of the Minutes

CGR explained that there is one item on the agenda from last year's AGA: The Norwegian motion on the 8 versus 10 ends. Morten Soegaard (NOR) was invited to speak and he said that on the assumption that the Maximizing The Value (MTV) group will come up with this proposal regarding 8 vs 10 ends the Norwegian Curling Association would like to withdraw the motion. In case that a relevant motion will not be submitted by the MTV group then the Norwegian Curling Association may re-submit this motion in time before the Congress in 2021.

9 Report of the Executive Board and Committees

CGR advised that all reports had been posted online earlier during the week. He expressed his hope that everybody has had a chance to review them.

The reports can still be viewed here: <https://worldcurling.org/congress2020-presentations/>

There were no questions.

10 Report of Auditors (CLI)

Cathrine Lindahl (CLI) on behalf of the Finance Commission 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 Great Britain standards.

She thanked Thelma Black (WCF Financial Controller) for doing the accounting in an excellent way. She also introduced the Finance Commission whose members are:

John Shea (CAN)
Lauri Ikavalko (FIN)
Leland Rich (USA)
John Anderson (AUS)

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

CGR advised that the Finance report had been placed online earlier during the week. The Final Accounts for the year end 30 June 2020 had been distributed earlier. The WCF had been able to end the year in a positive financial position mainly due to sales of investments that the WCF held and which it managed to sell at profit. Due to Covid-19 a lot of income had been lost but it has been possible to offset this with savings on events that were not held. The approval of the members and discharge to the Board was

*Proposed by Terri Johnston
Seconded by Alison Arthur
and approved unanimously*

12 Appointment of the Auditors (CLI)

It was proposed that Mazars, Edinburgh be re-appointed Auditors for the year to 30 June 2021.

*Proposed by Alison Arthur
Seconded by Kim Forge*

*The motion was carried by majority
(188 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 18 abstentions)*

13 Presentation of the Budget (CGR)

Colin Grahamslaw explained that the budget that was presented online had been prepared a number of months ago and obviously would need significant adjustments. Given the recent decisions on the cancellation of events to the end of November the budget will be reviewed. The MAs will be updated in due course.

There following comment was made:

Bruce Crawford (SCO): When revising the budget WCF should consider the huge impact that Covid-19 has on virtually every WCF Member Association that is not afforded the same comfort that the WCF has for the amount it holds in reserve. It would be great if as a result the DAP applications could be given some flexibility. Many of the WCF MAs will be facing some extreme hardship in these coronavirus times and the year ahead. **WCF reply (CGR):** This request will be taken back to the DAP committee and the Finance Commission to investigate what is possible. WCF is aware that it is a challenging situation for the MAs.

14 Approval of Annual Subscriptions (CGR)

Currently there is no proposal to increase the amount of the annual subscriptions.

15 Resolutions (CGR)

a) Adoption of the 2021 World Curling Federation Anti-Doping Rules

Resolution:

To adopt the 2021 World Curling Federation Anti-Doping Rules which have been confirmed as being compliant with the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Proposed by Alastair Fyfe
Seconded by Susan Kesley
The motion was carried by majority
(200 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 6 abstentions)

CGR added that the new Anti-Doping Rules take effect as of 1 January 2021.

b) Constitutional Amendments regarding Governance Style

The following changes are proposed to the wording of the constitution:

i.i. Governance Style

The supreme authority of the World Curling Federation is the General Assembly.

By way of this Constitution and ~~by~~e-laws, including amendments from time to time, the General Assembly delegates certain authorities and responsibilities to the Board ~~of Directors~~ to ensure the sound operation of the World Curling Federation.

The Board ~~of Directors~~, within the limits of this Constitution and ~~by~~e-laws, is responsible for the strategic direction of the World Curling Federation and may further will delegate day to day such operational authorities and responsibilities as it deems appropriate are required to the WCF Secretary General, in order that the organisation might work with maximum efficiency and effectiveness towards achieving the Strategic Plan put in place by the Board to achieve the Purpose and Aims of the World Curling Federation.

This Board to Executive delegation shall occur in such a manner so as to ensure clear limits of authority and responsibility are established, risks to the organisation, its Members and its people are minimized and the sport of curling grows to its maximum and sustainable potential.

And while the Board ~~of Directors~~ is authorised to delegate its authority, it does not in any respect delegate or relinquish accountability for the prudent operation of the World Curling Federation in accordance with its Constitution, ~~by~~e-Laws and the laws of the territories in which it operates.

Proposed by Rob Niven
Seconded by Sergio Mitsuo Vilela
The motion was carried by majority
(198 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 8 abstentions)

b) Constitutional Amendments regarding Nominations Committee

ii) Nominations Committee

The following changes are proposed to the constitution:

BYE LAW 3

ELECTION OF THE BOARD

1. GENERAL

i.i. A call for nominations will be issued to the Member Associations at least one hundred and twenty (120) days in advance of the Assembly at which elections are due to take place. Nominations for the election of Board Members shall be made in writing by a Member Association to the

Secretary General at least sixty ninety (6090) days in advance of the Assembly at which elections are due to take place. Nominations must be submitted on the official form and signed by the candidate. Nominations may come from individuals, Member Associations, the Board or the Nominations Committee.

1.2 All Nominations shall be reviewed by the Nominations Committee who shall ensure the candidate is eligible for election to the Board and shall offer a recommendation to the Membership as to the candidate's suitability for the position.

1.32. All Nominations shall be distributed to the Member Associations and their Representatives, with the Agenda forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual General Assembly.

1.4. A candidate may only stand for the Vice President position of their Member Association's Zone.

2. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

2.1 A Nominations Committee shall be set up for the purpose of soliciting and reviewing Nominations for vacancies on the Board.

2.2 The Nominations Committee shall be made up of three Elected Members, one Member appointed by the Board and one Member appointed by the Athlete Commission, all Members will have the right to vote. The Secretary General shall attend meetings without the right to vote.

