



# **MINUTES of the Annual General Assembly Seoul, Korea 15 September 2023**

WCF Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw welcomed the attendees to the Annual General Assembly 2023.

## **I READING OF NOTICE OF MEETING**

As per the Constitution the notice of this meeting was provided on 30 May 2023, the agenda and papers had been circulated within the stipulated timeframes allowing the Annual General Assembly to be held today the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

In order to finish the roll call for the meeting CGR proposed to slightly change the order of the agenda and to start with item 8 of the agenda. This was accepted by the meeting.

## **8 PRESIDENT'S REPORT – BEAU WELLING**

BWE provided a full report on his activities since the last Annual General Assembly through the lens of the WCF's Forward Plan as follows:

### ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

- WCF invested in new staff appointments to move forward with the big ideas
- Growing presence in the larger sports community – multiple sports presenting to us to share knowledge
- IOC Commission Appointments (CGR appointed to IOC Future Host Commission and Milan/Cortina Coordination Commission, BWE appointed to IOC YOG Coordination Commission)
- Colin appointed as the Secretary General of the Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF)
- BWE nominated as Board Member of Sport Accord
- Financial situation is being monitored seriously and must be improved, new controls and forecasting systems will be implemented

### DEVELOPMENT

- Success of the World Curling Academy – online and in-person
- Record number of ice tech courses delivered in Denmark, Finland and Korea
- Prior to Mixed Doubles in April, Practical Chief Ice Technicians' Course held in Gangneung

- Korea's first-ever licensed Chief Ice Technician was certified (Kim Mung-Ju) she then went on to work in the ice crew at the Mixed Doubles
- Three-event virtual workshop focusing on improving fitness for curling in the off-season – participants from 21 countries.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

- All of our digital channels increased their follower count, and we launched the Federation's Tik Tok channel and have a viral video now at almost 13 million views
- Our website had over 22.5 million views and we're continuing to invest in improving it as part of the rebranding process
- From five full broadcast events over 6,000 hours of coverage was consumed on TV
- Cumulative audience of 154 million people
- On the streaming side: 175,000 games purchased on Recast with almost 140,000 hours of curling watched.
- Recast generated around \$USD 130,000 last season, now our third largest broadcast partner
- Hall of Fame inductees last season: Kate Caithness CBE, Ewan McDonald and Peter Smith all from Scotland; Jack Lynch (posthumously) from Canada; and Bill Strum (posthumously) from United States

## **COMPETITION**

- BWE announced that the World Mixed Doubles and World Seniors 2024 are taking place in Östersund, Sweden.
- First ever Pan Continental Championships held in Calgary, Canada
- Japan women and Canada men win the inaugural titles.
- Nigeria and Kenya men compete in the first all-African game in the B-Division.
- Le Gruyere AOP European Championships held in Östersund, Sweden
- Denmark women and Scotland men win European titles
- FISU World University Games held in Lake Placid, USA (ages 17-25)
- China women and Great Britain men win gold medals
- World Juniors took place in Füssen, Germany
- Scotland women and China men win world titles
- World Wheelchair and World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles championships take place in Richmond, Canada
- China defend World Wheelchair title
- Latvia win World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles for their first ever world title
- LGT World Women's Championship held in Sandviken, Sweden
- Switzerland won the world title for the fourth successive time
- Open Meetings held there during the event
- BKT Tires & OK Tire World Men's Championship held in Ottawa, Canada
- Scotland win world title
- World Mixed Doubles and World Senior Championships held in Gangneung, Korea
- United States win World Mixed Doubles title
- Canada win both senior women's and men's world title

## 2 REPORT ON CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND QUORUM

The following attendance was recorded:

Beau Welling (BWE)	USA	President
Graham Prouse (GPR)	Canada	Vice-President
Hugh Millikin (HMI)	Australia	Vice-President
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Sweden	Director
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Brazil	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Scotland	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Japan	Director
Jill Officer (JOF)	Canada	Chair Athlete Commission

Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Eeva Röthlisberger (ERÖ)	Head of Competitions
Scott Arnold (SAR)	Head of Development
Chris Hamilton (CHA)	Head of Media
Alan Chalmers (ACH)	Head of Finance
Karri Willms (KWI)	Competitions & Development Officer
Jiri Snitil (JSN)	Competitions & Development Officer
Laura Mutch	Competitions & Development Officer
Liz Munro (LMU)	Office Manager
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer
Emily Dwyer	Media Officer
Amy Gibson	Content Creator
Rhona Howie	Logistics & Equipment Officer
Derek Goodwin	Information & Digital Technology Officer
Rob Gordon	Athlete Support Officer
James Beatt	Commercial Partnerships Manager

