



AFL Europe

2018 General Assembly Meeting (GAM) Minutes

Cork, Ireland

14th October, 2018

Minutes taken and documented by Lily Beck

Meeting Agenda:

Item No.	Agenda Item	Presenter
1.	Introductions/Welcomes/Apologies	Oliver Howard
2.	Appointment of Chair and Secretary of General Assembly	Oliver Howard
3.	Ratification of 2017 General Assembly Minutes	Chair
4.	Chairman Report	Oliver Howard
5.	AFL Europe Commission Resignations & Appointments	Chair
6.	Western Europe Community Committee	Michael Currane
7.	Northern Europe Community Committee	Ryan Tucker
8.	Central & Eastern Europe Community Committee	Josip Kravar
9.	General Manager Report	Ryan Davey
10.	Financial Report	Greg Hutton
11.	Events Calendar – 2019 & 2020	Lily Beck
12.	Team & Player Eligibility at AFL Europe Events	Lily Beck
13.	Articles of Association – Membership	Ryan Davey
14.	Ratification of Affiliate Members	Chair

Meeting open 10:12am

Attendees:

Oliver Howard (OH) – AFL Europe Commission & France / Finland proxy vote
Greg Hutton (GH) – AFL Europe Commission
Tom Rischbieth (TR) – AFL Europe Commission
Dan Jackson (DJ) – AFL Europe Commission
Ryan Davey (RD) – AFL Europe
Lily Beck (LB) – AFL Europe
Lisa Wilson (LW) – AFL Europe & Germany proxy vote
Will Taylor (WT) – AFL Europe
Riley Brettell (RB) – AFL Europe
Ivan Molnar (IM) – Croatia
Ivan Ivos (II) – Croatia
Josip Kravar (JK) – Croatia / AFL Europe Commission & Italy proxy vote
Brian Currane (BC) – Ireland
Michael Currane (MC) – Ireland / AFL Europe Commission & England proxy vote
Pat Leavy (PL) – Ireland
David Baldie (DB) – Scotland
Stefan Burgener (SB) – Switzerland
Katrina Stopinski (KS) – Umpires
Neil Cooke (NC) – Netherlands
Maurice Verbakel (MV) – Netherlands
James Gibson (JG) – Wales
Shir Shalev (SS) – Israel
Tasha Reshetinkova (TRe) – Israel
Ryan Tucker (RT) – Sweden / AFL Europe Commission
Slava Belov (SBe) – Russia

1. Introductions/ Welcomes/ Apologies

Oliver Howard (OH): A quorum is present and I open this General Assembly Meeting at 10.12am. A warm welcome to everyone present, and particularly a big thank you to the Euro Cup organising committee, it was a fantastic event and great day had by all at yesterday's tournament. We have a 3-hour time limit for today's meeting, with a number of people needing to catch flights so will stick to the schedule as far as possible. I will keep pushing things along so that we can stick to the time and meeting will close no later than 1pm. Structures are in place to describe AFL Europe issues not requiring attention today – the AFL Europe team would always be pleased to discuss outside of this meeting if need be or time requires.

2. Appointment of Chair and Secretary of General Assembly Meeting

Oliver Howard (OH): The first agenda item is to nominate a chair for the meeting. I nominate myself. Does anyone else want to nominate for Chair of the meeting?

No objection or other nomination – Oliver Howard elected to act as chairman of this meeting.

I nominate Lily Beck as secretary for the meeting.

No objections or other nomination – Lily Beck elected to act as secretary and keep minutes of the meeting.

3. Ratification of 2017 General Assembly Minutes

Oliver Howard (OH): The next item is to ratify 2017 GAM Minutes.

Ireland passed and Sweden seconded the minutes.

4. Chairman's Report

Oliver Howard (OH): I have been involved on the AFL Europe Commission for four years, the last two of those as Chairman of the AFL Europe Commission, and this year more than ever I am delighted to deliver a report to our Members and wider community.

2017 was a year of consolidation for AFL Europe, with a focus on restructuring and building the foundations for growth. 2018 has been the beginning of growth and development, giving us a great launching pad for further international expansion in 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity up front to publicly acknowledge and thank the AFL Europe team in 2018 – Ryan, Lily, Lisa, Riley and Will – for the tireless work they have undertaken this year. Ryan and his team continue their fantastic work: organising fabulous events like yesterday's Euro Cup, releasing the updated AFL Europe website, increasing the numbers of participants across the continent, running programs to train coaches and umpires in all corners of the continent, and

strengthening the organisation financially allowing further investment in growth. I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved in 2018.

As the governing body for Australian Football in Europe, 2018 has seen AFL Europe support the community for our member countries across right across Europe. We now have over 7,000 players, 200 accredited coaches and nearly 100 accredited umpires in Europe, and have an enduring focus to continue this growth even further.

This past year has also been a magnificent success for the AFL's game development both domestically and internationally.

- 2018 broke the all-time season attendance record with over 7.5 million fans attending games;
- A second game for points was held in China;
- AFLW further entrenched its position, and from an AFL Europe perspective we loved to see the Bulldogs being led to a flag by former Wimbledon Hawks Premiership player Lauren Spark; and
- AFLX, a new format, was launched which closely resembles the 9-a-side format often played on European soccer pitches.

These initiatives can only bode well for continued international expansion.

