

Penya Blaugrana London

General Assembly 2012



Minutes

Date Saturday 17 November 2012, same day as the FCB v Zaragoza
Time 3.15-6.50pm
Location Bar&Co
Attendees Meeting constituted by 21 members

1. **Introduction** - Eduard explained the order and rules of the Assembly Meeting and how to vote the proposals. A video with all the great moments of the Penya this last year is shown.
2. **Board changes** - Votes for new board members (Jorge Gallardo – Vice President, Jason Pettigrove – UK Relations Delegate and Joan Marti - Delegate)

Agree	19
Disagree	0
Neutral	0
Result	Approved

3. **Review of last year economic exercise** – Alex exposed the financial statement of last year.

A question is raised: **How we are thinking in using the money for members' benefits?** The Board exposed they want to listen ideas and options from members. This is something we are and always will be looking into it as is members' money and we want to use it for bringing together members. Our plan is use this money towards social activities (like for example the Assembly, where

every member arriving on time was rewarded with two free drinks and free food). The Board wants to keep arranging activities like Football Matches, PBL Subbuteo, etc. where we can use the money in every member benefit, however we require ideas and we want to listen people's thoughts.

We voted to approve the accounts;

Agree	20
Disagree	0
Neutral	0
Result	Approved

4. **Review of last season social activities** – Jorge does a review of all social activities carried out by the Penya last season, supporting the presentation with pictures.
5. **Presentation of board proposals** – Each proposal is exposed one by one by Board members and then voted by all members for its approval

1. Make English Translation the Official Version of PBL statutes

Description

As an international penya with many non Catalan members, it makes sense for our official statutes to be in English.

The Catalan version will remain as reference.

Proposal

Make the following English translation PBL official statutes:

<http://www.pblondon.org/sites/default/files/resource/general-assembly-2012/proposed-english-statutes-pb-london-2012.pdf>

Make the Catalan version a reference version of the PBL statutes

<http://www.pblondon.org/sites/default/files/resource/general-assembly-2012/estatuts-pb-london-2011.pdf>

Agree	21
Disagree	0
Neutral	0
Result	Approved

2. Changes to Postal and Social address

Description

The postal and social address of the penya should not be in the statutes, as changes to the statutes require a General Assembly and 2/3 of the votes. For the last 6 months, for example, the official address of the penya has been in Cobham, and we have been unable to change it.

There needs to be more flexibility in changing the address, specially the postal address.

Proposed Changes

Replace Article 3 with the following:

Article 3

3.1. The postal address of the association is the address registered with FC Barcelona to receive correspondence from the club. The postal address must be in the Greater London area.

3.2. The social address of the association is the place where the principal activity of the association takes place. The association can have more than one social address. All social addresses must be in Central London Zone 1.

3.3. The postal and social address can be changed by the Board by 2/3 majority. This change of address will then have to be ratified at the next General Assembly by simple majority.

Agree	21
Disagree	0
Neutral	0
Result	Approved

As at the moment we are registered in Cobham, members raised their concerns with regards if we were vulnerable in terms of other Penyas registering themselves in Central London and us losing being the official Penya. The Board explained that at the moment we are in Cobham, as we have been unable to change the address until the Assembly and all members voting this proposal, however the Social address should be Bar&Co for being central London. No risk of losing being the Official Penya, however it is required to change it and going forward having more flexibility in this subject.

A member asked if we are required to send the outcome of the proposals to the FCBarcelona. The Board advised this is not required, however we will do it if necessary.

3. Financial year

Description

In the statutes the financial year starts on 1 Jan and finishes in 31 Dec. This implies this General Assembly should only report on the economic exercise staring Jan 1 2011 and ended 31 Dec 2011, nearly a year ago. It would make more sense if the financial year coincides with the football season.

Proposed Changes

Replace Article 28 with the following:

Article 28

The economic exercise starts on July 1 and closes on June 30 of the following year.

Add Article 27.2

Article 27

1. All the members of the associations have the duty to support it financially, via membership fees or other payments as decided by the General Assembly. The General Assembly can decide the periodicity of the payment fees as monthly, three-monthly, biyearly, annual or extraordinary.

2. Membership year starts July 1 and members must pay their renewal by Sep 30 the following year.

Agree	20
Disagree	0
Neutral	1
Result	Approved

The General Assembly agreed by voting everybody in favour to reword Article 27.2. The resulting article was semantically same as previous wording. This is therefore Article 27.2 that is to be included in the statutes:

“2. Membership season starts July 1 and ends June 30 of the following year. Members have until Sep 30 to renew their membership for the next season.”

