



# E.H.C. Alliance Newsletter

Issue No 4 — December 2016 — Page 1

*The Newsletter is for member clubs of the E.H.C. Alliance. It is a selective compilation of news*

## 18 November Meeting in Zurich — move World Championships, review Dec & Feb International breaks

■ ■ Following the E.H.C. Club Meeting in Munich (2-3 Nov), President Marc Lüthi took part in an International Calendar meeting at the IIHF Office in Zurich, with the participation of IIHF President René Fasel, as well as representatives of Hockey Europe (Leagues), CHL and other IIHF officials. As agreed by the E.H.C. members in Munich, Marc Lüthi informed the IIHF about the request to move the IIHF World Men's (WM) two weeks and about the request to play through the December international break and to leave room for one national team game during the February break, so players can be back with their teams on Thursday. The E.H.C. proposal was supported by Hockey Europe and the CHL.

The preliminary decision regarding the World Men's was to move the event one week later as of the 2019 WM, with the Division I WM also moved one week. (Dates for WM 2017 and 2018 are already set). The discussion about the international breaks was referred to the upcoming IIHF Committee Meetings as the international break events are organized by the national associations, not the IIHF. Nevertheless, this first real meeting about the calendar with E.H.C. participation and input, must be considered as good progress in the clubs' movement towards better playing dates.

## 8 December IIHF Committee Meetings in Zurich

■ ■ A bit of history here, as only six months after the formal founding of the E.H.C. the alliance represented the clubs through E.H.C. Board Member Neil Black who has been assigned to the Competition & Coordination Committee. The E.H.C. key proposal to move the IIHF World Men's as of 2019 (see above) will be passed as a recommendation to IIHF Council. Furthermore, it was agreed to move the World Men's one extra week in Olympic years, starting 2022. Separately it was agreed that the WM Div. 1 A, B will end on either the Saturday or the Sunday before the Friday start day of 2018 WM. Note that committee decisions are recommendations to IIHF Council. These proposals will go to council with R. Fasel's recommendation for approval.

■ The IIHF proposal of introducing a new "European Championship" to be played during the international breaks did not win any approval. The E.H.C. is opposing this proposal as it goes against the club's requests of less national team games during the breaks. A new "EC" would most likely cement the December and February breaks for national team games.

■ The committee did not reach any agreement on the international breaks for 2018/19 but this topic will be brought up at the next C&C Committee Meeting in March, when we most likely will know whether the NHL will make an Olympic break and release players for 2018.

## E.H.C. and Fenix Outdoor sign 3-year partnership

■ ■ As informed in Munich on 3 November, the E.H.C. and Fenix Outdoor / Fjällräven have signed a three-year agreement. Fenix is one of the world's leading companies in clothing and equipment for outdoor life. There are eight brands under the Fenix umbrella: Fjällräven, Tierra, Primus, Brunton, Hanwag, with Naturkompaniet (SWE) and Partioaitta (FIN) being the retailers. Fenix is listed on Nasdaq OMX, Stockholm Mid Cap. We will announce the concrete cooperation form later.

## E.H.C. invited to join ECA (Football), FCH (Handball) and Euroleague Basketball

■ ■ As we have informed during our meetings, there are established club alliances in the big European team sports, football, handball and basketball, who have successfully represented the interests of their pro clubs for 10-15 years now. As soon as the E.H.C. was founded, we received an invitation to join this "alliance of alliances". This group meets twice a year to exchange information and best-practices regarding our missions which are very similar, although in different sports. There are important things going in Europe (EU) regarding sports governance and clubs' influence. We know that at this point it sounds very remote, but the coming EU-Parliament and EU-Commission decisions/recommendations can change the conditions of the European pro clubs in the major team sports. We will inform the member clubs about this progress continuously.

## E.H.C. membership has reached 75 clubs—only 25 left to 100...

■ ■ The following clubs have joined the E.H.C. since the founding meeting in Berlin: SCL Tigers Langnau (SUI), Ambri-Piotta (SUI), Red Ice Martigny (SUI), Växjö Lakers (SWE), Karlskrona (SWE), HC Donbass (UKR), Kometa Brno (CZE) and Leksand (SWE). This brings total of clubs who have paid membership fees to 75. This also means that all 12 Swiss NLA clubs (+ two NLB) are members and also all 14 Swedish SHL-clubs. See complete list of clubs on page 2.