2.3 The Nominations Committee shall appoint a Chair from their Members.

2.4 No Member of the Nominations Committee shall be eligible to stand for election to the Board whilst serving as a Member of the Nominations Committee.

2.5 The Board shall arrange elections for the Elected Members of the Nominations Committee, these may be conducted by electronic or postal ballots with the results announced as soon as possible after the election.

2.6 Terms of office shall be for four years, part terms of office shall not count towards the period of service.

2.7 Elections shall take place every two years starting in 2020, the two candidates with the highest number of votes in 2020 shall be elected until 2024. The candidate with the third highest number of votes in 2020 shall be elected until 2022. Any vacancy occurring outside the normal election cycle shall be filled by the Board as per clause 2.4.

2.8 No Member of the Nominations Committee may serve for a period of more than four years with the exception of the Secretary General. No former Board members may serve on the Nominations Committee.

2.9 Both genders must be represented on the Nominations Committee

Renumber Bye-law 3 clauses 3, 4 and 5 to 4, 5 and 6

Proposed by Ray Husain

Seconded by Freddy Meister

The motion was carried by majority

(195 votes in favour, 4 votes against, 7 abstentions)

CGR explained the voting process for the rule changes as follows:

As WCF had been asked to simplify the process of voting on the rules, the representatives will only vote individually on the motions that have been identified in advance, the other changes will be grouped together and taken in a single vote.

A number of suggestions on alterations to wordings have been received and accepted as they aid the clarity of the proposed rule change. These changes are shown in green and have no impact on the principle of the rule change as had been proposed originally. Any additional information added to the rationale has been highlighted in blue.

ii) Sheet RI (a)

Under the current rules a sheet of ice should be max. 5.000m (16 ft. 5 inches). The Technical Commission has asked that this should be changed to 4.750m (15 ft. 7 inches). The 5.000m have never been applied in any WCF event. It also causes more issues for the ice-techs.

Change RI (a) to read: The width of the sheet from the inside edges of the side lines is a maximum of 4.750 m. (15 ft. 7 inches).

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Alison Kreviazuk (SWE) said that the Swedish Curling Association does not support this change. “We are not against WCF changing the sheet width for its own events but we are against changing the rule book that is used world-wide. As 4.75 fits into the previous rules (max. 5 metres) there is no particular reason for switching that to a specific measurement.”

Toyo Ogawa, WCF Director and Chair of the WCF Technical Commission: The recommendation for the 4.750m width had been made because of the following reasons:

- Easier for ice technicians to maintain the ice
- Less wear for blade/scraper thus reducing the costs
- Quicker turnaround times at championships
- Can be pebbled more evenly
- Less cost of construction for newly built rinks (less costs for land, construction, running and maintenance)
- Existing ice-rinks with 5 m wide sheets do not need to change anything

Resolution:

Change RI (a) to read: The width of the sheet from the inside edges of the side lines is a maximum of 4.750 m. (15 ft. 7 inches).

Proposed by John Burns

Seconded by Morten Soegaard

The motion was carried by majority

(150 votes in favour, 36 votes against, 20 abstentions)

xiii) Coach interaction with teams (C6)

WCF believes there is no reason why coaches are not allowed to talk with their teams during all the breaks between ends.

WCF therefore recommend to change rule C6 j(i) to say:

Teams can communicate with their coach, the alternate player or any other team official during those breaks if the venue layout allows.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Frank Gonzalez
Seconded by Leland Rich*

Amendment – SCO

Coach interaction should only be used on a trial basis for the 2020/21 Season

*Proposed by RCCC
Seconded by Stefan Lund*

Bruce Crawford (SCO) explained the following rationale: Coach interaction is part of the wider MTV discussion and should be trialled for one season and then be put to a vote at the 2021 AGA. Concerns have been expressed that the sport should be presented in a consistent manner across all events and if it is not possible to do so, it challenges the integrity of these world class events.

C&R Response

This is not supported by C&R. This proposal is in response to a request from the Athlete Commission and allows the teams to communicate with their coaches during breaks between ends. There may be further proposals that come from the MTV discussions but the prime reason for this proposal is not the pace of play or length of game.

The following comments were made:

Hugh Millikin (WCF): The MTV project is a very large project that looks at all kinds of aspects of the game including the interaction between teams and coaches. The MTV group felt that this motion is important to go forward within this year because it is at the request of the Athlete Commission (AC). It has already been trialled at a number of events and has been successful.

Nolan Thiessen (Athlete Commission): The proposed rule change is not necessarily affecting the time and length of the game. Speaking to the coaches between every end and not only at mid game break has been a request of the athletes.

Alastair Fyfe (KSA): It is important that the coach interaction is done in a controlled manner and there should not be unnecessary movement and disturbance for the other teams. **WCF reply (CGR):** The C&R commission is aware of that and will be looking at minimizing any disturbance. There could be differences depending on the venue.

Amy Nixon (CAN): Canada does not support the Scottish amendment.

*The amendment fell as the majority was not in favour.
(86 votes in favour, 86 votes against, 34 abstentions)*

*The original motion was carried by majority.
(139 votes in favour, 39 votes against, 32 abstentions)*

xvi) Team Ranking C9

C9 – Rewrite and restructuring

Rule C9 handles two important issues for WCF competitions. Firstly, the rankings of teams participating in an event and secondly, the LSD/DSC that is so important now when there are no tie-break games anymore. This rule has been amended a number of times and the Competition & Rules Commission felt the need to rewrite and structure this rule for consistency and clarity.

There are only minor changes in the interpretation of the rule and these will be pointed out. Most of the work has been to separate the different concerns and to provide consistency in the text. An example being calling an event just that through the text and not switching between competition and event.

The suggested new rule is now organized into five different sections:

Section A: How to rank teams during the round robin. Small changes in wording or interpretation.

Section B: How to rank teams after the round robin is completed. Restructured text but no change in interpretation.

Section C: The final rankings of teams after an event.