In addition, the Elite Talent Identification Program continues to uncover European talent and our players are thriving in the AFL and AFLW. 2018 marks the launch of CrossCoders, a program strongly endorsed and supported by AFL Europe, creating a new elite pathway for European women to play AFLW. From 100 applicants, 18 young women were recently invited to Australia for testing where a number of European athletes broke combine records and at least 2 rookie contracts have been offered already (with more expected through the upcoming draft) – this is a huge success, and a big thank you to Jason Hill, Michael Currane and the team for their vision and hard work. The CrossCoders program will be even bigger and better next year, and I'm sure will create opportunities for many of the women playing yesterday.

Finally, I am extremely pleased to announce that His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, has agreed to continue acting as Patron of AFL Europe for another 3 years. His Royal Highness and Australian Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull were presented with AFL Europe jumpers in Villers Bretonneux at the ANZAC Day service in a great show of support.

There are still challenges, we do not shy away from that, and we look forward to continuing to help all of our Member countries to overcome these hurdles. Particularly I would like to use this forum to call out the importance of succession planning - at club and country level. I am always amazed by the passion and drive of those in our community, none more than those of you in the room today, but things happen and circumstances change, so to ensure the continuation and evolution of footy it's essential that you all have succession plans in place.

From AFL Europe's perspective 2018 has been an incredibly successful year. None of this would be possible without our outstanding volunteers across Europe and the

continued support from the AFL's Game Development Team, our AFL Europe partners and sponsors.

Thank you all - your efforts and support are greatly appreciated.

5. AFL Europe Commission Resignations and Appointments

Oliver Howard (OH): AFL Europe Commissions have a two-year term. The Commission consists of the Chairman, 3 appointed commissioners and 3 elected commissioners. This year we appoint the 3 Commissioners.

Oliver Howard (OH): After 6 years on the Commission (mostly as Chairman), Chris Dow has decided it's time to step down. Chris has been a huge reason for the success of AFL Europe and his relentless drive and passion has ensured the continued growth of footy in Europe. Chris has always been an amazing leader and mentor and there's no doubt he will be greatly missed.

Oliver Howard (OH): We move to appointments. I nominate to Chair AFL Europe for another two years. Does anyone else want to nominate for the role?

No objection or other nomination – Oliver Howard elected to act as Chairman for a second term.

Oliver Howard (OH): In my capacity as Chairman, I re-appoint Tom Rischbieth and Greg Hutton to the AFL Europe Commission each for a further 2-year term. Tom and Greg have been essential to the stability and growth of AFL Europe and I am very pleased to have their continued involvement. I also appoint Daniel Jackson to the AFL Europe Commission replacing Chris Dow. We are extremely lucky to have Dan agree to join the team. I expect most of you know (or know of) Dan from his 11 year career at Richmond – 156 games, a Best & Fairest win in 2013, the inaugural winner of the Jim Stynes Community and Leadership Award in 2012 for his work with a number of community programs, and a board member of the AFL Players Association. In addition to his standout AFL career, Dan has a demonstrated history of supporting grass-roots and international footy, having helped coach the French national team at the IC2011 and IC2014 and since retiring has worked with the Canadian national women's team and numerous club teams in Canada, the USA, England and France. He is currently studying a masters of performance psychology in Edinburgh whilst also working with young students and athletes in the UK and USA on high performance development. Please join me in welcoming Dan.

Dan Jackson (DJ): Thanks Ollie. I'm really excited to be here and loved to watch the Euro Cup yesterday. I coached the French team and that was my first experience with international footy. Since then I moved to Canada and got hands on there. I think there is great opportunity, particularly in the international women's games. Being in London and around the England leagues is a great opportunity for me. I love travelling to different countries and doing training sessions, so hopefully I can be of use at a grassroots level. Really happy to be involved.

6. Western Europe Community Committee

Oliver Howard (OH): Let's move to some country reports. To streamline the meeting we are going to be led by the three community elected Commissions as they report on their regions. Let's start with Western Europe.

Michael Currane (MC): Starting with Ireland, in the last 12 months the men's game was pretty stagnant. Four teams played in carnival format and the four clubs were strong throughout the year and set to continue into 2019. Strategies in place now for the Warriors to perhaps follow the women's 7-a-side format. We've seen very strong growth in women at the moment. AFL Ireland women's started one year ago and we had 15 girls left in Ireland. We've now had 130 girls play over the last 12 months. The women's growth is set to continue to grow with lots of momentum. We've competed in Euro Cup, Champions League, a USA Revolution tour in Dublin and Belfast, and we're trying to establish more international games. I was involved with Crosscoders as a Coach and Ambassador in Melbourne and it was really successful with two girls signed within the first few days. We're very excited to see the draft in a few weeks. AFL Europe will be very strongly represented.

Oliver Howard (OH): Where does CrossCoders go next year?

Michael Currane (MC): There was a certain amount of resistance at the start but we proved that it worked. Three AFLW clubs came down and were present throughout. We saw some very interesting results from the combine testing. The turning point was when the CrossCoders girls beat the VFLW side comfortably. We could move earlier next year so that AFLW clubs haven't already selected their rookies. Could take 20-30 people for a Melbourne based combine. It was a great experience for all involved this year and they will bring that knowledge back to their own league. Really opened the club's eyes to international potential.

