



Wisconsin State Curling Association

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Wisconsin State Curling Association Board of Directors
Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:30am
Portage Curling Club, Portage, WI
Minutes

- A. Call to Order: 11:30AM
- B. Approval of WSCA Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from October 1, 2016– Mike Dry, Second – Aaron Richards. Motion carried.
Approval of Executive Committee: Jan. 22, 2017 – David Russell moved to ratify the actions taken by the executive Board at the Jan. 22, 2017 conference call. Second – Sam Johnson. Motion carried.
- C. Treasurer's Report – None
- D. President's Report – None
- E. USCA Director Reports: Rich Lepping, Mark Hartman: Mark's information is included in the additional pages. Rich Lepping: Olympic Trials are selling out fast. Continental Cup is in Toronto. Attended WCF in Beijing. Now looking at other issues that affect the ice. Peach Tree is now in the GNCC. Working with Rick Patzke on many areas of marketing. Met 7 of 8 HP benchmarks. USOC meeting for funding. U18 is a good way to go and the event will have all the bells and whistles of Junior Nationals. Financial audit. Overall membership is up. Rich's position is up in June of 2018 is working with the vice-chairman. Looking at Canada and Sweden to build best practices. Adding a Men's Tour to Canada. Kim Nawyn is preparing information to help clubs market the Olympics.
- F. WCF: Mark Swandby: None
- G. Break
- H. Committee Reports:
 - A. Rules: Swandby – No report
 - B. Website: Hartman – see additional pages
 - C. Bylaws: Russell – No report
- I. Competition:
 - A. Juniors: Hartman – see additional pages
 - B. Mixed and Men's and Women's: Olson – no report
 - C. Seniors: Hartman – see additional pages
 - D. High School – the boy's team from Poynette and the girl's team from Stevens Point won the WI State HS

Championships

- J. WSCA Service Award: Johnson – see additional pages
- K. New Business: Mark Hartman asked the WSCA to cover the engraving for the Junior trophies. He noted that the general condition of the Junior Men's trophy is deteriorating. Mike Dry thanked members for their well wishes and updated us on his wife's cancer. WSCA agenda item: How can the WSCA help the WI State High School program?
- L. Election of USCA Director: David Russell nominated Rich Lepping, second by Mike Fonger. Rich noted that this would be his last 3-year term. Mike Dry moved to close the nominations. Second by David Russell. Rich was elected by a unanimous hand vote
- M. Fall Date and Location: Portage, September 23, 2017 at 9:30. Meeting will be held and a speaker phone will be available.
- N. Adjourn: David Russell moved to adjourn at 12:38

Spring 2017 USCA Board Report – Mark Hartman

The World Curling Federation is considering an expansion of the World Men's and Women's Championships from twelve teams now to a larger format. 13 team and 16 team proposals are being considered. However, no change is expected in regard to the US qualifying for the Worlds; the America's will still have two teams under both new proposals.

The USCA Board voted to accept the request of the Peachtree Curling Club in Atlanta to be recognized as a member of the Grand National Curling Club.

Media coverage continues to expand in the US with 93,000 webstreamed views of the US Men's and Women's National Championships and 1.8 million viewers of Curling Night in America. There were also over 100 hours of television and webstreamed content by the NBC Sports Group of the World Championships (Men, Women and Mixed Doubles).

The High Performance Program has met 7 of 8 benchmarks for the past season. The inaugural US U18 National Championships took place at the Milwaukee Curling Club.

Changes are anticipated in the qualification procedures for Junior Nationals coming in 2017-2018. The primary goal is to gather all of the top Junior teams at the Junior Nationals while still trying to reduce travel expenses. The plan is a series of 4 berth bonspiels to qualify 8 boys and 8 girls teams to the nationals. Teams can enter as many of the berth bonspiels as they desire.

The Members Assembly is scheduled for Sept. 28 – Oct. 1 at St. Paul, MN.

An ad hoc History Committee has been formed with the task of gathering historical information about participants and winners of all US National Championships. The USCA has acquired an ancient disk drive with some of this historical information and is trying to find a way to access this data. I am serving on this committee along with Richard Maskel from Green Bay.

The USCA offers a rock purchase program for member clubs. It permits clubs a payment deferral program during the purchase of new curling stones. The USCA has set up the agreement with Kay's Curling Stones of Scotland. Upon delivery of the stones to the member club, the USCA makes the payment for the stones, and then sets up a non-interest loan arrangement with the member club. The club is able to spread the payments over a five year term. The USCA places a lien on the rocks as collateral during the 5 year payback period. From an economic standpoint, the strong dollar, in relationship to the euro makes this an attractive time to purchase new stones.

The Current USCA National Championship Calendar includes the following events:

- 11/11-18/2017 US Olympic Team Trials, Omaha Neb
- 12/14-17/2017 US Olympic Mixed Doubles Trials, Blaine, MN
- 1/27-2/3, 2018 Junior Nationals, Detroit, MI
- 2/10-17/2018 Club Nationals, Brainerd Lakes, MN
- 2/9-25/2018 Winter Olympic Games, PyeongChang, South Korea
- 2/20-25/2018 U18 National Championships, Bemidji, MN
- 3/3-11/2018 World Junior Championship, Aberdeen Scotland
- 3/3-10/2018 Mens and Womens National Championships, Fargo, ND
- 3/31-4/8, 2018 Mens World Championships, Las Vegas, NV

2016-17 WSCA Website Report – Mark Hartman

The WSCA website (www.wi-curling.org) continues to be a popular forum for all types of Wisconsin Curling information. We keep it updated with the most current information, and is a valuable reference for finding Club Officers, Wisconsin curling news, WSCA Meeting Minutes, complete listing of Wisconsin Bonspiels and National and World Championship dates, just to name a few. Last year around 60 readers used the website contact form which I try to respond to in a timely manner.

