

## MINUTES FIR AGM 2017

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 9:00 – 10:45**

**City & Country Club Wienerberg, Vienna, Austria**

### **Chairs:**

FIR Executive President Kresten Hougaard

FIR Vice-President Graham King

FIR General Secretary Natalie Paul

### **21 Countries present or delegated their voting power with a total of 44 votes:**

1. Australia (1), votes to Belgium
2. Austria (3), Marcel Weigl
3. Belgium (3), Geert Blommaert
4. Canada (3), votes to France
5. Croatia (1), votes to Slovenia
6. Czech Republic (2), Michal Horacek
7. Denmark (2), Morten Jakslund
8. Finland (2), Poku Salo
9. France (2), Jean Michot
10. Germany (5), Frank Kleiber
11. Great Britain (6), Johnny Bispham
12. Latvia (1), votes to Austria
13. Liechtenstein (1), votes to Switzerland
14. Malta (1), votes to Denmark
15. Poland (2), votes to Germany
16. Romania (1), Radu Ionescu
17. Russia (1), votes to Great Britain
18. Slovenia (1), Primoz Gajsek
19. South Africa (1), votes to Czech Republic
20. Sweden (4), Anna-Klara Ahlmer
21. Switzerland (4), Graham King

**44 out of 53 possible votes were present at the AGM 2017, which is 83 % and more than 50% needed for quorum. The AGM was thus able to take final decisions on all points on the Agenda. For the normal majority (50%) a minimum of 23 votes were needed. For the qualified majority (66,6%) a minimum of 30 votes were needed.**

## **20 Countries not present**

1. Armenia
2. Brazil
3. Bulgaria
4. Estonia
5. F.Y.R of Macedonia
6. Ghana
7. Greece
8. Hong-Kong, China
9. Hungary
10. India
11. Iraq
12. Ireland
13. Israel
14. Italy
15. Malaysia
16. Netherlands
17. New Zealand
18. Slovakia
19. Turkey
20. USA

## **Final Agenda**

- 1) Welcome note members
- 2) Confirmation of minutes of AGM 2016
- 3) Confirmation of final Financial and Auditor's Report 2016, Amke Fischer (Treasurer)
- 4) 2017 President & Council Report, Kresten Hougaard
- 5) Finance preview 2017, Amke Fischer, Treasurer
- 6) FIR Auditor: Election of Joachim Gersdorf to replace outgoing Frank Kleiber
- 7) FIR Council Preview 2018, FIR President Kresten Hougaard
- 8) FIR Council: Election of Duncan Stahl to replace outgoing Ray Jordan
- 9) FIR members:
  - Expulsion of "RFI – Racketlon Federation of India" as FIR member representing Racketlon in India
  - Approval of "RISA – Racketlon India Sports Association" as new FIR member representing Racketlon in India
- 10) Annual 2018 FIR membership fee proposal: all fees unchanged
  - Active members, as defined by the Hagenbach-Bischoff System (Statutes 7.9.2)
  - Non-EU FIR members (as defined by UEFA) fee reduction of 50%
  - Passive members: 20 EUR

- 11) Proposal by Finnish Racketlon Federation: Rules of Racketlon modification that all matches stop at 21 points with no prolongation to require winning by a two-point margin: details in Appendix A below
- 12) Proposal by Graham King, FIR Vice President: Rules of Racketlon modification to require Tennis to be played to completion in Round Robin groups, to be in line with the FIR Players and Draws Regulations and common practice. Details in Appendix B below
- 13) Any other business

### **1) Welcome note, members (Kresten Hougaard)**

FIR president Kresten Hougaard opened the AGM, took over as chair and welcomed all representatives:

- presentation of agenda
- agenda item to elect Joachim Gersdorf as FIR auditor moved to ahead of 2016 finance report discussions, to ensure validity
- no objections

### **2) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2016**

The minutes of the AGM 2016 held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in Fürth/Germany were confirmed by the AGM unanimously.

### **3) FIR Auditor: Election of Joachim Gersdorf to replace outgoing Frank Kleiber**

Joachim Gersdorf was elected unanimously to replace outgoing Frank Kleiber as FIR Auditor.

