



To FIR Council Members

FIR - Fédération Internationale de Racketlon

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**Klosterneuburg 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

## **2nd FIR Council Meeting 2014**

Part I: Wednesday 19th November 23:30 – 01:00, Sportwerk Hotel

Part II: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 16:00 – 17:30, Sportwerk Sportscentre

### **FIR World Championships Teams & Doubles, Wroclaw/Poland**

Present: Lennart Eklundh, Marcel Weigl, Puzant Kassabian, Poku Salo, Ahmad Bahadli,  
Guest: Graham King

Excused: Phil Todd, Karim Hanna, Dany Lessard, Nathalie Zeoli

#### **Agenda**

- 1) Welcome Note, Members, Sportaccord/NOC status
- 2) Confirmation of minutes and decisions 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting 2014 in London
- 3) Doubles World Champs Poland (organization/liability/communication)
- 4) Tournament Software and personal data, Graham King reports
- 5) Rules and Regulations, Changes and clarifications (as e-mailed)
- 6) EU Erasmus+ Projects
- 7) FIR World Tour 2015 (final confirmation), Continental Championships
- 8) Finances, Lennart Eklundh reports
- 9) FIR-Council elections at AGM
- 10) Marketing World Tour lottery 2016 with kick-off 2015
- 11) Video streaming platform for World Tour events
- 12) Any other business: Ghana, Rankings group, King of Rackets

## 1) Welcome note, Members, Sportaccord/NOC status (Marcel Weigl)

- Pakistan and Mongolia shall be excluded by FIR AGM with 1.1.2015 as there has been no contact and membership payments for over 2 years
- Thanks to Charity cooperation of RFA – Racketlon Federation Austria with Dekpor highschool “Racketlon International Ghana” has been created. Malta shall follow 2015
- Existing members must do their homework and register sole national Racketlon federations, create simple websites, get official answers from NSA or NOC
- Marcel Weigl is in further contact with Sportaccord and ENGSO (roof organization of National Olympic Committees) and will suggest a joint meeting

## 2) Confirmation of minutes and decisions 1st Council Meeting 2014

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting 2014 held during 14<sup>th</sup> FIR Racketlon World Champs on 23<sup>rd</sup> August in London are confirmed unanimously, thus all decisions are final.

## 3) Doubles World Champs Poland (Marcel Weigl)

FIR president Marcel Weigl Marcel Weigl explains once again the move of the FIR World Championships Doubles and Teams from Poznan to Wroclaw due to missing fire emergency permits in the newly built Fairplayce Sports centre. In the end it was the nearest and only possibility to hold the event on the date as planned. The other options would have been move of date or even total cancellation, which would have led to much bigger complaints and reimbursement wishes. Although FIR shows understanding for the arising difficulties for many players after the move of the tournament, some people overreacted. To prevent such tournament changes in the future FIR has developed an Assistance Agreement for all national federations to sign.

## 4) Tournament Software and public data (Graham King)

Graham King reports that Tournament Software and also League Planner for team events such as Champions League and World Champs is now running smoothly

- There was only one issue with data protection as the World Rankings project group around Hans van Daele needed TS data to simulate their world rankings proposal. For the future this shall be solved with a “Tick” in TS, when players are registering and paying their license.
- Another problem is the search for Player IDs when players want to enter their double partners. The ID shall be added beside each player in the World Rankings
- Next steps: Resolve 30 items on Open Issues list with top priority online payment
- In addition FIR will publish a summary of possibilities and costs of TS use for national federations

## 5) Rules and Regulations, Changes and Clarifications (Graham King)

The documents FIR Tournament Rules and Regulations and FIR Players and Draws regulations were updated by Marcel Weigl and Graham Kind and e-mailed to all Council members. All changes were implemented unanimously and the new versions published on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net)

## 6) EU Erasmus+ Projects (Marcel Weigl)

Marcel Weigl reports that the (in September promised) results are still not out and are now promised for the beginning of December. The chances of EU funding have decreased as it was found out that very many projects have been handed in. In any case if rejected FIR will improve projects and hand in again 2015.

## 7) FIR World Tour 2015 final, Continental Championships (Marcel Weigl)

FIR Council has agreed and finally confirmed the following tournaments for 2015. The coordination of the FIR World Tour 2016 will be done by Kirstin Kaptein.

FIR World Tour 2015

1. 2-4 Jan	IWT	Vienna Classics	Austria
2. 20-22 Feb	IWT	Swedish Open	Malmö
3. 2-4 April (Thu-Sat)	IWT	Turkish Easter Open	Antalya
4. 17-19 April	IWT	Czech Open	Prague
5. 22-24 May	IWT	Danish Open	Copenhagen
6. 5-7 June	SWT	King of Rackets	Oudenaarde/Belgium
7. 21-22 June	IWT	Canadian Open	Granby
8. 26-28 June	IWT	9. Swiss Open	Zürich
9. 17-19 July	IWT	Bulgarian Int.	Sofia
10. 24-26 July	IWT	German Open	Nussloch
11. 7-9 August	SWT	Surrey/London	Racket Masters
12. 28 – 30 August	IWT	ALTERNATE Open	Linden/Germany
13. 11-13 September	SWT	Austrian Open	Wr. Neudorf/Vienna
14. 2-4 October	IWT	Malta Open	Malta
15. 16-18 October	IWT	Finnish Open	Kauniainen
16. 30 Okt. – 1 Nov.	IWT	Hungarian Open	Budapest

[fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com)

Continental Championships 2015

End Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> European Champs; Oceanic Championships, American Champs , T.B.A.

