



[National Curling Academy opened August 2017]



[World Wheelchair Champs, Bronze Medallists, © WCF/Stucki. Mar 2017]



[GBR Mens Team at WUGS, Almaty, KAZ. Feb 2017]

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 (retired June 2017)
- William Nicoll (Chairman)
- Dawn Watson (retired October 2017)
- Nigel Holl (re-appointed September 2016)
- Russell Keiller (re-appointed September 2016)
- Margaret Richardson (appointed September 2016, retired September 2017)
- Rob Niven (appointed June 2017)

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 is continually improving and new policies have been revised or added in the past year as UK Sport places stringent demands on the organisations in which it invests to meet the new Governance Code.

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 led by:

Performance Analysis	Kenny More
Performance Lifestyle	Brown Ferguson
Nutrition	Irene Riach
Physio	Lindsay Thomson
Strength and Conditioning	Dave Leith
Psychology	Misha Botting
Administration	Rachel Hally (Curling), Katrina Drummond (Wheelchair)
Media	Kate Weldon

3. Performance

The principal competition for Great Britain teams was the World University Games in Almaty in February 2017. The GBR Women's team were tied jointly in third place after the round robin stage but were eliminated in tie breaker by losing 4-6 against Switzerland and finished in 5th place. The GBR Men's team were unbeaten in the round robin stage and won against Norway in the Semi Final 9-8, against Sweden in the final they won 8-6 to take the title.

The athletes selected were:

Women

Gina Aitken – University of Glasgow
 Rowena Kerr – Heriot-Watt University
 Rachael Halliday – University of Strathclyde
 Rachel Hannen – University of Stirling
 Angharad Ward – Durham University

Men

Bruce Mouat – Napier University
 Bobby Lammie – University of Stirling
 Gregor Cannon – University of Strathclyde
 Derrick Sloan – Robert Gordon University
 Alasdair Schrieiber – University of Strathclyde

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

2016 European Curling Championships in Braehead, SCO women: 3rd
 2017 World Wheelchair Curling Championships 2nd
 2017 World Women Curling Championships, SCO: 3rd
 2017 World Junior Curling Championships, Women: 2nd

The Olympic and Paralympic points were earned by Scottish Teams for TeamGB qualifying for the Games in Pyeongchang in 2018, these were:

	2015	2016	2017	Total
• Men		6 points	7 points	13 Q
• Women		8 points	10 points	18 Q
• Wheelchair	3 points	0 points	8 points	11 Q
• Mixed Doubles		9 points	2 points	11 DNQ

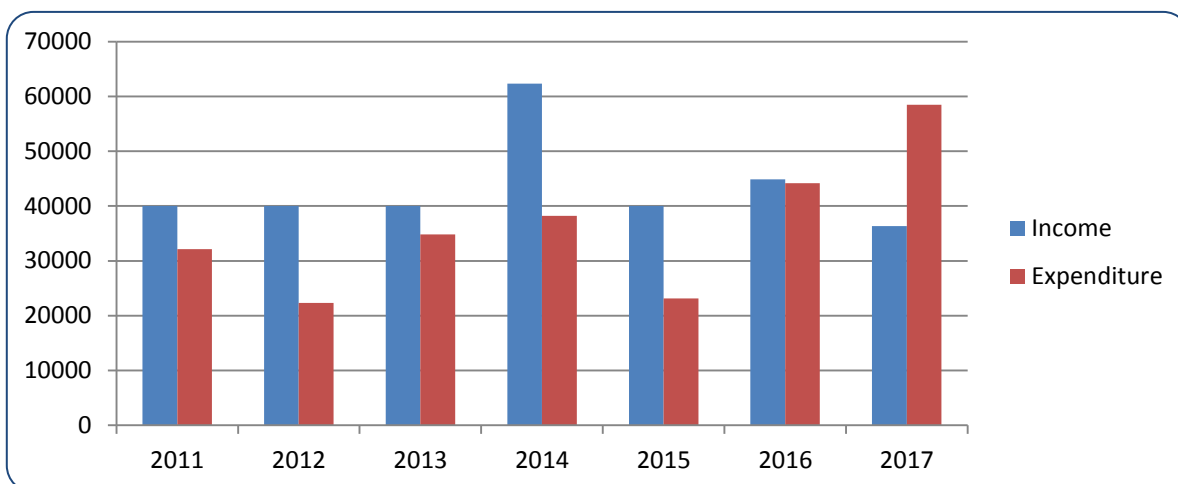
The Scottish Wheelchair Curling Team finished 2nd at the World Wheelchair B Championships in Finland in November 2016 so qualified for the World Championships in Pyeongchang in Feb 2017 and before the start had already met the points required, then went on to secure bronze medals.

