

EUROPEAN LACROSSE FEDERATION



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A NEWS LETTER TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE WITH OUR DEVELOPMENT

I suppose in this day and age, with instant news via email, we all expect instant results, however in real life it is not like that, it has taken over twenty years to develop Lacrosse in the 23 countries comprising our membership on mainland Europe. But never fear progress continues, so those who ask whether there is still life in the ELF can allay their fears.

Your Committee are currently assisting with the development of Lacrosse in several new areas, starting with Salonica in Greece where a very active group are gathering together a team of young people in the City and hopefully in a number of local schools. Unusually, the development team have been able to enlist their local TV Station to help them and there have been three broadcasts to date featuring Lacrosse. The ELF have provided 20 new Lacrosse Sticks and a further 22 second hand Sticks, the latter for use in schools are about to be dispatched. Thirty two of these Sticks have been provided by private donation. The local organisers have also been fortunate, in these difficult times, to find a sponsor for their team shirts. Your Committee are also geared up to send coaches as soon as they are requested.

A newcomers tournament was held in Belgrade, Serbia at the beginning of October to further assist development in the Balkans area. The tournament was arranged by Brian Gorodetsky, who teaches at the International School in Belgrade and participants included players from Zagreb in Croatia and Pecs in Hungary, in addition to those who dwell in Belgrade. Our Coaching Co-ordinator, Henning Schmidt, arranged for a Coach to attend who held a coaching session during the tournament and also assisted Brian with the refereeing. Needless to say the ELF have supplied helmets, gloves and sticks to all three of the countries mentioned, the cost of which has been paid by the ELF and other private donors.

In Italy Fabio Antonelli and his Committee have been working hard with development and there are now two ladies teams in the Rome area in addition to the eight mens teams. The ELF have provided twelve ladies sticks for the new players. In addition we are also organising a Refereeing Course for the men in the near future.

In Brussels, Belgium, where the International School play on a regular basis, as they have done for several years past, they have been joined by the Brussels Sports Association which is organised by Amy Anderson. The BSA started Lacrosse training some years ago in April and May and they have now added another session to run between October and December to their very busy schedule of sports. Their players, aged between 9 and 15 enjoy being coached by staff from the ISB, and if proof be needed of the interest shown by the youngsters, some 23 registered their interest in 24 hours when bookings opened for the Spring session.

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In addition to the active participation of the ISB and the BSA, some of the staff at the ISB are also visiting other schools in Brussels to coach Lacrosse. For their part the ELF have supplied sticks and helmets to the BSA, but there is still a need for helmets suitable for 10-12 years olds. All those countries in Europe with junior teams may wish to note that the Brussels International School will be holding their annual tournament from 21st to 22nd April 2012.

Very shortly all of our member countries will be asked to vote for a new member. We have received an application from Turkey to join us. It will be very pleasing to welcome a new member, since for the first time for many years our Agenda for the AGM in June did not include an application for membership.

Arrangements for the ELF Tournament in Amsterdam in 2012 continue apace and our thanks are due to the Netherlands Association for the regular updates on their progress in organising the games on behalf of the ELF.

The ELF Champions Tournament held each year to commemorate the passing of Ken Galluchio took place in Hamburg under the auspices of the Hamburg Club. The winners were the Farspa Club of Sweden, However, the event was somewhat spoilt by the high cost of refereeing the games which caused a number of potential participants to drop out, notwithstanding, the games took place and our thanks are due to Kyle Hawkins and Meike Henningsen of the Hamburg Club for their fortitude in bringing the tournament to a successful conclusion. The Women's European Club Championship was played in Switzerland and was won by Oxton Lacrosse Club, an English team.

Our lady members under the new Ladies Vice-President, Barbara Bazantova, are to be congratulated on publishing their first newsletter devoted to the womens game which is scheduled to appear at two monthly intervals. I look forward to seeing a copy.

Our Co-ordinators for Coaching, Umpiring and Refereeing, namely Henning Schmidt., Dorothy Hirsch, and Matthias Lockermann have all been very busy in running camps throughout the Summer and I congratulate them on their energy in carrying out their voluntary duties, often under pressure. The ELF are very lucky to have such devoted workers assisting the development of our game at grass roots level.

I hope that this newsletter will bring you up to date and confirm to you that your Committee is alive and well.

Yours sincerely,

P.J.Mundy, President.

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President

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