

Minutes of the European Surfing Federation AGM held on Thursday 1st October 2009 at the Pomme D'Or Hotel, St Helier, Jersey at 20.00

Huw John Chaired the meeting

Those Present

Francis Distinguin, President
Huw John, Vice President
Rui Felix, Technical Director
Karen Walton, Secretary General
Norbert Hoischen, Individual Elected Member
Xavier Delanne, Individual Elected Member

Representatives from:- France; Spain; Portugal; Wales; Ireland; England; Channel Islands; Sweden; Switzerland; Germany; Holland; Italy; Morocco; Belgium

Apologies for Absence / Proxies

There were no apologies for absence.

KW has the proxy from England

JG (Germany) told members that he had a proxy vote from Austria.

KW informed the meeting that although Austria had paid their membership fees they had not fulfilled the ESF membership requirements (Item 5.2 of the Articles) and therefore were not members and not entitled to a vote at this meeting.

JG (Germany) believed that Austria should be accepted as members if they had paid their membership fee.

RF told members that the meeting could accept Austria as members of the ESF without the required documentation but they should be aware that a precedent would be set for anyone wishing to join the Federation in future. JG did not pursue the issue further.

Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2008

Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting (Channel Islands)

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Regarding the situation in Italy, FD told the meeting that an agreement had been reached between F I Surf and Surfing Italia and that the next step will be to organise an AGM after the President of each organisation has stepped down. FD told members that Maurizio Spinass (F I Surf) had resigned his position but Graziano Lai (Surfing Italia) had not.

The new organisation will ask the National Olympic Committee for help.

FD has offered any help the ESF can give.

Development Strategy. Following his presentation at the AGM in 2008

FD gave members a copy of the presentation that he had given to the Aquitaine Regional Council in April 2009 with regard to moving the ESF HQ to Aquitaine.

He stated that the main point of his proposal should be that the ESF HQ remains completely independent from any National Federation.

FD has received a proposal from the Departmental Council of Landes stating that they would like to host the ESF HQ

Correspondence

None that was not included in the minutes

Secretary General Report - Financial Statement 2008

KW told members she had sent a full copy of the agreed 2008 accounts to all members and had copied 3 pages of the accounts for the AGM.

KW asked if anyone had any questions regarding the accounts.

There were no questions.

KW reminded members that the accommodation fee for judges staying at the Pomme D'Or Hotel is £55 and requested that members pay this as soon as possible.

Technical Director Report

RF gave his report (**attached**)

RF thanked the Channel Islands for hosting this years Eurosurf event

JG (Germany) asked what the requirements were for running an ETL.

RF referred him to the ESF rulebook

LCA asked why Ireland weren't hosting Eurojunior 2010. BM (Ireland) explained that they were unable to secure funding for this event

JG (Germany) told members that he believed it was not possible for the smaller Federations to send clubs to a Euroclubs event and requested that it be combined with Eurosurf.

RF told members there would not be time to include Euroclubs in Eurosurf

HJ told JG (Germany) that the idea behind the event was to give surf clubs the opportunity to compete for their Nation on a smaller, less formal level.

RF told members that a basic Judging course had been prepared. This will be given to the Federations for free, hopefully by the end of the year.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

FD gave his report (**attached**)

FD thanked Jersey Surfboard Club for hosting the event.

Proposals – General

HJ asked presenters to come to the front of the room and address the members

Spain

Code of Conduct

We request the European Surfing Federation Annual General Meeting consider the following proposal by the Spanish Surfing Federation:

That, the European Surfing Federation establishes a 'Code of Conduct' for all aspects of surfing events organized/sanctioned by the European Surfing Federation.

We believe this will improve individual behaviour and reflect the 'Aloha Spirit' in that, we are all surfers and should respect each other as members of the surfing community.

The object of these new regulations will be to encourage good behaviour, prevent unreasonable conduct and uphold high standards within the European Surfing Federation.

The Executive Committee should be given powers to administer sanctions against any person or organization that is found to have contravened the regulations; these sanctions should be made promptly through established procedures, especially during Eurosurf and Eurojunior events. **For a better EuroSurfing Future**

LCA (Spain) told members that according to the Presidents 2008 strategic document, one of the weaknesses of the ESF was that there was no code of conduct. LCA (Spain) told members that he a developed one.

BM (Ireland) told members that he had some suggestions for the code if it is agreed.

A vote took place for the introduction of a fluid code of conduct, to be developed by the Executive Committee. 14 votes for (unanimously agreed)

France

Bodysurfing

Concerning Bodysurfing and the ESF Championship in the AGM Jersey 2009 we confirm that we would appreciate as discuss in last meeting in Biarritz ,the organisation of a contest on the proposed format (document to be given next week) which is a light, easy to run by bodysurfers one. We understand that this year a "non official title" will be delivered but we ask for a vote in Jersey to make sure that the ESF will deliver one official European title from 2010

XD (France) told members that the French Government had requested a European Bodysurf title.

