

January 2016

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Contact Us

World Curling Federation

3 Atholl Crescent
Perth PH1 5NG
Scotland, UK

+44 1738 451 630

info@worldcurling.org

www.worldcurling.org

WELCOME



The 2015/16 curling season is now in full swing and already a great deal has happened on and off the ice.

Our qualifying events are complete, with the 2015 Pacific-Asia and Le Gruyère European Curling Championships topping the bill.

Well done to all the teams who have won medals and who have qualified for the forthcoming World Curling Championships.

We are now ready for our World Curling Championships to begin, but before that, we have the exciting addition of the [Winter Youth Olympic Games \(YOG\)](#), which will be held in Lillehammer in the next couple of weeks (12-21 February 2016).

2016 is an extra special year for the World Curling Federation, as we mark our 50th anniversary, and it is with great anticipation that I look forward to the celebrations.

Off the ice, at the end of 2015, attention was on brush head technology resulting in a moratorium being issued, prohibiting the use of certain brush heads, for the remainder of the season.

The purpose of [this moratorium](#) is to ensure a fair and level playing field within our sport and that athletic performance and mental skill remain the dominant elements for success.

You will find more information on the activity of the World Curling Federation and you, our Member Associations, later in this Newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition, and remember you can read more about each story by clicking on the images.

*Photo: Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2015 opening ceremony
© WCF / Alina Pavlyuchik*

Qualification events set the scene for World Curling Championships to come



The first half of the season has seen our [European C-Division](#), [World Wheelchair-B](#), [Pacific-Asia](#), [Le Gruyère European](#) and [World Junior-B](#) Curling Championships take place.

My congratulations go to all the medallists and Member Associations who have earned a chance to compete at World Curling Championships, or at a higher level of international competition, later this year, and to the host nations who have put-on these first-class events.

There have been many highlights already. Here are some of my stand out moments from 2015/16 so far:

I was delighted to see that a record 15 teams took part in the World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship 2015 at the Kisakallio Sports Institute in Lohja, Finland, where the World Junior-B event was also held. This is pleasing given the [increased number of teams](#) that will compete at the Paralympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang in 2018.

In November, Kazakhstan hosted their first international curling event, the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2015, at the Balaun Sholak Sports Palace, in Almaty. Viktor Kim, General Secretary of the Kazakhstan Curling Association and the army of volunteers he recruited did a sterling job delivering a memorable event. Also, in Almaty [Hong Kong competed for the first time](#) in an international curling championship.

The Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2015 also took place in November, in Esbjerg, Denmark. It was a pleasure

to welcome Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark (*pictured below*) to open the event and deliver the first ceremonial stone, having fulfilled the same duty at the Capital One World Women's Curling Championship in 2011.

The ECC 2015 was a historic event for Finnish curling as their women's team won their first ever medal (*pictured above*), after beating hosts Denmark 10-8 in the Bronze Medal Game. The Finnish side was skipped by Oona Kauste and made up of third Milja Hellsten, second Maija Salmiovirta, lead Marjo Hippi and Jenni Rasanen, as alternate.

I'm looking forward to the many more memories to come, during the remainder of the season.

For results, standings and galleries from 2015/16 events visit, <http://worldcurling.org/events>



Event bidding

Here you will find an up-to-date record of the event bids we have received and those we are still looking for. If you are interested in hosting a WCF event, please contact keith.wendorf@worldcurling.org

2015/16 Event Calendar

Youth Olympic Winter Games 2016

Lillehammer, Norway (12-21 February 2016)

World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2016

Lucerne, Switzerland (21-28 February 2016)

World Junior Curling Championships 2016

Copenhagen, Denmark (5-13 March 2016)

*Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2016

Swift Current, Canada (19-27 March 2016)

World Curling Federation 50th Anniversary (1 April 2016)

*World Men's Curling Championship 2016

Basel, Switzerland (2-10 April 2016)

World Mixed Doubles & Senior Curling Championships 2016

Karlstad, Sweden (16-24 April 2016)

*European Curling Championships C-Division 2016

Ljubljana, Slovenia (25 April-1 May 2016)

Please be reminded of the deadlines for the following events:

- ECC-C 2016: Team entries to be submitted by Monday 1 February 2016
- WWCC 2016: Paperwork to be submitted by Friday 12 February 2016
- WMCC 2016: Paperwork to be submitted by Saturday 5 March 2016

