

## MINUTES FIR AGM 2013

(Important Attachment Power Point Presentation AGM 2013)

**Saturday 23rd November, 9:15 – 11.15**

**VITIS Sportscentre (next door Building), Zurich Switzerland**

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AGM headed by FIR-Executive President Marcel Weigl

### 39 Present Countries

		Total votes 77
1. Armenia	Nikolay Angelov, Representative	votes 1
2. Australia	votes to New Zealand	votes 1
3. Austria	Martin Schifko, President	votes 6
4. Belgium	Hans van Daele, President	votes 4
5. Brazil	votes to Iraq	votes 1
6. Bulgaria	Puzant Kassabian, President	votes 2
7. Canada	Dany Lessard, Country Representative	votes 3
8. Croatia	Vedran Maljkovic, President	votes 1
9. Czech Republic	Svatopluk Rejthar, President	votes 3
10. Denmark	Kresten Hougaard, President	votes 2
11. England	Keith Lesser, General Secretary	votes 6
12. Estonia	votes to Latvia	votes 1
13. Finland	Poku Salo, Country Representative	votes 4
14. France	Cedric Junillon, Country Representative	votes 2
15. Greece	votes to Hungary	votes 1
16. Hong Kong	votes to Finland	votes 1
17. Hungary	Gabor Hamsik, President	votes 3
18. India	votes to Sweden	votes 1
19. Iraq	Ahmad Bahadli, Country Representative	votes 1
20. Ireland	votes to England	votes 1
21. Israel	Yaron Arnon, Representative	votes 1
22. Italy	Luca Villa, Country Representative	votes 2
23. Latvia	Uldis Dzirkalis, Representative	votes 1
24. Liechtenstein	votes to Switzerland	votes 1
25. F.Y.R.O. Macedonia	Stelian Stankov, Representative	votes 1
26. Malaysia	Geoffroy Hussenot, Representative	votes 1
27. Netherlands	Eefje Henkelman, President	votes 2
28. New Zealand	Jason Granville, Country Representative	votes 1
29. Poland	Ryszard Flisikowski, Representative	votes 2
30. Romania	Radu Ionescu, President	votes 1
31. Russia	Maxim Levitin, Country Representative	votes 1
32. Scotland	votes to Bulgaria	votes 1
33. Slovakia	votes to Czech Republic	votes 1
34. Slovenia	Primoz Gajsek, President	votes 1
35. South Africa	votes to Austria	votes 1
36. Sweden	Lennart Eklundh, Country Representative	votes 6
37. Switzerland	Karim Hanna, President	votes 6
38. Turkey	Dolunay Soykan, Country Representative	votes 1
39. USA	votes to Canada	votes 1

### **3 Countries not present**

1. Germany (unexcused)
2. Pakistan (unexcused)
3. Mongolia (excused)

### **Total votes 8**

- votes 6
- votes 1
- votes 1

**77 out of 85 possible votes were present at the AGM 2013, which is 90,1% and more than 50%. The AGM can thus take final decisions on all points on the Agenda. For the normal majority (50%) a minimum of 39 votes are needed. For the qualified majority (66,6%) a minimum of 52 votes are needed.**

### **1) Welcome note and member status (Marcel Weigl)**

FIR president Marcel Weigl welcomes all representatives and is very happy that a record of 39 countries are present or have allocated voting power. The only big disappointment was the not attendance of Germany, with President Thorsten Deck taking part in the World Championships and not able to excuse himself or send a substitution.

FIR has finally reached the magic 40 members barrier for Sportaccord membership and currently has 42 member countries, with a record of 5 new countries accepted 2013: Brazil, Croatia, Iraq, Ireland and Turkey. In addition Japan, Norway, Portugal and Zimbabwe look like the biggest hopes for potential new members (see chapter 1.2 Power Point AGM 2013). FIR country membership has become even more important 2014, because FIR Council has decided that all Racketlon players who don't have the citizenship or permanent residence permit of any of the 42 FIR members are no longer allowed to participate in ANY DRAWS on the FIR World Tour.