James Gibson (JG): Wales women's growth is massive. Men's is stagnant at the moment but targeting universities and have got 300 people signed at 3 universities. We're running sessions at the moment and they're a mix of about 50/50 men and women. We're targeting programs for men's growth and working in with AFL England and using the 18-a-side format as well. Working with southern England to get games with different teams occasionally to get participation against other teams.

David Baldie (DB): In Scotland, our growth is from men's right now. Tyne Tees Tigers have joined our league which improved the standard. West Lothian Eagles were a development team this year but will join as a full team next year bringing it to a 6-team league. Women's league is planned for next year or year after. Lots of the Scottish girls are Team GB involved so we want to give them more playing opportunities. The Scottish Sirens had 13 girls on the team yesterday which is the biggest ever. Clansmen finished highest ever place yesterday. Trying to work with AFL England to learn from them. Also got an Auskick club in Scotland.

Michael Currane (MC): AFL England report from Jason Hill. They have three very strong leagues. AFL London has 5 divisions playing 18-a side. AFL South England and Central Northern England play 9-a-side. All league winners are invited to Champions League. National Universities League now established with Cardiff

Universities as well. England has a total of 22 Men's teams and 12 Women's teams across the country. New committee in place who are trying to improve things where possible. Men's game is stagnant, but universities are a big opportunity. The dominant clubs in London are causing a lopsided league which is potentially problematic. Other issues are the reliance on Australian expats, particularly in London.

Michael Currane (MC): Report from France is that they have been pretty consistent over the last 12 months. Two teams at both Euro Cup and Champions League this year. Possible University team in place who are keen to play an Irish University team. Uni football identified as a strong opportunity across the board. Tie those players into the existing clubs when they graduate.

Michael Currane (MC): Areas that have gone quiet in our region are Andorra and Spain.

Ryan Davey (RD): We've had some recent interest in Belgium, which may be an opportunity for your region as well.

Michael Currane (MC): That summarises the Western Europe region at the moment. AFL Europe has been phenomenal this year in terms of support.

7. Northern Europe Community Committee

Ryan Tucker (RT): Northern Europe region report. In general, the region is quite stable, not much growth or decline. Good opportunities for growth in new countries in the area, but we're working on building numbers in existing regions. We're looking into Estonia which Lisa is working on. Also looking to increase games for the Russian team. Finland has regrouped and improving things with the goal to get a national team playing. Sweden has started a second women's team, and there is lots of women's interest in general. Denmark Men's team returned yesterday after a few years off and won the tournament. There are high quality teams in the men's competition in Denmark. Norway has probably decreased the most, there's been a downturn in commitment and playing numbers. The Netherlands have been going from strength to strength and have really good plans in place for the future. Iceland are quite inactive, and we have trouble getting in contact with them. Common themes across the region for struggles similar to the West and England. Australians on visas are only around for a short time and need to leave structures in place for the next group of leaders. Need to focus on getting more locals involved to make it more long term, which will help with future national teams as well. It's much easier to recruit Australians but we need to introduce the game to new people. Geographically there's a split in how often counties are involved. To the East there is less opportunity to play whereas Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands have dominating leagues in the area. Players prioritise their local leagues. We should move to progress things in the East to get new players. There's also a trend towards an aging player group in most countries which means recruitment has declined. We need to recruit new talent coming through as a lot of 30+ players in teams. Need to get new players early before others retire. Focus on grassroots level with practical plans for the long term. We can help get these plans in place. Motivation and time

constraints can stop how much time people have to commit to growing the game. Increase communication within the region to help each other out.

Maurice Verbakel (MV): Ryan passed along message well. In the build-up to Euro Cup we had a tournament between Switzerland and France which was helpful, and we thought it was a good idea for other countries to help build and get ready for Euro Cup. Communicate with other teams and it could be really good for growth of the sport internationally, reach out to other clubs and countries. We need to get new people involved at an organisational level to replace people when they step down. Succession plan is definitely needed.

Slava Belov (SBe): Quick update on Russia. It was a good year for Russia thanks to St. Petersburg Cup. We had a tournament and coaching course with now 12 coaches accredited in Russia. We had training 3 times a week before Euro Cup. Our first point yesterday was scored by someone who just joined in August. This was helped by the coaches. Moscow has declined so St. Petersburg is the only club in Russia now. Biggest incentive is national team but now players are not playing in national team, so they have no incentive. No real rivalry within Russia as it's the same club playing each other. We need another club in Moscow for more motivation to play and win. Retention is low at the moment. We are planning to play Finland next year in their three tournaments to get more games. Growing point is University so working on presenting that to them in St. Petersburg. Could help with getting more national players. This is difficult because AFL is not a registered sport in Russia but we are working on it. AFL Europe have been very supportive.

Ryan Tucker (RT): We have spoken about having a Northern Europe weekend where everyone gets together for a game. Countries pair off and travel for a game against another Northern Europe team. Will try for next summer but it didn't get off the ground this year.

8. Central & Eastern Europe Community Committee

Josip Kravar (JK): Most countries in our region have one club except Croatia. Czech Republic were involved in CEAFL to keep getting games for the last two years. They hosted a tournament this year. They want to play some southern German clubs as it's close for them. They're just focusing on maintaining one club for now and maybe grow in the future. Trying to recruit more locals. Austria has a new club in Vienna. All going well with one Aussie and a few locals setting it up. Italy has gone up and down. They are a recognised sport, but their club is isolated and only play one game a year. This is mostly due to Aussies going home. They're not very motivated but we will try to get them to play more games.

