



# EUROPEAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

Registered Office: c/o HKTA 16 Bruton Street, London W1X 3LB, England

Reply to: De Haukes 100, 1778 KD Westerland, The Netherlands

Tel +31 (0)624 65 8824 or E-mail [kim.edbf@xs4all.nl](mailto:kim.edbf@xs4all.nl)

## 26<sup>TH</sup> EDBF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015 @ 09.00hrs

Held at Regatta Course, Divonne les Bains, France

### Present:

EDBF Board:	Mike Haslam	MH	President	GBR
	Alan van Caubergh	AvC	Chairman	NLD
	Claudio Schermi	CS	Senior Vice Chairman	ITA
	Kim Beckwith	KB	Secretary General	NLD
	Natalia Kravtsova	NK	Treasurer	UKR
	Sue Menzies	SM	Council Rep	GBR

### Present (voting members):

Julie Doyle	JD		IRE
Peter Jarosi	PJ		HUN
Vincent Fournier	VF		FRA
Maura Desi	MD		ITA
Ute Becker	UB		GER
Bridget Walter	BW	(Chair ComSpec)	SWI
Roman Vernkhoff	RV		EST (temp)
Petr Popinov	PP		RUS
Oleksandr Bakanychov	OB		UKR
Arild Jordskar	AJ		NOR
Robin Magnusson	RM		SWE
Wendy Hermelink	WH		NLD
Mike Thomas	MT		GBR
Zoran Vukobranovic	ZV		SRB
Eduard Karamov	EK		MOL
Peter Jarosi (for Peter Widhalm)	PJ		AUS
Ute Becker (for Petr Klima)	UB		CZE



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Petr Popinov (for Milos Gasparik)	PP	SLO
Antonio de Lucia (for Wlodzimierz Schmidt)	AdL (AdL Chair SmedCom)	POL

## Absent:

Cyprus (Apologies), Spain (apologies), Portugal

## In attendance (non voting):

Fanni Nemeth	FN	HUN
Nils Asmussen	NA (Chair M&M)	GER
Saed Abdullah	SA	GER
Thomas Arlaitw	TA	GER
Teet Vahesoo	TV	EST (aspirant)
Martin Ilumets	MI	EST (aspirant)
Andrew Menzies	AM	GBR
Sue Thomas	ST	GBR
Murray Jones	MJ	GBR
Haristi Muricia	HM	EST
Clarence John	CJ	MON

## Commissions (non voting):

ComSpec	Chair	Bridget Walter
	Member	Saed Abdullah
Marketing & Media	Chair	Niels Asmussen
	Member	Kim Beckwith
SmedCom	Chair	Antonio de Lucia

Item

Action



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## **1.00 Welcome Address / Roll Call**

- 1.01 A roll call of the members were made and a quorum of over 50% of members were present.
- 1.02 The meeting was formally opened at 09.37hrs with a formal welcome by Mike Haslam, EDBF President.

## **2.00 Confirmation of the Agenda**

- 2.01 MH proposed that item 10 – Motions before the Assembly, including Appeals, Statute Amendments was moved forward to become item 8 on the agenda due to the importance of the item and so that it could be discussed whilst everyone was fresh with translation.
- 2.02 This was not accepted by Hungary as they felt that the new board needed to be elected first. Also the nominations for the new Board were based on the old Statutes.
- 2.03 It was reiterated by MH that it was important for the EDBF to come in line with the current IDBF Statutes, as the EDBF had been formed before the IDBF and its Statutes had never been changed.
- 2.04 After much discussion Ireland proposed that the agenda remained as originally presented in order to move the meeting forward.  
Vote: 15 in Favour / 1 Against / 3 Abstentions

## **3.00 Acceptance of the Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> AGA Meeting**

- 3.01 Confirmation previous minutes accepted in full as presented, including those of the Tallinn Special General Assembly, 21-23 November 2014.

## **4.00 Appointment of Scrutineers for the Assembly**

- 4.01 The following individuals were appointed as scrutineers for the Assembly:  
Sue Menzies - GBR  
Bridget Walters - SWI

## **5.00 EDBF Chair Holder's Report**

### **A Work of the Council and Board**

- 5.01 AvC has been involved in conducting training courses for both the IDBF and the EDBF. The only EDBF training course this year was run in Malta. Discussion was also had on how Malta could stimulate new clubs



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and equipment to move the sport forward.

