

**MINUTES OF THE 1997 AGM OF THE
EUROPEAN CUSTOMS SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

Date: 24 October 1997 at Roma

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|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Present: | Chairman | Andre Geeraerts | B |
| | Treasurer | Kaj Larsen | DK |
| | Executive Committee | Billy Robb | GB |
| | Executive Committee | Hakan Brandorf | S |
| | Delegates | Tommi Kivilaakso | FIN |
| | | Claude Vallion | F |
| | | Lazlo Kopf | H |
| | | Pietro Ariodante | I |
| | | Bas van der Broek | NL |
| | | Mick O'Hanlon | IRL |
| | Observers | Gianpiero Piacentini | I |
| | | Maurilio Valentini | I |
| | | Gabor Hoka | H |
| | Lieven Muylaert | B | |
| | Asa Ohrstrom | SWPFG | |

Non-Attendees: European Commission and Luxembourg delegations.

1. Opening

Chairman welcomed all those present, especially those who were attending for the first time. He thanked Italy for hosting and making the arrangements.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reminded those present of the aims of ECSA and that it was important to develop both local and national as well as international sport. He detailed who were on the Executive Committee and reminded us that the EC as well as Hungary had joined the association.

He then covered his attempts to get Austria, Greece, Germany, Portugal and Spain to join. There had been no replies from all except Portugal, where a Mr Ramos, Director of General Services was interested. However, during the AGM faxes were received from Austria, Greece and apologies from Luxembourg which were encouraging.

He also mentioned Norway and Switzerland, who had been contacted previously, and that recently he had written to the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Results were awaited.

ACTION POINT - Report on developments at the 1998 AGM.

He summarised details of the previous committee meetings in Budapest and Liverpool and concluded that we were better known to the outside world.

3. The 1996 AGM minutes were accepted.

4. The 1996-97 Treasurer's report and account were accepted. The gift of HFL 1,500 from NL was noted with thanks.

5. Subscription Rates 1998-99

The meeting agreed they remain the same at £40 to join and £20 annual subscription.

6. Sporting events in the year ended 30 September 1997 - see attached list.

7. Sporting events in the year ending 30 September 1998 - see attached list.

8. Questionnaire results

The ECSA Committee had commissioned a questionnaire about its usefulness and future direction with this member. The six findings are as follows.

- 8.1 ECSA has become a more and more important contact point for information exchange between the sporting associations of European countries and consequently meets its constitutional objectives.
- 8.2 ECSA is more and more involved in the co-ordination of international sporting events, organised by its members, with room for extension.
- 8.3 The efforts to increase the number of members have to be continued, step by step, without setting minimum standards.
- 8.4 To increase the reputation of ECSA a good publicity and communication strategy has to be developed in order to achieve good results.
- 8.5 The handbook is a very good working instrument, frequently used by our members, but communication on future sporting events has to be improved by developing a yearly calendar spread out in the form of a newsletter.
- 8.6 The financial means of ECSA have to become more important in order to give the association the opportunity to deliver financial support to future international sporting events.

9. The following were elected to the Committee:-

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Chairman | Bill Robb | GB |
| Treasurer | Mick O'Hanlon | IRL |
| Committee Members | Hakan Brandorf | S |
| | Gianpiero Piacentini | I |
| | Tommi Kivilaakso | SF |
| Auditors | From F and NL | |

10. SWPFG 1999

Inspector Asa Ohrstrom made a presentation and answered questions. The meeting agreed to support these games, particularly as they were being held in Europe for the first time.

11. Resolutions - There were none.
12. A.O.B.
Ireland raised the question of tax officials participation in ECSA. None saw a problem with this suggestion. It was agreed.

Ireland raised the EC's new "Fiscalis" programme as a means of developing sporting participation. This was noted.

Everyone thanked Andre for his chairmanship and the meeting closed in peace and harmony.
13. DONM - 30 January 1998 in Falcade Italy. Later changed to 30 April 1998 in Largs, Scotland.