Stefan Burgener (SB): Switzerland competed in a CEAFL tournament this year as the Winterthur Lions. Our National team is made up of Winterthur players and had our first ever win against Italy recently. We want to continue playing in CEAFL but also working on a Swiss league with two new clubs coming up in Basel and Geneva. Lots of players joining new clubs with more potentials to join. Three clubs planned for next year and will have three tournaments per year, round-robin format plus finals. Each club has a couple of women involved and may have a women's game next

year and a league in the future. Will send the girls to play a game against Germany so they can get games.

Josip Kravar (JK): Croatia has potential for a new women's club, but we need some more numbers. Clubs have same recruitment problems as anyone but all are locals, no Aussies involved in the league. Main problem is not being a recognised sport so we cannot get grounds, do school programs, etc. Our priority is getting recognised status. We're also keen to find Croatian girls for Crosscoders, particularly some of the basketballers. Our overall league structure is good. Norwood FC are doing a tour to Croatia who will play the Knights and Queens. Tomislav went to play with them which was good to have contact with them. Every club in Croatia has a patron club so they provide us with merch etc.

Stefan Burgener (SB): I forgot to mention Winterthur have a partnership with Coburg lions in VFL. They're sending jumpers, and we use their logo and are on their website as an international member. Looking for the same for Basel and Geneva.

Lisa Wilson (LW): I moved to Germany last year. This time last year there was no women's team but we had a team play yesterday who did really well. We need to get behind the women's team and play more international games. Huge potential in the team with the girls coming 5th yesterday in their first tournament. We have made some good partnerships that have helped the leagues. The men's league plays both 9-a-side and 16-a side and have a competitive league plus Finals. I'm working with the development coordinator of the AFLG committee to implement women's tactics onto the men. This year we planned match games early and numbers grew each game and we found ways to make games work no matter what rather than cancelling if numbers were small. Planning on finding locations next year and doing exhibition games. Trying to do this for cities that don't currently have teams. We will have a women's league next year with teams in Hamburg, Berlin and Stuttgart/Munich, Frankfurt and will bring girls in from other countries to fill team numbers for games. Girl from VFL moving over to Germany to help get clubs setup. Working on expanding juniors activity in schools. I'll work on this once my German language improves. Overall German growth is really good. Plan on using Germany's strength to help everyone else around us. Women involved have been outstanding and there are a lot of supportive men as well.

Stefan Burgener (SB): Is it possible to get games between our clubs?

Lisa Wilson (LW): Yes

Josip Kravar (JK): There is one club in Serbia and Bulgaria and they will have their first games soon. We started a training program in Croatia in a sports university to train coaches and get certified. Problem is it costs a lot but once the fee is paid you can have as many people trained as you want.

Tasha Reshetinkova (Tre): People don't need visas to visit Israel. It was good yesterday to see the clubs and teams. Footy has been in Israel for over a decade but inconsistent. Started as a peace team to bring Palestinians and Jews together. That team played exhibition games, but funding dried and that club folded. A few players were left in Jerusalem and started the peace lions club. They played in the last two

Euro Cups but no manager is left for that team now. A few players in Tel Aviv have started a team. Practices started in May with a very young team. Many players played their first game yesterday at Euro Cup. A couple of Aussies have joined and created this brand new club which already has some good connections. Working towards establishing an AFL Israel. Trying to identify our strengths and weaknesses and establishing governing body. Goal for ourselves is to revive the Jerusalem club.

Shir Shalev (SS): Footy in Israel was founded by the Peace team and I started in Jerusalem. Tel Aviv right now is focusing on footy but still value diversity and the peace project. Footy used to be a tool for this but now we see ourselves as footy players. We want to have proper structures and growth.

Tasha Reshetinkova (Tre): It is a very special situation in our country. We are quite isolated and have calendar (weekday/weekend) differences. No proper sports culture in Israel.

Oliver Howard (OH): Let's take this offline and chat with the regions.

9. General Manager Report

Ryan Davey (RD): 2018 was another massive year for AFL Europe. Our events portfolio continued to strengthen with our marquee events being planned, promoted and delivered to an extremely high standard. It was fantastic to see such high participation numbers throughout each of these events, whilst also welcoming new university, club and national teams into each of our events. Congratulations, and thanks, to Lily Beck who managed our events portfolio and executed each extremely well.

We continued to have a high focus on Game Development programs throughout Europe, to ensure we provided a higher level of support for our members throughout Europe. Club development resources we made available to members and the Facebook Community groups provided a platform for information sharing. Over 100 coaches received their accreditation, along with over 50 new umpires – these key positions will see an increase in the quality of Football that is played across the continent. Special thanks to Lisa Wilson who joined and led out all Game Development programs and provided a tremendous amount of support for our members throughout the year.

