



CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN POWERCHAIR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION MINUTES

**Saturday December 4th 2021 via Microsoft Teams
12:00PM – 13:00PM (UK Time)**

The Congress was opened by EPFA President Donal Byrne who welcomed everyone with a brief introduction and gave some directions for the meeting regarding muting microphones, how to ask a question and camera use.

Donal then conducted a roll call of who was on the call which allowed people to acknowledge that they were present and send a greeting to the room.

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed.

The first report on the agenda was the President's Report. Donal acknowledged the difficult time that the pandemic had presented to the membership. He paid tribute to all the efforts of the members to keep their communities engaged during the lockdowns. As many representatives had also been on the FIPFA Congress a few weeks earlier the European zone membership were already aware and familiar about the activities that EPFA had engaged with during the off-court period of time.

Donal instead wanted to give a brief few sentences on each member about what they had done during the lockdown periods and what they have been able to do when restrictions were eased. He also invited members to contribute anything at the end which may have been omitted in the review. All members were acknowledged and at the end there was no additional information from any members to the presentation when invited to do so.

EPFA Executive Update:

Donal discussed a recent meeting in the UK of the Executive committee, a first physical meet since the Nations Cup in 2019. Adam McEvoy, the Congress was told had informed the Executive that he would be stepping down due to an increased workload with his roles with the Wheelchair Football Association (WFA) and with the emerging talent programme with the FA. Donal thanked Adam for all his enthusiasm and contributions to EPFA during his years, first as Communications Director and then as Sports Director. As all the Executive roles are due for election/re-election in eight months time, and because the EPFA Cup has a short time to organize for next year, Donal said that rather than looking to appoint someone for eight months that the Executive had discussed that Nathalie Delplace would take on the roles of Director of Sport until the natural term expired as Nathalie has the experience of being involved with organizing EPFA's previous events and also has a wealth of experience organizing past Geneva's cups.

Donal also discussed the recent upsurge in new contacts and activity with potential members and that Sebiane Brahim had unfortunately not been able to fulfill the Director of Development role as he had hoped due to accidents and injuries and that he would be vacating the role next year. Again instead of just appointing someone for eight months the Executive had discussed that Brian Dix would give the remainder of the time to the role until it naturally came up for election.

Commission Reports

Sports Department report

Donal invited Adam McEvoy to deliver the Sports Department Report. Adam began by acknowledging the difficulties that the pandemic had brought and the effects on EPFA's plans and tournaments. Adam praised each member for their resilience and recovery and seeing nations come together and stay in touch through different projects. Adam said it filled him with confidence for the future to see new nations emerging to showcase powerchair football and that EPFA needed to provide new competitions and events to support these newer nations. Adam spoke about the imminent launch of the EPFA Cup scheduled for Geneva in August 2022 for newer nations. Adam requested that nations continue to keep EPFA updated on progress and activities to increase awareness of the sport which also supports maintaining strong relationships with UEFA and their funding support enables EPFA to deliver events throughout Europe. Adam concluded with thanks to EPFA colleagues and that he would continue to support EPFA from his role in England. His final thank you was to the member nations and his admiration and respect for all in developing powerchair football in their countries and his excitement to look forward to the future of bigger and better competitions of the future. The sports department report was concluded with a couple of slides presenting the plans for events in 2022. A slide with some basic information around the EPFA Cup. And a slide about future competitions over the next few years and a need to find hosts. There were no questions from the room to Adam when invited.

Development Department report

Donal invited Brian Dix to deliver the Department of Development report. Brian began by speaking about the exciting times ahead and the plans of EPFA to deliver training in Referees, coaches and classification clinics. Brian also highlighted the working together of members, building for the future and becoming stronger together as a European unit. Brian spoke about some new tools, a new online referee's course which would be a pre-course before the physical course. Currently it is in English, but it will soon be in multi languages, French, German, Italian, Spanish. Brian concluded by asking members to get in touch if there was anything EPFA can do to help. There were no questions from the room to Brian when invited.

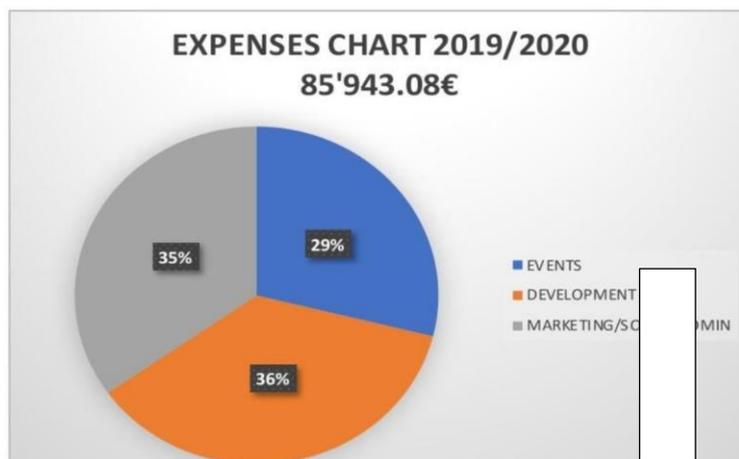
Finance Department report:

Donal invited Nathalie Delplace to deliver the finance report.

