



## **Australian Curling Federation 2022 Annual General Meeting 2030HRS AEST/1830HRS AWST Thursday 25 May 2023**

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

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### **Minutes**

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

Meeting chaired by ACF Acting President Laurie Weeden and opened at 20:32 hrs AEST

Attendance:

- a. From NSW: Carlee Millikin, Steve Johns
- b. From QLD: Dave Thomas, Laurie Weeden, Lyn Gill
- c. From VIC: Gerald Chick, Edwin Wan, Ian Gagnon
- d. From WA: Brad Scott and Carolyn Swan, Elliott Douglas

Apologies: Bruce Freshwater

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

From NSW: Carlee Millikin and Steve Johns

From QLD: Jim Hansen (absent) and Dave Thomas

From VIC: Gerald Chick holding proxy for Bruce Freshwater

From WA: Brad Scott and Carolyn Swan

#### **3. Acceptance of the Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting:** Amendment in Section 7 under membership, NSW provided membership reports on 7 June 2022 and this portion has been added after the meeting took place which was membership numbers, executive committee named and date of last AGM.

*Motion to accept the 2021 Annual General Meeting minutes (held on 26 May 2022) by Dave Thomas. Seconded by Elliott Douglas. Motion carried.*

#### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Business brought forward by QCA about Athlete Commission inclusion on the ACF Executive Committee: update is Athlete Commission met on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Both the ACF Executive Committee and AC had action items to complete towards the AC moving from appointed to voted position, holding regular meetings and creation of a charter/rules/code of conduct of their design. The AC will be resuming this process in June 2023. Covid impacted the AC meeting their terms of reference of rotating 2 members in 2021 (by vote) from last nationals in 2021 (which didn't happen).

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

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

What a history-making year 2022 has been for Australian Curling. It began with Tahli Gill OLY and Dean Hewitt OLY being selected to the Australian Olympic team to make their Mixed Doubles Olympic debut at Beijing 2022. It is an understatement to say this was an exciting moment for two second-generation Curlers and former Juniors to be making history on prime-time television!

Curling is played in three states, Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia. The ACF executive membership changed slightly this year. Kim Forge served as President, Laurie Weeden Vice-President. State Representatives were Steve Johns (NSW) with Carlee Millikin joining in November, Elliott Douglas



(WA) with Helen Williams filling in for 3 months, Michelle Zintschenko (Vic) with Ian Gagnon joining mid year, and Dave Thomas (Qld). Edwin Wan served in the role of treasurer and Lyn Gill was the secretary.

The Covid Pandemic certainly presented challenges at both the Summer and Winter Games and it is important we acknowledge the tremendous effort put forward by the team in what can only be described as challenging circumstances. What a joy it was to see them finish the Games with 2 wins on the board against Canada and Switzerland to cap off some very tight games. And now they can both say "Once an Olympian - Always an Olympian".

Also making history were Pete Manasantivongs with the Mixed Doubles team and Sandy Gagnon in her Olympic debut as a Game Umpire. I would also like to acknowledge the families of both Tahli and Dean who were instrumental in guiding, supporting, developing and encouraging both athletes from the start. Often families are the forgotten piece of the 'success' equation and both the Gill's and the Hewitt's have been long-time supporters of Australian Curling so we congratulate and applaud their collective successes.

Behind the scenes Kim Forge and I were busily preparing for and supporting the influx of enquiries during this time which far exceeded expectations. The ACF's website traffic increased by almost 5000% in the month of Feb. This was and is unprecedented and only 1 example of the sheer volume of interest generated. Across Australia, state associations put considerable effort into hosting come and try and learn to curl events with much success. Kim thanked everyone in March 2022 for their efforts and I am again recognising the efforts of our State executives, committees and volunteers to share our great sport of Curling.

In March, Connie McKeage reached out to Kim on behalf of The McKeage Cole Foundation and expressed interest in sponsoring some projects in Curling. The McKeage Cole Foundation provided valuable funding to four Junior Curlers to attend a WCF-run camp in Norway in August and substantial funding towards the Kick Start the Quad camp also held in August prior to our Nationals in Naseby, New Zealand. At the end of the year the Women's University Curling team were recipients of sponsorship for the 2023 World University Games. The ACF expresses our deepest appreciation of The McKeage Cole Foundation's support for these initiatives and to Kim for working with Connie.

Both Kim and I attended the AOC AGM in Sydney at the end of April and a chance to farewell outgoing AOC President John Coates after 30 years on the executive and 22 of those years as President. Ian Chesterman was elected as the new AOC President.