This year we took a huge step forward in increasing the awareness of AFL Europe not only here in Europe but also back in Australia. The redevelopment of the AFL Europe website created a platform that would become a 'one stop shop' for all things relating to AFL in Europe. Whether you are relocating from Australia and want to identify where you could play the game here in Europe or whether you were new to the game and want to learn the concept, skills and rules of Australian Football – the new website answers all those questions and more. We saw an increase in the quantity and quality of articles that helped share the 'good news' stories that were occurring through Europe. We also saw the use of more video packages that would help increase awareness and interest in the game. This year we had an increase (record high) in articles featuring on afl.com.au, whilst we also had our greatest presence in print and radio media (in Australia) that we have ever had.

Congratulations to Riley Brettell and Will Taylor who drove this area of the business throughout the year.

It was very pleasing to increase our commercial foot print throughout 2018 with a record number of sponsors, merchandise sales, footballs sales and subscriptions. Our AFL Grand Final Lunch also generated a profit and will also lead to new business development opportunities. These additional revenue streams have allowed us to invest further in game development programs throughout Europe and allow us to provide a higher level of support to our members. It has also ensured that the organisation finds itself in a position of financial stability.

A lot has already been said about the talent programs and the incredible success we have seen with recent AFL and AFLW player signings. Pleasingly, I believe we can expect to see further player signings in the weeks and months to come. These players (reaching the highest level) generate a huge amount of interest in the Australian market and play a huge role in our ability to grow the sport. We saw Conor McKenna at Euro Cup yesterday, both he and Cora Staunton also attended our Grand Final Lunch in London a fortnight ago. These players, and others will follow, are incredible ambassadors for AFL Europe and we thank them for their support and I look forward to seeing each of them (and others) in action on the big stage next year.

We have continued to focus on having strong relationships with our key stakeholders, including but not limited to the AFL, AFL clubs, state league clubs. These lasting relationships are strengthening year on year and are critical as we look to grow the sport throughout Europe. We have already seen some great outcomes as a result of these stronger ties and we will continue to work hard to develop these further in years to come. This year has also seen an increased focus on ensuring that we operate with more structure. We saw an example of that yesterday with stricter player eligibility requirements, whilst difficult for some 'younger' teams, this was done so at the request of the community during the 2017 GAM, and by all reports this was well received by coaches and players with most feeling the integrity of the competition was increased. This is just one example, and we still have a long way to go, although I am confident that if we continue to operate in a more structured way it will assist with the growth of the game throughout Europe.

With Euro Cup behind us we immediately begin planning for the next phase and, looking beyond 2019, we are developing strategies to ensure the long-term success of AFL Europe. We will focus across all areas of the organisation with the key focus areas being; participation, events, partnerships, visibility, talent and governance. We look forward to this next phase and one that I am sure can be very fruitful for AFL Europe.

Finally, there is just a few people that I would like to thank after another busy year. They have already been mentioned, although to Lily, Lisa, Riley and Will; I would just like to say thank you for the mountain of work you all do behind the scenes – you really do go above and beyond, and it is very much appreciated. The AFL, who are an apology today, have been a tremendous support for me and for our Community and they continue to search for ways to help us grow the game. The AFL Europe Commission, I would like to thank each of you for the guidance and support that you

have provided me throughout the year. Attempting to grow the game of AFL in Europe is a challenging task, although I am fortunate to have the backing of each of you and I look forward to working with you moving forward. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank each of you sitting in the room (and those who couldn't attend today) – the AFL Europe Community, our Members. It is an absolute pleasure to work alongside such a passionate and enthusiastic group. I know this can be a difficult and, at times frustrating task, although we are certainly making some ground and starting to gain some real momentum. Yesterday is a perfect example of that and I hope you all enjoyed the day as much as I did and I cannot wait to regroup and start again, as together we work towards an even bigger and better 2019.

Oliver Howard (OH): Thanks Ryan. Two documents are being handed around at the moment. One is a report from the AFL. AFL send their apologies at this meeting and so have provided this report. Take this home and have a read. I'm now going to pass to Greg for the financial report.

10. Financial Report

Greg Hutton (GH): Everybody has a copy of the financial report. Please turn to page 8 to look at profit and loss for the year, and our sales for the year and now go to page 6 for the breakdown. The listed turnover includes the AFL operational grant, talent grant, and additional grant towards the International Cup last year. Our merchandise sales are footy jumpers and footballs. Sponsorship amount was £10000. Our events are all designed to break even except the Grand Final Lunch which made £6000 profit. We try to make money off these to reinvest into community. Please turn to page 8 for expenses. Ryan has managed our budgets extremely well to put money back into the community. Profit of £34000. Page 4 balance sheet shows assets and debts. Creditors were amounts paid early in 2018 around talent and GF lunch. Position that we sit in is a good spot. Commercial has been a big element of it and enables us to drive revenue to put into the community. Audit report is at the back of report. Any questions on 2017? None. The 2018 report will be presented next year but has had consistent AFL operational grant but improved sponsorship and commercial value as an increase. This sponsorship enables us to bring people like Lisa on board, and launch programs, grants etc. We will continue to drive this area. The overall cash at end of year will be a couple thousand to keep us stable but we put back into community what we can. We've started discussions with airlines around International Cup to get teams over cheaply. Any questions on 2018?

Tasha Reshetinkova (TRe): What are the membership fees?

Oliver Howard (OH): These are not charged. Funded by AFL Europe. This is an example of how we invest sponsorship money into the AFL Europe community, and we plan to continue this.