Nathalie opened with a review of expenses during a busy 2019 of €85,943.08

EXPENSES 2019/2020

EVENTS	DEVELOPMENT	MARKETING/SOCIAL/ADMIN
€24'831.69	€31'225.19	€29'886.20



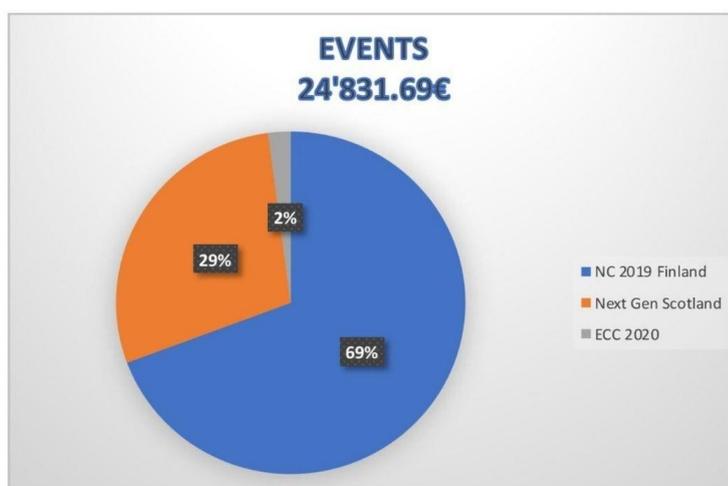
In comparison 2020, due to Covid had seen expenses just reach €10,000. In 2019 EPFA had held its first NOPF workshop which had used 10% of the budget. There was some investment in livestream equipment using 20% of the yearly budget and then there was two big events, the EPFA Nations Cup in Finland and the Next Generation Experience in Scotland.

EXPENSES 2019/2020

EVENTS

€24'831.69

NC 2019 Finland	Next Gen Scotland	ECC 2020
€17'212.00	€7'105.83	€513.86

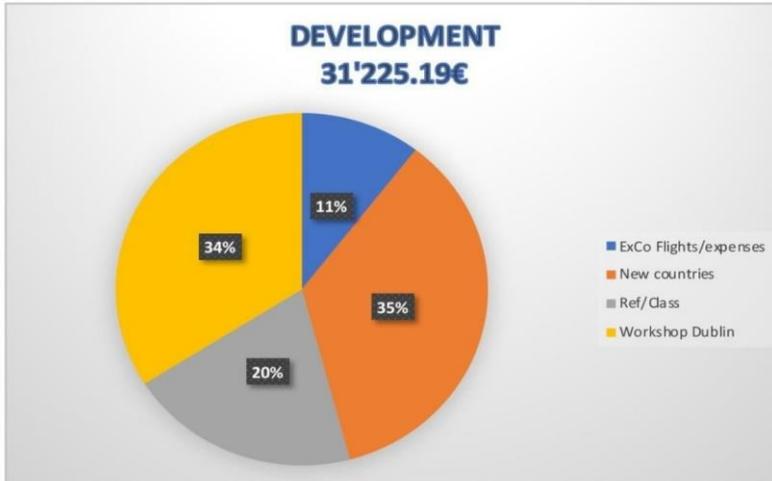


EXPENSES 2019/2020

DEVELOPMENT

€31'225.19

ExCo Flights/expenses	New countries	Ref/Class	Workshop Dublin
€3'269.69	€11'044.19	€6'298.52	€10'612.79



In 2020 the main expenses had been on marketing and admin expenses, website, lock-up storage for all the items like footballs, promotional materials. Shipments for footballs, speed test machines to new countries.

EXPENSES 2019/2020

MARKETING/SOCIAL/ADMIN

€29'886.20

LiveStream	Social	Bank Fees	Admin / Marketing
€19'150.25	€1'700.00	€654.18	€8'381.77



The coming year would be challenging Nathalie said and she would continue to push members around forward planning and early decisions on events to get good prices on flights and accommodation to try and save as much as possible. Likewise trying to save as much around travel to training clinics for officials with early bookings. Still a lot of uncertainty because of Covid situation but need to continue to forward plan.

PROVISIONAL BUDGET 2021/2022

TOTAL BUDGET : €109'200.00

<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>MARKETING/SOCIAL/ADMIN</u>
€40'000.00	€38'200.00	€31'000.00



Plans for next year include trying to find new partners and expand income to give scope for more competitions and camps and supporting new countries to join us.

