

**PROCEEDINGS OF WORLD CURLING
MONTREAL, CANADA
3-8 SEPTEMBER 2024**



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**MINUTES
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board
Montréal, Canada on
3 and 4 September 2024**

Attendees

Executive Board

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Graham Prouse (GPR)	Vice-President
Hugh Millikin (HMI)	Vice-President
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Director
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director
Kim Forge (KFO)	Director
Tyler George (TGE)	Athlete Commission Chair
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	WCF Projects Officer/Minute taker

Presidents Update

The President welcomed the Board to Montreal. He advised that the Congress would be attended by a record number of people.

The President reported the following:

- WOF is trying to organize a trip to Saudi Arabia in November 2024 to mainly discuss the Asian Winter Games in 2029
- There is still an issue with the Indian NOC getting into the Asian Winter Games: Raju's group had been approved by the previous regime at the Indian NOC, but there is now a new regime at the Indian NOC and they were threatened with legal actions from a different group in India who said they had more rights to be the Indian Curling Association.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed in advance.

To approve the minutes of the Board meetings held online on 20 August 2024 (with one correction under Sustsainability Working Group the sentence ‘but as it is a really important document that the group wanted to get right the group is going through some changes and is polishing the document.’ by adding ‘etc.,’ to the end of it.

*moved by HLI
seconded by KFO
and approved unanimously*

Conflict of Interests

No additions/changes

RNI, HLI and KFO's ongoing candidacies for the Board positions were noted.

Commission and Committee Updates

Finance Commission (SMV)

SMV had shared the minutes of the second Finance Commission (FC) meeting. The FC had asked for some adjustments to the budget and now recommended that the budget be approved. The only comment made by the FC was that World Curling was currently budgeting a loss – which is a management and Board decision – however, the Board should think about the sustainability of doing so in the long term.

HMI confirmed that the FC has had good and robust discussions. He also felt that the addition of Margaret Richardson and Kathy O'Rourke is fantastic.

Depending on the outcome of the forthcoming elections KFO recommended to have another expert and two more Board members to support SMV on the FC.

SMV recommended to have a full audit this year. As the process of signing off the accounts from last year was not completed by the time our Audit Manager had retired, the 2023 Accounts had been reviewed again and put into the new format which is consistent with the type of review they are conducting for 2024. He noted that we would be seeking the AGA's approval to allow the Board to appoint new Auditors.

CGR added that they had added a note regarding VAT and he was expecting a VAT audit during the next two years.

HLI queried the Board's view on the long term budgeting – are we aiming for a zero budget or do we seek to achieve a positive outcome, how long can we sustain a loss? CGR explained that the budget is based on what the Board sees as priorities. In terms of long-term forecasts the unknown is the IOC monies. The summer sports will probably get a 10% increase from Paris. Generally, they keep the winter sports in line with summer sports so a small increase can be expected also for the winter sports.

The expenses are the expenses – we either stop doing things or we have to increase the income.

GPR stated that World Curling had not yet reached the reserve goal of having 1.5 times of the yearly turnover in the bank. The Board should decide if that is still applicable.

The President added that it is not guaranteed that Curling will always be part of the Olympic Winter Games (OWG). What also might happen is that some summer sports become part of the OWG-programme even though WOF agreed that only sports on ice and snow should be part of the OWG.

SMV suggested that as soon as the new Board has been elected it should have a look at the 'old' Forward Plan and then establish an updated Forward Plan with a corresponding budget. The Board agreed.

To approve the accounts 2023/2024

*moved by SMV
seconded by HMI
and approved unanimously*

To approve the budget 2024/2025

*moved by SMV
seconded by TOG
and approved unanimously*

Sustainability (KFO)

KFO gave a presentation on the World Curling Sustainability Strategy for the Board to consider.

Basically, World Curling will be copying what the IOC does. The commitments of World Curling will be:

- Reduce GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2040.
- Align with the UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action Framework to integrate sustainability into all aspects of the sport.
- Regularly report progress on sustainability initiatives to ensure transparency and continuous improvement.

The five areas where World Curling can have an impact or influence are:

- Infrastructure
- Sourcing and resource management
- Mobility
- Workforce
- Climate

KFO emphasized that she would like the whole process to be more publicized through the World Curling media.

The Board was asked to give feedback by the end of September 2024.

Congress

CGR went through the Congress programme for the coming days and explained some of the congress programme items in detail (such as the Welcome Reception for First Time Delegates).

It was also confirmed that the Land Acknowledgement needs to be done on a daily basis.

E-Sports

CGR explained that the IOC Session had officially decided to create the Olympic Esports Games, with the inaugural event set to take place in 2025 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Part of the discussion during the WOF meetings was looking at insuring that World Curling as an IF had the governance responsibility so there was no risk of someone coming in and stealing the governance of the esports version of the sport from us.

Bobsleigh for example had just added one line to their constitution which basically says that they are the responsible governing body for all E-sport versions of their sport.

The issue was discussed by the Board.

To ask the Governance Commission to adapt the World Curling constitution to include governance of E-sport versions of Curling

*moved by GPR
seconded by KFO
and approved unanimously*

Events Working Group

BWE reported that the two big issues identified by the Events Working Group that need to be discussed are:

- Spectator / Fan engagement
- Profitability of ECC / PCCC

A presentation on the possible new pathway of ECC and PCCC had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. The same presentation would be shown to the MAs during the Open Meetings. BWE added that the plan was to then have feedback from both the Board and the MAs about the idea of not doing the ECC and the PCCC as qualifier for the Worlds and freeing up that space on the calendar to hopefully produce a different event that could be commercially more viable and more engaging with fans.

CGR went through the presentation, the Board mainly discussed the future event calendar in general and the following comments were made:

- It is difficult to find hosts. World Curling has to chase MAs for bids
- World Curling loses USD 600,000 for two qualifiers each year (ECC and PCCC)

- Looking at a possible event calendar, are we trying to polarize our athletes into being Mixed-Doubles athletes or four-person athletes or should we give the athletes the possibility to play both?
- The athletes do not want to have the WMDCC at the beginning of the season
- The WMDCC would be perfect for TV especially at the beginning of the season, but can an arena be found at that time? Must it be a full arena for WMDCC?
- You can stick WMDCC anywhere you want but if players do not support it then there is a problem (unless you give them better coverage or something else to compensate for the wrong dates)
- If an event is commercially viable do we care where it is?
- Any changes could be effective starting in 2026/27
- We have to get away from the business that everyone plays everyone every time
- A lot of the funding changes dramatically if they have a direct route to the Worlds in one year – that would help the C-division teams
- The event calendar is a Board decision – MAs do not have to approve it. The Board has to sell this new concept to the MAs
- The Europeans could continue but then it must be changed completely (structure, format) – but it needs to be commercially viable

Regarding the WJMDCC 2025 there had only been very few complaints about the introduction of an entry fee and those had come from traditional nations, not from small or new nations.

Nominations (GPR)

The three candidates RNI, HLI and KFO were not present when this agenda item was discussed.

GPR provided a verbal update on speed-dating and the election process.

He reported that one candidate felt it inappropriate that candidates have to fund their travel and accommodation when attending the Congress. Two candidates dropped out mainly because of language issues. World Curling needs to figure out what can be done to accommodate communication in other languages.

GPR advised that he would be happy to remain the Chair of the Nominations Committee until being replaced by the Board on the Committee (or by the members of the Committee as the Chair), same is with the Athlete representative until being replaced by the Athlete Commission. The other three members are elected (Alison Arthur, Mike Ferguson and Rosell Gonsalves). The members up for election will be Alison Arthur and Mike Ferguson.

After the Congress the Nominations Committee will write a post-election report and the plan is to do a survey with MAs and election candidates to see what their election experiences were. Also, in the ToR it is mentioned that the Committee is responsible for creating a pipeline of Board candidates and people that are interested in working for the Commissions. This is what the Committee will be doing as well.

Graham mentioned that it was the Nominations Committee's stated goal that the election process should be enjoyable for the candidates. He thanked his committee members for their empathetic and always fair treatment of the candidates.

On-Boarding for New Board members

CGR advised that part of the information that he had sent out earlier with the staffing report could be extracted and used as induction for the Board. CGR invited the Board to inform him what other information they think should be provided to new Board members.

The Board discussed the on-boarding process for new Board members and the following comments were made:

- The onboarding of new Board members is crucial for maximizing efficiency and ensuring valuable time is not lost. HLI observed that it took nearly a year to fully contribute in Board meetings, as the internal workings of the WC Board and organization were not initially clear. To enhance this experience and accelerate integration, a well-prepared onboarding process was recommended by HLI to be implemented. That process should be speeded up. Maybe a special Teams meeting should be set up to provide more internal information, perhaps with each Head of Department. To understand the organisation better an organigram should be provided, in other words kind of a hand-over should take place.
- HLI also said new Board members must be informed of what the calendar looks like, i.e. when are Board meetings, what are they supposed to attend etc. Also as employers we should seek to ensure work can, as much as possible, be performed during the working day.
- It must be assessed who in the Board is employed and who is self-employed in order to establish the most convenient meeting time for all
- Every new Board member should have a mentor to explain to the new Board member what the procedures are and what is expected of him/her, i.e. a person that can be asked the dumb questions without feeling dumb
- In the first Board meeting not all new members have an idea which commission they might want to chair
- For those who are non-native English speakers it would be great if the Board members could use easier terms. Maybe a glossary of terms or abbreviations could be provided.
- All Terms of Reference of the commissions should be pulled into one document
- Each new Board Member should read the constitution and the policies
- New Board members must be informed that the Board is strategic, not operational

In general, the Board felt that having monthly online meetings is perfect (compared to having only two in-person meetings per year some years ago)

Big Ideas Update

Commercial

Floor Curling Update: CGR confirmed that the web portal was now operational and able to take money for Floor Curling.

CGR also advised that World Curling was going through a due diligence process with another travel agent who had shown interest in low-level sponsorship of the WJCC. This would require World Curling to move the USD 400k worth of travel business to them which should only be done once it has been confirmed that they can do the job.

