

MINUTES
of the Executive Board Meeting
held in Beijing, China
03 and 04 April 2014

Attendees

Executive Board

Kate Caithness (KCA)	Scotland	President
Bent Ånund Ramsfjell (BRA)	Norway	Vice President
Andy Anderson (AAN)	USA	Director of Finance
Young C. Kim (YKI)	Korea	
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Japan	
Leif Öhman (LÖH)	Sweden	
Graham Prouse (GPR)	Canada	
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General	
Richard Harding (RHA)	Curling Development Officer	
Keith Wendorf (KWE)	Director of Competitions & Development (in part)	
Thelma Black (TBL)	Financial Controller	
Liz Munro (LMU)	Competitions & Development Administrator	
Saskia Krügl (SKR)	Projects Officer	

Apologies

None

03 April 2014

1. President's Welcome

KCA welcomed everyone to Beijing.

2. President's Report

September

Following the congress Colin and I headed for Buenos Aires to attend the IOC Assembly where we attended all the sessions and had meetings with the AISOF (Olympic Summer Sports), AIOWF (Olympic Winter Sports), IOC, Sochi 2014, PyeongChang 2018 and many side meetings. Thomas Bach was elected the new IOC President, Tokyo received the most votes to host the 2020 Summer Olympic/Paralympics and Wrestling was the sport added to the 2020 programme.

European Mixed Curling Championships took place in Murrayfield, Edinburgh and although the start was delayed due to ice problems – the event was first class.

October

Along with Andreas Biffiger from Infront, I attended the signing and launch of our new WCF sponsor Edox in Cannes.

The following week I flew to Tallin, Estonia to visit the new curling facility under construction. I had meetings with the Estonian Olympic Committee and the local Government with regard to future events. I also had the opportunity to attend the Tallin Cup which takes place annually in a refurbished rocket factory.

November

Colin and I attended the IF Forum in Lausanne where meetings took place with the IOC, Sochi, PyeongChang and our other Winter Sports Associates.

Colin then travelled to South Africa to attend the WADA Conference while I flew to Shanghai to attend the Pacific/Asia Championships and also their General Assembly.

I returned home briefly before flying to Greece to attend the IPC Assembly where Sir Philip Craven was re-elected as President for a further term.

Then it was off to Stavanger for the European Curling Championships and to attend the ECF General Assembly. Leif, Colin and I also met with the Dmitry Svicev President of the Russian Curling Federation and owner of the Ice Cube in Sochi regarding the venue.

December

Our first Olympic Qualifying Event took place in Fuessen, Germany. We had extensive TV and Media coverage and we were delighted that NBC took some of the games. We had some 186 million viewers from Japan and China.

FISU's Winter Universiade was held in Trentino, Italy, in December. However there were problems with the facility, which meant a huge amount of work to be undertaken by our Ice Technicians. The LOC were also proving difficult. We have asked for a meeting with FISU to discuss our future involvement with the Universiades.

January

The Continental Cup took place in Las Vegas which was a great event.

Colin carried the Olympic Flame in Rostov on Don, Russia.

February

The Sochi Olympics were exceptional and the TV/Media outstanding. There were some dehumidification issues in the venue at the start but the problem was solved with the help of Dick Jacobson from Munters.

Colin and I arrived early to attend the IOC Sessions and we stayed at the Olympic Headquarters Hotel. The Executive Board and ITOs stayed at the Bogatyr Hotel which was excellent. I wish to thank the Board for 'manning' the Olympic family Lounge at the venue. The warm welcome received by the Olympic Family attending curling was very much appreciated. The flower ceremony took place immediately following each of the finals at the venue. The winning teams had their medals presented at Medals Plaza with Bent and Andy and myself presenting the flowers.

The TDs, Ice Techs and ITOs did an exceptional job and I would like to make special mention of Liz Munro who did a first class job with tickets, upgrade passes etc. to allow all our WCF guests and ITOs to enjoy the Olympic Experience.