Oliver Howard (OH): Bit of housekeeping. We plan that our financial auditors will be the same next year, AC Partners in London. Any objections?

No objections so passed that AC Partners will be AFL Europe auditors in 2019.

Pat Leavy (PL): No but a comment. Everyone has worked tirelessly to get us back on track and we are now in a really good position. I did the audit for 7 years but it's always good to get a fresh set of eyes.

Oliver Howard (OH): Let's move on from financials.

11. Events Calendar – 2019 & 2020

Lily Beck (LB): The 2019 events calendar starts with our annual 9-a-side University tournament, the Fitzpatrick Cup. The 2019 edition will be hosted by Oxford University on the 2nd of February. We had 11 teams this year and are hoping for a few more. Champions League will once again be hosted by AFL Netherlands on Saturday the 6th of April.

ANZAC Cup will return to Villers-Bretonneux and be held from 24th – 27th of April. The 2019 Euro Cup will be held on Saturday 29th of June and hosted in Norrtälje by AFL Sweden. Finally, the European Championships will be held from the 9th to 12th of October in London hosted by the Wimbledon Hawks and AFL England.

Ryan Tucker (RT): AFL Sweden are really looking forward to hosting the event. Get teams organised as early as possible, noting that we generally have 12 months from one Euro Cup to the next – this time around we only have 8 months, so it is important teams are getting organised a lot earlier for next year. We're looking at making a tournament app that we feel could be beneficial for the event.

Lily Beck (LB): In 2020, the proposed dates for Fitzpatrick Cup are the 1st of Feb or the 8th of Feb. We will aim to hold Champions League on the 4th of April. Anzac Cup will run from the 24th to 26th of April. International Cup is still to be confirmed by the AFL. Euro Cup proposed dates are the 10th or 17th of October. Please note, all these 2020 event dates are subject to change, although confirmed dates will be circulated at a later date.

Maurice Verbakel (MV): We started Champions League 5 years ago with great help from AFL Europe.

We agreed on timeframe of 5 years for us to host. We are a possibility to continue hosting if that's what everybody wants but we need to ensure quality remains the same. We need time amongst ourselves to make decision.

Ryan Davey (RD): Sometimes it's a learning curve with these tournaments. It's something we can look at going year-to-year rather than a multi-year contract. Still unsure on the stance. This will depend on who wants to take on the event – this will be voted on by the General Assembly.

Maurice Verbakel (MV): It's more relaxing for everyone when dates are announced early.

Michael Currane (MC): Are we any closer to knowing on AFL IC dates?

Oliver Howard (OH): Not yet. We will share details as soon as we hear anything.

Lily Beck (LB): We'll be launching applications for hosts for Champions League and Euro Cup 2020. Hosting applications for these events will be released shortly and are due to be returned to AFL Europe by the 1st of March 2019. These will be voted on by the community presidents with votes or approval due back by the 1st of April 2019. The official calendar of events for 2020 will then be announced on the 10th of April 2019.

These timelines mean that everyone will have a year's notice for Champions League location and 18 months for Euro Cup.

12. Team and Player Eligibility at AFL Europe Events

Lily Beck (LB): This Euro Cup we made it more structured around our eligibility act, and because of this more local players were represented. This was a long process and we tightened this up a lot this year in comparison to previous years. We'd like to keep similar sort of structure for next year. Eligibility information for yesterday's tournament was sent out to team managers in May this year.

Oliver Howard (OH): Is everyone happy with how this has progressed? Lily has done a great job with this.

Stefan Burgener (SB): I appreciate that this increases integrity. At the same time, in my example, maybe for other smaller nations as well, I personally didn't appreciate the strictness.

We played with nine players, as we had four exemptions knocked back – I'm not sure whether it makes sense to be that black and white and have exactly the same ruling for every team. We weren't really going to challenge for the Cup. If we had a couple of players that didn't fit the criteria, we wouldn't of been in the finals because of that. It just would have helped us have a full team. In that situation, we would of appreciated if you could of looked at this situation. My suggestion is to not only have special exemptions for those that are there for their first year, but also for those who are lower ranked. The answer I got was I prefer teams don't compete, but the rules are the same across the board, rather than having a team compete.

Ivan Molnar (IM): Russia complained about that last year. Countries like them that are not very strong that play with their own players and get beaten by countries using top-ups. Every win counts for them.

Josip Kravar (JK): Same from Austria. They complained because one or two Aussies make a difference.

Lisa Wilson (LW): Stefan, Russia did beat you yesterday. You may of beaten Russia if you had those extra exemptions, and they would of said you had some players that weren't actually eligible. If you beat Russia, questions would have been raised.

Shir Shalev (SS): We didn't find enough players. The thing is that if they play with nine players, we didn't even make it. If you get an exemption, if you really need the players – you can get an exemption. Look at capping it.

Dan Jackson (DJ): No one wants to beat a team because they have less players.

Oliver Howard (OH): I'd rather more teams playing and more people playing, and I see the points around Russia and Austria.

Lisa Wilson (LW): I disagree. If you know that you have to have more locals, than it should be fine with some planning and preparation.

Ivan Molnar (IM): The sport in Europe will grow if more Europeans start to play. It's about local people. They love it.

Oliver Howard (OH): Can create a laziness, relying on Aussies.