Athlete and Events

The initial proposal for the Athlete Licensing (Sales Force platform) had been distributed prior to the meeting. World Curling had successfully secured USD 10K from the IOC towards this project.

The model that is being looked at is a two tiered licence system: A-licence for Olympic pathway championships (Olympics, Paralympics) and a B-licence for non-pathway championships. Over time, the eventual rule will be that if athletes want to be on the world ranking list they have to hold an A-licence.

KFO felt the same courses should be mandatory for both A- and B-division athletes including juniors (all courses are free).

The time-frame for having this new system rolled out is beginning of January for the World championships next season, then it should be rolled out for the rest of the World Curling events the following season and effectively post-Olympics it should apply to the full ranking list events. In a next stage a coach or bench license will also be offered.

To approve an expenditure of USD 23,000 (originally USD 33,000 minus USD 10,000 IOC grant) for the Athlete Licensing I2C platform development through Sales Force

*moved by RNI
seconded by HMI
and approved unanimously*

Re-branding

No further update

Stakeholder Engagement

Covered under Congress discussions

Data and Digital

No update since last meeting

Facilities

CGR asked the Board for an authorization to SMV and himself to sign the contract with the World Academy of Sport.

To authorize SMV and CGR to sign the SVS contract with World Academy of Sport on behalf of World Curling

*moved by GPR
seconded by BWE
and approved unanimously*

The Technical Commission (TC) had met in Montreal prior to the Board Meetings and had forwarded various documents to the Board. The Board was instructed to forward any feedback on those meetings directly to TOG.

TOG offered to stay on as TC Chair for a period of 3-6 months to liaise with the new chairperson.

Hall of Fame Presentation

The members of the Hall of Fame Induction Committee joined the meeting:

Elisabet Gustafson, Sweden (H of F 2012) – Appointed 2021

Egil Ramsfjell, Norway (H of F 2014) – Appointed 2020

Warren Hansen, Canada (H of F 2016) – Appointed 2019

Patrick Huerlimann, Switzerland (H of F 2014) – Appointed 2016

Keith Wendorf, Canada (H of F 1994) – Appointed 2018 – Chair

The Committee had had two days of meetings in Montreal. Chair Keith Wendorf gave a presentation to the Board on the outcome of those meetings and brought up the following 12 main discussion topics:

1. Age of inductees (Athlete – 50 & Builders – 60) – age restriction should be removed
2. Number (5-6) of inductees (3+ Athletes & max. 2 Builders): Keep the limit to a maximum of 5-6 per year. Not necessary to put that number in each year. Remove the number restriction on each category. A team induction to be considered as 2 places.
3. Long-term selection plan for inductees – this is something the Induction Committee is working on.
4. Athletes have to stop trying to be competitors at world events. If a team, or individual, is worthy of getting into the Hall of Fame, remove the restriction as it pertains to them being able to continue to curl.
5. New categories (equipment inventors, technicians, etc.) Remain with two categories “Curler” and Builder” but rename “Curling” to “Athlete”
6. Induction Committee members have to be in the Hall of Fame. That unwritten rule should be removed.
7. 5 year term for the members – members should commit to a five year term
8. Structure of the Committee (regions, genders, etc.) - Keep the number of members at five, both genders must be included
9. Selection of new Induction Committee members: Recommendations made by the Induction Committee, but final decision solely made by the World Curling Board & Secretary General.
10. Creation of a virtual Hall of Fame on the website: Highly recommended that this be done. Should contain a photo and all relative information pertaining to every inductee. Important that the site has to be maintained.
11. Create an “Award of Merit”: Or call it the “President’s Honour List”. No set number of people honoured each year. Approved by the Board.
12. World Curling museum to preserve curling artefacts and memorabilia: The Committee thinks this is extremely important. It would be a shame to lose our history and this could be a time sensitive issue.

In addition to the 12 above items the Committee raised the following:

- The H of F criteria manual needs to be updated once we know what has been approved by the Board. The Committee is willing to help with that.
- Inductees receive a pin and plate, a certificate (wall hanging type) should be added to that in the future.
- The actual induction ceremony needs to be reviewed. It should not be during the 5th-end break, especially if it is during a bronze medal game that starts at 09:00 in the morning.
- All past presidents (4) should be inducted.
- A deadline for announcing the new inductees should be set (somewhere between 15-31 January).
- Could the committee be doing more to assist in the follow-up after the new inductees are announced?
- New inductees must supply proper photos (jpeg) and bios before their induction ceremony.
- The Committee is in-house doing additional evaluation of the Athletes based upon a point system:
 - Olympics - Gold = 7, Silver = 5 and Bronze = 3
 - Worlds Men/Women/MD - Gold = 5, Silver = 3 and Bronze = 1

The Board thanked the Committee for their presentation. The Committee Members left the meeting.

Farewell to leaving Board Members

On behalf of the current World Curling Board and all previous Board Members BWE conveyed his thanks and his deep sincere appreciation to the three leaving Board Members Toyo Ogawa, Graham Prouse and Hugh Millikin for all their work, service, guidance and mentorship over all the years. There is no doubt that World Curling would not be the same without their work and them having been part of it. He added that he personally would miss seeing them at the Board Meetings but he expressed his hope that they would still be available to provide guidance and help whenever needed. The Board is highly appreciative of the work that those three Board members have done.

Toyo Ogawa said that the Board had experienced a big transition from Kate to Beau and the Board was now even working more strategically instead of operationally – he had enjoyed this very much. He expressed that he felt fortunate having been given the opportunity to work in the World Curling Board.

Hugh Millikin said that one of the challenges is to bring perspective. He added that he had always brought up a lot of questions, he had always tried to challenge his fellow Board members. He admitted that sometimes this may have come across as if he did not agree or believe it was right what was done. He said he always asked questions that he felt the Board would be asked from the audience. Having disagreements or perspectives and different points of view, different cultures is good and important. At the end of the day we mostly got the right answers as we are a global organisation – we represent the world of Curling.

Graham Prouse felt that a lot had been accomplished. He felt that traditions are a huge part in this sport but they can also hold back. He really hoped that the new Board thinks about being brave and is not afraid of making mistakes. One of the things he wished he had learned years ago

from Hugh Millikin is his willingness to be wrong and to make mistakes. The sport can be in fantastic shape if we are brave and are willing to make a few mistakes. He closed by saying how grateful he felt for being part of World Curling.



**MINUTES
of the WORLD CURLING Open Meetings
Montréal, Canada on
5, 6 and 7 September 2024**

Preliminary remark:

All presentations during the 2024 Congress have been uploaded to the World Curling website. These presentations are available to download and review: Please visit: [Congress 2024 Presentations to Members - World Curling](#)

The password to access is Congress2024Montreal

The Open Meetings were not minuted in its entirety. For individual sessions selected by the Secretary General (marked in yellow), the most important questions from the audience and the corresponding answers are summarised below.

The meetings began each day with the land acknowledgement presented by World Curling Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw. A land acknowledgement, or territorial acknowledgement, is a formal declaration that recognises the original indigenous people of the land and is spoken at the beginning of public events. The custom of land acknowledgement is a traditional practice in Canada.

Open Meetings Day 1

Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw welcomed the delegates to the Congress and gave an overview of the day.

Chair of Nominations Committee Graham Prouse introduced the elections taking place on 8 September 2024 and explained the interaction opportunities with the candidates.

Keynote - Big Ideas – One Year On

President Beau Welling took the audience through the progress on the Big Ideas and how this will link to the work of the congress over the coming days. There were no questions.

Case Study of Social Media use in Curling

Gravity Management look after the social media accounts for some of Curling's biggest names. Their founder Jess Szabo talked about how they use social media to engage a wider audience for the teams. There were no questions.

Partner Spotlight - Kays of Scotland

The company Kays of Scotland and its work were introduced in a short presentation by Paul Davidson, Managing Director of Kays of Scotland. There were no questions.

After the coffee break on all three days, there were various offers/presentations in different rooms. Delegates could choose to attend the presentation that interested them the most.

BALLROOM WEST

Junior Curling - retaining young curlers

Brodie Bazinet, Senior Manager - Philanthropy & Youth Impacts, Curling Canada presented on Curling Canada's strategies for retaining young curlers in the sport through to adulthood.

The following questions were asked/answers were given:

- **Brodie was asked about how easy it was to get people onto the ice?** She replied that getting families onto the ice continues to be the hardest piece. Provincial and territorial organisations must be engaged early and they were assisted through the whole process. Then the clubs were involved through an online meeting and asked to participate.
- **Brodie was also asked if there are resources that can be shared with the MAs?** Brodie replied that she would need to check with Rock Solid on that.

Youth Panel Discussion - Young Curlers

Mike Haggarty chaired a panel discussion with some of the younger representatives/delegates (Liza Gregori, Harri Lill, Amy Gibson and Brodie Bazinet) on what they think World Curling and our member associations should be doing to engage a wider young audience.

The following questions were asked/answers were given:

- **Liza Gregori was asked about the event they had organised for students in SLO: Have these been students that already knew Curling?** Liza Gregori replied that the vast majority of the students were completely new to Curling. Invitations had been sent to various universities and during the event/camp, the participating students were crowned champions of their respective universities.
- **Liza Gregori was asked about her experience working with other Member Associations (MAs)?** She replied that they were hoping to expand the event and make it a world-wide event. She added that it was their goal to re-invent a camp like the Füssen camp which was great. In the beginning it should however be a camp for smaller MAs who do not have ice facilities.
- **It was brought up that a huge problem in various MAs are the ageing facilities.** Brodie Bazinet felt, that kids are coming to try a new sport, they do not care about the age of any facility. Getting to know the kids and understand what resonates with them is more important than the facilities.
- **It was noted that sometimes the children would like to play curling, but ultimately the parents have to support the children's sport, for example by driving them to the ice rink.** Brodie emphasised the importance of getting the whole family involved in Curling and on the ice.