Competitions	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
WCF can award a contract whenever a suitable bid is received.					
White cells = awarded or contract offered; yellow cells = require bids					
World Mixed (WMxCC)	12-19 Sep 2015 Berne, SUI	15-22 Oct 2016 Kazan, RUS	14-21 Oct 2017 (contract offered)	13-20 Oct 2018 (Proposed dates)	12-19 Oct 2019 (Proposed dates)
World Wheelchair B-Curling Championship (WWhBCC)	7-12 Nov 2015 Lohja, FIN	29 Oct-3 Nov 2016 (contract offered)	None this season, as no WWhCC in the Paralympic Year	27 Oct-1 Nov 2018 (Proposed dates)	26-31 Oct 2019 (Proposed dates)
Pacific-Asia Curling Championships (PACC)	7-14 Nov 2015 Almaty, KAZ	5-12 Nov 2016 (Proposed dates) KOREA	4-11 Nov 2017 (Proposed dates)	3-10 Nov 2018 (Proposed dates)	2-9 Nov 2019 (Proposed dates)
Le Gruyere European Championships (ECC-A & B)	20-28 Nov 2015 Esbjerg, DEN	18-26 Nov 2016 Braehead, SCO	17-25 Nov 2017 St. Gallen, SUI	16-24 Nov 2018 (contract offered)	15-23 Nov 2019 (Proposed dates)
WCF Olympic Qualification Event (OQE)	X	X	5-10 Dec 2017 (Proposed dates)	X	X
World Junior-B (WJBCC)	3-9 Jan 2016 Lohja, FIN	WJBCC 3-9 Jan 2017 (Proposed dates)	WJBCC 3-9 Jan 2018 (Proposed dates)	WJBCC 3-9 Jan 2019 (Proposed dates)	WJBCC 3-9 Jan 2020 (Proposed dates)
World University Games (WUG)	X	29 Jan-8 Feb 2017 Almaty, KAZ	X	Krasnoyarsk, RUS	X
Youth Olympic Games (YOG)	12-21 February 2016 Lillehammer, NOR	X	X	X	Lausanne, SUI
World Wheelchair Championship (WWhCC)	21-28 Feb 2016 Luzerne, SUI	4-11 Mar 2017 PyeongChang, KOR	None in the Paralympic Year	2-8 Mar 2019 (proposed dates) Stirling, SCO	29 Feb - 6 Mar 2020 (Contract offered)
Olympic Winter Games (OG)	X	X	9-25 Feb 2018 PyeongChang, KOR	X	X
World Junior Championships (WJCC)	5-13 March 2016 Copenhagen, DEN	16-26 Feb 2017 PyeongChang, KOR	3-11 Mar 2018 Aberdeen, SCO	18-27 Feb 2019 (Proposed dates)	14-23 Feb 2020 (Proposed dates)
Paralympic Winter Games (PWG)	X	X	9-18 Mar 2018 PyeongChang, KOR	X	X
World Women's Championship (WWCC)	19-27 Mar 2016 Swift Current, CAN	18-26 Mar 2017 Beijing, CHN	17-25 Mar 2018 (Proposed dates) CANADA	15-24 Mar 2019 (proposed dates) Esbjerg, DEN	14-22 Mar 2020 (Proposed dates) CANADA (subject to contract)
World Men's Championship (WMCC)	2-10 April 2016 Basel, SUI	1-9 Apr 2017 CANADA	31 Mar-8 Apr 2018 Las Vegas, USA	30 Mar - 7 Apr 2019 (Proposed dates) CANADA (subject to contract)	28 Mar - 5 Apr 2020 (proposed dates) Glasgow, SCO
World Senior Championships (WSSC)			14-21 Apr 2018 (Proposed dates) If combined with WMDCC 21-28 Apr 2018 (Proposed dates)	If combined with WMDCC 27 Apr - 4 May 2019 (Proposed dates)	If combined with WMDCC 18-25 Apr 2020 (Proposed dates)
World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC)	WSSC and WMDCC combined 16 - 23 Apr 2016 Karlstad, SWE	WSSC and WMDCC 22-29 Apr 2017 Lethbridge, CAN	28 Apr-5 May 2018 (Proposed dates) If combined with WSSC 21-28 Apr 2018 (Proposed dates)	If combined with WSSC 27 Apr - 4 May 2019 (Proposed dates)	If combined with WSSC 18-25 Apr 2020 (Proposed dates)
European "C" Curling Championships (ECC-C)	25 April - 1 May 2016 Ljubljana, SLO	April/May 2017 (Proposed dates)	April/May 2018 (Proposed dates)	April/May 2019 (Proposed dates)	April/May 2020 (Proposed dates)

DEVELOPMENT

Our Competitions and Development Officers (CDO) are responsible for growing and developing curling around the world. Here are some highlights from their season so far, plus opportunities for you, our Member Associations, to get involved with.

