

MINUTES FIR AGM 2018

Saturday 25th August 2018, 8:30 – 10:30

Hotel Sommerau-Ticino, 8953 Zürich, Switzerland

Chairs:

FIR Executive President Kresten Hougaard (until AGM)

FIR Executive President Duncan Stahl (after AGM)

FIR Vice-President Graham King

18 Countries present or delegated their voting power with a total of 53 votes:

1. Australia (1), votes to Great Britain
2. Austria (6), Marcel Weigl
3. Canada (3), votes to USA
4. Czech Republic (3), Michal Horacek
5. Denmark (4), Morten Jakslund
6. Finland (4), Poku Salo
7. Germany (6), Frank Kleiber
8. Great Britain (6), Dan Busby
9. Greece (1), votes to Sweden
10. India (1), K.K. Cheema
11. Latvia (2), Zigmars Puikevics
12. Malta (1), Duncan Stahl
13. Netherlands (1), Guus van de Burgt
14. Romania (1), votes to Austria
15. Russia (1), Sergei Seregin
16. Sweden (6), Gunnar Ljung
17. Switzerland (5), Karim Hanna
18. USA (1), Pat Moran

53 out of 84 possible votes were present at the AGM 2018, which is 63 % of the total number of votes and more than 50% needed for quorum. The AGM was thus able to take final decisions on all points on the Agenda. For the normal majority (50%) a minimum of 27 votes were needed. For the qualified majority (66.67%) a minimum of 36 votes were needed.

23 Countries not present with a total of 31 votes

1. Armenia (1)
2. Belgium (6)
3. Brazil (1)

4. Bulgaria (1)
5. Croatia (1)
6. Estonia (1)
7. F.Y.R of Macedonia (1)
8. France (3)
9. Ghana (1)
10. Hong-Kong, China (1)
11. Hungary (2)
12. Iraq (1)
13. Ireland (1)
14. Israel (1)
15. Italy (1)
16. Liechtenstein (1)
17. Malaysia (1)
18. New Zealand (1)
19. Poland (1)
20. Slovakia (1)
21. Slovenia (1)
22. South Africa (1)
23. Turkey (1)

Final Agenda

- 1) Welcome note members
- 2) Confirmation of minutes of AGM 2017 and EGM 2017 (published on www.racketlon.net)
- 3) Confirmation of final Financial and Auditor's Report 2017, Finance preview 2018, Amke Fischer (Treasurer)
- 4) Final President Report, Kresten Hougaard
- 5) Discharge of outgoing Council Members:
 - Radu Ionescu (ROM)
 - Ray Jordan (GBR)
 - Patrick Laplante Jnr (CAN)
 - Richard Middleton (GBR)
 Discharge of Council Members proposed to remain in office for a further 3 years:
 - Anna-Klara Ahlmer (SWE)
 - Amke Fischer (GER)
 - Kirsten Kaptein (NED)
 - Graham King (SUI)
 - Poku Salo (FIN)
 - Hans Van Daele (BEL)
 - Marcel Weigl (AUT)
- 6) Discharge of outgoing President, Kresten Hougaard (DEN)
- 7) FIR and Council; vision for the future: Duncan Stahl (GBR)
- 8) FIR Council election for the period 2018-2020:
 - Executive President: Duncan Stahl (GBR)

- Vice President: Graham King (SUI)
 - Treasurer: Amke Fischer (GER)
 - Social Media Manager: Anna-Klara Ahlmer (SWE)
 - Player & Member Country Representative: Dan Busby (GBR)
 - Head of Delegates: Kresten Hougaard (DEN)
 - World Tour Manager: Kirsten Kaptein (NED)
 - Non-European Racketlon Development: Frank Kleiber (GER)
 - Rankings Officer: Poku Salo (FIN)
 - Rules Officer: Hans Van Daele (BEL)
 - EU Project Officer: Marcel Weigl (AUT)
- 9) FIR Auditor Election: Re-election of existing Auditors for a further 3 years, 2018-2020:
 - Joachim Gersdorf (GER)
 - Patrick Wartia (SWE)
 - 10) FIR Board of Arbitration Election: Election of new members for the next period 2018-2020:
 - Karim Hanna (SUI)
 - Zigmars Puikevics (LAT)
 - Carola Von Heimburg (GER)
 - 11) FIR members:
 - Approval of National Racketlon Federation of Singapore
 - 12) FIR seat of registration, Duncan Stahl
 - vote on changing FIR address to a PO Box address in Vienna, with the exact details to be confirmed once agreed
 - 13) Annual 2019 FIR Membership Fee proposal: all fees unchanged from 2018
 - Active Members, as defined by the Hagenbach-Bischoff-System (Statutes 7.9.2)
 - non-EU FIR Members (as defined by UEFA) fee reduction of 50%
 - Passive Members: EUR 20
 - 14) Requests by FIR members
 - a. CRA - Czech Racketlon Association: Change to Rules of Racketlon, that all sets shall end at 21, 15, or 11, without needing a two-point margin
 - b. RFA - Racketlon Federation Austria: All singles former world champions shall be taken up into the hall of fame immediately
 - c. RFA - Racketlon Federation Austria: Seniors/juniors and elite classes at world championships shall be separated and played on different days and FIR shall stick to its own rules teams and doubles as one event, singles as a second event
 - d. RFA - Racketlon Federation Austria: French as an official language of FIR shall be removed, thus the name changed to FIR – Federation of International Racketlon
 - 15) Place and Date of 2019 AGM
 - 16) Any other business

