



EU Cup 2009 in Zagreb (Samobor), Croatia

August Newsletter

This newsletter is earmarked for general distribution.

As you all know, The 2009 EU Cup will be played in Samobor, just outside of Zagreb in Croatia on Saturday 3rd October 2009, which is less than 2 months away. At this point in time, there is interest from 17 countries to attend, and we look forward to final entry fee payment as absolute confirmation. As we are limited to 16 countries and the payment deadline has passed, it will be a case of first paid, first served. Unfortunately, we cannot exceed the 16 team cap due to limitations in fields and available daylight.

The organising committee is currently working hard to put together the best ever EU Cup and we look forward to welcoming all teams and players to this fantastic weekend.

In conjunction with the tournament, we will also be holding an umpiring workshop at 13.00 on Friday 2nd October in Samobor which is open to all interested persons.

On Sunday 4th and Monday 5th October, the inaugural AFL Europe conference will be held at the Hypo Expo Centre in central Zagreb. The conference is open to a maximum of 2 representatives per nation and will be the forum to discuss the sports future in the European region. We certainly encourage every country to attend.

In September, we will publish a final edition of the newsletter, with updates and confirmation on all important event information.

If there are any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the organising committee at philip@aussieruleseurope.com

Welcome to Samobor (Zagreb)!

Important tasks to complete today

There are a number of important tasks that must be completed as soon as possible to enable the organizers to continue preparing and planning for the event.

Please send to us ASAP:

1. A updated fully outfitted, team photo with either a previous squad or the current squad (if possible)
2. Confirmation of your entire squad's hotel reservation and flight arrival time into Zagreb.

We have arranged with the City of Samobor to do a bus pick up from the Zagreb airport and need flight information to coordinate a bus pick up and transportation times from the airport. The bus transfer will operate directly from the airport to Samobor. It will be low cost or potentially free (TBC). We are still in negotiations with the city about this.

Furthermore, we need all hotel reservations in order to cancel bookings for all the hotels that are not booked, as per the city's requirements.

Finally, please note to make your hotel bookings soon as current reservations for the EU Cup tournament will only be held until **September 1st**. After this date, the reservations will be released to the general public and teams will need to look hard to find accommodation in Samobor. We do not recommend Zagreb as it is difficult with connecting transportation on the weekends.

3. Thirdly, please put together a brief summary (maximum 100 words) about the team and its composition to put in tournament program. We would be grateful to have this summary as soon as possible, so we can create and print the tournament program.

Here is an example:

The Croatian Knights debuted at EU Cup in 2008 and surprised everyone by beating France, Austria, Scotland and specially Germany, only to lose to mighty England in the final. This year they are trying to grab the gold in front of the home crowd. Eight players are returning from last year squad, with best goal scorer Ivan Srpek retiring last year, and best player Renato Babic returning to Australia. With new blood, we'll see how this team matches with the last year teams, and if they can repeat the success of the 2008 Knights.

The team summary could include some information about the teams exciting players to watch for, some information about where the players come from and their footy background, or some of the teams goals and ambitions for this years tournament.

4. Finally, once payment has been confirmed we will send you a squad list to be completed and returned to us as soon as possible (this information will also be included in the tournament record).

The squad list must include all playing and team management personnel who are covered in the entry fee payment.

Please also include the player's jumper number and whether they will be participating in the umpiring course (see later).

Participating Teams

As of the August 1st, we are 15 "verbally" confirmed nations.

Andorra *	Austria
Catalonia	Croatia
Czech Republic	England *
Finland *	France
Iceland	Ireland
Italy	Germany
Scotland	Spain
The Netherlands	

* Denotes entry fee payment received

We also have some interest for the following nations:

EU Crusaders** (see note below)	Russia
Sweden	

Entry Fee payment

At this point in time, only a handful of countries have paid their entry fees and thereby have fully confirmed their place in the 2009 EU Cup. For those remaining countries which haven't made their payments, please contact me immediately at philip@aussieruleseurope.com as the August 1st deadline for payment has passed.