### **Representatives of Full Members**

Andorra	Josep Garcia
Australia	Carlee Millikin
	John Anderson
Austria	Sara Haidinger
	Martin Seiwald
Belgium	Danielle Berus
Brazil	Matheus Bacelo de Figueiredo
Canada	Roselle Gonsalves
	Darren Oryniak
	Michael Szajewski
China	Li Dongyan
	Yi Lei
Croatia	Neven Pufnik
Czech Republic	David Sik
	Karolina Frederiksen
Denmark	Henrik Christoffersen
England	John Brown
	Alison Arthur

Estonia	Fred Randver
	Juuli Liit
Finland	Lauri Ikavalko
France	Bruno Catelin
	Elodie Verger
Germany	Peter Gaedeke
Greece	Georgios Smyrnaio
Hungary	Gyula Pomazi
	Blanka Dencsö
India	Mohd Danish
	Sunita Joshi
Ireland	Eoin McCrossan
Japan	Yuhei Kusui
	Terri Johnston
	Naoki Iwanaga
Korea	Sangho Han
	Dr. Seol Hyang Kim
Lithuania	Tadas Vyskupaitis
Luxembourg	Karen Wauters
Mexico	Rodrigo Velez Escudero
	Paula Herrera Moreno
Netherlands	Sylvia Hummel
New Zealand	Lorne de Pape
Nigeria	Damola Daniel
	Henrietta O. Daniel
Norway	Dagfinn Loen
Portugal	João Cardoso
	Fiona Grace Simpson
Qatar	Rashid Majed Al-Sulaiti
Russia	Ekaterina Galkina
	Anton Batugin
	Olga Zharkova
Saudi Arabia	Alastair Fyfe
	Elaine Fyfe
Scotland	Eric Richardson
	Susan Wyllie
	Margaret Richardson
Slovakia	Jan Horacek
	Paulina Hajduk
Slovenia	Gregor Rigler
	Liza Gregori
Spain	Bernat Monzo
	Angela del Pan
Sweden	Michael Marklund
	Doris Högne Rydheim
Switzerland	Tom Seger
	Imogen Oona Lehmann
Chinese Taipei	Pei Cih WU
	Yu Hung DAI

Ukraine	Natalia Menzhega
USA	Wayne Anderson
	Jennifer Stannard
Wales	Lisa Peters

### **Representatives of Provisional Members**

Bulgaria	Reto Seiler
Georgia	Zakaria Khechuashvili
Hong Kong	Kelvin Cheung
Israel	Alex Pokras
	Helen Pokras
Kyrgyz Republic	Samatov Tynchtykbek
	Meimanbek Kyzy Aisuluu
Poland	Lukasz Janczar
	Marta Pluta
Türkiye	Ozgur Bostanci
	Hatice Herdili Sahin

### **Representatives of Conditional Members**

Thailand	Suwanna Silpa-archa
	Archavit Choengklinchan

### **Proxies**

<b>Member Association</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Proxy Holder</b>
Andorra	Monika Lopez	Josep Garcia (AND)
Belgium	Jean-Marie van Lancker	Danielle Berus (BEL)
Canada	Amy Nixon	Michael Szajewski (CAN)
Croatia	Katarina Cadez	Neven Pufnik (CRO)
Guyana	Farzana Hussain	John Anderson (AUS)
Guyana	Ray Husain	Lorne de Pape (NZL)
Ireland	Nina Clancy	Eoin McCrossan (IRL)
Luxembourg	Alex Benoy	Karen Wauters (LUX)
Netherlands	Jules Broex	Sylvia Hummel (NED)
New Zealand	Carroll de Pape	Lorne de Pape (NZL)
Norway	Kjetil West	Dagfinn Loen (NOR)
Qatar	Ebtesam Mubarak Al-Abdulla	Rashid Majed Al-Sulaiti (QAT)
Russia	Konstantin Zadvornov	Olga Zharkova (RUS)
Scotland	Vincent Bryson	Margaret Richardson (SCO)
Sweden	Stefan Lund	Michael Marklund (SWE)
Switzerland	Ursi Hegner	Imogen Oona Lehmann (SUI)
USA	Ann Swisshelm	Jennifer Stannard (USA)

