

# MINUTES

## FIR Council Meeting

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 22:00 – 24:00**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 11:00-12:00**

**City and Country Club Wienerberg, Austria**

City & Country Club Wienerberg  
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### **Present:**

Kresten Hougaard, FIR President (Denmark)  
Graham King, Vice-President Tournament Software (Switzerland)  
Marcel Weigl, Vice-President EU Projects (Austria) (excused for meeting 2)  
Poku Salo, Vice-President Rankings Officer (Finland)  
Anna-Klara Ahlmer, Social Media Officer (Sweden)  
Amke Fischer, Treasurer (Germany) (excused for meeting 2)  
Radu Ionescu, Recognition Officer (Romania)  
Duncan Stahl, Marketing Officer (Great Britain) (excused for meeting 2)  
Natalie Paul, General Secretary (Germany)  
Frank Kleiber (Germany), Deputy for Patrick Laplante jnr. (meeting 2)

### **Absent:**

Hans van Daele, Rules Officer (Belgium)  
Thorsten Deck, Sponsorship (Germany)  
Kirsten Kaptein, World Tour Officer (Netherlands)  
Patrick Laplante Jr, Non-European Country Development (Canada)  
Richard Middleton, Head of Delegates (Great Britain)

## **Agenda Council Meeting:**

### **(31.8.2017 meeting)**

1. AGM
  - a. Finance
  - b. Voting (Duncan, Joachim, India)
  - c. Expulsion of country members in default
  - d. Finland proposal
2. World Tour 2018
3. Council News
4. Tournament draw process

### **(2.9.2017 meeting)**

5. Open Items from CM-Oudenaarde
  - a. EUR10 surcharge for registration within last month
6. Tournament draw process (part II), Elite draw-size benchmark, Live draws
7. European Project / SportAccord/ SRE
8. National Team Event, Champions League<sup>1</sup>
9. Any other business

### **(not addressed due to time constraints)**

10. Website, tournament results statistics, access
11. Further rule changes<sup>2</sup>
12. Live Draws (Request Hans)

## **1. AGM (Graham King)**

- a) Finances – slides for AGM presented. Marcel Weigl requested adding the budget figures to the 2016 financial results and 2017 forecast slides
- b) AGM votes discussed: Duncan Stahl to replace outgoing Ray Jordan (Media officer), Joachim Gersdorf to replace outgoing Frank Kleiber (Auditor), RISA (Racketlon India Sports Association) to replace RFI (Racketlon Federation of India) to represent Racketlon in India
- c) Country member expulsion: important to keep all members for Sport Accord application  
Radu Ionescu to contact Armenia, Bulgaria, Macedonia.  
Graham King to contact Brazil and Ireland, which have players, that may participate in

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<sup>1</sup> locations (2 or 3?), with/without doubles event?

<sup>2</sup> two tournaments at same location per year / consecutive weeks  
Gummiarm for juniors team event  
Fill Elite draws?

tournaments, and Malaysia, who have shown renewed interest.

Marcel Weigl to try to find a new contact in Italy.

Players of countries that are in default will not be able to play tournaments until they have paid. Membership fees to be added every year and not written off.

d) After discussions of pros and cons the Council decided to not give any advice to the member presidents what to vote on at the AGM.

## **2. World Tour 2018 (Kresten Hougaard)**

Some tournaments of 2018 not yet confirmed. First half (until July 2018) to be published (Kresten Hougaard, Natalie Paul).

Request from Marcel Weigl: change the name of Austrian Open to “World Tour finals” as it’s the last tournament of 2018 and the winners of the FIR World Tour Race will be announced.

## **3. Council News (Kresten Hougaard)**

Thorsten Deck has resigned as Sponsorship Officer.

Resignation of Marcel Weigl not possible because of the FIR seat of registration is in Austria.

Kresten to look for new seat as soon as possible.

