

### Meetings in relation to the situation in Great Britain with GBFUA, Hotell Holliday Inn, Oxford, Great-Britain, 27.02.2013 with UKFF, Telia Sonera office, London, Great-Britain, 27.02.2013

**Participants:** Beverly Needham, Chairperson GBFUA  
Carlos Rodriguez, Referee Coordinator GBFUA  
Steve Clarke, Club president,  
  
Ville Manner, President UKFF  
Peter Goodman, Committee member, UKFF  
  
Tomas Eriksson, IFF President  
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#### Report on present issues

##### 1. *Background*

Since the GBFUA is presently not complying with the IFF Statutes, due to the missing of the Sport England recognition and the fact that their status as the sole organisation for Floorball in the GB has been challenged by the UKFF application for membership. IFF has been forced to start a process, in order to find a positive solution in this situation. IFF has after it received the membership application from the UKFF tried to arrange a set of meetings first on a bi-lateral basis with the GBFUA and the UKFF and then a joint meeting. It has unfortunately taken far too long to set up even the first set of meetings. IFF gave the GBFUA the ordinary membership just in order for the GBFUA to be able to seek for Sport England recognition, which was done in 2010. The application was turned down and it is still unclear why the appeal launched by GBFUA in January 2011 (?) has not gone through. GBFUA is a member of Sport and Recreation England. Based on this the IFF CB proposed for the IFF General Assembly to put the GBFUA conditional membership, in order to solve the situation, which the GA agreed to. The situation between the two parties is very problematic and quite inflamed, since the versions of the two organisations differs quite a lot on almost all points discussed. IFF met with the two organisations separately and was asked by the GBFUA if the meeting could be taped, which IFF agreed to and asked to have a copy of the recordings.

##### 2. *Present situation*

- The problems started when a group of clubs accused the GBFUA not to be open and democratic in relation to their AGM. This was discussed in detail in 2011 and IFF meet with the GBFUA which gave promises of that the situation is under control and during some negotiations with all parties in Oxford a compromise seems to have been reached, but apparently after the meeting something happened and here the versions differ a lot. IFF then in the report from the meeting concluded that no actions are to be taken with the GBFUA membership if a solution can be reached in the Autumn of 2011
- The GBFUA Committee has continued to run the organisation, with a number of teams moving over to the new organisation UKFF and the GBFUA has not introduced new teams to competitions, since they are afraid that they will be taken over by the UKFF. GBFUA is running a number of Development programs which are aimed to feed players and teams to their leagues and youth leagues in the future.
- The UKFF has, after the GBFUA as they say didn't agree to the decisions made in Oxford 2011, founded their own organisation and applied for IFF membership.
- Based on the organisations own information they are running the following leagues:
  - GBFUA
    - Southern England League with 6 teams/7 clubs.
    - They have around 150 adult members,
    - Youth teams are all in Development projects no membership
    - Additionally there are 6-8 Adult teams training but not yet playing in GBFUA leagues, Scholl league teams, and 14 youth teams.
    - Work is done with Police force, Universities and other parties to build teams.

## Report on present issues (Cont.)

- UKFF
  - Has four running leagues; Midlands 1<sup>st</sup> (7 teams) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (6 teams), South-East 8 teams, South-West 5 teams and 4 +4 Youth teams.
  - There are a total of 35 teams, in 29 clubs
  - There are around 450 players as members.
  - Work is done in a number of districts to build new Youth teams.

### 3. *Organisation and plans*

- Both organisations aim to set up new teams and start new leagues.
- GBFUA has the following targets for the coming years:
  - GBFUA is more looking into the management of the leagues and the how to regain the teams/clubs that have moved over to UKFF
  - To Establish the North England teams
  - Getting a Collage and a University league starting
  - Increase the number of teams in competitions and grow the existing leagues
- UKFF has the following targets for the coming years:
  - To first stabilise the organisation and delegate responsibility
  - Start pilot referee and coaching programs (to facilitate English Coaching requirements)
  - Develop the interactive web page,
  - Run Youth and School programs/projects
  - Arrange week-end training camps for players.
- Both organisations are funded mainly by club membership, participation and player fees. GBFUA seems to have retained more official funds and grants to run development projects. The GBFUA's league is somewhat less expensive to participate in, which has lead to that two teams have chosen the GBFUA series instead of the UKFF. The UKFF bases their tournament fee based on the venue costs, which varies from venue to venue.

### 4. *How to move forward*

- The GBFUA feels that the reason for the split up is based mainly on financial issues, which the South-East clubs have wanted to get their hands on. The UKFF feels that the main reason is the lack of transparency and delegation of responsibility in the organisation.
- The main reasons seems to be on the personal level; since Problem with Personal Relations, Lack of Trust, Are not Open and transparent and the Personal gain of Money and Power are mentioned. The only concrete activity reason was that GBFUA though that they are not arrainging leagues could be a problem.
- The biggest obstacles for a solution are also in the same fields. Lack of honesty, misleading information to the clubs, lack of communication and that promises and agreed solutions are not held.
- The GBFUA felt that the ideal thing for them would be to contact the teams/clubs and talk to them. They were however not that keen to discuss with UKFF directly and was only ready to admit them the right to join in advance of next season in September 2013.
- The UKFF felt that the best solution would be to find a model where both organisations could continue their activities under the same umbrella, even though they thought it will be difficult to merge.

IFF concludes the situation as follows:

- Both organisations have been working for the development of Floorball in the GB
- Both organisations have done a fabulous job in a number of fields, in order to build the base of the sport.
- IFF is trying to secure a participation of a GB based national team in all IFF Events, the teams have registered to.
- The real problem seems to be the way the GBFUA has originally been set up, with a very weak level of representation of the clubs. The GBFUA leadership is clearly worried to let the control out of their hands and has been quite restrictive to safeguard in order to their positions.
- The persons behind the UKFF have quite loudly demanded changes in the GBFUA, before splitting and forming their own organisation. These requests have not lead to the preferred result and there have been a number of incidents during the ride.

### **Report on present issues (Cont.)**

- GBFUA is mostly focused on development of recreational Floorball and youth development and not that experienced in running national federation. The UKFF has a much more competition based set-up with clear directives, giving the leagues a lot of liberty in how the leagues are run. So from a purely operational standpoint merging the two organisations operations should not be too difficult.
  - The problem is then more related to the persons in both organisations and the number of incidents that has taken place. One problem is also that it is hard to find all information what has happened.
  - The next steps are to ask both organisations to come up with their solution for a way to merge the two organisations by the end of March and to organise a meeting with the two parties during a week-end before the end of April.
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### **Upcoming meetings and issues**

- IFF to organise a joint meeting with both the GBFUA and the UKFF before the end of April.
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### **Issues that need to be discussed or decided upon or taken action upon**

- GBFUA and UKFF to hand in their written proposal for a solution in the situation by then of March to the IFF
  - IFF will invite and prepare for the meeting in April based on these proposals.
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### **New ideas, etc...**

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