Ryan Tucker (RT): We realise it could take quite a hit with these rules. Looking long term, there will be benefits from this type of ruling. Won't need to be put into effect in the future .

Oliver Howard (OH): Do we need to do something in that four or five year period to bridge the gap?

Neil Cooke (NC): We picked up four Dutchies in the last six weeks, otherwise we would have only had ten players because our exemptions got denied. Build your team around the locals. We had conversations about it, it gives the focus back on local footballers.

Katrina Stopinski (KS): Aussies have plenty of opportunities to play in competitions throughout the year. For Euro Cup, it needs to be a national team and maybe in future, maybe just passports to qualify.

Ryan Davey (RD): Passports is an interesting one. In AFL England if you go on passports, they could have had five players who won AFL London premierships from the Wandsworth Demons, five from the West London Wildcats who won Champions League. The rest could be topped up with North London Lions who are one of the strongest teams in Europe. You take 16 of those best players, they could play with passports. All Australians but hold British passports.

Tom Rischbieth (TR): Stefan, you did a great job with this. It's very tough, we all know that. It's a difficult process to get locals on board to grow. There's been lots of encouragement from others around the room. Next year it could be a little incremental growth and get to a place where there is a lot of local enthusiasm. Now you've got the experience being around this room, get feedback and get more enthusiasm across the country.

What I've found, the beauty of this is that a tiny team like Russia that loves the little wins, they get excited about coming back next year. Aussies will always be the easy top up, but if that becomes the default we restrict ourselves in terms of growth. More conversations with those across the board, such as Sweden has done with Euro Cup. It's not about Aussies coming into the community, it's about local growth. Getting to these types of events and getting locals playing, is the beauty of what AFL Europe are doing. You're doing a great job for Switzerland already, lean on people around you. Concerns you've had are raised every year at these meetings. Generate growth through local support.

Shir Shalev (SS): We all agree to be strict and make these decisions. I think there is still consideration to be made for these strict cases, although I'm glad that AFL Europe were strict with us. If you don't have enough locals, prefer you not to join, it's a bit hurtful. It hurts the spirit of the locals. I think in extreme cases it's good to consider it. Consider the minimum players, if you don't get to the minimum number of players, then exemptions are allowed.

Oliver Howard (OH): To round out this very important and good discussion, let me ask the room: If the rules stayed the same as this year please show your hands if you would agree?

Majority agree to keep rules the same next year.

Ryan Tucker (RT): Lily, were there any countries that didn't come due to exemption denials?

Lily Beck (LB): No.

Ryan Davey (RD): I would just like highlight that at no point did anyone in our office say that if you couldn't get the numbers, we would prefer you didn't compete or that we would prefer you not join. We stated that if you couldn't field enough eligible national players, we could look to develop a Crusaders team with other countries in the same position. That option was given to you as a backup to ensure your eligible players could still compete then go back and grow the sport in your home country. It was basically if you were unable to get numbers, you could get a crusaders team for your permitted players.

David Baldie (DB): We had quite a few boys who would have played for crusaders.

Lily Beck (LB): No that wouldn't have worked.

Ryan Davey (RD): You don't want a crusaders team to be a top up of one team already there.

Stefan Burgener (SB): Thank you all for your feedback. In extreme cases, what Shir said, that's what I really mean.

Ryan Davey (RD): We put this on the agenda because we've been torn with this. Lily has had tough times with this over the last few months. It's a really important discussion that needs to go on the agenda annually. We might be sitting here in 12 months time and say let's get even stricter. These eligibility guidelines will come out earlier and earlier every year, please get your team lists and exemptions in early. Even if you send them through advance and they don't get picked that's fine, it's just so we have a knowing of numbers.

Lily Beck (LB): We had more teams this year than last year in both divisions. We were prepared to take a hit on team numbers this year due to the stricter criteria but thankfully that didn't happen. That said, I took a big hit in workload. This was the most time-consuming element of the tournament. I received 50 exemption forms. 25

were approved and 25 were declined. That wasn't on purpose at all, it just happened, and hopefully that meant there was a really good balance on the field yesterday.

David Baldie (DB): What about annual exemptions for returning players?

Lily Beck (LB): Once they're approved they continue to be automatically eligible each year?

David Baldie (DB): Yes.

Lily Beck (LB): Only issue with that is team sheets are sent to me so late. It would be impossible to check and give enough notice.

Oliver Howard (OH): I agree. Will help your workload if they're rolled over each year.

Lily Beck (LB): I wouldn't want there to be any confusion like if a player played in 2016 they think they can play in 2019. This wouldn't be the case since there wasn't a real crack down until this year.

David Baldie (DB): We can't do citizenship in Scotland so it's based on residency. Our exemptions are given based on residency.

Oliver Howard (OH): Also this responsibility is up to the countries.

Tasha Reshetinkova (TRe): Exemptions on certain circumstances for certain people.

Ryan Tucker (RT): The point of exemptions, is to promote more locals.

Michael Currane (MC): Exemptions should be per tournament, but expectation on Lily is way too harsh. That number has to go way down on 50. We should know as managers and coaches on what the expectations are.

Ryan Tucker (RT): We have 2 afghans wanting to play for our national team. They are Swedish, but situation is still difficult.

Dan Jackson (DJ): Situations in North America are different. Locals are a great story for the sport.

