

MINUTES OF ICF CANOE POLO COMMITTEE MEETING

20-24 July 2004

Toyota Century Hotel, Japan

Item		
1.	Attendance	
	Jon Bisset Greg Smale Dominique Le Bellour	Apologies were received from Frits Jager and Carmel Vekins. The meeting was held from 9-12pm on the 20 th July, 8-11pm on the 23 rd July and at various times over the course of the world championships for various periods.
2.	Opening	
2.1.	Appointing a chairman for the meeting	
	To appoint a Chair of the meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that Jon Bisset would Chair the meeting.
2.2.	Appointing a secretary for the minutes	
	To appoint a secretary for the minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that Jon Bisset would take the minutes for the meeting and distribute them. It was noted that Greg Smale needs a copy within 14 days to ensure funding for attendance at the meeting.
3.	Announcements	
3.1.	Information on the coming WCPC trophies	
	To consider any issues relating to the World Championships in Japan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New perpetual trophies will be presented for the winners of each class for the first time at the World Championships in Japan. Trophies have been kindly donated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Men – Frits Jager • Senior Women – Ulrich Feldhoff • U/21 Men – Frits Jager ▪ Plaques will be presented to all past winners. It was agreed that Jon Bisset would discuss the presentation of the plaques with Mr. Feldhoff.
3.2.	Information on the World Games Invitation	
	To discuss the distribution of the Official invitations for the World Games.	It was noted that letters had been prepared by Frits Jager for distribution to the 12 qualifying teams. It was agreed that a ceremony would be held at the Closing Ceremony to distribute the official invitations to the qualifying nations.

4. Fixing Agenda		
4.1.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	To consider the minutes of the meeting held in Madrid / Spain from 26-27 October 2003.	It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true and correct record of that meeting.
5. World Championships		
5.1.	2004 Myoshi, Japan	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting discussed some of the issues being faced by the Competition Committee at the Championships. The following issues were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While Frits Jager has sent his apologies it seems the Japanese Organising Committee and the JCF have taken some offense at his non-attendance even though he notified them some time ago. They also seem to have taken offense at the late withdrawal of Carmel Vekins whose non-attendance was only formally notified to the Organising Committee on the 15th July 2004. This has put the three remaining members of the ICF Committee in an awkward position. It is only through the attendance of Gai Ness, Tom Colton and Tony Griffin that matters have run relatively smoothly to date. • After a Technical Inspection by Frits Jager, Jon Bisset and Carmel Vekins in February 2003 a detailed report was sent to the Organising Committee in April 2003 which gave numerous recommendations. The Japanese Organizers have NOT followed many of these recommendations of which some are very important. These being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch Size is not in accordance with ICF Rule Chapter 4, 7.1; • Goal Lines have buoys under the goals that are impacting on the position of the goalie and not in accordance with ICF Rule Chapter 3, 2.2. This particular failure has resulted in written complaints from in excess of 15 teams. It is noted that immediately on arrival in Japan on Sunday 18th July the problem was originally raised with the OC. Intervention by Mr Ulrich Feldhoff was required and the ICF needed coaches and athletes to assist with the removal of the buoys on the morning of the first day of the Championships. • Sun protection of boats in the boat storage area has not been provided as requested by the ICF – many complaints have been received from the teams. • All warm-up goals are fixed, ridged and not able to be adjusted and are all significantly too low. ▪ It has been frustrating to the ICF Committee that the Japanese Organising Committee have not responded to simple requests from the teams. For example to provide rubbish bins, ▪ Despite all of the above the venue and the volunteers are exceptional and some flexibility would result in these Championships being fantastic.

		It is disappointing to the ICF Committee that despite the considerable effort the ICF went to organise the Coaching Course there in 2003 that Malaysia were a late withdrawal for Japan.
5.2.	2006 Amsterdam, NETHERLAND – 17-20 th July 2006	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that no new information was to hand. ▪ It was agreed that a interim report should be presented at the next meeting of the Committee and that an inspection of the venue and meetings with the organising committee should be held the weekend immediately before World Games on the weekend of 16th July 2005. ▪ Venue to be Bosbaan' Regatta Course, Amsterdam
5.3.	2008 Edmonton CANADA – 20 th – 24 th August.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following Brad Cameron's attendance at the ICF's Coaching Course in Sweden, Greg Smale was invited to Canada and conveniently was able to see the outdoor venue (in a frozen state!), the indoor venue and also the very good proposed accommodation and have lengthy discussions with Darryl O'Brien the Canadian Organiser. ▪ Canada seems very enthusiastic and Darryl has attended the Japan Championships to observe how the 4 pitch event progresses and it also noted that Rob Kerestes (Chair, Canada Canoe Polo Committee) has asked for a list of issues encountered by the ICF. ▪ It is also believed they wish to make a presentation during the Japan World Championships. ▪ Canada has enquired about sponsorship contracts and Jon and Greg will speak to them separately. ▪ It was noted that the proposed dates are during the 2008 Olympic Games and will need to be changed.
5.4.	2010 World Championships	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dominique advised the meeting that France was seriously considering a bid for the 2010 World Championships.
5.5.	Final proposal for Qualification system	
	To finalise the U21 Qualification System for future World Championships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that in the Team Leaders Meeting in Japan the automatic qualification for U/21 men will be confirmed as 5 nations with additional details to be confirmed. ▪ The committee decided to delete U21 women's category for future World Championships, with this to be considered following the 2008 World Championships, with continents to be encouraged to promote the women's U21 category. ▪ Qualification for 2006 Worlds to be 5 from Myoshi, 5 special invites to be decided by the ICF Canoe Polo Committee, 5 continentals and 1 wildcard. The 5 special invites MUST be decided by the ICF CPC announced prior to Christmas 2004. It was agreed that the special invites would be