### **2) Sportaccord Membership (Marcel Weigl)**

The FIR Sportaccord application for 2014 has been rejected. The main reasons were that some of our existing FIR members are Badminton federations or clubs and no real Racketlon federations and only 11 FIR members are recognised by their national NSF – National Sports Federations or NOC – National Olympic Committees. Sportaccord requests 40 members need to have this recognition. FIR will appeal this decision because it is impossible to fulfil as many NSF and NOC don't recognise national Racketlon federations if they are not Sportaccord members. Marcel Weigl will arrange a personal meeting with Sportaccord President Marius Vizer in Budapest in February. In addition FIR will try to get more letters of support by the Racketsport federations as issued by the World Squash Federation already.

### **3) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2012 and Finances 2012 (Lennart Eklundh)**

The minutes of the AGM 2012 and the Finances 2012 which show a positive result of 1308 Euro were checked by the FIR-Auditors Hakan Granberg and Stefan Adamsson confirmed by all country representatives unanimously (see chapter 3 Power Point AGM 2013).

#### **4) Report of the Council 2013 (Council Members)**

Marcel Weigl presented a Powerpoint Presentation on behalf of the Council from 2013, with all present council members giving a short report on their working areas. The Power Point AGM 2013 (see chapter 4) is sent together with these Minutes per E-mail to all country representatives.

#### **5) Finances result 2013, budget 2014 (Lennart Eklundh)**

The preliminary result for 2013 is negative by around 4.500 Euro and shows that the budget of around 30.000€ cannot be held any longer. 2000 Euro of reserves from the last years will be needed. Costs have increased to a total of around 37.500 Euro while the income has only been slightly increased to 33.000 Euro.

The budget for 2014 is predicted with a total income of 30600 Euro if the AGM raises the FIR membership fees for countries in 2014 to 50€ per vote (instead of 50€ per country). The costs are predicted with 34850 Euro. This gives FIR a final result of minus 4250 Euro if no new sponsor or other income can be found. To secure an even budget FIR Council will change its request on point 8. of the AGM to increase the FIR membership fees for countries to 100€ per vote (instead of original request 50€ per vote).

#### **6) Members Report 2013**

There was no time for all present countries to give a short report on the situation in their countries, so all countries were asked to answer four questions per e-mail.

#### **Questions**

- 1) How many national Racketlon clubs 2013 in your country?
- 2) Approximately how many active Racketlon players in your country 2013?
- 3) Most positive Racketlon developments in your country 2013?
- 4) Biggest problems concerning Racketlon in your country 2013?

#### **1 Armenia, President Hrachya Poghosyan**

- 1) 5
- 2) 58 players
- 3) New perspective for Armenian players
- 4) Very big problems with financing of our sport and sport facilities for Racketlon in Armenia

#### **2 Australia, President Leigh Sands**

- 1) Zero. We haven't developed any sort of club-level racketlon. We only have tournaments and training, which haven't really been happening much in 2013.
- 2) On the rankings, we have 108 names, but that includes players who haven't played a tournament since 2011.
- 3) We had some good training sessions earlier in the year. Especially when Gus Hansen was in Australia.

- 4) The most obvious problem is that we didn't have a tournament, which is partly due to sports centres not being able to accommodate our needs, but also because we haven't really been pushing for it as much.