Olympic Celebration Tour hits Milwaukee and Durham, USA

The Milwaukee Curling Club (MCC), Cedarburg, Wisconsin, the oldest curling club in the USA hosted the first Olympic Celebration Tour (OCT) stop of the season, in November 2015. Olympic Bronze medallist and World Champion Sebastian Kraupp and CDO Darrell Ell delivered the event at MCC's brand new curling facility.

The tour stop started on Friday with a visit to Homestead High School, where one student posted an article and photos on the event in the [school newspaper](#)

Saturday morning was reserved for Junior Curlers, with the future champions all enjoying the chance to take some pointers from the Olympian. The adult club members then had an opportunity to go through some cold and warm side technical and strategy sessions.

The second OCT event took place at the Triangle Curling, Durham, North Carolina, USA, with Vancouver 2010 Silver medallist Carolyn McRorie.

If you are interested in hosting your own Olympic Celebration Tour this season please contact CDO darrell.ell@worldcurling.org



Is your club membership growing? What is your volunteer base? Do you have a sponsorship package and how successful are you at attracting new sponsors?

These are just a few of the topics that could be on the agenda if you were to host a Business of Curling Workshop. All you need is a meeting space for 25 participants for a weekend. The WCF will provide the facilitator.

You would be required to advertise and coordinate the registration of the participants who would ideally come from your club and others nearby.

For more information about this programme, or if you would like to host a Business of Curling Symposium for your club, your association or in partnership with other associations please contact CDO, darrell.ell@worldcurling.org

Curling courses delivered in 2018 Olympic host city, PyeongChang

Early December saw the Korea Wheelchair Curling Association host CDOs Eeva Röthlisberger and Scott Arnold over five days to present courses on wheelchair instruction and umpiring.

Members of the PyeongChang Organizing Committee for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games were in attendance as well as participants from numerous disabled sports organisations, able-body and wheelchair athletes.

All in all, 27 people took part in the Wheelchair Instructor Course and 29 attended the Umpiring course. My thanks go to President Choi Jung Gil and Secretary



General Mi sung Shin for organising these successful courses.

Photo: © WCF



Many medications available for common medical conditions, such as asthma or hayfever, may contain prohibited substances.

Athletes need to be aware that these are readily available in products prescribed by their doctor or bought over the counter in a pharmacy.

The advice to athletes from the World Curling Federation is to check every single substance or medication before you use it, even if you have used it before. It is also

important to remember that medications bought abroad may contain different substances than those in your own country and you should always check before you take them.

The 2016 Prohibited List and other resources can be found on the [WCF website](#)

The WCF Anti-Doping Rules 2015 v5.0 can be found on the [WCF website](#)

Please also refer to your [National Anti-Doping Organisation \(NADO\)](#) for further advice.

YOUR NEWS

Ukrainian Curling Championship 2015 held in Kiev

by Natalia Menzhega

The first Ukrainian Curling Championship took place in Kiev this December, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the [Ukrainian Curling Federation](#)

Five men's teams competed from December 14 to 18 December 2015 at the Katok Ice Arena, while four women's teams started on 21 December 2015.

According to President of Ukrainian Curling Federation Alex Perevezentsev, this first-ever Championship is an important step for promotion of curling in Ukraine, as at least two ice arenas are interested in maintaining ice for curling and holding tournaments.

Curling in Western Australia

by Mike Haggerty

There aren't many curling facilities that have to cope with external temperatures of over 30 degrees centigrade, nor where participants arrive in shorts, singlets and flip-flops, but these are the daily realities for the pioneers who have set up [Curling WA](#), based at the brand-new [Cockburn Ice Arena](#) (pictured), on the outskirts of Western Australia's capital city, Perth.