Ryan Davey (RD): Those sorts of things have been taken into account. We're trying to reduce the grey area in the middle.

Lily Beck (LB): Anyone that doesn't automatically qualify for that nationality needs to apply for an exemption. It's the most effective way to manage this. Otherwise people will slip through the grey area.

Oliver Howard (OH): The read from the room is that we keep the same criteria for next year on a Tournament by tournament process. Really good debate. Let's look at it frequently to stay current with what the community wants.

Lily Beck (LB): The most frustrating part was team managers arguing about our decisions. This can be avoided by reading the criteria and getting things in early. You all had plenty of notice this year.

Oliver Howard (OH): And respect Lily's time and decision.

13. Articles of Association – Membership

Oliver Howard (OH): The next topic that will stimulate a bit of topic and discussion is our membership criteria. The split is currently what we term "full members" and "affiliate members". This is based on the attendees at the inaugural GAM in 2010. I don't think it accurately reflects the reality of the situation now and which European countries are really involved.

Ryan Davey (RD): The current criteria is dated and doesn't reflect our countries engagement levels. You all saw the proposal that was sent out, although to summarise there were two proposed changes. Currently, a failure of a member to attend an AGM on two occasions would be reduced to an affiliate. Suggested tweak is that if they don't attend two at all they are reduced. If they fail to attend three in person (proxy alone) they are reduced. Second article is based around moving up to a full member. Currently the article includes three active clubs for full membership. Proposal is that instead of this. they attend three AFL Europe major events in three years, including Champions League and Euro Cup. These changes would see Austria, Switzerland, Wales and Russia move from affiliate to full members. Would be backdated for moving up to full members but not for reductions.

Pat Leavy (PL): Just to clarify this means they have two/three more years to move down but can move up now.

Josip Kravar (JK): This is good for countries that are engaged but don't have three clubs.

Ryan Davey (RD): We're not trying to reduce the incentive to grow to three clubs, just trying to make the adjustment to include those who have been highly engaged for some time now.

Ryan Tucker (RT): So one person not attending a meeting can cause a country to drop down but you need a whole team to go up?

Oliver Howard (OH): Final line stated in the articles is that the commission has final word on reducing membership, so there is some flexibility to protect against this.

Maurice Verbakel (MV): Discussion point is that the German committee didn't want to attend the AGM but still have voting rights. They attend events but chose not to attend AGM.

Ryan Davey (RD): No doubt that Germany are growing the game within Germany. Therefore, they're still involved.

Oliver Howard (OH): We will vote on this now. Everyone who has a voting right or proxy has a piece of paper. Please write yes if you agree and no if you don't. While we have a minute, we will formally introduce Tom as he wasn't here last GAM when he was inducted.

Tom Rischbieth (TR): Thanks Ollie. This is my first year here as commissioner and nice to meet everyone. From a personal perspective I played on the rookie list at Port Adelaide and later moved to London 2013 and found AFL Europe. I've been involved with Anzac Cup ever since and good to see the passion there so I have stayed involved. It's amazing to see the game globally and it brings people together. I've kept an interest in AFL Europe since arriving and work in a sport business on commercialising sports so I am looking through that lens. I'm hoping to use my experience and industry knowledge as well as my knowledge of the sport. Big commercial progress in the last few years and the more money we make the more we can contribute back into the community. I'm open to questions and queries from everyone. The High Commission of Australia in London has been a key relationship built and good to have government involved. We had Simon from the Australian Embassy in Dublin here yesterday and we should look at building these relationships in each country. Amazing to see euro cup yesterday and very happy to be involved.

Oliver Howard (OH): I have now received and counted the votes.

Unanimous agreement on the proposed changes to AFL Europe membership. Those changes will take effect within one month.

14. Ratification of Affiliate Members

Oliver Howard (OH): The last item is the ratification of affiliate members.

- *Austria - Sweden moves, Scotland seconds.*
- *Norway - Germany moves, England seconds.*
- *Russia - Croatia moves, Netherlands seconds.*
- *Wales - Denmark moves, Scotland seconds.*
- *Switzerland - Germany moves, Croatia seconds.*
- *Czech Republic - Sweden moves, Croatia seconds.*
- *Israel - Ireland moves, Croatia seconds.*

Oliver Howard (OH): Does anyone have any final comments and questions?

Lisa Wilson (LW): Seconding the point about the embassy connections, we've had really positive feedback. I saw a good contact in Russia. We had a good contact in Berlin embassy who ended up sponsoring the German women's team. They can provide names and connections.

Katrina Stopinski (KS): This is my second Euro Cup, and the umpires did a great job and standard is improving. I've been out in Europe for a few tournaments and am stepping down from London umpiring committee so will have more time. Hopefully be a polish passport holder next year too.

Pat Leavy (PL): Take the information AFL Europe provide and follow it. You will see progress long term and AFL Europe is providing good material for us.

David Baldie (DB): I just want to thank AFL Europe for all their help not only for Euro Cup but all year. Really improving. Very much appreciated.

Lisa Wilson (LW): If you're not in the Facebook groups please join them. There's a post in each which has contacts from each club/country. Useful material in there so please use them. Share any successes so other people can learn from them.

Oliver Howard (OH): Thank you for all your time today and commitment and energy all year. I call this meeting to a close at 12.58pm.

Meeting closed: 12:58pm.