XD agreed with RF that there was not enough time to run a Bodysurf division in Eurosurf, however it may be possible to run a separate Bodysurf contest

RF explained that we would ask the nations how many body surfers there were in each country.

XD proposed a vote on a separate ESF Bodysurf event

KW told members that the vote could be different depending on whether the event was tailored towards Countries like Eurosurf or Eurojunior or Individuals like ETB or ETL

HJ asked if in principle we pursue the idea of a separate Bodysurf event

A vote took place:- 8 votes for: 2 votes against: 4 abstentions. Agreed

Ireland

Sponsorship

The ESF shall actively seek a partner to financially support the running of its events in Europe

BM (Ireland) told members that the ISA found it very difficult to gain sponsorship for a Eurosurf event in Ireland. He had found that sales statistics for the major surfing brands included Ireland as part of UK and that no separate sales statistics existed.

GH (Channel Islands) asked if the ESF had ever applied to EU for sponsorship.

DC (Channel Islands) told members that he had attended several meeting of the EU on behalf of the ESF and found that the rules were very strict regarding applying for funding.

HJ told members that Ireland had received cross boarder funding from the EU.

JG (Germany) is trying to work towards an EU anti smoking campaign and would like to include other members in this.

LCA (Spain) informed members that they had submitted a proposal to EU for 'my first wave' funding

A vote took place on the proposal. 14 votes for (unanimously agreed)

Proposals – Changes to the Constitution

From the ESF Executive Committee Company Directors

The Executive Committee proposes, that should a Company Director of European Surfing Federation Ltd lose or resign his/her position on the Executive Committee, that he/she should automatically lose their directorship of ESF Ltd.

2 votes for; 2 against; 10 abstain. The President had the casting vote and voted for the proposal.

(please also refer to Appointment and Retirement of Directors, Table A of the Companies Act and 8.4 of the articles - At each Annual General Meeting, one half of the Executive Committee shall retire by rotation. Any retiring director may offer himself for re-election)

Portugal Elections

Should a current member of the ESF Executive Committee wish to stand for another position on the Executive Committee, that person should first resign his present position.

A vote took place:- 10 vote for; 0 votes against ; 4 abstentions. Agreed

Spain Elections

We request the European Surfing Federation Annual General Meeting consider the following proposal by the Spanish Surfing Federation:

The elections for President, and Technical Director period should be four years instead of two.

The elections for Vice-President and Secretary General period should also be four years instead of two. The elections (Vice and Secretary) should occur the year after the President elections.

We believe this measure will give more stability, and optimize the ESF project. This measure will also match with other European and national Federations elections timetable.

BM (Ireland) asked if the President could still stand for 2 terms. KW pointed out that the Articles state that - 8.7 A President may only offer himself for re-election as President once.

RF asked for clarification that this is only for President, Vice President, Technical Director and Secretary General.

KW informed members that, if agreed, this would not come into effect until 2010 AGM elections

A vote took place:- 9 votes for; 1 vote against; 4 abstentions

Portugal

General Assembly

The idea is to create a new board on the ESF, the `General Assembly`.

This board is completely independent from the ESF Executive, works only for the AGM and it must be the `guardian` of the ESF constitution.

Once this is approved, any motions, proposals etc sent by the members, should be sent directly to the AGM without any interference from the ESF Executive.

Portugal explained that the idea of this committee would be to run along side the executive

RF explained that the idea was that the new committee would ensure that the members had a fair AGM

RF explained that the general assembly should be independent from the executive

JG (Germany) asked if the directors would be in charge of the proxys.

FD pointed out that if the assembly contained people who voted they would not be independent.

BM (Ireland) believed that in order to carry this committee, the ESF would have to dissolve the existing company and establish a new company.

Amine (Morocco) suggested that a member of the national sports ministry of the registered headquarters should be on a committee to see that everything is fair.

HJ suggested an amendment to the proposal to `that the ESF investigate this idea`

A vote took place on the amendment:- 11 votes for; 1 vote against; 2 abstentions.

Agreed

France

ESF Headquarters

Concerning ESF moving of address ,the FFS confirm you that we ask for a vote in Jersey to propose a move in France either in the new office of FFS in Hossegor or in the new Cité de l Océan et du Surf in Biarritz from 2010. Both towns are well situated in the middle of the European Surf zone well delivered by plane ,train or car from all over Europe. We would like to explain this matter in Jersey before any vote

XD (France) told members that Biarritz town council might be prepared to offer the ESF an office in Hossegor or Biarritz for the start of 2010, with no rent to pay and in the centre of the surf industry in France.

HJ asked if XD (France) had a formal proposal. XD (France) said that he did not, he told members that it was a verbal conversation.

XD (France) said that, following FD's presentation, France would be prepared withdraw the proposal but he would like to have the opinion of the members.

LCA (Spain) asked if the proposal was for a local office and if he had economic support to pay for the organisation.

FP (France) told members that the idea was for a building with shared facilities ie: telephone, photocopier, surf school. And that no rent would be payable. KW asked if any agreement would be with the ESF or the FFS. XD (France) told members that the agreement would be in the name of the ESF.

