

Meeting between the IFF and the Czech, Finnish, Swedish and Swiss Floorball Federations and their Major Clubs on the future of the EuroFloorball Cup, Zürich-Kloten, Switzerland, January 23rd 2010.

Participants: CFBU: Karolina Satalikova (**Tigers**) and Martin Vaculik (**Tatran**)
SIBF: LG Tjärnqvist (**SIBF**), Krister Kalte (**Balrog**) and Lasse Granqvist (**AIK**)
SSBL: Ismo Haaponiemi (**SSBL**), Milan Rantakari (**Erä**) and Kurt Westerlund (**SSV**)
SUHV: Andreas Iseli (**Nat League**), Patrick Falk (**SUHV**), Andi Rebsamen (**UHC Dietlikon**) and Marcel Siegenthaler (**SV Wiler-Ersigen**)
IFF: Tomas Eriksson, Renato Orlando, Filip Suman and John Liljelund

Report on present issues

1. Opening Words and the Aim of the meeting

Mr. Tomas Eriksson opened the meeting and wished all the participants welcomed. The future of how to organize IFF Events has been under a thorough analysis during the last years. IFF has been working with the Member Associations in order to develop the International Competition Calendar, as a continuation to this is now time to find a good solution for the European Club Competition. The IFF CB gave the RACC the task to come with a solution, in order to solve the present difficult situation with the abstention of some of the Swedish clubs from the EFC.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the different views and action points needed in the present situation and to try to find a common state of mind between the federations, clubs and IFF, in order to be able to move forward and build a base of what everyone can agree to.

2. *Recap of the present situation by Filip Suman*

Mr. Suman made a short presentation of the development of the EC/EFC, despite that it has only twice been organised outside the four big countries. There has been two major changes, the qualifications where installed in 1999 and the 2nd ranked teams from the 4 biggest countries where given an own spot in 2007. The discussion about the system of the EFC system has been going on for a long period of time, but the situation occurred in 2009, when a number of clubs didn't participate. It was agreed that the members associations and clubs had to be included in the process.

A European Club competition is the second most important showcase of elite Floorball, being the second best possibility to get international TV coverage. The EFC should work as a motivation for clubs in the federation, to be able win something else.

The basic question is still - How to make the EFC attractive:

- Sports perspective – Quality matches
- Publicity perspective – TV, Internet, Press and Spectators
- Money perspective – Costs and Incomes

3. *Is a European Club Competition needed?*

Mr. Suman made based on the vivid discussion, the conclusion that all top clubs finds there to be an important value for having a European Club Competition, as long as the quality of the tournament can be secured. The basis for the discussion was to form a new competition for the top teams of European Clubs and then continue with the present EuroFloorball Cup for the teams 5 and lower ranked.

The participants agreed upon the following and were of the opinion that the competition must be open for a qualifier from the European Cup competition (lower ranked countries) and shall be played with both men and women with 6 or 8 teams per category in one tournament. But the competition has to be developed on a long term basis to secure the return on investment for the Clubs, at the same time as we are looking for cutting costs for the organiser and participants.

The name of the new competition was agreed to be Floorball Champions Cup.

Report on present issues (cont.)

Timing of the Champions Cup:

- there were three different options: September, October or January/February
- there is media problem in January, so close to the WFC in December

All options were discussed and after evaluation it was agreed that the optimal compromise would be to have the Champions Cup in October

When to start with the new system:

- it was agreed that the earliest possible timing would be in the season 2011-2012

It was agreed that there needs to be an organiser appointed for the Champions Cup by September 2010 as well to prepare the financial framework. For the Champions Cup should have the same look and feel regardless of where it's being played. A generic business model should be built for the competition by a working group.

It was stressed that it is important that the major European teams will participate in the last version of the EuroFloorball Cup, to be played in Latvia in October 2010.

4. Next Steps

It was agreed to form a small working group headed by Mr. Suman, consisting by one representative per member association.

The working group should have their first meeting during the Euro Floorball Tour in Zurich Switzerland on the 24th – 25th of April 2010.

Upcoming meetings and issues

- Associations to inform the participants in the working group by the 14th of February 2010.
- The working group will meet in Zurich on the 24-25.4.2010

Issues that need to be discussed or decided upon or taken action upon

- The IFF Central Board will make the decision concerning the future of the European Club competitions on the 2nd of February 2010.

New ideas, etc...