

MINUTES OF THE EDBF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 2022 - HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Present: | Claudio Schermi | CS | EDBF President | ITA |
| | Ute Becker-Frenzel | UBF | EDBF Snr Vice-President (meeting Chair) | GER |
| | Julie Doyle | JD | EDBF Secretary General | IRL |
| | Peter Jarosi | PJ | EDBF Vice-President | HUN |
| | Valerii Morgun | VM | EDBF Vice President | UKR |
| | Anna Socratous | AS | EDBF Vice President | CYP |
| | Andrew Menzies | AM | EDBF Full Member's Representative | GBR |
| | Maura Dezi | MD | EDBF Treasurer | ITA |
| In Attendance: | Mike MacKeddie-Haslam | MMH | EDBF President of Honour | GBR |
| | Andries Boneshaker | AB | EDBF C & T Commission Chair | NLD |
| | Robin Magnusson | RM | EDBF Member Representative | SWE |
| | Dusko Spasovski | DS | Serbian DBF Representative | SRB |
| | Alexeii Morgun | AM | Translator for Valerii Morgun | UKR |
| | Lilla Baravics | LB | Translator for Peter Jarosi | HUN |
| | Andre Prziwarzinski | AP | Translator for Ute Becker-Frenzel | GER |

Minutes Secretary: Leila Ataei - CYP

AGENDA

1. Welcome Address by the EDBF President.
2. Confirmation of the Agenda.
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous EDBF Executive Committee Meetings – 8th June 2022 & 5th July 2022.
4. EDBF ENC 2022 Accounts Update.
5. EDBF Championships – Belgrade, Serbia Site Visit Report.
6. EDBF Championships 2024 & 2026 – Indicative Bids.
7. EDBF Euro Cup 2023.
 - Indicative Bids
 - Review of Points System
8. EDBF In Person Meeting.
9. First Information on Dragon Boat Outreach Project - Turkey
10. Any Other Business.
 - Russian Athletes at Dubai Euro Cup.
11. Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting.

Item

1.00

Welcome Address.

CS welcomed all to the meeting and as proposed at the last meeting, he handed over the Chair for the meeting to EDBF Senior Vice President, Ute Becker-Frenzel as part of his policy that the VPs should take the Chair at the next 4 alternative "on line" meetings, as a way for them to gain experience in that part of a Presidents duties. The next meeting would be Chaired by Peter Jarosi, then Valeri Morgun and finally Anna Socratous. UBF then took the Chair for the meeting and greeted the participants.

2.00

Confirmation of Agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented.

3.00

Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous EDBF Executive Committee Meetings – 8th June 2022 & 5th July 2022.

The Sec-General confirmed with the meeting page by page the Minutes of the Exec Meetings held on 8th June and 5th July 2022. Anna Socratous wished to record an amendment to the EuroCup report (June meeting – 6.02) to clarify that there was a small surplus not loss on the Eurocup Races in Cyprus and Serbia. Minutes accepted.

4.00

EDBF ENC 2022 Accounts Update.

MD presented the accounts for the 2022 European Nations Championships, in Banyoles, Spain, giving a detailed breakdown of income sources and expenditure areas, including grants to Race Officials and the Ukraine DBF towards the cost of Team Ukraine competing in the championships, which was Euro 3085 (based on 5 Euro per, person competing, from the totals registered on the IDBF system with Slawek). In summary, the total income was Euro 13,011.00 and expenditure Euro 9676.97, leaving a surplus of Euro 3334.03 to the EDBF.

5.00

EDBF Championships – Belgrade, Serbia Site Visit Report.

UBF confirmed that Serbia (Belgrade) could not host the 2024 ENC but would like to be considered for 2025. Robin Magnusson's report on the 2022 Belgrade Euro Cup races and Belgrade's suitability as a championship venue, is attached – **see Annex**. Robin said that he felt that Belgrade would be a very good site for the European Champs and if the opportunity arose to hold a championship there, he would be in favour of it.

5.01

In discussion it was noted that the availability of the regatta course from mid-June to mid-September was restricted due to other events normally scheduled during that period and that there were a limited number of boats available, especially small boats to meet the boat needed for a championship. The ability of the Serbian DBF to stage it was questioned.

