

FIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

Sat. 23. November 9:00 a.m.
VITIS Sport Centre/Zurich
Switzerland



AGENDA

1. Welcome note & member status
2. Sportaccord membership
3. Confirmation of finances and minutes AGM 2012
4. Report of the FIR Council 2013
5. Financial report 2013, preview 2014
6. Members report 2013
7. Council preview 2014
8. Requests by FIR members and FIR Council
9. Any other business

1. WELCOME NOTE

➤ Confirmation President and Country Representatives

➤ 42 members, 5 new countries in 2013 (in red)

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Armenia, 1 | 16. Greece, 1 | 31. Pakistan, 1 |
| 2. Australia, 1 | 17. Hong Kong – China, 1 | 32. Poland, 2 |
| 3. Austria, 6 | 18. Hungary, 3 | 33. Romania, 1 |
| 4. Belgium, 4 | 19. India, 1 | 34. Russia, 1 |
| 5. Brazil, 1 | 20. Iraq, 1 | 35. Scotland, 1 |
| 6. Bulgaria, 2 | 21. Ireland, 1 | 36. Slovakia, 1 |
| 7. Canada, 3 | 22. Israel, 1 | 37. Slovenia, 1 |
| 8. Croatia, 1 | 23. Italy, 2 | 38. South Africa, 1 |
| 9. Czech Republic, 3 | 24. Latvia, 1 | 39. Sweden, 6 |
| 10. Denmark, 2 | 25. Liechtenstein, 1 | 40. Switzerland, 6 |
| 11. England, 6 | 26. F.Y.R.O. Macedonia, 1 | 41. Turkey, 1 |
| 12. Estonia, 1 | 27. Malaysia, 1 | 42. USA, 1 |
| 13. Finland, 4 | 28. Mongolia, 1 | |
| 14. France, 2 | 29. Netherlands, 2 | |
| 15. Germany, 6 | 30. New Zealand, 1 | |
- Total 85 votes (>50% = 43)

1.2 POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

- Bangladesh, Manoranjan Mishra has visited them
- China, first contacts
- Egypt, Karim Hanna is in contact
- Lebanon, Marc Mourad has played on World Tour
- Luxemburg, Tony Nightingale has played World Champs
- Iceland, Anbor Jon Porbarsson first contacts
- Japan, Hiron first Japanese player ever at English Open
- Nepal, Manoranjan Mishra is in contact
- Norway, Lennart Eklundh in Squash contact
- Portugal, Still hoping for Jacob de Vries/Luis Barbossa
- Qatar, Alexandra Rosca has played on World Tour
- Serbia, Puzant Kassabian in contact
- Ukraine, Aija Klaseva first contacts
- Zimbabwe, Jessica Calder first contacts through Patric Kalous
- Malta, Duncan Stahl
- Morocco, Ahmad Bahadli

➤ **Why is FIR membership so important?**

From 2014 players from non-fir members may not play on the FIR World Tour in ANY DRAWS!

2. SPORTACCORD MEMBERSHIP

Sportaccord (former GAISF - General Association of International Sports Federations) groups together international sports federations. Sportaccords role consists in recognizing, assisting and representing the International Federations in realms of common interest within the Olympic and Sports Movement and governmental and non-governmental bodies. To become Sportaccord member Racketlon must be played in 40 countries on three continents around the world and FIR must count the same number of legally registered national federations, of which 10 must be recognised by the NSF - National Sports Federations or NOC – National Olympic Comitees..

➤ Sportaccord membership rejected

- National Registration paper of Non-Profit-Organisation including translation
- Statutes including short translation
- Paper stating recognition of FIR as sole body of worldwide Racketlon
- If available: recognition paper of national NSA or NOC
- Letter by international Squash federation exists
- FIR now has 42 member countries
- Scotland not counted as Sportaccord only accepts United Kingdom as one
- 4 FIR members are Badminton federations: Armenia, Bulgaria, Iraq, Macedonia
- 3 FIR members are clubs: Croatia, Turkey, Romania
- Only 11 FIR members recognised by NSF or NOC

2. SPORTACCORD MEMBERSHIP

Next steps 2014:

- Badminton federations and clubs to form real national Racketlon federations
- Meet president Vizer personally in Budapest
- Appeal against membership rejection, try to get back application fee
- Prepare membership application 2014
- Letter by International Tabletennis federation promised at meeting in Paris, Badminton and Tennis needed
- National federations simple websites online
- Continental Championships (European Champs, African Champs etc.)

