



**European Federation of Touch Members Meeting  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2015, Strasbourg, France**

1. Opening

Ben Powell welcomed everyone to the meeting at 17:25.

2. Rollcall

Attendees

Ben Powell (EFT) – CHAIR

Erick Acker (FIT representative)

Matt Boeson (EFT)

Gregg Cropper (England)

Hester Williams & Paul Black (Netherlands)

Bob Kalmal (Germany)

Marc Plissoneau (France)

Loic Dahan (Belgium)

Federico Black (Ireland)

Keith Hoek (Switzerland)

Duncan Smart (Scotland)

Lois Lau (minute taker)

Apologies:

Austria

Guernsey

Italy

Jersey

Wales

Not heard from:

Luxembourg

3. Approval of Minutes 2014

Minutes were still in draft form. Germany proposed the motion to approve the minutes, Scotland seconded. All present voted to approve the minutes.

4. Officeholder's Reports

a. President's Report – Matt Boeson circulated report about 2 months' ago but no nations received it.

**ACTION:** Matt to re-circulate.

b. Tournament Commission – none circulated. Tom Bedkowski has been chased and has asked for extension, but still no report as yet.

**ACTION:** Ben Powell to request financial records from Wales for ETC 2014.

**ACTION:** Tom Bedkowski to circulate ETC 2014 Report.

c. Referee Commission – report submitted for 2014. However, a Referee Commission Report for 2015 has not been submitted.

**ACTION:** Members have requested a report for 2015. Referee Commission to produce.

d. Coaching Commission – none submitted.

**ACTION:** EFT to establish coaching record and easy way of coaching support.

## 5. Election to Vacant Positions

President Matthew Boeson resigned from his position as President. Ben Powell and Erick Acker have remained on the Executive Committee.

The following were elected to the executive committee:

1. Linda Acker
2. Neil Perkins
3. Mark Knight

## 6. General Items and Matters of Interest:

a. Item removed from the agenda.

b. **Transparency of Financial Records-** Item removed from the agenda.

EFT has a bank account where entry money for EFT 2016 can be paid into. Matt suggested that a group of individuals separate from the committee should be appointed to overlook the incomings/outgoings of the account to prevent any conflict of interests. Account based in France. Agreement with referees that they can use the same bank account too.

**ACTION:** Newly formed EFT Executive Committee to enforce that the EFT Bank Account is used for all incomings and outgoings.

c. **EFT will now be totally responsible for European Events and where FIT use to directly impose a fees they will not do so, however we have the opportunity to collect equivalent fees for the self-controlled European Development Fund Motion: .Discuss the new FIT Income Stream (effective 2017) and collect the European development Fund fees effective 2016 European Championships (France)**

Points 3 and 10: EFT fees from all European events and FIT cluster organisation – proposed France and England

About 50% increase in fees for all the monies to be collected from NTAs in Europe, rather than any monies being paid to FIT instead. Some concerns from member nations about how this money will be spent. Acting Executive Management Committee to look into what NTAs need in terms of development and have a strategic plan in place on how to spend the money in all areas, e.g. coaching, development, referees.

**ACTION:** Committee to be established to look at a strategy for where the income will be used.

- d. **All competitions to be requested to check if a 'none known' enters, that the team is affiliated with home NTA. i.e. Free Touch - Cottesmore Orzels from England? (England)**

**ACTION:** NTA's to host a list of Affiliated Clubs on their website that is updated on a regular basis.

- e. **Change of constitution to have roles be 1-year term, not 4 years, until more work is done on policies and KPIs. Whilst still in the development stage of the EFT, this length of term is much more manageable and reasonable. (England)**

**Vote – Yes/No**

All in favour: Netherlands, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, Guernsey, Wales, Jersey

All not in favour: Scotland, Austria, Italy

**ACTION:** Motion passed. Will be voted on at the next EFT AGM

- f. **Coaching Program: Create a list of qualified coaches in Europe to be published on the EFT website, so NTAs can directly contact them to arrange coaching sessions. This is currently done by who knows who/what. (England)**

**ACTION:** List of coaches that are available to deliver coaching courses and work with NTA's is to be published on the EFT website for easy access to NTA's.

It was discussed that NTA's should go through the EFT Coaching Coordinator or the FIT Coaching Commission if they would like coaching assistance.

- g. **Referee Program: Update on number courses and of qualified referees and coaches within Europe. (England)**

Included in Agenda Item 4.

Dropbox link of courses that have been delivered and number of qualified referees does not exist.

**ACTION:** EFT Executive committee and the Referee Commission to look at how this information can best be made available

- h. **Office Holders Report: TB and DF to provide written reviews of ETC14. (England)**

Included in Agenda Item 4.