### **Observers**

Belgium	Stephane Vandermeeren
Estonia	Harri Lill

India	Abhishek Joshi Mohammad Arshad Penumetcha Narasimha Raju
Iran	Abbas Nazarian Madavani
Kyrgyz Republic	Kanybek Mamanov Tashimbetov Bolotbek Asanaliyev Aibek Asel Talapova
Luxembourg	Larissa Ruhstaller
Nigeria	Roy Daniel Sheila Daniel
Qatar	Lajos Belleli
Slovakia	Rudolf Hajduk
Sweden	Paul Ahlgren
Thailand	Pimchanok Chaiyawut
Philippines	Benjo Delarmente
Ukraine	Iryna Kochyk Claude Hollenstein (Infront) Tyler George (Athlete Commission) Chad McMullan (Rock Solid) Mimi Liliefeldt Jonathan Killoran (Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition) Brian Krolicki (Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition) Young Hee Lee (WCF Head of Classification) Said Hakim (ISS)

### **Attendance and Proxies**

Representatives present	87
Representatives by proxy	17
Votes present	195
Votes by proxy	19
Total votes present and proxy	214
Members Associations present	42
Provisional Members present	7
Conditional Members present	1
Zones present	3

The new representatives were presented with their badges/ties/scarves by WCF President Beau Welling.

CGR advised the Member Associations (MAs) that there was a quorum. He confirmed that Paul Ahlgren (SWE) and Brian Krolicki (USA) would be the tellers of this meeting.

### **3 EXCLUSION / SUSPENSION OF A MEMBER ASSOCIATION**

CGR explained that at the 2022 Congress Boliva had been suspended due to the non-payment of subscriptions. In the normal course of action it would now be for the WCF to exclude them for continued non-payment of subscriptions. However, WCF had now made contact with them and Bolivia had indicated that payment would be made soon.

**To continue the suspension of Bolivia from membership of the World Curling Federation for non-payment of subscriptions.**

*Proposed by Susan Wyllie  
Seconded by Tom Seger  
and approved unanimously*

#### **4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**To approve the agenda**

*Proposed by Yuhei Kusui  
Seconded by Alastair Fyfe  
and approved unanimously*

#### **5 READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND APPROVAL THEREOF**

The minutes were taken as read.

**To approve the minutes of the last General Assembly**

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

#### **6 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

None

#### **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 Annual General Assembly in 2022.

#### **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 had had a chance to review them. There were no questions.

#### **10 REPORT OF THE AUDITORS**

##### **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

CGR explained that these figures had been presented in more detail at the webinar during the previous week but he again summarized the main items:

- Total Overspend vs Budget = \$1.747m

- Major Variances
  - Broadcast Costs - \$1.123m
  - Competitions - \$301k
  - Exchange Rate Adjustments - \$284k
  - Congress / Ideation - \$95k
  - Broadcast and Marketing Income - \$300k
  - Rights Fees + \$240k
  - Interest Rates + 90k

Whilst some areas of overspend were expected such as Congress and the Ideation meeting, many were not and the process for identifying potential issues did not work and there was a failure to connect decisions to the financial impact of those decisions. The biggest issues came in the final quarter and when the impact became apparent as invoices came in in bigger numbers in May it was too late to take remedial action, with the size of the overspend not becoming completely clear until the completion of the end of June accounts.

### PROCESS UPDATES

SMV explained the remedial actions that WCF would now be taking:

#### *Budgeting*

- matching budgets and strategic decisions more closely
- Level of service / coverage by event agreed upon in advance, with quarterly tracking
- Additional process for authorising decisions that will have significant budgetary impacts

#### *Operations*

- early booking of core flights
- use of local ITOs and staff where possible
- minimise people on the ground
- learnings on new broadcast systems tested last season expected to give significant savings

#### *Management Accounts*

- new system for projecting / forecasting end of year spend in biggest budget areas to give early warning

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CGR drew the attention to the following two items:

- Income & Expenditure – IOC Revenues
  - 2022 saw the last of the Pyeongchang revenues expire
  - 2023 was the first of the Beijing cash advances.
- Balance Sheet – Stock (significant reduction in stock)

- Stock of raw materials (Harvested granite) plus Environmental Impact costs converted to long term service agreement.

