



AFL Europe

2015 AGM

Minutes

**Umag, Croatia &
Teleconference**

8 October, 2015

29 November, 2015

Minutes taken and documented by Megan Hession

Attendees:

Chris Dow
Oliver Howard
Ciaran O'Hara - ARFLI
Greg Hutton
Michelle Morgan
Kolja Koracak
Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg
Megan Hession
Morten Merjoh - DAFL
Tess Baxter- AFL England
Kathleen Wheeler – AFL England
Thomas Urban - CNFA
Ren (Netherlands) -DAFA
Pat Leavy – ARFLI (Independent Auditor)
John Enright - ARFLI (Umpired)
Shane Hill - Umpires

No quorum: 12 Countries not present as there was a clash with Euro Cup Registration. Items which require a motion will be discussed & voted on Sunday, Nov 29th for AGM Conference Call: No Objections by present group

Roundtable Discussion on Member Countries Country Reports:

Morten Merhøj (Denmark) DAFL: A decrease in the playing numbers has occurred due to Sweden developing their programme. A women's' Nordic league is starting with 3 teams. 2 new Danish teams played in 2015. 6 men's teams, 3 women's teams (many nationalities) 1 junior team, 1 university. 2016: Leagues focusing on Women's footy, Odense Lions. & focusing on recruitment & junior's development.

Thomas Urban (France) CNFA: 8 clubs played championship. Partnered with Barcelona to create more competitions. 2 new men's clubs created small issue with the girls. 1 team in Paris – want to play in England and compete internationally. 21 games occurred during the seasons, weather wasn't an issue, and teams travel well. Ensured Championship was affordable for everyone. 2016: Develop women's game, work on Governing Body Status in France which will help with youth development. Through the Federation (Sports Ministry) via French Govt – Aussie Rules is recognised as a sport and they receive grants as such. Federation EUR6K in funding is given plus support in setting up the governance.

Tess Baxter (England) AFL England: Proxy for England: Focus mainly on women. 4 women's teams (directly affiliated with AFL London men's teams) plus 2 Universities which AFL London created this year and is developing with AFL England. Mix of nationalities, Team GB willing to travel to other countries, such as France to get the Women going. Pre-season cup in London both men's & women's. We will invite all the Federation to join us, and please collaborate with Tess. We will get momentum up and running for Anzac with Aussie Women and French Women. Focus for next year is getting more teams up and running in the North to play the teams in the South. Set targets with the AFL London men's teams to get women's teams up and running. Will compete at 16-side tournament for European Championship.

Josip Kravar (Croatia) CAAF: CFL/CAAF is 75 players (6 teams), 500 members in the association, 1 new woman's club (18 members, high school age mainly from handball & soccer). All association members are registered and have an ID Card. Austria has joined them to create an AFL Central Europe Team. Euro Cup prep took a lot of time for them but

they are happy to host. They are a registered sports association but do not have governing body status. Girls are getting access to a new ground/changing room in Zagreb as a grant process. Working on this for the boys. Volunteer/intern programme, 3 people helping with media, journalism, website, statistics for every game, etc. Statistics are good for the players as they see their progress and it is motivating. 2016: Working on 1st Umpire certification. 2 new Women's (grants available for women) & Youth Development (via PE), 2 new men's clubs (working with the Czech's, Italians, Australians) is a focus. Hungry/Bosnia/Slovenia is 1 person trying to get things up and running. Working with the Australian Embassy in Croatia to develop AFL – (Kolja: Get in touch with your local Embassy – get in the Aussie social media and promote yourselves. Nothing came with the ground that was offered to us at Zagreb University, we lost it to a gym development. We will find another ground.) Hosting Euro Cup had a marginal effect in raising the profile of the game. Need footy/jumper's grants in order to develop the game in Central Europe. Issues with World Governing Body – can't get funding like France can as not recognised.

