



## **Australian Curling Federation 2021 Annual General Meeting 2000HRS AEST/1800HRS AWST Thursday 26 May 2022**

**Note: Held as Conference Call via Google Meet**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Attendance / Apologies:**

Meeting chaired by ACF Vice-President Laurie Weeden and opened at 20:01 hrs AEST

Attendance:

- a. From NSW: Nil
- b. From QLD: Dave Thomas, Laurie Weeden, Lyn Gill, Jim Hansen, Tahli Gill
- c. From VIC: Michelle Zintschenko, Bruce Freshwater Edwin Wan, Ian Gagnon, Matt Panoussi.
- d. From WA: Andrew Walker

Apologies: Kim Forge, Elliott Douglas, Steve Johns

#### **2. Identification of Delegates of State Curling Associations:**

From NSW: No delegates

From QLD: Jim Hansen and Dave Thomas

From VIC: Bruce Freshwater, Ian Gagnon

From WA: Andrew Walker (holding proxy for Elliott Douglas)

#### **3. Acceptance of the Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting:** Motion to accept the 2020 Annual General Meeting minutes (held on 25 May 2021) by Jim Hansen. Seconded by Andrew Walker Minutes unanimously accepted. Motion carried.

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

#### **5. Reports:**

**President's Report** (K. Forge presented by L. Weeden):

Active curling paused for much of the world this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Regular curling was able to continue periodically in Western Australia and Queensland with certain protocols and procedures in place, but hosting our regular championship events in Naseby was not possible. Even so, our quest for an Olympic berth continued and the World Curling Federation family grew from 64 countries to 67.

The ACF executive membership changed slightly this year. Kim Forge served as President, Laurie Weeden Vice-President, Steve Johns (NSW) and Elliott Douglas (WA), Michelle Zintschenko (Vic) and Dave Thomas (Qld) were state representatives. Robert Gagnon retired from the role of treasurer and Edwin Wan has filled his vacancy. Lyn Gill is the secretary.



## Australian Curling Federation Inc.

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Curling is played in three states, Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia. We continued to work on our strategic plan and high-performance planning during these unprecedented times. In early May 2021, Kim Forge attended the AOC AGM virtually. This year's DAP committee used a substantial portion of the allocated \$12000 US going to all three active curling states.

Many pitches for facilities have been made to government bodies and potential investors in Victoria, South Australia, Canberra and Western Australia. We continue to grow our digital audience by creating regular branded content on Facebook and Instagram (account created in Oct 2021). Communication messages have been improved through Facebook often linking members back to the website for documents and further information. Our website "look and "feel" has improved dramatically and the time spent on this by Laurie Weeden needs to be commended.

The ACF took time this year to acknowledge the trailblazers in Curling and early contributors as part of International Women's Day in March 2021 and International Men's Day in November 2021 as well as National Volunteer week in May. Curling would not be what it is today without many of these people and teams mentioned.

January – Carlee Millikin begins her scholarship for Post Graduate Certificate "International Sport's Management.

May – 13<sup>th</sup> Place finish for Australia (Gill/Hewitt) at 2021 World Mixed Doubles Championship in Scotland with a 3W-6L record.

September – World Curling Federation Virtual Congress attended by Kim Forge and John Anderson

November 2021 – Disappointingly, Australia was unable to compete in the final Pacific-Asia Curling Championships due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. A new Championship will start in 2022 called the Pan-Continental Curling Championships. This marks the end of an era really and beginning of a new chapter. We would like to acknowledge the long-time contributions of Hugh Millikin who has competed in 24 of these Championships beginning in 1991, with 9 Gold medals and 200 games – a remarkable feat!

December –Australia qualifies for Beijing 2021 Olympic Winter Games in the Mixed Doubles discipline at the World Olympic Qualification Event in the Netherlands. Team Gill/Hewitt went undefeated (7-0) in the event. This is the most significant achievement for curling in Australia to date.

I would like to thank Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt for the commitment and dedication to their training and preparation in lead up to the qualification event. The sacrifices are too many to mention, especially considering this was done during a pandemic physically distanced from many of their support systems. Qualifying for the Olympics has brought an unprecedented interest in our sport in Australia. Achieving this historic milestone will forever change curling in our country.

Special thank you to Laurie Weeden who continues to build on areas of governance and policy creation documented on our website. Thank you to the State Representatives and members of the ACF Executive for their efforts throughout the year. Collaboration is key and your contributions are very much appreciated.



**WCF Report** (H. Millikin presented by L. Weeden):

At the conclusion of 2021, all the teams have been decided for the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Beijing February 2022. A successful Olympic Qualification event in Netherlands was the last opportunity for Women, Men, and Mixed Doubles to qualify. Covid has made for a challenging qualification process as we delayed, cancelled, and adjusted various events. The 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing will be a different experience with the tight Covid-19 protocols expected. The addition of the Australian Mixed Doubles team validates the MD as an excellent discipline for all WCF members to get the opportunity to qualify for the OWG.