Bent took on my role representing the WCF at the World Junior Championships in Flims, Switzerland which I understand was another great event –thank you

March

Paralympics followed on from the Olympics with a 7 day break for me and they were also quite exceptional. I was fortunate to carry the flame in Sochi on the day of the Opening Ceremony which was very special.

There were also issues with dehumidification and the heavy rain during the first week added to the problem. Once more this was also remedied with the help of Munters.

Although there were only two ice sports in the Coastal Cluster there was still huge activity and fun taking place in the Olympic Park and the attendance in the venue was excellent.

I was fortunate to sit next to President Putin at a lunch in his residence in Sochi and congratulated him on the huge success of both the Olympics and Paralympics.

Home for one day and then off to Saint John for the WWCC. Once more a first class event and a big thank you to the LOC and CCA. During the Championship I chaired the meetings with the Competition and Rules Commission which were very successful.

Here we are in Beijing for the WMCC. The welcome, stadium, team hotel are all first class. The media attention is HUGE and the interest from the Chinese Olympic Committee, Chinese Sports Bureau and the Council of Beijing quite outstanding.

3. Olympic / Paralympic Matters

a. Report from the Sochi Olympic / Paralympic Games

Olympic Winter Games

KWE reported that the Sochi Olympic Winter Games were a good event and that the Russians need to be congratulated. The reports from the Chief-Umpire, the Chief-Timer and the Chief-Ice Technician had already been received and the feedback was positive. He also congratulated LÖH on his fantastic work at Sochi.

However, for future Olympic Games the following guidelines should be followed:

- In the future the WCF should only deal directly with the Host Committee on matters of construction
- A clearly dated timeline for construction must be provided by the Host Committee along with consequences should deadlines not be met.
- There must be a link between the ice-maker of the Olympic Games and the ice-maker of the Paralympic Games. It would be ideal if one ice-maker carried through both events.
- Communication channels need to be made clear to all involved so that the correct people deal with matters at the correct time.

Paralympics

Unfortunately there was no transfer of knowledge between the Olympic Winter Games and the Paralympics in regards the ice maintenance challenges. CGR mentioned that the following week there would be a meeting with IPC about the relationship with independent IF's at the Paralympics.

b. IOC Agenda 2020

KCA explained that cycle cross (cycling on snow) wants to be part of the Olympic Programme, there had also been a suggestion that track cycling be moved from the Summer Games to the Winter Games. Both these ideas are opposed by the AIOWF who see it as important that the Winter Games do not get too big as the infrastructure requirements that are put on a Host City are already putting many off submitting bids. It is also felt inappropriate that an IF manage sports in both Summer and Winter Games when there are many other sports looking to get into the Olympic Family. She added that Eisstock and Orienteering are also still trying to become part of the Olympic Winter Programme.

4. Board Reports

a. Competitions and Development Reports

KWE reported that there had been an alleged alcohol policy breach at the WJCC 2014. The Board agreed that a letter should go out to all Member Associations reminding them of their duty of care to the members of Junior teams and that it is not appropriate for young players to be left unsupervised late into the night.

Regarding future competitions KWE advised that a Press Release would go out that same day about the EMCC 2014 at Taarnby (DEN), the WWHCQ 2014 at Lillehammer (NOR), the EJCC 2015 at Prague (CZE) and the WJCC 2015 at Tallinn (EST). On the other hand host cities are still needed for ECC-C 2014, PAJCC 2015 as well as WMDCC and WSCC 2015.

KCA added that the WMDCC 2015 would be the last chance to showcase the sport to the IOC Executive Board before a decision is made on the inclusion of the mixed doubles into the Olympic programme.

Team withdrawals from WCF competitions (KWE)

The Board received a paper regarding the current policy for late withdrawals from competition:

The Board agreed on the following policy:

1st withdrawal from any event = USD 1,000

2nd withdrawal (over a fixed period of 3 years, any events) = USD 2,000

3rd withdrawal (over a fixed period of 3 years, any events) = USD 3,000 plus a potential ban for all events of the following season.

After a 3rd withdrawal the Member Association (MA) will be informed that a potential ban is to be discussed and the MA shall have the opportunity to inform the WCF Board of any mitigating circumstance. The Board will then make a decision on whether a ban is appropriate. The MA would have the right of an appeal to the AGA.

