
2nd FIR Council Meeting 2012
Friday 30th November 15:45 – 17:45
World Champs/Stockholm/Sweden

Present: Marcel Weigl, Lennart Eklundh, Poku Salo, Ahmad Bahadli, Puzant Kassabian, Dany Lessard, Karim Hanna, Keith Lesser, Thorsten Deck, Nathalie Zeoli

Preliminary Agenda

- 1) Welcome Note, FIR Members
- 2) Council Members
- 3) Resultreporter
- 4) Rankings
- 5) Olympic Draws
- 6) World Tour
- 7) Tournament Support
- 8) Rules
- 9) Marketing
- 10) FIR Finances
- 11) FIR Website and Social Media
- 12) Any other business

1) Welcome note, FIR Members (Marcel Weigl)

a) FIR Member Countries

- Marcel reports on collection of information of the member states and outstanding fees was very tiring and this shall paypal payment shall make this easier in future
- Marcel and Ahmads trip to Sportaccord in Lausanne was very positive. Membership 2013 looks very positive if 40 member countries are achieved
- Letter to ITTF - International Tabletennis Federation asking for recognition of FIR has been submitted
- Malaysia is the only country with no news. Council decides to exclude them from 2013
- New members 34, 35, 36 Armenia, New Zealand, Romania confirmed by Council
- Member 37 confirmed with the name F.Y.R.O.Macedonia (UN Convention)
- FIR Council decides that from 2013 players from non-FIR member countries have to register a national federation within 12 months otherwise no other players from the respective country may take part in any draw of RIR World Tour events
- Potential further members below, biggest hopes lie on countries:

Bangladesh	Manoranjan Mishra
Brasil	Manoel L Santana, Luiz Jimenez
China	Thorsten Deck
Croatia	Vedran Maljkovic
Egypt	Karim Hanna
Lebanon	Marc Mourad
Luxemburg	Tony Nightingale, Tom Pfeiffer, Maxim Levitin
Iceland	Arnþór Jón Þorvarðsson

Iraq	Ahmad Bahadli
Ireland	Judy Lambert
Japan	Hirona Sudo
Nepal	Manoranjan Mishra
Norway	Lennart Eklundh, Gus Hansen
Portugal	Luis Barbossa, Jacob de Vries
Qatar	Alexandru Rosca
Serbia	Puzant Kassabian
Turkey	Emre Ak, Ersoy Koror
Ukraine	Aija Klaseva
Wales	Peter Bridgeman
Zimbabwe	Jessica Calder

2) Council Members (Marcel Weigl)

- Marketing Officer Gianpaolo Martire steps down from his Council position due to other working commitments
- Social Media Officer Gary Tovey is not reachable and thus Council decides to substitute him
- FIR Council suggests Phil Todd from England as new Social Media Officer and world number one Nathalie Zeoli from Germany (one of the biggest Racketon countries) as new Marketing Officer.
- Both positions for 2013-2014 shall be confirmed by FIR Annual General Meeting

3) Resultreporter (Marcel Weigl on behalf of Rickard Tauson)

- National version of RR started in Austria and will start in Germany and Sweden beginning of 2013
- England requests the introduction of paypal for entry fees for all tournaments and option yes/no as for license. This shall be introduced during 2013
- Marcel reports of latest implementations such as w.o./retirements and meeting with Rickard during World Champs. The following shall be fixed 2013:

Priority 1: layout

- Header on www.resultreporter.com; what is Racketlon?
- Integration of FIR Logo as a button with Racketlon-News as a title on top
- Block with news (top two stories from racketlon.net) and latest short news
- Button Link to RR APP, Links to social media more prominent, lower down
- Pictures must be taken out from RR only link to www.racketlon.net
- Clear cut to national versions in the column on the right side

Priority 2: National version

- Austria, Germany, will join first step
- Language translations to later point
- Tournament Box

Priority 3. Further developments

- Check Manual
- RR Live Matchpoint indicator
- RR Live Improve error handling
- Doubles sorting according to world ranking
- Match times below schedule
- Juniors and Seniors Rankings, Filter

4) Rankings (Poku Salo)

- What still needs to be done is 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.
- Marcel starts the discussion that only 8 tournaments valid for the world rankings in two years is too few with now 15 FIR tournaments plus challengers annually and was created at a time the World Tour had 10 to 12 tournaments a year. Thus FIR Council proposes a new system from 2013, where a limit for the tournament categories shall be introduced and also Challengers must be included.
- After a long discussion on advantages and disadvantages FIR Council decides on a rise from 8 to 12 tournaments in the last 24 months. In addition these 12 tournaments can include a maximum of 2 WC and 4 SWT and at least 2 Challengers

5) Olympic Draws (Poku Salo)

- Strict Olympic entry deadline for singles works fine and leads to much less no shows and pull outs and players only have to pay the entry fee no penalties. Council members and FIR Delegates also have to pay if they don't show even if they normally would not pay
- Entry deadline for all draws (not only Olympic) from 2013 two weeks before tournament start on Resultreporter, then only e-mail late entries allowed by tournament organisers
- Marcel presents black list of elite players still owing entry fees and asks Council to confirm procedure for the future. Protest from some elite players has been accepted by FIR, but players like Lars Bosselmann who pulled out on the FIR World Tour 2012 three times are a big problem. Thus Council decides that from 2013 players in Olympic draws who can provide flight tickets or medical proof will have to pay the entry fee only. All others an additional fine of 100€ per pull out from one tournament no matter from how many draws

6) World Tour (Ahmad Bahadli, Marcel Weigl)