Besides the WWCC and WMCC, we also managed to get in the Europeans, Americas Challenge and the final PACC in Kazakhstan, another great event hosted by Victor Kim. Australia did not field any teams which was a shame as Australia had such a long history in the event.

The PACC will be replaced by the Pan-Continental Championships in 2022. The Australian Women will be in the A group and the Australian Men in the B group. The top 5 teams will advance to the 2023 World Championships. This event will have significant coverage as Canada and the USA will be competing against the best teams from the PACC.

Hugh Millikin  
Vice President - Pacific-Asia  
Chair - Competitions and Rules Commission  
World Curling Federation

**AOC Report** (K. Forge presented by L. Weeden)

The Australian Curling Federation continues to work with Nikki Burger from the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia 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 the Mixed Doubles (MD) team to train in Canada prior to the Olympic Qualification Event. Kim and Laurie have attended the AOC CEO round tables virtually this season. Kim attended the AOC AGM, which was held virtually. Kim remains in regular contact with Ian Chesterman, John Coates, and Matt Carroll from the AOC and Geoff Lipshut from the OWIA.

**Financial Report** (E. Wan)

The current status of the bank accounts has been circulated to all members in this Financial Report. As with the past few years, this financial year follows the calendar year running from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The activities on all bank accounts are shown in the profit & loss statement and balance sheet of this Financial Report. On 31 December 2021 we had no outstanding debtors.



For outstanding income, the AOC has contributed 90% (\$38,700) of the planned \$43,000 that was earmarked for the Australian Mixed Doubles team’s high-performance support. The remaining 10% (\$4,300) was received in 2022 and will be reported on in the 2022 Financial Report.

Income over the course of 2021 consisted of insurance payments from the state associations, World Curling Federation’s (WCF) Development and Assistance Programme (DAP) funds, Australian Olympic Committee’s (AOC) high performance funding, donation from BMD Group, and bank interest.

Expenses related to WCF DAP funds distributed to the state associations, AOC high performance funding to the Australian Mixed Doubles Curling team, WCF annual membership dues, Consumer Affairs Victoria annual registration fees, printing of brochures for Wheelchair Curling, annual insurance renewal fees, bank fees & a general admin expense. It was a typical year for the ACF. We end the year with a loss of \$625.79, retaining a total of \$6,769.29 in our bank account. This is due in part because State membership dues, in the amount of \$800 total, were invoiced in 2022 not 2021 to assist states with potential cashflow challenges associated with Covid-19.

I would like to thank Kim Forge & Laurie Weeden for their guidance, assistance & advice throughout my first year as Treasurer of the ACF, to the preceding ACF Treasurer Rob Gagnon for assisting me with the transition of the role, and to the ACF Executive Committee for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the administration of our sport in Australia.

***Motion: That the Australian Curling Federation Financial Reports for 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021 be accepted. Moved by I. Gagnon, seconded by D. Thomas. Unanimously passed – Motion carried.***

**6. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

- a. Appointment of Vice President: One nomination for Vice President: Laurie Weeden (QLD)  
Vote: Not required as Laurie Weeden declared Vice-President by acclamation (Rules 19.1.4).

- b. Appointment of State Curling Representatives and Committee Membership:  
The ACF Executive will consist of the following individuals for the 2022/23 curling season:

President	Kim Forge (by acclamation)	Signatory
Vice-President	Laurie Weeden	Signatory
NSW Representative	TBD	
QLD Representative	Dave Thomas	
VIC Representative	TBD – to be provided after 1 <sup>st</sup> VCA meeting next week	
WA Representative	Helen Williams	
Treasurer	Edwin Wan	Signatory
Secretary	Lyn Gill	

**7. Membership**

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

	<b>NSW*</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>WA</b>
Number of Curlers	7	42	75	64
President/Chairman	Steve Johns	Jim Hansen	Bruce Freshwater	Andrew Walker
Vice-President/Vice Chairman	Carlee Millikin	Jill Butler	Sam Bertram	Hal Jenkins
Treasurer		Dave Imlah	Damien Brain	Adrienne Kennedy



Secretary		Kylie Sheehan	Jillian Burkett	Carolyn Swan
Date of Last AGM	14 May 2022	22/6/2021	23 May 2022	28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

\*NSW provided membership reports on 7 June 2022 and this portion has been added after the meeting took place.

- b. Membership Fees: Membership fees for 2022/2023 season to remain at \$100 per vote.

