



FIR member nations
FIR Potential member nations,

FIR - Fédération Internationale de Racketlon

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Vienna 29th June 2013

1st FIR Council Meeting 2013
Friday 31st May 21:15 – 23:45
King of Rackets/Oudenaarde/Belgium

Present: Marcel Weigl, Lennart Eklundh, Poku Salo, Ahmad Bahadli, Phil Todd
and ExpertsThorsten Deck, Keith Lesser

Excused: Karim Hanna, Nathalie Zeoli, Puzant Kassabian, Dany Lessard

Agenda

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

1) Welcome note, FIR Members (Marcel Weigl)

a) FIR Member Countries

- New members 38 Iraq, 39 Ireland and 40 Brazil shall be confirmed by Council
- Croatia and Turkey have followed by end of June. With Malaysia excluded and Scotland not counted the number will be exactly the needed 40 at time of application deadline
- Sportaccord membership deadline is 11th of July 2013 for 2014 applications
- Maxim Levitin at Sportaccord convention in St. Petersburg

- Letter of recognition of FIR has been submitted by World and European Squash Federation. International Tabletennis Federation president has promised letter at meeting with Ahmad Bahadli at World Champs in Paris. Puzant Kassabian has meeting with World Badminton Federation in Malaysia to obtain letter
- Recognitions by national sports federations still needed, Council member countries Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, England to push further
- USA needs to move federation

Big hopes for the future:

Japan	Hirona Sudo
Qatar	Alexandru Rosca
Ghana	Conny Schmickl

Further Possibilities:

Bangladesh	Manoranjan Mishra
China	Thorsten Deck
Egypt	Karim Hanna
Lebanon	Marc Mourad
Luxemburg	Tony Nightingale, Tom Pfeiffer, Maxim Levitin
Iceland	Arnþór Jón Þorvarðsson
Nepal	Manoranjan Mishra
Norway	Lennart Eklundh, Gus Hansen
Portugal	Luis Barbossa, Jacob de Vries
Serbia	Puzant Kassabian
Ukraine	Aija Klaseva
Wales	Peter Bridgeman
Zimbabwe	Jessica Calder

2) Resultreporter (Marcel Weigl)

- National version of RR has started with Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and UK
- Paypal integration to collect tournament fees together with the entry is now tested
- Layout new header for www.resultreporter.com and www.racketlon.net is about to go online
- Important issue is the clear cut for national RR versions
- The situation of FIR is a "cheap" customer is not easy. It takes ages before things get done correctly and RR is expensive for FIR
- On basis of the meeting with King of Rackets Tournament organisation, FIR Council has decided to evaluate Tournament Software as a possible alternative. A meeting shall be arranged during Team and Double World Champs in the Netherlands

RR done this year

- 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

Further important 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

3) 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.
- The decision to rise from 8 to 12 tournaments (max. 2 WC, max. 4 SWT and min. 2 Challenger) in the last 24 months will now be implemented on 1st January 2014. On 1st July 2013 the best 10 tournaments shall count (max. 2 WC, max. 4 SWT and min. 1 Challenger).
- FIR Council decides to introduce a Seniors 65+ Class for the Single World Champs in Zürich
- FIR-Delegates must make sure that the results of all tournaments are checked and corrected faster so that Poku can do last check before the rankings are published.

4) Olympic Draws (Poku Salo)

- Entry fees and penalties of 100€ for players not turning up at olympic draw is an administrative impossible task to follow. At least paypal for entry fees shall make this easier
- Problem with players not turning up for placement matches in all and especially Olympic draws. FIR cannot decide on a solution at least players should be asked to tell the tournament desk if they don't play any longer
- Problems with players not turning up for prize giving ceremonies. First solution strictly no more medals or trophies to anyone in advance. In addition two prize giving ceremonies must be held at each tournament. Saturday night and Sunday after tournament

5) World Tour (Ahmad Bahadli, Marcel Weigl)