- New points have been added describing that a playoff determines the final rankings and if there is no play-off how the teams are ranked. This is no change on how WCF determines the final rankings but it has not been stated in the rules.
- New section has been added for how ranking is done in events where there are no Olympic or Paralympic Qualification points. The wording was in the old rule but has been generalized and not for a specific play-off model.
- New section describing the ranking games played in events with Olympic and Paralympics points. Most of the wording is in the old rule but has been generalized. A new point has been added stating that no further ranking games shall be played after any relegation games has been played (Mixed Doubles to be precise).

Section D: How to handle teams that do not start, do not finish or are disqualified. Some parts of the text rewritten for clarity but no change in interpretation. For the DNS, DSQ and DQB categories, new wording has been added to describe the ranking in case there are multiple teams in the category.

Section E: The Draw shot challenge. Reorganization of the old text into separate points. No changes in interpretation but in wording.

C9. TEAM RANKING PROCEDURE / DRAW SHOT CHALLENGE

- a. During the round robin portion of an event, teams with the same win-loss record will be ranked equal and listed alphabetically, by their three-letter code. Teams which did not play yet are listed **last at the bottom** with no rank, ordered by their three-letter code.
- b. The following criteria (in order) will be used to rank the teams at the completion of the round robin (within each group, if applicable):
 - i. Teams will be ranked according to their win/loss record.
 - ii. If two teams are tied, the team that won their round robin game will be ranked higher.
 - iii. Where three or more teams are tied, the record of the games between the tied teams shall provide the ranking (should this procedure provide a ranking for some teams but

not all, then the record of the games between the remaining teams that are still tied shall determine the ranking).

- iv. For all remaining teams, whose ranking cannot be determined by (i) or (ii) or (iii), ranking is determined using the Draw Shot Challenge (DSC) described in (e).
- c. The following criteria will be used to rank the teams at the completion of the event:
 - i. In events without any play-off, the final ranking is determined by what is described in (b), and if necessary, by c (v).
 - ii. In events with a play-off, the final ranking is determined by the play-off system used and what is described in c (iii), (iv) and (v).
 - iii. In events without Olympic or Paralympic Qualification points where a single loss eliminates a team from the event, teams eliminated during the same session will be ranked equally and listed alphabetically, by their three-letter code.
 - iv. In events with Olympic or Paralympic Qualification points where a single loss eliminates a team from the event, teams eliminated during the same session will be ranked as follows:
 - If all teams are from the same group, the teams will be ranked in the same individual order as after the round robin;
 - If the teams are from different groups, the teams will play one or more ranking games, depending on the number of teams involved, to determine the final ranking;
 - In the case where the session is for relegation from the event, no further ranking games will be played and the team's final rankings will be determined as described in (v);
 - v. When teams compete in different groups and do not qualify for the play-offs, the final ranking will be determined by comparing the DSCs from the teams in all groups with the same ranking, with the best DSC being ranked highest.
- d. If one or more teams cannot start, finish or are disqualified from an event, the following will be applied:
 - i. A team that does not start (DNS)
 - If the draw is re-worked, the team is not listed anywhere;
 - If the draw cannot be re-worked, the team is listed last with the comment 'DNS'. If there is more than one team that did not start, the teams will be listed alphabetically, by their three-letter code.
 - ii. A team does not finish the competition (DNF)
 - During the round robin, if a team does not finish all their scheduled games, all played games keep their results, any subsequent games are forfeited and the team is ranked per Rule C9;
 - After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results. If the team has qualified for the start of the play-offs, the team assumes the ranking of the highest ranked team outside the play-offs and other teams above that position move up to fill the gap(s). This recalibration needs to occur at least 2 hours before the scheduled play-off game time. If that cannot be arranged, their next opponent will win the game by forfeit;
 - During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game(s) and is ranked accordingly.
 - iii. A team is disqualified from a competition, disqualified (DSQ) or disqualified for unsportsmanlike behaviour (DQB)
 - During the round robin, all results from a DSQ or DQB team will be removed, the

team is listed last with the comment 'DSQ' or 'DQB';

- After the end of the round robin, all results from a DSQ or DQB team will be removed. The team is listed last with the comment 'DSQ' or 'DQB';
- During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game, and is listed last with the comment 'DSQ' or 'DQB'. The final result of their last game is changed to W/L;
- After the competition, the team is listed last with the comment 'DSQ' or 'DQB'. The final result of their last game is changed to W/L;
- If there is more than one team that is disqualified, the teams will be listed last, alphabetically, by their three-letter code.

iv. If there are more than one team that is listed by (i), (ii) or (iii), teams will be listed by the following order: DNS, DSQ and DQB.

v. Teams that are DNF will be allocated world ranking or qualification points as per their final rankings. Teams that are DNS, DSQ or DQB will receive no points.

e. The Draw Shot Challenge (DSC) is the average distance of all the individual Last Stone Draw stones, which were delivered by a team during the round robin **excluding the least favourable result(s) as detailed in ii &iii below.**

- i. The team with the lesser DSC receives the higher ranking. If the DSCs are equal then the team with the best non-equal counting LSD receives the higher ranking. In the case where all counting LSDs are equal the member association ranked higher in the official WCF World Rankings is ranked higher.
- ii. Where a total of 11 or fewer individual stones will be considered, the single least favourable result is automatically eliminated when calculating the average distance. Where more than 11 individual stones will be considered, the two least favourable results will be eliminated when calculating the average distance.
- iii. Where there is more than one group and these groups are of differing sizes, to ensure the DSC is calculated in the same way, only the LSDs from the first 'equal number' of games will be used. Based on the Original Team Line-up form, the four players (2 in Mixed Doubles) have to fulfil the minimum number of LSD stones within the first 'equal number' of games.

*Proposed by Allison Pottinger
Seconded by Terri Johnston*

Amendment – SCO

In d.v. Teams that are DNS should also receive ranking points.

*Proposed by RCCC
Seconded by Dagfinn Loen*

Bruce Crawford (SCO) explained the following rationale: If a team qualifies for a WCF competition and is subsequently Did Not Start (DNS) the event due to unforeseen circumstances (such as happened with the ash cloud in 2010), we believe that DNS teams should be awarded points ahead of teams that are disqualified, who get none. Teams that have not done anything wrong should not be penalized.