		<p>FRA, GBR, GER and NED. It was difficult to decide a final position and it was agreed that an extra position would be qualified through the 2005 European Championships. It was also agreed that there would be no future special invites. so as not to restrict/deter entries into European Championships 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following 2006 qualification will be 10 automatically, 5 continental and 1 wildcard. ▪ The committee agreed that Qualification rules should be an appendix in the competition rules.
5.6.	To finalise the World Championship Qualification system for Senior Categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the Team Leaders Meeting in Japan the automatic qualification for Senior Men and Senior Women will be confirmed as 16 nations in each category. It is noted that in the Women's class there are only 14 entrants so all will automatically qualify. The additional 2 places in women's will be wildcards to be awarded by the ICF. ▪ Following 2006 qualification will be 12 automatically, 5 continental and 3 wildcard. ▪ The ICF will consider who these wild cards should be prior to the next meeting. ▪ Jon to check deadline for inclusion in new rule book.
5.7.	World Championship Competition Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that a standard schedule for World Championships could be developed as team numbers are fixed. It was agreed that Jon and Greg would develop a schedule for consideration at the next meeting. • It was agreed that such schedule would be based on 4 groups 6 in the preliminary round for senior men and women and 4 groups of 4 for U21 men.
5.8.	Important Dates in the qualification process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teams who have automatically qualified from the previous Worlds must confirm their entry by the end of the year (31 December of the odd year) prior to the competition. ○ Teams who have qualified via their Continental Championships must confirm their entry by the end of the year (31 December of the odd year) prior to the competition. ○ All teams entering under a) and b) above must have participated in their Continental Championships (where they are held in that Continent) to ratify their place. ○ Teams who wish to Challenge for a place must do so by the end of the year (31 December of the odd year) prior to the competition. ○ Any wild card entries are issued by the 1 February of the year of the competition and acceptances are due by 31st March. ○ Provisional Programme circulated 10 weeks in advance of the competition. ○ Teams withdrawing after accepting an entry are not eligible for the World Championships in that category after the one they withdrew from (they are eligible for continental championships). ○ Final Delegation details are due to the Organisers 4 weeks in advance of the competition.

5.9.	Qualification Rules	It was agreed that Jon would draft the qualification rules for consideration by the committee via email.
6. World Championships Manual		
	To consider the status of the World Championship Manual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that this has been a continuing issue. It was noted that the manual needs a total re-write due to the move to outdoor four-pitch venues.
7. Continental Championships		
	To consider any issues relating to Continental Championships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005 Europe – in the absence of Carmel Vekins no definite information was available, but it is known that it will not be held in Mercia but possibly Palma de Magorca. There was also further rumors about the venue changing again to Madrid. The committee was concerned over definite staging of this competition and Carmel Vekins to advise ASAP. 2005 Oceania – to be held in New Zealand. 2005 Asia Cup or championships – from a previous visits it is expected that Malaysia are hosts for this event. 2005 America – Edmonton, Canada 2007 Europe – to be held in Thury Harcourt, France.
8. International Competitions		
	To consider any issues relating to International Competitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that for the first time an International Competition was held in Africa on Reunion Island in July 2004. Some participants are known to be South Africa, teams from France, Scyelle Islands.
9. World Games		
9.1.	2005 Duisburg GERMANY	
	To consider any issues relating to the World Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that Mr Feldhoff has requested that the ICF write to each of the qualifying National Federation confirming their invitation. Mr Feldhoff was concerned that the letters to be distributed to Team Leaders may not be given to their national federation. It was noted that qualifying teams will be known by the end of the Championships and as such the draw should be finalised at the next meeting of the Committee.
10. Referees		
10.1.	Update	
	To consider any issues relating to Refereeing.	<p>The following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the Oceania Champ's Jon Bisset and Duncan Cochrane assessed various candidates. In Essen in May 2004 Greg Smale and Frits Jager conducted Exams and assessments.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Mechlen in June 2004 Greg Smale did exams and assessments. ▪ In Japan Tom Colton is conducting a referees course and several assessors will be present. ▪ The ICF are very aware that with 4 pitches it is vital that more referees are assessed. ▪ Eva Lindmark, Team Leader from Sweden has formally requested an ICF Referees Course. ▪ It was noted that some nations were not complying with rule Chapter 4 2.6 and 2.7, being to supply one or two non-playing ICF qualified referees. It was agreed that the Committee needs to find an appropriate sanction for teams that don't comply and would discuss this at the next meeting. ▪ Jon Bisset agreed to the gradings and they can now be published on the on ICF website. It was suggested that referees emails be included on the site as well. ▪ It was agreed to ask Carmel to email all referees to seek their permission to include their email addresses on website and also include a consent on referees form. ▪ Include contact details and responsibilities of Carmel Vekins on ICF website.
11. Coaches		
11.1.	Update	
	To consider any issues relating to Refereeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greg tabled a report on the development of Canoe Polo in Sweden following the ICF Coaching Course run there in mid-2003. Copy Attached. ▪ It was agreed that Jon would discuss Coaching courses in Africa with Tim Cornish. ▪ Other courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003/4 – Chinese Taipei. During the championships a meeting was held with Chinese Taipei representatives and they will be contacting Greg Smale by email to progress arrangements. • 2005/06 – Africa • 2006/07 – Poland, with Hungary, Russia (Frits to advise Greg of point of contact in Poland). • 2007/08 – Canada
12. Canoe Polo Website		
12.1.	Update	
	To consider the future of the ICF Canoe Polo website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that Canoe Polo des not have direct access to the ICF website, however, slalom do. It was agreed more and better photo's are required. Some photo's have been sent to the ICF. It was noted that the ICF Office is very busy in the lead-up to the Olympic Games and be having direct access the office can be alleviated from extra work. ▪ It was agreed that no separate website would be maintained but that the committee should keep

