

Canadian Stick Curling Association (CSCA)

Minutes of CSCA Annual General Meeting – March 29, 2023, Nanaimo, BC

Attendance:

Executive Committee:

R. Olson (Chair)

B. Spiring (Vice-Chair)

R. Coutts (Secretary)

S. Minns (Rules & Championship Committee) BY ZOOM

REGRETS: B. Densmore (Education & Promotion Committee)

Provincial Representatives:

BC: D. Sears

AB: E. Willson

SK: D. Beach

MB: W. Johnson

ON: R. Thurston

PQ: J. Lamere

NB: L. Forbes BY ZOOM

NS: B. Mattson

PE: G. Clarke for E. Stavert

Also in attendance:

As the meeting was held in advance of the mandatory Team-Officials meeting for the championship, most event participants were in attendance. See Appendix #1 for a listing of those who signed the attendance sheet.

CHAIR REPORT: Chair R. Olson called the meeting to order at 3:04PM. He welcomed all in attendance and indicated that his Chair Report had been previously circulated to Board and provincial representatives by the Secretary as well as to all event participants with the assistance of the host committee. He thanked the Executive Committee for their efforts and support over the year and also expressed appreciation to the provincial reps for their leadership across Canada.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING had been posted on the website in draft form and circulated to the Board and Provincial Representatives.

M/S: B. Mattson (NS)-E. Willson(AB).... That the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be accepted. CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORTS had been circulated to Board and provincial representatives by the Secretary as well as to all event participants by the host committee.

B. Spiring highlighted the CSCA Finances for the previous year (year-end June 2022). As dictated by a motion of the 2022 AGM, the report was unaudited but had been independently reviewed by W. Johnson. The report showed a June 30, 2022 funding deficit of \$115.12.

M/S: B. Spiring(MB)-R. Thurston(ON) That the June 30, 2022 financial report be accepted. CARRIED

B. Spiring highlighted the interim 2023 financial report (at end February 2023) which shows a funding surplus of \$4,594.74 but noted there are championship related expenses yet to be paid.

B. Spiring highlighted the 2023-2024 budget which had been circulated. It projects a surplus for the year in the range of \$3,500. There were no questions or comments.

M/S: B. Spiring(MB)-D. Beach(SK)That the budget be accepted. CARRIED.

EDUCATION & PROMOTION REPORT: B. Densmore's report had been circulated to Board and provincial representatives by the Secretary as well as to all event participants by the host committee.

M/S: B. Spiring(MB)-B. Mattson(NS)That the report be received and filed. CARRIED

CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT: S. Minns' report had been circulated to Board and provincial representatives by the Secretary as well as to all event participants by the host committee.

R. Thurston extended an invitation to participants to attend the 2024 championship which will be held at Toronto's Leaside Club in mid-April, specific dates to be defined but proposed April 19-22, 2024.

R. Olson reported that the 2025 Championship is expected to be played in Grande Prairie, AB. He advised a bid/invitation has been received and the formal announcement awaits the final review and recommendation of the Championship Committee.

The Championship Report as submitted included a motion as follows:

That the format for future championships, beginning in 2024, is to have two championship events held simultaneously: the national championship in which only the provincial winners will participate, and a national club championship that will be open to anyone who wishes to participate, with the caveat that registration will be on a first come, first served basis.

As preamble, R. Olson noted that the current format is an Open and a Women's event but that some provinces have moved to a Men's, Women's, Mixed format and that there have been some comments received that the national event should be moved in this direction. He noted the intent is that in the new format, provincial and Canadian champions would compete in separate pools in the Men-Women-Mixed format.

In the in-person absence of S. Minns, R. Olson asked for a Mover & Secunder to place the motion on the floor for discussion.

M/S: E. Willson (AB) – B. Mattson(NS)

Comments in Opposition: W. Johnson, D. Sears, J. Rouse, G. Clarke all spoke in opposition. As there was some overlap in their discussion points, the following represents a summary of key points and opinions expressed.