Please note that the absolute final payment date is Tuesday 1st September.

From this date, we will proceed with defining the match schedule, printing the tournament record and begin promoting the tournament locally.

Likewise, if you plan to attend but there are difficulties in making payment or you require a payment plan, please do not hesitate to contact me immediately to discuss. Extra understanding and flexibility will be given to those who notify us of the payment situation.

The EU Crusaders

Because of the unknown number of paid-up participating countries at this stage, we are unsure if the EU Crusaders will be entered in the Zagreb tournament until September 1st 2009. At that point in time, if there are an odd number of confirmed, paid-up, participating teams, we will introduce the EU Crusaders to even up the pool structures. We shall notify all countries of this decision and encourage everyone not selected in a team to come participate and play for the EU Crusaders.

Accommodation

As nearly all activities and events will take place in Samobor, we strongly recommend staying in the Samobor area for the duration of the tournament weekend. A detailed tournament pack with accommodation options has been distributed to all participating countries. Please email Philip at philip@aussieruleseurope.com should you require this document.

Additional items to bring

1. IMPORTANT: MATCHING SHORTS and SOCKS for each team. We have professional photographers and potentially a live webstream, newspaper and TV media covering the event and therefore encourage each team to be outfitted correctly for the tournament in order to maximize the quality of the photo stock
2. National flag(s) (large size if possible)
3. Official national hymn/song on CD / USB Memory stick
4. Clear photocopies of identification page of participating player's passport in the case where teams travel to Zagreb on national identity cards
5. Each team is very welcome to dress in national attire (as appropriate) to add colour to the tournament
6. Players should bring their own tape, bandages and strapping. Limited stocks will be available for sale
7. Each player should have some cash (Euros or better Croatian currency) for purchasing food, drinks and merchandise at the fields. There will be no credit card facilities at the tournament and the closest ATM is quite a distance from the fields back in Central Samobor. NO IOU or Credit will be extended. Cash is king!
8. NB: No teams or players are permitted to enter the playing field until the entry fee is paid in full.

Umpiring Workshop

Place: Samobor
Location: [Venue to be confirmed \(depending on numbers\)](#)
Time: Friday 2nd October, 13.00 - 19.00
Course leader: Andrew Jones, with assistance from Shane Hill
Language: English

How to apply:

This course is open to all interested players, coaches, officials and umpires.

Please email a list of all interested person to philip@aussieruleseurope.com by 1st September

About the course leader

Andrew Jones played Australian Football until he was 17, before a knee injury required surgery. Until then, he tried out with 2 AFL clubs – the North Melbourne Kangaroos and Sydney Swans. After 12 months of rehabilitation, Andrew returned to the game and took up umpiring in the Bendigo Umpires Association, Victoria. Within 3 years he umpired his first senior Grand Final and was invited to join the AFL Umpires the same year. Serious knee injury struck again so he took a break and returned to umpiring juniors in Sydney to get fit again.

Shortly afterwards he was approached to mentor younger umpires. This lead to him to being appointed as the junior umpires coach for 2 years. During this time, he grew the group from 12 umpires to 40 young umpires while implementing the “Green Shirt Program” for new aspiring umpires.

Andrew was then approached to become an assistant umpire coach with the Sydney AFL Umpires. Dealing with all senior umpires, his duties required him to attend all senior games and individually coach the 3 appointed field umpires and provide them with constructive feedback for the purpose of development both personally and for the game. He also assisted the AFL in Sydney with game development in their school programs and attending Auskick clinics. He had the privilege to work closely with the AFL NSW/ACT State Umpiring Manager and attend regional umpiring academies working with those umpires who had chosen to pursue a career as an umpire with the AFL.