For the upcoming 2017-2018 season, the suggested rotation of host sites includes:

Men/Women Clubs:	Waupaca
Mixed:	Stevens Point
Junior/U18:	Centerville
Badger:	Wausau
Senior Badger:	Centerville
Senior Men:	Arlington/Poynette

Note: these sites are not certain as of this time (although I believe Centerville is fairly close to consenting to host the Junior/U18).

2016-17 Junior Championships Report – Mark Hartman

The 44th Wisconsin Junior Championships for 2016-17 were hosted again by the Portage Curling Club, but on a different weekend from the traditional Junior Championship dates which is between the Christmas and New Years Holidays. States and regions were forced to shift their Junior Championship dates due to a new qualifying procedure put in place for the Junior National Championship. My personal thanks to the Portage Curling Club for stepping up once again to host the championship, as we were forced to scramble due to the date change.

Another change put in place this year was the U18 Championships which are a new division of championships in the US. Consequently, the championships were a combined event with U18 teams competing for the U18 and the Wisconsin Badger State Championship, and teams with 18 and overs competing just for the Wisconsin Junior Championship.

4 girls teams competed, with all of them eligible for both U18 and Wisconsin titles. Going undefeated with a record of 5-0 was the Andrea McDonald rink; also qualifying for the National U18 was the Dakota Crotty rink.

On the boys side, 5 teams competed, with 3 U18 teams and additionally 2 18 and over teams. It was a very tight competition on the boys side with the possibility of 4 tie-breaker games being needed on Sunday. For the U18 Championship, the Michael Elwing team from Wauwatosa won two tie-breakers to win the championship over Wes Wendling from Wausau.

In the Boys Badger State Championship, Nick Steinhaus went undefeated with a record of 5-0 to edge Wendling again. The Wendling Team fought bravely and will be a force in years to come, as they are 7th and 8th graders!

Finally, the Michael Elwing team competed in the U18 National Championship, and avenged their only loss in the entire event by stealing the last end of the National Championship game over the top seeded team from Washington. Players on the National Championship Team are: Michael Elwing, Trevor Marquardt, Tyler Hipke, Ryan Elwing, and Connor Hipke. Congratulations on winning the first ever boys U18 National Championship!

Next season's Junior Championships are tentatively set for Centerville, and will return to the traditional dates between the holidays.

2016-17 WSCA Senior Curling Report – Mark Hartman

Senior (Mens) Curling continues to be strong and active in the Badger State.

Most clubs host special daytime Senior Curling leagues, and some have interchanges with nearby clubs. The WISCA (Wisconsin/Illinois) league had high participation again this year.

Looking at Championship Bonspiel results, a full slate of 40 teams competed in the WSCA Senior Men's Bonspiel, hosted this year by the Madison Curling Club on Jan. 20-22.

Successfully defending their 2016 championship, Ken Neidhart's rink from Madison took the first event over the youngest team in the field, Neil Feil from Kettle Moraine. Second Event winner was the Esser team from Alpine, which included a father-son combination of Steve and his son Mike Esser. Third event winner was Tom Rave from Wauwatosa and the Fourth event went to George Godfrey from Lodi. Winning the Masters division was the Ron Parker team from Rice Lake.

Next year's State Senior is scheduled for Arlington and Poynette.

The National Senior Mens Bonspiel also took place in Wisconsin this year, with the 5 Columbia County clubs serving as hosts. Mark Kretzmann from Poynette was Bonspiel Chair. Alas, dethroned as defending champions were the Tom Godar team from Kettle Moraine, with the championship taken by the Curling Coyotes from Phoenix AZ.

While not specifically a Senior Curling event, many Wisconsin Seniors defended the home turf as part of the Scot Tour. Wisconsin Clubs participating included, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Kettle Moraine, Madison, Alpine, Arlington, Poynette, Portage, Centerville and Wausau. The Badgers were not gracious hosts, posting a sizeable lead of 60 points for the US side, which was the best state performance on the tour. The USA retained possession of the Herries Maxwell trophy scoring a win by 100 points after three weeks of competition.

WSCA Service Award – Sam Johnson

Greg Dunlop has been voted the 2017 WSCA Service Award recipient.

Greg is a great ambassador to our sport. He has selflessly dedicated thousands of hours and over two decades to the WSCA. He is a figurehead at the state and club level. He has been very supportive of USCA and the past State Directors.

Greg has worn many hats throughout the years, but you may best know him for his role as the State Treasurer. He has been a steady rock in an otherwise moving group of leadership at the State level. You do not have to attend many meetings to understand that Greg not only has a firm grasp on his role as well as the entire organization. It is safe to say that everyone sleeps better at night with Greg behind the books.

Congratulations to a well earned award to Greg Dunlop.