

## Australian Curling Federation 2023 Annual General Meeting 2030HRS AEST/1830HRS AWST Thursday 2 May 2024

**Note: Held as Conference Call via MS Teams**

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### Minutes

#### 1. Attendance / Apologies:

Meeting chaired by ACF President Laurie Weeden and opened at 2032 hrs AEST

Attendance:

Laurie Weeden, Carlee Millikin, Hugh Millikin, Gerald Chick, Bruce Freshwater, Brad Scott, Carolyn Swan, Murray Turner

Apologies: Jim Hansen, Matthew Heskett, Linda Christie, Kim Beasley, Edwin Wan, Elliott Douglas

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

From NSW: Carlee Millikin (holding proxies for Qld) and Hugh Millikin

From QLD: Jim Hansen (apology) and Matthew Heskett (apology)

From VIC: Gerald Chick and Bruce Freshwater

From WA: Linda Christie (apology), Kim Beasley (apology) [Carolyn Swan (holding proxies for WA)]

#### 3. Acceptance of the Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting:

Motion to accept the 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes (held on 25 May 2023) moved by Brad Scott.

Seconded by Gerald Chick. Motion carried.

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

Nothing raised.

#### 5. Reports:

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

As another year finishes, we have many successes to celebrate from 2023. The Sport of Curling is actively taking place in three states: Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia in ice skating rinks. We have Association Members in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) executive membership changed slightly this year. Laurie Weeden served as President and Ian Gagnon as Acting Vice-President (resigning 30 September 2023). Appointed State Representatives were Carlee Millikin (NSW), Elliott Douglas (WA), Gerald Chick (Vic), and Lyn Gill (Qld) with Dave Thomas (Qld) stepping off at the AGM in May. Edwin Wan served in the role of treasurer and Carolyn Swan was the secretary with Murray Turner as Assistant Secretary, the latter role being a new position on the executive committee. The ACF held an SGM in December to fill the vacant Vice-President position. Brad Scott was unopposed after nominating from the floor of the meeting.

The first order of business for the executive committee in 2023 was to develop a 3-year strategic plan. Many hours were dedicated towards developing the strategic plan with the assistance of experienced chair/facilitator Gillian French. We are extremely grateful for the enormous amount of time Gillian spent preparing for the meetings to maximise productivity and discussion. The final result was officially announced in August with our new vision "To safeguard and enhance Curling's future in Australia".

Moving forward, the executive will focus on objectives falling under four pillars: Good Governance, Operational Sustainability, Performance Pathways and Sport Engagement.

At the beginning of March, with the support of Paralympics Australia, Perth-based Claire Tusak became our first classifier for Wheelchair Curling in Australia after completing the World Curling Federation (WCF) 2023 Wheelchair Classifier course in Richmond, British Columbia. This is fantastic for our Wheelchair curlers and the ACF will be focusing on developing this space further.

The ACF sent two representatives to attend the AOC AGM in Sydney at the beginning of May and it was a chance to connect with other winter sports and participate in CEO roundtable discussions the day prior. Ian Chesterman is the AOC President with Matt Carroll as CEO.

Throughout the year a number of surveys were conducted with members and stakeholders to obtain feedback for the development of the new 3-year strategic plan, around Nationals events, and during the process of commissioning an Indigenous artist to create a design for the re-branding of the ACF.

To cap off the year, the ACF announced the appointment of Perry Marshall as our new Head Coach in November. This initiative was tied to our 3-year strategic plan and a crucial undertaking as we enter the qualification period for Milano Cortina 2026. It is important to lay the right foundation and Perry's understanding of high-performance environments and program development will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Australian Curling by working closely with seasoned athletes and emerging talent. This is a shared partnership-funded initiative. We are grateful for the stakeholder support of the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia, Victorian Institute of Sport, Queensland Academy of Sport and the Australian Olympic Committee.

#### Competitions and International Representatives

In January for the first time ever, Australia sent a representative University Women's team to the FISU World University Games in Lake Placid, New York. This University Women's team placed 10th in a field of established Curling nations in the Oceania spot with the event taking place every 2 years. The University Women's team and the ACF gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship funding received from the McKeage Cole Foundation in support of U25 development.

There were two Senior teams competing in the World Senior Curling Championships in April placing 14th (Men) and 13th (Women). At the same time, the Mixed Doubles team placed 8th at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDCC) with both events being held concurrently at the 2018 Olympic venue in Gangneung, Korea. The top 8 finish of the Mixed Doubles team has secured Australia a place at the 2024 WMDCC.

Two Australian National events were held at the Maniototo International rink in Naseby, New Zealand which is a dedicated Curling facility. Nationals in June (6-11) featured the disciplines of Men (8 teams), Women (5 teams), Mixed Fours (8 Teams) and 2 uncontested teams nominated in the Junior Men and Junior Women. Both the Junior teams chose to enter into the respective open disciplines as a way of obtaining competitive experience. Overall winners were Team Merchant (Men), Team Westhagen (Women) and Team Panoussi (Mixed Fours). These teams all went on to represent Australia in World Curling Federation endorsed events. The second Nationals event took place in September (18-22) with two disciplines: Mixed Doubles (2 teams) and Senior Men (2 teams). Team Gill/Hewitt placed first in Mixed Doubles and Team Imlah placed first in Senior Men's.