JG (Germany) said that he thought it was a great offer from the FFS regardless of whether the ESF accepted it.

FD reminded members that he had received a proposal from Lands regarding the provision of a HQ for the ESF.

JG (Germany) asked if we moved to France would we have to move the ESF registered office to France.

HJ said that this was a possibility although the reason we applied to become incorporated was to protect the officers of the ESF.

BM (Ireland) recommended looking at registering the Federation in another country whose tax laws were better for sporting organisations than England and Wales.

XD asked if a company registered in the UK can receive subsidies. HJ told members that this was the case.

Spain

ESF Headquarters

The central office of the ESF should be placed by decision of the President and Executive.

We think that the European should be decentralized and where the ESF central office is situated should count with President support because many of the funds of the institutions are because of the office situation and this is one of the values that a project should count. ESF has 18 offices in all Europe (NGB offices)...

LCA (Spain) told members that the Spanish Federation would present a project and it is very important for this project to have the head office where the ESF will benefit most.

FD asked if LCA (Spain) thought that he could get funds for the ESF.

BM (Ireland) pointed out that at present there are no formal offers.

A vote took place: 12 votes for; 2 votes against. It was agreed that the central office of the ESF should be placed by the decision of the President and Executive.

Election of Officers

Those currently up for election are:

President – Position currently held by Francis Distinguin

Francis Distinguin Nominated by Channel Islands and seconded by Wales

Xavier Delanne Nominated by Ireland and seconded by Morocco

Carlos Garcia Gomez Nominated by Germany and seconded by Holland

HJ reminded members that they would be given approximately 2 minutes to give their presentation

Francis Distinguin

FD reminded members of his experience of national organisations and his competencies, that he was a Master of Sport Management with good historical knowledge. He told members that he is in the middle of his strategic project as he will not be eligible to stand again. He requested that he be judged on what he has done for the ESF and his vision. FD asked all Federations to engage in his project and reminded members that he is completely independent because he does not represent a nation and doesn't have a vote, although he is a member of the oldest surf club in Europe, which is an honour.

Questions

LCA (Spain) asked FD what his main goal was during the last 15 years that he had been on the ESF executive.

FD told member that he had helped to resolve members problems eg. Between the Basque and Spanish Federations, in Italy between F I Surf and Surfing Italia, he had also helped the smaller nations engage in a global projects.

JG (Germany) said that some of the members present were President of their NGB's and asked FD what was his point of view of the role of the President. FD told members that he does not want the ESF to project it's desire on the members but to listen to each Federation.

Xavier Delanne

XD introduced himself as the Vice President of the FFS. He reminded members that the Federations are not equal but they all have the same targets. XD told members that he felt that, in order to help Federations we should collect the knowledge of the Federations through commissions headed by an elected person. On behalf of the FFS he would like to help out and work together for the benefit of all of the federations. There were no questions for Xavier

Carlos Garcia Gomez

CG congratulated everyone on a good team meeting. He welcomed a collaboration of everyone who has much to say. CG told members that he believed in the future of the ESF. He then asked LCA (Spain) to explain his project of action to the members.

KW requested a copy of LCA's presentation for the minutes.

(http://www.eurosurfing.org/files/2009_ESF_Carlos_Garcia.pdf)

XD expressed his disappointment that CG / LCA didn't keep to the time limit

A vote for the position of ESF President took place:

XD 3; CG 6; FD 5

Carlos Garcia Gomez was elected as President of the ESF

Technical Director - Position currently held by Rui Felix

RF was nominated by Germany and seconded by Ireland

A vote for the position of Technical Director took place:- 14 votes for. RF was elected unanimously. RF thanked the members

2 Individual Elected - Positions currently held by Norbert Hoischen & Miguel Inacio

Norbert Hoischen withdrew his nomination

Lorenzo Chaves d`Almeida withdrew his nomination

Doug Creedon withdrew his nomination

Olivier Etchebers was nominated by Spain and seconded Germany

Jan Groenendijk was nominated by Holland and seconded Italy

Brian MacCarthaigh was nominated the Channel Islands and seconded by Belgium

OE told members that he was on the committee of the FFS, that he was a bodyboarder who worked as a judge and competed on the ETB. He said he was sensitive to the needs of the smaller disciplines and emerging nations.

JG told members that he was President of the German Federation, half German and half Dutch, had worked for surfing nations including New Zealand and had been involved in the restructuring of the Holland Surfing Association. He told members that he embraced the spirit of surfing, and members needed to combine all efforts and work together.

BM told members that he was currently Chair/President of the Irish Surfing Association and that if elected he will give a voice to the smaller nations. He told members that he was also involved in many other sporting organisations.

A vote took place for positions of 2 individual elected members: -

OE 5

JG 11

BM 12

Jan Groenendijk and Brian MacCarthaigh were elected to the committee

Any Other Business

FPS (Portugal) gave a short presentation regarding their wish to host Eurojunior 2010.

XD (France) withdrew the interest of the FFS in Eurojunior 2010