### 3 Austria, General Secretary Christoph Krenn

- 1) 30
- 2) 1200 of which 500 play national tournaments
- 3) Gender project: Four Racket Women; Austrian Tour with 9 tournaments in all counties; 3 new clubs and 3 new tournament locations
- 4) Lack of subsidiaries and recognition by Austrian sports ministry; players don't travel

### 4 Belgium, President Hans van Daele

- 1) 2 and 2 more will be added 2014
- 2) When we only look at tournament participation we have about 250 active Racketlon players. We have many more on our ranking but sometimes they don't play a single tournament a year, but then we see them back playing the next year.
- 3) The formation of real Racketlon clubs and the introduction of a national league (interclub). We have 20 teams entered in that interclub (of which 4 are all female, so they will play a league of their own). We also see that player seems to talk to one another to get more organised, to get more training in different sports so we hope more clubs will be formed out of the teams which play in the interclub competition. We also managed a Belgian Racketlon Tour 2013 with 11 tournaments in various parts of the country.
- 4) Money, but which country hasn't got this problem? It's nearly impossible to find any sponsorship because Racketlon is an "unknown" sport. The fact that FIR doesn't get recognition by SportAccord is also a negative issue because our Federation can't get any recognition, so therefor doesn't get any government funding.

### 5 Brazil, Manoel Santana

- 1) 1
- 2) Approx. 40
- 3) We are far below the expectation development in our country
- 4) We have very few private clubs with Squash and Tennis; We do not have any public Olympic center with Squash and Tennis which totally undermines the sport in our country; This year could not organise any tournament in my club because the Director of sports rackets not authorized the event.

### 6 Canada, President Robert Edwards

- 1) While we do not have Racketlon clubs per se, we have held events in 8 cities across the country and hope to add more in 2014.
- 2) We have 1215 players with a Racketlon ranking in Canada.
- 3) Canada held a very successful SWT tournament in Toronto in 2013 and will hold another SWT tournament in Montreal in 2014.
- 4) Awareness and cost of venues. The sport is still relatively unknown in Canada but is gaining popularity.

#### 7 Bulgaria, President Puzant Kassabian

- 1) 10 clubs
- 2) 280 players
- 3) New perspective for Bulgarian players
- 4) Very big problems with financing of our sport and sport facilities for Racketlon in Bulgaria.

#### 8 Czech Republic, President Svatopluk Rejthar

- 1) 7 national clubs
- 2) We have approximately 500 active players.
- 3) Increase of locations suitable for the use of Racketlon; increase of young players
- 4) Finances, finances, finances! No financial sponsor; no money for promotion and further development; All events must be self-financing.

#### 9 Croatia, President Vedran Maljković

- 1) One racketlon club (Racketlon club Zagreb) in Croatia
- 2) Only 6 active racketlon players
- 3) „Racketlon club Zagreb“ was founded in 2013.
- 4) Lack of infrastructure (there is no appropriate hall for organising a tournament), very few Racketlon players

#### 10 Denmark, President Kresten Hougaard

- 1) In Denmark we have two racketlon clubs in the country located on Zealand/Copenhagen. I am very glad to announce that this is two more than we had in 2012. Also one more is on its way, which is very good news as this will be located in the other end of the country.
- 2) There are approximately 20 Danes regularly represented on the FIR World Tour, but we highly expect to get around the same amount of Danish players for the Danish Open 2014 as we had at the Danish Championships 2013 which was about 80.
- 3) The most positive development in Danish Racketlon is the continuity of more and more interest being brought to the sport and the increase in members. Remember that it is only 3-4 years ago that there was only 1 Danish player on the world tour. In 2013 we took World Championship titles in Men Elite, Under 16s and +45s.
- 4) The biggest problem for Danish Racketlon is that we have no female players at all and of course there is still the problem getting into the media and let people know about this great sport.

#### 11 England, Country Representative Keith Lesser

- 1) Redbridge Racketlon Club meets weekly. Otherwise nothing else as regular yet but this will change in the build up to the Worlds. Informal presence in many clubs and community funding applications has been kicked off recently so clubs will become more prominent.
- 2) Around 500 players have entered uk tournamnts since 2012 excluding non-UK based players, youngsters and older veterans. Of which we had 325 male, 65 female, 71 veterans and around 30 juniors.

