

MINUTES FIR EGM 2014

Saturday 23rd August, 9:00 – 10:30

Surrey Sportspark, London/Great Britain

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Austria/Europe

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EGM headed by FIR-Executive President Marcel Weigl

40 Present Countries

1. Armenia	Nikolay Angelov, Representative	votes 1
2. Australia	Leigh Sands, President	votes 1
3. Austria	Christoph Krenn, General Secretary	votes 5
4. Belgium	Hans van Daele, President	votes 3
5. Brazil	votes to Denmark	votes 1
6. Bulgaria	Stelian Stankov, Representative	votes 2
7. Canada	Dany Lessard, Country Representative	votes 4
8. Croatia	Nikola Mikac, Representative	votes 1
9. Czech Republic	Zuzana, Kubanova, Representative	votes 3
10. Denmark	Kresten Hougaard, President	votes 2
11. England	Keith Lesser, General Secretary	votes 6
12. Estonia	votes to Latvia	votes 1
13. Finland	Poku Salo, Country Representative	votes 3
14. France	Fabien Mauroy, Representative	votes 2
15. Germany	Volker Sach, Representative	votes 6
16. Greece	votes to Hungary	votes 1
17. Hong Kong	votes to Finland	votes 1
18. Hungary	Levente Nandori, Representative	votes 3
19. India	votes to Sweden	votes 1
20. Iraq	votes to Austria	votes 1
21. Ireland	votes to England	votes 1
22. Israel	Iftach Gesser, President	votes 2
23. Italy	votes to Germany	votes 1
24. Latvia	Artus Zaicevs, Representative	votes 1
25. Liechtenstein	Mirianda Frick, President	votes 1
26. F.Y.R.O. Macedonia	votes to Bulgaria	votes 1
27. Malaysia	votes to Liechtenstein	votes 1
28. Netherlands	Tom Joosten, President	votes 2
29. New Zealand	Owen Mugridge, Representative	votes 1
30. Poland	Rav Rykowski, President	votes 2
31. Romania	Radu Ionescu, President	votes 1
32. Russia	Oleg Okunev, Representative	votes 1
33. Scotland	votes to Bulgaria	votes 1
34. Slovakia	votes to Czech Republic	votes 1
35. Slovenia	votes to Armenia	votes 1
36. South Africa	votes to Scotland	votes 3
37. Sweden	Lina Lindholm, President	votes 6
38. Switzerland	Karim Hanna, President	votes 6
39. Turkey	votes to Switzerland	votes 1
40. USA	votes to Canada	votes 1

Total votes 83

2 Countries not present

1. Pakistan (unexcused)
2. Mongolia (unexcused)

Total votes 2

- votes 1
votes 1

83 out of 85 possible votes were present at the EGM 2014, which is 97,6% and more than 50%. The AGM can thus take final decisions on all points on the Agenda. For the normal majority (50%) a minimum of 42 votes are needed. For the qualified majority (66,6%) a minimum of 56 votes are needed.

Final Agenda

- 1) Welcome note, members, Sportaccord application
- 2) Confirmation of minutes AGM 2013
- 3) Tournament Software report by Graham King
- 4) EU Project report by Radu Ionescu
- 5) FIR World Tour 2015
- 6) Financial report by Lennart Eklundh
- 7) Marketing, FIR Income 2015
- 8) Future of FIR 2015 to 2017, Council elections
- 9) Any other Business

1) Welcome note, members, Sportaccord application (Marcel Weigl)

FIR president Marcel Weigl welcomes all representatives and is very happy that a record of 40 countries are present or have allocated voting power.