Membership is so important for FIR:

- Officially recognized sport worldwide
- Funds from EC or other public institutions
- Guarantee of seriousness for sponsors
- Seriousness for media coverage and betting companies
- Funds for national Racketlon federations
- To be independent from the 4 racket sports TT, BAD, SQ and TE

3. CONFIRMATION OF FINANCES AND MINUTES AGM 2012

- Confirmation Minutes AGM Fr. 30.11. 2012, Stockholm/Sweden
- Confirmation financial report 2012 with a profit of 1308 Euro, see Excel file
- Bookkeepers have checked and signed financial report 2012 as follows

Revisionsrapport.

Undertecknad har granskat bokföring och redovisning (2012-0101-2012-12-31) för FIR, Federation International de Racketlon, och funnit allt i god ordning. Jag rekommenderar därför årsmötet att godkänna densamma.

Translation:

I have read and checked the bookkeeping and accountancy of FIR, Federation de International de Racketlon, for the year 2012 (2012-0101-2012-1231), and found them in good order and that the money was used in a manner as stated in the FIR statutes according to the "Vereinsgesetz" in Austria, where FIR has its seat. I therefore recommend the AGM to confirm the accounting of 2012.

FIR-Auditors

Håkan Granberg, Stefan Adamsson

4. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2013

- FIR-Executive President: Marcel Weigl (Aut)
- Balkan Countries: Puzant Kassabian (Bul)
- Rankings/Draws: Poku Salo (Fin)
- Rules: Karim Hanna (Sui)
- Subsidiaries/Arab countries: Ahmad Bahadli (Irr)
- Tournament Support/America: Dany Lessard (Can)
- Marketing: Nathalie Zeoli (Ger)
- Social Media: Phil Todd (Eng)
- Vice President/Treasurer: Lennart Eklundh (Swe)

4.1 PRESIDENT MARCEL WEIGL

- Running FIR Office with RFA in Austria/Klosterneuburg
Present around 15h/week, Mo 7-16, Fri 7-13
No rent, around 400€ operational costs/month
- Subsidiaries from Austrian Government for rent and Sportaccord membership application 8250 Euro 2012
- Sportaccord Membership Application
- Improvements of www.resultreporter.com and www.racketlon.net
- World Tour and Tournament Support
- E-Mail correspondence with players and officials
- Publications: WT Posters, 4th Edition of FIR Magazine at Austrian Open
- World Tour history, collection of statistics and pictures
- Delegation of jobs in FIR, calling for Council Meetings, AGMs, Seminars

SPECIAL PROJECTS 2013

- Contact and evaluate Tournament Software as an alternative to Resultreporter
- Ahmad Bahadli meets president of International Tabletennis Federation at World Championships in Paris
- Resultreporter national versions implemented for 6 countries: Austria, United Kingdom, Sweden, Romania, Germany, Denmark
- Social media implementation and improvement
- FIR Delegate Seminar: many new delegates
- Increase quality of FIR World Tour events
- Increase and continue Internet live streaming on FIR World Tour

WORLD RANKING EVENTS 2013

- Around 2386 Total no. of Single Entries, 623 Double Entries
- Plus 486 compared to 1900 single entries 2012
- Plus 123 compared to 500 double entries 2012
- 14 World Tour events: 2 WC, 4 SWT, 8 IWT (14 in 2011; 15 in 2012)
- 7 Challengers (4 in 2011; 2 in 2012)
- Licenses via Resultreporter work very well, 2/3 paid this way
- **Biggest problem referees in olympic draws**

