

EUROPEAN LACROSSE FEDERATION



European Lacrosse Federation

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the European Lacrosse Federation
Saturday 27th May 2006 – Aachen, Germany.

Present: Peter Mundy (President), Kristian Gotsch (Hon. Secretary ELF/Denmark), Daniel Jonegård (Sweden), Liisa Matinvesi (Womens VP ELF/Finland), Antti Salomaa (Finland), Andre Blaser (Switzerland), Sebastian Ulbrich (Switzerland), Ron Balls (England), Erik Vogels (The Netherlands), Chris Mistelbauer (Austria), Oliver Harfenmeister (Germany), Denina Hospolsky (Germany).

Apologies for Absence: - Latvia, Spain and Wales.

Minutes taken by Kristian Gotsch.

1. The President welcomed those present and opened the annual general meeting by announcing that the past year had been a very good year for lacrosse in Europe. New countries had begun playing lacrosse and the President commented that the European Lacrosse Convention is a great initiative which he hopes to see repeated annually or semi-annually.

2. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Berlin Saturday 9th July 2005, were agreed and approved.

3. Matters Arising From the Last Minutes: No matters arising

4. Honorary Secretary Report: The Hon. Secretary gave a report on the status of the website, the launch of the “Friends of the European Lacrosse Federation” initiative and an update on potential new countries starting up lacrosse.

The Netherlands added that there were plans to get lacrosse going in Luxembourg as well and that the Dutch Lacrosse Association had established contacts to that end.

5. Honorary Treasurer Report: In Florian Muth’s absence the President presented the treasurer’s report. He focused on FY 2005 as we are currently in the middle of FY 2006.

The President mentioned that three countries had past dues and also highlighted that four countries had already paid their 2006 membership fees.

England mentioned they had not yet received an invoice. It was noted that Florian Muth will send out invoices again.

Members: Austria • Czech Republic • Denmark • England • Finland • Germany • Ireland • Italy
Latvia • Netherlands • Norway • Scotland • Slovakia • Slovenia • Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • Wales

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6. Application for Membership: Switzerland gave the audience an update on lacrosse in Switzerland. The game of lacrosse is currently being played in St. Gallen and Zürich and plans are for a team to be established in Bern in the near future. The overall goal is to have three established clubs in 2007. The President commented that it is gratifying that lacrosse is being developed in this manner. A vote was held for membership of the ELF and Switzerland was unanimously accepted.

7. Development of Lacrosse: Two items were discussed, namely the World Championships and the Champions League.

The President suggested that Germany put in a bid for the 2010 ILF World Lacrosse Championships. England highlighted that the deadline for 2010 bid submissions had already passed. Open discussions on this topic lead to the conclusion that European countries other than England should consider hosting big international lacrosse events in the future. Lacrosse is growing fast in Europe and in order to make it possible for as many countries to participate in international events it is vital that a fair share of these are held in Europe.

The President also proposed the concept of a European Champions League or cup tournament. The idea was welcomed and after open discussions it was decided to continue working on the concept at the following day's development discussion.

In relation to the overall growth of the game of lacrosse, the Netherlands expressed their view about not excluding any nations from participating in international tournaments, e.g. by having qualification rounds. They felt it would have a negative effect on the development of the sport.

England mentioned the recent strategy discussion at the ILF which focuses on inclusiveness and that for the 2010 ILF World Championships the format stands as is and would thus support the Netherlands' comments.

8. Update on European Lacrosse Championships 2008: Finland gave an update on the European Lacrosse Championships 2008 in Lahti, Finland.

B teams will only be invited if there are less than the expected number of teams. The Netherlands raised the issue that they felt that the ELF should take a stand on B-teams. The ELF Executive will discuss the issue in detail but for the moment they proposed that B-teams for men and for women would only be allowed if either of the genders can only match 7 or less participating nations.

Preliminary registration for the European Championships 2008 should be submitted to the ELF prior to 2007 ELF AGM. Each country should indicate if they intend to participate with men's, women's or both men's and women's teams.

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9. Election of Officers

President: Peter Mundy elected unanimously, Vice President Men: Hermann Hassenstein elected unanimously, Vice President Women: Liisa Matinvesi elected unanimously, Honorary Secretary; Kristian Gotsch elected unanimously, Honorary Treasurer: Florian Muth elected unanimously.

10. Other Business

Women' Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse is not getting the assistance that the men do. Peter Mundy suggested that more assistance would come from the older nations to support growth in newer nations.

Sweden could relate to the challenge of getting women to give back to the game.

Finland agreed as well and mentioned how difficult it had been to attract women to speak at the European Lacrosse Convention.

The Netherlands pointed out that only two women were present at the AGM. The Dutch had undertaken targeted efforts to motivate women to assume additional responsibilities. The President suggested that the VP Women's Lacrosse take action on this issue.

ILF World Championships

Sweden mentioned that the price of going to the World Championship was too high which had been a determining factor in the country's decision of not participating in the championships. The Netherlands pointed out that they thought the referee costs for the world championships were too high. Denmark supported this as well and raised the issue of the late communication from the organising committee on payment of this fee.

ELF Contribution

Germany brought up the topic of raising the ELF membership fee. The President proposed waiting to see if the "Friends" get off the ground and otherwise suggested raising the question again next year. The following will be put forward at the next AGM:

- New nations not obligated to pay in the year they join
- The following three years a country pays membership of €50
- After this the membership increases to €100

Championship Rules

It was decided to conduct Championship Rules vote via postal vote. The ELF will send this out.