## This & that from the hockey world

■ The next E.H.C. Board meeting is on January 9. Based on the latest developments and results from investigations, the board may propose a revised road map to the member clubs. Board will also propose membership fees for 2017-18.

■ Croatian KHL-club Medvescak Zagreb announced on 21 November that they, contrary to speculation, have no plans to move the franchise to London.

■ Sportsnet (CAN) reveal that the NHL is planning World Cups for 2020 and 2024, unspecified "Ryder Cup"-style events in 2019 and 2023 and the return of NHL regular season games in Europe for autumn 2017.

■ E.H.C. President Marc Lüthi has been listed #66 on The Hockey News' prestigious list "Top-100 People of Power and Influence" in hockey.

■ Congrats to E.H.C. members Frölunda (SWE) vs Fribourg-Gottéron (SUI) and Sparta Prague (CZE) vs Växjö Lakers (SWE) for making the CHL Final Four (10—17 January). Final: 7 February, venue TBD.



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■ Swiss NLB clubs HC Ajoie and HC La Chaux-de-Fonds set a new penalty shoot-out world record in men's hockey on 14 November when the clubs needed 46 (!) penalty shots to decide the game. Lucky game winner: Thibault Frossard, Ajoie. Previous record belonged to DEL clubs EHC München and Straubing, 42 shots on 2010. The longest NHL-shootout is 40 shots, Florida vs. Washington 2014.

## **AUSTRIA (3):**

Dornbirner Bulldogs  
Vienna Capitals  
Red Bull Salzburg

## **CZECH REPUBLIC (7):**

Pirati Chomutov  
Bili Tygri Liberec  
Mlada Boleslav  
HC Litvinov  
Skoda Plzen  
Sparta Prague  
Kometa Brno

## **FINLAND (14):**

IFK Helsinki  
HPK Hämeenlinna  
Lukko Rauma  
Pelicans Lahti  
Vaasa Sport  
JYP Jyväskylä  
Kärpät Oulu  
Tappara Tampere  
SaiPa Lappeenranta  
TPS Turku  
Ilves Tampere  
KooKoo Kouvola  
Ässät Pori  
KalPa Kuopio

## **GREAT BRITAIN (5):**

Braehead Clan  
Nottingham Panthers  
Coventry Blaze  
Cardiff Devils  
Sheffield Steelers

## **GERMANY (10):**

Düsseldorfer EG  
Eisbären Berlin  
ERC Ingolstadt  
Krefeld Pinguine  
Adler Mannheim  
Red Bull München  
Fischtown Bremerhaven  
Kölner Haie  
Thomas Sabo Ice Tigers

## **NORWAY (2):**

Stavanger Oilers  
Storhamar Hamar

## **POLAND (1):**

Comarch Cracovia Krakow

## **SWITZERLAND (14):**

SC Bern  
EHC Biel  
HC Davos  
Fribourg-Gottéron  
Genève-Servette  
EHC Kloten  
Lausanne HC  
HC Lugano  
EV Zug  
Zürich Lions  
SCL Tigers Langnau  
Rapperswil-Jona Lakers  
Ambri-Piotta  
Red Ice Martigny

## **SLOVAKIA (4):**

HC Kosice  
MHC Martin  
HK Poprad  
HC '05 Banska Bystrica

## **SWEDEN (14):**

Brynäs Gävle  
Djurgården Stockholm  
Frölunda Gothenburg  
Färjestad Karlstad  
HV71 Jönköping  
Linköping HC  
Luleå Hockey  
Rögle BK  
Skellefteå AIK  
Örebro Hockey  
Malmö Redhawks  
Växjö Lakers  
Karlskrona HK  
Leksands IF

## **UKRAINE (1):**

HC Donbass

## **LEFT OR NOT PAID:**

Klagenfurter AC (AUT)  
Jukurit Mikkeli (FIN)  
Hamburg Freezers (GER) - *defunct*  
Grizzlies Wolfsburg (GER)  
Jegesmedvek Miskolc (HUN)