4.2 BALKAN COUNTRIES PUZANT KASSABIAN

- Foundation of Balkan Racketlon Federation with members Macedonia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania
- Super World Tour event in Sofia big success
- Turkey became FIR member
- Serbia is about to become FIR member
- Comeback of Greece expected

4.3 RANKINGS POKU SALO

- RULE CHANGE 2014: Best 12 tournaments (instead of 8) in 24 months count. Of these 12 tournaments a maximum of 4 SWT, 2 WC and at least 2 need to be Challengers
- In force from 1.1.2014
- olympic draws important tournaments live on video stream

4.4 RULES KARIM HANNA

- FIR has 4 set of rules: AGM: Rules of Racketlon, Statutes
- Council: Players & Draws Regulations, Tournament Regulations
- FIR Rules of Racketlon adapted: Code of conduct NEW (1.1.2014)
- FIR Tournament Regulations NEW (1.1.2014)
- FIR Players and Draws Regulations NEW will also be adapted (1.1.2014)
- FIR Referee Seminar planned World Champs 2014
- Karim Hanna has final decision for anything not in the rules

4.5 SUBSIDIARIES/ARAB COUNTRIES AHMAD BAHADLI

- Iraq Badminton Federation became FIR member
- Personal meeting with president of international Tabletennis federation in Paris for support letter of FIR. This has been promised but not reached FIR head office yet
- Participation certificate World Champs

4.6 AMERICA DANY LESSARD

- Working on solution to move federation in the USA: Atlanta, New York, Connecticut
- SWT first time in Montreal
- Brazil became FIR member
- First continental American Championships shall take place 2015 as on all continents
- National Team Canada and USA for World Champs in Poznan

4.7 MARKETING

- Only sponsoring 2013 3250€ cash Austrian Government for FIR Sportaccord membership
- In addition 5000€ office costs by Austrian Government for office together with RFA – Racketlon Federation Austria
- Problem to find sponsors, because FIR is not officially recognised by Sportaccord yet
- Problem to find sponsors because nobody takes the time and responsibility to do it
- Betting companies like Betandwin contacted, Racketlon not professional enough and connected to the referee situation
- Unique Logo usage on all FIR World Tour printed materials
- FIR needs to find a person connected to the Racketlon community, who sponsors to make the sport professional because of his passion for Racketlon

4.8 SOCIAL MEDIA PHIL TODD

- Phil Todd new Social Media Officer takes charge
- Facebook account opened and active
- Youtube Channel opened and top videos on it
- Flickr, FIR pictures from tournaments now on. Best solution still looked into
- Twitter, Keith Lesser takes care of it on his own account

4.9 TREASURER LENNART EKLUNDH

- Balances 2012 finished and signed by auditors
- Auditors Hakan Granberg, Stefan Adamsson
- Forecast financial report 2013 presented
- Balances 2006 - 2012
- Budget 2014 presented



5. FINANCES 2013, BUDGET 2014

6. MEMBERS REPORT 2013

- Due to lack of time the members sent their reports 2013 per e-mail answering four questions see AGM minutes

7. COUNCIL PREVIEW 2014

FIR World Tour 2014

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. IWT | Vienna Classics | Austria | 31 Jan. – 2 February |
| 2. IWT | Swedish Open | Malmö | 21 - 23 February |
| 3. SWT | Canadian Open | Montreal | 7 – 9 March |
| 4. IWT | Czech Open | Prague | 11 – 13 April |
| 5. IWT | Hungarian Open | Budapest | 2 - 4 May |
| 6. SWT | Danish Open | Lyngby/Copenhagen | 16 – 18 May |
| 7. SWT | King of Rackets | Oudenaarde/Belgium | 6 – 8 June |
| 8. IWT | Swiss Open | Zurich | 27 – 29 June |
| 9. IWT | Dutch Open | Zoetermeer | 11 – 13 July |
| 10. IWT | German Open | Nussloch | 25 – 27 July |
| 11. IWT | Bulgarian Int. Championships | Sofia/Bulgaria | 8 – 10 August |
| 12. WC | 14th FIR World Champs Singles | Surrey/London | 21 – 24 August |
| 13. SWT | Austrian Open | Wr. Neudorf/Vienna | 5 – 7 September |
| 14. IWT | Romanian Open | Constanta | 19 – 21 September |
| 15. IWT | Finnish Open | Kauniainen/Helsinki | 3 – 5 October |
| 16. WC | FIR World Champs Doubles & Teams | Poznan/Poland | 20 – 23 November |