4. Members of the Association

Description

It is important to have some control about who can join PBL. For example, applicants should accurately provide all personal details in the form and sign them (obvious but currently not a statutory requirement). Minors should only become members if they have parental consent. People with a history of hooliganism should be excluded, even though there should be room to give a second opportunity in life to rehabilitated people.

Also to reduce the complexity of the statutes and their implementation, the statutes no longer recognise emancipated minors. From now on, all members younger than 16 year old are considered a minor.

Proposed Changes

Replace Article 4 with the following (note Article 4.3 honorific members remains unchanged)

Article 4

4.1 Any person can request to be part of the association by providing a written request to the Board, as long as the following conditions are met:

- a) Completed, signed and delivered the application form to a Board member. The information provided must be accurate and truthful.
- b) If the member is a minor then parental or tutor consent must be provided in the form (younger than 16 years old)
- c) Never been expelled from an official FC Barcelona penya
- d) Never been involved in sport's violence nor hooliganism

4.2 The board, at its discretion, can accept members that do not meet the above criteria.

4.3 The Board reserves the right to name honorific members of the penya. These honorific members do not need to pay membership fees and will not have voting rights in the General Assembly, unless they become full members by paying their membership fee.

Amendments to Article 5.1 and 5.2 to remove emancipated minors:

Article 5

5.1. Voting rights to the General Assembly, except minors below 16 years of age.

5.2. Elect or be elected as a representative or Board Member, except minors below 16 years of age.

Add additional reason to be ceased from the association, as per Article 4.3

Agree	17
Disagree	0
Neutral	1
Result	Approved

A member asked how we know if someone has hooliganism past. The Board explained the application form requests members to agree with the statutes, and the statutes define that members with hooliganism past must disclose this. The penya will rely in member's honesty. If however it becomes clear the member lied or didn't disclose some details, their application will become void at a later time.

5. General Assembly Date and Time

Description

It makes sense that to maximise participation at the General Assembly by making it coincide with a match day. While the General Assembly must be announced with 30 days notice, match dates are not published until few weeks prior to the game. It is therefore necessary to make it clear in the statutes that the General Assembly date will not be confirmed until match date and kick off time are confirmed.

Proposed Change

Replace Article 11.1:

1. The General Assembly is organised by the governing body with an official announcement, which must at least contain the provisional Agenda, Place, Date and Time of the meeting. **If the intention is to make the General Assembly coincide with a match, the exact Date and Time do not need to be announced until five days after the match kick off date and time is published.**

Agree	17
Disagree	0
Neutral	0
Result	Approved

6. FC Barcelona penya regulations and personal details

Description

From 1 Jan 2012, FC Barcelona requests that all official penyas register their members with FC Barcelona. The aim of this is to have a view of the penyístic movement and weed out ghost penyas that either only exist for the purpose of tickets, or have very few penya members.

In return, FC Barcelona will issue an official penya member card and will introduce some benefits for penya members. Also, only members with an official penya member card will be able to collect penya tickets.

Penya Blaugrana London will need to provide the following information from each penya member:

- Name and surname
- Date of birth
- Passport number / ID card
- Address
- Email
- Phone number

- Nationality

It is therefore important all members need to agree and facilitate this information, as otherwise they are not official penya members in the eyes of FC Barcelona.

Proposal

Add the following article to Article 4:

4.4. To comply with the requirements of FC Barcelona with official penyas, the association is allowed to disclose any required personal details from its members to FC Barcelona for the purpose of being registered as an official penya member (name, surname, date of birth, passport number/id card, email, telephone number, address and nationality). By accepting and maintaining membership, all members agree to the disclosure of this information to FC Barcelona.

Add the following to Article 6.5 (Duties of association members)

6.5. Members have the duty to communicate any changes to their personal details so that the association has up to date information. All members must disclose the following personal details to the association: name, surname, date of birth, passport number/id card, email, telephone number, address and nationality.

Agree	18
Disagree	0
Neutral	1
Result	Postponed – It is voted whether we agree to postpone the vote until we have enough information to be able to decide in this subject

In the United Kingdom there is a 'Data Protection Act' Law which is raised by members and showing their concerns about transferring personal information, especially passports and dates of birth that is considered sensitive data from each one, to the Futbol Club Barcelona. It is explained that when a member is signing the application form, they agree with the statutes and on them, it is said the information required to belong to the Penya. The FCBarcelona has established these requirements and despite in Spain the laws against transferring information across different companies and countries are not hard, in the United Kingdom this is an issue. **Some members do not agree with providing this information without knowing how we are going to send this to the FCBarcelona –safely transfer, for how long they are going to keep it, what they are going to do with this information, who has access into it, etc. Also concerns are raised with regards to if something happens with this data, who is responsible for it, the Penya or the Club.** The votes agreed to postpone this proposal until more information is available from the club. The Board compromises to contact FCBarcelona and raise all concerns and the difference between Spain and the UK laws. If required, we will be stating where the data is held, for how long, and who has access to it. If is required to send it to the Club, something will need to be put in writing and also, we will ask if there is any possibility members of the Penya can provide with the information to the Club directly through the website or similar.

