

2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held Sunday 28th May 2017 as a Conference call

(AGM "attendees" joined the conference call using Microsoft Lync software or
by Phone: +1800553229 or +61 2 98702923 Conference ID: 84357751)

Minutes

1. Attendance / Apologies

Meeting chaired by ACF President Kim Forge and opened at 20:10 hrs AEST

Attendance:

From NSW: Steve Johns

From QLD: Jim Hansen, Cait Weaver

From VIC: Kim Forge, Andy Collins, Rob Gagnon

From WA: Elliott Douglas, Steve Will

Apologies: Hugh Millikin, Ian Palangio, Ellis Southee, Dave Thomas

Identification of Delegates of State Curling Associations

Delegates:

From NSW: Steve Johns and Ellis Southee

From QLD: Dave Thomas and Jim Hansen

From VIC: Andy Collins and Rob Gagnon

From WA: Elliott Douglas and Steve Will

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting

Motion to accept the 2015 Annual General Meeting minutes (held on 24 May 2016) by Elliott Douglas. Seconded by Steve Johns. Minutes unanimously accepted.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising.

4. Reports:

President's Report (K.Forge)

Curling continues to grow within Australia and throughout the world. Media coverage in the Pacific Asia region has increased exponentially and I'm confident this will have a follow on result in Australia.

The ACF executive changed slightly this year. Kim Forge served as President, Ian Palangio Vice-President, Steve Johns (NSW) and Elliott Douglas (WA) remained the same, while Matt Panoussi (Vic) and Jim Hansen (Qld) joined us. Laurie Weeden retired and Caitlin Weaver has successfully taken on the role of secretary and treasurer.

We continue to use Facebook for communication with the general public, rather than the ACF website. It seems to be the best way to publish information to the masses.

Curling is played by over 250 members within Australia and I am pleased to announce that regular curling is now up and running in Erina, NSW. Curling in Australia is played in Melbourne, Brisbane, Erina and Perth. The official count is closer to 182, but I don't think it is accurate.

This year's DAP committee had a very busy season again. The ACF was successful in obtaining \$4850 US for 5 DAP applications. Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia have benefitted from this funding. In a one off agreement with the WCF DAP committee, we were able to carry over the remaining \$5000 to help subsidise the Stepping Stones program in 2017.

The number of entries for our National Championships are increasing. Feedback from athletes proved to be valuable and it was clear that there is need for a trained umpire at all future national events. The executive put a plan in motion to provide training for potential Australian umpires on home soil. As a result, many behind the scenes hours have gone into organizing a WCF instructed basic umpire course that will be completed by 10 people in the upcoming weeks. We were successful in obtaining a one off National Solidary grant from the AOC for \$6000 for this event. Umpires will be qualified to umpire at national and international events.

Nationals for men and mixed fours were held in Naseby, NZ in June of 2016. There were three mixed teams and the Millikin rink was successful. There were no ladies teams entered. The men's division had four teams entered and the Palangio team won the championship.

Nationals for mixed doubles, seniors and juniors were held in Naseby, NZ in October, 2016. Mixed doubles saw 11 doubles teams at the competition. The Hewitt/Hewitt team were champions. A best of 5 series saw two senior men's teams go head to head with the Millikin rink winning. There was no competition for the senior ladies division with only one team entered.

In September I travelled to Stockholm, Sweden for the 5th annual World Curling Federation Congress and AGM. I participated in many roundtable discussions and there was another big push for Australia to host the Pacific Championship in 2017. Hugh Millikin's position for the VP from the Pacific Asia region was up for re-election and he was re-appointed without opposition. In November I was elected to the Athlete's commission of the WCF. This is a four year term and I represent mixed doubles athletes and athletes from the Pacific Asia region at an international level, as part of the commission. John Anderson moved from the governance commission to finance commission of the WCF. Australia is well positioned on the WCF with three positions of stature.