- Sportaccord membership was rejected at SA AGM in Antalya in April 2014. Marcel Weigl was personally present after an invitation by SA president Marius L. Vizer after a personal meeting in Budapest
- Main reasons: 4 existing FIR members are Badminton federations, 3 are just clubs and only 11 FIR members are recognised by NSF – National sports federations or NOC – National Olympic committees. Sportaccord requests 40 FIR members to be recognised!
- FIR to get papers from international racket sports federations like squash stating they accept FIR; Tabletennis, Badminton, Tennis still missing
- Existing members must do their homework and register sole national Racketlon federations, create simple websites, get official answers from NSA or NOC
- Attract new members: 2014 Malta

2) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2013

The minutes of the AGM 2013 held on 23rd November 2013 in Zurich/Switzerland are confirmed by the AGM unanimously.

3) Tournament Software Report (Graham King)

- With January 2014 FIR has switched from Resultreporter to Tournament Software and finally all seems to run smoothly. Graham King has been so kind to act as Tournament Software officer giving the following status:
 - Tournament Planner used by tournament organizers to manage all FIR tournaments
 - Tournament Software website used to publish FIR tournaments to outside world
 - 1100 players registered in players DB
 - World Rankings transferred from Result Reporter to Tournament Software July 2014
 - Non-FIR agreement (e.g. Racketlon UK, Racketlon Ned etc.) use separate agreement with separate website and licenses. TBD
- Next steps:
 - Resolve 30 items on Open Issues list. Priorities:
 - Improve online payment for online tournament registration (currency, reduced charge for second singles or doubles event)
 - Simpler doubles entry (currently need to know partner player licence id)
 - Improved automatic scheduling
 - Improved information to players on website
 - Harmonize Tournament Software usage between FIR and national associations

4) EU Project Erasmus+ Report (Radu Ionescu)

Radu Ionescu and Marcel Weigl managed to hand in the EU Erasmus+ projects in the field of sport (first time EU funding for sports) before the entry deadline by the end of June. Notice should be given by the EU by the end of September. Below a very short summary:

- 1) Collaborative Partnerships <http://www.racketlon.net/content/eu-cp>
 - Small project 625.000 Euro
 - Project to help create a European Racketlon Federation
 - Heart of project to solve the problem of recognising a new sport
 - 2 year project
 - 14 Partners of FIR
 - Around 40 projects are financed with a total budget of 20 Million Euro
 - Radu estimates 80% chance to achieve funding
- 2) European Sport Events <http://www.racketlon.net/content/eu-se>
 - Big project 1,1 Million Euro
 - Project European Week of sport 7th to 13th September 2015
 - 1 year project
 - Around 3 projects will be financed with a total budget of 4 Million Euro

- Radu estimates 50% chance to achieve funding

5) FIR World Tour 2015 (Marcel Weigl)

The applications for the FIR World Tour 2015 have been accepted by the FIR Council unanimously:

1.	2-4 Jan	IWT	Vienna Classics	Austria
2.	20-22 Feb	IWT	Swedish Open	Malmö
3.	17-19 April	IWT	Czech Open	Prague
4.	22-24 May	IWT	Danish Open	Copenhagen
5.	5-7 June	SWT	King of Rackets	Oudenaarde/Belgium
6.	26-28 June	IWT	9. Swiss Open	Zürich
7.	24 - 27 July	IWT	German Open	Nussloch
8.	7 – 9 August	SWT	Racket Masters	Surrey/London
9.	28-30 August	IWT	ALTERNATE Open	Linden
10.	11–13 September	SWT	Austrian Open	Wr. Neudorf/Vienna
11.	2-4 October	IWT	Malta Open	Malta
12.	16–18 October	IWT	Finnish Open	Kauniainen/Helsinki
13.	30 okt – 1 nov	IWT	Hungarian Open	Budapest

- Bulgaria, Romania and Canada may still apply until the final deadline end of Sept.
- Still open are the first ever European Championships end of November; all EU Project partners can apply. This will happen as soon as notice of EU projects is given.
- Continental Championships will be held at least in Europe, America and Oceania

6) Financial Report (Lennart Eklundh)