Both National events had our Chief Umpire Sandy Gagnon and Deputy Umpire Rob Gagnon who provided 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. Sincere thanks are extended to all the Umpires, Nationals Committee members and the volunteers whose contributions resulted in two successful Nationals events.

In October Australia's Mixed Fours team placed 5th of 34 teams in Aberdeen, Scotland at the World Mixed Curling Championships which is the highest ranking ever achieved at this event for an Australian Team. Following on from this event in Kelowna, Canada, the Men's and Women's teams competed in the A division of the Pan Continental Curling Championships with the Men placing 6th and securing a spot in the A-division in 2024 and the women placing 8th which means relegation to the B-division for 2024. Each of these teams fund their travel expenses to train and compete and we acknowledge their efforts as athletes and ambassadors for our country.

To finish off 2023, a new group of Juniors represented Australia in December at the World Junior B Curling Championships held in Lohja, Finland with the Women competing first in the event program ranking 23rd overall and then the Men competing afterwards finishing 18th.

The Australian Curling Federation recognises the high-performance funding from the Australian Olympic Committee and the World Curling Federation DAP (Development Assistance Programme) funding that assisted each State with various initiatives last season.

On behalf of the entire curling community in Australia, I extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our State Executives and volunteers. These dedicated volunteers ensure the smooth operation and continuous growth of Curling in each of the States. Your enthusiasm and passion for curling make the difference.

Finally, as we reflect on the achievements and milestones of 2023, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the Executive Committee. Your work and ongoing commitment to our 3-year strategic plan has further elevated the profile of curling in Australia. Thank you for your support and work on the strategic objectives.

**World Curling Federation 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.*

After a 2-year break due to covid, the World Curling Federation (WCF) began accepting applications again for the Sports Media Trainee Programme. Two new working groups were created in February, the Sustainability Committee, and the DEI Committee while 3 applicants were accepted to the Competition and Rules Commission. Also in February, the WCF shared the news of Australia's first dedicated curling ice facility being announced and in development.

A series of virtual fitness workshops were announced in March 2023 through the World Curling Academy platform to complement the suite of courses already available. Towards the end of May, the WCF partnered with WePlay for a brand identity refresh. In July it was announced that two new staff members were hired and the World Curling Team Ranking System working group developed a proposed set of changes to for the period of 2023–2026.

The Annual General Assembly took place on 15 September 2023 in Seoul, South Korea with Carlee Millikin and John Anderson attending on behalf of the Australian Curling Federation, as the female and male representatives respectively. Three new Member Associations were announced at the General Assembly, Pakistan, Philippines, and Puerto Rico, increasing the total number of members to 73.

In November, just over a year since stepping down as President from the World Curling Federation due to reaching the end of allowable time in the position, former President Kate Caithness CBE was inducted into the World Curling Federation Hall of Fame.

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

It is the responsibility of the AOC to select, send and fund Australian Teams to the Olympic Games. The ACF worked closely with Hannah Every-Hall in the Sports Services Manager position with the AOC until September when Hannah moved on to the Victorian Institute of Sport. The position was then filled by Ellie Daley. This 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. Hannah was instrumental in guiding the ACF towards the strategic objective of hiring a National Coach.

High performance funding from the AOC is a collaborative approach. In the 2023 calendar year, funding was used for the Mixed Doubles (MD) team to offset costs at the 2023 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships and towards the World University Games. In May, L.Weeden and I.Gagnon attended the AOC AGM and met with President Ian Chesterman and Vice Presidents Matt Allen and Evelyn Halls. L.Weeden also attended a Member Sport President forum in Brisbane in November hosted by Ian Chesterman.

**Paralympics Australia (PA) Report** (presented by L. Weeden)

It is the responsibility of the PA to prepare the Australian Paralympic Summer and Winter Teams for the Paralympic Games. The ACF began working with PA in 2022 with the goal of having a classifier in Australia for Wheelchair Curling. Paralympics Australia provided excellent support to make this important milestone a reality, including accepting the Australian Curling Federation as a PA Member Organisation, facilitating Claire's attendance to the World Curling classifier course and providing expert guidance along the way. This led to the first classified Australian Wheelchair Curler in November. The ACF is continuing to work with PA to ensure we have clear pathways for Wheelchair Curlers to represent at the World level.

**6. Financial Report** (presented by B. Scott on behalf of E. Wan)

The financials have been distributed to all members. As with previous years, this financial year follows the calendar year running from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023. All bank activities are shown in the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet of the Financial Report.

On 31 December 2023 we had no outstanding expenses.

Outstanding income consists of membership dues, insurance payments from state associations and reimbursement from representative teams for the advance purchase of heat transfer labels for OWIA supplied apparel.