Floor Curling - the next steps

In this double session led by Chad McMullan of Rock Solid Productions, Scott Arnold, World Curling Head of Development and James Beatt, World Curling Commercial Strategy Lead there was an update on the work with Floor Curling showcasing ideas of how Floor Curling can be used to drive new people to the sport. Examples of how some Member Associations are using Floor

Curling as an engagement tool were presented along with the new online platform for managing it all.

BALLROOM CENTRE

Modernising the DAP Programme

Head of Development Scott Arnold gave details of potential developments in the Development Assistance Programme and explained more about the changes for the coming season including the new way of claiming for flights to the World Junior Championships.

Streaming - The Curling Channel, Production Standards and distribution

World Curling's Commercial Strategy Lead James Beatt and WCTV's Sylvie Aubrit led a discussion on the new World Curling OTT Platform and how Member Associations can utilise the platform to promote and monetise.

Stones and other Loans Clinic session

Head of Finance, Alan Chalmers, Head of Ice Services, Mark Callan and Logistics Officer, Rhona Howie MBE were available to answer all questions on the deferred payment scheme for stones and ice machines and on facility and green loans.

World Curling Social Media

Head of Marketing and Media, Chris Hamilton and Content Creator, Amy Gibson presented on World Curling's social media strategy, how World Curling uses social media and why posting everything everywhere is not the right way to go.

BALLROOM EAST

Throughout the day: World Curling Vox Pop - how to get more young people curling? - Content Creator Amy Gibson asked everyone to share their views on how to get more young people curling.

At the end of the day the World Curling representatives had the chance for a meet and greet with the election candidates.

Open Meetings Day 2

Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw welcomed the delegates to day two of the Open Meetings.

Keynote – Kathy Henderson

Kathy Henderson, President and CEO of Hockey Canada gave a keynote speech on “The Importance of Trust in Sport”.

Platform discussion on effective member communication

Mike Haggerty chaired a discussion between President Beau Welling, Michael Marklund (SWE), Terri Johnston (JPN) on what is effective member communication.

The following questions were asked/answers were given:

- **Michael Marklund (SWE) asked the audience as to whether they feel that the Zonal Meetings are needed?** The President confirmed that communication must be improved

and it must be figured what is the best mechanism to do that and also how often the MA groups would like to meet. This may be more difficult for smaller Member Associations, whereas the larger Member Associations may have the opportunity to meet more often. Terri Johnston pointed out that the idea of hybrid meetings had unfortunately been turned down some years ago but should be considered again. The President invited the MAs to discuss within their member groups if they feel that hybrid meetings have value. It was also mentioned that hybrid meetings might be helpful for those MAs who have difficulties attending meetings because of visa issues.

- **Lisa Peters (WAL) felt that the webinars prior to WCC or the Congress were very useful – maybe zonal webinars should be considered.**
- **The question was raised as to what World Curling thinks is the biggest challenge when communicating with MAs and how can MAs help to overcome those challenges?** The President replied that MAs are needed that are responsible to help with the communication process. Both, World Curling and MAs have to participate in the communication process. The President used the metaphor of a good ball pass: a pass is only good if someone catches it. We need members to step up and be participatory. Terri Johnston pointed out that World Curling has to recognize also that not all MAs have full time staff.
- **The question was also asked whether World Curling is keeping up with and embracing modern technology enough to facilitate MA meetings?** The President confirmed that World Curling is of course trying to do just that (e.g. when collecting data, when organizing meetings etc) but probably there is always room for improvement.
- **Jennifer Stannard (USA) asked how often the World Curling Board meets?** The President explained that the Board meets once a month. Prior to Covid the Board had only met twice a year but during Covid it was introduced that the Board meets online once a month.
- **Jennifer Stannard (USA) added that unfortunately there is no communication to the MAs about what is discussed at the Board meetings. Knowing more about those meetings would be very helpful to the MAs.** The President noted this but pointed out that Board minutes are published, he invited the MAs to discuss how often the MAs would like to be updated.

Sponsor spotlight – Central FX

Central FX is a leading Currency and Payments institution based in London, helping clients and partners make the right currency decisions every time. The company and the future collaboration with World Curling were presented.

BALLROOM WEST

Finance Update

Chair of the Finance Commission Sergio Mitsuo Vilela and Head of Finance Alan Chalmers presented on the current financial picture for World Curling. There were no questions.

DEI Working Group Update and increasing female coaches at the elite level

Chair of the DEI Working Group, Helena Lingham and Jennifer Ferris, Officer of Safe Sport & Education, Curling Canada presented on work that is being done to increase the number of female coaches at the elite level.

Hall of Fame Presentation and Feedback Opportunity

Chair of the Hall of Fame Induction Committee, Keith Wendorf led an opportunity for member input into the future of the World Curling Hall of Fame.

The following questions were asked/answers were given:

- **Sylvia Hummel (NED) asked whether the people who are nominated for the Hall of Fame are informed about this?** Keith Wendorf confirmed that nominees are not informed of their nomination.
- **Lorne de Pape (NZL) congratulated Keith Wendorf on the successful presentation and said he would support all the committee's proposals.**
- **Alex Pokras (ISR) supported the idea of taking away the restrictions of age, take away the restrictions of whether nominees are still playing etc.**

BALLROOM CENTRE

Facilities Platform Discussion

Mike Haggerty chaired a discussion on the building of new facilities with Technical Commission Chair Toyo Ogawa, Matheus Bacelo de Figueiredo (BRA), Stephane Vandermeeren (BEL) and David Sik (CZE) on what are the challenges and hurdles and how some MAs have gone about overcoming them.

Matheus, Stephane and David briefly introduced their facility projects.

The following questions were asked/answers were given:

- **Joao Cardoso (POR) wanted to know whether the current subsidy amounts per sheet will soon be adjusted because of inflation, i.e. whether they will be increased?** Toyo Ogawa replied that currently World Curling supports MAs with USD 50,000 per sheet. This money has to be paid back in eight instalments. Currently, World Curling thinks this amount is appropriate but it might be revised in future.
- **Joao Cardoso (POR) also asked the panellists if they had factored into their business plans the ability to broadcast their events?** David Sik replied that in Ostrava, CZE they were currently focussing on generating membership – broadcasting is not yet being talked about. For Belgium Stephane explained that their broadcasting was not an MA initiative but two members of their MA had so much fun playing Curling that they started to work on broadcasting.
- **Benjo Delarmente (PHL) asked: How important is the selection of a supplier to build a rink? Is it important that this supplier has had experience in building a Curling rink? He also wanted to know if World Curling has thought of building regional centers in areas where there is a concentration of MAs (e.g. South East Asia or the Caribbean)?** Stephane replied to the first question and highlighted that Curling ice is very different to ice-hockey or skating ice, so selecting a supplier who has experience with Curling ice is very important.
- **Lajos Belleli (QAT) wanted to know from the panellists how their business plans had worked out? Is there anything they would do differently in retrospect?** Stephane confirmed that their business plan had worked out. David Sik felt that it is important to build an ice rink in relatively big towns with infrastructure and not far outside.

- **It was mentioned by a Scottish delegate that it is not only important to build new facilities but it is also important to maintain existing facilities. It would be beneficial to have a scoring system for existing Curling rinks.**
- **Neven Pufnik asked how many Culers does one need to run a facility successfully?** Stephane felt that a facility cannot be run without having clinics or corporate Curling events. Without those extra events one would need to ask for very high prices from the local Curlers.

Briefing on Transgender Athletes, World Curling and the IOC Guidelines

Chair of the DEI Working Group, Helena Lingham and Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw led a consultation opportunity on the work World Curling is doing to develop a policy on the participation of Transgender athletes in Curling.

At the conclusion of all presentations/meetings the World Curling representatives had an opportunity to meet in their newly formed Member Groups in person.

At the end of the day the World Curling representatives again had the chance for a meet and greet with the election candidates.

Open Meetings Day 3

Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw welcomed the delegates to day three of the Open Meetings.

President Beau Welling presented the Hall of Fame Award to the latest inductee, former WCF President Les Harrison.

Keynote - Cat Raney-Norman 4-time Olympian, Chair of SLC-Utah 2034 Bid Committee

Cat is a four-time Olympian and one of the driving forces behind the successful bid to bring the Games back to Salt Lake City in 2034. She explained why Salt Lake loves the Games and how they use it and other sports events to drive community engagement.

Event Working Group - what next

President Beau Welling presented on some of the outcomes from the Events Working Group focusing on the potential draft calendar.

The following questions were asked/answers were given:

- **Johanna Höss (AUT): Were the needs of the smaller countries considered? On the Event Working Group mostly bigger nations are represented.** The President acknowledged that MAs will have different thoughts and orientations to this concept based on their level of development. A World Trophy Event would take the functionality of the ECC-B, ECC-C and the PCCC-B and put all that together into one event, but World Curling would be able to broadcast it which is not possible right now. There would be a clear pathway for every MA how to qualify for the WCC and then for the Olympics. This could be very positive for the smaller MAs but World Curling was looking forward to getting the input from the smaller MAs, too.
- **Is there a more structured timeline for getting MA feedback and making decisions?** The President replied that during the next couple of months this topic should be discussed within the various MA groups but also with the C&R Commission, broadcasters and sponsors.

