

**Minutes of the
ECF Semi-Annual General Meeting
held in Gävle, SWE
on April 20, 2004 at 10:00 hours**

Start of the meeting: 10:00

In attendance:

Executive Committee	Malcolm Richardson	President
	Dieter Kolb	Vice-President
	John Stone	Member at Large
	Karel Kubeska	Member at Large
	Olli Rissanen	Rep. Northern Europe
	Ainsle Smith	Rep. United Kingdom
	Urs Müller	Rep. Central Europe
	Konstantin Zadvornov	Rep. Eastern Europe
	Saskia Krügl	Secretary/Treasurer

The 29 member nations were represented as follows:

Member nations represented in person
with full voting rights:

AND, AUT, BUL, CZE, DEN, ENG, FIN, FRA, GER,
IRL, ITA, KAZ, LTU, NED, NOR, POL, RUS, SCO,
SWE, SUI, WAL

Member nations represented by proxy:

ESP

Member nations not represented or
without voting rights:

BLR, HUN, ISR, LAT, LIE, LUX, SVK

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the WCF Media Relations Officer Hakan Sundström would like to make a statement first.

Hakan Sundström reported that he had issued a WCF Press Release saying that the city of Leipzig had not been awarded the World Womens Curling Championships 2005 as "there is today no curling in Leipzig and the WCF Executives wanted the World Women's Championship 2005 to be played in an area with knowledge and experience of the game." He explained that he had learnt in the meantime that there is in fact Curling in Leipzig and apologized for his lack of knowledge when issuing the press release. He went on saying that if someone is to be blamed for the press release it should be him and not the WCF. Lilly Hummelt, President of the German Curling Association, replied that she was totally upset with the procedure how the World Womens Curling Championship 2005 had been awarded and stressed the fact that the German Curling Association is of course capable of organizing first class international Curling events.

1. Reading of Notice of Meeting

The Secretary announced that the Semi-Annual General Meeting had been convened by intimation to the members on March 15, 2004

2. Apologies, number of votes and quorum

An apology was received from Leif Öhman (Member at Large of the Executive Committee).

More than one half of the member nations were represented in person. The Secretary therefore reported that there was a quorum and that the total number of votes available was 22. It was also reported that any decisions needing a two third majority would need a total of 15 votes.

3. Minutes of the ECF Annual General Meeting 2003 (Courmayeur, ITA) and approval thereof

The minutes of the ECF Annual General Meeting 2003 (Courmayeur) were taken as read and were unanimously approved.

4. Matters arising from these minutes

Following the Annual General Meeting of the ECF held in Courmayeur the Secretary had (as instructed by the Meeting) sent a letter to the WCF recommending that when considering the selection of European teams for the Continental Cup, it should consider as a matter of priority the following teams:

- a) the winner of the last European Championships
- b) the best European team at the last World Curling Championships except in an Olympic year when it should be the best European team at the Olympics
- c) a team of Scotland following negotiations with the RCCC.

A letter dated April 17, 2004 was now received from the WCF which the Secretary read as follows:

Quote:

Dear Saskia,

I refer to your letter of 2 February 2004 regarding the selection of teams to represent Europe in future Continental Cup competitions.

The proposals submitted by the European Curling Federation were discussed by the WCF Executive Board at their meeting in Gävle and the proposals for future team selection noted.

The event is sponsored by the Canadian TV-network TSN who contribute CDN \$ 200.000,00. The WCF are responsible for all the costs associated with the European teams and officials, the main elements of which are travel, accommodation, per diems and uniforms. In addition, the WCF cover the costs involved in any training sessions held prior to the event.

Any deficit incurred by an organising committee is refunded on a shared basis between the WCF and the Canadian Curling Association.

2004 is the final year of a three year contract, and the Executive Board will take your views into account when reviewing the future of the event.

Kind regards

Mike Thomson

Secretary General

World Curling Federation

Unquote:

A short discussion followed the reading of this letter. It was then agreed that the ECF should send a reply to the WCF expressing our dissatisfaction. This letter should also state that the ECF will be very disappointed if our decision taken at the Annual General Meeting in Courmayeur is not taken into account. It is understood that contractual obligations must be respected but when a renewal of those contracts is due we would appreciate if our recommendations would be taken into consideration.

5. Correspondence

The Secretary reported that she had received a full application for ECF membership from the Hellenic Ice Sports Federation (Greece). Following a motion by Günther Hummelt (AUT), seconded by Tove Porskjaer (DEN) the Hellenic Ice Sports Federation was unanimously accepted as a new ECF member.

6. Progress Reports of future Organising Committees (2005 until 2007 – if in attendance)

Sofia 2004 (December 4-11, 2004)

Ivo Petrov confirmed that the preparations are going well. He advised that both players and officials will all be accommodated in the Hotel Kempinski. He also informed the members that the Sofia website would be available in a couple of weeks.