C&R Response

This amendment is not supported by the C&R. It is felt that most DNS situations are caused by teams choosing not to turn up to an event. If there was an unprecedented situation (such as the ash cloud) that meant a number of teams were DNS then the Board has the ability to look at that particular situation and make a ruling using their emergency powers.

The following comments were made:

Eva Röthlisberger (WCF Head of Competitions): In most cases where a team does not show it is their own decision and not because of any unexpected situation and in such situation it is up to the WCF to look at that and make exceptions to the rules. The C&R commission does not support to add the Scottish amendment to the rules.

*The amendment was defeated
(79 votes in favour, 106 votes against, 21 abstentions)*

*The original motion was carried by majority.
(161 votes in favour, 23 votes against, 22 abstentions)*

xviii) Wheelchair Mixed Doubles

Add a new discipline to the WCF competitions calendar – Wheelchair Curling Mixed Doubles.

The details of the proposed rules are distributed in a separate document.

If accepted, we also need to add the WWhMDCC to Rule C2(g) where we talk about classification.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

*Proposed by Freddy Meister
Seconded by Sergio Mitsuo Vilela*

Amendment – SCO

Remove the option to have the IPA securing the chair and include the following rule instead: At World Championship events, the players can choose, a delivery with no-one holding the chair or the team-mate holding the chair.

*Proposed by RCCC
Seconded by Alex Benoy*

Bruce Crawford (SCO) explained the following rationale

- There is no need for any external input to the game from IPA's apart from moving, cleaning and catching stones.
- The use of an IPA as an anchor/buddy would affect the outcome of the delivery of a stone, therefore IPAs should not take on the anchor/buddy role for players, as this is meant to be a 2 person game not 3 persons per team.
- Some assistants will no doubt do a better job than others and we believe that does not look right and players need to decide for themselves, where their second player is positioned, in the house or as the anchor/buddy. At club level and in the development of the game additional persons will be able to assist holding a chair as anchor/buddy.

- To ensure fairness and consistency, which are of paramount importance, the same format should be used as much as possible in Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.
- To help the teams, other strategies may be developed to aid communication of desired direction for delivery, like putting markers behind the ends or event hosts could write measurements every 25cm so 20 letters (A-T) could appear on or above the bumpers
- Having spoken with the Scottish wheelchair curlers they felt it was slightly disrespectful for people to say that “they would need additional help” where others might not.

C&R Response

The C&R do not support this amendment, they feel that at this time giving teams the option to use the IPA to hold their chair will ensure the widest possible participation and give teams a range of options to use. If a team does not want to use the IPA they are not being forced to.

The following additional comment was made:

Hugh Millikin (WCF Vice President): We need to do everything we can to help athletes to improve their performance because the sport needs to evolve higher than it is right now. The accuracy is better if someone is holding the chair.

*The amendment was defeated
(51 votes in favour, 128 votes against, 27 abstentions)*

*The original motion was carried by majority.
(188 votes in favour, 9 votes against, 9 abstentions)*

xx) Combining the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge

Following the feedback from the WCF Members Webinar on the possible merger of the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge the following proposal is made:

1. That from season 2022/23 the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge shall be replaced by a Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC)
2. The PCCC will be open to entries from Member Associations in the current WCF Pacific-Asia and Americas Zones
3. The PCCC will be used to determine the qualifiers for the World Men's and World Women's Curling Championships and the World Qualification Event (WQE)
4. The top MA in the Americas Zone will no longer receive direct entry into the World Championship,
5. Those MA's hosting the World Championship will still have to participate in the ECC or PCCC to be eligible to take up their positions in the World Championships
6. The PCCC will initially be made up of two divisions, an A Division of eight teams and a B Division of the remaining entries

The full details of the format for this event and the impact on other events would be consulted on during the next year and brought to the AGA 2021 for approval.

The following comments were made:

Amy Nixon (CAN): Canada is fully supportive of the concept and believes with a proper detailed design it could be a meaningful championship that does good things for the sport. We are respectfully

asking the WCF to withdraw this motion and form a working-group to study how to do this well. A detailed motion should be brought forward next year at the 2021 AGA for the membership's consideration.

Terri Johnston (JPN): Like Canada we support the concept but we also request that this motion be withdrawn and a more formal proposal is put forward by the WCF next year.

Allison Pottinger (USA): We agree with Japan and Canada. We support that details are worked out and presented at next year's AGA.

Hugh Millikin (WCF Vice President): Thanks to all the MAs for their feedback. During the last few weeks the WCF has received a lot of information from the Americas Zone and the Pacific-Asia zone. The C&R commission had done an awful lot of work on the details last November and WCF was looking to finalize that for membership consultation scheduled for the Glasgow meetings. However, with the Glasgow meetings being cancelled there was no chance for consultation. Therefore, the idea was to put that basic concept motion forward and discuss the details during the 2020/2021 season. The WCF Board will now withdraw the motion and instruct the C&R commission to come back to the members with a fully detailed proposal including all options and considerations of the issues of the existing structures in both regions. As mentioned during the webinar in May the current structure of the competition in the Americas zone and the Pacific-Asia zone have reached a point where it is no longer appropriate given the growth of the members. The C&R commission will present a complete detail of the new zonal structure as soon as possible. The members will then be provided with an opportunity to discuss this proposal. Following the feedback in those open meetings and after further discussion at Board level the final motion with the widest possible support will be shared with the members 60 days in advance of the 2021 AGA. I can assure you that the C&R commission will work diligently to come up with the best and fairest structure.

CGR explained that as the WCF motion is withdrawn the proposed amendment from Brazil falls as well.