Curling Equipment Programme (CEP)

A report prepared by Darrell Ell had previously been distributed.

Over 300 curling packages had been distributed during the 2013/2014 season.

Olympic Celebration Tour (OCT)

A report prepared by Darrell Ell had previously been distributed.

Besides the main objective of creating more awareness, one of the other benefits is that junior curlers get to meet with the Olympians and instructors to ask questions and learn more about the Olympic experience.

The WCF had been very successful with OCT's in:

North America: USA (2)

Europe: Denmark (1) and Hungary (1)

Asia: New Zealand (3) and Japan (2)

This programme has been well supported by Global Sports Development.

Coach Mentoring Program

A report had previously been distributed.

This was a pilot program for the WCF. It was intended to give experienced coaches an immersion into a World Championship by visiting behind the scenes, meeting national coaches and being lectured by a renowned sport expert.

KWE concluded his report by saying that all Curling Development Officers were doing a great job.

b. Technical report (LÖH)

A report about ongoing projects for curling facilities with WCF involvement prepared by Leif Öhman and Richard Harding had previously been distributed. He explained that usually there were approx. 10-15 projects under way all the time.

5. Commission Reports

a. Governance Commission (GPR)

GPR provided a verbal update on the matters the Commission were currently reviewing:

- General issues: subscription rates (relations between votes and subscriptions), election and voting process, board member induction material, Zonal commissions: refinement and best use for them
- Board member honorarium: GPR advised that the commission will want to know details about the time commitment of all Board members. The commission might recommend an honorarium for the President. However their presentation will go back to the Assembly.
- Policy development material for the Board's work / registry of the Board's policy. Here the commission is looking at other examples from other organizations. Included in the discussion are training materials for Board, glossary of terms, templates for sub-committees.
- Board procedures and monitoring material to help the Board monitor its organizational performance
- Production of draft of terms of reference for Government Commission
- Interaction between the various commissions, the Board and the AGA

b. Athletes Commission (BRA)

BRA reported that since the Congress in Copenhagen the key has been to establish the communication lines within the commission. The Commission now plans a further meeting in June in Zürich (SUI).

BRA stressed that an ongoing communication between the Commissions is needed and that it is important that the Athletes' Commission has a direct link to the Board. This way the sport will benefit in the long term.

c. European Zonal Commission – ECF AGM (BRA)

BRA reported that at the WCF Congress it was decided that the WCF should prepare a paper for discussion at the ECF AGM in Stavanger. This had been done and the WCF had suggested that the European Commission should have a more project-oriented structure.

At the ECF AGM the ECF Board had also presented a proposal which was after minor amendments approved by the ECF AGM as follows:

1. European Commission (EC) means all the European Member Associations (MAs)
2. Project oriented working groups will be established. Proposals for project leaders shall be directed to the WCF Board and the WCF Board shall appoint those project leaders and the

members of the working groups from nominations received from the MAs. The representation of regions is not necessary.

3. The project leaders plus the European Vice President could then meet at a strategic level to manage the flow of information between the European Commission and the WCF Board.
4. The European Commission will meet twice a year at the WCF Congress and at the European Championships.

d. Competition and Rules Commission (KWE)

KWE explained that the first very productive meeting of the commission, which is co-chaired by KCA and GPR, took place in Saint John (CAN) from 20-22 March 2014. KWE added that in future all issues that the Competition and Rules Commission is dealing with will first be shared with the Athletes' Commission before going to the Board. On this occasion this is not the case due to the timing of the Board and Athletes Commission meetings.