FIR Challengers 2015

21-22 Feb. Welsh Open, Cardiff

27.2.-1.3. Vancouver Island Open, Canada

29. March Turkish Winner Events Challenger, Antalya

6-8 Nov. Antwerp Open, Belgium

European University Championships 2015

16-18 June 1<sup>st</sup> European Uni Champs, Szombathely/Hungary [www.uniracketlon.com](http://www.uniracketlon.com)

## 8) Finances (Lennart Eklundh)

- Lennart reports that the final result for 2013 presented at the EGM 2014, a minus of 2185 Euro, has now been confirmed and signed by the auditors Hakan Granberg and Stefan Adamsson
- Summarizing all results since 2002, FIR started the year 2014 with minus of 165 Euro
- **The forecast for 2014 is increased to a minus of 3203 Euro** (originally 1750 € pred. result) reminding that 2014 result included start-up costs Tournament Software of 6655 Euro
- Lennart presents the budget for 2015 assuming the same FIR structure as in 2014 and no EU-Project obtained with a plus of 2910 Euro
- This should even the loss of 2014 and FIR should be even in results at the end of 2015

## 9) FIR Council Elections at AGM (Marcel Weigl)

Marcel thanks resigning Council members Karim Hanna (Sui), Nathalie Zeoli (Ger) and Dany Lessard (Can) in their absence for their work for FIR in the past years. Then Marcel states that although the team stands for elections for a period of three years from 2015 to 2017 according to FIR statutes, Lennart, Graham, himself and maybe others will re-consider an early re-assignment in one year's time already, depending on possible financing and changing structures in FIR.

From a personal point of view Marcel is currently doing a Master Study programme in Economics called "Management of EU Projects" at the University Eisenstadt partly financed by the Austrian State until the middle of 2015. In autumn of this year Marcel needs to take on a full-employed job in the sport field for social security and pension reasons.

### Standing for elections FIR Council 2015 – 2017

To continue:

1. Executive President, Marcel Weigl (AUT)
2. Vice-President/Treasurer, Lennart Eklundh (SWE)
3. Social Media, Phil Todd (ENG)
4. New members/Balkan, Puzant Kassabian (BUL)
5. Rankings/Olympic draws, Poku Salo (FIN)
6. Subsidiaries/Arab countries, Ahmad Bahadli (IRQ)

New:

7. World Tour/Female Policies, Kirstin Kaptein (NED)
8. Tournament Software/Rules, Graham King (SUI)
9. Non-European Policies, Patrick Laplante Jr. (CAN)

## **10) Marketing World Tour Lottery 2016 with Kick-Off 2015 (Marcel Weigl)**

- The FIR World Tour lottery has been pushed forward to 2016. The problem is that somebody is needed to administer it, which is not possible for Marcel in addition to the current work load.
- 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 prod. Material)
- The benefits: According to World Tour regulations 2015
- 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 2015

## **11) Video Streaming Plattform for World Tour Events (Marcel Weigl)**

The Austrian company Austria News 24 has created a video streaming channel for Racketlon on [www.24racketlon.tv](http://www.24racketlon.tv) The test event will be Vienna Classics 2015, with a live stream of the finals only filmed with iphones. If the test is successful, the project shall be extended to further World Tour events including a marketing cooperation with the aim of getting in sponsor money for FIR and the international tournaments. Marcel Weigl will negotiate and report further.

## **12) Any other business: Ranking groups, King of Rackets**

- Marcel informs the AGM that after informing the EGM in Surrey he has now accepted the offer of owning 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the trademark Racketlon by current owners Hans Mullama, Peter Landberg and Lennart. The four now own 25% each.
- Marcel informs that the Court of Arbitration has been called by Keith Lesser concerning fees for the Single World Champs 2014. The court with the majority votes of Volker Sach and Zoltan Albert has ruled that the FIR payment specification is to be corrected by deducting fees for non-entry-fee-paying council members and then to be paid immediately. Phil Reid will be replaced in the Court of Arbitration on his own wish. FIR has nominated former Council member Dany Lessard, who has accepted this position.
- Marcel reports on the rankings group led by Hans van Daele and that he visited the Belgian president and King of Rackets Organisers (Jan, Hilde) a day during a study trip.

### **Next Council Meeting 2015**

1st FIR Council Meeting, TBA

**FIR-Executive President, Marcel Weigl**