Grouped rule motion

CGR asked the members if they are in favour of the proposed rule changes i), iii) to xii), xi), xii), xiv), xv), xvii) and xix) (Please see attachment for details on proposed rule changes)

*Proposed by John Burns
Seconded by Susan Kesley
The motion was carried by majority
(199 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 7 abstentions)*

Rule changes proposed by Member Associations

The Swedish Curling Association proposes a change in the dress code ruling regarding hats, specifically for wheelchair curling events.

Hats One or more can wear, more than 1 all the same, peaks forward, logos = Association or the Event. Applies to the team and persons on the coach bench

Change –

Hats One or more can wear, more than 1 all the same colour, peaks forward, logos = Association or the Event. Applies to the team and persons on the coach bench

Rationale behind the request

We recognize that the WCF aims to have all its athletes and coaches to be clothed in unison, to display both professionalism to our sport, and also to help spectators easily determine the nations competing on the ice. In wheelchair curling, the athletes have individual requirements which could relate to personal injuries, or prevention of illness. This rationale was recognized as vests are currently approved, as long as they maintain colour coordination (name, Association, etc), and well as wheelchair leg warmer blankets which have also been permitted. These dress code allowances acknowledge that our athletes have the appropriate level of warmth they require out on the ice, while still maintaining the overall aim of the WCF. We suggest to change the restriction in hats to allow our athletes the same ability to choose the style that fits their requirement.

Implementation

We suggest this change to the dress code rule be applied to all wheelchair curling events as early as the 2020-2021 season. As uniform/equipment and logo's require WCF approval at least 8 weeks before competitions, hats (styles and colour) will also be required to be submitted for approval.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

*Proposed by Swedish Curling Association
Seconded by Morten Soegaard
The motion was carried by majority
(190 votes in favour, 4 votes against, 12 abstentions)*

ii) CBDG – Introduction of an Americas Curling Championships

Ref: Amendment to the proposal “xx) Combining the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge”

The Curling Section of the Brazilian Ice Sports Federation (“Ice Brazil”) hereby proposes to add more “defining aspects” to the proposed “Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC)”.

RATIONALE OF THE AMENDMENT

First of all, Ice Brazil would like to congratulate the Rules and Competitions Commission for taking the steps to propose the PCCC, to which we are theoretically supportive, but we feel that, constitutionally speaking, the current Proposal is more a “draft for discussion” than a motion/proposal “ready to be voted”.

From a “constituency” standpoint, our athletes are not ready to instruct us to vote “yes” for a proposal that fundamentally changes their path to the Olympics without basic definitions, such as on how many spots at the worlds are in play/ will there still be a WQE, for instance.

PROPOSAL

Ice Brazil proposes the following amended wording to the proposal:

Following the feedback from the WCF Members Webinar on the possible merger of the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge the following proposal is made.

1. That from season 2022/23 the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge shall be replaced by a Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC).
2. The World Qualification Event would end, with qualification to the Worlds direct from the European Curling Championships and the PCCC.
3. The PCCC will be open to entries from Member Associations in the current WCF Pacific-Asia and Americas Zones.
4. The PCCC will be used to determine the qualifiers for the World Men's and World Women's Curling Championships.
5. The qualification for the World Men's and World Women's Championships would be as follows:
 - Eight places from the ECC and five from the PCCC if the previous year a team from the PCCC had finished last of the WCC; or
 - Seven places from the ECC and six from the PCCC if the previous year a team from the ECC had finished last of the WCC;
6. The top MA in the Americas Zone will no longer receive direct entry into the World Championship
7. Those MA's hosting the World Championship will still have to participate in the ECC or PCCC to be eligible to take up their positions in the World Championships
8. The PCCC will initially be made up of two divisions, an A Division of eight teams
9. The last 2 (two) teams in the A Division will be relegated to the B Division.
10. WCF will also release official Zonal final rankings (Pan American, Asia-Pacific and Africa), based on the A and B competition.

The Rule Book shall be so adjusted:

Removal of the World Qualification Event mentions.

- Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC)
- The Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC) qualifies Member Associations of the Americas and Asia Pacific Zones to the World Curling Championships.
- For the World Men's and Women's Championship: 5 or 6 places (including host) depending on the results of the previous year's WCC.
- The World Curling Federation reserves the right to adjust the system of play.

C&R Response

This motion is not supported by the C&R Commission as they believe the proposed PCCC offers a better way forward.

Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (BRA) advised the meeting that after various discussions with stakeholders (WCF Board, WCF representatives, commission members, WCF staff and the Brazilian athletes) the Brazilian Ice Sports Federation would like to withdraw the motion for the creation of a Pan American championship. "We support the merger and had only presented this motion as a plan B. The comment of the C&R commission is valid as we also think that the merger is the better way forward. We now have received the indication from the Board that the C&R commission will study the concept of the merger we hope that in case there is no consensual motion for the merger that the C&R commission and the Board also come up with a motion to deal with the current situation

in the America and Pacific-Asia zone. I also would like to invite you all to visit our brand new curling rink in Sao Paolo.” WCF President congratulated Brazil on the opening of the first dedicated curling facility in the country.

I6 Elections (CGR)

The following WCF Board members were elected:

Hugh Millikin (AUS) - Vice-President Pacific-Asia

Hugh Millikin was elected by acclamation.

The Vice-President thanked the members of the Pacific-Asian zone for their support during the past six years. “The zone continues to expand from initially 3 MAs in 1991 to 15 MAs today and there are certainly a lot more MAs coming. I have immensely enjoyed the challenges we have faced and overcome during my time on the Board. The highlights were the sweeping summit in 2016 and the wheelchair project in 2018. As an athlete I sometimes questioned the rules and the motivation of those who made up the rules. It is something we all take very seriously. I am pleased to say the Board, the commissions as well as the various working groups measure everything they do against the spirit of Curling and the principles that guide us. I would also like to thank Kate, Colin, all the Board members and WCF staff for their support during the past years. I look forward to meeting the challenge we all now are facing the sport the coming years. Thank you.”

The WCF President congratulated Hugh Millikin on his re-election and said that he was a very valuable Board Member, in particular in his role as Chair of the Competition and Rules Commission and she was looking forward to working with him over the next two years.

