

## World Curling Championships Firsts

Victorian Curling Association – Saturday, 01 MAY 2010



IN an exciting match that required an extra end, Australia defeated Switzerland to claim the bronze medal in the senior men's world curling championship last week in Chelyabinsk, Russia. This is Australia's first ever medal in the World Curling Championships, in an event that was full of firsts. In the mixed doubles competition New Zealand faced the host nation in the gold medal game. In front of a crowd of over 1500, the Russians took the gold; the first World Curling Championship for Russia and the first world curling medal for New Zealand. The bronze medal game was also quite exciting, requiring an extra end for China to defeat Spain.

Playing in both the senior men's and the mixed doubles competitions, Australian skip Hugh Millikin said the tournament was tiring. "I played 15 games over 7 days, and mixed doubles is very physical as you sweep just about every rock." Playing in both competitions, Millikin faced a couple of scheduling conflicts where he had to leave the senior's competition to join his mixed doubles partner. Kim Forge was attending her first World Curling Championships, "after some initial nerves, she played extremely well. If we didn't run into a very hot Russian team, a medal was a possibility."

Speaking about the senior men's competition, Millikin said, "A great performance with team Canada was pleasure to be a part of. Then the bronze medal game was close from the first rock to the last." A last shot draw in the eighth end put Australia in the position of having to steal for the win in the extra end. "A great draw from Ted Basset at Third and two guards left the Swiss skip with a virtually impossible last shot." The Swiss rock held the line and found the port, but ended up just a bit too heavy. Australia stole one, and claimed the bronze medal.

At the end of the match, Millikin said, "I'm speechless, which is unusual for me. It's the first medal for Australia in World Championship Curling! Not bad – it took me twenty years – but it's not bad!"