Netherlands (Ren Proxy) DAFA– based in Amsterdam, Hague, Utrecht: Champions League Host (10 Teams), 51 registered members (mainly Dutch), 27 games plus International Rules played, 3 international tournaments, domestic league/interclub league based in Amsterdam, Mid Jan-Early July. Successes: Move to new sportsground – National Rugby Stadium. Very consistent training for the entire league, at least 1 training session a week. Recruiting hard for Australians to strengthen leagues via Club teams. No plans for women's development as the competition, some women join the practice, but there isn't enough desire. No data on Umpires development. 2016: Extend domestic league, more international games. Attempt to engage with Belgium, work with bordering countries. Intern has been helping with organisation and they will continue with this. Looking forward to hosting Champions League again.

Ciaran O'Hara (Ireland) ARFLI: 120 Men's players. Mixed year in terms of men's competition 4.5 teams. Foundational team, Dublin Demons closed due to GAA/rugby options. 1 team forfeited most of their matches (hence, .5 team). Talk of merging the Demons & Giants. Will possibly change format of the season to be similar to CCAF. Cannot compete with Gallic Games.

Women's little activity, no attempts made to play league games but went to Brit Cup. Hoping for participation in European Championships as they have the numbers but competition with Gallic is fierce. University has been an area of success – UCC is fully recognised and recruited 90 new members. Sponsorship – O'Neill's for 3 years.

Umpire – John's been umpire coordinator for 3 years, umpire development is very solid down to Johns work. 2016: How do we compete with GAA & Rugby? Enough compatibility with Gallic game, but we are back to Square 1 in game development. Women are motivated when they're mobilised.

General Challenge: How does AFL compete when multiple sports are in conflict? Athletes, facilities (must work within GAA rules – no international sport in season).

Chris Dow (Chairman's Report): Update from AFL House and Media Rights

AUS\$2.056B broadcasting rights deal for Australia. International rights discussion ongoing. AFL Europe has put a stake in the ground in an attempt to access some of those international funds to invest back into the community. Changes at Eurosport (they are considering not renewing the AFL Broadcast), as opposed to BT Sport/ESPN (projected growth). We have been working diligently with AFL House to get an understanding of the deal.

AFL House is happy with our progress and growth. We welcome any feedback in the community as to how we can help you grown and support you. Volunteers are essentially to our success.

Greg: We are working with AFL House regarding geo advertising, broadcasting rights, Watch AFL, and various initiatives. The ability to get localised information fed back to local regions via AFL.co.au and Watch AFL. Possible commercial opportunities also via the betting space. We need to keep knocking on The AFL's door. We need to understand how the Eurosport cancellation will be dealt with.

Megan: Access & implementation to Footyweb is a way to run statistics, registration, & census. This is entirely free of charge to your club and will only be as good as the information that is input. AFL Canada is a great example of how it will work. AFL Europe will be a case study in international implementation and this will allow us to provide the data the AFL needs to prove our progression. The initial rollouts will be AFL England and Croatia. There is no registration fee for being involved.

Tess: We use this in South Australia for registration, stats, & league information, it's fantastic.

Ollie: We used Footyweb in VAFA and it was fantastic, you could follow individual players' stats, etc.

Megan (CEO's Report): First 90 days, I'm sorry we haven't been able to attend all Grand Finals.

We are now tenants of The South Australia Agent General's Office – Thank you Greg Hutton We had an incredibly successful inaugural fundraising event in The Grand Final Lunch in the Australian High Commission. It's done wonders for our brand. We used this day as an opportunity to 'relaunch' the AFL Europe Brand as a professional federation to be respected. Tournaments Confirmed for 2016: 16th Jan: Fitzpatrick Cup (actually 23rd), women & Ireland must be invited.

19th of March: Champions League in Amsterdam – women included **Shane:** Rewards the Aussies who have helped the game develop in Europe as opposed to keeping it entirely indigenous.

16th of April: AFL London Pre-Season

23rd April: 8th Annual Anzac Cup

April-August: AFL Europe Season – August, European Championship (every 3 years 16-side, preparation for International Cup) in the UK. Looking for a sponsor city.