- i. **Referee Selection Quota: Update from the working group to provide a workable solution (England)**

**Vote – Yes/No**

Members voted that the Quota system will remain with the following changes:

- Members will still be required to provide ONE named referee per team entered to ETC. Where a member cannot provide a named referee of the required standard, a referee can be obtained from the referee EFT Referee Bank. Those who name a referee from the EFT Referee Bank understand that there is a chance that there may not be enough referees for their team to be supported at the ETC, MC or HN.
- Those Members who have further suitably qualified referees who wish to referee at the ETC, MC or HN will provide the details of those referees to the EFT for inclusion in the EFT Referee Bank.

- The European Referee Commission will select all qualified, named team referees plus the best qualified additional referees to provide full coverage for the teams with a named referee.
- If you cannot provide the 1 referee per team entered, you can request to purchase a referee from the EFT Referee Bank. A fee of 500 Euros per referee is needed. If a referee is available in the EFT Referee Bank the fee 500 Euros will go directly to the NTA from where the referee has been provided from. It is at the NTA's discretion how much of that money goes to subsidise the referee and how much goes into other NTA referee development opportunities.
- This bank of referees will be established from any suitably qualified referee within Europe that is not chosen by their NTA as a named referee supporting a team application for the ETC, HN and MC and that is not already selected for the event.
- Where there are enough referees to support all of the teams requesting a referee from the EFT Referee Bank is it up to the EFT and European Referee Commission go select the referee from the bank to go with the team with no referee.
- Referee's will be ranked within the bank to ensure the 'next best' referees are attending the ETC. Rankings will be given by the NTA, but will then be reviewed and confirmed by the EFT.
- If there are not enough referees in the EFT Referee Bank then lots will be drawn to select the teams which are allocated the remaining referees in the Bank (Potential prioritisation prior to drawing lots to be discussed and captured in a policy document e.g. teams whose participation allows a division to go ahead may get priority, etc).
- Any team not allocated a referee from the EFT Referee Bank can then look to source a referee outside of Europe with the proviso that they cannot breach the 500 Euro Referee Bank fee.
- Any team which cannot find a suitably qualified named referee by [date to be specified in event guidance] will not be able to participate in the ETC, HN or MC.

**All in favour:** Netherlands, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, Guernsey, Wales, Jersey, Scotland, Austria, Italy

**ACTION:** Sub-committee to be established to work with the Referee Commission to establish a policy with the above framework ready to be used for the ETC16. Paul Black (Netherlands) has already volunteered to be a part of this committee.

- j. **Next Euros 2016: TB was to gather a working group/selection panel from those 4 countries selected at the meeting (Jen Lee (Spain), Michael Short (Scotland), Oliver Ward (Guernsey), and Hester Williams (Netherlands)). Were these people contacted after putting their names forward and the members agreeing? (It's noted that an alternative panel was formed) (England)**

Tom Bedkowski chose to select his own committee. Hester Williams was spoken to at a touch tournament in Germany about why she was not taken up on her offer to assist. Jen Lee was approached to be a part of the working group. Michael Short and Oliver Ward were not approached.

**k. EFT Impact of FIT Cluster Organisations. Update required. (England)**

Information about this has been circulated by FIT to all member nations.

Gregg Cropper (England) and Erick Acker (FIT President) gave an update on this.

About 50% increase in fees for all the monies to be collected from NTAs in Europe by the EFT, rather than collected by FIT. Some concerns from member nations about how this money will be spent. Acting Executive Management Committee to look into what NTAs need in terms of development and have a strategic plan in place on how to spend the money in all areas, e.g. coaching, development, referees.

**l. Annual Report: There has not been an annual report produced for the last 2 years. EFT President to produce and disseminate, as per job spec. (England)**

No annual report for 2014 and 2015. There has been one for this year, but distribution list did not receive it. Matthew Boeson gave a verbal report of 2014 at the AGM.

**m. England offered assistance to EFT in terms of website and social media updates. We would be grateful on a response as to why this (officially minuted) offer wasn't taken up, when there are numerous things which need updating and to also promote. (England)**

Executive Committee will be in contact with England to take them up on the offer of assistance.

**n. Strategic Plan: Action – EFT to hold different workshops during the 2015 JTC weekend (21-23 August) at Nottingham for different groups to work on the strategic plan, the refereeing program and the coaching program and come back together on the Sunday to collate all the information.**

- This did not happen, nor were NTAs contacted to do so. Are there any plans for this to happen in the near future? (England)

Apologies were made that this did not take place at the JTC15. The EFT intend to offer this at the ETC16. An opportunity for the member nations to also share best practice would like to be offered also.

**o. There is discrepancy in how countries were ranked at ETCs over last 4 years. EFT/FIT to produce a succinct document on how rankings are compiled. (Numerous promises made by the EFT Tournament organiser TB, but no document sent.) (England)**

Gary Reynolds from FIT (Events Commission) is currently looking at establishing consistency with both European and World rankings.