Some of the basic ideas currently being discussed within the Commission are:

- WJCC split into two events: 18-23/24 and under 18
- WJCC: Creation of a new World qualifier so that composition of teams would be: host, top 6 from the previous WJCC plus 3 teams from a world qualifier (for all others, no matter of region, zone). Such a system would save money. If approved by the membership in Reno such a new World Qualifier could take place for the first time in 2016.
- Clarification of several items in the Rule Book such as: broken stones / unauthorized equipment on the ice / unauthorized web-streaming / colours of playing garments (light colours must be white or yellow)
- Game timing: Commission wants to go to thinking time
- Time-outs: A presentation is currently being prepared. The majority of the commission is in favor of one time-out.
- New LSD procedures: maybe each person has to play 2 stones, maybe one in-turn and one out-turn.
- Tie-breaker games: The current draws usually allow for three possible tie-breaker sessions. However, statistics show that a third tie-breaker has never been used and 6 out of 10 times only one tie-breaker is needed. There is agreement among the Commission Members that the current tie-breaker system is not ideal and there is a long list of disadvantages of tie-breakers. The recommendation of the Commission will be to or reduce or eliminate the current tie-breaker system. RHA added that the more certainty the TV-broadcasters can have draw-wise the better it is.
- Addition of rules for mixed Curling into the Rule Book
- Discussion on various rules: FGZ, 10 vs 8 ends, 8th accreditation for teams at events
- Discussion about having one hack only
- Discussion about play-offs: page vs Olympic system. There is no recommendation yet
- At WJCC once teams are out: Proposal to play a mixed-doubles on separate ice for those eliminated teams instead of having them hang around
- Suspended members: Should they be listed in the world ranking? Should they be put to the bottom of the list.
- Game timing / pay back of game timing
- LSD: new system of measuring (camera/sensors)
- Clothing
- Teams being allowed to go home after elimination
- Registration of equipment that is used in the field of play
- Presentation of the sport to make it more attractive (social media / interaction with spectators / development of more videos)

6. Medical Matters

a. Update to WCF Anti Doping Rules (CGR)

CGR explained that on 01 Jan 2015 a new WADA Anti Doping Code would become operational. This new code will be built on the previous versions of the Code and will mean that the WCF's existing rules will need to be updated.

A new version of the WCF Anti Doping rules is currently being drafted based on the WADA Model Rules and they will be ready for the membership to approve at the Annual Congress in Reno.

One new area within the code is laid out in articles 10.9 and 10.10 and relates to financial penalties. As the WCF does not allocate prize money in its current events the Board decided to choose to adopt the following option for inclusion into the rules:

“The priority for repayment of CAS cost awards and forfeited prize money shall be: first, payment of costs awarded by CAS; and second, reimbursement of the expenses of WCF.”

CGR added that the adoption of article 10.10 (an optional clause) now would need to be decided by the Board. This article would allow the WCF to recover part of their costs from or the imposition of financial sanctions on athletes and other persons who commit anti-doping rule violations. The Board agreed to incorporate article 10.10 into the WCF's Rules.

The full WADA Code will be sent out shortly. The WCF's Anti-Doping code must then be adopted by the Assembly.

b. Appointment of Medical Advisor (CGR)

CGR pointed out that the WCF's current Medical Advisor Dr. Evan Lloyd had indicated he would be standing down following Sochi.

Following discussions with Evan and with Richard Budgett, Head of the IOC Medical Department about possible candidates to replace him Dr Brian Walker was suggested as a replacement. Dr. Walker is currently the Medical Director of the Scottish Institute of Sport but is due to retire following the Commonwealth Games. CGR explained that he was interested in that role and had provided his CV.

The Board agreed to appoint Dr Brian Walker as new WCF Medical Adviser.

7. Congress 2014

The timetable of the 2014 WCF Congress Reno was discussed. The following travel dates were agreed:

Arrival of Board:	02 September
Departure of Board:	08 September (not before 12 noon)
Main Arrival of delegates:	04 September
Departure of delegates:	08 September

Meeting adjourned 03. April 2013

Meeting continued 04. April 2013

Apologies: Keith Wendorf (KWE)

Chris Hamilton, new WCF IT expert joined the meeting and was introduced and welcomed by the Board.

8. Finance Report (AAN)

a. Actual vs Budget 2013/2014 (AAN)

AAN reported that the expenses are quite in line with the budget. He highlighted a few major but obvious variances and explained the changes to the balance sheet.