At the end of June, the ACF formally adopted the National Integrity Framework which included 6 policies. This was the culmination of months of work to prepare for the adoption. The ACF was the recipient of 2 grants in 2022 to support governance initiatives. One grant went towards policy preparation for the National Sport Tribunal Policy adoption which we hope to complete in 2023.

The other grant was from Sport Integrity Australia where the ACF received substantial grant funding in conjunction with two other national sporting organisations (Snow Australia and the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia) to hire a National Integrity Manager (NIM). In another first, Jen Krawczyk joined the ACF in the NIM role in July 2022 and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Framework policies in Curling. The role was initially for 18 months and has recently been extended into 2024. You will begin to hear more about building capacity within our membership and committees and this is an example of how we are committing to long term development from a governance strategic priority.



At the beginning of August Lyn Gill and I were invited to attend the SportAus Coaching Conference held on the Gold Coast over two days with a focus on gathering information on a modernised approach to coaching frameworks.

The ACF's Nationals events were able to resume after 2.5 years of government-imposed travel restrictions from Covid-19. Kim Forge organised a terrific Kick Start the Quad camp for all Curlers to start off the 4-year Olympic cycle with technical, sweeping and strategy work. The camp featured instructors Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing and took 61 campers through their paces over 3 days with the help of camp volunteers running from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August. This was made possible by the funding from The McKeage Cole Foundation, IOC Solidarity funding and WCF Development Programme Assistance funding. The camp marked the first time Australian Wheelchair Curlers were able to participate and train on dedicated Curling ice. There were also new juniors, with their families supporting, who made the effort to attend the camp. I thank everyone for their support and interest in making Kick Start 2022 a success, in particular Kim Forge who put in hours of work to make it happen.

Following the Kick-Start camp, Nationals took place in Naseby, New Zealand 15 – 21 August for Men, Women, and Mixed Fours. There was also an uncontested Junior Men's team nomination and a record number of Women (6) and Mixed (13) teams nominating, plus 8 Men's teams.

The 2022 National Winners were Team Westhagen (Women), Team Merchant (Men) and Team Hlushak for Mixed. The Junior Men's Team that nominated and was uncontested was Team Bence. I thank our Chief Umpire Sandy Gagnon and Umpire Rob Gagnon for providing a high level of umpiring throughout all three draw schedules. Umpiring provides a high level of assurance that rules and technical guidelines are consistent across all games as well as preparing teams for what to expect beyond National competitions.

Elearning education was a new component for all participants of Nationals in 2022 and this is another example of how the ACF is committing to embedding Integrity into all levels of play. I commend all coaches, support personnel and athletes who successfully completed the required courses amounting to over 200 documents to process. It is worth noting this process was streamlined for 2023.

The second Nationals took place from 16 – 18 December 2022 for Mixed Doubles in Naseby, New Zealand at the Maniototo Curling Facility. There were 3 Mixed Doubles teams and the 2022 National Winners were Team Gill/Hewitt. There were two Senior teams who nominated and were uncontested for this Nationals who went forward to represent in 2023. Those teams were Team Forge in Senior Women and Team Millikin in Senior Men.

My sincere thanks to the Umpires, Nationals Committee and volunteers who have put in time to make Nationals happen.

At the end of December Kim Forge won the Director election for World Curling Federation. Kim has served on the ACF Executive starting as the VCA representative from the 2008 AGM and moved into the VP role at the 2011 AGM. In Sept 2014, ACF President Hugh Millikin resigned when he accepted a position on the WCF board, Kim stepped into the ACF President role – a position she held until December 2022. We recognise and thank Kim for her many years on the Executive. Kim was also the female WCF representative serving with John Anderson as the male WCF representative for the past 10 years. The ACF is extremely fortunate to have dedicated volunteers advocating for Curling in Australia who pay their own way to attend WCF annual congress events.

The Australian Curling Federation acknowledges the high-performance funding from the Australian Olympic Committee and World Curling Federation DAP (Development Application Programme) funding that assisted each State with various initiatives last season. In addition, the Olympic Winter Institute of

Australia provides two individual athlete support grants and along with National Institute Network support these are instrumental in assisting with high performance objectives.