7. Membership length of time

Description

Many organisations have some restrictions on new members. FCB socis, for example, are not allowed to vote until after 2 years. FCB socis cannot present themselves as candidates until several years being a member. EU citizens relocating to the UK cannot vote in local elections until after 6 months of arriving, and so on. A new member, for example, should be given some time to get to know PBL and its members before being allowed to vote or even present a board candidacy.

These rules also emphasise the need to pay membership fees by the due date.

Proposal

Membership length of time

Add the following Article 4.6 to explain how membership length of time is calculated:

4.6. The membership length of time is calculated from the date the member officially joins the association, as long as the member has always been up to date with paying the association fees by the due date. Failure to pay an association fee by the due date always implies a loss of membership length of time and cease in membership (Article 7.2).

Right of association members

Replace Article 5.1 and 5.2 with the following (rights of association members):

5.1. Voting rights to the General Assembly and elections, except minors below 16 years of age, **and as long as the membership length of time is over 3 months.**

5.2. Be elected as a representative or Board Member, except minors below 16 years of age, **and as long as the membership length of time is over 6 months**

Right of vote at a General Assembly

Replace Article 13.1 with the following:

13.1. Members **16 or over** attending or being represented at the General Assembly has the right to one vote, **but only if their membership length of time is over 3 months.**

Replace Article 12.2 with the following:

12.2. A member can transfer its representation to another member in a General Assembly. This request must be formalised in writing to the secretary. **A member attending the General Assembly will only be able to represent a maximum of one member.**

Right of vote in elections

Replace Article 14.2 with the following:

14.2. A new board must be elected by secret vote at the penya social base. Vote must be in person and cannot be transferred. Only members aged **16 and over with a membership length of time over 3 months** can vote. Elections must take place on a match day to guarantee maximum attendance. Elections cannot take place 30 days after the General Assembly. Elections must be officially announced with 30 days notice, and candidates must officially announce their candidacy to the secretary 15 days before elections.

Key Board members

Add the following Articles to ensure key roles in the Board can only be exercised by long standing members:

21.3 The president and vice-president need to have a **membership length of time over 1 year.**

22.2 The treasurer needs to have a **membership length of time over 1 year.**

23.2 The secretary needs to have to have a **membership length of time over 1 year.**

Agree	15
Disagree	1
Neutral	3
Result	Approved

8. Ticketing Rules

Description

Ticketing rules is one of the most important and delicate parts of the statutes. Agreeing on ticketing rules that please everybody is next to impossible. While preparing this General Assembly, the Board has spent a considerable length of time discussing alternatives to the current ticketing rules to make them fairer.

As we realised we could not agree on a “revolutionary” ticketing proposal in time for this General Assembly, we have decided to tidy up the existing rules in order to make them clearer and easier to understand.

When voting for this proposal, members should bear in mind that this ticketing proposal does not change the heart of the existing ticketing rules, i.e. priority to tickets will continue to be given to members that have been part of the association for a length of time and have attended the penya dinner (if such event is organised). This proposal is not about improving our ticketing rules, but about making the existing rules clearer.

Proposed Changes

Replace Article 5.12 with Article 5B below. .

Article 5B - Tickets

1. **Member eligibility.** Members are eligible to penya tickets ONLY if they meet these requirements:

- a) Have confirmed their interest in tickets before the official deadline announced by the Board
- b) Have paid the required deposit before the official deadline announced by the Board
 - c) Have not applied for tickets for the same event with another official FCB penya
 - d) Notify the board before the raffle of any tickets available or likely to be available to them. The member can still enter the penya draw as long as this ticket is made available to the penya ticket pool. This ticket will be returned to the member if not awarded a penya ticket in the ticket draw.