- **What is the thinking about automatic qualifiers versus other qualifiers?** The President replied that the members of the Events Working Group do not have the expertise to answer questions regarding the competitions and competitive integrity of events. This must be discussed within the C&R Commission. The Events Working Group is more focussed on the promotion of events and the business of events.
- **György Nagy (HUN): It was mentioned that ECC-B and ECC-C are not profitable. Does World Curling want to keep ECC-A or should there be no more ECC in future?** The President replied that the idea is to or restructure the ECC or replace it with another event but the general idea would be that the ECC is not anymore a qualifier for WCC.
- **György Nagy (HUN): For smaller nations in Europe this is very bad, this is killing smaller nations. Small nations receive funds to participate in the ECC. If smaller nations win a medal at ECC-B or ECC-C then the funding is coming again. Instead of cancelling the ECC in order to save money other solutions must be found. When the European Curling Federation (ECF) was cancelled, World Curling promised to keep the ECC – so World Curling is not keeping this promise.** The President replied that the intent would be to replace the event that MAs are getting funding for and actually this does not mean we have to cancel the ECC. We do not want to prevent funding but the intention is to put ECC-B, ECC-C and PCCC-B all together in one event.
- **Neven Pufnik (CRO): As in the last Congress we get information in the last moment. We need to discuss topics like this with our MAs. Also, when ECF was killed it was promised to us that ECC would be managed in a better way. Now World Curling says that the event is not profitable, but if we abandon the broadcasting the event would have a surplus.** The President replied that if the ECC is not broadcast then there will be no sponsor. He also emphasized that a decision will not be made at this Congress.
- **Neven Pufnik (CRO): Europe is very important. Even if Europe is not a big continent, there are approx. 40 European MAs within World Curling. It should be presented more precisely what World Curling would like to do and then the MAs should be asked for their opinion. The Congress is not the right place to discuss this topic.** The President advised that World Curling is of course planning on asking the MAs for their opinion. Any way forward must be beneficial for everyone, especially for the smaller European countries.
- **John Brown (ENG): In a lot of countries funding is received based on the terminology used. It seems easier to get funding for an ECC instead of a World Trophy. Also, what are the aspirations of the athletes? Do they want to become a European champion or a World Trophy holder?** The President agreed. Maybe the name proposed is not the right name. In any case the next step is to engage with MAs, athletes, coaches and stakeholder groups.
- **(USA): One should not look at the proposed changes through an MA-lense only. I do not understand that funding is in danger because of a certain competition name. What is important is that the existing concept is clearly not working.** The President said: World Curling has to talk to all its sponsors about all of this. We do not wish to lose Le Gruyère.
- **Susan Wyllie (SCO): Where do we stand with our contracts regarding hosts, broadcasting and sponsors? Are we in a position to make changes for 2026?** The President advised that there are no contracts with hosts. Regarding broadcasting CGR added that if there was a change of format to the WCC it would require conversations with the broadcasters in Canada due to financial impacts. With regard to ECC the contract with Eurosport only runs to the end of the Olympic cycle. The contract with Le

Gruyere also runs to the end of the Olympic cycle with an option to extend. Infront is aware of the current discussions.

- **Nolan Thiessen (CAN): As an MA we should not ask World Curling to run into a loss if a traditional event is not working. We can keep a lot of our traditions in this game while still adapting. We have to try and see if there is a better way – that's all.**
- **Joao Cardoso (POR): Has World Curling looked at diminishing the costs? Maybe money can be saved by moving the event away from November?** The President explained that the cost issue really is broadcasting. PCCC and ECC just cost a lot of money and do not get a lot of coverage – that is a fundamental problem.
- **Peter Gaedeke (GER): A question on the 13 vs. 16 team WCC: The 16-team WCC format was turned down some years ago. Has World Curling changed its mind? Is that question also part of the process where the MAs will be asked about their opinion?** The President confirmed that the 13/16 team issue is definitely part of the process. The Events Working Group sees that when taking down two zonal qualifiers and only staying with one qualifier it is the right time to at least talk about it. There are pros and cons but this topic needs to be re-looked at if the change in the qualification pathway is considered.
- **Benjo Delarmente (PHL) asked whether this question or decision requires AGA-level approval? And if so, he was concerned that provisional members do not have a vote.** The President explained that it will be consistent with the World Curling protocol on rule changes which means it does not need AGA approval. However, such a decision requires rich membership engagement before the Board will make a decision.

Sponsor Spotlight – ISS

Said Hakim, CEO of ISS (Ice, Sports and Solar) presented the work of his company that supplies mobile and permanent Curling rink solutions.

BALLROOM WEST

Round Table Discussion - Spectator Engagement

President Beau Welling led a discussion on ways to improve spectator engagement at Curling events.

The first task given to the delegates by the President was the following question:

How can we manage to bring more people into our events? How can we engage more spectators? The delegates were asked to come up with two ideas that are tailored towards existing Curling fans and two ideas that are tailored to people that are not existing Curling fans. What can we do differently in our events to engage with those two different groups?

The delegates came up with the following ideas:

- Anyone who knows me knows that I have been talking around three distinct areas for new audience, new audience development. These would be games of consequence, the need for household personalities and the need to have rivalries. Things like noise and atmosphere, drama, it is okay to be loud, it is okay to participate, it is okay to support. Development, routine, current audience, I think better analytics around the objective and the subjective are needed.

- People come to sports events and have no idea what is going on. That happens in Curling as well. People should be greeted and the basic rules should be explained to them. Another idea could be an alternate broadcast (repurposing broadcast coverage of an event and repackaging it for new audiences across various platforms)
- For new fans: Having event commentators who can introduce the basics of the game to the fans. Another idea is to have three-hour discounted tickets – this would get people in for some hours. For existing fans: More merchandising and more social media engagement
- For existing fan: Some sort of app based on data – sometimes it is hard to see who is closer to the button or what is happening in the house – this could be made visible in an app. For new fans: Betting options for all kinds of things would make the sport more exciting.
- Our ideas should not be just help the in-event experience at the location but also help families when they are watching at home. In any case some form of entertainment should be added (e.g. contests, spectators should be able to hear what players are saying, video games, etc)
- For existing fans: Have an app where spectators can vote for players, score the game, do stats for the players and see how it compares to the actual stats – prizes could be awarded for the winners. An app could also be used to explain the shots to the spectators. Also, have a broadcast geared towards kids (e.g. on Nickelodeon) – something similar is done by the NFL.
- Have volunteers walking around the stands and explaining the game. These volunteers could also try and sell more tickets. Use an extra sheet that is not used and have a short contest during the 5th end break.
- All of these ideas are extremely good ideas. The unfortunate thing is that all of these ideas cost a lot of money. We have a lot of tools that are integrated and we need to start using what we have.
- We should engage fans in our media content: Use poll and texting options and incorporate that in the broadcast and in the venue. Also, have a dedicated mascot to build engagement in the stands. This should be a continuous, consistent mascot that goes from event to event.
- Curlers should bring non-Curlers to the game. Have cheerleading children in the arena.
- In future 50% of a game should be entertainment and 50% should be competition. Curling is such a long game and the fans should get more engaged. More mascots should be added, too. How much is World Curling willing to change and maybe even shorten the game in order to attract more fans?
- As we have 4-5 games going on at exact the same time we have to figure out how we can engage spectators more without disturbing the players.
- There should be a mobile app that tries to recreate the experience fans have while watching TV: having information about the game, real-time stats, and also access to audio and video feeds. This would be applicable for both existing and new fans. We also should figure out some rule or pace of play changes to make the games more exciting, to make sure there are more highlights throughout the game and not just towards the end of the game. For new fans having merchandise options so that they can take something home from the event would be great.
- Adding to the app-idea I would expect or assume that it would be through Wi-Fi, so we would have to provide free Wi-Fi during games. Also, we want new audiences – but who is that? It should be children as well. As they have shorter attention spans they should be

given a bingo card, a paper – something to keep them busy and quiet when the games are not so exciting. Curling jewellery could be offered or free of charge henna drawings for kids.

The second task given to the delegates by the President was the following question:

In the previous session the idea was presented of removing ECC and PCCC as World Curling Championship (WCC) qualifier and replacing that with an open event that all members would have access to to qualify for the WCC. If such an open qualifier were installed, what would be a good name for it?

The delegates came up with the following ideas:

- World B or World C
- World Challenge
- Intercontinental Cup/Championship
- Nations' Cup
- Championship Series
- Global or World Curling Cup
- World Elite Series
- World Series of Curling
- World Curling Qualifier
- World Cup
- Global Curling Challenge

Two tables did not come up with a name for it because they wanted to express what they do not like:

- ECC is a historic and traditional event that stands alone for itself
- It is a qualifier for the WCC
- It is a very important event for the European continent
- Taking away this competition from this huge amount of nations probably would be a mistake
- Funding is a problem for smaller nations but bigger nations will face problems as well
- It will be hard to sell the qualification event whatever it is called
- Taking away the ECC will decrease the interest in our sport
- Practical reasons: There are 75 MAs. If you increase the WCC to 16 teams per gender and only have 4 open spots, at least 53 MAs may want to play this qualifier. How on earth is World Curling going to host that event in 4-5 days?
- People come to play Curling (also corporate Curling) because of the visibility of the ECC. So, if we lose ECC we also lose people on the other side.

Marketing to different groups

Andy Henry, Director of Event Marketing, Curling Canada presented on the strategies they use to promote events to different groups in the host cities where events are held.

Sustainability

Chair of the Sustainability Group Kim Forge introduced the World Curling Sustainability Strategy and led a session on how MAs can get involved.

Milan Cortina Update

Milan Cortina Curling Manager Tom Brewster presented to members the latest news and information from the hosts of the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

BALLROOM CENTRE

Hosting Opportunities

Mike Haggarty led a panel discussion on hosting World Curling Events, why people do it and what they get out of it.

Future rules discussion

C&R Commission Chair Hugh Millikin led a session on potential future rules changes. The delegates were asked to come ready with changes they would like to see the C&R Commission look at for the future.

