

From:
UK Floorball Federation (UKFF)
11 Montrell Road
London SW2 4QD
UK

To:
International Floorball Federation (IFF)
Alakiventie 2
00920 Helsinki
Finland

4th October 2012

Dear Mr Liljelund and the IFF Central Board

Please find enclosed the application from UKFF to acquire the role of National Floorball Association (NFA) of the United Kingdom in place of the Great Britain Floorball & Unihockey Association (GBFUA).

BACKGROUND FOR RECENT BRITISH FLOORBALL

Floorball in the UK is at a key turning point in terms of its growth and we believe that the only way to sustain this growth is to move to a democratic organisation comprising fairly elected officials with open accounts and commonly agreed budgets, responsibility for regional growth should be both coordinated and yet delegated. Our founding principles of openness and democracy would allow UK floorball players and club managers to have faith that they have a say in where UK floorball is going and at the same time give them responsibility, in this way these volunteers would be motivated to donate their time and energy to our common cause.

The current organisation governing floorball in the UK, the GBFUA, has a very different approach to running its organisation as demonstrated by these examples:

1. The GBFUA has failed to allow 7 teams into the AGM in May 2011 and the only team represented was the current Chairperson's own team, attendance was strictly governed and the meeting held at a secret location and via Skype. The existing leading figures were unsurprisingly re-elected unopposed.
2. The GBFUA failed to publish audited/examined accounts to explain how the clubs and players fees and also local government grants were used.

3. Club managers have been banned for 12 months without a proper hearing and fines of 500 Euros have been demanded by the GBFUA.
4. The GBFUA presiding over a steady decline in the number of youth teams competing in official tournaments leading to the ludicrous situation at the national 2012 youth cup where the all under-15 players present were formed into just two teams and asked to play against each other 5 times over 2 days. At the end of it the GBFUA was not planning to award them any medals for their efforts.

As a result of the attitude of the GBFUA all but about 5 of UK floorball teams have now resigned from the GBFUA and are in the process of joining UKFF. Furthermore neither of the youth leagues (Cotswold nor 3 Counties League) are members of the GBFUA and do not wish to join them. The GBFUA therefore no longer represents more than a tiny fraction of all UK floorball teams. Also the National Team resigned during spring 2012 only few months ahead of WFQ due GBFUA's behaviour.

By contrast to all of this the current individual people who have been elected to the UKFF Board were elected at an open AGM held on 8th September 2012. Before being elected these same UKFF staff had spent more than a year in meetings and discussions with the current GBFUA management team in order to resolve our concerns over the secretive and dictatorial way that British floorball is currently run. However we have failed to reach an agreement with the GBFUA. We are very grateful that John Liljelund from the IFF itself took the time to fly to the UK in order to come to a reasonable compromise with the GBFUA but it did not surprise us when even you were not able to reach an agreement.

We believe that, although the GBFUA claim to have a full committee, power is totally controlled by 2 or 3 people in the organisation. The aggressive and secretive attitude has lead many volunteers to leave British floorball and it is now being overtaken by other growing sports.

We have also offered to merge with the GBFUA and have offered them a chance to be elected to the new Board but they have not responded to our communications which is a sign of refusal.

We have therefore reluctantly had to form a new organisation, UKFF, and have now taken over the running of almost all of British floorball. UKFF is registered under name Floorball Ltd as a limited company by guarantee which is the recommended legal entity type used in UK for non-profit organisations and sports federations etc.

TIME IS KEY

Britain is crying out for new sports to motivate the children to leave their computer games at home and play healthy sport, and currently sports like basketball and softball as well as established sports like rugby are filling the vacuum and floorball is being left behind, especially given the opportunities that the pre-sport Olympic legacy presents.

Furthermore expectation has been built up amongst British floorball players and managers that things will change for the better in the UK, if we delay in removing the chaotic state of British floorball then this momentum will be lost and cynicism and lethargy will take over British floorball.

Without promotional and financial backing from the UK Government via Sport England etc we cannot keep up with the other sports above which are growing rapidly in the UK. However we need to be named by the IFF to become internationally and officially recognised 'national governing body' in UK for our sport in order to even apply or most importantly achieve this status from Sports England.

We have delayed this application in order to give the GB Mens under-19 team the chance to compete in the Rome qualifiers as we have been told that once there is an official application then no GB teams can compete at international tournaments for some time but now hope that the IFF could consider our application in time for the December General Assembly meeting in Zurich.

TAKE OVER OR REPLACEMENT OF THE NFA ROLE FOR THE UK?

We have been told that if our application is successful and we were granted the NFA role then UKFF would can only be granted a provisional member status for maximum of 4 years which would exclude GB from various rights like voting for and about the IFF decisions, and applying the NGB status from Sports England whilst the provisional status continued. If this is true we would therefore be happy to consider any options including taking over the existing NFA status from the GBFUA even if it meant changing the name of our organisation to 'GBFUA'. We are flexible to how this could be achieved as long as our principles of democracy and openness are maintained e.g. we could not guarantee that any existing staff from the current GBFUA would automatically get a role within our organisation, all

staff need to be elected in open AGM/EGM. But again, following this principle, we would not automatically exclude any existing GBFUA staff from standing for election.

We hope you will consider our application and respond to us if you need any further information or amendments to the documentation attached to this letter.

Yours Sincerely,

Ville Manner

President

UKFF

cc

Peter Goodman

UKFF Marketing & Head of NGB application team

APPENDIX

Application content and reference documentation