***Motion: That the Australian Curling Federation Membership Fees for 2022/2023 season remain the same at \$100 per vote be accepted. Moved by J. Hansen, seconded by B. Freshwater. Unanimously passed – Motion carried.***

## 8. Other Business:

- i. The QCA would like to request that a Special Business item be included on the Agenda for the upcoming AGM, being the inclusion of Athletes Commission representatives on the ACF Executive Committee. The purpose of the inclusion of this item is to discuss whether we want to now include the AC Reps as required in our Rules, and if so, how are they appointed and for what terms and also to confirm their right to vote. We can then draft the required Rules amendments to address these Exec members specifically with regard to adding their appointment as a required AGM ordinary business item in Rule 11.2 and for what term in Rule 18.2, and, if necessary, rights to vote at an Exec Committee meeting in Rule 22.3

AW - Don't they have the right – in breach of our own rules?

DT – Historically the AC were added to the ACF rules likely to meet national sport recognition status, but we never acted on this until recently. We need to give the AC purpose and use their voice. Think it is important to have an athlete voice. Going through the nationals preparation, unsure why they [athletes] are not on committee as their voice would be helpful to Nationals Committee work. Do we want to act on having AC on Executive?

Andrew – AC is to advocate for them [athletes]– function as an independent group and nominate – appoint their members and ask restraints on the time as representation.

LW – It goes as far back as 2010 when the AC is identified as being included in Rules and officially added around 2012. AC has a Terms of Reference for the AC and first 5 members have been appointed for first three years – with a transition plan. The AC needs to come up with their own plan and present to ACF.

General discussion and clarification about AC and being responsible for their own committee.

DT - Per our Rules, the nomination to the ACF would be similar to nominations received at the AGM for State Reps and delegates.

LW – AC Terms of Reference guide the AC with the move to being voted on the AC versus appointed – must meet the criteria of eligibility and voted – from most current competitions – over the last 5 – 8 years – unsure of exact timeline. Function as own entity – once AC has established own Rules and/or values and/or guidelines – this is up to the AC, then they could nominate people for the representation to ACF. Would we like to see the AC sit as a non-voting until this can be established or voting right away?

General discussion

AW - Each state nominated a male and female player.



LW read where the eligibility came from and indicated wheelchair may need to be included going forward when we have representatives at the World level.

TG – Interested when the Athletes commission have new votes

LW explained the Terms of Reference detail duration/timelines – rotate 2 members in 2021 and that the document is available on the website under resources – have spoken with the AC – AC responsible for structure of the transition. WCF extended some athletes past their finish date on the AC for one year due to Covid. The ACF and AC may need to update the Terms of Reference.

AW either follow the rules – or come up with new rules to have clarity.

MP – Key agenda – selection going forward. Cycle through people. Do we follow the WCF model, AC represent competitive athlete – Understand the guidance from ACF. Waiting for decisions from the ACF.

DT - But ACF tonight is only open discussions and whether they are a voting role or not – then the Rules can be amended to establish guidance.

MP – Athletes sit on the ACF meetings – but may not be a voting role. Or as an influencing role to Executive. Help on how to advise. Conflict of interest in some cases.

IG – AC wouldn't vote at the AGM but at ACF Executive level voting.

General agreement

AW - AC – nominate 2 people or give proxy nominate someone-else. The body of 4 people and have 2 on the ACF committee.

LW – Explained current WCF model – no voting meeting and never allowed AC on board meetings, but recently changed to allow the AC Chair and potentially in future there will be a voting AC member on WCF board, but WCF rule change needed.

LW – Sounds like there is agreement from each state – clarifying the rules and come to a consensus of vote. Could be conflict of interest for any member on board given we are small sport so needs management and all boards and committees need education on this.

LW – Supposed to be 4 on the AC moving forward.

MP – AC – conflict of interest in commission – may need to have odd number on AC to eliminate potential grid lock.

General discussion about conflict of interest and members declaring and stepping aside if the case.

TG – Was it [composition] based on all disciplines?

AW – Cross section of males and females.

LW – The disciplines listed on the Terms of Reference [list read out].

Discussion around Athletes eligibility is related to World events and disciplines, not State-based.

LW – Can we move forward?

DT - Need a voice on Executive and go through the voting

AW – Have to get to people on the AC should submit ideas on how selection happens



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MP – AC work through ideas and present in the ACF meeting – July target for proposal. Can talk offline with Laurie if necessary.

DT - Research on executive position – in relation to what other sports do for rights of athletes?

MP – AC run like other committees and pass motions and take majority – voting rights if had time.

General discussion - Chair on the meeting can deal with how to vote on things. Executive doesn't often vote on topics, a conflict of interest for AC roles on board – has no real bearing because role on board is different than the AC meetings

LW – important to remember a board is to represent all members so a position on the board may come from a nomination from state or AC or by vote like president and vice-president, but once on the board the role is to do the right thing for all members.

LW – thanked everyone for their input and congratulated all states on the effort put towards getting through the past year and the fantastic job getting curling up and running after the Olympics.

### 9. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 21:04 hrs AEST

Minutes by L. Gill

Signed as a Correct Record

Laurie Weeden  
Vice-President

Date 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022