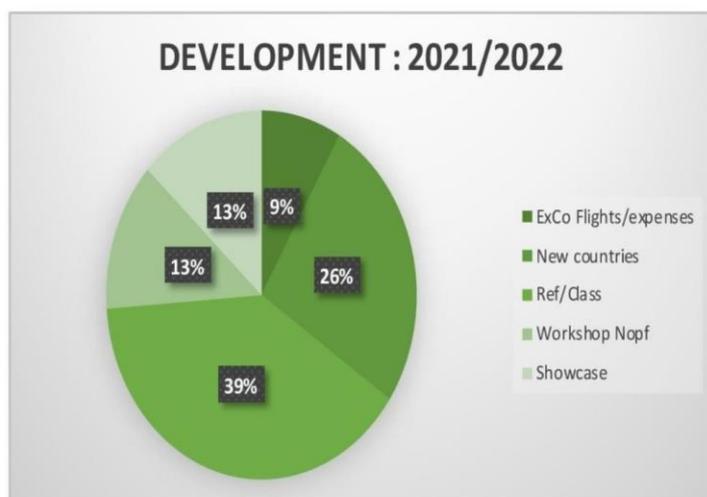
EVENTS

<u>EPFA CUP</u>	<u>Next Generation</u>	<u>Second Event</u>
€15'000.00	€10'000.00	€15'000.00



DEVELOPMENT

ExCo Flights/expenses	New countries	Ref/Class	Workshop Nopf	Showcase
€3'200.00	€10'000.00	€15'000.00	€5'000.00	€5'000.00



There were no questions from the room for Nathalie when invited to do so.

UEFA Partnership report

Donal delivered the UEFA report and informed the Congress that EPFA were about to sign the new partnership agreement shortly, also outlining the changes that had taken place within UEFA's FSR department with a new director Michelle Uve from Italy. The new partnership cycle will be two years rather than four years and have very specific deliverables and key performance indicators to achieve. There will be a much stronger emphasis on developing relationships between powerchair football and National Associations of UEFA. Donal Acknowledged that some members had very strong links already with their NA's, some members had tried to develop links but not much had come from it and with UEFA's help new attempts can be tried because National Associations are being encouraged to develop disability football themselves in order to access or maintain their own partnerships and funding streams with UEFA. EPFA also are working or in contact with Netherlands, and Belgium and Portugal who are very National Association led and our recent new associate member Russia came from this too. There were no further questions from the room regarding the UEFA partnership.

Constitution Review

Nearing the end of the Congress, Donal spoke on a planned review of the constitution to bring to the next Congress and any changes that may require a vote by members. He indicated that currently the constitution has EPFA associated with FIPFA's headquarters address, previously in France but recently FIPFA changed their address to England so there needs to be a review if EPFA seek to remain at the French address, seek to ask FIPFA about also moving to their address or explore other options.

Conclusion of the Congress

There had been no additional requests to be added to the agenda when the draft was circulated. Donal invited any questions before concluding the Congress from the room James Geraghty asked a question about funding, and grants that EPFA could be eligible for like Erasmus+. Alex Dowding confirmed that Erasmus+ could be something that members look to also as it can cover cultural exchanges or competitions. This will be something that EPFA will follow up on too.

Brian had two further points to contribute, the first was around a planned new website which would be the history of EPFA. Brian will be in contact with each member to get background information. This proposal is aimed at providing a platform of content that showcases powerchair football and strengthens our case for paralympic inclusion going forward. Alex Dowding will be working on this website. The second website that has recently been created has been the classification database with FIPFA again developed by Alex. Brian encouraged any member who had questions about this to get in contact.

To conclude Donal thanked the EPFA team, Ewa, Adam, Brian and Nathalie. Also thanked Alex for his technical help and going forward. And thanked all the members for attending. He urged everyone to stay safe and keep positive and had a hope that the next Congress would be in person and not behind screens. He wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a good afternoon. The Congress concluded at 12:40PM (UK Time)

Attendees:

EPFA

Donal Byrne – EPFA President
Nathalie Delplace – Director of Finance
Adam Mc Evoy- Director of Sport
Ewa Lundell – Director of Communication
Brian Dix – Director of Development

NOPFS

Austria

Michael Kiefler
Michael Streit

England

Alex Dowding

Finland

Lasse Keski-Loppi
Erik Lundell

France

Aurelien Vandenbergue
Florent Bokobza

Germany

Nuri Onanmis

Italy

Fabio Rodo
Andrea Piccillo

Ireland

James Geraghty

Scotland

Craig Peattie
Jordan Cunningham

Switzerland

Kelly Dos Santos