A summary of the cash transferred to JP Morgan was presented and AAN explained that the current JP Morgan Portfolio valuation amounts to US\$ 7,049,698.00. He confirmed that a summary report from JP Morgan was received on a regular basis.

b. Appointment of Auditors (AAN and CGR)

At the WCF Congress in 2013 RSM Tenon had again been appointed as the Auditors for the World Curling Federation. At the end of 2014 RSM Tenon were taken over by Baker Tilly, following this takeover the majority of the Audit Department including the team that had conducted the WCF audit over the past few years left and joined Mazars which is another International Accountancy firm.

As the members have appointed an organisation that no longer exists the Board now needed to take a decision as to who should conduct the audit pending a new appointment by the Congress in 2014.

The two options were:

- Baker Tilly as the company who have taken over RSM Tenon, they are a well known international firm
- Mazars being the company where the team that have conducted our audit for a number of years have moved to. Again this is an international firm.

The Board unanimously agreed follow the recommendation of the Finance Commission to appoint Mazars as new auditors as they had been pro-active in contacting the WCF to seek our business and the team know what the WCF does and how the accounts are set up.

c. Update for the budget 2014/2015 (AAN)

AAN explained that there were no major changes proposed to the budget which would run from 1st July 2014. The balance of monies due from the IOC for Sochi were expected shortly and the Finance Commission have been asked for their opinions in the investment of these funds. There seemed to be a consensus that the investment risk should be spread.

It was also agreed that based on the new constitution the titles of the bookkeeping accounts would be tidied up by 1st July 2014.

CGR added that the WCF might need to face a potentially large expenditure in the coming year. The lease of the current offices will finish in July 2015. It is not the intention to prolong the contract as the office is much too small. Perth Council has already been contacted and asked for

assistance in finding a new property. There are three options: lease, buy or build. Although this is the Board's decision the Board agreed that it should be exceptionally transparent with this decision.

9. Marketing Report (BRA)

Andreas Biffiger (ABI) (Infront, WCF Project Head) joined the meeting.

A presentation had been previously distributed and ABI took the Board through this. In response to a question on his own duties in relation to the curling portfolio he informed the Board that he had been assigned an additional project (Champions Hockey League) but confirmed that he would remain responsible for the WCF projects with all aspects as previously.

He added that his main focus would be the relationship with the WCF and regarding the sales and the marketing packages Rafael Buchli would now step by step move into a broader role. He assured that Curling will keep the important role in Infront's portfolio as it previously had and that the necessary resources are allocated to deliver successful results.

BRA thanked ABI for his presentation and stressed that we have to look forward and to take advantage of the marketing opportunities generated by having championships in Asia (China, Japan and Korea). The WCF requires to have a more diversified portfolio of sponsors to maximize the sponsorship potential and reduce the dependency of only a few markets/nations.

BRA gave a marketing update with information on the development of sponsorship revenues for the current season as well as those projected for the 2014/2015 season.

ABI left the meeting.

10. Initial Future Strategy Discussion(ALL)

KWE joined the meeting.

a. General discussion

The Board agreed that it was important that the current strategy was updated. It was felt that the current Board should pull together a plan for the new Board to look at in Reno. The new Board could then make changes as required before the strategy is issued. To this end all Board members were asked to put together a document identifying what the aims could be for the next four years which could form the foundations of a new plan which would be a priority for the new Board.

b. Competition structures

A general discussion on new competitions took place. The following questions/issues were mentioned:

- Why do we need new competitions? What do we look for? More exposure? More venues? What are the goals?
- Should the EMCC be turned into a WMixCC?
- Curling misses regular World level events! It would be nice to have a Curling competition every week / on a regular basis!
- World Curling tour?

RHA added that the WCF of course has limited resources and that the TV production costs are very high. Therefore, if an event is added it has to have TV credibility.

KWE said that he had done some research as it had been expressed that WCF needs more sustained TV coverage over a greater number of events.

After some discussion it was agreed to ask Infront what events they would like to see and what events they think are marketable.