		<p>www.canoe-polo.com and use it as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point at World Championships site for next Worlds • Where no world champs site point at www.canoeicf.com. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that Frits would advise Jon of the site for the 2006 World Championships as soon as possible.
13. Canoe Polo Rules		
13.1.	Review	
	To review the current ICF rules and to particularly consider how at least 20 rules can be deleted. Also to consider proposal on kayaks and other equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Committee reviewed the rules and a marked-up copy of the proposed revisions are attached to the minutes of this meeting for Frits Jager to refer to the Board.
14. Other Business		
14.1.	Team Leader Directory	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed to develop and maintain a directory (email) of all Team Leaders. ▪ Greg to talk to Japanese Organising Committee and get list of Team Leaders.
14.2.	Communication	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Committee discussed the perceptions of the athletes/teams that the ICF Committee is not achieving anything. It was agreed that communications need to be improved ▪ It was agreed to suggest to Frits that Minutes be distributed to Federations ▪ It was agreed that Need to find latest version of draft rules to finalise and then publish. ▪ It was agreed that Greg would talk to Japanese Organising Committee and get list of Team Leaders.
15. Next Meeting		
15.1.	Date	
	To consider a date for the next meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that the next meeting of the committee will be the 27/28th November in Duisburg, Germany. ▪ Whilst it was unable to fix a date the proposal from the 3 members present was to meet over the weekend immediately before the World Games in Amsterdam and to combine this with a Technical Inspection of the Netherlands World Championships. This would enable Jon Bisset to attend the meeting without making an additional trip to Europe.

Signature of Chairman: Date:

Development of Canoe Polo in Sweden - 2002 to 2004

From 1970 until 1998-99 canoe polo in Sweden was mainly played during wintertime as an alternative practice for whitewater and racing paddlers.

Around 2000 it started to develop into it's own discipline. In the northern part of Sweden in particular the sport has been taken more seriously.

The recent development in Sweden started with the Senior Men and Women that participated in the World Championships in Essen 2002. The experience was beneficial and generated even more enthusiasm for the sport.

Coach development was required. During 2003 the ICF Canoe Polo Committee helped Sweden by providing expertise at a coaching course organized by Sweden for it's own future coaches as well as surrounding countries.

Greg Smale and Erwin Roos visited Falun in July 2003 and introduced new ways to think about polo. After the course more clubs than earlier started to use '1-3-1' as defensive system and 'five out' and generally encouraged thinking of different ways to play.

The men's national team have already progressed well and performed much better at the European Championship in Ireland in 2003.

In June 2004 both women and men's teams entered the Essen International. The women were satisfied with the result of two draws and one victory (although it should have been one more victory). The men seemed a little bit exhausted having been at a training camp in the Netherlands for over a week. They started the tournament well but the quality dropped in the later stages.

During the tournament two referees from Sweden (one male and one female) passed the theoretical test for the international certification. One practical test was performed with a passing result. This same referee has since passed two other games at the Swedish Championships held two weeks later.

The goals for the Swedish teams during 2004 are to qualify for World Championship 2006 and to have two certified referees.

The goals for 2005 are to have non-playing coaches and referees for the European Championships in Spain.

Eva & Mats Lindmark – 4th July 2004