The delegates came up with the following suggestions for rule discussions:

- **Ryan Fry** talked about how much Rachel Homan has been lambasted and berated after she had removed a stone in the fifth end of the 2018 Olympics against Denmark. The players are required to police their own game. We are forcing our players to enforce rules in their game, when they are on TV, when emotions are involved. There should be a dedicated official who enforces the rules, e.g. removes stones, etc. Such an official should sit with the timers or the stats persons, they should have access to a video feed if there is an infraction on the ice or complaint from the opposition that would get relayed from the sheet official to this head official and the head official would make a decision within a certain amount of time.
- World Curling often talks about data and getting data. How easy is that data to get? How readily available do you think it is? Also, we are missing a testing ground for any rule changes that we do, particularly a fundamental one. I think we can get data for what has happened in the past but it is very difficult to get that data to talk about the things that may impact or may change. So, I think that has to come through partnership work in the wider current ecosystem because I think a WCC probably is not the place to test and anchor. **Paul Ahlgren** (World Curling Results Keeper) explained: We have the data that we have in the historical database as well as the data of CurlIT (Christian Saager). Depending on the question we go back and look at that data e.g. we look at the data of the last 10 months to find out if we can see a trend.
- **Ann Swisschelm (USA):** We have a very clear rule on the hogline, but we have a very inconsistent management of that rule so I would encourage that we keep pushing for technology that we can clearly apply.
- We all saw the dumping infraction came into play, or whatever dumping is or if that is a rule or what that rule is....Our team was called on it during some pretty big games. It became a subject where we had to address it to the media. I am a personal believer that there is not such a thing as dumping but I think optically it looks really bad. We need to be in a situation where, again, we are not enforcing that rule. I had Brad Gushue in the final of the Grand Slam event come to us and say that if it happens one or two times he would be pulling the rock off.
- **Lisa Peters (WAL):** There have been some suggestions of giving umpires more responsibility, so has World Curling considered professionalising the role of umpires for

example? Maybe having two or three people who are employed by World Curling to be chief-umpires at different events? They would make the decisions and they are paid as professionals to make those decisions and they work the events so they have a consistent approach. At the moment seemingly every event has a different batch of umpires and there is inconsistency. **Eeva Röthlisberger** replied that this has not been discussed yet. All World Curling officials are volunteers. They are not paid for their work – so if we had professional ITOs the Board would need to approve a budget for that. For sure it would help if World Curling had professional ITOs. On the other hand, it would not be a full-time job so it might be difficult to find people who are willing to do this job. We do however have refresher courses for all ITOs.

- Sometimes events overlap and if the coach does not manage to attend the team meeting he/she is not allowed to sit on the bench – I would appreciate if this could be looked into as this is not sustainable.
- **Dagfinn Loen (NOR):** It was mentioned that World Curling will look into the brush specifications again. Is that a recognition that sweeping has too much impact on the success of a played stone? Do you have any objectives of where you want to go? What kind of results should come out of that exercise with the brushes? Where do we want to be or where do we want to go with the sweeping? **Hugh Millikin replied:** We now found out the big issue is the foam. So, now what is going on is the testing of foam and figuring out the details. The problem is: manufacturers are trying to be innovative, the athletes want to use certain vendor's products. I would suggest that we go and look for a supplier, World Curling would supply all the equipment in the field of play for the athletes. **Colin Grahamslaw** added: In terms of the testing process one of the other challenges we have is to actually test the brush. It is actually impossible for a player to know that the brush they are using is within the specifications. Can we come up with easier, simpler tests that players and umpires can actually use before a competition to check whether the brushes are OK? Also, foam is a natural substance. We have gone back from 2016 where the vast majority of brushes were covered foam or stapled foam. So, once they have been used with it, they were thrown away. People are now replacing the covers. What we do not know is: How does foam age? Do we need to put a 'use-by-date' on foams? Do we need to put a set number of years, set number of competitions? So, there is a lot of new variables as the products have developed and changed as well.
- I have been in a situation where we have played against a team with five players, all five have taken the ice for practice before the game and then three have played the game. This must be addressed. **Hugh Millikin:** Do you think it is an advantage to play with three players? Is it OK to have an alternate and not use it? Some teams feel the alternate would disrupt the game. I think the Asian teams historically have done this on a daily basis but I think in North America and Europe it is less likely. However, this issue needs to be addressed, too.

Sponsorship discussion

Mike Haggerty led a panel discussion on sponsorship.

Big Data - member database, athlete licensing, World Curling Family

World Curling's Commerical Strategy Lead James Beatt, Athlete Services Officer Rob Gordon and Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw presented on what's next for Big Data within World Curling. Looking at what has been learned from the Floor Curling project, the next steps with Athlete

Licensing and potential future projects like a worldwide membership database and the World Curling Family.

At the end of the day the World Curling representatives had again the chance for a meet and greet with the election candidates.



**MINUTES
of the Annual General Assembly
Montreal, Canada
8 September 2024**

World Curling Secretary General Colin Grahamslaw welcomed the attendees to the Annual General Assembly 2024.

1 READING OF NOTICE OF MEETING

As per the Constitution the notice of this meeting was provided on 30 May 2024, the agenda and papers had been circulated within the stipulated timeframes allowing the Annual General Assembly to be held today the 8th September 2024.

In order 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 (see presentation)

2 REPORT ON CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND QUORUM

The following attendance was recorded:

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Graham Prouse (GPR)	Vice-President
Hugh Millikin (HMI)	Vice-President
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Director
Kim Forge (KFO)	Director
Tyler George (TGE)	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
Liz Munro (LMU)	Office Manager
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer

Amy Gibson	Content Creator
Rhona Howie	Logistics & Equipment Officer
Allan McElrath	IT Officer
Rob Gordon	Athlete Support Officer
James Beatt	Commercial Partnerships Manager
Sylvie Aubrit	WCTV Distribution, Booking & Servicing Manager
Belinda Bantle-Carboni	WCTV Production Manager
Mike Haggerty	World Curling Media
Paul Ahlgren	World Curling Results keeper

Representatives of Full Members

Andorra	Josep Garcia
	Monica Lopez
Australia	Carlee Millikin
Austria	Johanna Höss
	Martin Seiwald
Belgium	Danielle Berus
	Stephane Vandermeeren
Brazil	Matheus Bacelo de Figueiredo
	Tatiani Tammy Garcia
Bulgaria	Reto Seiler
	Liza Gregori
Canada	Roselle Gonsalves
	Darren Oryniak
	Michael Szajewski
	Amy Nixon
China	Li Dongyan
Croatia	Neven Pufnik
Czech Republic	David Sik
	Karolina Frederiksen
Denmark	Rikke Jensen
England	John Brown
	Alison Arthur
Estonia	Fred Randver
	Juuli Liit
Finland	Lauri Ikavalko
France	Savice Fabre
	Elodie Verger
Georgia	Zakaria Khechuashvili
Germany	Peter Gaedeke
Guyana	Rayad F. Hussain
Hungary	György Nagy
	Blanka Dencsö
Ireland	Eoin McCrossan
	Nina Clancy
Japan	Terri Johnston
Korea	Dr. Seol Hyang Kim
Israel	Alex Pokras
	Helen Pokras
Latvia	Ritvars Gulbis
Lithuania	Vygantas Zalieckas

Luxembourg	Karen Wauters
Netherlands	Sylvia Hummel
New Zealand	Lorne de Pape
	Carroll de Pape
Norway	Dagfinn Loen
	Kjetil West
Poland	Marta Pluta
	Lukasz Janczar
Portugal	João Cardoso
	Fiona Grace Simpson
Qatar	Hassan Al-Hebabi
Russia	Ekaterina Galkina
	Anton Batugin
	Olga Zharkova
Saudi Arabia	Karrie Alaquel
	Suleiman Alaquel
Scotland	Mike Ferguson
	Susan Wyllie
	Margaret Richardson
	Tom Brewster
Slovakia	Jan Horacek
	Paulina Hajduk
Slovenia	Gregor Rigler
	Marusa Gorisek
Spain	Frank Gonzalez
	Julene Larrañaga
Sweden	Michael Marklund
	Doris Högne Rydheim
	Maria Prytz
Switzerland	Tom Seger
	Imogen Oona Lehmann
Chinese Taipei	Ting-Li Lin
	Amanda Yi-Hsuan Chou
Türkiye	Ozgur Bostanci
	Hatice Herdili Sahin
Ukraine	Natalia Menzhega
USA	Wayne Anderson
	Jennifer Stannard
	Ann Swisshelm
Wales	Lisa Peters

Representatives of Provisional Members

Greece	Eva Mataragka
	Georgios Smyrnaios
Hong Kong China	Jason Chang
	Ling-Yue Hung
Jamaica	Cristiene Hall-Teravainen
	Ian Robertson

Philippines	Benjo Delarmente Jennifer de la Fuente
Puerto Rico	Dean Roth
Thailand	Sawitta Mathurosportnawattana Archavit Choengklinchan

Representatives of Conditional Members

Pakistan	Bilal Islam Sabena Butt Islam
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Proxies

Proxy Holder	holding proxy for	from
Josep Duro (AND)	Paula Herrera Morena	MEX
Carlee Millikin (AUS)	John Anderson	AUS
	Naoki Iwanage	JPN
Reto Seiler (BUL)	Cristian Matau	ROU
Li Dongyan (CHN)	Lei Yi	CHN
Neven Pufnik (CRO)	Katarina Cadez	CRO
Rikke Jensen (DEN)	Henrik Christoffersen	DEN
Lauri Ikavalko (FIN)	Katja Kiiskinen	FIN
Rayad F. Hussain (GUY)	Farzana Hussain	GUY
	Dr. Rashmi Saluji	IND
György Nagy (HUN)	Octavia Traila	ROU
Terri Johnston (JPN)	Damola Daniel	NGR
	Yuhei Kusui	JPN
Seol Hyang Kim (KOR)	Sangho Han	KOR
Ritvars Gulbis (LAT)	Katrina Gaidule	LAT
Karen Wauters (LUX)	Alex Benoy	LUX
Sylvia Hummel (NED)	Jules Broex	NED
Carroll de Pape (NZL)	Henrietta Daniel	NGR
Kjetil West (NOR)	Grethe Brenna	NOR
Hassan Hissam Alhebabi (QAT)	Ebtesam Mubarak Al-Abdulla	QAT
Olga Zharkova (RUS)	Konstantin Zadvornov	RUS
Tom Seger (SUI)	Marco Faoro	SUI
Imogen Oona Lehmann (SUI)	Ursi Hegner	SUI
Natalia Menzhega (UKR)	Oleksii Perevezentsev	UKR
Wayne Anderson (USA)	Rich Lepping	USA
Lisa Peters (WAL)	Garry Coombs	WAL

Observers

Australia	Sara Millikin Steve Johns
Brazil	Kathellen Pedrosa Medeiros
Canada	Nolan Thiessen Sandy Prouse Jill Officer Teri Palynchuk