KWE added that a magazine programme would be great as would getting Curling videos on long-haul flights. This was also to be passed to Infront for further discussion.

c. Facilities

LÖH stated that it should be the aim of the WCF to build as many dedicated rinks in the world as possible and to produce the best possible playing conditions. With this in mind the Board discussed whether the WCF should develop a portable Curling facility (costs EUR 250,000)

The concept would be to offer this facility for 3-5 years for rent and then allow for purchase whereby the value which was paid for rent would come off the purchase price. The Board agreed to test this project with one portable facility and to invite MAs to send in their applications. The project leaders would be LÖH and RHA.

d. Other

Regarding future marketing revenues BRA said that the WCF must aim for more marketing revenues that equal IOC income as we are very dependent on IOC income.

It was agreed CGR would put the notes from the Strategy discussions into a paper for the Board's consideration.

11. Any other business (ALL)

a. Adjustment of stones

KWE reported about the WMCC coaches' meeting that he had just attended. He advised the Board that the coaches would prefer to have the stones adjusted in the middle of the competition (if at all) rather than start an event with very aggressive ice conditions. If this was thought to be the right way to go then the current WCF policy, which allowed for maintenance of stones only at the beginning, would need to be amended. It was agreed that if stones are to be touched then the point of time must be decided by a Senior Technical Delegate and that there should be a deadline for doing so (such as before play-offs/last day of RR games). This matter was referred to the Rules and Competition Commission for further discussion.

b. Presentation LSD (LÖH)

LÖH made a presentation about LSD and how to measure those stones covering the tee. The reason for this presentation was that during the Olympic Winter Games discussion had taken place about how the lack of measuring stones covering the tee point could give different ranking in the end and also that a stone that apparently was closer to the middle of the house than another but both covered the tee, the closest did not get the advantage to have the last stone as it was not possible to measure. It means that because WCF could not do these measurements an unfair situation might occur. But more important this deficiency could also give the wrong ranking in the DSC phase.

LÖH reported that together with TOG he had found a possibility for measuring these stones as follows: Measuring the stone edge from 9 and 6 o'clock. At 90 degrees one has better control over both x and y axis. A sensitivity test was done by TOG which proved that 9 and 6 give good results and suggested that this method be used.

There are of course other possibilities to measure the stone for example with camera techniques or radio/radar positioning techniques but it is not practical to have it in use before the season 2015/2016.

Therefore, the Board agreed to introduce the LSD measuring method which is based on drilling two extra holes in the house in one end and using the same equipment we already use when measuring the LSD.

c. International Master Games Association (IMGA) (CGR)

In 2015 the IMGA hosts the Winter Masters Games in Quebec, Canada. The local organizers have asked for the WCF's views on their proposed competition structure. Also, the WCF was asked to decide to what level it would want to be involved in this event and where this would fit into the possible future competition structure. The proposed format of the tournament would be:

- Maximum 64 teams
- 5 days of competition
- Age group: 35 +
- One men's and one women's division, etc

The Board agreed not to rubberstamp this event but is willing to offer advice. However, this event will not be sanctioned by or affiliated to the WCF.

d. Future operation/management

GPR pointed out that the WCF must start thinking about how the future operation/management should work once the Management Committee ceases to exist once new constitution is in place.

BRA suggested that the Board required another meeting each year, this would be especially important in the developing of the new strategy. Consideration was given to an additional meeting prior to the Congress in Reno but it was felt that a conference call could be put in place if required.

e. WCF Honored List

KWE explained that there are many volunteers in the Curling world who will never make into the Hall of Fame. He suggested that those people be honored by being put onto a "WCF Honored List" and by being invited to one of the WCF championships (tickets, economy flight, hotel room on WCF costs). The Board discussed this idea and wondered if this would diminish the induction into the Hall of Fame? Another suggestion was to start a program called "Volunteer of the year". Eventually it was agreed to put this idea back for further thoughts.

f. IOC Program Commission

CGR informed the Board that the WCF President had again been nominated for the IOC Program Commission.

CGR offered his thanks to the WCF President, the Board and the staff for the excellent collaboration.

KCA closed the meeting by adding her thanks to CGR and the staff and to the Board for all their efforts over what had been a very busy and highly successful period.