* The proposed format is believed to be negative to the development of the 2-person sport – the Open format allows for growth, the restricted format will limit growth.

* One of the attractions of the current Open format is that 'everyone' has a chance to attend and win a Canadian Championship and it is likely that participation will be limited if that opportunity is removed. The 'recreational' bonspiel' which is suggested will not be as attractive.

* The proposed more competitive format is detrimental to the spirit of the 2-person game.

Comments neither for nor against: D. McDougall, D. Ray, D. Beach, J. Rouse, G. Wright made comments which referenced, in one way or another, the continuing evolution of the 2-person sport. The following represents a summary of key points and opinions expressed.

* A concern with the direction CSCA would be headed if the motion passed - a 'niche' has been developed in the Open format competition and concerned that this will disappear.

* The 2-person sport is still growing and developing and at a different rate in different jurisdictions – it is premature to make the change which is proposed.

* Perhaps at some future time, the first step is a more defined qualifying process (perhaps four per province) within the current format.

* As the 2-person sport grows, the Open event (and perhaps in the future the proposed more recreational event) could become an attractive travel option for people who currently travel south in winter.

* A concern/query if there is enough interest to support 3 divisions. Specifically, questioned how many mixed teams were registered for this year's Open event (*For the record, there are 15 mixed teams registered at Nanaimo*).

R. Olson called for a speaker or speakers specifically in favour of the motion. There were no responders.

As seconder of the motion, B. Mattson closed discussion by speaking of the growth period which the 2-person sport is in. She applauded the discussion as a positive step in the direction which our sport may wish to go over the next five or ten year period.

R. Olson called for a vote on the motion as presented.

M/S: E. Willson(AB) – B. Mattson(NS)That the format for future championships, beginning in 2024, is to have two championship events held simultaneously: the national championship in which only the provincial winners will participate, and a national club championship that will be open to anyone who wishes to participate, with the caveat that registration will be on a first come, first served basis.

DEFEATED

D. Sears(BC) asked if it appropriate to propose an alternate motion; R. Olson indicated that it would be welcome.

M/S: D. Sears(BC) – B. Mattson(NS)That a change be made to a Men-Women-Mixed format in the future.

E. Willson(AB) proposed an amendment to specify that an individual may only play in one division.

After discussion and a show of hands, and with the concurrence of the original mover, the motion was amended to read:

M/S: That a change be made to a Men-Women-Mixed format at some point in the future with the restriction that a person may only play in one division.

B. Childe(BC) expressed concern that losing the Open format is negative in the development of the 2-person sport – that Women should not be restricted to playing only in the Women or Mixed Division (and the same for Men) – that all competitors should be able to compete against all competitors as was the original intent and spirit.

J. Lamere(QC) asked for clarification if the intent was to have the motion unspecific in its timing. D. Sears(BC) confirmed that intent and added that it should be referred to the committee and executive

for consideration of appropriate timing. J. Lamere(QC) expressed the opinion that he has found the 2-person sport and event to be very 'congenial'. In Quebec, it is still very much in the development stage and he can see the possibility of the proposed future direction but that "for now" it should remain in the Open format.

N. Magnusson(MB) expressed the opinion that the move to three divisions might be an appropriate evolution but cautioned that it not be too soon. He projected at least five years down the road and perhaps more. He urged the Executive Committee to be concerned with rate of development of the sport in all jurisdictions and that implementing the new structure too soon could be a detriment to development in slower developing jurisdictions. He urged that the change not be made until all jurisdictions have implemented a parallel structure.

D. Sheppard(ON) expressed the opposite perspective. He urged that the future as referenced in the motion not be pushed too far into the future – that the move should be made now, for next year.

R. Olson called for a vote on the motion as amended.

M/S: D. Sears(BC) – B. Mattson(NS)That a change be made to a Men-Women-Mixed format at some point in the future with the restriction that a person may only play in one division. CARRIED

RULES REPORT: S. Minns' report had been circulated to Board and provincial representatives by the Secretary as well as to all event participants by the host committee.