Agenda

1. Role of the Umpire - what makes a great umpire? Leadership and character.
2. Coping with the Environment - giving guidance and direction, providing a positive, enthusiastic match environment; pre-match, during match and post match environment

3. Positioning - where to run, what to look for, getting the best position all of the time
4. Decision Making - interpreting and applying the laws of the game, keeping the game flowing, what is a legal tackle; explaining all the major skills and free kicks
5. Effective Communication - whistle, voice & signals; how these tools make a great umpire
6. Goal Umpires - signals, positioning, duties, working with the field umpire
7. Fitness - keeping fit to avoid fatigue and loss of concentration during a match; the key to successful positioning during a match

Welcome Drinks

Place: Central Samobor
Location: Old Nick's Pub, Mirka Kleščica 3, right on the main square
Time: Friday 2nd October, 19.00 – 22.00

For those who have arrived and unpacked, there will be an informal welcome ceremony and drinks on Friday night from 19:00. Tournament merchandise will also be available for sale.

It will also be a final opportunity to discuss any important last minute details with the team managers, and publish the final handicap totals.

Match Day

All teams should arrive at the field at the latest **08:15** to ensure the tournament commences on time.

All team leaders are required to attend a compulsory Team Leaders meeting at the administration tent at **08:30 (TBC) at the NK Samobor stadium administration tent** where final paperwork and instructions will be issued.

The first matches will commence on **Saturday 9:00am sharp (TBC)**.

A food tent, manned by the CAAF, will be selling reasonably priced **food and drinks** (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) on the day – so please don't forget to bring either Kuna (Croatian currency) or Euros (no cards) for purchases of food, drinks and merchandise including official EU Cup footballs, AFL team jumpers, tournament T-shirts etc. The closest bank machine is located back in central Samobor.

Competitions

At approximately 14.30 (TBC) there will be a 30 minute tournament break before the finals commence. There are a number of activities that will take place during this period. All countries are welcome to nominate a player for each activity.

- a. Team photos – all teams will line up for their official team photos. Please ensure your team is fully dressed in playing uniform, organised and ready to go at the start of the break.
- b. Fastest Man – goal-line to goal-line race (100m)
- c. Strongest Man – push up competition
- d. Longest Kick – maximum of 2 kicks per country

At the completion of the tournament and at the Banquet, a Team Europe will be selected and jumpers will be given to the selected players. In addition, the presentation of awards for the minor places, the tournament's MVP and top goal scorer will be conducted.

Post Tournament Banquet

City: Samobor
Location: To be confirmed
Time: Friday 3rd October, 21.00 – late

The post tournament banquet and awards ceremony will take place at a location in central Samobor at 21.00.

All players, management and supporters who have paid their entry fee are invited to enter the VIP entrance. The entry fee covers the banquet, plus after 23.00 the soft drinks will be free. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the bar throughout the evening for a nominal fee.

Tickets can be bought either at the door or during the tournament at the food tent, and will cost 30 Euros per person.

Additional Tournament Rules and Regulations

1. The organisers take no responsibility for the visa requirements for entry into Croatia. Please check these requirements with your local Croatian embassy and make your own arrangements to acquire visas, should the case require. There will be no entry fee refund for participants who fail to attend the tournament.
2. All participating players must possess a full and valid passport as proof of identification and nationality; for the purposes of verifying and calculating handicap. The exception to this rule applies to squads traveling with national identity cards. In such cases a photocopy of the identification page of the passport will suffice.

Failure to provide adequate paperwork may result in loss of handicap points, and potentially alter the final results of the matches.
3. No team may enter the field and commence play until the match sheets have been filled in correctly and signed. At the conclusion of the match, both team managers shall again sign the match sheets thereby confirming the results.
4. Only players documented in the official squad list sheets may represent a team. The deadline for submitting documentation is Friday 2nd October at 20.00. Failure to do so, without reasonable cause, will result in a zero handicap.

5. According to agreed regulations, NO team is permitted to attend with more than 15 players in a squad. NO more than 9 players from each team may be on the field at one time. After 09:30 on the Saturday of the tournament, NO players can be replaced or added to the squads.

6. All teams are expected to enter the field within one minute of the scheduled match start time. The umpires have been instructed to start the games on time.

7. All playing and traveling insurances are the responsibility for each participating nation. The Organising Committee is in no way responsible for injuries and expenses sustained during the tournament. Indemnity forms have been provided and NO team will be allowed to enter the field of play without submitting this form.