- 3) Being awarded the 14th FIR Singles World Championships of course and all other associated benefits alongside this like sponsorship possibilities and more awareness and community development. 3 Team Golds and Open win v Denmark, unbelievable!
- 4) Losing Richard Lawrence, a fantastic member of our team who will be sorely missed. Richard has been admitted to the FIR Hall of Fame and the Richard Lawrence Open will take place as a UK event in September 2014 and could become a challenger in 2015.

#### 12 Estonia, Country Representative Ken-Kristjan Toomjoe

- 1) There are no active Racketlon clubs in Estonia.
- 2) We have about 30 to 35 players who are practicing and playing tournaments in Estonia and Latvia.
- 3) We had a couple of small tournaments in Estonia, where Latvian players also came to visit us.
- 4) Our main problem is that there is nobody, who would like to take care of Estonian Federation. Toomas Vallikivi takes care of the tournaments, but not of the federation.

#### 13 Finland, Country Representative Poku Salo

- 1) The Finnish Racketlon Association at the moment has 12 member clubs, two of which were affiliated this year.
- 2) The number of active players is difficult to estimate, as we don't keep an individual register of our club members. The number of ranked players is 140 but there are some 100 players who have competed in different non-ranking tournaments and events.
- 3) The most positive thing is, that we got a government grant to arrange Racketlon "schools" for juniors and the first one was held in Turku. The program continues and we estimate to arrange 6-8 "schools" in 2014. On the positive side is also the fact that we now have a few juniors, who are keen to practice Racketlon.
- 4) Probably the biggest problem is the lack of "good" centers for Racketlon and also the cost of organizing tournaments. We are anyway continuing in a positive spirit to promote Racketlon in the country.

#### 14 France, Country Representative Cedric Junillon

- 1) 0 and we are very far from having a league.
- 2) 5 really active, around 25 having played at least an even this year (most of them discovering).
- 3) Active website and contacts with a tennis sports centre near Nice interested in hosting an international tournament if they decide to build squash and badminton courts.
- 4) Finding a venue near someone involved in racketlon and to motivate the managing team to host a tournament.

#### 15 Germany, President Thorsten Deck

- 1) 17 clubs with 32 teams participating in the league competition Bundesliga.
- 2) Around 200 national players and 50 international.
- 3) Increase of clubs and players who are interested in Bundesliga and Racketlon in general.
- 4) Putting together a tournaments series; finding sponsors; cooperation with Racketsport centres for regular tournaments.

16 Greece, President Georgios Georgoudis

- 1) 3 active clubs
- 2) 25
- 3) Starting organizing racket triathlon for 2014 (table tennis , badminton ,tennis)
- 4) Financial problem for travelling. No squash courts.

17 Hong Kong - China, President CM-Chan

- 1) Racketlon Federation of Hong Kong, China (RFHK) has not yet set up a club system in Hong Kong.
- 2) Around 20 players
- 3) We welcomed visiting overseas players for friendly matches and some local enquires about the sport.
- 4) Lack of indoor Tennis courts and the current transition of educational system which made the founders of RFHK too busy for other things.

18 Hungary, President Gabor Hamsik

- 1) We do not have any national clubs in Hungary.
- 2) 50
- 3) A new badminton centre has been built where we can have smaller Racketlon tournaments due to only one squash court. We have implemented here a so called Racketlon light (up to 15 points only) tournaments to attract new Rackelon players. Racketlon light means only playing until 15 points.
- 4) Still our biggest problem in Hungary is that we do not have any real facility where we can have Racketlon tournaments. Without tournaments it is also very difficult to raise funds, find sponsors and volunteers to support the federation's activities.

19 India, President Manoranjan Mishra

- 1) 6 number of states have been affiliated besides another 7 number of states have temporarily joined.
- 2) About 75 number of players are actively playing and they are constantly participating in our national events.
- 3) In 2013 (January), we have entered western India and organised our 4th National championship.
- 4) Lack of adequate venue having all 4 games facility, difficulty in arranging sponsorship.

