

1st FIR Council Meeting 2011

Saturday 30th April 22h30 – 00h30

Milano/Italy/Double and Team World Champs

Present: Marcel Weigl, Lennart Eklundh, Karim Hanna

Not Present: Thomas Troedsson, Marc Veldkamp, Poku Salo (all Squash WC in Helsinki), Ray Jordan (missed flight), Martti Vottonen (?), Michi Dickert (?)

Marcel Weigl opens the 1st official Council Meeting of the year and is a little frustrated that only 3 of 9 Council members are present. Ray Jordan should have come, but missed his flight to Milano. Michi Dickert was in Milano and should have come, but did not turn up.

Agenda

- 1) Welcome Note, Member States update
- 2) Resultreporter
- 3) Rankings
- 4) Olympic Draws
- 5) World Tour 2011, 2012
- 6) Tournament Support 2011
- 7) Rules
- 8) Marketing
- 9) FIR Finances
- 10) FIR Website
- 11) FIR Elections

1) Welcome note (Marcel Weigl)

a) FIR Member Countries

South Africa has now joined FIR, which now has 29 members states. Marcel Weigl will go to Sofia 2011 during Bulgarian Open to check with the only FIR member state, which has not sent a paper of registration.

Next possible Members: Australia (Leigh Sanders), New Zealand (Jason Granville), Ireland (Judy Lambert), Denmark (Emil Bergander and Kasper Jonsson), Wales (Lylod Petiford), Countries around India (Manoranjan Mishra), Brazil

Further Contacts: Lithuania, Luxemburg, Serbia, Portugal, Ukraine, Belarus, Iceland (Marcel Weigl), N. Ireland (Ray Jordan), Norway (Lennart Eklundh), Spain (Marc Veldkamp), Liechtenstein (Karim Hanna)

b) Sportaccord Update

Latvia and Finland are now recognised by national NOC, so now a total of 5 member states including Austria, Estonia and Czech Republic have handed in letters of recognition by their NSF – National Sports Federation or NOC – National Olympic Committee. Marcel has now prepared official letter from FIR to support national federations and will send this letter to the national federations for them to hand in with their NOC and NSFs per e-mail or post. FIR needs official answers by NOC or NSF even if they are negative. Only then and when FIR finally has at least 40 member states can we apply with Sportaccord for official recognition.

c) Countries History

Ray is still summarizing the history of the countries which each country has sent per e-mail for www.racketlon.net

d) Membership Fees

There are still some member countries who have not or don't pay the annual membership fee for 2011: France, Greece, India, Malaysia, Slovenia, USA. Lennart asks how these should be treated in future and it is suggested that these countries shall lose voting power if they don't pay for two successive years. This though has to be taken to the AGM. Meanwhile members states will be reminded to pay again

To Do:

- Marcel to be in contact with potential new members
- Marcel to send an official FIR letter for NOCs or NSFs again to all country representatives
- National Federations to e-mail or request per post official answers from NOC or NSF
- Lennart to remind existing members to pay their membership fee

2) **Resultreporter** (Marcel Weigl on behalf of Rickard Tauson)

During the World Champs Doubles and Teams in Milano there were severe problems with Resultreporter. The server was down most of Friday and Saturday. On Sunday RR was running very slowly on a backup server, so at least the results could be entered, but Live Score was impossible. Rickard Tauson promised to move RR to a new server before the next Tournament in the beginning of June, so this should not happen again. After consultation Marcel and Rickard decided not to introduce an offline version of RR, which would create other kind of problems. The manual has been updated and can be found on www.resultreporter.com/manual

Much of the Resultreporter To Do List 2011 has already been taken care of, here are the open points:

a) Must Developments

- find a way of showing walk overs and retirements
- Introduce a button finish all remaining matches with one click
- we need to get the complete pdf results of the world rankings onto the page. John has them, please solve with him how we can get them on
- Change text from license to annual license
- add more pictures of players??? Is there a way i can do that easily!