- 5.02 A Special General Assembly was held in Tallin, Estonia 23-25 November 2014. There were a few new members present, but very few old members.
- 5.03 Following the EGA in Tallin AvC represented the EDBF at a SportAccord meeting in Lausanne where there was an opportunity to meet other sporting federations.
- 5.04 AvC has been involved with the decision to relocate the 2015 ECCC to Divonne les Bains in France following the withdrawal of Hungary. There was also a back up solution to go to Ravenna in Italy supported by the FIDB. The 2015 ECCC organisation team only had six months to prepare for the event. With only 1,100 participants budgets were very tight for this event, but with the support of the Divonne les Bains local government and the event organisers the event has proven very successful.
- 5.05 AvC attended a Sport Accord meeting in Sochi, Russia as a representative of the EDBF where there was an opportunity to network with a lot of international federations.
- 5.06 AvC assisted the Breast Cancer Survivor's Division with the selection judging of the venue for their next World Participatory Dragon Boat Racing Championships in 2018. Ravenna, Florence and Windermere all submitted bids to run the championships. Florence, Italy was finally selected. It is expected that the event will attract 4000 – 5000 BCS participants.
- 5.07 AvC has been in discussions with Armenia, Spain and Monaco about developing the sport further in their countries. Particular assistance was required with the Sports Minister in Monaco with numerous phone calls and emails.
- 5.08 AvC has also been involved with the allocation of development boats to the developing countries of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Belarus. Serbia and Spain have also been allocated boats from other sources.
- 5.09 For the 2015 ECCC AvC carried out a site visit to the Peisheng boat manufacturers in Shanghai, China along with MH and Mike Thomas and secured a deal to provide boats for the championships.
- 5.10 KB went to Malmo, Sweden to explore rejuvenating the Malmo event. New contacts have been made with the intention of getting Sweden back on the dragon boat map. She also visited the Swedish National Team



training camp and did some individual coaching with the U-24 paddlers.

- 5.11 On 02/08/15 AvC met with the Danish dragon boat representative who was paddling in the Norwegian club team at the ECCC. With a new contact in it is hoped the sport can be stimulated again in Denmark.
- 5.12 GBR proposed a vote of thanks to the organisers of the 2015 ECCC in Divonne les Bains. From the feedback from crews and officials the event was exceptionally well received.
- 5.13 MH proposed a vote of thanks to the EDBF Board for their work during their period of office. Great Britain supported the proposal by MH.

## **B List of New Members for Final Approval**

- 5.14 No new members to the EDBF were presented for approval.

## **6.00 Reports from the EDBF Commissions**

### ComSpec Commission – Report by Bridget Walters

- 6.01 It was a late start for 2015 ECCC with the first visit in February 2015 with AvC, MH and BW in attendance. A second meeting was held where the budget was reviewed and a third meeting in March.
- 6.02 After the initial meeting the organisers did most of the work themselves. Although experienced event organisers they took on board a lot of the advice and suggestions made. The team worked really hard with their presence at the event really visible (Richard, Sylvan & Lucy).
- 6.03 AvC had attended two of their events prior to the championships to see how they operate.
- 6.04 One criticism was with the communication which was not as quick as would have been liked, but it all got sorted in the end.
- 6.05 The major contribution to the event was the deal facilitated by MH with the Peisheng Boat Company for the supply of the boats. If this deal had not been made there would have been fewer people at the event as it was proposed to charge an additional €20 / participant to cover boat hire.
- 6.06 The event budget is still open and the organisers don't know where they stand at present. The PA system was more expensive and the party was moved to the round area near the medal presentation.
- 6.07 On arrival on Thursday the event set up was well underway and well in



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advance of competitions. There has been lots of positive feedback from officials and competitors and everyone was found to be friendly.

