



Australian Curling Federation 2019 Annual General Meeting 2002 AEST Tuesday 19 May 2020

Note: Held as Conference Call via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

1. Attendance / Apologies:

Meeting chaired by ACF President Kim Forge and opened at 2002 hrs AEST

Attendance:

- a. From NSW: Ian Palangio, Steve Johns
- b. From QLD: Dave Thomas, Laurie Weeden, Lyn Gill
- c. From VIC: Kim Forge, Dean Hewitt, Rob Gagnon, Michelle Zintschenko, Bruce Freshwater
- d. From WA: Mitch Artus

Apologies:

- a. From QLD: Jim Hansen
- b. From WA: Andrew Walker

2. Identification of Delegates of State Curling Associations:

From NSW: Steve Johns

From QLD: Jim Hansen (apology) and Dave Thomas

From VIC: Bruce Freshwater and Michelle Zintschenko

From WA: Andrew Walker (apology) and Mitch Artus

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting: Motion to accept the 2019 Annual General Meeting minutes (held on 28 May 2019) by Ian Palangio. Seconded by Dean Hewitt. Minutes unanimously accepted.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes: No business arising.

5. Reports:

President's Report (K. Forge):

Curling continues to grow within Australia and throughout the world, there are now 56 countries competing at World Championship events including nations from Africa, the Middle East, and South America. Australia attended all WCF sanctioned events (except wheelchair) this year.

Shortly after the 2018 AGM the executive board, along with Hugh Millikin, met with Nikki Burger from the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia in Melbourne to attend our first face to face Strategic Planning meeting. A 3-year planning document (2019-2022) with a vision and mission statement and 4 key strategic focus areas for Australian Curling.

Vision - Australia would be a better place if there were more Curlers.

Mission-The Australian Curling Federation leads, develops, and promotes the sport of curling in



Australia. We enable and facilitate Australian athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence in international competitions including World Championship and the Olympic Winter Games whilst demonstrating the spirit of Curling.

4 Key Strategic focus areas

1. Lifelong participation
2. High Performance
3. Good Governance
4. The Business of curling

The ACF executive membership changed this year with Kim Forge serving as President, Ian Palangio Vice-President, Steve Johns (NSW) and Dustin Armstrong followed by Mitch Artus (WA), Dean Hewitt followed by Michelle Zintschenko (Vic) and Tahli Gill followed by Dave Thomas (Qld). Robert Gagnon filled the role of treasurer and Laurie Weeden is the secretary.

Curling is played in three states currently Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia. The arena in Erina, NSW was forced to close due to building/maintenance requirements. The rocks were moved and are stored at Ian Palangio's house.

We continue to work closely with Nikki Burger from the OWIA with our strategic plan and high-performance planning. In early May Kim Forge and Hugh Millikin attended the AOC AGM in Sydney. Kim attended the most recent AGM virtually earlier this month.

This year's DAP committee used a substantial portion of the allocated \$12000 US. We were able to completely pay off the Ice King scrapper that is housed in Western Australia. DAP funding was used for partially funding Pete M to attend the "Coach the Coaches" program at the Rodger Schmidt Curling Academy in Küssnacht, Switzerland in November 2019.

This year we continued to provide a travel/medical insurance policy for athletes competing abroad. This initiative is funded directly by entry fees from national competitors.

An ACF Athlete Commission was established in 2019. The mission of the ACF Athlete Commission is to communicate the interests of high-performance curlers in cooperative support of the ACF achieving its mission. The Athlete Commission serves as an independent and a consultative body, and act as a link between active curlers (athletes), the ACF executive.

Emil Cooper, a junior Australian representative curler from Queensland, flew to Russia photographing the World Junior Curling Championship as part of the World Curling Federation's Sports Media Trainee Programme – an incredible mentorship opportunity.

Kim, Rob, and Laurie continue to work on the documentation required by Sport Australia to ensure that curling is a Nationally Recognised Sport. This recognition is crucial for potential funding and development opportunities for our sport. Laurie has done a fantastic job in updating our website.

The number of entries for our National Championships are steady. This year was the third year that we had a qualified umpire at each of our national events. It is essential that we maintain this mandate.

Nationals for mixed doubles and mixed fours were held in Naseby, NZ in June of 2019. There were nine Mixed Doubles teams and Gill/Hewitt were successful in winning gold. Four Mixed Fours teams contested that event and the Millikin rink were successful.

Two teams from Australia competed in the NZWG in August, Gill/Hewitt and Westhagen/Panoussi. Gill/Hewitt took the silver medal. The Gill/Hewitt team were invited to the WCT 2019 Pacific Ocean Cup in Vladovastok, Russia and won the gold medal.