2. **Ticket priorities.** Tickets awarded to the association will be distributed using the following levels of priority:

- a) One ticket will be directly assigned to the Board to ensure official representation at the match. This does not exclude Board members participating in the main draw
 - b) Remaining tickets will then be raffled amongst members that meet the below criteria:
 - 1) Have a membership length of time over 3 months
- 2) Have attended the PBL social events associated with the match (if such events are organised)
 - c) Then amongst members that either have attended the PBL organised dinner or have a membership length of time over 3 months
 - d) Then tickets will be raffled amongst all other members

3. **Ticket raffle.** This is the process to raffle tickets when needed

- a) Each applicant will be given a number in sequence. This is a circular sequence, hence after last comes the first number.
- b) A lucky number will be chosen randomly. The member with the lucky number will be given the first ticket. The member with the next number in the sequence will be given the second ticket and so on until all tickets are awarded.
- c) If more tickets become available at a later time, these tickets will be awarded to members as per the above sequence. These members must have confirmed and paid these tickets at least 4 hours before the match.

4. **Duties of members with awarded penya tickets**

- a) Pay the full amount of the ticket, even if the member cannot attend the match.
- b) Collect the ticket at the location and time specified by the Board. If a ticket is not collected on time, the board reserves the right to award the ticket to another member, in which case Article 5B.4.a does not apply.

- c) If the member cannot attend the event or has obtained another ticket by alternative means, the penya ticket must be returned to the penya. The resale or transfer of penya tickets is strictly forbidden. The member is still liable for the ticket cost unless the ticket can be allocated to another penya member.
- d) For minors (younger than 16 years old), the member must have an accompanying association member 16 or over that will take responsibility of the minor.
- e) Providing false information or breaching any rule of Article 5B will result in a disciplinary hearing.

6. Transparency.

- a) The Board will make public to its members the number of tickets allocated to the penya, including additional tickets allocated after the raffle
- b) The Board reserves the right to sell unassigned and unwanted tickets by penya members to recover the expense.

Agree	14
Disagree	3
Neutral	2
Result	Approved

Concerns raised with regards to fairness if becoming a member last minute before an important match has same opportunities to get a ticket than a member that has been member for years and participating actively. The Board explained probably is not the best solution for everyone agrees and it is really difficult to come up with something that everyone is approving. As a Board we spent so many meetings trying to talk about different options and this is what we come up with. We were thinking in 'Fidelity Points' but we disregarded that option as if we have to control the attendance into matches, we thought member would think we are 'control freaks'. We need to think about what is an active member for us and how you would control that the member is actually active. The proposal needs to be subjective, but on the other hand needs to help out to make a decision.

We decided read Proposal 9 before voting this current proposal.

9. Attendance to Matches

Note: This proposal should only be considered if Proposal 8 is accepted.

Description

The aim of this proposal is to ensure that priority is given to members that attend the social events of the penya (FCB screenings, football matches, Subbuteo, dinners...). The difficulty with this type of ticketing rules is to control attendance.

The key to this proposal is that it does not require a control of member attendance during social activities. Instead, this proposal relies on member's honesty. If this proposal is approved, members that apply for tickets that wish to be in the higher band of ticket priority will have to name three PBL organised events they have participated since the start of the season.

The first observation that will come up in everybody's mind will most probably be "... but members that do not participate could lie!". Indeed! And more, it also might be hard to prove they are lying. The argument in favour of this proposal is that the fact somebody can lie does not make it legal, and members found lying will have to face a disciplinary hearing. This has many similarities with pick pocketing, for example. This is an illegal activity, but some people still choose to pick pocket. It is very hard to catch them, and once caught, it is also

very hard to convict them. Despite this, pick pocketing remains illegal, and pickpockets found guilty are punished.

Proposed Changes

Proposed change to Article 5B.2 (if approved in Proposal 7)

2. Ticket priorities. Tickets awarded to the association will be distributed using the following levels of priority:

a) One ticket will be directly assigned to the Board to ensure official representation at the match. This does not exclude Board members participating in the main draw

b) Remaining tickets will then be raffled amongst members that meet the below criteria:

1) Have a membership length of time over 3 months

2) Have attended the PBL social events associated with the match (if such events are organised)

3) Have attended least 3 PBL organised events in the current season. When applying for the ticket, the member must provide at least 3 events attended.

c) Then amongst members that either have attended the PBL organised dinner or have a membership length of time over 3 months

d) Then amongst members that have attended PBL organised match screenings at least 3 times in the current season (same as 5B.2.b.3)

e) Then tickets will be raffled amongst all other members

Agree	16
Disagree	2
Neutral	2
Result	Approved

6. Presentation of member proposals – No member proposals raised

7. Questions - Jason proposed all members to become more active and participative, providing proposals and being able to fight them back. This is everyone's Penya and all thoughts and ideas will be very welcome and took them into account.