

3rd FIR Council Meeting 2011

Sunday 27th November 08:15 – 10:15

Wr. Neudorf/Austria/World Champs Singles

Present: Marcel Weigl, Lennart Eklundh, Poku Salo, Ahmad Bahadli,
Puzant Kassabian, Dany Lessard, Karim Hanna

Excused: Gary Tovey, Gianpaolo Martire

Marcel Weigl opens the 3rd official Council Meeting of the year and the 1st one of the new Council and welcomes all new faces on the team. He states that this first meeting is rather informal and it is important to dedicate some small jobs in the Council. Present members then agree on the following:

- Marcel Weigl, Austria: Executive-President
- Lennart Eklundh, Sweden: Vice-President/Treasurer
- Poku Salo, Finland: Rankings/Olympic Draws
- Karim Hanna, Switzerland: Rules
- Gianpaolo Martire, Italy: Marketing
- Gary Tovey, England: Social/New Media
- Puzant Kassabian, Bulgaria: New Members/Balkan Countries
- Dany Lessard, Canada: Tournament Support/America
- Ahmad Bahadli, Iraq: World Tour/Subsidiaries/Arab Countries

To Do:

- Marcel to collect all Data from new council members and hand in the information to the Austrian authorities by the end of 2011.

Agenda

- 1) Welcome Note, Member States update
- 2) Resultreporter
- 3) Rankings
- 4) Olympic Draws
- 5) World Tour 2011, 2012
- 6) Tournament Support 2011
- 7) Rules
- 8) Marketing
- 9) FIR Finances
- 10) FIR Website

1) Welcome note (Marcel Weigl)

a) FIR Member Countries

Armenia has applied for membership before the AGM and is now accepted by the Council as member number 30. The contact came from new Council member Puzant Kassabian and like in Bulgaria they will be connected to Armenian Badminton Federation. Other potential members see below:

Australia	Leigh Sanders, Calum Munro
Brasil	Manoel L Santana, Luiz Jimenez
China	Yan Shiduo, Gong Shihua
Denmark	Kasper Jonsson, Jesper Ratzner
Lebanon	Marc Mourad
Luxemburg	Tony Nightingale, Tom Pfeiffer
Iceland	Arnþór Jón Þorvarðsson
Ireland	Judy Lambert
New Zealand	Jason Granville
Portugal	Luis Barbossa, Jacob de Vries, Carlos Graca
Qatar	Alexandru Rosca
Romania	Radu Ionescu
Turkey	Emre Ak, Ersoy Korner
Ukraine	Aija Klaseva
Wales	Nick Macey, Steve Kneller

b) Sportaccord Update

With Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and the Czech Republic only seven of the 30 FIR member states are officially recognised by their national NOC – National Olympic Committee or NSF – National Sports Federation. FIR still needs official answers by NOC or NSF in all countries even if they are negative. Only then and when FIR finally has at least 40 member states can we apply at Sportaccord for official recognition. Nevertheless Marcel will travel to Lausanne in spring 2012 for a first meeting with Sportaccord General Secretary. Ahmad will also contact the organisation for non-olympic sports, which also sits in Lausanne.

c) Membership Fees

FIR Council has decided which countries shall receive subsidies for the membership fees 2011 according to Lennarts suggestion. According to Austrian law in the finances all though have to be marked as paid.

To Do:

- Marcel to contact Armenia and get all relevant information
- National Federations to e-mail or request per post official answers from NOC or NSF
- Marcel to arrange appointments in Lausanne

2) Resultreporter (Marcel Weigl on behalf of Rickard Tauson)

The Resultreporter manual for all tournament organisers is permanently updated and can be found on www.resultreporter.com/manual

Marcel and Rickard agreed in a meeting at the World Champs that from 2012 Resultreporter will

offer national versions for interested countries. Austria will start off using the German language and the prize in year one is agreed upon 1€ per tournament entry.

The following points are still open and shall be taken care off:

a) Before start of World Tour 2012

- find a way of showing walk overs and retirements and no shows
- we need to get the complete pdf results of the world rankings onto the page. - Change text from - add more pictures of players??? Is there a way i can do that easily!
- In Doubles: new text who to enter first and that make sure the other player has paid license
- In Mixed Doubles woman has to be entered first
- Change wording from FIR supervisor to FIR delegate
- Country flags for registered players
- Address field on events does not contains all countries, for example "Hungary"
- Pictures upload
- Calculation is wrong when it's even before tennis, it should not appear at a
- If a scheduled game isn't played the players should be given the last positions and not the first. For example if match for 3-4 positions isn't played both player should end 4:th not 3:rd as is today → Marcel comes back with instructions.

b) Nice to have Developments

Live Scoring:

- Matchpoint indicator, how to calculate
 - Below each draw program something that one can see e.g. 9:00 these 4 matches start, 9:30 this four. See www.tournamentsoftware.com , Show info about latest matches in a block
 - Improve error handling when generating Player Export. The export must continue even if some player or other main data is corrupt or missing. n/a 2
 - take down permissions for tournament admin role
- Set up a specific user that can report results only for the actual tournament, LIVE scoring
- Social media integration
 - Add forum functionality to result reporter

c) Development in the future

- Resultreporter with language support, how to get out a list of strings to translate?
- Pool play with two or more pools then playoffs
- Web based sheet for tournament reports and payment specification
- Calculation for use of national tournaments
- Fun elements for webpage, make it livelier. Most importantly chat
- Players for one tournament should be able to rank the tournament after playing the tournament
- Facebook account ?
- Email addresses, who wants to contact mee....

To Do:

- Rickard Tauson to go through the points and do changes
- Marcel to start with language translation to German
- Gary Tovey to contact Rickard and talk about integration of social media facebook, twitter

3) Rankings (Poku Salo)

a) World Rankings complete results

The Pdf complete results must be added to resultreporter.

b) Juniors Rankings

The Juniors Rankings have been reviewed, mixed doubles is still to be introduced after Double World Champs. The points matrix of Juniors shall also be adapted like Seniors rankings and is valid from 2012.

c) Seniors Rankings

There is a problem with the Seniors Rankings, because there are too many points awarded in 45+ comparing it to lower classes. A new ranking matrix for 2012 has to be decided. Poku has come up with a new matrix which is accepted by the FIR Council and is valid from 2012. Also both Seniors and Juniors a filter shall be integrated in the Rankings, so that e.g. each age group can be displayed separately. 45+ shows all players, 55+ only the ones over 55 and so on.

d) Seniors Women 45+

Shall be started from 2011 after World Champs Singles including a ranking group.

e) Points Matrix

Hakan Granberg has come up with a proposal for a new points matrix from 2012. It would mean that the gap between first and last players is widened and the top 4-8 players are progressively rewarded. Poku has come up with the new points matrix, which is accepted by the FIR Council and is valid from 2012.

To Do:

- Marcel to make sure with Rickard that the pdf with complete results is added and ask about integrated filter
- John Buchanan to prepare Women +45 Rankings and Juniors Mixed Double Rankings to go online 1st January 2012
- Poku to send new points matrixes and explanation for Marcel to put online on www.racketlon.net and make a story too.

4) Olympic Draws (Marcel Weigl)

Poku takes over the responsibility for Olympic Draws Men Elite Singles, Women Elite Singles, Men Elite Doubles, Women Doubles, Mixed Doubles by FIR. FIR is now executing from 2012 strictly the pull out and no show rule, that players have to pay the full entry fee no matter what the reason for pulling out after the entry deadline. FIR has decided on an extra 50€ penalty fee from 2012 for non payment of entry fees after 5 days after the tournament.

To Do:

- Marcel to inform players 2012 about the 50€ penalty fine

5) World Tour (Marcel Weigl)

a) World Tour 2012

All participants of the World Champs 2011 have received an A1 poster and the FIR magazine with the World Tour on the backside showing the 15 tournaments in 13 countries. FIR has published 1000 magazines so more shall be handed out at the next World Tour events. From 2012 FIR shall publish a list of official balls required in all sports for Olympic Draws.

b) Tournament fees/licenses

Dany Lessard argues that Challengers are not attractive for players, because in Canada players need to pay the license fee too, but many only play one tournament a year. Thus he suggests to drop the license fees for the first tournament to 5€ only. Lennart and Marcel argue that this is not possible to administer and also that each new player on the World Ranking costs FIR money. As a compromise FIR Council agrees that all new Challenger tournaments will not have to pay any tournament fees in 2012 and can then maybe invite some players for parts of the license fees, which have been raised to 12€ per year after a decision at the 2nd Council Meeting 2011.

c) World Champs 2013, 2014, 2015

To allow better preparations for World Champs events, FIR has decided to allocate World Champs Singles, Doubles & Teams earlier for the future. At the AGM 2011 all countries were notified that they can apply for all World Champs 2013 – 2015 until End of February 2012.

d) Team World Champs

The team World Champs shall be held in Sofia from 12 to 15 July and Marcel will act as Delegate to make sure all goes according to plan. Dany Lessard has suggested to add a Seniors Women and one Woman single to the Seniors Team, which is accepted by FIR Council.