Nationals for Women, Men, Seniors and Juniors were held in Naseby in August 2019. There was no competition for the Senior Women's division with only one team entered, team Gagnon, same for Junior Women's (Gill) and Junior Men's (Imlah). The Men's division had six teams entered and the Hall team won the championship. A closely contested Women's championship, with four teams, ended with team Wagner as champions. Shortly after the national championship an athlete survey was completed, and results stated that participants were satisfied with the format, organisation, and timing of our national events.

In late August I travelled to Cancun, Mexico for the 8th annual World Curling Federation Congress and AGM. John Anderson remains an active member of the finance commission of the WCF and attended congress as well as the male representative. Australia is well positioned on the WCF with three positions of stature, including Hugh Millikin as the Vice President (Pacific Asia), Kim Forge on the Athlete Commission and John Anderson on the Finance Commission.

Australia was represented internationally at the following events:

Date	Location	Event	Discipline	Result
August	Naseby, NZ	NZWG	Mixed doubles	Gill/Hewitt 2nd
November 2-9	Shenzhen, China	Pacific-Asian Curling Championships	Men Women	6th (up 1) 6th (unchanged)
October 12-19	Aberdeen, Scotland	World Mixed Curling Championships	Mixed	26th (down 7)
December 11-18	Lohja, Finland	World Junior "B" championships	Women Men	16th (same) 20(up 2)
January 13-18	Lohja, Finland	World Qualification Event	Women	7 th
April	Kelowna, Canada	Senior World Curling Championships	Women Men	Cancelled due to COVID19
April	Kelowna, Canada	World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships	Mixed doubles	Cancelled due to COVID19



The end of the season saw world championships forced to be cancelled due to the COVID 19 virus. This also had a follow-on affect which led to Australia cancelling our National Championship events that were due to be held in NZ mid-2020.

Congratulations to Sandy Gagnon for getting the invitation to be a game umpire at the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, this is the first time an Australian official has been chosen to umpire in curling at this level.

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. Close to 40 different athletes and coaches have represented Australia at International Curling Events this year.

Thank you to Ian P for his dedication to the ACF the past few years. He has been involved with the DAP committee, facilities and created our website in addition to his Vice-President role. Thank you to the State representatives and members of the ACF for their efforts.

WCF Report (H. Millikin presented by K. Forge):

This past season had some high and lows. The start of the Curling World Cup was exciting, and it created a platform to trial some new rules and concepts. Although the events were successful the marketing partner for the World Cup did not follow through with their commitments which meant the event did not continue this season. The WCF hopes to reinstate the event in the near future.

The major championships for 2020, the World Women's, World Men's and World Mixed Doubles were all cancelled due to the Pandemic. As this was the first year of qualifying points for the 2022 Olympics the cancellation caused great concern among the Member Associations. The WCF board approved an alternative qualification method with the points being earned through the World Championships in 2021.

A proposal has been put forward to amalgamate the Pacific-Asia and Americas zones for a ladder driven championship like the Europeans. This would offer representative Australian teams a great opportunity to compete against a number of the world's best in an exciting new event. If approved, the new structure would be used starting in 2021 or 2022.

New rules being proposed for the 2020/2021 season include minor changes to the rules, clarification on some existing rules with the main item being allowing coach interaction between ends.

The WCF annual congress in September is scheduled to be held in St Petersburg Russia. The voting will be for the Vice-President of Asia-Pacific(Hugh) and a Director role currently held by Catherine Lindhal. Given the situation with Covid-19 the congress may not be held this year. The WCF is investigating all options from a "virtual" congress to postponing the voting and non-critical changes.

There are two major projects underway which will have significant future ramifications for the WCF and curling. The first is a structural review of the WCF and how it operates including the roles of the President and the board members. The second project is called Maximizing the Value and it is looking at all aspects of the game including pace of play, length of games and the way the game is played and presented to spectators in venue and through broadcast. This project was initiated to look at the 8 vs 10 end question with a broad approach to look at all implications.



Some of you have already been affected by cancellation of events and changes to schedules. It will be a very different and potentially difficult season, but we are blessed with a great game and fantastic people involved in the sport.

Good luck and good curling.

Hugh Millikin

Vice President - Pacific-Asia

Chair - Competitions and Rules Commission

World Curling Federation

AOC Report K. Forge)

The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) has hired a consultant for those winter Olympic Sports that do not fall under the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia (OWIA) funding model, curling is included. Nikki Burger has been instrumental in working with the myself and the ACF executive board moving forward to create a meaningful strategic plan for our organisation. We are working very closely with Nikki developing our High Performance Plan for national athletes.