The Wheelchair team's return to the World Championships and podium result there, were key to re-secure investment from UK Sport for the Paralympic season.

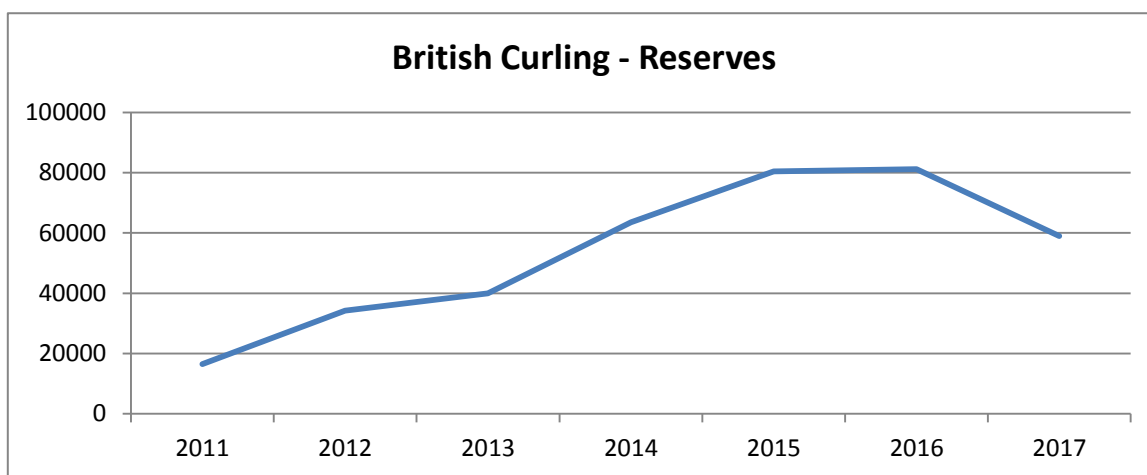
4. Financial Report

The season 2016-17 was the third in the 2018 Olympic cycle and the arrangement for delivery of the World Class Curling Performance Programme for the Men, Women, Mixed Doubles and Wheelchair programmes continues to be done through 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, there was a planned deficit for the year with the aim of reducing the reserves and putting more resource into the performance programme. The reserves at the end of the financial year are £59,017. 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 the board’s policy on reserves being kept at not less than £20,000. In line with previous commitment to members, all resources have been utilised for the benefit of the sport. The balance of the reserves is represented in the table below.



As a percentage of the overall cost of the Olympic and Paralympic programmes in Britain, the governance budget represents 3% of the total investment of £5,655,150. The directors are all volunteers with an honorarium payment only provided to the chairman at £3,000 per year.

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 2017.

5. Governance

British Curling continues to develop its policies and procedures in line with good practice for the industry. In response to the new Governance Code, adopted by UK Sport in 2016, British Curling has made provision for a number of amendments to the articles of the company, to be considered by the members in the December 2017 AGM.

6. Equalities

The development of a Diversity Action Plan has been an early stage in the process of engendering greater diversity within the organisation. This involves the HNGBs leading in the promotion of diversity within their programmes and activities that can attract wider representation.

In board recruitment, since 2016 British Curling has expressly stated that it welcomes applicants from all sections of the community.

7. Looking Ahead

British Curling has submitted its Beijing Performance Strategy to UK Sport as per in line with the Investment process operated by them.

Since the selection of the Olympic teams in May 2017, there has been a key focus on their preparations for the Olympics in February 2018. The Paralympic Wheelchair Curling team will be selected in December 2017 but in a similar vein the GB squad have been focused on preparations for the Paralympics Games in March 2018.

The curling performance programme will continue to promote Mixed Doubles as the new Olympic discipline in 2018, with hopes of qualifying a team for 2022. Work has been progressing in developing the discipline and we expect this to continue in the coming seasons.

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
- The National Lottery
- Sportscotland (and the sportscotland 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.