20 Iraq, Secretary General Oday J. Jasmin

- 1) 8 Racketlon clubs
- 2) 16 players
- 3) We started up Racketlon 2013
- 4) We still have problems with the subsidy from our Iraqi Olympic Committee for 2013/2014 so we cannot participate in any international tournament yet.

21 Ireland, President Judy Lambert

- 1) Will follow soon
- 2) 5

- 3) Set up of the federation and coordination with Racketlon Great Britain. Big meeting on the last day of the year, planning 2 FIR Challengers 2014 in Dublin and Galway (huge venue with 6 matches parallel).
- 4) Was a rather quiet year 2013, but will start through 2014

#### 22 Israel, Country Representative Iftach Gesser

- 1) We have only one Racketlon club
- 2) We have 50 Racketlon players
- 3) The first international Racketlon tournament in May 2013
- 4) The biggest problem is lack of venue for playing Racketlon (we have only 2 venues available )

#### 23 Italy, Luca Villa Country Representative

- 1) 0
- 2) 10-15
- 3) Organisation of 3 junior events and finally new start of the federation
- 4) Difficulties with transition of federation after financial problems

#### 24 Latvia, President Zigmars Pujkevics

- 1) We have 3 clubs in Latvia, however we are not organizing club competitions.
- 2) There are 50 active Racketlon players in 2013. We have about 150 names in ranking. Those are players who have participated in official tournaments the last 3 years.
- 3) Racketlon becoming popular outside of Riga (capital of Latvia). In 2013 some enthusiasts organized events in small cities.
- 4) Lack of racket sports venues, every tournament is a challenge as special arrangements are needed. The result is a lack of strong Racketlon clubs and a society of active players.

#### 25 Liechtenstein, President Nicole Eisler

- 1) 1 club (not active)
- 2) 1 player
- 3) I was able to activate one player
- 4) No center for Racketlon, but one squashclub and 2 tenniscenters at least exist and I need to win this player to organize a tournament.

#### 26 FYR Macedonia, General Secretary Dime Stefanovski

- 1) 6
- 2) 62
- 3) New perspective for Macedonian players
- 4) Very big problems with financing of our sport and sport facilities for Racketlon in Macedonia.



27 Malaysia, Country Representative Geoffroy Hussenot

- 1) 0
- 2) 1 player
- 3) Start to plan the first tournament for kids and teachers. Start Racketlon communication.
- 4) No players for the moment even though there is a big population of badminton and table tennis players. Communication to be started from scratch

28 Mongolia, President Algaa Enkhjavkhlan

- 1) 3 clubs
- 2) 32 players
- 3) Support from FIR
- 4) The biggest problem is to get visas in order to participate in international tournaments

29 Netherlands, Eefje Henkelman

- 1) 0, our players are mostly members of tennis, squash tabletennis or badminton clubs. There are some small groups who train regularly for Racketlon.
- 2) 525 players on the Dutch ranking, approximately 200 new registered players in 2013.
- 3) There are new players who are interested. We have found new people to help with organising events. We even had some spontaneous entries for new tournaments.
- 4) The extra costs for players for a players license for Racketlon next to membership costs of tennis or other racket clubs. Keeping the 'new' players interested in Racketlon.

30 New Zealand, Secretary John Stapleton

- 1) 1 Racketlon club
- 2) 42 players
- 3) We held our first event in 2013 and have planned 3 for 2014.
- 4) The biggest issue is the availability of facilities to host Racketlon events.

31 Pakistan, President Roy Nawaz

- 1) 1 Racketlon club
- 2) 10 players
- 3) One local event
- 4) No VISA for tournaments abroad

32 Poland, Vice-President Kristof Samonek

- 1) 2 clubs
- 2) App. 100 players
- 3) First international Racketlon tournament in Wroclaw.
- 4) Lack of funding from the government and other institutions.