- Challenger offensive with no license fees has brought an increase from 2 in 2012 to 8 Challengers 2013 with new tournaments in Israel, Slovenia, South Africa, Poland and Romania
- World Tour 2013, numbers of Vienna, Sweden, Czech, Hungarian are about the same as 2012. SWT in Toronto was very successful at comeback, Bulgarian International behind expectations
- SWT Canada needed an official exception for the cut-off rule in men and women elite. This shall be granted to non-european tournaments for the time being.
- FIR grants Team and Double World Champs in the Netherlands request to allow two extra amateur teams per country
- World Champs in Zürich request the introduction of a 5th men class called Fun and have sent a request including world ranking points suggestion. FIR accepts the proposal but changes class to first timers who shall never have taken part in an international Racketlon tournament. Participation document for players to be prepared.
- World Tour 2014, electronic application sheet used again. Preliminary request for SWT dates has been sent to tournament directors. First application deadline is 30th of June.
- FIR accepts proposal by Keith Lesser that World Champs singles 2014 are granted an exception and will be held in Summer (17th to 19th July) at a perfect venue in Surrey
- After the last Council decision of introducing Continental Championships from 2015 the following representatives of the continents have been contacted and are now confirmed by FIR Council to organise and decide on the first ever continental championships in: Asia, Manoranjan Mishra (India); Africa, Patric Kalous (South Africa); America, Dany Lessard (Canada); Oceania, Jason Granville (New Zealand); Europe, FIR Headoffice (Marcel Weigl)

6) Tournament Support (Dany Lessard, Marcel Weigl)

- FIR Delegate seminar has been held in Stockholm and now again in Belgium. The next one will be held during Single World Champs in Zürich. The new delegates are a big help to improve tournament quality, especially referee situation
- Online evaluation sheets shall be online for the delegates to fill out soon

7) Rules (Karim Hanna)

- FIR Tournament Regulations for 2014 by Karim and Marcel are approved by FIR Council
- World Champs entry fees allowance increased to 70€, Fee per player 8€ single entry and 6€ double entry. Prize money for SWT and World Champs increased to 5000€
- FIR Players and Draws Regulations have been updated for 2013
- New document FIR Ranking Regulations has been published for 2013
- FIR Champions League rules have been changed and updated for 2013

8) Marketing (Thorsten Deck)

- No more money from sports ministry of Austria except 5000€ per month office costs
- Thorsten Deck has made a new marketing presentation in German
- Thorsten has given Marcel two or three contacts, but Marcel no time to contact them intensively
- Marcel has tried Unibet but no luck, Keith will try 365
- Lennart will try to get hold of Gus Hansen for support again
- Marcel presents subsidiaries possibilities from European Union, but application procedure very tough and time intensive and chances very small
- Council suggest from 2014 to increase FIR membership fee based on number of votes

9) FIR Finances (Lennart Eklundh)

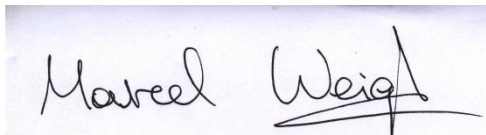
- Lennart presents the summary of the results of the last years
- Italy has now re-elected its council together with Bulgaria they owe 1438€
- 2012 Lennart shows final result 1308 Euro
- 2013 Lennart shows prediction with a minus of 6550 Euro
- The situation of FIR is very bad. FIR needs to employ one person 40h per week to continue with the daily work. To continue like this is impossible!

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

- Situation with new Social Media officer Phil Todd very much improved
- Facebook and youtube channel (link www.racketlon.net needed) opened and working
- Racketlon group of Gary Tovey shall also stay online. Pictures from World Tour events on Facebook. Phil Todd to inform tournament directors how it works
- Twitter shall be introduced and taken care of by Keith Lesser
- www.racketlon.net Done: Button Resultreporter plus link, Foto stream integration from flickr
Button for App, Short News and move it up, Pictures of stories bigger, size like top players

11) Any other business (Marcel)

- Lennart reports on the Trademark Racketlon and the offer from Hans Mullamaa, that Lennart shall own parts of the trademark Racketlon
- Hall of Fame was now opened on www.racketlon.net with Magnus Eliasson, Lilian Druve, Pär Carleke and Peter Landberg. FIR Council accepts offer for new member Jan Vercammen Tournament Director of King of Rackets who was honoured at the tournament
- After the retirement of Gianpaolo Martire FIR urgently needs a graphics person, who can help with simple things like new World Tour Logos free of charge. Phil suggests an Indian business partner of his
- Keith Lesser mentions the importance of google alerts again and recommends it to FIR Council
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 on 29th of June

Next FIR Meetings

- **2nd Council Meeting 2013: Friday 22nd November (evening) in Zürich World Champs**
- **Annual General Meeting 2013: Saturday 23rd November (9:00 a.m.) Zürich**