Mazar's have indicated that they have examined the accounts and that they are happy that they are signed as the financial statements that accord with the accounting records of the Federation

## **11 RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORT, AUDITED STATEMENT AND DISCHARGE TO THE BOARD**

**To receive the finance report, audited statement and discharge the Board**

***Proposed by John Anderson  
Seconded by Margaret Richardson  
and approved by majority***

## **12 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

WCF had received notice in the last few weeks that our Audit Partner with Mazars is retiring. WCF are going to take this opportunity to review the level of audit / financial review required for our Accounts and go to market to allow us to look at alternatives for future seasons, however as we are already underway in this financial year we would propose to re-appoint Mazars for the coming season while we review our options for the future

**It was proposed that Mazars, Edinburgh be re-appointed Auditors for the year to 30 June 2024.**

***Proposed by Damola Daniel  
Seconded by Gregor Rigler  
and approved unanimously***

## **13 PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET**

A summary of the budget presentation had been handed out the day before.

CGR highlighted the following details of the budget:

### Expenses

A deficit of \$225k is proposed which is made up of

- an initial investment in the Big Ideas of \$130K
- Operational deficit of \$95k

Any additional investment in the big ideas will be subject to specific budget approval

### Income

- Includes Specific IOC Grant for Youth Olympic Games to cover Olympic costs in Expenditure
- Other Movements relates to gains and losses on sale of investments
- Other Income includes revenue from charging staff time such as Mark Callan for ice making at non-WCF events
- Higher interest rates and higher cash balances have improved the return on holdings
- Marketing includes sponsorships and rights fees

In fact WCF has already received the IOC Grant and it is recorded in deferred income in this year's balance sheet.

### Organisational

- Board - includes costs for Congress
- Governance is the cost of Commissions

### Engagement – website

- Includes \$360k which should be in Marketing for Commercial Airtime

### Competitions

- Local officials, wherever possible to minimise hotel and flight costs
- Piloting new officiating system for certain smaller events to reduce costs for WCF and LOCs
- Statistics separated out from competitions and included with Technical Support
- Increase in budget for Junior Flights of \$55k
- Future review of payment of flights for Junior events

### Engagement – Broadcast

- Align Output v Demand
- Service Levels for each event have been confirmed the Board
- Any additional coverage not covered by income to be approved by the Board
- Broadcaster acceptance of MF2 (Pink) content levels
- MF2 level for PCCC and WMDCC saving over \$500k on last season
- Still providing a min level of coverage on every sheet
- Introduction of Contingency fund

The following questions were asked and answers were given:

**Alastair Fyfe (KSA):** Is it the intention of the Board to invest money in buying or identifying specific ways to keep Curling under our control? I am thinking specifically of electronic means. Is there a contingency in the budget to allow for a one-off strategic purchase of that? **WCF**

**reply (CGR):** There is an element of investment in the Big Ideas in this budget. Any such idea would come in through James Beatt and the commercial working group and would require to be worked up by doing a business plan and by calculating the return on investment for the Board to actually say: Yes, this is a worthwhile investment. The Board is in general open to look at any ideas but must think entrepreneurial and must take business decisions.

**Lisa Peters (WAL):** National broadcasters are not taking the WMDCC. What is the plan going forward to get broadcast income from WMDCC? **WCF reply (CGR):** The exercise that needs to take place is two-fold: 1) Discussions with the broadcasters about an acceptable time window and 2) with the MAs as to how does that window fit in with the seasons of the MAs. Example: There is no point in WCF taking the WMDCC and put it to the beginning of March right in the period where the MAs have all their national championships because that would have a huge impact on your season. This is a discussion that needs to happen. Japan, Switzerland, Canada and Sweden are the countries that have shown most interest in a WMDCC broadcast but they have indicated that the late April slot is a real problem as it seems to be out of the Curling/winter season and they have moved on to summer sports at this time of the year.

**João Cardoso (POR):** What are the plans for having coverage of the ECC-C? What can we do to have the Board help us grow? **WCF reply (CGR):** What we have done in some of the venues is that we have used a camera system that is built into the venue so there could be coverage at no additional cost. Last year the WCF used the WMxCC to try the static cameras and it will be tried again this year so that we can track via Recast how many people are watching it from which countries so that WCF can see what the return on investment is. If WCF can prove that the low-cost system during the WMxCC is viable that might open the door for B-division and qualification events to being covered.