2nd Half of 2016: Grand Final Lunch, Euro Cup, International Talent Combine

Chris: Can anyone host Euro Cup 2016? Quite a bit of organisation, but a lot of support from us. It's a fantastic event for sparking footy interest in your country.

Michelle: We need to look at hosting Euro Cup for 2 years out as well.

Shane: Euro Cup is getting better every year, but we need to carefully consider location & travel costs as Umag was somewhat challenging this year, but it is getting better.

Discussion regarding combining Euro Cup & European Championship

Pat (Irish Team): We should have a 'Festival of Football' week and weekend. European Championship is flagship but to ensure everyone can participate, other countries should come in and play their 1 day tournament. We should combine. The International Cup played during the week and the Euro Cup to be a 2 day tournament with the Euro Cup Final being the curtain raiser to the European Championship Final. Prevents teams from dropping out. 1500 bed nights for European Championship could lead to tourism grants for the regions. Teams could have a 16 side A Team, 9 side B Team. 6 teams participated in European Championship.

Shane: The mid teams & bottom teams will struggle to go to either or all tournaments. Best suggestion is to put the vote out to the community. Will we diminish the value of one or either of the tournaments by putting them into a 'Festival of Footy'. We have a duty of care requirement as a controlling body in having too many days of footy packed in.

Tess: Run Women's tournament as a 9-side.

Chris: General support here for running the tournaments concurrently, and invite countries to enter the European Championship which is a minimum 16-side and played under more aggressive conditions in terms of rules and pitch time, or nominate a Euro Cup team which can be run over 2 days. Ciaran, Megan, & Tess to discuss and propose a structure to the community for a vote. Everyone else feel free to feed back. University of Surrey, Surrey Sports Park, & Private School for consideration. Don't forget IC17.

Greg: Only worry is that we could end up with 2 weak sets of teams if we end up with 1 big competition. **Michelle** concurs but believes there will be a great buzz around the 'Festival of Football' depends how we promote it. Vital that we put it to the community and they vote on it.

Greg: Financials (AFL Europe Financials & independently audited financials for 2014 publically available from Megan Hession). Profit/Loss/Balance Sheet.

This is a start-up business which Ben and the Commission have done an enormous amount of work for and we are building and continuing to build. We are having ongoing conversations with the AFL which are very positive and they are seeing what we have achieved.

Chris: I want to acknowledge the huge amount of work picked up by Greg when Ben left the organisation and publically thank him for this.

Pat (Independent Audit): As per the constitution, I have reviewed the financials and we have no concerns and give a clean bill of health on our review. The books for 2014 and the first half of 2015 are as stated. We would like to start generating more income as an independent entity rather than depending solely on The AFL. Let's aim to be self-sufficient.

Shane (Umpires Report): In 2015 we focused on teleconferences, we offered 4 workshops and our census data is very good this year. We have over half indigenous umpires at this point, which is excellent. We need to create more roles like Shane (Umpire Coordinators) and continue ongoing education. Umpires report for 2015 is available from Megan Hession.

Chris: I want to thank Shane for his hard work and continuing dedication to executing a quality umpiring programme and governance. You do a great job leading that.

Ciaran (European Talent Programme): 2 aspects to the talent programme, 1st which is funded by the AFL is to find Irish Talent in Gaelic football and this has been active for 3 years with 2014 being our most successful year. We had 5 players recruited into AFL rosters. Connor McKenna made his debut for Essendon and scored a goal in his first touch in AFL football. We expect Shaun Hurley & Paddy Brophy to break into their teams as well. We have 2 players, Colin O'Riordan and Darragh Joyce at the combine in Melbourne right now and hope both to be listed. We will run another Combine in Dublin in December; we will look to integrate some Non-Irish talent as well. We are working with the AFL to explore non-Irish players.

