

To FIR Members  
Presidents and  
Country Representatives

FIR - Fédération Internationale de Racketlon

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Klosterneuburg, 9. Januar 2013

### **MINUTES FIR Annual General Meeting 2012**

(Important Attachment Power Point Presentation AGM 2012)

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 22.30 – 00.30**

**Park Inn Hammerby Sjöstad, Stockholm/Sweden**

#### **Present People except Country Representatives**

FIR Council Members Marcel Weigl (President), Ahmad Bahadli

Potential members Turkish Delegation led by Emre Ak

Others Marcel Kravec (Slovenia)

#### **27 Present Countries**

|                        |   | <b>Total votes 63</b> |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Armenia             | Nikolay Angelov, Representative           | votes 1               |
| 2. Austria             | Christoph Krenn, General Secretary        | votes 6               |
| 3. Belgium             | Karen Opdenamp, Representative            | votes 3               |
| 4. Bulgaria            | Puzant Kassabian, President               | votes 1               |
| 5. Canada              | Dany Lessard, President                   | votes 2               |
| 6. Czech Republic      | Svatopluk Rejthar, President              | votes 2               |
| 7. Denmark             | Jesper Ratzer, Representative             | votes 1               |
| 8. England             | Keith Lesser, General Secretary           | votes 5               |
| 9. Estonia             | Ken-Kristjan Toomjoe, Representative      | votes 1               |
| 10. Finland            | Poku Salo, Country Representative         | votes 3               |
| 11. France             | Cedric Junillon, Representative           | votes 1               |
| 12. Germany            | Volker Sach, Representative               | votes 6               |
| 13. India              | votes to Sweden                           | votes 1               |
| 14. Italy              | votes to Austria                          | votes 3               |
| 15. Liechtenstein      | Nicole Eisler, President                  | votes 1               |
| 16. F.Y.R.O. Macedonia | Stelian Stankov, Representative           | votes 1               |
| 17. Netherlands        | Eefje Henkelman, President                | votes 3               |
| 18. Pakistan           | votes to Finland                          | votes 1               |
| 19. Poland             | Krzysztof Samonek, Country Representative | votes 2               |
| 20. Romania            | votes to Bulgaria                         | votes 1               |

|                 |                                       |         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 21. Russia      | Maxim Levitin, Country Representative | votes 1 |
| 22. Scotland    | votes to England                      | votes 2 |
| 23. Slovakia    | Puha Zsolt                            | votes 1 |
| 24. Slovenia    | Tomaz Campa                           | votes 1 |
| 25. Sweden      | Lennart Eklundh                       | votes 6 |
| 26. Switzerland | Karim Hanna, President                | votes 6 |
| 27. USA         | votes to Canada                       | votes 1 |

#### **10 Countries not present**

|                   |  |         |
|-------------------|--|---------|
| Australia         |  | votes 1 |
| Greece            |  | votes 1 |
| Hong Kong – China |  | votes 1 |
| Hungary           |  | votes 3 |
| Israel            |  | votes 1 |
| Latvia            |  | votes 1 |
| Malaysia          |  | votes 1 |
| Mongolia          |  | votes 1 |
| New Zealand       |  | votes 1 |
| South Africa      |  | votes 1 |

#### **Total votes 12**

**63 out of 75 possible votes were present at the AGM 2012, which is 84% and more than 50%. The AGM can thus take final decisions on all points on the Agenda.**

#### 1) Welcome note and member status (Marcel Weigl)

FIR president Marcel Weigl welcomes all representatives and is very happy that 27 countries are present or have allocated voting power. The only disappointments are Hungary and Latvia, who had players at the World Champs and nevertheless were not able to send a representative to the AGM. This shall not be acceptable in future.

FIR currently has 37 member countries, with a record of 7 new countries accepted 2012: Armenia, Australia, Denmark, Liechtenstein, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia, New Zealand and Romania. Malaysia is excluded due to lack of contact from 2013, while the AGM accepts Iraq as new member from 1.1.2013. Qatar, Brasil, Turkey, Ireland, Wales, Croatia and Serbia look like the biggest hopes for potential new members (see chapter 1.2 Power Point AGM 2012). From 2013 FIR Council has decided that all Racketlon players from non-FIR members have 12 months time to register a national federation to be able to continue to play on the FIR World Tour.