5.02

In was agreed that the Competition Committee should discuss with the Serbian DBF, ways of solving the boat shortage. e.g. renting boats/crews bring boats. In conclusion it was felt that if Belgrade was confirmed by Council/Congress for 2025, then a date for the Comp Com to confirm that all the necessary facilities and equipment required for the championships would be provided, should be completed by mid to late 2023, to give time for other locations to be considered, should the Serbian DBF be unable to provide enough boats, the course be unavailable in Jul/Aug, etc. CS undertook to visit Belgrade also, once 2025 was agreed by Council/Congress, to discuss overall EDBF requirements and to confirm regatta site availability with Serbian DBF and local city representatives.

ACTION: AB/CS

6.00 **EDBF Championships 2024 & 2026 – Indicative Bids.**

UBF advised that Munich (a possible location) was not able to host a championship in 2024 but may bid for 2026. UBF also informed the meeting that she had talked to the Czech DBF (Peter Klima) about holding the 2024 ENC in Racice (location of the 2009 World Champs) and Peter had confirmed that this would be possible. It was agreed that the Czech DBF should notify the Council of a bid, as soon as possible, for acceptance and ratification by the 2023 Congress.

6.01 PJ suggested that EDBF Champs should maybe go back to racing Standard Boats only, to strengthen standard boat Racing and that this could be a subject for discussion at a further meeting. AM pointed out that Small Boat racing had been introduced to give developing countries the opportunity to race at championships level and that maybe things had now gone beyond this. AB requested that the Competition Committee be involved in any such discussions, at the right level, as commission Chairs were not part of the Exec Com.

CS pointed out that the small boats were also introduced with an eye on the future, as the potential 'Olympic Class' boat (ICF have talked about an 8-paddler boat). The small boat was very popular at National level and how it should fit into championships needed careful thought.

6.02 JD confirmed that EDBF Members had been asked on 5th October to submit bids for 2024 by 4th December, only Germany had responded so far. JD was requested to remind the Members to bid before 4th December 2022 and prepare a presentation for Congress. **ACTION: JD.**

7.00 **EDBF Euro Cup 2023.**

Bids. AS informed the meeting that Germany (DDV) was proposing to hold a long distance Euro Cup race, rather than the normal 200 and 500m short course races. She did not see that this would be a problem. AS reported that, at the moment, Serbia (Belgrade) had confirmed a bid to in June 2023 and that she was expecting bids from Italy, Cyprus and Dubai. CS advised the meeting that Italy would not be bidding to hold a Euro Cup race in 2023, as they would be hosting the ECCC, but CS hoped that other nations, such as the UK and Netherlands would consider hosting a Euro Cup race.

7.01 **Points System.** AS advised that work commitments had delayed the review of the points system by herself and MMH, but it was planned that this would now be done before the January 2023 meeting. In discussion on the Euro Cup format it was felt that paddlers did not understand how the points scoring system worked. It was agreed that AS, MMH and AB would meet and fully review the Euro Cup format and points system and present a revised Euro Cup in early 2023 for the Council to agree. **ACTION. AS/MMH/AB/CS.**

8.00 **EDBF In Person Meeting.**

It had been agreed that an EDBF face to face meeting would be held in Berlin in early 2023. CS said that the main thing was to decide what kind of meeting that should be. Exec, Council, Exec & Council or a meeting with some members of both and invited guests. CS also made the point that the more people involved the higher the potential cost to the EDBF. JD confirmed that the Executive Committee was 10 people and the Council 21. **Action: MD to cost both.**

8.01 UBF gave details of two hotels, one in the city and in Berlin/Grunau, which not so expensive – approx. 75 v 95 Euro. There was debate on the expense and merits of holding a face-to-face meeting as opposed to a video meeting or 2 meetings. An in person meeting was agreed for the weekend of 13th – 15th January 2023, to arrive on 13th Jan (Friday), with meetings on Friday afternoon through to Sunday morning. CS asked Exec members to send to JD items for the agenda and the feed-back items would determine what kind, number and level of meetings should be held, that is Exec or Council or Exec plus guests. **ACTION: CS/JD/ ALL**

9.00

First Information on Dragon Boat Outreach Project – Turkey.

CS informed the meeting that the EDBF had received an email from Meri Gibson, President of the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission (IBCPC), concerning a project in Turkey.

