

**North Dakota Curling Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May 2003
Pizza Ranch, Devils Lake**

Those in attendance when the meeting was called to order; Jeff Kitchens, Mark Gilleshammer, Mary Walski, Ryan Nankivel, Chris Sjue, Jackie Thomas, Rick Tangedal, Jan Tangedal, Jan Legacie, Greg Volk, Val Nash, Joann Kitchens, George Phillips, Roger Smith, Cindy Samson, Tom Samson, Frank Podall, and Jennifer Tibert.

MINUTES: Minutes from October 2002 were approved. (M-Frank, 2nd-Mark)

FINANCIAL REPORT: Total balance as of May 3, 2003: \$9,714.78. Report approved (M-Rick, 2nd-Val). Jackie also presented a projected budget for 2004.

USCA DIRECTORS: Greg Volk and Chris Sjue presented information discussed at the last USCA Directors meeting. Issues covered included:

- ◆ Wheelchair Curling- Wheelchair curling will be a sanctioned para-olympic sport in the next para-olympics to be held in Turino, Italy. Discussion of a possible team from the area. Also discussed handicap access for local clubs.
- ◆ Restructuring of the USCA Directors Board- Board would be cut from current 46 members to 23-27 members. Committees would rely on volunteer help. Also would restructure the representation of members from each region. Two plans currently on the table:
 1. Governors Task Force Plan- This plan would allow MN, WI, GNCC 3 reps; ND, IL, GLCC- 2 reps each; and AK, WA, MD- 1 rep each. This plan is before the board of directors.
 2. Wisconsin Plan- This plan would allow MN, WI- 3 reps each; GNCC- 2 reps; all other regions- 1 rep each. This plan is before the general membership.

Both plans would reduce our current 4 board members 1 or 2 depending on what plan would carry. Task Force Plan needs a 2/3 vote to pass, where as the Wisconsin Plan only needs a majority of the membership vote to pass. If Governors Task Force Plan would not pass, Wisconsin plan would pass due to majority of members are in the WI and MN regions. Discussion about what would be best for ND based on both plans. Greg mentioned campaigning the GNCC directors to vote for the Task Force plan. Greg asked volunteers to start an email or letter writing campaign to the directors from the GNCC region.

Motion made that our USCA Directors vote accordingly to keep as many director seats as possible for ND. (M-Mark, 2nd-Rick)

- ◆ USCA Dues increase for playing down. Fee increased by \$100. That would make the fee for playing down at the state level \$240 in ND.
- ◆ Playdown changes: If there are less than three teams playing down at the state level, we will be combined with MN for playdowns. This also works if MN has less than three teams playing down; they will be forced to playdown in ND then.
- ◆ Other WCF Rule Changes:
 - ◆ Fifth player substitution- A team can now substitute a player at the end of any end and subsequently can then change the team's shooting order also.
 - ◆ Sweeping behind the tee line- Any 1 member of the team can sweep behind the tee line, not just the skip.
 - ◆ Age Restrictions- There are no age restrictions for the following playdowns: men's and women's. There will be no funding for world senior curling.
 - ◆ Starting in 2005, the men's and women's world curling championships will be held in separate venues. One championship will be in Canada every year.

- ◆ Earlier deadlines for state playdown registration. Registration will be through the USCA and the regions will receive the list of playdown teams from the USCA.
- ◆ Possible change of playdown policy. Discussion about national playdowns and club playdowns. This would eliminate state or regional playdowns. Idea behind the change would be to allow the elite curlers more time for higher levels of competition rather than playing down and the club and state levels.
- ◆ Announcement of USCA event locales: US Senior Nationals, Grafton, ND Dec. 11-14, 2003, and the Junior B Tournament at either Bismarck, ND or Bemidji, MN on Nov. 21-23, 2003.
- ◆ Selection of the Junior B teams will take place in August.
- ◆ Winnie Bloomquist stepped down from USDA Director position, replacement discussed. Not sure how long director would serve. Contingent upon changes in the USCA board. Nominations- George Phillips (M-Chris, 2nd-Tom) Cease nominations (M-Frank, 2nd-Roger) Nomination carried, George Phillips is the new USCA Director for ND.
- ◆ Upcoming USCA meetings: Sept. 12-14, 2003- Vote will take place for board restructuring. April 2-4, 2004

CLUB REPORTS:

Devils Lake: Some new members. Roof repair continues. Working on youth development.

Williston: Doing well. Held High School league in 2002 on Monday nights for 6 weeks. Six teams competed in this league. Also, have open and men's league. Going to offer a curling class for college credit in January and February next year.

Grand Forks: 225 members last year- numbers look to increase for 2003. Busy getting ready to host Nationals in 2004. UND has contacted the club regarding starting two intramural leagues through the school.

Langdon: Maintained membership this year. No ladies league. Men were about the same. Mixed league was down. Had to repair compressor this year. Gaming doing well.

Minot: Had to refurbish the plant this year. Took out a bank loan and an interest free loan from the club members. Women's league- Monday nights has very good interest. Two Open Leagues. Bonspiel numbers have been down- mostly Canadian teams.

Grafton: Two men's leagues, one women's league. Membership increased this year. Doing well financially.

Fargo-Moorhead: Big turnaround in membership this year. Youth curling hosted two sessions. 80 kids in the first session and another 64 in the second session. Cut club debt in half. Due to the youth curling, some parents expressed interest in curling also. Started opening club Friday nights to let them try it. This lasted about 2 months and was \$5 a night to curl. Possibility of a new facility through the Park Board.