### **4) Confirmation of final Financial and Auditor's Report 2016, Amke Fischer (Treasurer)**

Amke Fischer presented the final 2016 financial results and the 2016 Auditors' Report 2016.

- Main income from player licence fees
- Main costs are Tournament Software and office administration
- Details in attached slides (Appendix C)
- Budget figures included for comparison

The 2016 Financials were confirmed by the AGM unanimously.

### **5) 2017 President & Council Report**

Kresten Hougaard presented the main events of 2017 so far:

- moving of the FIR seat: seat stayed in Austria; moving only possible to an EU country because of the EU-Project
- EU-Project: good chance to get through next year
- World Tour Race for Women +45 introduced
- non-EU- countries: Much activity in India, USA, South Africa
- SportAccord:
  - participation in a convention in Lausanne in June 2017
  - could not accept FIR's invitation to visit the European Championships
  - Visit to a Swiss domestic tournament in Yverdon (close to their location) planned
- new Website: to be finished latest by the end of this year

- Sponsorship: openings in 2017 of which none gave any results. New openings to be chased in 2018.
- Non-EU-countries: new federation in India (RISA); USA with their first international tournament; Thailand with an international tournament in December; South Africa hosting yearly tournament - trying to make it international
- improved activities on social media accounts by Anna-Klara Ahlmer
- live stream (see minutes Council Meeting Oudenaarde 2017)
- minor rule changes
- live Elite draws: first time Club La Santa Open; all tournaments since then; positive response
- resignation of Thorsten Deck from FIR Council as Sponsorship Officer
- World Tour 2018 announced:
  - 5-7/1 IWT Vienna Classics
  - 23-25/2 IWT Swedish Open (and Champions League?)
  - 3-5/3 IWT Club La Santa Open, Lanzarote
  - 20-22/4 IWT Czech Open
  - 28-29/4 Massachussets Racket Masters
  - 1-3/6 SWT King of Rackets
  - 15-17/6 IWT Finnish Open (TBC)
  - 29/6-1/7 CHA French Open
  - 13-15/7 IWT Latvian Open
  - 27-29/7 IWT German Open
  - 22-26/8 WC Teams and Singles, Zürich, Switzerland
  - 5-7/10 IWT Malta Open (TBC)
  - 25-28/10 WC Doubles + IWT British Open, Cardiff (TBC)
  - 23-25/11 SWT Austrian Open (TBC)

## **6) Finance preview 2017, Amke Fischer, Treasurer**

Amke Fischer presented a preview of financial results up until August 2018 and a forecast for the whole year

- Reduced income from country membership fees due to the introduction of the new passive membership, and the 50% fee reduction for non-EU countries
- Reduced costs due to less expensive administration
- Details in attached slides (Appendix C)
- Budget figures included for comparison

## **7) FIR Council Preview 2018**

Kresten Hougaard presented plans for 2018

- search for a new seat for FIR
- World Tour 2018:
  - new tournament (CHA) in France 29<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July
  - CL probably in Sweden and Germany again (not confirmed yet)
  - WC singles and team in Zürich in August 2018; doubles and mixed WC separate
  - first half (until July 2018) will be published soon

- EU-Project application fourth attempt
- new website to be online
- efforts in Marketing: different ideas to push Racketlon
- improve Champions League
- improve rules on national team event
- Sponsorship activities to be increased
- Livestream solution (see minutes CM Oudenaarde 2017) to be made available to tournaments
- Thorsten Deck resigned → open seat

### **8) FIR Council: Election of Duncan Stahl to replace outgoing Ray Jordan**

Duncan Stahl elected unanimously to FIR Council as Marketing Officer to replace outgoing Ray Jordan.

### **9) FIR members:**

**- Expulsion of “RFI – Racketlon Federation of India” as FIR member representing Racketlon in India**

**- Approval of “RISA – Racketlon India Sports Association” as new FIR member representing Racketlon in India**

Frank Kleiber explained the situation of Racketlon in India. RISA was evaluated as the best organisation to represent Racketlon in India. The expulsion of RFI and approval of RISA was unanimously (with one abstention)

### **10) Annual 2018 FIR membership fee proposal**

Kresten Hougaard proposed to make no changes to the FIR membership fees:

- Active members, EUR 100 per vote (as defined by the Hagenbach-Bischoff System; Statutes 7.9.2)
- Non-EU FIR members (as defined by UEFA) fee reduction of 50%
- Passive members: EUR 20

The proposal was approved unanimously.