7. COUNCIL PREVIEW 2014

- Convert FIR members Badminton federations and clubs to national Racketlon federations
- Recognition of more FIR members by NSF or NOC
- Preparation for 2nd Sportaccord application
- Players can only take part in FIR World Tour events from FIR member countries
- Continue FIR Delegate education, improve referee situation including Referee seminar, implement Rules of conduct on the FIR World Tour 2014
- Preparation for 2015 Introduction of Continental Championships
- Sponsors for World Tour and subsidiaries for FIR must be found
- Solution for quick and easy upload of tournament pictures
- Implementation of Tournament Software for all FIR World Ranking events
- Work on alternative ideas to finance a head office with at least two employees
- Find a president with a famous name, who can take over and bring in money
- Prepare elections Council elections and work on structure of FIR 2015-2017

7. TOURNAMENT SOFTWARE

- Publicity: attract players of other racket sports TT, BA, SQ
- Inhouse solution: Database and rankings all in one
- Draws: better visibility, automatic time schedule
- Statistics: full matches, head to head, career high
- Sign in: with age and gender limitations
- National versions with very low costs
- Payment: Online for licenses and entry fees
- Cost effective: 2014 same as RR, following years 50% cheaper

- Offline System, publish every 15 min
- No live scoring in first year
- No iPhone APP in first year

8. REQUESTS BY FIR COUNCIL

➤ **Adaption of Rules of Racketlon**

In principle there are no major changes of the rules requested. In contrary a clearer definition of some points concerning especially the rules of conduct and the gummiarm point are suggested in the document which has last been updated on 1st of January 2011.

➤ **Increase of FIR membership fees to 50€ per vote/per country 100€ per vote/country**

Currently the annual FIR membership fee for all countries is 50€. FIR Council judges this as not quite fair as the countries with more votes have more power, thus should also contribute with a higher membership fee. This would not raise the fees for the developing countries and lead to a maximum fee of 300€ per country, as 6 votes per country is the maximum.

8. REQUESTS BY FIR MEMBERS

➤ **RFA - Racketlon Federation Austria: Change of Champions League Rules**

As organizer of the FIR Champions League 2014 in Austria, we would like to request the following rule changes in order make the organisation easier and to attract more teams:

4 matches: 3 men singles, 1 mixed double (instead of currently 5)

Minimum 5 players: 4 men and 1 women (instead of currently 7)

All other rules of participation including the gentlemen's agreement (minimum 50% players from home country) as decided last year shall stay upright.

Kind Regards, Christoph Krenn RFA-General Secretary

➤ **DRaV – Deutscher Racketlon Verband e.V.**

Der Deutsche Racketlon Verband stellt hiermit folgenden Antrag bei der Generalversammlung am 24.Oktober 2013:

- Bei allen Turnieren der FIR Serie, sowie offiziellen Challenger Turnieren, sollen Jugendliche unter 21 Jahren, die nur in Jugendklassen starten, ein maximales Nenngeld von 20 Euro im Einzel bezahlen.

Bei einem Start in der Allgemeinen Klasse sollen sie nach wie vor dieselben Nenngelder wie Erwachsene bezahlen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Thorsten Deck DRaV-Präsident

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- FIR Council has decided to honour English Open organiser Richard Lawrence who passed away recently and welcome him to the FIR hall of fame
- FIR website improve layout, volunteer Jesper Ratzer
- Racketlon Women's Association founded 2013
- Physio on World Tour 2014
- World Tour Poster, Cards
- Questionnaire



THANK YOU FOR your trust
AND YOUR WORK FOR
RACKETLON!