Bismarck: 40-50 new members. 2 junior leagues. Little Rocks- ages 8-13- is held Sat. mornings and 40+ kids attended. Junior league- ages 14+- on Monday afternoons had about 40 kids also. Started a mixed league this year. Summerspiel has 40-45 registered so far. Hosting an Early Bird Spiel in October. Held a Beginner Spiel for curlers with 1-2 years experience. Had 8 teams sign up.

Rapid City, SD- Rushmore CC: 24 paid members currently. Of those, 3 have curled before. Scheduled to have ice Saturday mornings at a local arena. Possibly 2 other league nights. 2 arenas are presently offering ice time. Local Harley dealership owner has taken an interest in

curling and there is a possibility of a sponsorship. No rocks yet. Ryan is working with George on that. Crosby is a possibility for buying rocks. Came to Bismarck to learn about ice care and maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ **Website-** Coordinator needed to update information on the website. Discussion about allowing a few people around the state to enter info onto the website. Jennifer agreed to keep website up to date. USCA website has database of all members. You can go online to update any personal info. Also discussed that clubs should get a list of members and their email addresses for future use and reference.
- ◆ **Kim Deats-** expenses turned in last fall. Secretarial expenses of \$600 turned into Jackie. Discussion of if we should pay for these expenses. Motion to reimburse Kim for secretarial expenses incurred. (M-Rick, 2nd-Mark)
- ◆ **Playdown Format-** Discussion regarding a 14-team playoff or allowing all teams play that enters. Points to consider were:
 - ◆ Will increase in USCA fee drop interest in playdowns?
 - ◆ Number of playdown teams may be high again due to possibility of national playdowns instead of regional.

Discussion of setting a maximum limit for the number of teams that could playdown. Last year 22 teams played down at state level. Possibility of making the limit 24 teams. Motion made to allow all teams that register to play & decide playdown format based on the number of teams that enter. (M-Jackie, 2nd-Mark) Vote need to decide majority- 7 for, 5 opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Playdown Sites & Dates:

Men's & Women's State: Fargo, ND January 15-18, 2004 Thursday Morning Start-
Possibly

Junior's State: Drayton will be offered 1st chance, if not, than Langdon will host
January 2-4, 2004

Mixed State: Minot will be offered 1st chance, if not, Langdon or Devils Lake will host
January 30- February 1, 2004

High School State- Bismarck- date TBD by host club- sometime in March

Mixed Nationals are March 20-27, 2004

Junior Nationals are January 31-February 8, 2004

2nd Chance is February 12-15, 2004 in Waupaca, WI

College Playdowns- date can be decided by host club. Grand Forks was interested in this. Will decide date for playdowns.

Deadlines for state registration are Dec. 7, 2003 for Juniors and Dec. 15, 2003 for men and women. Must register through the USCA.

Under-reporting of Dues: Grafton, Petersburg, and Langdon have reported different membership numbers to the USCA than what was submitted to the NDCA. There are 930 ND members currently paid at the USCA. If the correct number of members is not reported and paid for, monies could be withheld from a club if they are hosting an NDCA funded event. It was suggested to send out a list of NDCA and USCA functions that are provided for each paid member to show what the organizations do for them.

New Clubs: Ryan reported that the Rapid City club has its bylaws and board in place. Asked NDCA to allow the SD club to become a member of the NDCA. The NDCA bylaws do state that NDCA governs all ND clubs. Discussion of changing the bylaws to include other states. A

motion was made to include South Dakota into the NDCA pursuant upon changes to the by-laws. (M-George, 2nd-Roger) Motion carried.

Jeff reported that the Grand Forks Curling Classic requested to have a paper club status with the NDCA. It was discussed and found that they do not have the 20 member minimum to be recognized as a club by the NDCA.

USCA Directors: As stated earlier, George Phillips was selected to replace Winnie Bloomquist as a USCA Director. There also was discussion about the reimbursed expenses of the directors. The directors are reimbursed \$250 per meeting, and there are 2 meetings per year. Not everyone attends all meetings or stays for the whole weekend. Ideas included defining "meeting" either as the weekend as a meeting or the individual meetings that take place during the weekend, and having a per diem expense instead of a meeting expense. Leave issue as it is for now.

USCA Marketing Workshop: If there is enough interest in a club or area to have a workshop, the USCA will come and put on a marketing workshop. A club would need to host the event, and if other clubs are interested, they could attend and help with costs. Rapid City may benefit from this workshop the most.

Challenge Match vs. MN: Jeff suggested having a challenge match between states or clubs. Juniors, men, and women could compete. Best of 3 or 5 series.

Other Business:

- ◆ Viking tickets available- need 40 members statewide to attend. Jeff Kitchens needs the registration money by the end of May.
- ◆ Jackie proposed a state sponsored or sanctioned senior event. State Senior Bonspiel. Decided to look into more and discuss at the fall meeting.
- ◆ Prairie Rose State Games- asked Bismarck to have curling to be a sanctioned event. Didn't work because of a scheduling conflict. Games will be held in Bismarck again in 2006 if interested.
- ◆ Date for fall meeting is set for September 27, 2003 at Minot.

Motion to adjourn meeting (M-Cindy, 2nd-Roger). Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Tibert
NDCA Secretary