A discussion of the list of members followed:

- FIR now has enough members to meet SportAccord acceptance criteria
- Austria proposed that the stronger members should support the weaker nations. Austria will adopt Ghana

### **11) Proposal by Finnish Racketlon Federation:**

**Rules of Racketlon modification that all matches stop at 21 points with no prolongation to require winning by a two-point margin. Details in Appendix A below**

After much discussion of several FIR members of the arguments for and against the change, the proposal was rejected by 33 votes to 11 (75%).

**12) Proposal by Graham King, FIR Vice-President:**

**Rules of Racketlon modification to require Tennis to be played to completion in Round Robin groups, to be in line with the FIR Players and Draws Regulations and common practice. Details in Appendix B below**

The proposal was approved unanimously.

**13) Any other business**

- the reduction of the voting power of non-EU members, whose membership fees are also reduced by 50%, was, as mandated by the 2016 AGM, presented by Graham King.  
The proposal to reduce the voting power was rejected by a majority vote
- the next AGM should address the topic of Juniors and a youth development program
- the Tournament Regulations should be corrected to cover the u13 national team event

*Minutes taken by General Secretary Natalie Paul and confirmed by Graham King*

Attachments: Appendix A, B and C

# Appendix A

## Proposal text of Finnish Racketlon Federation

### 3.2.1. Running score to 21 points (delete: with a margin of two points)

Every rally results in a point to the winner of the rally - i.e. "running score" is applied - and the winner of each set is the player who first reaches 21 points, in team competitions **(delete 11) 15 (delete or 21) points. (delete: Except at 20-20 (or equivalent for team events) when the set is extended until there is a margin of two points.)** A set can thus end e.g. **(delete: 22-20 or 25-23 but never)** 21-20.

#### Reasoning

Extending a set to a margin of two points don't give any extra excitement nor any added value to the game. It can only prolong the set unnecessary. If a match can be decided with one "artificial" gummiarm point, then there is no need for a two points margin in the sets. This would also correspond to the nature of the game.

#### Current Rules of Racketlon text:

##### **3.2.1 Running score to 21 points with a margin of two points:**

Every rally results in a point to the winner of the rally - i.e. "running score" is applied - and the winner of each set is the player who first reaches 21 points, in team competitions 11, 15 or 21 points. Except at 20-20 (or equivalent for team events) when the set is extended until there is a margin of two points. A set can thus end e.g. 22-20 or 25-23 but never 21-20.

#### Proposed Rules of Racketlon text:

##### **3.2.1 Running score to 21 points:**

Every rally results in a point to the winner of the rally - i.e. "running score" is applied - and the winner of each set is the player who first reaches 21 points, in team competitions 15 points. A set can thus end 21-20.

Implicitly, the following section shall be deleted without replacement text:

##### **3.3.4 One serve each after 20-20**

After 20-20 the serve switches hand after every point until the set is decided. The two first serves are from the right side, the two next serves are from the left and so on. Thus player A serves from the right, then player B serves from the right followed by player A from the left and player B from the left.

# Appendix B

## Proposal text of Graham King, FIR Vice President

It has been discovered that the Rules of Racketlon were not kept synchronised with the Players and Draws Regulations regarding Round Robin group play.

It is currently common practice that tennis be played to completion in Round Robin groups so as to not disadvantage tennis specialists when it is necessary to add up the individual points to determine a group winner. The tennis specialist thus has the opportunity to improve e.g. a -22 point deficit after completion of squash into a mere -1 point, if he wins 21-0. This is reflected in the Players and Draws Regulations. The Rules of Racketlon need to be adapted to reflect the same definition.

Current Rules of Racketlon text:

### 3.2.2 Early interruption

The match is over and the final score counts when the winner has enough points for the match to be decided. Thus Tennis sets often don't have to be played to the end. This also counts for matches played in group play.