#### 2) Sportaccord Membership (Marcel Weigl)

After Marcel Weigl and Ahmad Bahadli visited Sportaccord in Lausanne to make first personal contact with Sportaccord, FIR has received practically all available information from its member countries. This includes members fact sheet, national registration paper of non-profit organisation, statutes, recognition of FIR and from 9 members a letter of NOC – National Olympic Comitee or NSF – National Sports Federation recognition. FIR needs such letters for more countries (see example chapter 2 Power Point AGM 2012). The deadline for Sportaccord

membership 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2012 was missed, next deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2013, with 40 member countries still needed. Sportaccord further recommends letters of FIR recognition by the international TT, Bad, SQ and TE federations, as well as websites from all FIR members and the introduction of Continental Championships (European, African Champs etc.). FIR Council has decided this from 2015. (see chapter 2 Power Point AGM 2012).

### 3) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2011 and Finances 2011 (Lennart Eklundh)

The minutes of the AGM 2011 and the Finances 2011 which show a positive result of 1526 Euro were checked by the FIR-Auditors Hakan Granberg and Stefan Adamsson confirmed by all country representatives unanimously (see chapter 3 Power Point AGM 2012).

### 4) Report of the Council 2012 (Council Members)

Marcel Weigl presented a Powerpoint Presentation on behalf of the Council from 2012, with all present council members giving a short report on their working areas. The Power Point AGM 2012 (see chapter 4) is sent together with these Minutes per E-mail to all country representatives.

### 5) Finances result 2012, budget 2013 (Lennart Eklundh)

The preliminary result for 2012 is just positive and shows that the budget of around 30.000€ can be held and is even. Around 12.000 Euro have only come in over licenses, which secure the head office in Vienna. Sponsorship by the Austrian government has been cut and the lack of Challenger tournaments is evident.

The budget for 2013 is predicted with a total income of 28520 Euro, while costs are predicted with 33450 Euro. This gives FIR a final result of minus 4930 Euro if no new sponsor can be found (see chapter 5 Power Point AGM 2012) as subsidiaries from the Austrian government have been cut further.

### 6) Members Report 2012

All present countries gave a small report on the situation in their countries. Marcel Weigl reports on the absent countries.

#### Armenia

New member Armenia will start to build squash courts, all other sports exist. The first two players competed at Double World Champs in Sofia. 2013 Armenia will organise national tournaments and form a national team.

#### Australia

Some national tournaments have been held at Melbourne University and Australia has become FIR member 2012. Gus Hansen will visit down under in January 2013 and make personal contact

### Austria

Is the only country with an employed part-time General Secretary. A total of 31 national in all 9 provinces as well as 3 international tournaments were held in 2012. 26 officially registered Racketlon clubs exist with a total of 850 players registered. 2013 Austria will again host 3 FIR events. Martin Schifko took over from Marcel Weigl as new RFA president.

### Belgium

In Belgium 12-13 tournaments were held 2012 in 5 regions with up to 100 participants. Finances don't look too good and only 2 Racketlon clubs exist. Highlight 2013 is once again the SWT tournament King of Rackets.

### Bulgaria

The Team and Double World Champs on the university grounds in Sofia 2012 were a big success. Before two local tournaments such as national championships were held. In 2013 Sofia is rewarded with a Super World Tour event and Racketlon will be an official university program at the National Sports Academy (World Champs location).

### Canada

The Racketlon landscape is quite saturated, but the aim is to have more national tournaments and one or two Challengers plus to get the USA more and more involved. Canadian Championships shall be held from 2013 once a year and the Toronto is back on the World Tour with a SWT event.

### Czech Republic

The number of players is increasing, the interest of sponsors is decreasing. 12-14 tournaments took place 2012 in 8 different cities. The best centres exist in Olmütz and Prague, where annual Czech Open takes place.

### Denmark

Denmark just registered the federation in 2012, but got some top class players already. Also the delegation at WC in Stockholm was one of the biggest. No national tournaments or league yet, but at least one Racketlon club and a website is up.

### England

England has around 1000 playres but only 50-100 play more than one tournament a year. Nevertheless 30 came to the World Champs in Stockholm. In 2012 a total of 17 events were held in the UK, but more organisers and sponsors are needed, especially heading for the 14<sup>th</sup> FIR World Champs 2014 in London.