Income over the course of 2023 consisted of membership dues, insurance payments from the state associations, entry fees for Nationals competitions, World Curling Federation's (WCF) Development and Assistance Program (DAP) funds, reimbursements of travel expenses for the Junior teams,

Australian Olympic Committee's (AOC) High Performance & Solidarity funding, stakeholder funding for National Head Coach operating expenses and bank interest.

Expenses related to WCF DAP funds distributed to the state associations, AOC funding disbursements, expenses associated with operating National Championships, costs associated with national teams competing at international tournaments, National Head Coach operating expenses, WCF annual membership dues, purchasing of assets for Australian Curling Federation's (ACF) use, ACF's annual registration with Consumer Affairs Victoria, annual insurance renewal fees, marketing expenses, bank fees and general admin expenses.

The Balance Sheet line item "Office Equipment" can be broken down into fixed assets of four sets of rocks valued at \$10,000<sup>1</sup>, Ice Boss ice scraper<sup>2</sup> valued at \$13,349, eight FloorCurl<sup>3</sup> sets valued at \$7,135 with \$14,765.62 listed under Liabilities as funding received in advance for 2024 expenses. Additional unlisted small assets purchased in 2023 include a laser measuring device (\$700) and tablet (\$250).

From July 2023 the ACF began using the Xero accounting platform with the assistance of Paul Meissner from 5ways Group Chartered Accountants to transition over. The ease of creating reports and bank reconciliation has greatly assisted the organisation in maintaining financial records and the ACF is grateful for this support from 5ways Group.

While the Profit & Loss Statement lists a loss of \$4,272.92, the majority of this is attributed to the outstanding membership and insurance payments received in the 2024 financial year and outstanding 2022 expenses from Nationals paid out in 2023. Aside from the addition of the National Head Coach operating expenses, it was a typical financial year for the ACF.

<sup>1</sup>ACF property 3 sets in NSW; 1 set likely in VIC (purchased as used stones in the 1990's)

<sup>2</sup>ACF property currently housed in WA (acquired in 2017)

<sup>3</sup>ACF property currently housed: 2 in QLD (2) and 2 in WA (\$3,817.87 acquired in 2019); and 4 currently housed in VIC (\$3,317.63 acquired in 2022)

*Motion: That the Australian Curling Federation Financial Reports for 1 Jan 2023 to 31 Dec 2023 be accepted. Moved by Gerald Chick, seconded by Carlee Millikin. Unanimously passed – Motion carried.*

H.Millikin asked if the Ice King was being depreciated and suggested it should be as an over-inflated value of this asset could (negatively) impact insurance. L.Weeden is not aware of this asset being depreciated and will raise this as an action with the accounting advisor.

## **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 in 2023 provided a Working with children check (WWCC), completed Child Safeguarding e-learning and took part in an interview [that included questions] regarding their suitability to work with children.*

### **a. Appointment of State Curling Representatives and Committee Membership:**

The ACF Executive will consist of the following individuals for the 2024/25 curling season:

|                    |                 |           |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| President          | Laurie Weeden   | Signatory |
| Vice-President     | Brad Scott      | Signatory |
| NSW Representative | Carlee Millikin |           |
| QLD Representative | Matthew Heskett |           |

VIC Representative

Gerald Chick

WA Representative

James Boyd

Treasurer

EOI to be released

Signatory

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         | 6 Adults        | 34 Adults<br>0 Juniors<br>1 Wheelchair Curler | 66 Adults<br>9 Juniors<br>1 Wheelchair Curler | 59 Adults<br>10 Juniors<br>3 Wheelchair Curlers |
| President/Chair           | Carlee Millikin | Jim Hansen                                    | Bruce Freshwater                              | Dustin Armstrong                                |
| Vice-President/Vice Chair | Steve Johns     | Vacant  | Samantha Bertram                              | James Boyd                                      |
| Treasurer                 |                 | Dave Imlah                                    | Brian MacDonald                               | Adrienne Kennedy                                |
| Secretary                 |                 | Matthew Heskett                               | Katherine Fuhrmann                            | Kim Beasley                                     |
| Date of Last AGM          | 5 March 2024    | 29 June 2023                                  | 16 April 2024                                 | 12 Nov 2023                                     |

b. Membership Fees: Membership fees for 2024/2025 season increase to \$150 per vote (previously \$100 per vote). The increase in fees is cover the additional cost of registering the company limited by guarantee, increased World Curling fees and monthly payments for the accounting software Xero.

Discussion:

L.Weeden explained that with the expected adoption of a new Constitution (SGM 2 May 2024) each Member (State) will only have one vote (previously two votes) and therefore proposed that the membership fees should be \$300 per member.

*Motion: That the Australian Curling Federation Membership Fees for 2024/2025 season of \$300 per Member be accepted. Moved by Bruce Freshwater, seconded by Carlee Millikin. Unanimously passed – Motion carried.*

## 9. Other Business:

Nothing.

## 10. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 21:04 hrs AEST

Minutes by C.Swan

Signed as a Correct Record



Laurie Weeden  
President

Date: 2 May 2024