- In Doubles: new text who to enter first and that make sure the other player has paid license
- Change wording from FIR supervisor to FIR delegate
- problems with the maps version

b) Nice to have Developments

Live Scoring:

- Matchpoint indicator, how to calculate
- Before tennis is started we should have a text saying "Player x needs x points to win" if it's not totally equal before tennis one player always has the opportunity to win without getting 21 points in tennis.
- make live score on the screen bigger
- Below each draw program something that one can see e.g. 9:00 these 4 matches start, 9:30 this four. See www.tournamentsoftware.com
- See the nationality on the registration list.
- BUGG: When changing country the players cache in LIVE part isn't updated.
- BUGG: Validate match id on scan dialog so that a user can't go to next without a matchid
- Delete functionality to delete a ranking, should be implemented so that one ranking/date could be deleted
- Add forum functionality to result reporter

c) Development in the future

- Resultreporter with language support, how to get out a list of strings to translate?
- Pool play with two or more pools then playoffs
- Web based sheet for tournament reports and payment specification
- Calculation for use of national tournaments
- Fun elements for webpage, make it livelier. Most importantly chat
- Result reporter with language support, how to get out a list of strings to translate
- Pool play with to pools then playoffs
- Players for one tournament should be able to rank the tournament after playing the tournament

To Do:

- Rickard Tauson and Marcel Weigl to be in contact for time line and further improvements

3) Rankings (Marcel Weigl on behalf of Poku Salo)

a) World Rankings clean up

The world rankings have now been cleaned up. In addition the Pdf complete results must be added to resultreporter.

b) World Tour Race

In the World Tour Race the ranking groups must be the same like in the World Rankings, but only Men Singles, Women Singles, Seniors Singles and Juniors Singles will awarded by FIR at the end of the year.

c) Juniors Rankings

The Juniors Rankings have been reviewed, mixed doubles is still to be introduced after Double World Champs.

d) Filter

For both Seniors and Juniors a filter shall be integrated in the Rankings, so that e.g. each age group can be displayed separately. 45+ shows all players, 55+ only the ones over 55 and so on.

e) Seniors Women 45+

Shall be started from 2011 including a ranking group.

f) Points Matrix

Hakan Granberg has come up with a proposal for a new points matrix from 2012. It would mean that the gap between first and last players is widened and the top 4-8 players are progressively rewarded. FIR Council asks Poku to work on the new matrix and present at next Council Meeting.

To Do:

- Marcel to make sure with Rickard that the pdf with complete results is added and ask about integrated filter.
- John Buchanan to prepare Women +45 Rankings and Juniors Mixed Double Rankings to go online 1st June.
- Poku to prepare new matrix suggestion for next Council Meeting

4) Olympic Draws (Marcel Weigl)

Marc is now doing all Olympic Draws Men Elite Singles, Women Elite Singles, Men Elite Doubles, Women Doubles, Mixed Doubles by FIR. When possible draws shall be done in public at other tournaments two weeks in advance. FIR is now executing from 2012 strictly the pull out and no show rule, that players have to pay the full entry fee no matter what the reason for pulling out after the entry deadline. FIR has a list and informs players plus bans them if they have not paid yet. For that reason and the many pairs the new classed Mixed Doubles B – Amateur shall be introduced.

To Do:

- Marc to suggest a procedure with the Webcam for live draws
- Marcel to open up Mixed Doubles B - Class

5) World Tour (Marcel Weigl)

a) World Tour 2011

The World Tour 2011 has started off well with record number of entries in Malmö, Prague and Milano. The modus for Champions League 2011 in Győr was defined in the country representatives meeting with the same as team world champs plus 1 mixed double.

b) World Tour 2012

After the big success of entries for Doubles and Teams World Champs, these two shall stay together in 2012. The Tournament Regulations for 2012 shall now be reviewed by Marcel Weigl and Karim Hanna and shall be sent out to all countries in the end of May. Application deadline for 2012 is 30th of June. Stockholm (Enskede Rackethall now bigger), London (close to Olympic Summer games) and Zürich (opening of a new sports centre) are interested in Singles World Champs or Doubles and Teams; Prague in Doubles and Teams for 2012. From 2012 FIR shall publish a list of official balls required in all sports for Olympic Draws.