Cathrine Lindahl (SWE) – Director Position 3

(who won election against Kim Forge from Australia)

Cathrine Lindahl thanked the representatives for giving her the opportunity to represent them for another term. She promised to do her best and would continue to develop a fantastic sport. It will continue to be a difficult time due to Covid-19 but we will do our best to meet the challenges ahead.

WCF President congratulated Cathrine Lindahl to her re-election. She added that she very much enjoyed working with her. She thanked her not only for her work within the Finance Commission but also for her work on the Athlete Commission. She also said how much she valued the friendship with Cathrine.

The WCF President also addressed Kim Forge saying how delighted she was that she had put her name forward for a position on the Board. She stated that she is a valued WCF Representative and thanked her in particular for her recent excellent work within the Athlete Commission and sincerely hoped this has not deterred her for applying again.

I7 Acceptance of new Member Associations (CGR)

CGR explained that the AGA would be asked to approve the change of membership status from Conditional to Provisional Members for two MAs.

It had also been hoped to present Curling Federation of India for Provisional Membership today, however the NOC of India has asked us to not do this at this time as they need to do some additional work on curling in India before they can give their full approval.

In the meantime both the Dominican Skating and Winter Sports Federation and the Kuwait Winter Games Club have worked with us during their Conditional Membership year and WCF is happy to recommend them as provisional members which will allow them to start entering competitions and will assist with the raising of the profile of our sport in their country.

To change membership status from Conditional to Provisional Members for the following Member Associations

- Dominican Skating and Winter Sports Federation
- Kuwait Winter Games Club

*Proposed by Alison Arthur
Seconded by Rayad Husain*

*The motion was carried by majority
(186 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 20 abstentions)*

In the coming days the Board will be considering two application for Conditional Membership from Bolivia and Turkmenistan. Once this decision has been taken the membership will be informed.

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

CGR explained that at this time the WCF is not confirming any dates for future meetings but it is hoped to have Open Meetings for Member Associations in spring 2021. Venue and timing are to be confirmed.

The 2021 Annual Congress will be held in St Petersburg, Russia - Open Meetings 9th & 10th September 2021, the Annual Assembly to be held on the 11th September 2021.

19 Any other business (CGR)

Nomination Committee (NC)

CGR explained that the election and appointment process for this committee will be discussed over the next few weeks. Subsequently, the MAs will receive papers to submit people for the NC.

New conditional members

The information on the new conditional members will come out shortly.

Bent Ramsfjell (Vice-President Europe) thanked WCF President Kate Caithness. “It has been an extremely challenging year for the entire organisation. Speaking for the Board we have seen other perspectives during the recent half year: We have especially been acquainted to your living room and to be honest I think the Covid-19 has created a monster: You have discovered the benefits of digital meetings. You have two more years to serve and it is amazing to see that you are still full of energy and passion and of course you are extremely looking forward to Beijing 2022 which will be

sort of a pinnacle in your career. What you have done for us all and our organisation is to bring us into the right position within organisations like the IOC and AIOWF and other organisations with difficult abbreviations. This is extremely important. On behalf of the Board, the MAs and the staff: Thank you! We are looking forward to working with you in the next year. Keep up the good work.”

The WCF President closed the AGA with the following words:

“Thank you Bent for your kind words.

Well it is now time to bring to a close our first and hopefully our last Virtual Annual General Assembly.

We obviously wish to return to some normality as quickly as possible but I hope you will all agree that today’s General Assembly has worked extremely well, with grateful thanks to Molly Gillon and David Lowe from Glasgow QTV and also to Lumi Global for conducting our voting system today. Firstly, can I give a warm welcome to the new representatives and look forward to meeting each of you in person.

To Hugh and Cathrine, congratulations on your re-election and I look forward to working with you over my final two years in office.

To all our MAs, the presentations you received prior to today’s Assembly have brought you up to date with each individual point on the Agenda and thereafter discussion today took place only for clarification. For each of the Agenda items today you were given the opportunity to make your voice and points heard prior to voting and I think this has worked well.

We had an extremely difficult decision to be taken today regarding the Polish Curling Association. I am in full agreement with the vote and sincerely hope that the curlers from Poland will be back curling on the international stage in the very near future and in the meantime I wish them all the very best.

Once more a huge thank you to the staff, Board and WCF committees for all their hard work during this unprecedented period in the history of not only curling but every sport.

A very special thanks to Colin, not only on a personal note for all his support, but also for the work undertaken during this period and in particular for organising and setting up today’s meeting – thank you.

Once more can I sincerely thank you for all your support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. I promise my continued best efforts working on your behalf and for the future of our great sport.

As I said at the end of my President’s Annual Report, the new season has never been more uncertain with Covid-19 affecting every aspect of life and being faced with difficult decisions these will always be taken with the best interests of our sport and of course the safety and wellbeing of our athletes, officials and volunteers.

We are a growing family and together we can and will recover and ensure that curling continues to go from strength to strength.

I sincerely hope we can meet face to face in the very near future and in the meantime stay safe and well. Thank you.”

President's Report

Welcome Everyone to our 2020 Virtual Annual General Assembly.

We are delighted that we could host our AGA albeit remotely and we thank you for joining us today.

Since our very successful Congress in Cancun in September the following is my report:

In October I opened the WMxCC in Aberdeen which was very well organised and enjoyed by all and following this successful event Curl Aberdeen has signed a contract to host the Championships for the next 4 years. Sadly of course we had to cancel this year's Championship due to the Covid outbreak.

Next day I left for China to attend the World Winter Sports Expo and was accompanied by Scott Arnold. Chad McMullan also joined us for part of the time.

Meetings took place with IDG (International Data Group), Landscape, the Company who hosts the China Open, BBC China and of course CCA. I joined a think tank group discussion regarding the future of winter sports in China and both Scott and I met with Infront China discussing possible future sponsorship within China.

I gave a lecture to students at Beijing Sport University accompanied by Scott and Chad followed by a tour of the dedicated curling facility within the University and meeting the curling students.

