

**United States Curling Association**  
**Executive Committee Special Meeting**  
**Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota**  
**September 12, 2003**

**Minutes**

Present

Bob Fenson, in the chair  
Grayland Cousins  
Phill Drobnick  
Pam Finch  
Warren Lowe  
Richard Maskel  
Jack McNelly  
Chris Moore  
Ann Silver  
Mark Swandby  
Jane Thompson

Not present

Donna Purkey

Also present

David Garber, Executive Director  
Ed Lukowich, Athlete Development Director  
Rick Patzke, Director of Communications  
Bev Schroeder, Member Services Manager

1. Call to order; parliamentarian; approve prior minutes; correspondence. **Fenson called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Fenson appointed Lowe as meeting Parliamentarian. Motion by Drobnick, Thompson second, to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2003, meeting. Approved.**

Fenson reported that he had a letter from the Utica Curling Club, which was requesting additional reimbursement for expenses incurred as Host of the 2003 Men's and Women's National Championships. After a review of deliberations on this subject in a previous meeting, **Motion by Silver, Maskel second, to deny the request. Approved.** Fenson will respond.

2. Strategic Plan. Cousins reported that he intends by next spring to improve coordination of the Strategic Plan with programs and spending. Fenson will consider, and the committee supports, expansion of the spring directors meeting schedule to accommodate strategic planning. Cousins would like to encourage planning from club level up. Cousins will coordinate a planning project with Moore and Swandby.

3. Treasurer. Moore distributed the Treasurer's Report. The USCA met both its budgeted surplus and its \$250,000 net worth target. Moore noted several changes to the budget. **Motion by Thompson, Finch second, to approve a USCA budget plan for fiscal year 2004 with an \$11,000 deficit, with a portion of the "field of play" revenues reserved for capital expenditures. Approved.** Cousins encouraged USCA to remove obstacles that prevent final budget approval by the end of June.

4. Executive Director. Garber reported he is keeping the Finance Committee apprised of the status of the USCA liability insurance program.

5. USOC. McNelly reported that U.S. Olympic Committee staff is providing the USCA with positive financial and staff time support. The USOC faces major governance changes in the near future.

6. WCF. Lowe reported.

a. TV financial support. The World Curling Federation Executive Board will provide about \$250,000 in financial support for the USCA nationals TV project, which development is both highly appreciated and critical to USCA continued growth. Lowe noted that WCF financial support to USCA has totaled nearly \$1 million in the past three seasons, including television production and air time buys (two NBC programs and "Rock Stars"), the Potomac building loan, and the pending Development Grants.

b. Senior worlds. WCF financial support for the World Senior Championships is uncertain. The issue is to be settled at the December, 2003 WCF Semi-annual Meeting in Courmayeur, Italy. Lowe asked for comments for the USCA WCF representatives.

c. WCC qualifying system. Lowe reported that there may be changes to the long-standing qualification system for the World and Olympic Curling Championships, in response to the growth in the number of curling nations. The European Zone now has 27 nations competing for 7 world berths. Twenty-two men's- and 19 women's teams will compete at the upcoming European championships, which is Europe's qualifying event for the World Curling Championships. The Asian Zone now has six nations vying for one worlds berth. To adjust to the growth, the WCF may adopt, on an interim basis, a system which adds two national berths at worlds, with greater changes possible after 2006.

7. USWCA. No report.

8. AAC. Maskel and Silver reported. The Athletes Advisory Council met recently by conference call.

a. Governance. The AAC is concerned that the USCA has two governance entities, the Members and the Board of Directors.

b. EAHI. The AAC prefers a more subjective selection procedure for filling available USOC-paid allocations for Elite Athlete Health Insurance, as compared to the current proposal, but has no specific counter-proposal at this time.

c. World Team Leader selection. The AAC prefers that the World Team Leader positions be a staff position, as seems to be an effective practice with many National Governing Bodies.

d. Publicizing funding. The AAC has requested that the committee reconsider its policy regarding publishing of athlete funding information. Silver stated that the USCA practice is unique among other Olympic Sports National Governing Bodies. **Motion by Silver, Maskel second, that the USCA not release, in a public forum, names of funded athletes or teams, or individual dollar amount. Approved, 4-3 with Drobnick, Cousins, Swandby and Thompson abstaining.** The intent is that the USCA will publicly announce the names of athletes on its National Teams.

Silver asked that the committee review the USCA policy used to define "on-track" athletes.

9. Marketing & Operations. Finch reported.

a. Television program. With WCF support committed, Patzke is working with the USOC, the WCF and a marketing agent to develop and sell sponsors and advertisement buyers for the show, to be produced at the 2004 Nationals at Grand Forks.

b. USCA merchandise sales are modest but growing. The USCA official merchandiser, XP Apparel, is negotiating with a retail outlet for merchandise from curling and other sports.

c. The "OXL" membership card mailing is scheduled for the end of September.

d. Web database. Patzke will present details of the new web-based database to the full board. The system is to be launched this fall, including a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. The system has commercial possibilities.

10. Member Services. Swandby reported.

a. The Regional Officers meeting held last weekend was a success, with 18 people attending, including regional officers, USCA volunteers and staff. Attendees would like to continue this program. The timing of the meeting may be changed to help maximize attendance by regions, as two regions did not send representatives to this meeting.

b. New USCA clubs. Swandby has compiled a list of 14 new clubs, and four being developed, formed since the 2002 Olympics.

c. USCA member services spending. Swandby presented a draft comparison of USCA revenue and expense for Member Services and non-Member Services spending. Certain general expenses such as staff has been split 50/50 between the classes. USCA revenue from members essentially matches Member Services expenses at about \$350,000. Swandby is confident that member dues are not being used to fund elite athletes. The committee asked Swandby to finalize a report for general communication.

11. Competitive Programs. Thompson reported.

a. Basic grant & EAHI selection criteria. That the USCA Elite Programs is working with the USOC on new Basic Grant and EAHI "fill" selection criteria.

b. **Motion by Finch, McNelly second, that Joni Cotton and Larry Barott be ratified as USCA Coach and Developmental Coach of year, respectively. Approved, with Silver abstaining.**

12. Championships. Cousins reported. The format vote could have large impact on Site Selection Committee work. The Format Task Force, at its upcoming meeting, will finalize its presentation for the board. An eight team draw for the Junior B Selection Competition is ready for AAC and ADD review and approval. The USCA Vice President, Championships, will present draws for all events for AAC and ADD review and approval. Silver noted that AAC position is that a staff member (the ADD) manage draw development, using USCA standards (published on the USCA web site).

13. Other business. **Motion by McNelly, Moore second, to take from the table the motion tabled to this meeting by the committee at its August 28 meeting. Motion by McNelly, Silver second, that the Executive Committee ask the USCA board to remove the citizenship requirement for Junior and Senior playdowns. Discussion. Approved 5-4, with Moore and Maskel abstaining.**

14. Unfinished business. There is no unfinished business.

15. New Business. There was no new business.

16. Adjourn. **Motion by Lowe, Finch second, to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

David Garber  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized  
R. Chris Moore  
Secretary