**p. Feedback from Derek Fisher on the outcome of the Ref discussions for the Euros 2016. This is especially important for small Touch nations like ourselves that are trying to encourage more players (and hence potential refs) to the sport. (Netherlands)**

Netherlands satisfied with the Referee report circulated about the ETC14 by the EFT Referee Commission and the subsequent quota discussion.

- q. **Would be good to know if EFT itself has a Europe-wide media strategy. At the moment it seems that each individual national body must do its own work, but would be great to have some overall strategy here - whether it be online, social media, or targeting a Eurosport or BBC slot for the Euros 2016. (Netherlands)**

No plan with EFT currently.

**ACTION:** EFT going to seek feedback from Jersey to see if any media coverage is being discussed for ETC16.

- r. **An active EFT website with some training materials, or videos of the high quality euro finals could be a great resource to refer new players to. For a fast and dynamic game, the EFT website is pretty terrible and not representative of the sport! (Netherlands)**

EFT will be looking at developing the website. It is hoped that an EFT YouTube channel will be established to provide an easy link to video resources.

- s. **Linked to point (17) above, The Touch Nederland page on the EFT is out of date and we would request them to update this. Cerys Reece (NL Vice president/Secretary) is happy to draft revised content. (Netherlands)**

Cerys Reece to send Ben Powell the new revised link and content for updating on the EFT website.

**ACTION:** EFT to set up a standardised form for all NTA's to complete and the EFT to update their website.

- t. **Can ETF evaluate some different approaches for the future? This means, for example, one day of competitions in more, to compensate one field less. Or the standard costs for the accommodation, for to have all the same target. (Italy)**

More communication from EFT to be clearer and look at other events on how developing countries can stage events. Members discussed separating the Opens and Seniors divisions to 2 different events at different weekends.

- u. **Women's over age division (possibly over 35) There have been a number of successful women's tournaments in Europe this year, with the Spring Chics tournament in March attracting 20 ladies' teams, the Elegance tournament in Paris in July attracting 18 teams and there is the Nante ladies tournament later in the year which will be well supported. I believe that Ireland, England and France will be able to provide both a w27 and a second over age women's division. (Ireland)**

Item not discussed in great detail. It was noted that France will be looking to host a 27+ tournament in September 2016 which was very well received by members.

- v. **Women's tournaments in Europe this year, with the Spring Chics tournament in March attracting 20 ladies' teams, the Elegance tournament in Paris in July attracting 18 teams and there is the Nante ladies' tournament later in the year which will be well supported. I believe that Ireland, England and France will be able to provide both a w27 and a second over age women's division. (Ireland)**

Discussed as part of point u.

- w. **Men's 45 I believe Spain, England, France, Wales and Italy are quite capable of fielding an over 45 team. We are confident that Ireland can still field a men's 40 team and the additional men's 45 team. (Ireland)**

Men's 45s is a part of the EOI for ETC16

- x. **The conditions of entry to the Euros, particularly the ratio of referees to teams. Under the current nomination criteria, it is unfortunate that the number of teams a nation can nominate is based on the number of referees they can supply rather than the number of teams they wish to nominate. I understand the logic behind this as referees, coaching, administration and player participation go hand in hand to progress the sport and to make the Euros a successful tournament. As the sport develops, touch has one downside in that everyone wants to play; coaches, referees and administrators. As we build the leagues, we first find the venue, then the teams and then referees. Many of the referees are player referees. In 2014, nations were required to have a 1 to 1 ratio of referees and teams. As a result of this quota we had to drop a team from the European Championships. This caused quite a deal of discontent and as we move forward we need to avoid a similar situation and have clarity on the referees nominations for the 2016 Euros. We are aware that there is a proposal to allow nations to take referees from a pool of referees where they are unable to meet the quota and there is meeting planned to discuss this issue. Recently, we have partnered with the IRFU and this may prove a long term benefit to us, but those referees may not be a high enough badge level for 2016. For us, we are being much more proactive for the 2016 Euros and the planning is well under way. We would like to put forward a case for a Men's 45 division and an additional over age women's division (possibly over 35). (Ireland)**

Ireland stated that the referee quota decision addressed their issues.

- y. **Misconduct – specifically with regard to abuse of referees. (Derek Fisher)**

Behaviour and Misconduct paper circulated to all members prior to AGM. This was produced by the Referee Commission.

It has been stated that Scotland Touch Association have a very good policy that they are willing to circulate.

- z. **NTAs to decide what type of tournaments that (they want) Euros etc. to be. (Derek Fisher)**

Not discussed.

7. AOB

- a. **Interest from Chile, China and Middle East Touch have also requested an invite to ETC2016. (England)**

Members discussed this and were very receptive to the idea.

8. Meeting closed at 20:30.