We attended the Opening of the Expo where I was invited to be a Keynote Speaker and talked about the Development of Curling in China and included in my presentation the video produced for Weibo in Mandarin.

This was followed by a lunch with the Executive Board of IDG and the Minister of Sport from Finland and thereafter toured the exhibition centre which had many curling stands and one even had a curling sheet with ice.

We were guests of honour at the formal dinner together with Executive Director of BOCOG/ Vice Mayor of Beijing and on my final day we had a tour of the Ice Cube and the building site of the new dedicated curling facility within the grounds which are due for completion this year, and once more huge media presence with live CCTV interview.

Finally, a meeting with all parties who are involved in the transition of the Water Cube to the Ice Cube followed by a dinner and then left straight from the dinner to the airport for my journey home.

The following Wednesday I travelled to Inverness for the dinner of the Inverness Wheelchair Triples Curling Event and two days later travelled to Lausanne for the IF Forum where the usual meetings took place with GAISF (Global Association of International Sport Federation), AIOWF (Association of International Olympic Winter Federations) and the IOC. The theme for this year's forum: Athlete Centred Sport.

The following week I travelled to Shenzhen for the PACC, a first-class event with good crowds. While there I attended the Zonal meeting, had dinner with BOCOG and the Chinese Winter Sports Association and also met with Japan Curling Association to discuss PACC 2020 and had meetings with representatives from some of the participating Member Associations.

From Shenzhen it was straight to Lausanne for the IOC Programme Commission meeting and dinner with President Bach.

Home for three days and then to Helsingborg for the Opening of the ECC. The Championships which are a huge event with 46 teams participating were very well organized. For the very first time thankfully in our history we had to evacuate both arenas because of a fire which turned out to be very minor. The evacuation was carried out in a very professional manner and the teams who were playing were able to return to complete their games.

I had several meetings with some of the MAs including a meeting with Lohja and Finland regarding future relationships and events, and also a meeting with Bruno Marty and representatives from Infront our Marketing Agent. Bent arrived midweek and took over from me in time for the Zonal meeting and to close the Championships.

Off for a visit to San Diego to visit the family and during my time there travelled to Los Angeles to have a meeting and site visit with Anaheim Ducks with a view to hosting a future event.

From San Diego straight to Tianjin China for the Snow and Ice Sport Festival where together with the other Winter Sport Presidents we attended the Opening Ceremony by the Vice Premier of China. We also toured museums including the Juan Antonio Samaranch Memorial Museum together with his son the IOC Vice President and then travelled back to Beijing to visit the neighbourhood close to the BOCOG headquarters and paid a visit to a local school.

Now into 2020:

7th January I travelled to Lausanne for the 2020 YOG.

The following morning saw me attend the first meeting of the daily IOC and YOG co-ordination meetings at the Olympic House which was chaired by IOC President Thomas Bach. I was there to represent all the Winter Sports.

These continued for the next 4 days and during this time I travelled to Champéry on two occasions. Firstly, to test the public transport which were in place for our athletes and ourselves and also to attend the Team meeting.

Together with Colin we attended the excellent Opening Ceremony of the Games in Lausanne, attended dinners and the Head of State Reception. Meetings took place with AOIWF, GAISF and the IOC and we also took the opportunity to visit the Lausanne Curling Club.

During this time the IMGA held the World Winter Sport Master Games in Innsbruck with curling taking place at Kitzbühel which were a great success. 21 Mixed Teams and 12 Mixed Doubles teams participated. Many thanks to Hugh Millikin for representing me.

On my final morning before travelling to our hotel in Champéry I had coffee with Jean-Paul Bidaud who was one of the people instrumental in curling becoming an Olympic Sport in Nagano and sadly he passed away 4 months later.

We then had three days of Board Meetings during YOG one of which took place at the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne where two of our board members Cathrine and Bent signed the Olympic Wall. Later in the week I accompanied both Anette Norberg and John Morris who also signed the Olympic Wall.

Together with the Board we enjoyed a visit with our long time sponsor Le Gruyere in their factory together with our Infront partners and visited once more the Lausanne Curling Club and the Olympic Museum. This was the first visit for some of our board members.

February

Time for the World Junior Curling Championships in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. I had been asked to break my journey for meetings in Moscow with the Russian Minister of Sport together with the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, a meeting with President of the Russian Olympic Committee, a meeting with the Aide to the Russia's President and a tour of Red Square together with TV and media and a meeting with Junior curlers from Moscow CC.

Arriving in Krasnoyarsk for the WJCC was the start of a whirlwind of activity and grateful thanks to Bent for opening the Championships.

I was met at the airport by the Minister of Sport and the Director of Events and then straight to the Crystal Arena for a Media Interview followed by a formal dinner.

Next day I met with the Mayor and enjoyed a tour of the beautiful region.

The following day I had a tour of new dedicated facilities in Krasnoyarsk and then off to the opening of a seminar regarding the development of curling in Siberia and other regions of the far east of Russia. I presented awards together with RCF President Dmitry Svinchov and thereafter enjoyed another formal dinner with local dignitaries.

The Championships were first class and culminated in lunch with the Governor of Krasnoyarsk followed by the wonderful final and closing ceremony. All in all one of the best events I have attended.

March

I travelled to Wetzikon – once more my thanks to Bent for opening the World Wheelchair Curling Championship.

A really well organised Championship with the teams and officials hosted in a nearby hotel meaning no requirement for transport which was really appreciated. It was amazing to see two of the teams who had qualified from the B Championship on the podium. Well done!

I had meetings with Infront and also travelled to Zurich for lunch in the headquarters of the IIHF.

Arrived home 8th March and now becoming increasingly concerned regarding the spread of the Covid virus.

Later in the week following communication with our Board, Curling Canada and the LOC in Prince George, we took the difficult decision to cancel the Championship. The timing I know was hard for everyone with all the teams, officials and most of the media already there.