There were not many details in the email, but whilst we knew that there was dragon boat activity in Turkey (and had been since 2004) Turkey was not presently an EDBF Member and contact had been lost with the dragon boaters there. CS suggested that AS contact Meri Gibson for more information on the project.

9.01

CS also proposed that as Turkey came under the area of Europe in AS's portfolio, that she should take the lead in following up the present dragon boat activity in Turkey and re-establish contacts with the festival organizers there. UBF suggested that maybe Meri could be invited to talk about the project with the EDBF Executive.

ACTION: AS

10.00

Any Other Business.

10.1

Claudio raised the question of whether the EDBF could accept Russian crews in the 2022 Dubai Euro Cup races, as it was not an EDBF Championship event. An enquiry had been made by Vitaly Smirnoff, President of the Russian Association. CS had discussed this issue with Vice President, VM about this and his view, shared by CS, was that EDBF should continue to follow the IOC guidelines, regarding Russian athletes not competing internationally. Therefore, the EDBF should not agree to Russian crews taking part in Euro Cup races. This was agreed, with the hope that the situation would change in the not-too-distant future, with the end to the war against the Ukraine.

ACTION: AS/JD

10.2

CS informed the meeting that the Draft Info Bulletin No.1 had been prepared for Ravenna 2023 and was now due for review by the Competition Committee before sending out to the EDBF Members. There were some points for clarification raised by Italy and Germany concerning the inclusion of Senior D races and U24s/U18s/U16s age limits, that may have to be clarified or re-written. The bulletin was based on the Seville 2019 Info Bul 1. UBF felt that the draft bulletin did not follow the IDBF regulations in this respect. Agreed these points and any others should be sent to AB for discussion and recommendations to the Exec and Council.

ACTION: AB and ALL.

11.00

Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting.

Agreed to be held during the Berlin meeting weekend 13-15th January 2023 and to be chaired by the EDBF President. CS reminded the Exec members that he was always available to talk with them in-between formal meetings about EDBF matters, one-to-one or as a group.

Minutes written and produced by Leila Ataei. (CYP). Meeting concluded at 21:30 CET.

We confirm these minutes represent a true record of the meeting held.

Signed by: _____

Claudio Schermi
EDBF President

Dated: 5th January 2023

Signed by: _____

Ute Becker-Frenzel
EDBF Senior Vice President - Meeting Chairperson

Dated: 5th January 2023

ANNEX: Report on 2022 Belgrade Euro Cup Race

**Report from the 4th EuroCup, 8th International Festival and State Championship.
Belgrade, Serbia 24-25 September 2022**

The event took place at Ada Ciganlija lake, owned by the city of Belgrade. The arena is only used for international championships. There are four dragon boat clubs situated by this lake. This is a canoe and rowing stadium with fixed lanes. The Serbian canoe federation and the Serbian rowing federation have their headquarters here. They have hosted several paddling and rowing events through the years. Teams from the following countries were represented:

Bosnia and Herzegovina; Romania; Croatia; Serbia; Ireland

Registration, Accreditation, Payment. This took place at a restaurant by the lake. Mirko and Ana were in charge of this and have organised the event. It worked well. For a European championship, they have access to rooms at the arena, for example, in the canoe federation or in the restaurant Azzaro just behind the finishing tower. The restaurant would be perfect to offer lunch to the contestants.

Athletes' Area. Tents were provided that accommodated all athletes. For a European championship, the tent should be moved a bit further from the lake where there is more space. It should be easy to put up fences so the athletes' area could be closed to the public. This is east of the finishing tower; on the west side you have the stands, restaurants, etc. There are changing rooms and showers at the canoe federation.

Marshalling Area. This area was not covered, and not closed off. The speaker announced the teams to the marshalling, the chief marshall did that also on his megaphone. No badges and no number vests were used. They did a good job except missed an irregular paddler count for one mix final: 11 men and 9 women in two boats but the boat with 10+10 won anyway. All-in-all, they did a good job and can function in marshalling at a European event. Good volunteers, well equipped with balers and they wore an easily recognisable volunteer t-shirt. There were enough pontoons for 4 std and 4 small boats. If there will be 6+6 boats, there is room for more pontoons. The marshalling should move a bit further from the pontoons so there would be more space for an administration tent and embarking/disembarking. I would also recommend closing off the area.