- Lennart reports that the final result for 2013 is a minus of 2185 Euro and shall be confirmed by auditors by the AGM 2014 in Poland
- If one summarizes all results since 2002, FIR starts the year 2014 with minus of 165 Euro
- The forecast for 2014 is decreased to a minus of 969 Euro (originally 1750 Euro)
- Lennart reminds that sponsorship will be necessary in the future to keep FIR upright

7) Marketing, FIR income 2015 (Marcel Weigl)

- Due to the financial tight situation and the uncertainty of receiving EU funding Marcel has created an alternative idea for FIR to get in money for the future. The FIR World Tour lottery 2016:
 - The idea: World Tour name sponsor via lottery
 - The risk: for buyers none; for seller non-financial
 - The rules: Aim is to sell 111 tickets (minimum 50 tickets) for 1000€ sold to sponsors
 - The winner: World Tour Sponsor worth 111.000€
 - (11.000€ reserved for the production material)
 - The benefits: According to World Tour regulations 2015
 - The draw: At World Champs Team and Doubles
 - The effect: Big story in Racketlon community, big story for media
 - The sellers: national Racketlon federations to their sponsors and players with private companies
 - For each sold ticket the federation gets a bonus of 100€ if a min. of 50 tickets are sold
 - START: As soon as possible for 2016

8) Future of FIR, Council elections

- Marcel states quite clearly that the workload for him as FIR-Executive president in a now big federation with 42 members and around 5000 players is not manageable for one person any longer, but he will of course fulfil his contract throughout 2014. Some important things though will just not get done.
- If Marcel will continue to run as president or work as general secretary will depend very much If it is possible to find ways of financing the build-up of a new structure with two fully employed persons which is more than necessary to hold up the system.
- A separation between general secretary and president is clearly needed. FIR needs a famous name as president with good connections to sponsors, who would offer his name for Racketlon and bring with him a sponsor.
- Lennart might only remain in the council for a further year. Karim, Dany and Nathalie will resign. Graham King (Sui) and Patrick Laplante (Can) are willing to run for elections, Kirstin Kaptain (Ned) is interested. The elections will be held at the General Meeting at the Team and Double World Champs in Poland.
- Marcel will announce on www.racketlon.net that a new president is needed and asks everyone to help search for candidates.

9) Any other Business

- FIR Council unanimously accepts Marcel's proposal to accept Rickard Tauson, as well as Katy and John Buchanan in the Hall of Fame. Pokus request for Michaela Björnström and Mikko Kärkkäinen is also accepted as soon as the two announce their official retirement.
- Jesper Ratzer has volunteered to help improve the layout of www.racketlon.net and had a meeting with Marcel Weigl. The project will be taken on in 2015 if volunteers are found.
- Nico Hobis' request to not pay FIR fees for Council members (because they don't pay entry fees) entering tournaments is rejected unanimously by the FIR Council.
- The Great Britain Proposal to act as one GB country, with the exception of Scotland for the time being, is accepted unanimously by the FIR Council.
- The FIR Tournament regulations 2015, which see penalty fees for the first time for tournament organisers, were already decided unanimously by the FIR Council per E-mail. A regulation for display of results for spectators shall now be added.
- FIR has distributed (starting with WC in Zurich) a questionnaire asking players how much they would contribute to build up a more professional organisation. Results will be called soon.
- Marcel informs the AGM that he has been offered 1/4th of the trademark Racketlon by current owners Hans Mullama, Peter Landberg and Lennart Eklundh and is willing to accept this offer for the benefit of international Racketlon.
- Hans van Daele is willing to head a work group to improve the world rankings and asks any interested persons to get in contact with him.

Minutes taken by Marcel Weigl and confirmed by Lennart Eklundh and Karim Hanna e-mailed to FIR members on 29th September 2014

FIR AGM 2014

Thursday 20th November

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. (morning)

Fairplayce Arena Sportscentre

Poznan/Poland

Opening the Team and Double World Champs (20. – 23. November)

All countries please make sure to send a representative if any of your players are competing at the world champs, if not please allocate your voting power to one other country. It is very important for SPORTACCORD Membership that full voting power is present at our AGM's.