	Calvin Seaman
	Jennifer Howard
	Kathy O'Rourke
	Matt Dunstone (Athlete Commission)
	Nic Sulsky
	Scott Hindle
	Ray Baker
	Michele Gower
	Randy Olson
Chinese Taipei	Brendon Liu
Estonia	Harri Lill
France	Bruno Catelin
Germany	Analena Jentsch (Athlete Commission)
India	Penumetcha Narasimha Raju
Israel	Jeff Lutz
Italy	Giuseppe Antonucci
	Ippolito Sanfratello
	Marco Mariani
Korea	Junpyo Hong
	Hoon Kim
	Byung Ha Ko
	Wonyoung So
	Junghun Kim
Norway	Morten Soegaard
Qatar	Lajos Belleli
Scotland	Emma Niven
	Vincent Bryson
Slovakia	Rudolf Hajduk
Switzerland	Stewart Dryburgh
Türkiye	Utku Yalcin
	Kenan Sebin
Ukraine	Iryna Kochyk
USA	Dean Gemmell
	Bret Jackson
	Chad McMullan (Rock Solid)
	Jonathan Killoran (Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition)
	Brian Krolicki (Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition)
	Said Hakim (ISS)
	Luis Valdigem (ISS)
	Jessica Szabo (Gravity Management)
	Ryan Fry (Gravity Management)
	Keith Wendorf (Chair Hall of Fame Committee)
	Susan Wendorf
	Simon Barrick (Cape Breton University)
	Irina Gladkikh (IOC)

Attendance and Proxies

Representatives present	80
Representatives by proxy	26
Votes present	196
Votes by proxy	58
Total votes present and proxy	254
Members Associations present	45
Provisional Members present	6
Conditional Members present	1
Zones present	3

CGR advised the Member Associations (MAs) that there was a quorum. He confirmed that Paul Ahlgren (SWE), Liz Munro (World Curling) and Lumi (electronic voting company) would be the tellers of this meeting.

Lumi explained the voting procedure and a test vote was conducted successfully.

3 EXCLUSION / SUSPENSION OF A MEMBER ASSOCIATION

There were no proposals to suspend or exclude a Member Association.

4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

To approve the agenda of the Annual General Assembly

*Proposed by Susan Wyllie
Seconded by Gregor Rigler
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

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

The minutes were taken as read. One spelling error had been reported on page 25 of the minutes: The name of the Dutch representative should read Sylvia Hummel instead of Sylvie Hummel.

To approve the minutes of the last General Assembly including above amendment

*Proposed by Terri Johnston
Seconded by Sylvia Hummel
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

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 2023.

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

CRG reported that the 2024 accounts had been examined and finalised by Mazars during the previous week and they had not raised any concerns with the accounts. The Accountant's Report had been circulated. The accounts had been discussed in the Finance Commission and in the Board Meeting and were now presented for approval.

A detailed presentation on the accounts had been given during the Open Meetings. The Balance Sheet remains strong at \$8.8m going onto Year 3 in the Quadrennial.

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 Reto Seiler
Seconded by Alison Arthur
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

12 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

As reported by Sergio Mitsuo Vilela earlier this week the Board was going through an RFP process to find new Auditors. Therefore, CGR asked for a motion to authorise the Board to appoint new Auditors.

To authorise the Board to appoint new Auditors following a request for proposals

*Proposed by Margaret Richardson
Seconded by Joao Cardoso
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

13 PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET

The Budget had been circulated and presented earlier in the week and a summary was presented again for information:

	Budget 2025 USD	Budget 2024 USD	Variance USD
Income	8,435,720	8,255,176	180,544
Expenditure	(8,735,039)	(8,479,424)	(255,615)
Deficit	(299,319)	(224,248)	(75,071)

CGR explained that a deficit budget is projected again this year but the Board was comfortable that this would be a continued investment in the work of the Federation although there is recognition that this cannot continue on a long-term basis.

There were no more questions.

14 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

No change was proposed to the rate of the Annual Subscriptions for the 2024/2025 season.

15 RESOLUTIONS

Change to the World Curling Anti-Doping Rules

11.2 Consequences for Team Sports

If ~~more than~~ one (1) or more members of a team in a *Team Sport* (or one (1) or more members of a team in the case of Mixed Doubles) are found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during an *Event Period*, the ruling body of the *Event* shall impose an appropriate sanction on the team (e.g., loss of points, *Disqualification* from a *Competition* or *Event*, or other sanction) in addition to any *Consequences* imposed upon the individual *Athlete(s)* committing the anti-doping rule violation.

RATIONALE

Under the current rules in the four-person game, if one person in the team fails a doping test then the team still retains its position on a podium, qualification position or any ranking points or prize money they achieve.

After consultation with the Athlete Commission, and with the Member Associations present at the Open Meetings in Switzerland, the Board feels that it is not appropriate to potentially have a team that has benefited from having a doped athlete in their team finish above other clean teams. They are, therefore, proposing the wording changes indicated above.

This means that if one player in a team is found guilty of an anti-doping rule violation, then the team is subject to the sanctions indicated depending on the precise nature of the offence.

To change paragraph 11.2. of the World Curling Anti-Doping Rules

*Proposed by Ann Swisshelm
Seconded by Fiona Grace Simpson*

Votes available: 254

Votes cast: 254

Yes: 248 = 100%

No: 0 = 0%

Abstentions: 6

The motion was approved unanimously

Changes to the World Curling Constitution

CGR explained that these changes would require a 2/3 majority.

GENDER BALANCE UPDATE

RATIONALE

The current wording relating to Gender Balance on the Board has the potential to be overly restrictive in certain circumstances. The appointment of Independent Directors or the choice of Athlete Commission Chair could have an impact on who may be eligible to run for President in certain situations. The Board feel that whilst ensuring a balanced board and providing equitable opportunities is important, the membership must be free to elect the person they believe is best suited to lead the organisation regardless of their gender.

To remove the Athlete Chair and the President from the gender balance calculation

*Proposed by Terri Johnston
Seconded by Joao Cardoso
and approved by majority (card vote)*

ATHLETE CHAIR VOTE ON THE BOARD

RATIONALE

It is strongly recommended, under IOC's Best Practice, that the Chair of the Athlete Commission receives a vote on the Executive body of an International Federation. With the Chair of the Athlete Commission having successfully been a non-voting member of the Board of World Curling for the last two years, the Athlete Commission and the Board feel it is the right time to take this final step in ensuring the athlete voice is part of Board level discussions and decisions.

To give the Chair of the Athlete Commission a vote on the World Curling Executive Board

*Proposed by Jennifer Stannard
Seconded by Liza Gregori
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

VOTING STRUCTURE CHANGES

RATIONALE

The current voting structure only rewards Member Associations for the number of registered curlers. Consultation has indicated that a more holistic approach would be welcomed. This new approach looks at a wider variety of metrics to assess the voting influence a Member Association should have within World Curling.

To adopt the new voting structure that uses a variety of metrics to determine the number of votes for Member Associations

*Proposed by Eoin McCrossan
Seconded by Reto Seiler
and approved by majority (card vote)*

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

There are a number of situations where we have groups who are interested in affiliating to World Curling who are blocked from doing so by our current rules. For example, we can have a situation where a group of wheelchair curlers in a country where there is no able-bodied curling are not

able to join World Curling as we require the support of the National Olympic Committee. Additionally, we have the case in some countries where the wheelchair body is a completely separate body from the recognised curling body. This new membership category will allow organisations such as those affiliated to World Curling to take part in our activities in a more coherent way and feel part of the family.

To create a new World Curling membership category called Associate Membership

*Proposed by John Brown
Seconded by Terri Johnston
and approved by majority (card vote)*

ELECTION PROCESS

RATIONALE

Following a review by the Nominations Committee and the Governance Commission, the following changes are proposed to clarify a number of areas within the process for Elections. The details of the motion had been circulated to the Member Associations earlier.

To adopt the proposed changes to the election process

*Proposed by Gregor Rigler
Seconded by Alison Arthur
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

DELEGATES TO CARRY THE VOTES

RATIONALE

In recent years there has been a large increase in the number of changes to the names of WCF representatives being sent to World Curling meetings. This has caused significant additional work and has led to potential confusion as to whether someone is a representative, a proxy or a replacement representative and to whom World Curling should be communicating.

The proposal is to change the system to replace the existing system of WCF Representatives with a new system of Member Delegates. Whenever there is a meeting that requires representation, each Member Association will be invited to name two Delegates to attend the meeting (one male / one female) and they will split the Member Association's votes between them. Each Member Association will be able to choose to name the same delegates each year or could consider what is on the agenda and tailor their delegates to the topics. This will not prevent any Member Association from sending as many observers as they wish to attend World Curling meetings.

The details of the motion had been circulated to the Member Associations earlier.

To adopt the proposed changes to a Member Delegates system

*Proposed by Alex Pokras
Seconded by Rayad F Hussain*

Michael Marklund (SWE) said that Sweden would vote against this motion as they think the number of representatives/delegates should reflect the size of the Member Associations.

Votes available: 254

Votes cast: 254

Yes: 135 = 58.44%

No: 96 = 41.56%

Abstentions: 23

The motion failed

TIDY UP OF CONSTITUTION

RATIONALE

The Governance Commission has reviewed the constitution for consistency and language issues and propose tidy-up changes. Most are minor and relate to use of capital letters and punctuation. In Clause 1 there is an addition to recognise the day-to-day use of World Curling rather than World Curling Federation.

To tidy-up the World Curling Constitution as proposed by the Governance Commission

*Proposed by John Brown
Seconded by Reto Seiler
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

Late motion

CGR explained Article 9.3. of the Word Curling Federation's Constitution which reads: "The Board may propose an item to the General Assembly as an 'Emergency Motion' without the prescribed notice period. These items may be dealt with by the General Assembly if two-thirds (2/3) of all eligible votes are present and two-thirds (2/3) of those present vote in favour of consenting to deal with it."