- 6.08 1,100 participants is disappointing, but this may have been due to the late decision on where the event was to be held. However the number of countries attending was good.
- 6.09 Another major plus was that AvC could speak French, as the main organiser Sylvan Murnier had little English.
- 6.10 If there is any member wishing to work on the ComSpec, please make yourself known to Bridget Walter as the EDBF are looking to develop a bigger team of people. ALL

## Marketing and Media Commission – Report by Nils Asmussen

- 6.11 The Marketing and Media Commission is generally quiet as active participation is needed from all nations to market the sport.
- 6.12 The EDBF have stickers available if anyone would like some.
- 6.13 Currently the Commission is working on better visibility of the EDBF logo and working on getting better media attention.
- 6.14 The website and Facebook are regularly updated with automatic feed between sites and to Twitter to maintain an active web presence. Normally there is more activity around the time of championships.
- 6.15 A request was made for countries to send their newsletters to Nils Asmussen (M&M Commission) or to the Secretary General for re-broadcasting on the EDBF electronic communications platforms. ALL
- 6.16 MH advised that the IDBF were working on introducing a digital platform for the sport. There would be no cost to individual nations, but individuals would need to pay an individual fee. Attached to this would be a rewards discount for hotels, clothing, flights etc. It is hoped that this will get closed out in the coming months.
- 6.17 History was made at the 2015 ECCC as a totally automatic progressions system was used which has been developed by Slawek Borucki from Poland. This can be received through the phone or Ipad. More testing will be carried out in Welland at the WNC.

## Sports and Medical Commission

- 6.17 The President of the Italian Society of Sports Accord recently published



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in *Sports Psychology* journal. Commission chair wants to organize specific discussion topics to be covered at SmedCom meetings. The commission needs to include more people from other countries. Any volunteers, please advise the chair, Antonio de Lucia.

## 7.00 Financial Report, Approval of Account and Budgets

7.01 NK presented the accounts. See attached accounts for 2014 period.

7.02 It was noted that more money than originally budgeted was spent in 2014: Live Stream equipment, ReadSpeaker on websites, Racice officials' travel and subsidies to EDBF members for Tallinn Special General Assembly.

7.03 The Treasurer requested permission to write off some monies against non-payment of membership (i.e. RAPS now representing Russia instead of Russian DBF).

7.04 Ireland questioned whether the 2014 accounts had been audited. It was confirmed that they had not been audited. Ireland declined to audit the 2014 accounts as they had done the 2013 accounts and felt it important that other nations take responsibility to review the accounts.

Following a request to the floor:

2014 Accounts to be audited by Hungary.

HUN

2015 Accounts to be audited by Germany.

GER

7.05 NK requested that she is advised of any changes to contact details for nations treasurers.

ALL

7.06 Germany queried why there was still an outstanding debt of €6,345 from 2008. This item related to where the Czech Republic said they had paid their registration fee to the Italian Federation in cash, but the Italian Federation had no record of receipt, although all other cash payments had been recorded. This item has been fully investigated, but with no conclusion. NK advised this was a line item reminder and was not in the current EDBF annual accounts and should be struck from the books. This was also the catalyst to change payment of the EDBF registration fee direct to the EDBF.

7.07 Great Britain raised a query on the 2015 Budget regarding an expenditure item titled "BDA on behalf of EDBF/IDBF". Per Mike Thomas the BDA had said 15 months ago that they would no longer accept any expenses on behalf of the EDBF/IDBF, so they should be charged/paid direct to the EDBF/IDBF. The EDBF Treasurer was not involved in these discussions. The BDA will no longer invoice EDBF for

NK





EDBF/IDBF expenses, but will change this to “President’s expenses”.

- 7.08 Russia proposed that the financial report be accepted subject to audit.  
This was seconded by Italy.  
Vote: 15 in Favour / 0 Against /4 abstentions

## **8.00 Confirmation of Annual Fees proposed by the Board**

- 8.01 No fee changes were proposed by the board: annual fee remains at 150.00 euro per member per year.

## **9.00 Elections of Officers and Member’s Representatives of the Council**

- 9.01 Much discussion began on which nations had the right to vote with a confirmation required that each nation was not part of another member association and that they had a minimum number of 3 club members. Austria’s status needs to be confirmed – do they have the minimum number of club members? Per PJ, yes. Sec Gen to verify.

SecGen

- 9.02 In order to move the meeting on, Ireland proposed that every member nation present at the meeting including those with a proxy vote had a countable vote. This was seconded by Germany.  
Vote: 18 in Favour / 1 - Against / 0 –Abstention.