### Estonia

Due to a lack of sports centres only one tournament was held 2012, the national championships with 40 players, but one had to drive to reach the squash courts. The federation is recognised by NOC, but due to private reasons not very active.

### Finland

Finland is moving forward slowly with a few 100 players ranked and 5-6 national tournaments 2012 including national championships. The difficulty is to get financial support.

### France

Have created a website and want to form a national team for 2013. The aim is to get more players, but the biggest problem is the lack of sports centres.

### Germany

Thorsten Deck recently took over as new president and now wants to make the federation more professional and start a national tour, find sponsors, integrate social media, work on a new website and improve a lot. Germany again held the biggest Bundesliga team tournament in the world with 26 teams in three leagues.

### Greece

Due to personal reasons Greece could unfortunately not send a team to Team and Double World Champs in Sofia.

### Hong Kong-China

University tournaments for students and staff are held regularly at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (seat of federation). Problem is rain, because no indoor Tennis courts are available.

### Hungary

President Gabor Hamsik has little assistance, although there were quite some players at WC in Stockholm not one felt responsible to come to the AGM. In 2013 Hungarian Open is back in Budapest.

### India

President Manoranjan Mishra has held annual national championships and after a lot of Visa problems was able to come to the World Champs for teams in Sofia as well as World Sports Festival in Austria with some juniors.

### Israel

Iftech Gesser is doing his best to make the sport better known and increase contacts with Tabletennis and Badminton communities. A FIR Challenger is possible 2013.

### Italy

“Casino” Chaos in Italy: Country representative Gianpaolo Martire has retired from FIR Council due to personal reasons. Also payments to FIR are still open. President Riccardo Calassare promised to sort out the situation, while Italian Open was taken from the World Tour.

### Latvia

Tournaments have been organised since 4 years in Latvia. In 2012 some national tournaments were held with many new faces. The biggest problem only one facility exists in the country, in the capital Riga as well as the lack of money.

### Liechtenstein

Nicole Eisler has founded the national federation, which became FIR member but practice is difficult as there is no suitable venue.

### F.Y.R.O.Macedonia

In Macedonia Racketlon is a completely new sport, but the federation under commission of Badminton federation has joined FIR. The first juniors competed at Double and Team World Champs in Bulgaria taking 4<sup>th</sup> place in the u21 national team competition. The biggest problem is only one single Squash club exists in the country, in Skopje.

### Malaysia

Marcel Weigl has tried to contact president Jonathan Quek for over a year via e-mail and facebook to get the missing registration papers but failed. Malaysia is thus excluded from FIR from 2013.

### Mongolia

The players are very willing to attend international tournaments, but visa problems prevented them until now.

### Netherlands

New members were elected to the federation. In total around 2000 players are listed but hardly ever play more than one tournament a year. Aims for 2013 are to get them to play more and to form a national Bundesliga. In addition Team and Doubles World Champs are held in Alphen an den Rijn.

### New Zealand

Thanks to the contacts of Jason Granville a national federation was registered and joined FIR 2012. Now the work is to setup things and start the first tournaments.

### Pakistan

Biggest problem is lack of centres and visa for international tournaments. Again Pakistan representatives got no VISA for World Champs in Sofia.

### Poland

Poland held 4 national tournaments 2012 with around 60 players per tournament. In total they have 300 members and some funds from the government. 2013 a Challenger tournament shall be held at last and in Krakow 20 squash courts are being built together with a Racketlon centre.

### Romania

Racketlon has now fully hit Romania. There was a team at World Champs in Sofia, but the biggest problem is no suitable venue in the whole country yet. President Radu Ionescu is very engaged to get things going.

### Russia

Racketlon is still growing in Russia and national championships have taken place. Thanks to private investments a new center shall be finished in St. Petersburg 2014. First contacts to Belarus now exist.

### Scotland

Scottish Open could comeback as a Challenger 2013. World Champion 2011 Calum Reid will after a break now return to the World Tour 2013.

### Slovakia

President Puha Zsolt is back and contacted Austria with a project of building a new sports centre. At the moment the problem is the only existing centre costs 3000€ per day. Marcel Kravec is very engaged in Kids coaching.