33 Romania, President Radu Ionescu

- 1) 7 clubs in Romania with Racketlon players
- 2) 25 active Racketlon players
- 3) First Racketlon tournament in September 2013 in Constanta.
- 4) No racketlon facility; there is no place where Racketlon can be played unitary, but this will improve in 2014.

34 Russia, Country Representative Maxim Levitin

- 1) None
- 2) We have Racketlon players from 5 Russian cities. Mostly from Moscow and Saint-Petersburg.
- 3) The 4th Russian National Championships were held in Moscow in May 2013 with 43 players; 9 players took part in Single World Championship in Zurich, where 5 medals were achieved.
- 4) The main problem is the lack of the Racketlon centres in Russia. There are no sport complexes where it is possible to play tennis and squash in one place. At the moment Racketlon in Russia looks like international tourism for hobby players.

35 Scotland, Country Representative Calum Reid

- 1) 0 national clubs currently
- 2) 50 active Racketlon players from Scotland.
- 3) There have been no recent developments in Scotland.
- 4) Lack of willing volunteers to arrange events, active players are the same players as played years ago. Available funding to pay for facilities to host events. Lack of national tour since 2010 meaning regular competition lacking. Price of FIR registration for first time competitors of world tour events.

36 Slovakia, Robert Ollary Jun. Country Representative

- 1) 2
- 2) 20-30 players in national tournaments
- 3) Marcel Kravec operates a small Racketlon center (tennis only summer) in East Slovakia for the 2nd year. He also operates an all racket sports news website for the 2nd year.
- 4) Biggest concerns are the lack of finances.

37 Slovenia, President Primož Gajsek

- 1) 0, we have only a federation that was established by one sport center and one squash club
- 2) 15
- 3) FIR Challenger in Ljubljana, participation at the World Championships in Zurich and we added a fun category to our national tournaments
- 4) International tournaments are expensive (entry fee, travel, hotels, food), Hard to get players to tournaments in Slovenia, hard to cover all the costs that comes with national federation (we have no sponsors, we urgently need a legal confirmation regarding FIR recognition from Sportsaccord or any other acknowledged institution in the world)

38 South Africa, President Patric Kalous

- 1) 1
- 2) 150
- 3) National TV coverage
- 4) Either sponsors or people to run event in their city.

39 Sweden, President Lina Lindholm

- 1) We have 9 clubs (Some more official than others: Enskede, Tyresö, Västerås, Karlstad, Göteborg, Helsingborg, Linköping, Malmö and Karlskrona)
- 2) Active that compete are around 800-1000 but we also have a lot of amateurs just playing unofficial local tournaments approx. 500.
- 3) Some of the badminton centres are building new squash courts making it easier to practice all sports. We are also facing an increase in interest from women that want to play.
- 4) We need to start organizing more national tournaments and events and also try and keep the new players we have. We also need to find a way to attract juniors to the sport. We have too few juniors playing.

40 Switzerland, President Karim Hanna

- 1) 11 clubs in total
- 2) Approx. 800 active players
- 3) More than 80 % of the tournaments were fully booked; the national league developed to 20 teams in total (8 in first league and 12 in second league) from 15 teams in 2012; Tennis centres start to organise Racketlon tournaments themselves which reduces the organisation on federation level.
- 4) Federation only has limited resources to organise more tournaments than currently held. Not easy to convince centres/clubs to organise tournaments themselves. Besides, also for those tournaments certain resources are required at the federation (draws, schedules, calculation of rankings etc.). No appropriate ranking system yet for league play.

41 Turkey, Country Representative Dolunay Soykan

- 1) Only one club - known as Konyaalti Youth and Sports Club Association.
- 2) 3 active players in 2013 - 6 players in total.
- 3) Municipality permission taken to include Racketlon as a branch of the association; Initial meetings for organising the first Racketlon tournament in Turkey in 2014, whether in Istanbul or Antalya.
- 4) Not being able to register a federation or at least a specific association for Racketlon.