2nd aspect is the International scholarship programme which is not necessarily about being listed in the AFL but allowing high level playing foreigners to go over and have an amateur experience. Mikkel has been playing at Old Xav's and Josip Habilank from Croatia is playing for Sturt. The message to the communities is if you see an opportunity for talent transfer from their elite sport to AFL, please get in touch. We are genuinely looking for a non-Irish player to put forward to the talent programme. We are also very open to opening up a programme for women as there is a big similarity between Gaelic and AFL, we should definitely pursue women's footy talent.

Chris: It's a massive undertaking to bring a boy into the scholarship programme but we do our level best to ensure they have a great life experience, we recognise there were a few issues with Mikkel which I am working to personally address with his family. We will keep getting better at this, but we encourage feedback. We see this programme as possibly open to women very soon. If there is an interest, we should be pursuing it.

General Business

Thomas: With regards to the French and the Euro Cup and European Champions, in terms of eligibility to play for countries – Cataluña. Ben mentioned as criteria, your commitment to the league development must be sufficient. He refused Alban's ability to play for Finland probably because he was committed to play for France even though he did an internship in Finland and played for 1 year.

With regards to the Crusaders, in the past if your team was participating, you couldn't be part of the Crusaders. It should be an opportunity for countries that don't have a national team to play such as Spain, Portugal, and Iceland. We should encourage it to be a model for countries who don't have representation. (**Ciaran:** Not the case, we have had Irish players on the Crusaders even with us playing, **Kolja:** Selection is first come, first serve but we do encourage the fledgling countries)

Ciaran: If you're not Australian You can play for anybody – that is essentially the eligibility criteria. Every IC year, we get requests from other teams for Irish players. It MUST be agreed from said player's federation if they are allowed to play for another country. We had 6 Catalans this year so we topped it up with who applied and who wanted to play.

Shane: Eligibility also comes down to your genuine involvement in the development of footy in your region and playing a lead role. The Rules Committee will consider such exemptions. We will make play for people as flexible as possible. Commission will take a look at the rules in place for International Cup, and see if those rules are still fit for purpose for our state of play as they were drafted 5 or 6 years ago (drafted 13 years ago).

Chris: IF it is a sovereign nation the alternative is The Crusaders. We do not know why Ben refused Alban's ability to play for Finland.

Tess: Footyweb will be great for this issue, so long as there is home country and playing country information on the player and we can verify these details right away and possibly avoid this scenario as the information is right there.

Patrick: Have we invited Canada & the US to join our competitions next year. Especially Women's Teams.

Megan: They've been invited, it's just about timing and taking holiday as they get a lot less holiday then us in general.

Patrick: With regards to Junior Development as it is a big push for next year, we need to ensure a standard of care where we are all vetted and have child welfare officers for the leagues. Ensure we have a Child Protection Policy in place. The GAA has an excellent programme we can learn from. Megan needs to contact the Child Welfare Officer of the GAA to collaborate.

Megan: We will require all leagues who will be participating in our Junior Development, Auskick Programme to register themselves and the children on Footy Web and all instructors will need their country's version of a DBS check before they begin. Public Liability insurance is required also. As a Federation, formalities need to be in place.

Megan: 16th of November we have the AFL Coaches Association coming into London to conduct a coaches teaching programme in the evening.

Meeting Concludes, Formalities on the 15th.

AGM Teleconference Sunday, November 29th 2015

Agenda:

- **Elect Chairman and Secretary for AGM**
- **Vote in New Commission Members**
- **Affiliate Membership Ratification: Peace Team**
- **Annual Membership Fee Approval**
- **Annual Accounts – Abbreviated Balance Sheet, P&L, Income & Expenditure Statement, Annual Report 2014**
- **2016 AFL Event Calendar**
- **AOB**

Present Countries:

UK

Croatia

Scotland

Finland

France

Norway

Netherlands

Germany

Peace Team

Denmark

Austria

Ireland

Sweden

Iceland

AFL Europe

Umpires Shane Hill

Commission

Vote of Meeting Chair:

Meeting Chair - Christopher Dow, so moved, seconded by Greg Hutton.

Secretary – Megan Hession, so moved, seconded by Michelle Morgan.