- 9.03 As very little time remained Germany proposed that the meeting should be stopped immediately and that the elections and the statute amendments would be deferred to an Extraordinary General Assembly arranged for another date. This was seconded by Great Britain.  
Vote: 12 in Favour / 5 – Against / 2 – Abstentions.

- 9.04 Great Britain proposed that the existing office holders remain in place until the ExGA. This was seconded by Switzerland.  
Vote: 16 in Favour /2 – Against / 1 – Abstention.

- 9.05 The following locations were proposed for the ExGA.  
Hungary proposed Budapest, Hungary. Vote: 2 in Favour  
Chairman proposed Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Vote: 5 in Favour  
Ukraine proposed Tallin, Estonia. Vote: 3 in Favour  
Germany proposed Berlin, Germany. Vote: 8 in Favour

- 9.06 It was confirmed that the ExGA would be held in Berlin, Germany on the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> November 2015.  
Vote: 17 in Favour / 1 Against/ 1 - Abstention

- 9.07 It was confirmed that no new nominations or changes in candidates would be accepted before this next meeting.





## 10.00 Motions before the Assembly, including Appeals, Statute Amendments

- 10.01 Due to the meeting time constraints and the uncirculated amendments this item would now be carried forward to the ExGA to be held in Berlin, Germany on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

## 11.00 Confirming the Time and Place of EDBF Championships

### EDBF European Nations Championships 2016 Bids:

- 11.01 FIDB - Laghetto dell'EUR, Rome, Italy  
The same venue as used in 1998 for the ENC and 2002 for the WCCC. The course is shallow at 2.5m in depth and can only operate over 4 lanes although all lanes are wide enough. There is also special festivities happening in the summer in Rome as it is the Pope's Jubilee. All members should notify their paddlers that this *non-spec* location was selected by the majority of representatives at this meeting to avoid complaints about the suitability of the location.
- 11.02 FIDB - Ravenna, Italy (second option)  
It is proposed to use the same venue as the WCCC in 2014, however this is an expensive venue to rent.
- 11.03 Estonian Dragon Boat Federation - Tallin, Estonia  
The proposed location was viewed last November at the EGA. The race course is circa 600m x 100m and is deep. There is plenty of accommodation in a spa hotel located 50m from the race course. No events have yet been run in Estonia, so a fair judgement cannot be made, plus nothing is known about the organisers. AvC is to attend an event in Tallin on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- 11.04 Vote: 7 in Favour of Rome / 6 in Favour of Tallin / 6 Abstentions.
- 11.05 It was confirmed that the 2016 EDBF ENC would be held in Rome, Italy during the schools holiday period (July or August) in order to encourage more under 18 teams. The date of the event is to be notified to the ExGA in November.

[KB: Petr Popinov, RUS/SLO, departs.]

- 11.06 Bids for the EDBF ECCC in 2017 to be accepted for consideration at the ExGA.
- 11.07 EDBF European Nations Championships 2018:



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Germany advised that they would like to bid for this event and proposed Brandenburg (Berlin), Germany.

Vote: 16 in Favour / 0 – Against / 3 Abstentions

## 12.00 Any Other Business notified by Members or the Board or Council

12.01 The organisers of the 2015 ECCC in Divonne les Bains expressed their thanks for the support and good vibes from the EDBF team. As the French Dragon Boat Federation is currently dormant and were not willing to help with the event.

12.02 The President thanked everyone for their attendance, discussion and disagreements at the meeting which without we would not be able to move the sport forward.

## 13.00 Date and Place of the Next Meeting

13.01 An Extraordinary General Assembly will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Berlin, Germany.

All delegates to arrive in Berlin on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Review Statutes

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Elections and a visit to the Brandenburg course on the afternoon.

13.02 All meeting documentation and the voting list is to be sent out well in advance of the meeting date to allow everyone a chance to review it thoroughly before the meeting.

Meeting closed at 12.51hrs.

Minutes produced by Julie Doyle (IRE) – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015, edited and adjusted 6 September 2015 KB.

Respectfully submitted,

K.M. Beckwith, MA  
EDBF Secretary General  
Westerland, The Netherlands