As everyone knows this was followed with the cancellation of the WMCC due to take place in Glasgow and shortly after this announcement, the remainder of our Championships the WMDCC, WSCC and the ECC-C Championships. We also had to make the difficult decision of cancelling our Füssen Junior Camp and Courses, and our Prague Adult Camp.

There is obvious uncertainty as to the future and of course we are closely monitoring the situation in the event we may have further cancellations which would have an impact on the 2022 Beijing Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games. Hopefully this won't happen and we have already shared with you our contingency plans.

This has been a season of two halves and these past months have seen an unprecedented time for our sport.

You would think that life would have slowed down during this time - but in fact it has been quite the opposite.

We have all been in lockdown and our staff working full time from home. The wonders of the internet have meant that communication through Zoom has been on a regular basis and we have been working together to ensure that despite this period of uncertainty there are many exciting times ahead for the Federation.

Together with the World Curling Academy we have been pushing ahead with the online courses which have been well received.

Our CDOs are also working with the participants from the first Athlete Pathway Programme assisting them in their development plans and implementation strategies, with two more Athlete Pathway Programmes currently planned. One in the fall for more mature Member Associations, and one in 2021 for new Members.

Our webinar regarding the Rules Changes took place last month together with discussion on the proposed new World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Championship and finally the proposal for merging the PACC and the Americas Challenge which of course cannot take place until after the 2022 Olympics.

Beau and his team have been meeting regularly on the Structural Review and I am sure you must have been impressed with the update recently given by them at last month's webinar meeting.

At the same time Graham presented an update from the work undertaken by his group - Maximising the Value project – with so much to discuss prior to the vote to be taken at next year's Congress.

We have also set up a Medical Advisory Group who are working on the Covid Situation and they are working together with Eeva and her team on measures to be implemented during our future Championships.

During this period I have been involved in countless meetings:

Online Zoom meeting with the President, professors and students of Beijing Sports University with discussion regarding 2022 Olympic/Paralympics.

Meetings of the IOC Programme commission which mainly focused on Paris 2024 and their proposal for the new sports on the programme and also the programme for the Winter YOG in Gangneung 2024.

Meeting with Alexis Gros-Piron regarding ticketing, hospitality and spectator experience for the 2022 Beijing Games – we both serve on the IOC Co-ordination Commission. I chair this Committee and Alexis is the IOC person responsible for this. Everything is moving forward well.

Thereafter I met with the other members of the Commission which was followed by a joint meeting with the IOC and BOCOG together with all the Winter Sports.

A separate meeting with BOCOG to finalise the Test Event Contracts and the appointment of the deputy Sports Manager Lei Yi whom most of you know already.

Colin and I had a meeting with the IOC financial director Lana Haddad together with Kit McConnell Sports Director regarding emergency funding requests, following the repercussions from the Covid outbreak. We have worked over the years to ensure there are funds available in the event of an

emergency and were happy to state that we did not require assistance at this time. We were congratulated by them on our financial position.

I enjoyed a Press Conference with Ottawa for the formal announcement of the World Men's Championship.

Board meetings of GAISF – Global Association of International Sport Federations.

Zoom meeting with wheelchair curling coaches focusing mainly on Mixed Doubles and the way forward.

Meetings with Mike Haggerty and Chris regarding the Annual Review, which will be online today with hard copies delivered to you. I met with Mike regarding the Olympic Book he is compiling on how curling became an Olympic Sport and where curling is today on the Olympic stage.

Richard, Colin and I also enjoyed an excellent meeting with Yiannis Exarchos Head of OBS and his team, regarding the TV production for Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This was followed by communication with CCTV who will be the team producing Curling during the Games and, who have now confirmed they will also broadcast our test event next year the WJCC.

I joined the IOC Session virtually for their Congress where President Bach announced his decision to stand for another 4 years at the congress next spring. The 2020 postponed Tokyo Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games were discussed with all 42 venues and schedules approved and to remain the same for next year. All previously purchased tickets to be honoured for next year and a refund for those who cannot attend. 2022 Summer YOG in Dakar was voted to be postponed to 2026. Presentations from Beijing had been sent together with those of the future games to the Members. John Coates and Ng Ser Miang were voted to Vice Presidents positions and will join the other Vice President Anita de Frantz who is part way through her term in office. The voting throughout the congress went well and we will use this same company for our voting procedures today.

Next a call with the World Academy of Sport regarding a scholarship proposal for curling and also an online athlete pathway programme which is a huge opportunity for you our MAs to take full advantage and as a member of the International Advisory Board I have a further meeting next week with the Academy.

I was invited to send a Video for the start of the Snow and Ice Sports Festival promoting curling which was well received.

A meeting with Mr Ni Huizhong, Vice President of Chinese Olympic Committee and his team from the Chinese Winter Sports together with the BOCOG sports teams regarding the present situation of Covid -19 and the implication for plans for the coming season.

James Dryburgh called me and asked if I would say a few words at the closing of the Lillehammer Youth Camp Digital version. When time permitted I logged on throughout the week to the camp and enjoyed listening to some of our top athletes who were involved. A great initiative and congratulations to James, his team and all the participants.

Continuous Board meetings with IMGA discussing bids for future Summer Games.

And these are only a few of the many external meetings I have been involved with over these past months, and of course as you will see from the presentations you have already received and those presented today how much work has been undertaken throughout this period.

All in all, a busier 'close season' than has been the case previously.

My huge thanks to Colin, our staff, Board and to all our Commissions who have worked tirelessly over the period. I should also like to thank once more all the Local Organising Committees and the MAs involved in hosting the Championships which took place during this past season, and to the LOCs and MAs for their support and understanding when we were forced with the difficult decision to cancel their Championships.

Looking forward to what a new season will bring has never been more uncertain with Covid-19 affecting every aspect of life. Sometimes difficult decisions will have to be made, but our actions will always be decided with the best interests of our people and the integrity of our sport at the forefront, and as always the safety and well-being of our athletes, officials and volunteers remaining our main priority

We are a family and we are making every effort to ensure that together we can and will recover and that our great sport will continue to go from strength to strength."