Australia was represented internationally at the following events:

Date	Location	Event	Discipline	Result
November 1-4, 2016	Uiseong, South Korea	Uiseong test event for MD	Test event for new rules MD	5 teams entered
November 5-12	Uiseong, South Korea	Pacific-Asian Curling Championships	Men Women	7th (down2) 5th (no team previous year)
September 12-19	Kazan, Russia	World Mixed Curling Championships	Mixed	22nd (up 7)
January 3-10	Ostersund, Sweden	World Junior "B" championships	Women men	20th (down2) 18th (down4)
April 22-29	Lethbridge, Canada	Senior World Curling Championships	Women Men	14th (same) 5th (up 10)
April 22-29	Lethbridge, Canada	World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships	Mixed	18th (up 13)

Australia's results at the international level this year were varied. Unfortunately no teams gained valuable Olympic points. Discussions regarding performance led the charge to creating a high performance plan for our men's, ladies and mixed doubles athletes. In partnership with the NZCA, the ACF applied for the Stepping Stones program organised by the WCF. We were successful in this application and this event will kick start our program with a high performance camp (2017 National champions). Junior athletes will also be supported. The need for funding for our athletes from the AOC and the ACF is critical. This year the AOC announced a grant for up to \$50,000 for curling leading up to the 2018 Winter Olympic Games. For the first time ever, a mixed doubles team benefitted from this money. \$6000 was paid to Lynn and Dean Hewitt for training and flights

for WMDCC in Canada. The balance of the money is intended to be used to fund the expenses for the 2017 National athletes at the Stepping Stones camp in NZ in August.

I would like to thank all of the players and coaches for their dedication to curling in Australia and for their participation at international events. Nearly 50 different athletes and coaches have represented Australia at International Curling Events this year.

Thank you to the State representatives and members at the ACF for their efforts this year. In particular I would like to thank Cait for her efforts to keep us all informed. She also does an outstanding job with liaising with external bodies. Thank you to Jim and Matt for their work on the national bonspiel committee and lastly, thank you to Jay Merchant for his legal advice, which he provides pro bono.

WCF Report (H.Millikin) read by K. Forge

Compared to last year at this time, this has been an exceptionally enjoyable time with WCF competitions due to the changes made to sweeping devices at the sweeping summit in 2016. Players, coaches, team officials and WCF officials all agree that the changes made have stabilised the sport and has given us a level playing field heading into the 2018 Olympic Games.

We do however, have a number of rule changes and issues that we are working through, mainly the wheelchair curling stick and the changes to world championship qualifications and structure. In September 2017, the member associations will vote on whether to expand the world championship for men's and women's to 13 or 16 teams, and how to allocate those additional spots. From Australia's perspective and other Asian teams, this is a great move forward to increase the likelihood of Australian teams qualifying for the world championship and the Olympics.

Another event that we are currently looking at is a tournament in advance of the OQE that will be open entry that will allow two teams into the OQE that had previously not qualified for the Olympics or the OQE. The significance of this event is it will mean Australia and other countries will not be eliminated from Olympic qualification until two or three months out from the Olympics.

There are a number of other rules and issues that will be addressed at the upcoming congress such as moving to the five rock rule and changing to playoff system away from the page.

AOC Report (K. Forge)

This year the AOC presidential position was up for election and was contested by Danni Roche. In a two month lead up to the election both presidential candidates lobbied myself and Hugh Millikin for their vote. We had meetings via telephone and face to face. Both candidates were updated with the challenges that curling and other ice sports face in Australia and at an international level. Both candidates promised future funding leading up to the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. Both candidates indicated they would take a more active approach to assisting our athletes to getting to the games in 2022. We were also lobbied by executive candidates and formed meaningful relationships with many of them. Curling is now on their "radar".