### Slovenia

Three national tournaments were held 2012. Two clubs and 20 active players exist. The website is up too. The issue still is to get neighbouring ex-Yugoslavian countries interested in Racketlon.

### South Africa

Events organised by president Patric Kalous are running in Cape Town on a regular basis. Next steps are an international Challenger tournament and to send a team to the Team WC 2013.

### Sweden

Gothenburg, Malmö and Stockholm are the Racketlon cities with a few national tournaments. At the WC 2012 a world record of 490 entries was broken, national Swedish champs had 180 entries. For the first time ever a Racketlon match (WC men final) was broadcasted live on television. 1200 players are on the national rankings and Sweden also uses Racketlon tournaments for social events such as companies or among friends. 140! of such tournaments were held 2012 taking around 4 to 6 hours. Nevertheless it is difficult to find organisers and new sports centres.

### Switzerland

In 2012 a national league was held as well as 17 national tournaments. A total of around 700 Racketlon players are registered with the federation. This year the 13<sup>th</sup> FIR World Champs will be held end of November in Zürich.

### USA

Federation sits in Boston, but is not active. Dany Lessard financed a US team of university students from Wesleyan University, which came to the WC in Sofia. Shona Kerr is holding a Racketlon course there and the idea is to move the US federation there.

### Potential members: Turkey

Players have doubled from 3 to 6, the next aim of Emre Ak and his team is to form the federation under the commission of the Badminton federation and to organise a Challenger in Antalya in Summer 2013.

### 7) Changes in Council 2013-2014

Marketing Officer Gianpaolo Martire steps down from his Council position due to other working commitments. Social Media Officer Gary Tovey is not reachable and thus Council decides to substitute him. FIR Council suggests Phil Todd from England as new Social Media Officer and world number one Nathalie Zeoli from Germany (one of the biggest Racketlon countries) as new Marketing Officer. Both positions for 2013-2014 are confirmed by FIR Annual General Meeting country representatives unanimously.

### 8) Council preview 2013-2014 (Marcel Weigl)

The complete Council FIR World Tour 2013 with 14 tournaments and council preview can be seen in the Power Point Presentation AGM 2012 (see chapter 8). Main issues are to increase the number of member states to 40, with at least 10 recognised by the national NOCs and NSFs. Priority number one is the social media integration and the national versions of Resultreporter for the first member countries Austria, Germany, England. The World Tour events must achieve even better quality with the aid of specially educated FIR-Delegates and sponsors and further subsidiaries need to be found. A major impact will be the preparation of all continents for the first continental Championships such as European, African etc. in 2015.

### 9) Requests by FIR Members

a) Austria: petition for [www.racketlon.com](http://www.racketlon.com)

Request taken back by Austria

b) Austria: FIR Challengers 2013 confirmed

No License fees for players at one Challenger 2012 in each member country. If more than one Challenger per country take place, the earliest one counts (see Chapter 9 Power Point AGM 2012).

After a short presentation by Austrian representative Christoph Krenn the AGM confirmed the request unanimously.

c) England: Champions League rejected

After a long discussion the final proposal for Champions League from 2013 was that a maximum of 3 top ten players per team should be allowed and that the total squad should have a maximum ranking of 140 (see chapter 9 Power Point AGM 2012).

The request was voted upon but only got the votes of England and Scotland and was thus rejected.



After a final discussion FIR members confirmed a gentlemen's agreement that from 2013 at least 50% of the players on the line-up must have be Racketlon players from the country of the team. In addition the rules shall be clearly defined in the FIR documents saying that only a maximum of two clubs may participate from countries with a national league and one team from countries without a national league.

#### 10) Any other Business

Hall of Fame on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) shall be introduced to give honour to players and officials which have helped the development of worldwide Racketlon. FIR Council agree on Magnus Eliasson, Lilian Druve, Pär Carleke, Peter Landberg who were honoured as first members at WC in Stockholm.

*Minutes taken by Marcel Weigl on the 22nd of December 2012*

**Attachments:** Powerpoint Presentation AGM 20112

#### Next AGM

scheduled during 13<sup>th</sup> FIR **World Championships Singles in Zürich on Saturday 23rd November**  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.