To Do:

- Marcel and Karim to review Tournament Regulations and mail to member countries
- Marcel to prepare list of required balls for Olympic Draws

6) Tournament Support (Marcel on behalf of Ray Jordan)

It is still hard to find FIR Delegates and the contact by Ray to the tournament directors most happen earlier. At the moment Marcel is the one having the most contact and it is too much work for him. It would be an idea to start a work shop at the tournament with the next Council Meeting and try to find Delegates who are not from the Council, like Christoph Krenn in Prague. From 2012 Tournament Delegates shall not only have free accommodation, but also free boarding.

Tournament Delegates 2011: Malmö (Marcel), Prague (Christoph Krenn), Milano (Marcel), Oudenaarde (Ray), Granby (?), Zürich (?), Rotterdam (?), Sofia (Marcel), Heidelberg (?), London (Ray), Linden (?), Kauniainen (?), Győr (Marcel), Vienna (Marcel)

To Do:

- Ray to find Delegates for all SWT and IWT tournaments in time and inform tournaments
- Marcel to develop with Rickard an online evaluation sheet on RR

7) Rules (Karim Hanna)

a) Rules Documents

Karim reports that he has done all implementations in the Rules of Racketlon and the Players and Draws Regulations and presents the Council a Powerpoint Presentation (see attachment) with an explanation of our rules. For Champions League and National Team Rules separate documents shall be produced. For future World Champs Junior and Seniors Rankings shall determine the positions of play in Juniors and Seniors Tournaments. The Tournament Regulations shall be reviewed for 2012 before they are e-mailed to all our countries for tournament applications.

b) Voting Power

In the Powerpoint different possibilities with pros and cons for a review of the current voting power at the Annual General Meeting are listed. Council has decided to stick to the current system in principle, where votes are based on the number of players in the World Rankings, but basic votes shall be reduced from 2 to 1 (now that all federations are legal and registered) and the maximum number of votes per country shall be 5. The new system must be passed by AGM.

To Do:

- Karim to implement seeding rule for national teams and to create two new documents
- Karim to prepare new voting power system on basis of the new decision for AGM

8) Marketing (Marcel Weigl)

Marcel reports that there is no news from Marketing Officer Martti Vottonen and there is still no World Tour Sponsor for 2011 or 2012. The contract with Martti is thus not valid any longer and anyone can bring in sponsors. Austrian Sports Ministry was the only FIR sponsor in 2010 with 10.000€ (5000 cash + 5000 office rent). The same amount can be guaranteed 2011, but not in 2012. Gianpaolo Martire, who will run for Marketing Officer from 2012 can imagine to put up 5000€ in 2012 with small sponsors. Lennart Eklundh has had a first meeting with Stiga who might be interested because they are expanding their market to China. Marcel is in contact with Dunlop and with Luca Villa and Alessandro Rosso concerning a FIR Racketlon clothing line. The situation is urgent, something must be done for 2012 otherwise the finances of FIR will not break even.

To Do:

- Marcel and Gianpaolo to work on marketing concept 2012
- Marcel to contact Dunlop and work on clothing line
- Lennart to keep contact with Stiga
- All Council Members are reminded to help with ideas to get in more money

9) FIR Finances (Lennart Eklundh)

Lennart has presented the final result for 2010 and compared it with the previous years (see excel file Result FIR 2010). Also attached the prediction for 2011 (see attached excel file Budget 2011).

a) Final result for 2010

The actual result for 2010 is positive with 1094€, but tournament fees of 3637€ are still open. The final result though is negative with 5954€, because FIR had to pay debts of 7048€ from 2009 to resultreporter. The total income for 2010 thus was 33.749 Euro and the total costs 39.703€. Austrian Sports Ministry donated the sponsorship money of 10.000€ for opening the International FIR Office in Austria and via Players Licenses 11.590€ came in. FIR has 3988€ on the bank account on 31st of December 2010. For details check Excel File Result FIR 2010.