To Do:

- Marcel to prepare list of required balls for Olympic Draws
- Marcel to inform all countries about no fees for Challengers
- Marcel to prepare World Champs application procedure
- Marcel to prepare Invitation and website for Doubles and Teams World Champs

6) Tournament Support (Marcel)

Dany Lessard will take over as Head of Tournament Support

From 2012 Delegates can be all Council Members plus former Council Members Ray Jordan, Michi Dickert as well as World number one Christoph Krenn. From 2012 Tournament Delegates shall not only have free accommodation, but also free boarding.

To Do:

- Dany and Marcel to update the Tournament support list and find Delegates
- Marcel to develop with Rickard an online evaluation sheet on RR

7) Rules (Karim Hanna)

Voting Power

The change of the voting power was decided at the AGM 2011. The system in principle stayed the same, where votes are based on the number of players in the World Rankings, but basic votes shall be reduced from 2 to 1 (now that all 29 member federations are legal and registered) and the maximum number of votes per country shall be six. The exact wording can be found in the AGM 2011 Powerpoint presentation.

To Do:

- Karim Hanna to update and sign Statutes and send per post to Marcel
- Marcel to take them to local Austrian authorities before end of 2011

8) Marketing (Marcel Weigl)

Austrian Sports Ministry was the only FIR sponsor in 2011 again as in 2010 and has increased the total amount from 10.000€ to 11.480€ (6480€ cash + 5000€ office). Marcel is in contact with sports ministry for 2012 but confirmation is not given yet. Lennart will hit on Stiga, who are expanding market to China. New marketing Officer is marketing specialist Gianpaolo Martire, who has the goal to put up at least 5000€ for 2012. New Council member Ahmad Bahadli says it is probably easier to find funds than real sponsoring. There are funds in Lausanne we have to find. The situation is urgent, something must be done for 2012 otherwise the finances of FIR will not break even.

To Do:

- Marcel and Gianpaolo to work on marketing concept 2012
- Marcel to contact betting industries, Austrian sports ministry
- Lennart in contact with Stiga including World Champs 2012
- All Council Members are reminded to help with ideas to get in more money and especially find a World Tour sponsor.
- Marcel to send to all Council members the FIR marketing powerpoint presentation

9) FIR Finances (Lennart Eklundh)

The financial situation of FIR is as always very tense and the new FIR Council from 2012-2014 must find ways and solutions to produce more income. A solution to cut down the costs connected to Rankings/Webpage and so forth must be found and FIR Council decides to raise Tournament Fees to 15% from 2013. All exact financial numbers can be found in the Powerpoint presentation AGM 2011.

a) Final result for 2010

The actual result for 2010 is positive with 1094€ and FIR has 3988€ on the account on 31st December 2010. The final result was signed by FIR Auditors H. Granberg and Stefan Adamsson at the AGM 2011.

b) Preliminary result 2011

The preliminary result for 2011 shows a plus of 850€. Due to some open debts though the prediction for FIR is 35€ on the bank account on 31st December 2011.

c) Budget prediction 2012

The first budget prediction for 2012 sees a profit of 1630€ with a total budget of 3480€.

d) Licenses

All tournaments are recommended to allow entries only with valid license, this worked very well in 2011. FIR Council had decided at the 2nd Council meeting in Győr to raise the license fee for 2012 for the first time since introduction to 12€.

d) Paypal Solution

There is a problem with paypal, because FIR bank account is in Sweden, but FIR registered in Austria. An option paypal does not offer, thus it is very expensive to take out the money from the paypal account and transfer to Swedish bank account. Either FIR opens a second seat in Sweden or a second bank account in Austria to solve this.

To Do:

- Council to confirm auditors 2012 to 2014
- Lennart and Marcel to find a solution for paypal
- New Council to find solutions of more income

10) FIR New Website and Social Media (Marcel)

a) New Website www.racketlon.net and Social Media

Final improvements for www.racketlon.net are now made by Rickard and Marcel such as blog function and so forth. Connections to Facebook, Twitter and so forth will now be done

b) www.racketlon.com

Hans Mullamaa still resists to hand over www.racketlon.com. FIR Council wants all country members to sign a petition to Hans Mullamaa and Peter Landberg that www.racketlon.com. Hans has given a statement and thinks everything is ok. Other options to be looked into are www.internationalracketlon.com and www.racketlon.org because FIR is an organisation.

To Do:

- Marcel and Rickard to finalize the new website
- Gary to make suggestions and take steps to get on Facebook, Twitter and so on
- Marcel to check other urls for website
- Marcel to check trademark Racketlon

Next Council Meetings:

1/2012: Friday 13th April (Evening) Czech Open, Prague!

2/2012: Friday 13th July (Evening) Team and Doubles World Champs, Sofia!

Minutes taken by Marcel Weigl and written on 23rd December 2012!