- The total number of Challengers 2012 was only 2, which is a catastrophe really. FIR has received AGM request by Austria to achieve more Challengers 2013 (see attachment), by not asking players to pay license fees for the first Challenger 2013 per country
- World Tour 2012, numbers nearly the same like 2011 see AGM 2012
- World Tour 2013, electronic application sheet used for first time. The result is excellent with 14 tournaments well spread over the year and Toronto and Sofia as new SWT events
- Marcel has held meetings with both organisers of the Single World Champs in Zürich as well as the Double and Team World Champs 2013 in the Netherlands during the World Champs in Stockholm
- Council accepts the suggestion of the Czech Republic for the Team World Champs 2013 with an introduction of Seniors +55 with 2 singles, 1 double, respectively four mail players
- Sportaccord has asked why no continental championships in Racketlon take places such as European Champs, African Champs and so forth and recommended an introduction in the coming years. Thus we need a new system with World Champs only every 2 years and continental champs every other year. Council decides that as Single World Champs 2014 are already fixed in London, the first year for Continental Championships instead of worlds will be 2015.
- No continental federations shall be formed, rather representatives of all continents nominated by FIR, which shall be responsible to organise these continental champs

7) Tournament Support (Dany Lessard, Marcel Weigl)

- The quality of many especially IWT tournaments is too low (especially referee situation) and needs to be improved in order to get sponsors. Also the FIR Delegates are sometimes very careless especially as most of them come from the same country where the tournament takes place
- Online evaluation sheets shall be online from 2013 for the delegates to fill out
- FIR has for that reason introduced a FIR Delegate seminar twice a year, which all delegates need to visit at least once annually. The first seminar was held during world champs in Stockholm and a total of 13 delegates are nominated by FIR for 2013. In addition the FIR Delegate may no longer be from the same country where the tournament is taking place

Bahadli	Ahmad	IRQ
Deck	Thorsten	GER
Eklundh	Lennart	SWE
Hanna	Karim	SUI
Gersdorf	Joachim	GER
Hougaard	Kresten	DEN
King	Graham	SUI
Krenn	Christoph	AUT
Lessard	Dany	CAN

Mishra	Manoranjan	IND
Van Daele	Hans	BEL
Weigl	Marcel	AUT
Wieth	Christian	BEL

8) Rules (Karim Hanna)

- All documents have been updated and are online
- Tournament Regulations modifications for Double World Champs done
- New document Tournament World Ranking points is to be published by Karim Hanna beginning of 2013
- FIR Champions League needs to be clarified and written down, as per order of play and which teams may participate and which players may be on the teams. Suggestion by England like in European Squash is down as a request for the AGM

9) Marketing (Marcel Weigl)

- Meeting between Marcel and Marketing Officer GP Martire never took place although Marcel gave many options. GP resigned due to working commitments or other reasons
- Lennart reminds that FIR definitely needs sponsoring from 2013 as a huge amount of around 6480€ by the Austrian Sports Ministry falls away
- Gus Hansen is trying to help FIR with getting a World Tour title sponsor
- Council suggest from 2014 to increase FIR membership fee based on number of votes
- World champs participation certificate for all players for the future

10) FIR Finances (Lennart Eklundh)

- 2011 final result plus 1526€ signed by auditors, what is the total FIR actually has on 1.1.12
- 2012 preliminary result is a plus of 291€
- 2013 preview is a minus of 4930€ if no sponsors are found

11) FIR New Website and Social Media (Marcel Weigl)

- Social Media Officer Gary Tovey did little but created a FIR facebook account. Keith Lesser has recommended Phil Todd to take over, who seems engaged and has been in contact with Marcel. Needs exist for a Social Media Officer to take care of the following:
 - Feed facebook account before and after big world tour events
 - Create and keep updated a you-tube channel on www.racketlon.net
 - Send instructions and help tournaments upload fotos on our new Flickr account
 - Think about opening a Twitter account?
 - Any other social media action you would like to introduce

- www.racketlon.net
 - Feeds, icons lower down
 - Button Resultreporter plus link
 - You tube Button plus link
 - Foto stream integration from flickr examples on www.hla.at
 - Button for App

- User blog change to Short News and move it up
- Take away avatar and author of articles on frontpage but leave publish date
- Pictures of stories bigger, size like top players on top
- Break insert
- Advertisements build three main types, sizes com from marcel
- Tournaments list 2013 show all tournaments. Bottom link to older tournaments on www.resultreporter.com
- Tournament evaluation sheet

12) Any other business (Marcel)

- Request by Austria to let the AGM sign a petition asking Hans Mullamaa to return www.racketlon.com to its true owners FIR. Hans registered the domain in his role as International President. He also holds the trademark Racketlon since 16.9.2002. FIR Council agrees that Keith Lesser and Karim Hanna shall talk to Hans first to find out more about his intentions.
- Hall of Fame on www.racketlon.net shall be introduced to give honour to players and officials which have helped the development of worldwide Racketlon. FIR Council agree on Magnus Eliasson, Lilian Druve, Pär Carleke, Peter Landberg and Stuart Foster
- After the retirement of Gianpaolo Martire FIR urgently needs a graphical person, who can help with simple things like new World Tour Logos free of charge
- Keith Lesser mentions the importance of google alerts and recommends it to FIR Council
Benefit is that ANYTIME Racketlon is mentioned in an online article or in a newspaper, a new article is published on Racketlon, etc - google will send you an email with the link.
Steps:
 1. Visit <http://www.google.com/alerts>
 2. Fill in form:
 - a) search query: Racketlon
 - b) result type: everything
 - c) how often: personal preference - I selected as it happens
 - d) how many: all results

FIR-Executive President Marcel Weigl, 18. December 201

Council Meetings 2013: 1st TBA, 2nd Friday 22nd November Zürich (World Champs)