42 USA, Country Representative Shona Kerr

- 1) None but university courses
- 2) Around 15
- 3) New contacts to sports clubs interested in Racketlon in Atlanta and New York
- 4) Federations seat is in Boston, but President Cliff Wenn is not active and would like to transfer

### 8) Council preview 2014 (Marcel Weigl)

The complete Council FIR World Tour 2014 with 16 tournaments and council preview can be seen in the Power Point Presentation AGM 2013 (see chapter 7). Main issues stay Sportaccord membership and the change from Resultreporter to a hopefully more reliable and easier to handle system for all FIR events: Tournament Software. Also the continuation of the education of FIR-Delegates and FIR-referees has high priority in order to increase the quality of FIR events, as have the preparations for the first continental championships such as European, American Champs taking place in 2015. Finally the FIR Council elections at Team World Champs in Poznan in November will take some time as a structure and finances need to be found to employ at least two persons for FIR. A new president who is famous, brings in money and sponsors is what FIR needs. The way FIR operates now is not possible in the future. The sport has grown far too big with 42 members and over 5000 players on the world rankings.

### **8) Requests by FIR Members**

#### *a) FIR Council: Adaption 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 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2011

**The changes proposed and sent out in advance to all members by FIR-Council in the Rules of Racketlon are confirmed unanimously by FIR AGM**

#### *b) FIR Council: Increase of FIR membership fees to 50€ per vote/per 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.

After an intensive discussion and the budget forecast of 2014 with a negative result of over 4000 Euro FIR-Council requests a change to their request to increase the membership fees to 100€ per vote/per country (instead of 50€).

The majority of the AGM allows this changed request and the vote ends with 53 votes for the request and 22 (BEL, CAN, CZE, DEN, NED, HUN, GRE, TUR, RUS, SVK, USA) against, with France (2 votes) not casting its vote.

**The request of an increase of the FIR membership fee to 100€ per vote/per country from 2014 is thus confirmed by the FIR AGM**

#### *c) 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.

RFA General Secretary, Christoph Krenn

After an intensive discussion the request was changed to a minimum of 5 players with 4 men and 1 woman playing 2 men singles, 1 men double and 1 woman single.

**The request of the reduction of players for Champions League teams is confirmed unanimously by the FIR AGM, with Belgium (4 votes) not casting its votes**

*d) Germany: Maximum entry fee for Juniors in singles 20€ on FIR World Tour*

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

There was not German representative at the AGM to present the request so a vote took place without discussion.

**The request was rejected unanimously by the FIR AGM, with France (2 votes) not casting its votes.**

#### 10) Any other Business

a) English Open and organiser and ERA – English Racketlon Association member Richard Lawrence passed away recently and will be honoured as member of the FIR hall of fame.

b) World number one Jesper Ratzner has volunteered to help improve the FIR website concerning the layout.

c) The Racketlon women`s association was founded 2013 to protect women`s rights in international Racketlon, but they did not send a representative to the FIR Council meeting, where they were invited, which is very disappointing.

d) Rutger de Zoete from the Netherlands is named official FIR touring coach and shall be present on as many FIR tournaments as possible 2014.

e) World Tour 2014 A1 posters and A5 cards are handed out to all country representatives at the

f) FIR has put together a questionnaire asking players how much they would contribute to build up a more professional organisation. Marcel asks all country representatives to make sure all players fill it out and hand it in.

*Minutes taken by Marcel Weigl and confirmed by Lennart Eklundh and Karim Hanna e-mailed to FIR members on 28th January 2014*

Attachments: FIR AGM 2013 Powerpoint Presentation, FIR AGM 2013 Finances

#### Next AGMS 2014

1. Extraordinary General Meeting on Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> August (9 a.m.) London, 14<sup>th</sup> FIR Single WC

2. Annual General Meeting Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. (9 a.m.) Poznan/Poland, Team & Double World Champs