**Representative Teams Competing in World Curling Federation sanctioned events:**

**World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships** April 2022 Geneva, Switzerland: Team Gill/Hewitt placed 11<sup>th</sup> (meaning Australia remains in the Worlds and is not relegated to the qualification event in the 2023)

**World Senior Curling Championships** April 2022 Geneva, Switzerland: **Hugh Millikin**, Steve Johns, James Boyd, Hamish Lorrain-Smith, Geoff Davis

**World Mixed Curling Championships** Oct 2022 Aberdeen, Scotland: Sean Hall, Anne Powell, **Hugh Millikin**, Amanda Hlushak placed 14<sup>th</sup> which is the highest Australia has placed in this event since it began in 2015.

**Inaugural Pan Continental Curling Championships A Division** – 31st Oct – 6 November Calgary, Canada:

Women's: **Jennifer Westhagen**, Sara Westman, Kristen Tsourlenes, Carlee Millikin, and Nicole Hewett placed 6<sup>th</sup>

Men's: Dean Hewitt, **Jay Merchant**, Tanner Davis, Justin Grundy, Iain Grundy placed 8<sup>th</sup>

Both teams have retained spots in the Pan Continental A division for Australia.

Congratulations to all our representative teams for their time and effort towards these events.

I would like to thank the executive team from last year who successfully helped the ACF navigate through pre & post Winter Games initiatives and a resumption of Curling for all members after Covid-19 travel restrictions.

We farewell Dave Thomas from the Executive Committee at the AGM and thank him for his long-time support dating back to the 2008 AGM in various State and ACF Representative roles. Steve Johns resigned from the Executive last year as well and has served on the ACF as NSW State Rep since the 2014 AGM. Lyn Gill moves on from 2 years as the ACF secretary. It's important we recognise all contributions and in particular these most recent contributors as each person has brought different elements to the table to support Curling in Australia.

As we wrap up 2022 in what will be regarded as a year of firsts, we have laid a strong foundation to build on for the Sport of Curling in Australia. Moving into 2023, the ACF Executive is focused on finalising and communicating the new 3-year Strategic Plan. Once again, I thank all our volunteers that make Curling possible in Australia and look forward to the 2023/24 season.

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

*Going forward it makes sense this report will be prepared and delivered by the ACF's WCF appointed representatives John Anderson and Carlee Millikin.*

At the beginning of the year Covid was still impacting the World Championships with the Junior B being cancelled shortly after starting. The WCF postponed 2022 courses and camps.

February and March brought the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games for Curling in Beijing which ran smoothly with tight Covid-19 protocols in place. The WCF continues to utilise the Recast App for game viewing.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly was held in September. Beau Welling was elected in the second round of voting and replaces President Kate Caithness CBE at the conclusion of her 12-year term of office. The Trial – no tick-shot rule was voted on for World Women's and Men's during congress and additional Member Associations approved – the most recent was in November bringing the total to 70 MA's.

In August the World Curling Academy Youth Camp was held in Lillehammer, Norway where Australia sent 4 Junior athletes and a coach to participate. It was the inaugural year for the Pan-Continental Curling Championships that replace the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge. It features teams from both the Americas and the Pacific-Asia zones. These championships have been introduced in order to offer developing Member Associations from the Americas and Pacific-Asia zones an opportunity to compete on an equal playing field, giving them a chance to improve their World Rankings and offer a consistent platform for improvement. The championships are separated into two divisions to follow the successful model of the European Curling Championships. In December Kim Forge joined the board as a Director.

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

In April, Nikki Burger moved on from the OWIA Sport Development Manager role. This position was filled in December by Hannah Every-Hall as the Sports Services Manager with the AOC. The position was created with the aim to partner with 16 sports (8 winter and 8 summer) not currently funding by the AIS to help build the capacity and capability within the ACF to deliver High Performance systems & strategies tailored towards Olympic Qualification.

High performance funding from the AOC is a collaborative approach. In the 2022 calendar year, funding was used for the Mixed Doubles (MD) team to offset costs at the 2022 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships. The AOC also dispersed International Olympic Committee Funding in the form of Solidarity (KickStart Camp) and Education Scholarship course (K.Forge completed). K.Forge and L.Weeden attended the AOC AGM where President John Coates retired serving 30 years with the AOC in various positions and Ian Chesterman was voted as the new AOC President. The worked closely with the AOC in the lead up to Beijing, during and after the Olympic Winter Games. This was a new process for all in the ACF – athletes and the executive – a process we welcomed and was a tremendous task to manage from the administration side.

**6. Financial Report** (Presented by 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 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022. The activities on all bank accounts are shown in the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet of this Financial Report.