## **4. Tournament Draw Process (Graham King)**

Graham King presented the draft Tournament Draw Process put together with the World Tour Officer, Kirsten Kaptein. Discussions were mainly on moving players up to a higher class than the one they entered to assure standardized draw-sizes according to the FIR regulations (filled up to 8,12,16,... players), and setting a consistent draw-size even if this means some players registering for Elite classes will be moved down to the B class.

The vote on “strict draw sizes” or “flexible draw sizes” to allow tournament directors to make a request for non-standard draw-sizes to improve the overall positive player experience resulted in a vote for flexibility.

## **5. Open items (Graham King)**

Discussed/closed:

- later entry deadline → Graham prepared a graph (attached) of the number of entries against time for the 2017 King of Rackets (considered a typical tournament example). 32% of player registrations were in the last week prior to close of registration.

The Council agreed that many players are more likely to register when they see other players have registered and so early registration should be encouraged

The Council voted to approve an optional surcharge of EUR 10 per player (regardless of how many classes the player has entered; changing classes or withdrawal may not result in a surcharge) to be levied by the TD for new player registrations less than 30 days before close of

registration.

Hans to formalise this in the next version of the regulations.

Closed:

- Auditors. Dropbox access granted
- World Champs 2018. Switzerland invited to bid for 2018 World Championships
- Bulgaria participation at the European Champs. Marcel contacted
- India. Handled under AGM
- tidy-up of seniors & juniors ranking on tournament software
- Tournament Regulations. Revised version sent to TD's for 2018 World Tour applications
- Country member expulsion. Handled under AGM
- Sport Accord. Meeting attended in Lausanne, report issued, S.A. invited to EC

Open:

- 2018 new World Tour logos and FIR logo → Duncan Stahl
- introduction of "+45 B" category → vote at AGM definite costs to be calculated (Graham King)
- presentation of statistics → still open Hans van Daele to ask Thorsten Lentfer
- General Secretary: open position to be updated and published on racketlon.net → still open (Natalie Paul)
- Sponsorship Officer: still open → profile of open position to be produced (Kresten Hougaard) and published on racketlon.net (Natalie Paul)
- Ambassadors: Duncan Stahl to write a proposal and to contact professional athletes
- age classes → Graham to prepare information for a full Council discussion later this year

## **6. Tournament Draw Process, Part II (Graham King)**

The Tournament Draw Process was discussed and following decisions taken:

- When players are moved up (or down) to another class than the one they entered, they should be informed
- Live draws: positive response (over 1000 viewer); information about when and who will do the live draws should be given to Anna-Klara Ahlmer at latest 48h before the live draws.

The Tournament Draw Process was updated and will be published under [racketlon.net/tournament\\_support](http://racketlon.net/tournament_support)

## **7. European Project/ Sport Accord / SRE (Radu Ionescu)**

- new contact to Brussels promises a good chance for EU Project to get through in 2018. Costs are expected to be less than 1000 EUR
- SRE has increased the number of members from 4 to 8. The goal is to reach 20. The 2018 AGM will be held in Prague
- Sport Accord has rebranded itself as GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations, [gaisf.org](http://gaisf.org)). The name change has not yet been publicised. GAISF's declared intention

to award federations “observer” status with a web portal to facilitate and track their request is not yet live. Key issue for FIR is to obtain letters from all four individual (table tennis, badminton, squash, tennis) international federations confirming that they support us in becoming a SportAccord member (Graham King and Natalie Paul to search through RFA server when transferring it to FIR for possible contacts).

### **8. National Team Event, Champions League (Kresten Hougaard)**

- proposal made on 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting on Thursday: change the format of the team events so that a final is played in all divisions to determine a winner. All Team Captains agreed to this change when Kresten and Duncan discussed it with them prior to the Council Meeting
- proposal accepted- Hans to formalise the change in the next version of the regulations

### **9. Any other business**

- suggestion: holding a meeting with the strongest nations to exchange experiences, best practices, issues, strategies, tips etc. similar to the G10 meetings
- 2019 Romanian Open
- sports ambassadors: need something specific to support e.g. Junior Project

*Council Meeting minutes taken by General Secretary Natalie Paul and confirmed by Graham King*