High Millikin and I attended the President's reception prior to the Annual General Meeting of the AOC on May 6th. At the reception we met with representatives from other sports and as such have now formed working relationships with a number of "ice sports" in Australia. I also met with Mr. Henke, of the OWIA and he expressed an interest in helping obtain a better arrangement at the Icehouse in Melbourne in order to get more curling events there. We have a follow up meeting in June.

The following day at the AGM, Mr Coates gave us his presidential report. The election was held and the executive was elected, with John Coates being successful.

I provided an update to Mr Coates regarding our international performances this year, our plan for the future and our desire to host the Pacific Championships in 2017.

We applied for and received funding for the Basic Umpires course using a National Solidarity grant from the AOC. Leading up to the 2018 Olympics the AOC has made up to \$50,000 for curling on an application basis. We used \$6000 this year to support flights and training to our mixed doubles team, who at the time, had potential of gaining Olympic points. The balance of the funds will be applied for next season with high performance training.

Financial Report (Treasurer, C. Weaver)

The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement have been circulated to all members. As in the past few year, this financial year follows the calendar year so runs from January to December 2016.

In 2016, the ACF again maintained a positive balance with \$17,876.31 in the bank account – this is not a true representation of what the ACF had on the books. At the end of the year a WCF Junior travel reimbursement came through for \$11,677.95 which wasn't paid out until 2017. So without the travel funds there would have been \$6,198.36 in the ACF account.

At 31 December we had a debtor balance of \$564.48 which related to NSW outstanding insurance and member dues, which has since been collected in February 2017.

Income over the course of 2016 consisted of State membership dues and insurance payments, World Curling Federation (WCF) Development and Assistance Programme (DAP) funds and Travel Reimbursements, bank interest and competition fees for Nationals entries.

Expenses related to ACF insurance costs, DAP funds, Victorian Consumer Affairs, WCF membership fees, junior travel reimbursement from WCF, National's competitions, and general administration costs (postage, etc). It was a typical year for the ACF.

A quick thank you to Kim Forge and Ian Palangio for always making themselves available to process electronic funds transfers. I'd also like to recognise the entire Executive Committee for being highly responsive when approvals are required to reimburse or invoice individuals/companies.

Jim Hansen moved to adopt the financials and seconded by Steve Johns. Financials adopted.

5. Election Of Officers and Committee Members

a. Appointment of State Curling Representatives

Election of President

One nomination for President: Kim Forge (VIC)

Vote: Not required as Kim Forge declared President by acclamation.

Next year there will only be a vote for Vice-President to maintain continuity on the executive committee per the constitution as the Vice-President is intended to serve a 2 year term without requiring nomination and voting in 2018.

The ACF Executive will consist of the following individuals for the 2017/18 curling season:

President	Kim Forge (by acclamation)
Vice-President	Ian Palangio
NSW Representative	Ellis Southee
QLD Representative	Jim Hansen
VIC Representative	Rob Gagnon
WA Representative	Elliott Douglas
Treasurer/Secretary	Cait Weaver

6. Membership

a. Membership Reports from State Curling Associations

Each State must report

i. the number of members

Total Curlers in Australia 136: NSW 8; QLD 47; VIC 47 and WA 49

ii. list of officers

NSW: President Steve Johns, Vice President Ellis Southee and Lisa Bow is both Secretary and Treasurer

QLD: President and Secretary Jim Hansen, Vice President Dave Thomas, Treasurer Dave Imlah

VIC: President Andrew Collins, Vice President Bruce Freshwater, Secretary Ian Gagnon, Treasurer Gerald Chick

WA: President Elliott Douglas, Vice President Dustin Armstrong, Secretary Gary Faulkner, Treasurer Steve Will

iii. date of last AGM

NSW: 12th April 2017

QLD: 10th May 2017

VIC: 8th May 2017

WA: 14th August 2016

b. Membership Fees

i. Proposed membership fees for 2017 to remain at \$100/vote.

7. Other Business

8. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 20.34hrs AEST

Minutes by C. Weaver

Signed as a Correct Record



Kim Forge

President

Date 29 May 2016