To allow the Annual General Assembly to vote on the late motion

*Proposed by Mike Ferguson
Seconded by Michael Marklund
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

Having voted in favour of dealing with the motion, under Article 9.3, the Board (as a quorum but not including the Board Members conflicted by standing for the 2024 Board elections) proposed the following motion to be considered by the 2024 Annual General Assembly:

Be it resolved that the following clarification be applied to Bye-Law 3, Article 4.3.2:

Following any round of voting where no candidate has received an absolute majority of the votes cast, and where two or more candidates are tied with the least number of votes and the combined total of those votes is equal to or greater than the candidate(s) with the next least number of votes, there shall be a run-off ballot(s) between those candidates to determine which candidate is excluded from further rounds of voting for that position.

To adopt aforementioned clarification to be applied to Bye-Law 3, Article 4.3.2:

*Proposed by Margaret Richardson
Seconded by Jennifer Stannard
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

16 FURTHER BUSINESS

None

17 ELECTIONS

The Chair of the Nominations Committee, Graham Prouse, thanked the Member Associations for going through the speed-dating exercise. He also thanked the candidates for putting their name forward and for offering their expertise and visions.

CGR explained the process for the elections:

Each position is elected individually in order, VP position 1, VP position 2, Director position 1, Director position 2.

To be elected a candidate must receive an absolute majority, if after a vote no candidate has more than 50% of the valid votes then the candidate with the fewest votes will be dropped from the next round of voting.

Once the first position is filled, all nominated candidates are eligible for the second round of voting.

Should an existing Board member(s) be elected as Vice President, the resulting Director vacancy(ies) will be filled according to the constitution in special election in the weeks after the Annual General Assembly

Between the first and second ballots there will be a pause of 5 mins for you to consider your positions and votes for later ballots there will be a pause of approx. 3 mins

The Meeting elected the following candidates:

- Vice-President 1: Kim Forge (AUS)
- Vice-President 2: Morten Soegaard (NOR)
- Director 1: David Sik (CZE)
- Director 2: Jill Officer (CAN)

For detailed election results please see Appendix I.

18 ACCEPTANCE OF NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

CGR explained that the Winter Sport Federation of Pakistan was proposed for Provisional Membership of World Curling.

To accept the Winter Sport Federation of Pakistan as Provisional Member of World Curling

*Proposed by Terri Johnston
Seconded by Tom Brewster
and approved unanimously (card vote)*

CGR added that the Iran Curling Association had been approved by the Board to become a Conditional Member.

In line with the constitution clause 6.5.1 World Curling are asking for any objections to this decision to be submitted in writing to the Secretary General by 22 September 2024. Unless more than 10% of the existing Member Association object, this decision will then be confirmed and the Iran Curling Association will be added to the membership list.

19 DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CGR informed the Meeting that Open Meetings for Member Associations are planned during the World Junior Curling Championships, April 2025 (ITA) TBC.

The 2025 Annual Congress will be held in Gold Coast (AUS) on the following dates: Open Meetings 05 to 07 September, Annual General Assembly 08 September 2025.

FAREWELL TO THE THREE OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

President Beau Welling then bid farewell to the three outgoing Board members. He paid tribute to each individual and briefly outlined their careers in World Curling:

Toyo Ogawa

Before joining World Curling, Toyo was the team leader of Japan's 1998 Nagano Olympic team. He then became Vice-President of the Japanese Curling Association and then President.

He was the instructor for the Japan Coaching programme, where in the last 25 years, was part of a small team that was responsible for creating 1,000 curling instructors.

Toyo was initially elected to the Board in April 2012.

As part of the World Curling Board restructure in 2014, he was elected as Director for an initial one-year term. He was re-elected to the position of Director, for a four-year term in 2015. Toyo is the chair and board liaison of the Technical Commission, which ensures outstanding ice conditions at all World Curling events. The commission also assists Member Associations in improving existing, or building new, dedicated curling facilities.

In 2019, he was re-elected, unopposed, to the role of Director for another four-year term. He has been a doping control officer for the last 18 years, primarily for Japan, but more recently with the International Doping Test Management based in Stockholm.

Hugh Millikin

As an athlete, Hugh has represented Australia at 11 World Men's Championships, two World Mixed Doubles Championships, four World Mixed Championships, and 11 World Senior Championships. He also represented Australia at the 1992 Olympic Winter Games where Curling was an exhibition sport.

Hugh was elected to the World Curling Board in September 2014.

As part of the World Curling Board restructure, he was elected as Vice-President (Pacific-Asia) for an initial two-year term. From 2013 to 2014, prior to his appointment on the World Curling Board, Hugh was the President of the New South Wales Curling Federation.

He is the chair and board liaison of the Competitions and Rules Commission, which ensures all competitions and rules are fit for purpose.

In 2016, he was the Co-Chair of the World Curling Sweeping Summit along with Graham. That year he was also re-elected, unopposed, to the role of Vice-President (Pacific-Asia) for another four-year term. In September 2020, he was re-elected, unopposed, to the role of Vice-President for another four-year term.

Graham Prouse

In 2005, Graham was elected to the Canadian Curling Association board — acting as Board Vice-Chair from 2008–2009, and Board Chair from 2009–2010. He was honoured with entry into the Canadian Curling Association Hall of Fame as a Builder on the Executive Honour Roll in 2010.

Graham was initially elected to the World Curling Board in April 2010. Served as Chair of the World Curling Governance Commission from 2010 to 2014, leading the organisation through a review and rewrite of the World Curling Constitution and Bylaws.

In 2014, as part of the Board restructure, he was elected as Vice-President (Americas) for an initial three-year term. Serves as the board lead for media and broadcast with a mission to ensure growth and brand recognition to a worldwide audience.

In May 2016, he was the Co-Chair of the World Curling Sweeping Summit with Hugh and now takes the board lead on equipment specification and approvals. In 2017, he was re-elected, unopposed, to the role of Vice-President (Americas) for another four-year term.

In 2019, he led the Maximising the Value project with the aim of looking at how to increase the interest in curling beyond the current traditional audiences both on and offline.

He was re-elected, unopposed once again, to the role of Vice-President for another four-year term in September 2021.

All three outgoing Board members thanked the President for his kind words on their farewell. They all received a curling stone engraved with their name as a memento.

APPENDIX I

ELECTION RESULTS

VICE PRESIDENT POSITION I - Round I

Item 17 i



Elections : Vice President - 1st Position

Kim Forge (AUS)	130	52.00%	Randy Olson (CAN)	8	3.20%
Rob Niven (SCO)	42	16.80%	Karen Wauters (LUX)	4	1.60%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	28	11.20%	Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	1	0.40%
Helena Lingham (SWE)	25	10.00%	Jeff MacCharles (USA)	0	0.00%
Morten Soegaard (NOR)	12	4.80%			

Elected: Kim Forge (AUS)

VICE PRESIDENT POSITION 2 - Round I

Item 17 ii



Elections : Vice President - 2nd Position

Morten Soegaard (NOR)	100	39.68%	Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	7	2.78%
Rob Niven (SCO)	68	26.98%	Jeff MacCharles (USA)	0	0.00%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	48	19.05%	Randy Olson (CAN)	0	0.00%
Helena Lingham (SWE)	16	6.35%			
Karen Wauters (LUX)	13	5.16%			

Randy Olson and Jeff Mac Charles dropped out.

VICE PRESIDENT POSITION 2 - Round 2

Item 17 ii



Elections : Vice President - 2nd Position

Morten Soegaard (NOR)	111	43.70%	Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	7	2.76%
Rob Niven (SCO)	65	25.59%			
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	44	17.32%			
Karen Wauters (LUX)	15	5.91%			
Helena Lingham (SWE)	12	4.72%			

Eoin McCrossan dropped out. Helena Lingham declared that she did not want to continue.

VICE PRESIDENT POSITION 2 - Round 3

Item 17 ii



Elections : Vice President - 2nd Position

Morten Soegaard (NOR)	118	46.46%
Rob Niven (SCO)	93	36.61%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	29	11.42%
Karen Wauters (LUX)	14	5.51%

Karen Wauters dropped out. Stewart Dryburgh declared that he did not want to continue.

VICE PRESIDENT POSITION 2 - Round 4

Item 17 ii



Elections : Vice President - 2nd Position

Morten Soegaard (NOR)	138	54.33%
Rob Niven (SCO)	116	45.67%

Elected: Morten Soegaard (NOR)

DIRECTOR POSITION I - Round I

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 1st Position

David Sik (CZE)	60	23.90%	Jeff Lutz (ISR)	6	2.39%
Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	48	19.12%	Randy Olson (CAN)	6	2.39%
Jill Officer (CAN)	48	19.12%	Jeff MacCharles (USA)	2	0.80%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	36	14.34%			
Nic Sulsky (CAN)	23	9.16%			
Karen Wauters (LUX)	22	8.76%			

Jeff Mac Charles dropped out.

DIRECTOR POSITION I - Round 2

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 1st Position

David Sik (CZE)	76	30.28%	Randy Olson (CAN)	0	0.00%
Jill Officer (CAN)	60	23.90%	Nic Sulsky (CAN)	0	0.00%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	51	20.32%			
Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	39	15.54%			
Karen Wauters (LUX)	20	7.97%			
Jeff Lutz (ISR)	5	1.99%			

Nic Sulsky and Randy Olson dropped out.

DIRECTOR POSITION I - Round 3

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 1st Position

David Sik (CZE)	99	38.98%
Jill Officer (CAN)	57	22.44%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	55	21.65%
Karen Wauters (LUX)	22	8.66%
Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	12	4.72%
Jeff Lutz (ISR)	9	3.54%

Jeff Lutz dropped out. Eoin McCrossan declared that he did not want to continue.

DIRECTOR POSITION I - Round 4

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 1st Position

David Sik (CZE)	120	47.24%
Jill Officer (CAN)	73	28.74%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	53	20.87%
Karen Wauters (LUX)	8	3.15%

Karen Wauters dropped out.

DIRECTOR POSITION I - Round 5

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 1st Position

David Sik (CZE)	117	46.06%
Jill Officer (CAN)	73	28.74%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	64	25.20%

Stewart Dryburgh dropped out.