Elliott Douglas, who moved to WA some ten years ago from Aboyne in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, is the Chair of Curling WA, which he incorporated in March 2015, while the Cockburn Ice Arena was formally opened in October 2015. Now, with support from both the Australian Curling Federation and the World Curling Federation, the new club and ice rink are working together to give curling a strong base in a part of the world more usually associated with Aussie Rules football and cricket test matches at the world-famous WACA.

I caught up with Elliott at the club's first come-and-try session of 2016, with a couple of dozen players waiting to get onto the ice:

So how did it all start? Although Scottish, Elliott had not been a curler before. He explains, "it started as a joke - 'how could us guys, past our sporting prowess, still compete?'. We looked at summer sports, but Aussies are too good at summer sports, so we looked at the winter sports and curling came to mind. I started to investigate, to see if there was an Australian Curling Federation. We saw there was curling on the east coast but not on the west coast, so I thought this was an opportunity and I



made contact with the [Australian Curling Federation](#)." Elliott, who runs his own oil and gas consultancy locally, continued, "I've invested a fair bit in it and thankfully we've had assistance from the Australian Curling Federation and the World Curling Federation, to help us get started."

So, how has the club managed to make an impact? Elliott explains, "we've been gathering interest initially through our own contacts. We've had special tops made and folks see us wearing them and ask us what it's all about."

In addition, there is a Facebook page and a website, and Elliott confirms there has been some traffic through these, especially the [Facebook page](#)

He continues, "I think that Perth is uniquely placed for sourcing curling talent, with it being the centre of the resources industry in Australia. As a result, there are many Scots, Canadians and Norwegians working in the Mining or Oil & Gas industries."

Curling WA now has 64 stones – enough for four sheets, and the next step forward will be to establish a competition set-up with eight teams involved. "We are going to continue our taster sessions through January and February and then the plan is to have a twenty-week competition season, starting in March.

Summing up his involvement, Elliott says, "the opportunity to introduce a new sport to WA is really exciting and has allowed me to push my energy in a different direction, and give something back to the local community."

It's not all beginners who are becoming involved. Among those at the first session of 2016 was Wyatt Buck, who will be making his fourth appearance in national colours in April this year, as a member of the Australian team competing in the [World Senior Curling Championships 2016](#) in Karlstad, Sweden. If things continue to go well at Cockburn, it seems certain there will be more WA-based curlers following him onto the national and international circuits.

YOUR NEWS



Curling under the stars in Slovenia

by Robert Sušanj



When you start curling from point zero, you have to start with a basic promotion first » Curling? Sport on Ice? Brushes and stones? Hmmm, funny ...! « are the most common responses. Maybe some of them want to know more, but our [[Slovenian Curling Association](#)] goal to invite people to come and play, is still far, far away. Now we try to reach our goal in the opposite way, bringing curling closer to the people.

Bled is one of the most beautiful tourist locations in Slovenia. Beautiful lake, with a church on the island and a castle above, is the perfect location for holidays and relaxing walks around the lake. With Sava hotels we have

prepared a project “Curling under the stars” which takes place in winter from November 2015 to February 2016 on open ice facility along the footpath.

People find the idea interesting; many of them during the walk around the lake stop there with interest and watch, after a few minutes they want to try curling as well. Even more, staff from different hotels call each other and assemble their own curling teams. Spontaneously they have started with “Inter hotels curling league” and they really enjoy it. Some additional value also comes from Sava hotel management with their special invitation to the public “Come on a date with curling.”

This is a good example of how you can combine interest of hotels, perfect location and promotion of curling. Win - win combination. Try it! *Photo: ©Slovenian Curling Association*

Curling Night in America

Curling Night in America returns to air January and February 2016.

This year's competition, which was filmed in December 2015 in Eveleth, Minnesota, features both team and mixed doubles action. Competing this year are teams from USA, Japan, China and Scotland.

Episodes are scheduled for the remainder of January and February and are available to view worldwide after broadcast courtesy of NBCSN. For more info visit, <http://worldcurling.org/curlingnight2016>



Hungarian NOC celebrates 120 years



It was my pleasure to travel to Hungary in December to celebrate the Hungarian National Olympic Committee's 120th anniversary and spend time with our friends in the [Hungarian Curling Association](#)

The open air winter sports promotion fest in the City park of Budapest where Hungarian curlers were playing and teaching children how to play was a particular highlight of this trip.

