



The **EPFA Dublin Workshop** took place on Friday January 25th and Saturday 26th 2019 hosted at the Football Association of Ireland's Head Quarters at the National Sports Campus.

The workshop began with a guided tour of the Sport Ireland Indoor Arena before transferring to the Media Centre of the FAI. Donal Byrne, President of EPFA welcomed delegates from England, Switzerland, Denmark, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland along with a guest from Frankfurt with an interest in the progress of powerchair football in Germany and Turkey.

Director of Sport, Adam Mc Evoy gave a presentation about the Sports Department, the competitions and development events that have been held, services that EPFA provide, the UEFA partnership and future competitions. Each of the National Organizations of Powerchair Football gave their own presentations of a brief history, their competition structure, nationally and how they have performed in international competitions. They also gave an overview of the areas they find most challenging in developing the sport in their country and also what they have been most proud of or what they do well. The afternoon had a presentation by Oisin Jordan National Co-Ordinator of the Football For All Programme of the Football Association of Ireland who gave an insight of how a National Football Association can work and support a National Organization of Powerchair Football. Also giving a presentation was CEO of Paralympics Ireland, Miriam Malone, who highlighted the benefits of attracting more female participants to our sport for future bids for inclusion in Paralympic Games. The second day of the workshop saw three areas discussed in breakout groups, these areas and topics had come to the forefront from the previous day, funding and sponsorship, development and existing and future competitions.



Here is a summary of the thread of the discussions:

Fundraising and Sponsorship:

More work needed to target major business and banks, needs to be well planned before approach is made. All companies and businesses have a corporate social responsibility (CSR) and should be open to new ideas- key is to get to the right person and with a good pitch. Know your audience.

Funding sources:

Local Councils

National Lottery Funding

Government funding

Sports Grants and Sports Partnerships

Local Business donations

Hotel Groups

Insurance Companies

Individual club fundraising:

50/50 weekly draws

Local supermarket bag packs



Best approach:

Research the company or organization you are approaching

Anticipate answers to questions about why they should offer funds or sponsorship

Develop an angle of why the partnership would work or be a good fit.

Remember it is not always about the money, companies and businesses can support too with 'Benefit in Kind', areas like Marketing, Printing, Legal and Insurance advice, Health and Safety areas can all be just as beneficial in the long run as a source of support.

Session moderated by Brian Dix EPFA Director of Partnerships partnerships@europeanpfa.com

Development:

Developing new teams/clubs - cost is a barrier to entry

Passing down old equipment to get new clubs established

More competitions for entry level teams/clubs until they are able to move up to the higher levels

All countries and NOPFS need to look at their implementation of Child Protection commitments and see that they are being implemented.

Need more coaching supports

Explore the creation of a Powerchair Football specific coaching qualification - could be several levels over a period of time - consult UEFA

EPFA should seek a well known personality to be its patron.

Better networking and sharing of resources and information.

Can't rely on volunteers for everything and if we have reached capacity is it time to employ people to specific roles - how to fund this.

Session moderated by Donal Byrne, EPFA President president@europeanpfa.com

Competitions and Future Competitions:

More competitions for different levels

National Teams - second level type competition

(to include some teams that would be also in the Nations Cup)

National team competition in 2021 for teams and new

countries that won't be going to the 2021 World Cup

Existing competitions work well

New events to use to train and develop the standard of officials

Prioritise club level events ahead of national team events.

Nations Cup placing decide on number of places offered to clubs

eligible for Champions Cup.

Second level competition for club team.

Countries with bigger leagues, like England and France would secure more places for Champions Cup

Second tier club competition - winners/runners up qualify for Champions Cup

Regional qualifiers for Champions Cup qualification



Session moderated by Adam McEvoy Director of Sport sports@europeanpfa.com

EPFA would like to thank everyone for their contributions and ideas. EPFA plan to hold some further focus group sessions at the EPFA Nations Cup in Finland in May with athletes and coaches to gain further opinion.