High performance funding from the AOC is a collaborative approach, ultimately the decision comes from the OWIA with input and suggestions from the ACF. This season funding was used for two Mixed Doubles (MD) teams to attend the New Zealand Winter Games (\$2000 each team). There was no funding available for the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships, however the Women's national team was offered a berth at the World Qualification event in Finland after two countries did not accept the invitation from the World Curling Federation. Our Women's team benefitted from \$8000 of high-performance funding to offset their expenses for this event. Another \$6000 was earmarked for our Mixed Doubles team to compete at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships in Kelowna, Canada which was cancelled due to COVID-19. That money remains in our account and will be used for that MD team when restrictions ease.

Kim attended the AOC Winter Member Sport CEO round table in Melbourne on 12th December 2019.

The Australian Curling Federation have been invited to join Paralympics Australia as a voting member. We have started to put the necessary documentation and correspondence in place.

Kim attended the AOC AGM, which was held virtually on May 9th. Kim remains in regular contact with Ian Chesterman, John Coates, and Matt Carol from the AOC.

6. Financial Report (R. Gagnon)

The current status of the bank accounts has been circulated to all members. As in the past few years, this financial year follows the calendar year so runs from January to December 2019.

The activities on all bank accounts are shown above.

At 31 December we had no outstanding debtors.

Outstanding income: The AOC contributed 90% (\$18,900) of the planned \$21,000 that was earmarked for Women (World Qualifier) and MD high performance support. The remaining 10% (\$2,100) will be paid upon receipts provided to the AOC once MD training resumes.

Income over the course of 2019 consisted of State membership dues and insurance payments, World Curling Federation (WCF) Development and Assistance Programme (DAP) funds and Travel Reimbursements, Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) funding, bank interest and competition fees for Nationals entries.

2019 Yearly Financial Totals	\$AUD
Opening Cash position 1 Jan 2019	\$17,751.00
Total 2019 cash income	\$73,149.50
Total 2019 cash outgoing	\$67,144.19
2019 Profit (Loss)	\$6,005.31
Total cash on hand 31 Dec 2019 (from Bank Statements)	\$23,756.31
Opening Cash position 1 Jan 2019 + 2019 Profit (Loss)	\$23,756.31
Non-cash ACF owned assets (Ice Boss)	\$10,000 USD (\$16,917.39 AUD)
Total ACF Assets as of 31 Dec 2019	\$40,673.7 AUD

USD to AUD conversion at .59 as of 26 Mar 2020

Expenses related to ACF insurance costs, DAP funds, Victorian Consumer Affairs, WCF membership fees, junior travel reimbursement from WCF, National competitions, AOC support for High Performance development, 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.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

- a. Appointment of President: One nomination for Vice-President: Laurie Weeden (Qld)
Vote: Not required as Laurie Weeden declared Vice-President by acclamation.
Next year there will only be a vote for President to maintain continuity on the executive committee per the constitution as the President is intended to serve a 2-year term.

- b. Appointment of State Curling Representatives and Committee Membership:
The ACF Executive will consist of the following individuals for the 2020 curling season:

President	Kim Forge	Signatory
Vice-President	Laurie Weeden (by acclamation)	Signatory
NSW Representative	Steve Johns	
QLD Representative	Dave Thomas	
VIC Representative	Michelle Zintschenko	
WA Representative	Mitch Artus	
Treasurer	Rob Gagnon	Signatory
Secretary	Lyn Gill	

8. Membership

a. Membership Reports from State Curling Associations and Date of last AGM:

	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Number of Curlers	6	32	69	58
President/Chairman	Steve Johns	Jim Hansen	Bruce Freshwater	Andrew Walker/ Hal Jenkins
Vice-President	--	Jill Butler	Damien Brain	
Treasurer	Lisa Bow	Dave Imlah	Gerald Chick	Michelle Fredericks-Armstrong
Secretary	Lisa Bow	Kylie Sheehan	Jillian Burkett	Keswick Pearson
Special Projects	Carlee Millikin	n/a	n/a	n/a
Date of Last AGM	5 May 2020	16 May 2020	11 May 2020	17 Nov 2019

b. Membership Fees: Membership fees for 2020 to remain at \$100 per vote.

9. Other Business: Nil

10. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 2031 hrs AEST

Minutes by L.Weeden

Signed as a Correct Record



Kim Forge
President

Date 29 May 2020