Start. Pontoons were present at every lane with one volunteer at every pontoon who holds the boat. The starters were placed on a boat close to the start line. "Crew are you ready, attention" and a signal were used. The starters were from the canoe federation and had prior experience starting; it worked well. The timing system started automatically with the starter's signal.

Umpiring. There were two umpires and one driver on one catamaran at every race.

Time keeping. Two experienced persons from the canoe federation ran this, using the same routine as any international event. Lynx system was used with results then posted on the website and on a board at the finishing tower. The cameras were situated high enough so there weren't any problems with boats not visible behind other boats. They were placed quite close to the lanes which makes the photo finish good. No manual backup was used but there is enough space for this.

Note: I ran a test which I usually do when I'm at timekeeping and asked the person who sets the finish line visible on screen to delete the results from a race and set it again in order to check if there were deviations in the finish times because of inconsistencies in line placement from heat to heat or operator to operator. Unfortunately, it's almost impossible for the timekeepers to set the times consistently. While it is easy to see the finish order of the boats, if there are two or more heats in the same class, and times, rather than finish order, are used to determine the winner of the class, differences of 1000s of seconds are not reliable because the manually-generated on-screen finish line may differ from heat to heat and operator to operator.

The reliability of the line also differs due to the distance to the lanes (millimeter differences cannot be seen) and a dragon head hasn't got a sharp edge against which to set the line. Therefore, extreme care should be taken to verify results in closely contended heats when using these finish camera systems



Medals. Good looking medals. They were handed out by Niko Cuca, Anna Sokratus and me as substitute. Good presentations by the speaker, Serbian and good English, very professional. There is a nice award place in front of the stands that can be used at the Europeans. Now we were by the lake close to the athletes' tent.

Chief Official. Mirko Radojicic functioned as chief official in addition to handling all the other organisational issues. Were situated in the same room as the speaker. Mirko handled the upcoming issues well.

General Information. The arena is situated 20 km from Belgrade airport, 30 mins by taxi. Lanes are fixed, 9 metres wide, 12-14 metres deep. No currents. Start and finish lines are fixed, the place has hosted several international events.

Several accommodation options are available within walking distance from the arena, up to 25 mins walk.

The same with restaurants and shopping, it's walking distance.

Public Wifi at the arena, since there is no free roaming for EU citizens in Serbia it is good that they have wifi.

The arena is closed during summer months but that's negotiable according to Nico.

Fresh bottled water was provided to all athletes.

4 security officers were present throughout the weekend

1 doctor was situated in the athletes' tent.

Walkie talkies at every station.

Had lane 4 closest to the tower and lane 1 furthest away.

Canoeists and rowers were training at the same time as the event. It worked this time but must be closed for them during a European championship.

Didn't follow the IDBF rules in every detail but it worked good anyway.

Weather in Belgrade

June 23 degrees; July 28 degrees; August 29 degrees; September 24 degrees

Travel Cost Index

Serbia is very affordable and situated between east and west Europe and because of this I think that they will attract more countries from Eastern Europe.

The list shows average daily travel cost (i.e. food, lodgings and transport per person per day) for various European countries:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| Sweden | 110 € | Netherlands | 139 € | UK | 136 € | Italy | 132 € | | |
| Germany | 121 € | Romania | 62 € | Hungary | 60 € | Poland | 44 € | Serbia | 29 € |

Conclusion. It was a good event; the teams were mostly updated on the rules and were helpful towards the race officials and volunteers and acted professionally. The Serbian Dragon Boat Federation has plans to have their officials become IDBF officials grade 1. One authorised IDBF official will have to go to Belgrade to give a course and do the tests far enough before a European championship. This will save the Serbian federation travel and accommodation costs by using local officials. I think this is a way to go especially if they have experienced officials from the canoe federation. The chief official and station chiefs should be experienced IDBF officials.

I attach some photos from the arena in the mail (sent separately).

Extra Travel Facts: Boarding pass downloaded on your phone is not valid at Belgrade airport. You have to stand in the check-in line and get a printed old school boarding pass to get in.

Robin Magnusson

EDBF Technical Commission