Passed

Vote for new Commission Members:

Chris: Many thanks to Niels and Kolja for your hard work and dedication to making AFL Europe what it is today. We are grateful for your contributions and hope you will continue to stay involved.

Vote Counts via emails to Megan Hession: Re-Election to the Community Positions:

Ciaran O'Hara: ARFLI and Irish/European Talent Programme

Morten Merjoh: Elite and Development, DAFL Denmark

Josip Kravar, President CAAF Croatia

Chris: So moved, seconded Greg Hutton.

Passed

Affiliate Membership of The Peace Team:

Chris: The Peace Team consists of players from Israel and Palestine. They are a self-funded, extremely motivated group who represent our core values implicitly and why we all

play this game. We are voting to make The Peace Team an Associate Member of AFL Europe and welcome them into our Federation and our Playing Community.

Ian Baxter (to Everyone): 09:15: The ratification of the Peace Team as an Associate member has the full support of AFL England.

Josip Kravar (to everyone): 09:19: support from Croatia also

AFL Scotland - Charlie Snedden (to Everyone): 09:19: The ratification of the Peace Team as an Associate member has the full support of AFL Scotland.

Michelle Morgan (to Everyone): 09:20: If we are clear in our Minutes as to the rationale of accepting the Peace Team as an Associate before they have their regulations in place, because it is part of the process they need to achieve, then we should support this. Michelle

Shane Hill (to Everyone): 09:20: agree

Steve Finland (to Everyone): 09:20: Finland supports the inclusion of the Peace Team. Any group of people aiming to develop the sport should be encouraged.

Alban CNFA (to Everyone): 09:21: France is ok with Peace Team joining

Michel van Eijk (to Everyone): 09:22: Netherlands supports affiliate member status for the Peace Team.

Chris Dow (to Everyone): 09:24: yes

Fabian Cordts (AFLG) (to Everyone): 09:25: Germany is all good with it

Amund Lundesgaard, President AFL Norway (to Everyone): 09:25: Norway seconds the affiliation of the Peace Team. However, exact requirements for affiliation should be clarified before the next AGM.

Chris: Peace Team is voted in as an Affiliate Member of AFL Europe and we welcome Yonatan and Team. As per AFL Norway we will examine the affiliation requirements prior to the next AGM.

So moved, seconded – Ollie Howard.

Passed

Annual Membership Fee Increase

Chris: Annual Membership Fee will increase to £100 per country. This is to accommodate additional operating costs.

Ian Baxter (Private): 09:28: Fees: vote yes to raise fees to £100

So moved, seconded – Greg Hutton.

Passed

Presentation of Financials

Greg: Presentation of Financials. No objections. Independent audit completed by Pat Levy and passed. So moved, seconded – Ollie Howard.

Passed

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 09:31: <http://www.afleurope.org/about-us/2015-agm-annual-report-and-census-information/>

AFL Scotland - Charlie Snedden (to Everyone): 09:41: Hi Chris, I get a mail failure when sending to you

AFL Scotland - Charlie Snedden (to Everyone): 09:41: secretary@afscotland.org

Megan: 2016 Event Calendar

Sarah Ongarello (to Everyone): 09:42: <http://www.afleurope.org/calendar-2016/>

Sarah Ongarello (to Everyone): 09:43: if you have any cups/tournaments that are not shown please send me an email and let me know

Fabian Cordts (AFLG) (to Everyone): 09:46: teams then may play in both, euro champs and euro cup? or choose one...

Megan Hession (to Everyone): 09:46: play both

Fabian Cordts (AFLG) (to Everyone): 09:47: ok, thanks

Steve Finland (to Everyone): 09:48: Finland didn't have a rep in Umag and this is the first we've heard of this. We have a very limited number of available weekends here due to holiday periods and weather, and having the EU cup in August would be highly disruptive to our domestic season.

Ian Baxter (Private): 09:50: Combining the two. Minimises the amount of travelling and associated costs which is a major barrier to participation for many players.

Ian Baxter (to Everyone): 09:50: Combining the two. Minimises the amount of travelling and associated costs which is a major barrier to participation for many players.