She highlighted that most rules issues had been dealt with by interpretations decisions. She reported that only one rule change motion is presented for decision of the meeting. This relates to the role of the IPA (Ice Player Assistant) assisting Wheelchair competitors.

M/S: S. Minns(NB) – B. Mattson(NS)That Rule 1(k) be amended to state that the same IPA may sweep for line for the impacted player at the direction of the delivering partner competitor and only in the "play area" (from the hogline to the backline). At their own discretion the IPA may sweep the stone for weight as well as the opponent's stones behind the tee line. The non-delivering competitor may not provide any direction with sweeping.

Discussion indicated that wheel chair teams had expressed concern and some members of the rules committee had held discussion and there was lack of consensus on the effect of the proposed change. Mostly the concern related to whether or not the IPA should be sweeping at their own initiative – effectively bringing a third person into the decision process.

R. Olson called for a vote on the motion. It was DEFEATED.

M/S: R. Thurston(ON)-R. Coutts(MB).... That the IPA may sweep only at the direction of the team members with line-direction provided by the delivering team member and weight-direction provided by the non-delivering team member, who must be positioned off to the side of the sheet. CARRIED

There was consensus that the new rule will be effective for this 2023 Nanaimo Championship.

NOMINATIONS REPORT: R. Coutts' report had been circulated to Board and provincial representatives as well as to all event participants by the host committee.

Three positions are to be elected. B. Spiring & B. Densmore terms have ended. Both are nominated for an additional two-year term.

R. Olson term has ended and he has indicated that he will be stepping aside from the Executive Committee role. Jean Lamere (QC) has been nominated for a two-year term.

Further nominations can be made from the floor.

After calling three times for further nominations, R. Olson declared nominations to be closed and declared B. Spiring, B. Densmore, and J. Lamere elected.

ROCKS IN PLAY DISCUSSION PAPER: A paper had been circulated to Board and provincial representatives by the Secretary as well as to all event participants by the host committee.

R. Coutts indicated that change to current rules is neither recommended nor opposed. Rule changes in the 4's curling have been made in order to have more rocks in play. The paper was circulated to initiate discussion if people consider change to be necessary at this time in order to ensure there are more rocks in play.

R. Coutts expressed the opinion that currently there is no real need for rule change to bring more rocks into play.

R. Olson called for discussion – asked if anyone felt there is a need to find ways to get more rocks in play. There were no speakers on the topic.

APPRECIATION FOR RANDY OLSON: D. Sears(BC) rose to express appreciation for the leadership provided by Randy Olson during his tenure as Chair of CSCA.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, R. Coutts spoke of how much the group appreciated Randy's leadership during the initial two years of the new organization. It is recognized that there is a nearly 20 year history and that the current stage of evolution of CSCA as a more formal organization has been led capably by Randy. A Gold Medal for Leadership, modelled on the medals to be presented to the Nanaimo event champions, was presented on behalf of the organization.

After photos and Randy's "thank you's" to the group, he declared there was no further business and asked for a motion to adjourn.

M/S: B. Mattson(NS) – D. Sears(BC)That the meeting be adjourned.

R. Olson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:53PM.

Attachment: Appendix 1 Attendance Record

APPENDIX 1: OBSERVERS/GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

*** The following marked the attendance sheet at the meeting. It is estimated this represents approximately 30-40% of the actual.*

BC

Bob Larsen
Tim Smith
Chris Pieper
Bob Franklin
Craig Turnbull
Carole Knopp
Gail Rey
Evelyn Tattersall
Sharon Sears
Carol Heinrichs
Tammy Hughes
Margaret Campbell
Louise Burton

Alberta

Ed Willson

Saskatchewan

Gordon Garratt

Manitoba

Melanie Shura
Norm Magnusson
James Rouse

Ontario

Don Sheppard
Kathy Saul-Fowler

New Brunswick

Paulette Giro
Marianne Demers
Berthe Richard

Nova Scotia

Pauline Bullerwell
Diane Mallinson

PEI

Ruth Stavert
Gloria Clarke
Jeanette Fraser
Elaine Hughes