

Steering Group Exploration

Date of Meeting	28th May 2011
Minutes Prepared by:	Jonathon Ralfe
Minutes approved by:	Chris Wheeler
Date of next meeting:	28 August 2011

Attendees:

- Chris Wheeler (Chair)	CW	England
- Matthew Reid	MR	England
- Peter Faassen de Heer	PF	Scotland
- Ilse Carpentier	IC	France
- Mike Berry	MB	Netherlands
- Niel Markwick	NW	Belgium
- Jonathon Ralfe	JR	Belgium
- Michelle Coco	MC	France
- Erick Acker	EA	France

Summary

1. Welcome	2
2. EFT Website.....	2
3. Non Attending Interest	2
4. Scope, Authority and Mandate	3
5. Stakeholders, Support and Involvement.....	3
6. Positions Appointed	3
7. Contact email Addresses.....	3

1. Welcome

CW outlined the current situation :

Touch in Europe is growing rapidly and maturing quickly.

There is a widespread feeling that “European Touch” is Mature enough to run things themselves without an overdependence on FIT who are remote.

There is also concern about the financial situation. There has been a lack of transparency regarding FIT’s income from the 2010 European Touch Championships and the 2011 Touch World Cup. There is a vagueness surrounding the European Development Fund and a resistance to clarify the extent or purpose of this fund. The EFT would seek to provide greater transparency in these matters.

However, no such organization currently exists.

Although excellent preparatory work has been performed by several representatives of multiple nations working together, no body yet exists.

This meeting would seek to establish a steering group which would establish the European Federation of Touch (EFT) and be in a position to receive a mandate from FIT authorizing such a regional Federation.

The welcome was well received and approved by all attendees.

2. EFT Website

NM informed the meeting that development of the website for the European Federation of Touch was well underway. The current version has not yet been made public and will remain under wraps until announcement on the EFT has been approved. It will be located at www.toucheurope.org.

3. Non Attending Interest

CW advised that following his email announcing this meeting, several individuals who could not attend had expressed their support and interest in becoming involved with the EFT.

These were :

Clare Gregor	England
Emmanuel Conde	France
Stefano Zarpellon	Ireland
Gordon McEwen	Scotland

Following the meeting several other people also expressed interest :

Alfie ??	Guernsey
Marie Stefani	Guernsey
Richard Duchemin	Guernsey

4. Scope, Authority and Mandate

JR voiced concern over the authority under which the EFT could be formed and positions on the board simply appointed. In particular, the absence of Rob McGregor (RM), FIT Regional Director and the non-representation of many countries.

EA responded that he had been in contact with RM and that RM had raised no objections.

PF clarified that what was being formed was not the EFT board but a steering group whose mandate should be to shepherd in the full formation of the EFT.

EA stressed that an organization must be in place to receive such a mandate from FIT and that the steering group should be in place such that it may receive that mandate at the FIT AGM during the World Cup, otherwise we may have to wait another year or two.

JR proposed that any such appointed positions be for a maximum term of 12 months and that the steering group commits to holding full elections for all positions within that time frame. In fact, the ideal would be to have elections complete and to announce a full EFT Board at the 2012 Euros. The proposal was accepted.

5. Stakeholders, Support and Involvement

It was also proposed that all countries be contacted once again to explicitly inform them of the project and to invite their involvement in this prelaunch phase.

JR agreed to draw up a contact sheet for all countries so that it may be followed up by the steering group. (Tom Bedkowski from 2010 Euros)

6. Positions Appointed

Positions were appointed on a voluntary basis. No positions were contested. No objections were voiced.

Chairperson	Chris Wheeler	England
Treasurer	Neil Markwick	Belgium
Secretary	Jonathon Ralfe	Belgium
Calendar/Communications	Tom Bedkowski	England
High Performance	Michelle Coco	France

The Steering Group shall not be considered closed. Additional involvement is most welcome.

7. Contact email Addresses

NM agreed to establish appropriate contact email addresses for each of the appointed positions.