DIRECTOR POSITION 1 - Round 6

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 1st Position

David Sik (CZE) 157 61.81%

Jill Officer (CAN) 97 38.19%

Elected: David Sik (CZE)

DIRECTOR POSITION 2 - Round 1

Item 17 ivi



Elections : Director - 2nd Position

Jill Officer (CAN) 83 32.68% Jeff MacCharles (USA) 0 0.00%

Eoin McCrossan (IRE) 76 29.92% Randy Olson (CAN) 0 0.00%

Stewart Dryburgh (SUI) 40 15.75%

Karen Wauters (LUX) 28 11.02%

Nic Sulsky (CAN) 23 9.06%

Jeff Lutz (ISR) 4 1.57%

Randy Olson and Jeff MacCharles dropped out.

DIRECTOR POSITION 2 - Round 2

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 2nd Position

Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	91	35.83%
Jill Officer (CAN)	80	31.50%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	66	25.98%
Karen Wauters (LUX)	9	3.54%
Jeff Lutz (ISR)	5	1.97%
Nic Sulsky (CAN)	3	1.18%

Nic Sulsky dropped out.

DIRECTOR POSITION 2 - Round 3

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 2nd Position

Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	100	39.37%
Jill Officer (CAN)	84	33.07%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	63	24.80%
Jeff Lutz (ISR)	5	1.97%
Karen Wauters (LUX)	2	0.79%

Karen Wauters dropped out.

DIRECTOR POSITION 2 - Round 4

Item 17 iii



Elections : Director - 2nd Position

Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	103	41.53%
Jill Officer (CAN)	101	40.73%
Stewart Dryburgh (SUI)	42	16.94%
Jeff Lutz (ISR)	2	0.81%

Jeff Lutz dropped out. Stewart Dryburgh declared that he did not want to continue.

DIRECTOR POSITION 2 - Round 5

Item 17 iv



Elections : Director - 2nd Position

Jill Officer (CAN)	134	52.76%
Eoin McCrossan (IRE)	120	47.24%

Elected: Jill Officer (CAN)



**MINUTES
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board
Montréal, Canada on
8 September 2024 (post AGA)**

Attendees

Executive Board

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Kim Forge (KFO)	Vice-President
Morten Søgaard (MSO)	Vice-President
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director
Jill Officer (JOF)	Director
David Sik (DSI)	Director
Tyler George (TGE)	Athlete Commission Chair
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	WCF Projects Officer/Minute taker

The meeting started at 14:00

Housekeeping

CGR advised the new Board members that they would need to provide a picture of their passport by the end of the meeting. Allan Chalmers would then be in contact with them for proof of other identification such as address etc. so that the new Board Members can be registered on the Swiss registry. Currently DSI is the only new Board Member with an affiliation to a Member Association so the process now starts for him to step back from his National MA (MSO and JOF are already out of their respective National MAs)

President's Update

The President welcomed the new Board Members and congratulated them on their election to the World Curling Board. He advised that CGR would put together a binder of information for the new Board Members to read in order to provide them with a basic orientation. He confirmed that

both he himself as well as CGR would be available for one-on-one conversations in case of any questions.

Board Meeting discussing strategy

BWE advised that he felt the Board should soon have in-person meetings and engage in strategy again (although such a meeting is not budgeted for yet). He felt that the next meeting should take place in Perth, SCO. There are two options:

- World curling office
- Perth ice-rink (the local authorities in Perth have announced that their future plans do not include an ice-rink. Scottish Curling and the local Curlers are now engaging with the Council to try and have the Council transfer the ice-rink to a Curler-owned entity and have asked if World Curling would be interested in being involved in that process.)

The Board discussed participation and process of such a meeting. The following comments were made:

- Can work start before the meeting? (e.g. SWOT analysis, etc)
- KFO would be able to recommend an external person to walk the Board through the process. This person has already worked with Australian Curling. The person had taken Australian Curling through a big deep dive that was done remotely followed by two days of in-person meetings during which a strategy was put together which set Australian Curling up for the next four years.
- Facts, data, etc should be provided prior to the meeting as a basis for the discussions
- An external person would take burden off the Board, it just depends how much that will cost.
- We must be cost-conscious.

CGR was instructed to get some quotes for external consultants to help World Curling develop a new strategy. Time-wise, the Board was asked to block the first two weeks of December 2024 for meetings.

Potential commission appointments

Finance Commission:	SMV (Chair), MSO and KFO. Margaret Richardson is at the end of her term in 2025 – this is a Board appointment.
Technical Commission:	DSI (Chair), KFO (ToR needs to be revised)
Governance Commission:	MSO (Chair), JOF and HLI. Jennifer Stannard is at the end of her term, she is timed-out. Alison Arther is at the end of her term but not timed-out so she could re-apply. Tom Seger is standing down as he is leaving Swiss Curling this season.
DEI Working Group:	HLI (Chair), KFO
Sustainability Working Group:	KFO (Chair), DSI and TGE
Events Working Group:	Add MSO / DSI
Competitions & Rules Commission:	RNI (Chair), JOF and TGE
Athlete Commission:	TGE (Chair) – appointed by the athletes
Wheelchair Working Group:	No changes

Nominations Committee:	Graham Prouse (Chair) is appointed by Board. CGR suggested to keep him as Chair if he is willing to do so. Mike Ferguson and Alison Arthur are due for re-election.
Hall of Fame:	Speak to Keith Wendorf and Patrick Hürlimann to see if they are willing to in their respective office

To nominate Graham Prouse to continue as the Board member on the Nominations Committee

*moved by KFO
seconded by SMV
and approved unanimously*

The Board then discussed the appointment of independent Directors and whether the Chair of the Nominations Committee should sit on the Board to identify skill gaps. BWE said that he first had wanted to see the outcome of the 2024 elections gender-wise (which has now happened) and he also would like to wait for the report of the Nominations Committee and see what they recommend. Once this report has been received the appointment of independent Directors (possibly one of each gender) should be discussed again. Also, prior to any appointment the Board needs to be looked at in terms of skill assessment and a skill gap analysis needs to be made.

Board representation at events

The three World Curling events prior to Christmas where Board members should attend are WMxCC, PCCC and ECC. The following representation was agreed:

WMxCC:	RNI and SMV
PCCC:	BWE at the opening, with TGE, JOF at end
ECC:	ECC-A in FIN: MSO and DSI (50/50) – ECC-B in SWE: HLI

The post-Christmas events that require Board representation are: WWhCC, WJCC, WWCC, WMCC and WMDCC.

The Board and Open Meetings during WJCC are scheduled to be held as follows:

Board Meetings	14 and 15 April
Open Meetings	16 and 17 April

As Open Meetings are usually half-day meetings the following scenario could also possible and was eventually preferred by the Board but everyone was asked to check diaries and provide feedback:

14 April	full day of Board Meetings
15 April	half day of Open Meetings followed by half day of Board Meetings
16 April	half day of Open Meetings

The closest airport to Cortina is Venice (VCE)

KFO asked for a detailed plan for the whole season including Board Meetings, events etc.

BWE confirmed also for the new Board Members that Board meetings are held online on a monthly basis. The best meeting time and time-zones need to be investigated and two time-windows need to be identified. Meeting times can then switch between those two windows.

CGR and BWE will also look through member groups and allocate Board Members to them considering their time zone. An experienced Board Member should be paired with a less experienced Board Member. A proposal will then be presented to the Board members for their feedback.

Regalia for representatives

Now that the MAs have rejected the proposal for delegates the Board discussed if the presentation of regalia should be re-installed. Various options were discussed, such as a delegate pin, ties, scarves or medals.

The Board members decided to think about this topic and discuss at a later stage again.

Swiss Power of Attorney

As SMV is no longer living in Switzerland World Curling needs a duly authorized person to be able to sign documents on behalf of World Curling in Switzerland.

To appoint the Swiss lawyer Matthias Schuhmacher as power of attorney for World Curling in Switzerland.

*moved by KFO
seconded by JOF
and approved unanimously*

Events Working Group

BWE advised that the group wants to meet pretty soon. CGR explained that if changes are made to the events for the 2026/27 season, decisions need to be made by the time of the Cortina meetings in 2025 because by this time we need to look for hosts and finalise partners contracts.

The following comments were made:

- It is important to be mindful. It looks like some major changes/restructuring is needed so it should not be rushed.
- The Board carefully discussed and understood all related issues rising out proposal for format change ECC/PCCC presented by EWG, broadcasting cost, lack of LOC, partners TV quality requirements, potential impact on MAs etc..
- It was agreed to distribute a questionnaire to get additional data and gain more understanding of MAs views
- The outcomes of this and discussions on potential qualification formats can then be discussed within the MA groups

Russia

BWE explained that World Curling regular requests from Russia with the question: “When do we get back in? What has to change that we can get back in?”

Russia had been excluded from upcoming events using Rule C1(b), which states:

“The Board of the WCF may remove a team or Member Association from any WCF event if in the sole opinion of the Board their presence at the event would damage the event or put the safety of the participants or the good order of the event at risk.”

In order to discuss the issue a meeting had taken place in Montreal with the Russians and the President had offered to ask the MAs if Russia should be allowed to play in World Curling events again. The response from the MAs, when the matter was raised in one of the Member Groups, was very emotional as it was back in Sandviken and there was no feeling that the current position should be reversed.

One matter for the Nominations Committee to consider was the challenge for sitting Board members during the Election meet and greet where matters of Board policy on this matter were raised and they felt they were constrained by their Board responsibilities in their responses.

Israel

The President indicated that he had received a number of questions during the Congress about the status of Israel within World Curling. CGR explained that teams have been playing Israel in the last twelve months in World Curling competitions and there were no indications of any issues. Probably, the bigger danger to the good order of competitions would be public protest. Part of the reason this came up was that an MA had planned to bring forward a motion during the AGA to exclude Israel. As had been the case when discussing the RCF it would be about holding an MA responsible for the actions of a government. The World Curling rules do not cover that. Currently, the situation can only be monitored. At some point it might happen Rule C1(b) could come into play but that has not happened yet.

The meeting finished at 16:00