Photos: © Hungarian Curling Association

Remembering David B Smith

History courtesy of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club

I was saddened to hear of the passing of David Smith, who was a keen curler, collector and historian, in December.

David began curling in Edinburgh at the old Haymarket Rink in 1963 with Coates Curling Club, the actual successor of the famous Duddingston Curling Society. In order to be able to enjoy more curling he and a legal friend instituted the Abbotsford Curling Society. He moved to Troon in 1976 and joined Ayr CC and Troon Portland CC. He was also a Trustee of the Scottish Curling Trust, set up by the [RCCC](#)

David had always been interested in history – This interest involved the collection of curling stones, paintings, books, photographs, medals, in short, anything connected with curling. He also compiled a long list of curling places in Scotland which evolved into the [Historical Curling Places website](#)

David also wrote a comprehensive history of the game, *Curling: An Illustrated History*, published in 1981. He wrote many articles on curling in newspapers, and

magazines, particularly *The Scottish Curler*, and has regularly made major contributions to the [Curling History Blog](#)

David was a larger than life character, a generous man, a great raconteur and had curling in his heart.

My thoughts are with his wife, children and grandchildren.



“Iceless” curling equipment offer for Member Associations



We have teamed up with [Rock Solid Productions Inc](#) to help grow curling and increase its accessibility around the globe.

Rock Solid Productions Inc. are a Canadian company, formed in 2008, that specialise in “iceless” curling products that can be used for curling promotions, where ice access is limited.

As preferred development partner of the WCF this partnership offers Member Associations (MA) significantly reduced prices on Rock Solid’s [Street Curling](#) and [Floor Curl](#) products and the ability to use Development Assistance Programme (DAP) funding towards purchase of them.

These products have gained popularity since featuring on Big Brother Canada and, have been used as event entertainment at two Super Bowls to date. Also, in partnership with Curling Canada the products are used to introduce curling to around 200,000 school children each year.

Rock Solid Productions Inc. have developed a truly unique and entertaining product that takes our sport into new markets, where ice is limited or unavailable. This partnership will be particularly valuable for countries new to curling.

As well as their “iceless” products MAs can utilise Rock Solid Productions Inc. expertise for organising events to attract new sponsors and curlers, with the aim of helping MAs generate additional revenue to develop the game.

On announcing this partnership Chad McMullan, Rock Solid Productions Inc. owner and President, said: "We are very excited about this new relationship with the WCF and look forward to helping grow the game around the globe. This will allow us to reach even more curling nations and provide them with valuable tools and expertise to promote the sport within their regions."

To discuss Rock Solid Production Inc. products and for prices contact Chad McMullan:
cmcmullan@rocksolidproductions.ca | +1 416 666 7674

Street Curling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eM-l2d8e-CA>

Floor Curl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgSoqbuJmK4>

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MEDIA ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (MAP)

Media representatives from Member Associations can apply for support to travel to and cover WCF events. For more information contact media@worldcurling.org



Contact Us

World Curling Federation

3 Atholl Crescent

Perth PH1 5NG

Scotland, UK

+44 1738 451 630

info@worldcurling.org

www.worldcurling.org

Curl Distance app

Together with our results service provider, [Curlit](#), we have developed a new Last Stone Draw measurement app that calculates the real distance from the centre of the house to the centre of the stone using the official formula from the World Curling Federation.

Curl Distance is [free to download](#) on iOS, Android and Windows devices.

Share your stories with the Olympic Broadcasting Service

The Olympic Broadcasting Service (OBS) is the Host Broadcaster for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and will be producing coverage for the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer next month (12-21 February 2016).

The IOC would like to showcase the ethos of the Youth Games and the Olympic movement and would be very grateful to know any stories relating to any of your athletes that you think may be of interest to a global audience. This can be because of an outstanding talent, an engaging personality, a fine example of sportsmanship or behaviour, a motivational story or achievement, an inspiring story of battling against odds or perhaps a community story of support.

To share any news with the OBS, contact Director of News Service, Grant Coleman, gcoleman@obs.es

NEXT EDITION

Thank you for taking the time to read the Newsletter for January 2016, our next edition will be in May, at the conclusion of the 2015/16 season.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you both in and out of competition between now and May and will update you with all the activity in the next Newsletter (if you wish to share news in the next edition, please contact media@worldcurling.org by Wednesday **13 April 2016**).

To all the teams competing in the next four months good luck and good curling!

Kate Coathness