The President again thanked the Sofia Organising Committee for moving the event forward by one week due to the requirements of Eurosport.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen 2005 (December 9-17, 2005)

The ECF Vice-President confirmed that also in Garmisch-Partenkirchen the preparations are going well and that everybody there is looking forward to welcoming the European Curlers and officials in December 2005.

Basel 2006 (December 9-16, 2006)

Bruno Schallberger confirmed the dates as of December 9-16, 2006. He advised that the distance between airport and hotel is only 6 km. The headquarter hotel in Basel (200.000 citizens) will be the Hotel Ramada and banquet facilities would only be at a 200m distance.

7. Future championships

The President said that during the ECF Annual General Meeting in Courmayeur in December 2003 Andorra had proposed to implement a European Mixed Curling Championship. At that time the majority opinion of the representatives was that this new championship should not be a one year event only but should be held for a period of at least three years. The President was now happy to announce that it had been possible to secure three sites willing to host this new event as follows:

- 2005 Andorra
- 2006 Claut, ITA
- 2007 Spain (probably the city of Puigcerda)

The President said that it was hoped to hold this event around the first weekend of November of each year and that one team per nation would be admitted (the ECF will not dictate how the selection of teams should be done on a national basis). He went on saying that the ECF Executive Committee recommends to implement the European Mixed Curling Championships and invited Franco Zumofen to say a few words. Franco explained on behalf of the city of Claut that they are of course very much in favour of this new event which they would like to host in 2006. He explained that Claut is a 1,5 hour journey away from Venice and a 1 hour journey away from Treviso and that it can be reached easily by Ryan air. He also reminded the representatives that Claut hosted very successfully the World University Games in 2003.

It was then unanimously agreed by acclamation that the European Mixed Curling Championships be implemented.

8. Change of constitution

The President explained that after the Courmayeur meetings all nations had been invited to present their ideas for a future ECF Executive Committee structure. He explained that three proposals were received as follows:

- one proposal from the UK
- one proposal presented by the ECF President
- one proposal presented by the ECF Vice-President and ECF Secretary

The President was of the opinion that the RCCC (Scotland) should, as the Mother Club of Curling, have the honour of a guaranteed seat on the Executive Committee.

The Vice-President felt that the most democratic system should be chosen, i.e. that nobody should have a guaranteed seat on the Executive Committee.

Ainsle Smith declared on behalf of the United Kingdom that they would now like to withdraw their proposal and would now be supporting the proposal of the ECF President.

Urs Müller on behalf of Switzerland proposed to leave the constitution as it is and to have further discussions until December to make a final decision during the next Annual General Meeting in Sofia.

Günther Hummelt (AUT) stressed the fact that all European nations should be treated equally and that the representatives should vote for people but not for nations.

Eventually there were the following three proposals on the table:

- Motion 1: proposal presented by the ECF President

- Motion 2: proposal presented by the ECF Vice-President and ECF Secretary
- Motion 3: proposal by Switzerland to leave constitution as it is

First there was a vote for motion 1 against motion 2 and the result was as follows:

6 nations in favour of motion 1
13 nations in favour of motion 2
3 abstentions

Therefore motion 1 dropped out.

The second vote was for motion 2 against motion 3 and the result was as follows:

11 nations in favour of motion 2
7 nations in favour of motion 3
4 abstentions

As no two third majority was obtained the constitution remained unchanged. Any further changes would be discussed in Sofia in December 2004.

9. Any other business

ECF Rules of competition

The President explained that there had been made a change to the ECF Rules of Competition in so far as the possibility for an appeal against the decision of the chief-umpire had been deleted, as not even the WCF is allowing for this sort of appeal.

ECF Cresting Policy

The President explained that the Secretary had compared both the WCF and ECF Cresting Policy as teams were complaining about their need to change sponsor badges between the European and the World Championships. The Secretary had determined that the policies were not too different but the problem was that the WCF gave several options where to put badges whereas the ECF policy clearly determined the spots. After consultations with the WCF it had been decided not to make any changes to the ECF policy right now as the WCF might adopt a new cresting policy in August 2004 due to the fact that teams wanted additional spots for sponsor badges. After August 2004 one would try to make both policies more consistent.

New member nations

Ivo Petrov (BUL) mentioned that Serbia-Montenegro is interested in becoming an ECF member and that an application might be forthcoming soon.

Feedback system

It was also proposed that the ECF should develop kind of a feedback-system which would allow member nations to report on their experiences when attending European Championships. The President confirmed that this was a very valid point. The Vice-President said that the chief-umpire's report does already help the ECF to determine which areas of the championships could be improved.

10. Next meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at 10:00 hours in the Kempinski Hotel in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The meeting closed at 11:05.