1) Welcome note, members (Kresten Hougaard)

FIR president Kresten Hougaard opened the AGM at 08:40, took over as chair, welcomed all representatives and presented the agenda

2) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2017 and EGM 2017

The minutes of the AGM 2017 held on Friday 1st September 2017 at the City & Country Club Wienerberg, Vienna, Austria, and the EGM 2017 held on Saturday 4th November 2017 at the

Tennis Centre Hove, Hove, Belgium, published on www.racketlon.net, were confirmed by the AGM unanimously.

3) 2017 Financials, 2018 Financial Preview

Graham King presented the Financial report for 2017 and the budget for 2018 on behalf of FIR Treasurer, Amke Fischer who could not be present

Karim Hanna (Switzerland) questioned the EUR 1000 bank charges. Graham King explained these were largely Paypal charges and that at present no other alternative to Paypal could be found which allowed large scale online collection of payments as small as EUR 15 (player licence fees).

Guus Van De Burgt (Netherlands) asked why there was less income from player licence fees. Graham King explained that this was a result of fewer players and less tournaments in 2017 and that this was something that FIR hoped to improve going forward.

Joachim Gersdorf briefly represented the FIR Auditor's Report, concluding that the FIR Treasurer, Amke Fischer, had done a good job and should be approved to continue in her role.

Marcel Weigl (Austria) asked what "Other Travel Expenses" were. Kresten Hougaard explained these were expenses not for the President but for other Council members and FIR officials attending events and meetings (such as GAISF, Sports Recognised etc.).

The 2017 Financials were confirmed by the AGM unanimously.

4) Final President's Report

Kresten Hougaard presented the main events of his period as FIR President, 2014-2017.

- Re-structuring council -> more people involved, volunteerism
- Cleaned up economically, cut to bone on expenses with a stronger focus on bookkeeping (Amke)
- Bid twice for EU projects without success (Marcel, Radu)
- Handled Tournament Software issues and introduced new filters, World Tour Race +45 Women (Graham)
- Work with non-EU countries - USA, India (new federation)*, Pakistan, Thailand, South Africa, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Brazil (Patrick, Frank)
- Recognition: Less focus on SportAccord (now GAIFS), initiating the founding of SRE (Radu)
- New website updating racketlon.net
- Implementation of Instagram, Facebook with a massive boost in interest (Anna-Klara)
- Live draws public on Facebook Live (Hans)
- Less expenses for Tournament Directors
- Improved the work of delegates recruiting new delegates year for year (Richard)
- Change of rules and implementing new, maintaining and revising documents (Hans)
- Large amount of administrative work
- New vision and future for FIR (Duncan and Kresten)

*Mr Cheema from the Racketlon India Sports Association presented an update on their plans to develop Racketlon in India. At first they aim to put in place the infrastructure and relationships with clubs to launch several local based tournaments before developing national tournaments with the potential to host international tournaments within 1 to 2 years. Mr Cheema described the potential for Racketlon in India as huge and asked for the time needed for their organisation to establish themselves.

5) Discharge of Council Members

Kresten Hougaard summarised the activities of the outgoing Council Members and thanked them for their service for the past 3 years:

- Radu Ionescu (Romania, Recognition)
- Ray Jordan (Great Britain, Marketing)
- Patrick Laplanta Jnr. (Canada, non-European member development)
- Richard Middleton (Great Britain, Head of Delegates)

The outgoing Council Members were given a discharge by the AGM unanimously. Kresten Hougaard listed the Council Members standing for election to continue their roles and thanked them for their service to Racketlon:

- Anna-Klara Ahlmer (Sweden, Social Media Officer)
- Amke Fischer (Germany, Treasurer)
- Kirsten Kaptein (Netherlands, World Tour Officer)
- Graham King (Switzerland, Tournament Administration Officer)
- Poku Salo (Finland, Rankings Officer)
- Hans Van Daele (Belgium, Rules Officer)
- Marcel Weigl (Austria, European Projects)

The Council Members standing for re-election were given a discharge by the AGM unanimously.

6) Discharge of Outgoing President

Graham King thanked the outgoing President for his service for Racketlon during a difficult period for international Racketlon.

Marcel Weigl (Austria) and Duncan Stahl (Malta) also thanked Kresten Hougaard for his work, time and sacrifices he had made during his 3-year period as FIR President.