On 31 December 2022 we had no outstanding debtors.

For outstanding income, the AOC has contributed 75% of the Solidarity Funds for National Sports Organisations. The remaining 25% was received in 2023 and will be reported on in the 2023 Financial Report.

Income over the course of 2022 consisted of membership dues & insurance payments from the state associations, entry fees of Nationals competitions, World Curling Federation's (WCF) Development and Assistance Programme (DAP) funds, Australian Olympic Committee's (AOC) fundings, donations from the Australian Sports Foundation, and bank interest.

Expenses related to WCF DAP funds distributed to the state associations, an advance of approved WCP DAP funds to QCA, AOC funding disbursements to various parties, costs associated with National Championships & the Kick Start The Quad camp, WCF annual membership dues, Consumer Affairs Victoria annual registration fees, annual insurance renewal fees, bank fees & a general admin expense.

It was a typical financial year for the ACF.

While the Profit & Loss Statement lists a profit of \$5,590.03, this is actually attributed to yet to be disbursed DAP funding, leading to a final bank balance of \$12,359.32.

I would like to conclude what was perhaps the greatest year ever for curling in Australia with thanks to Kim Forge & Laurie Weeden for their guidance, assistance, and advice throughout my time as Treasurer of the ACF, to Paul Meissner for his assistance in creating this annual financial report, to the ACF Executive Committee for giving me this opportunity to contribute in the administration of our sport.

*Motion: That the Australian Curling Federation Financial Reports for 1 Jan 2022 to 31 Dec 2022 be accepted. Moved by Gerald Chick, seconded by Carlee Milliken. Unanimously passed – Motion carried.*

## 7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

As part of the ACF's commitment to ensuring a safe and positive environment for children, all Executive committee members will be required to provide a Working with children check (WWCC), complete Child Safeguarding e-learning and take part in an interview [that includes questions] regarding their suitability to work with children.

Meeting chair handed over to I.Gagnon for 6a:

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

Meeting chair handed back over to L.Weeden

- b. Appointment of State Curling Representatives and Committee Membership:

The ACF Executive will consist of the following individuals for the 2023/24 curling season:

President	Laurie Weeden (by acclamation)	Signatory
Acting Vice-President	Ian Gagnon	Signatory (in process)
NSW Representative	Carlee Millikin	
QLD Representative	Lyn Gill	
VIC Representative	Gerald Chick	
WA Representative	Elliott Douglas	
Treasurer	Edwin Wan	Signatory

Pleased to announce two new members to the executive committee as the Executive has agreed out of session to split the secretary role into 2 positions.

Secretary	Carolyn Swan
Assistant Secretary	Murray Turner

## 8. Membership

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

	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Number of Curlers	7 Adults	36 Adults 7 Juniors	72 Adults 12 Juniors 1 Wheelchair Curlers	59 Adults 8 Juniors 4 Wheelchair Curlers
President/Chairman	Carlee Millikin	Jim Hansen	Bruce Freshwater	Brad Scott
Vice-President/Vice Chairman	Steve Johns	Jill Butler	Sam Bertram	Phil Collins
Treasurer		Dave Imlah	Damien Brain	Adrienne Kennedy
Secretary		Kylie Sheehan	TBD	TBD
Date of Last AGM	19 May 2023	15 June 2022	15 May 2023	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022

- b. Membership Fees: Membership fees for 2023/2024 season to remain at \$100 per vote.  
Discussion:



GC – Are membership fees able to cover the costs of the ACF. LW – Yes, because they cover membership fees with WCF and annual registration with Consumer Affairs Victoria.

CM – Are the states to pay the same fees given that there are uneven membership numbers. LW – yes, it is based on each vote assigned to Association Member (States) and each State has 2 votes.

CM – Can an action be made to discuss the wording of the ACF and worthwhile to review fees to ACF.

GC – requests to discuss and propose the rationale to why the fees are \$100 amount.

LW – we will add this to the Executive agenda.

*Motion: That the Australian Curling Federation Membership Fees for 2023/2024 season remain the same at \$100 per vote be accepted. Moved by Gerald Chick, seconded by Brad Scott. Unanimously passed – Motion carried.*

**9. Other Business:**

Nothing.

**10. Close of Meeting**

Meeting closed at 21:21 hrs AEST 19:21 hrs AWST

Minutes by L. Gill

Signed as a Correct Record

Laurie Weeden  
Vice-President

Date 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023