



[National Curling Academy construction site Nov 2016]



[Wheelchair B Silver Medallists, © WCF / J. Ojanpera. Nov 2016]



[Ross Whyte with Yu Han of China at YOG, Lillehammer. Feb 2016]

1. Introduction

British Curling is the body responsible for the development and delivery of a sustainable performance programme for the sport that will ensure British curlers can achieve their potential and deliver medals on the world stage the pinnacle of which is the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This report covers the activities and business during the season 2015-2016, to inform member and partner organisations. The members of British Curling are:

- English Curling Association
- Royal Caledonian Curling Club
- Scottish Wheelchair Curling Association
- Welsh Curling Association

The people who have been responsible for the governance of the business during the year are the directors. As prescribed in the Articles of the company, the recruitment of directors took place in 2014, after the Olympic Games and again in 2016. Below is the list of all persons who served as directors during the year.

- Gillian Howard
- Alastair MacNish
- William Nicoll (Chairman)
- Dawn Watson
- Hew Chalmers (retired September 2016)
- Nigel Holl (re-appointed September 2016)
- Russell Keiller (re-appointed September 2016)
- Margaret Richardson (appointed September 2016)

This last year saw the organisation support the performance programme and follow its strategy that provides a vision towards 2022. The board are supported by a number of staff from UK Sport, sportscotland and the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

2. Operations

British Curling has continued to develop its policies, procedures and governance measures to sit behind the performance side of the sport to ensure consistency, quality and stability in what it does. The governance of British Curling was audited by Moore Stephens for UK Sport in August 2016, the report is pending but expected to show that the systems and procedures are adequate for the sport.

The staff working in the performance programme have been led by Graeme Thompson, Performance Director and included a team of coaches and support service providers over the year with full time coaching staff of Tony Zummack (Head of Coaching) and Sheila Swan (Wheelchair Head Coach), Nancy Smith (Coach) and Viktor Kjall (Coach).. They have been supported by a number of highly experienced Team Coaches. Furthermore the programme receives excellent support services from sportscotland Institute of Sport. The key areas of this support are lead by:

Performance Analysis	Kenny More
Performance Lifestyle	Brown Ferguson

Nutrition	Irene Riach
Physio	Lindsay Thomson (maternity cover for Maggie Bush)
Strength and Conditioning	Dave Leith
Psychology	Misha Botting

This last season saw the appointment of a dedicated resource for media in the form of Kate Weldon. Kate has worked directly with the athletes to develop their media presence and has re-vamped the website to have a more up to date image. She has also developed links with an array of media including most notably BBC Alba, who covered Perth Masters and City of Perth Ladies tournaments.

3. Performance

The principal competition for a Great Britain team was the Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer in February 2016. The competition format is for a mixed team of 2 men and 2 women. The GBR team reached the Quarter Final where they were beaten 9-5 by Russia. The athletes selected were:

Mixed Team

Mili Smith
Callum Kinnear
Amy Bryce
Ross Whyte

Following the mixed competition the teams were paired up with players from other nations for a mixed doubles competition and **Ross Whyte** was paired with Yu Han of China and they won silver medal.

Other medal winning results from the athletes in the performance programme who competed on the European and World stages were as follows:

2015 European Championships in Esbjerg, SCO women = 2nd

2016 World Junior Championships, SCO men = 1st

The first year for Olympic points were awarded for qualification towards the TeamGB qualifying for the WOG in 2018, these were:

- Men 2016 Worlds SCO 7th = 6 Olympic points
- Women 2016 Worlds SCO 5th = 8 Olympic points
- Mixed Doubles 2016 Worlds SCO 4th = 9 Olympic points

All these results mean that at present GB are on track to be at the 2018 Winter Olympics but with the 2017 World Championships to come.

The Scottish Wheelchair Curling Team finished 1st / 2nd at the World Wheelchair B Championships in November 2016 so will return to the World Championships in Pyeongchang in Feb 2017.

The Scottish Wheelchair team had already gained 3 Paralympic qualification points in 2015 and this result confirms that ParalympicsGB will be able to send a team to Pyeongchang for the 2018 Games.

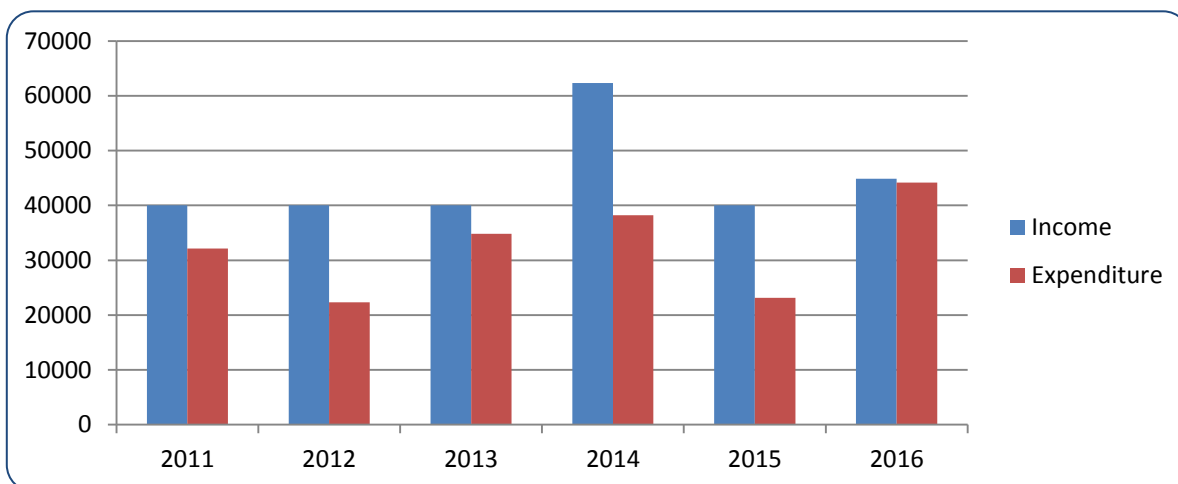
The Wheelchair team's return to the World Championships will provide them with the key opportunity to obtain a result there, which may re attract investment from UK Sport from 1st October 2017.