8. All participating nations shall bring with them a (large) national flag and their national anthem on a CD in mp3 format. Appropriate attire in national costume and colours is very welcome.

9. At the conclusion of each match, the team managers will be required to sign and personally deliver the match forms to the administration tent for processing. Failure to do so within a reasonable time may result in a loss of match votes and goals for their team.

In the match forms, the team manager or coach must enter their 3-2-1 best on ground for their team only (with "3" votes the highest value) along with the goal scorers for their team.

The match data will be entered live and published on The Footy Record during the course of the tournament.

<http://www.thefootyrecord.net/dbcomp.php?id=175&acct=INTL>

Proposed Tournament Schedule

This is a draft schedule. Changes may occur up until the commencement of the tournament due to unforeseen circumstances. Please notify your squads of the important times to avoid delays in commence of each activity.

Tournament Schedule (draft)

Thursday 1st October

20:00 EU Cup 2008 Organising Committee meeting

Friday 2nd October

All squads should begin arriving into the Samobor area and proceed to their hotels

13:00 Umpiring Workshop at NK Samobor (TBC)

19:00 Umpiring Workshop concludes

19:00 Welcome ceremony and drinks, location TBC

20:00 Final team documentation submitted and handicaps confirmed

Saturday 3rd October

06:00 Setup fields, facilities at NK Samobor

08:15 Assemble squads at NK Samobor

08:30 Team Leaders meeting at the administration tent

09:00 Commence EU Cup tournament

14:30 Tournament break (competitions)

18:00 EU Cup Gold Medal Grand Final at NK Samobor

18:40 Medal awards ceremony at NK Samobor

19:00 Conclusion, dismantle facilities, teams return to hotel to change

21:00 Post tournament banquet commences, location TBC

Sunday 4th October

10:00 AFL Europe conference Day 1, Hypo Expo Centre in Zagreb

19:00 AFL Europe Conference dinner

Monday 5th October

09:00 AFL Europe conference Day 2, Hypo Expo Centre in Zagreb

14:00 Tournament close

AFL Europe / Aussie Rules Europe Conference

“This is a very important event as it will have a significant impact on how AFL football will look in Europe moving forward.” -- Gerard Murphy, Leading Teams

Location: Hypo Expo Centre, central Zagreb

Website: <http://www.hypoexpocentre.hr/>

Time: Sunday 4th October (10.00 – 17.00), Monday 5th October (09.00-14.00)

The day after the tournament (Sunday) is often a free day for sightseeing and return travel for a majority of the teams. However, the inaugural **AFL Europe conference** to be chaired by Gerard Murphy, AFL Europe will take place at the Hypo Expo Centre in central Zagreb on Sunday and Monday 4-5th October.

The conference agenda may include some of the following points (subject to change):

- Establish the key priorities from the group moving forward and develop a strategy/action plan
- Examine the need and benefits of AFL Europe and how it may assist each country
- Feasibility for Europe-wide sponsorship from which all member nations will benefit
- The possibility of regular international games within the normal football season (will encourage and stimulate local participation)
- Centralised purchasing power, so that we are able to purchase materials on behalf of various member nations so as to ensure competitive prices

All countries are welcome to send up to 2 representatives to this historic event and delegates are encouraged to find their own accommodation nearby to the conference centre in Zagreb for the night Sunday to Monday 4-5th October.

For more information about this important event, please contact Gerard Murphy directly at gmurphy@leadingteams.eu

Expressions of Interest to host 2010 EU Cup

Covered briefly at the AFL Europe conference will be a discussion and vote on the host city/country for the EU Cup 2010.

As per tradition, the date for the EU Cup is always one week after the AFL Grand Final. In 2010, this will take place on Saturday 2nd October 2010.

For those interested in hosting the EU Cup in 2010 please prepare a project summary for discussion at the AFL Europe conference.

If you have any further questions on the hosting requirements, please email Philip at philip@aussieruleseurope.com

Contacts

If there are any further questions, feel free to contact any of the 2009 EU Cup organising committee members.

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