## **14 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

No change was proposed to the rate of the Annual Subscriptions for the 2023/2024 season.

## **15 RESOLUTIONS**

There were three proposed changes to the constitution. CGR explained that all constitutional amendments require a 2/3rds majority of those voting to be accepted.

### 1. Proxy Voting

The following change is proposed to ensure Member Associations can allocate all their votes during a meeting when only some of their delegation is in attendance. The current wording prevents Associations with 3 or 4 delegates from doing so if only one delegate (in the case of MA's with 3 or 4 reps) or two delegates (in the case of MAs with 4 reps) attend the meeting.

The following changes are proposed:

12. PROXIES 12.1. Within a Member Association: 12.1.1. a Representative may carry the proxies of only one (1) other representative of their Member Association

12.2. Proxy of another Member Association: 12.2.1. Should a Member Association **Representative** not attend a General Assembly its Representatives may confer a proxy upon a Representative of another Member Association;

12.3. Only one Representative per Member Association may carry a proxy, **unless it is a proxy from their own Member Association:**

12.4. No Representative may carry more than one (1) proxy of another Member Association's Representative.

12.5. The proxies are valid for all decisions taken during the General Assembly concerned.

12.6. The Proxy shall be given in writing to the WCF Secretariat at least one week before the General Assembly. In special circumstances a proxy may be transmitted to the Secretary General without a full week's notice, in which case the Board shall decide the validity of the proxy.

***Proposed by Tom Seger  
Seconded by Eric Richardson  
and approved unanimously***

## 2. Gender Inclusive Language

The following changes have been submitted by the DEI Working Group to be more gender inclusive:

### 24. LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION

24.3 Words used herein regardless of the gender specifically used, shall be deemed and construed to include any other gender, masculine, feminine or neuter, as the context requires. ~~Whenever the word indicating the masculine is used, it also includes the feminine.~~

***Proposed by Sylvie Hummel  
Seconded by Eoin McCrossan  
and approved by majority***

## 3. Removal of reference to Zonal requirements for VPs

The following change is a tidying up of a clause that had been missed in the rewording of the constitution following the removal of the Zonal requirement for Vice Presidents:

### BYE-LAW 3 ELECTION OF THE BOARD

#### I GENERAL

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

***Proposed by Karen Wauters  
Seconded by Jennifer Stannard  
and approved unanimously***

## **16 FURTHER BUSINESS**

Ms Youngmi Ji, Sport Manager of the Organizing Committee of the Youth Olympic Games 2024 Gangwon gave a presentation on the forthcoming Youth Olympic Games.

## **17 ELECTIONS**

None

## **18 ACCEPTANCE OF NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

The following motions were made:

**To accept the Bosnia & Herzegovina Curling Association as Provisional Member of the World Curling Federation**

*Proposed by Gregor Rigler  
Seconded by Tom Seger  
and approved unanimously*

**To accept the Thai Curling Association as Provisional Member of the World Curling Federation**

*Proposed by Jennifer Stannard  
Seconded by Damola Daniel  
and approved unanimously*

**To accept the Curling Winter Sports Association of the Philippines as Provisional Member of the World Curling Federation**

*Proposed by Joao Cardoso  
Seconded by Lorne de Pape  
and approved unanimously*

**To accept the Puerto Rican Curling Federation as Provisional Member of the World Curling Federation**

*Proposed by Susan Wyllie  
Seconded by Jennifer Stannard  
and approved unanimously*

## **19 DATE & LOCATION OF NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Open Meetings for Member Associations are planned during the World Men's Curling Championship, March 2024 in Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

The 2024 Annual Congress will be held on the following dates: Open Meetings 5th and 6th September, Annual General Assembly 7th September 2024. The venue will be Montreal, Canada.

Michael Szajewski of Curling Canada gave a presentation on Montreal and showed an image video of Montreal.

The President thanked the Korean Curling Federation for hosting a fantastic World Curling Congress. He also thanked the Board and the staff for their hard work and contribution. He also thanked the Member Association for coming the long distance to Korea and for supporting the sport of Curling.

Vice-President Graham Prouse congratulated President Beau Welling on behalf of the Board and on behalf of the Member Associations on a great first season.

Colin Grahamslaw officially closed the Annual General Assembly.