The other notable results from UK Home Nation teams were at the World Junior B Championships in January 2016 in Finland, where English Junior men 12th and women 17th. English Mixed Doubles team finished 8th at the World Mixed Doubles Championships in 2016. English Wheelchair team finished 4th at the World B Championships in Nov 2016.

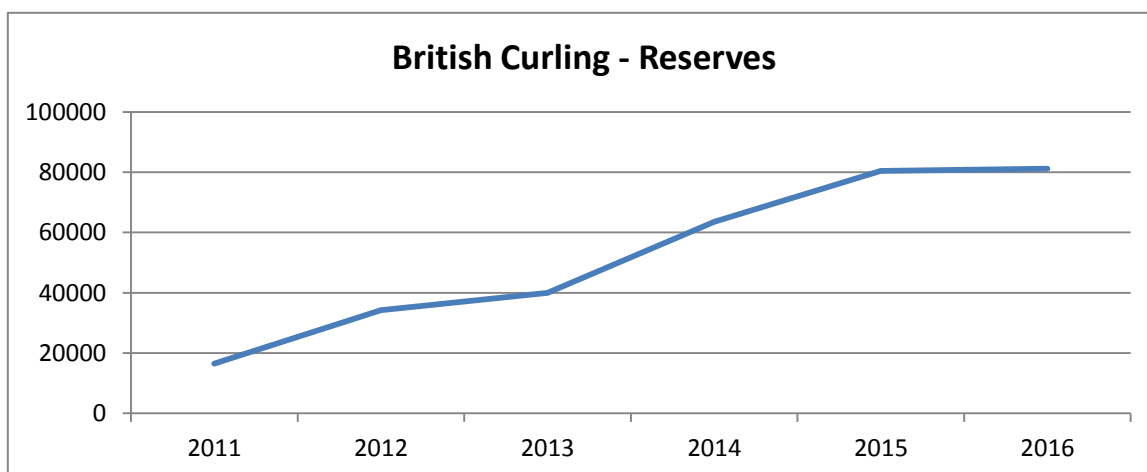
4. Financial Report

The season 2015-16 was the second in the 2018 Olympic cycle and the arrangement for delivery of the World Class Curling Performance Programme for the Men, Women and Wheelchair programmes continues to be done by sportscotland.

British Curling continues to be responsible for the governance element of the overall programme and has maintained prudent operations within the allocated budget. Broadly speaking the finances are in a healthy position with a net surplus for the year of £670 and the reserves showing at £81,000. The board had previously approved the budgets for the 4 years of the cycle and the table below illustrates the income and expenditure over the last few years.



British Curling continues to operate with a modest amount of funding held in reserve, and in line with previous commitment to members, these have been utilised for the benefit of the sport. The balance of the reserves is represented in the table below.



The independent accountants report gives a positive review of the accounts, giving British Curling a clean bill of health. A full copy of the accounts will be posted on the British Curling website once approved by the members at the AGM in December 2016.

5. Looking Ahead

The Pyeongchang quadrennial period is progressing well in performance terms with a home European Curling Championships in November 2016 ahead of the final Olympic qualification points opportunities in March and April 2017.

The curling performance programme was extended to include Mixed Doubles as an Olympic discipline in 2018, so this has created an additional medal opportunity for TeamGB. Work has been progressing in developing the discipline and we hope this continues in the coming seasons to 2018 and beyond.

The construction pictured below is of the National Curling Academy which got underway in August 2016, with expected completion by 30 June 2017, to be ready for curling by September 2017 in the lead up to the Olympic/Paralympic season.



British Curling wishes to recognise the significant contributions made by partners who have helped to achieve the outcomes during the whole of the last quadrennial. Special thanks must be recorded for the following:

- UK Sport and National Lottery
- Sportscotland (and their Institute of Sport)
- Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Thanks are also due to other organisations that support British Curling or the performance curling programme in delivering outcomes, these include:

- British Olympic Association
- British Paralympic Association
- Curling Rinks: the Peak, Kinross, Greenacres, Dewars, Intu Braehead, Murrayfield and Curl Aberdeen
- Stirling Council and Active Stirling

British Curling is also grateful for the significant contribution of time and expertise provided by volunteers as directors, coaches and other supporting roles. The achievements outlined in this report reflect the valued contributions of them all.