Proposed Rules of Racketlon text:

### 3.2.3 Early interruption

The match is over and the final score counts when the winner has enough points for the match to be decided. Thus Tennis sets often don't have to be played to the end. This does not apply to matches played in group play, when tennis will always be played to completion, even if the individual match result is decided earlier.

Players and Draws Regulations text:

### 3.11 Winner in Group-Play draws

All group matches will always be played to completion i.e. even if a match is already decided before tennis, the tennis match will still be played to 21 (or until one player has a two point advantage, after a score of 20-20)...



## Appendix C

# Financial statement 2016



In €

Income	Actual	Budget	Costs	Actual	Budget
TSF WC/EC	3.686,00	4.330	WC/EC trophies/prizes	-437,43	-500
TSF SWT	1.988,00	3.226	TSF Council members	-3.200,00	-1.917
TSF IWT	3.264,50	4.778	New country development	-180,00	-1.306
TSF CHA	879,50	926	Office (hard) costs	-3.895,86	-2.300
FIR Players			Web page	-1.780,03	-760
Licence	14.556,72	15.844	Office administration	-7.091,89	-7.450
Sponsoring	-	-	Travel expenses	-4.426,58	-2.800
Country membership	7.080,00	7.440	Printing material	-	-738
Country TP licence	1.050,00	1.050	Communication	-	-700
Income prior year	1.500,00	-	Bank costs	-918,99	-1.200
Interest	6,75	-	TS Online Ranking	-2.047,32	-2.461
Other	0,09	-	TS Online Ranking, World Tour	-1.230,57	-1.231
	<b>34.011,56</b>	<b>37.554</b>	TS TP/LP licence fees	-1.274,11	-1.199
			TS Tournament Website	-1.230,57	-1.231
			TS Player DB	-2.461,14	-2.461
			TS new ranking regulations	-	-1.000
			Other costs	-468,06	-1.000
				<b>-30.642,55</b>	<b>-30.254</b>
			<b>Surplus</b>	<b>3.369,01</b>	

# Recommendation of auditors



„I have read and checked the bookkeeping and accountancy of FIR, Federation Internationale de Racketlon, for the year 2016 and found them in good order.

I therefore recommend the GM to confirm the accounting of 2016.”

Patrik Wartia

Joachim Gersdorf

# Financial outlook 2017



In €

Income	01-08/2017	2017	Budget	Costs	01-08/2017	2017	Budget
TSF WC/EC	-	3.910,00	3.000	WC/EC trophies/prizes	-549,99	-800,00	-500
TSF WC/EC team	-	420,00	400	World Tour Trophies	-	-	-300
TSF SWT	1.084,10	1.048,10	2.000	TSF Council members	-2.000,00	-2.500,00	-3.200
TSF IWT	1.604,00	2.406,00	3.200	Office (hard) costs	-175,81	-500,00	-1.000
TSF CHA	-	300,00	300	Web page	-24,00	-100,00	-3.000
TSF CL	160	160	160	Office, administration	-2.838,11	-5.338,11	-6.000
FIR Players Licence	11.407,40	12.000,00	15.000	Travel expenses	-3.185,82	-5.000,00	-5.000
Sponsoring	-	-	-	Bank costs	-513,75	-600,00	-1.000
Country membership	5.250,00	5.480,00	5.170	TS Online Ranking	-1.237,83	-1.237,83	-1.238
Country TP licence	600,00	900,00	900	TS Online Ranking, World Tour	-1.237,83	-1.237,83	-1.238
Other income	452,00	452,00	-	TS TP/LP licence fees	-1.131,33	-1.131,33	-975
	<b>20.557,50</b>	<b>27.112,10</b>	<b>31.0130</b>	TS Tournament Website	-1.237,83	-1.737,83	-1.238
				TS Player DB	-2.475,66	-2.475,66	-2.476
				Post, Packaging, Transport	-651,00	-700,00	-1.000
				EU Projects	-100,00	-100,00	-200
				SRE	-500	-500	-500
					<b>-17.758,96</b>	<b>-23.458,59</b>	<b>-28.164</b>
				<b>Surplus</b>	<b>2.798,54</b>	<b>2.798,54</b>	<b>1.966</b>