b) Prediction 2011

The preliminary budget by Treasurer Lennart Eklundh (see attached excel file Budget 2011), predicts an even budget of around 34.000€ for 2011.

c) Licenses 2011

Thanks to paypal nearly all 10€ license payments are now done via RR directly when players register for their first tournament in the year online. All tournaments are recommended to allow entries only with valid license. If licenses are paid at the tournament desk they now cost 12€.

d) Paypal Solution

There is a problem with paypal, because FIR bank account is in Sweden, but FIR registered in Austria. An option paypal does not offer, thus it is very expensive to take out the money from the paypal account and transfer to Swedish bank account. Either FIR opens a second seat in Sweden or a second bank account in Austria to solve this.

To Do:

- Lennart to let auditors check final result 2010
- Lennart and Marcel to find a solution for paypal

10) FIR New Website (Marcel)

a) Design and Functionality of New Website

Marcel reports that he and Rickard Tauson are intensively working on the new website. and integrating Racketlon.net with Resultreporter. It shall be finished and presented at AGM 2011 in Vienna. Three most important basics: must be easy to use; must be easy to upload many pictures at once, must have a divider on the frontpage for official FIR news and a blog section where everyone can post anything to do with Racketlon. Must have newsletter functionality.

a) Url of new Website

Hans Mullamaa still resists to hand over www.racketlon.com. FIR Council wants all country members to sign a petition to Hans Mullamaa and Peter Landberg that www.racketlon.com

because it is not even up to date is harming Racketlon and should be transferred to FIR. Other options to be looked into are www.internationalracketlon.com and www.racketlon.org because FIR is an organisation. The hosting company of www.racketlon.net shall be cancelled in Finland and transferred to Sweden where Resultreporter is also hosted.

To Do:

- Marcel and Rickard to prepare the new website
- Marcel to prepare a petition and put on Racketlon.net and RR and to check other urls
- Marcel to cancel host in Finland at first possible date

11) FIR Elections 2012 - 2014

At the Annual General Meeting 2011 during World Champs Singles (24.-27.11.2011) in Vienna/Austria elections for the new FIR Council from 2012 to 2014 will be held. Marcel has agreed to run as president again and will search for a team which will look a little different from now, due to step downs and lack of involvement by current Council Members. It shall involve Non-Europeans for the first time in FIR history and no more than one member per country shall be involved. At the same time it shall be published on www.racketlon.net and all member countries shall be informed that FIR is looking for Council Members and anyone can run for positions.

a) Current Council Membes

Marcel Weigl (Aut), President: will run again

Lennart Eklundh (Swe), Treasurer: will run again, can imagine Vice-President

Karim Hanna (Sui), Rules: will run again

Poku Salo (Fin), Rankings: will run again

Michael Dickert (Aut), World Tour: would run again, does not turn up for Council Meetings

Marc Veldkamp (Ned), Vice-President: has not given notice, is very busy with Squash Fed.

Marrti Vottonen (Fin), Marketing: has not given notice, but shows little involvement

Thomas Troedsson (Swe), RR: has not given notice, but shows little involvement

Ray Jordan (Eng), Tournament Support: will step down

b) Potential candidates

Gianpaolo Martire (Ita), Tournament Director and Marketing specialist

Manoranjan Mishra (Ind), President of India

Dany Lessard (Can), Nationalteam captain

Ahmad Bahadili (Iraq), lives in Switzerland with excellent contacts to Arab world

Gary Tovey (Eng), Involved in English Racketlon Association

To Do:

- Marcel to search for his Council Team 2012 – 2014
- Marcel to invite all players and member countries to put up candidates

Next Council Meetings

2. Bulgarian Racketlon Championships 22. – 24. July, Sofia or ALTERNATE Open 30.9. – 2. Oct, Frankfurt or Hungarian Open and Champions League 21. – 23. October, Győr

3. World Champs Singles 24. – 27. November, Vienna