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 09:52: 8 in denmark/sweden

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 09:52: 6 in ireland

Alban CNFA (to Everyone): 09:56: Are we voting on this as well? Or is it already decided?

Michel van Eijk (to Everyone): 09:57: I believe we have not voted on scheduling in the past

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 09:57: we don't vote on this (**DISCLAIMER: AFLEUROPE POLLED THIS TWICE IN DECEMBER – NO OFFICIAL VOTE**)

Josip kravar (to Everyone): 09:57: we need to be aware that by doing this way 16on side(or play 18on side) will develop very slow as many national teams will play rather 9on side due to cost and experience they have

Shane Hill (to Everyone): 09:58: Josip - possibly a crusaders opportunity to help that growth to 16s?

Alban CNFA (to Everyone): 09:59: yea I'm ok with it, but it's a shame not to try what we have decided at the AGM following the last European championship

Chris Dow (to Everyone): 10:02: The players from the Championship can also play in the Euro Cup

Yonatan Belik - Peace Team (to Everyone): 10:04: I must go now. Thank you for your wonderful support. Touching.

Alban CNFA (to Everyone): 10:04: If you have Access to the minute of the 2012 AGM in Dublin we had also a very long chat on this. I can't get my hand on it

Chris Dow (to Everyone): 10:04: take care Yonatan

Megan Hession (to Everyone): 10:04: Welcome to AFL Europe Yonatan

Alban CNFA (to Everyone): 10:04: Have a good day Yonatan

Megan Hession (to Everyone): 10:05: I have the 2012 AGM minutes Alban

Fabian Cordts (AFLG) (to Everyone): 10:06: so the championship will have 3 game days, Monday, Wednesday, Friday or so and then the euro cup on Saturday

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 10:06: Champs are usually su-tues-thur-sat - but obviously not in 2016

Shane Hill (to Everyone): 10:07: prob move forward 1 day niels

steve finland (to Everyone): 10:07: For countries playing in both events that's a lot of footy in a week for amateur athletes.

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 10:08: champs are usuaily 60min matches - no time on

Alban CNFA (Private): 10:09: Hi the discussion was in 2013

Alban CNFA (Private): 10:09: my mistake

Michel van Eijk (to Everyone): 10:09: I think there will always be drawbacks to organising both events in the same year. However, it sounds like combining both into one week will be at least cost-effective for teams who want to play in both so has my preference.

Alban CNFA (Private): 10:09: It was around the last international Rules Football in Ireland

Shane Hill (to Everyone): 10:11: congrats!

Ian Baxter (to Everyone): 10:11: congratulations

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 10:11: congrats

josip kravar (to Everyone): 10:11: thanks

Morten Merhøj (to Everyone): 10:11: Thank you everyone.

Fabian Cordts (AFLG) (to Everyone): 10:11: *clap clap*

Sarah Ongarello (to Everyone): 10:12: Congratulations Ciaran, Morten and Josip

Chris Dow (to Everyone): 10:12: well done guys. exciting years ahead

Shane Hill (to Everyone): 10:12: thanks everyone new and less new!

Michelle Morgan (to Everyone): 10:13: Thank you to our past Commissioners - please stay actively involved! This is a better team with a wide range of voices and supporters. Michelle

Morten Merhøj (to Everyone): 10:15: do we have the result from the peace team voting also?

josip kravar (to Everyone): 10:15: I can use mic. So thanks from my side

Megan Hession (to Everyone): 10:15: Peace Team has been voted in

Niels Schønnemann-Rosberg (to Everyone): 10:19: thanks all

Fabian Cordts (AFLG) (to Everyone): 10:19: thanks

Shane Hill (to Everyone): 10:19: ta

No Further Business:

Chris: This concludes the AGM for 2015, thank you everyone for taking time out of your Sunday and participating in a spirited discussion. Welcome Peace Team to AFL Europe and Welcome to our new commission members. Have a good holiday season.

- Meeting Ended. -