

FIR Annual General Meeting 2006
Saturday 25th November, 9.40pm – 11.20pm
Franz Fürst Freizeitzentrum, Wr. Neudorf-Austria

Present

Austria (**Marcel Weigl** - President),
Czech Republic (**Svatopluk Rejthar**)
England/Scotland (**Stuart Foster**)
Finland (**Martti Vottonen**)
Germany (**Irene Seifert**)
Hungary (**Eva Kapcsos**)
Poland (**Pawel Kozlowski rep by Kryzstof Samonek**)
Sweden (**Lennart Eklundh**)
Hans Mullamaa (Council - Homepage Officer),
Some of the above have the voting powers of the below, transferred before the AGM.

Absent

Greece (Georgios Georgoudis - Vice-President) votes to Martti Vottonen
Bulgaria (Puzant Kassabian)
Canada (Stephane Cadieux)
Belgium (Gert Peersman) votes to Michael Dickert
Hong Kong (Chi-Ming Chan) votes to Marcel Weigl
France (Nicolas Barbeau)
Estonia (Riho Sillaots)

1) Welcome note

President Marcel Weigl welcomed all participants and presented the official registered papers of the FIR – Federation Internationale de Racketlon in Austria.

2) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2005

The minutes of the AGM 2005 were held up and the question asked if all members of the General Meeting confirm them.

The minutes were confirmed by all AGM participants.

3) Annual Report of the Council

President Marcel Weigl gave a brief report of the FIR action 2006.

Two new countries 15 and 16 have joined the FIR with Estonia and Hong Kong, China. The standard of the World Tour tournaments has increased and the organisation of the FIR improved. Marcel Weigl reminds the members though that there is enough work to be done for the future and especially the weak financial situation of FIR is a problem in building up an infrastructure of the FIR such as office. Other things which are causing problems are the growing administration of the ranking with more tournaments emerging and the update of the FIR website.

4) Annual Financial Report

Treasurer Lennart Eklundh gave a brief FIR financial report of 2006, as follows:

Income from tour event player fees	€2,980
Cash flow as of 23/11	€1832
Income missing from tour event player fees	€1,472
Other income	€400
Year end 2006 estimate	€3,700
Expenses	
World Champ Trophies	€270
Office administration	€270
2007 Estimates	
Income estimates from tour event player fees	€4,500 - €5,000
World tour posters	€700
World tour banner	€150

5) Elections

a) Vice-President

Georgios Georgoudis was only elected vice-president for one year and shall be re-elected for the period of further two years. The period of his election then goes in line with all other council members, three years. There are no other candidates. ***Therefore, Georgios was elected to continue as vice-president for another two years by the meeting.***

b) Auditors

According to our status the FIR has to nominate two independent FIR auditors to check on the finances of the FIR on an annual basis.

As the FIR treasurer is Lennart Eklundh the suggestion is that they shall be two Swedish auditors Hakan Granberg and Matthias Fagerström, to check on the finances of the FIR. The two suggestions were agreed by the country representatives, Lennart to confirm this arrangement.

c) Court of Arbitration

According to our status the FIR has to nominate three independent people from the world of Racketlon which have NO positions in the FIR what so ever from a country with a legal federation. ***A number of suggestions were made by the Council and the Country Representatives, but the following were agreed on: Volker Sach (Ger), Poku Salo (Fin) and Zoltan Albert (Hun). Marcel Weigl will contact them to confirm their will.***

6) Admission of new members

The admission of our new members Estonia and Hong Kong, China and USA were confirmed by unanimous vote by the country representatives.

The President gave a reminder to all FIR members that do not have legally registered in their countries yet, that they must do this until 1st January 2008 in order not to lose their voting power and sincerely hope these countries will take care of this in order not to lose any members.

7) Fees 2007

a) Players licence 2007

President Marcel Weigl explained in the past years the services for the players have grown. World Rankings update, webpage, posters, logo and more cost money.

To become member of the GAISF – General Association of Sports Federations FIR must have REGISTERED players from 30 national federations and three continents.

The Players licence proposal for 2007 is the easiest way to register our players by an annual players licence of 10€. The fee is kept low so that all players only playing one tournament per year, will still have no problems to pay and is not valid for challenger events.

In addition the FIR from 2007 regulates the maximum entry fees for world tour events with 50€ for singles. The fee can be paid either by the national federations or the players themselves. The system is ready was designed by www.racketlon.at producer pixel.at and will ask for each players data when registering. There are two possible procedures, players can either register via internet and credit card anytime of the year or register at a World Tour tournament via internet and pay directly at the registration desk. Players then receive a number and are officially registered. The system costs around 1000€ plus around 1€ per credit card registration. In addition with this system no show players who don't want to pay the entry fees although cancelling after registration deadline can be easily blocked to play any further tournaments until they pay.

There were a number of concerns raised by the country representative over what are the real benefits of such a system, when it should really come from the National Federations to build up the player bases. Marcel Weigl warned that our national federations are too weak and cant build up such a system at the moment. As a compromise 10€ for a two year membership and the first tournament for free (you only start to pay at the second tournament) was suggested by Marcel Weigl.

The player licensing scheme (10€ two year, first tournament free) was voted on and the results were as follows:

For the scheme received 17 Votes

Against the scheme received 24 Votes

Please see a separate sheet for who voted which way. Therefore, the scheme will not go ahead in 2007. Marcel would the scheme to put onto the 2007 AGM agenda to try and introduce for 2008 Tour, but will need Council approval initially.

After the vote Marcel Weigl speaks of a very disappointing outcome of the vote which will slower the pace of Racketlon development once again, because some representatives don't understand the system. The biggest disappointment goes towards half of the council members, who developed the introduction of such a system together in the Council and then voted against it in the AGM.

b) Other Fees 2007

The tournament fees for 2007 shall stay accordance with the World Tour requirement spec which was approved by the Council and this meeting as follows:

**3€ per player for Super World Tour,
2€ per player for World Tour and
1€ per player for Challengers.**

In addition according to our statutes every country federation member must pay an annual fee. It was agreed by this meeting to keep it low to make as many countries as possible become members at 50€ per year.

8) Rules

The doubles rules written by Stuart Foster have been approved.

Much debate concerning the official rules between 5-serve and 2-serve options. The actual rule stands as 5 serves and 4 tosses. A new vote has been called for to clarify it once and for all, if we want our sport to be taken seriously, we need to decide on one way of serving. Otherwise, it will be difficult to attract sponsors with different rules at all tournaments.

The options are:

- a) Single toss rule, 5 serve (Player A first choice, Player B second and third choice)
- b) *Single toss rule, 2 serve (who serves in table tennis, receives in badminton, serves in squash and receives in tennis)***

The serving options were voted on and the results are as follows:

For the Single toss rule, 5 serve received 13 Votes

For the Single toss rule, 2 serve received 29 Votes

Please see a separate sheet for who voted which way.

Therefore, the Single toss rule, 2 serve vote was carried by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast with 69% and will take effect on the 1st January 2007 as a compulsory rule for all tournaments under FIR control with world ranking points.

Minutes taken by Stuart Foster.

FIR-President Marcel closed the meeting at 11.20pm

Next AGM schedules for December 2007 in Rotterdam/Netherlands during World Championships from 27th to 30th.