Kresten Hougaard was given a discharge by the AGM unanimously.

7) FIR Council, Vision for the Future

Duncan Stahl briefly presented his "FIR Vision", as published on www.racketlon.net, and invited questions.

Marcel Weigl emphasised the importance of not losing sight of recognition and the advantages that will bring as has been demonstrated by the investment seen in Austrian Racketlon. Duncan

Stahl agreed that the long term goal for FIR was still to achieve official recognition but that he believed FIR's priorities in the short and medium term needed to be to find new ways to grow the sport and get more people talking about and playing Racketlon.

8) FIR Council: Election for the period 2018-2020

Duncan Stahl briefly presented the proposed Council for the next 3-year period:

- Executive President: Duncan Stahl (GBR)
- Vice President: Graham King (SUI)
- Treasurer: Amke Fischer (GER)
- Social Media Manager: Anna-Klara Ahlmer (SWE)
- Player & Member Country Representative: Dan Busby (GBR)
- Head of Delegates: Kresten Hougaard (DEN)
- World Tour Manager: Kirsten Kaptein (NED)
- Non-European Racketlon Development: Frank Kleiber (GER)
- Rankings Officer: Poku Salo (FIN)
- Rules Officer: Hans Van Daele (BEL)
- EU Project Officer: Marcel Weigl (AUT)

Duncan Stahl, as President, and the entire proposed new FIR Council were elected unanimously by the AGM.

9) FIR Auditor Election

Graham King thanked the FIR Auditors for their work during the previous period and welcomed that they were prepared to stand for election for the next three years, 2018-2020, recommending their re-election.

Joachim Gersdorf (Germany) and Patrick Wartia (Sweden) were elected unanimously by the AGM.

10) FIR Board of Arbitration Election

Graham King briefly explained the important purpose of the Board of Arbitration and thanked the outgoing Board of Arbitration for their services. He briefly introduced the proposed the three new members:

- Karim Hanna (Switzerland)
- Zigmars Puikevics (Latvia)
- Carola Von Heimburg (Germany)

Karim Hanna and Zigmars Puikevics introduced themselves, giving a brief background of themselves as a person, and their involvement with Racketlon.

All proposed members of the Board of Arbitration were elected unanimously by the AGM.

11) Approval of Singapore as a new FIR member

Graham King explained the application of Singapore Racketlon to become a passive FIR member, and their plan to help expand Racketlon in Asia.

Singapore was approved by the AGM as a new FIR member by 46 votes for, with 7 abstentions.

12) FIR Seat of Registration

Duncan Stahl explained why the decision to change the FIR Seat address would not be voted on at the AGM as further research and options needed to be explored by himself and Marcel Weigl that could be easier, simpler and more cost effective to implement in the short term. Duncan Stahl stated that the long term plan still remained to change the official seat address to Germany, where he is now based.

13) Annual 2018 FIR membership fee proposal

Graham King proposed to make no changes to the FIR membership fees:

- Active members, EUR 100 per vote (as defined by the Hagenbach-Bischoff System; Statutes 7.9.2)
- Non-EU FIR members (as defined by UEFA) fee reduction of 50%
- Passive members: EUR 20

The proposal was approved unanimously by the AGM.

14) Requests by FIR Members

Proposal by Czech Racketlon Association (CRA):

Rules of Racketlon modification that all matches stop at 21, 15 or 11 points with no prolongation to require winning by a two-point margin

CRA briefly presented their proposal to change the Rules of Racketlon.

Duncan Stahl countered that the prolongation of a set adds greatly to the excitement and marketability of Racketlon.

Karim Hanna commented that this rule change request was brought before the AGM last year, and that a re-proposal should preferably not be made so soon after it was previously rejected.

The CRA proposal was rejected, with 9 votes for, 40 votes against and 4 abstentions, as it did not reach the 36 votes required for a 2/3 majority.

Proposal by Racketlon Federation of Austria (RFA):

All former singles World Champions shall be taken up into the Hall of Fame immediately

Before the vote, Duncan Stahl announced that a new, independent Hall of Fame committee will be set up (proposed members including Ray Jordan, Christian Wall and Silke Altmann). This committee would work completely independently of FIR and would be the sole judges of who should be inducted into the Hall of Fame each year. Duncan Stahl agreed that more players in particular should be in the Hall of Fame and that this was something the proposed new

committee were aware of.

The RFA proposal was rejected, with 10 votes for and 39 votes against, as it did not reach the 28 votes required for a 50% majority.

Proposal by Racketlon Federation of Austria (RFA):

Seniors/juniors and elite classes at world championships shall be separated and played on different days and FIR shall stick to its own rules teams and doubles as one event, singles as a second event

Kresten Hougaard pointed out that he could find no FIR rules that Team and Doubles should be one event and the singles as a second event.

Duncan Stahl said that while he agreed that Seniors/Juniors and Elite classes at World Championships should ideally be separated in the schedule, it was not always going to be possible to achieve this – as it depended on venue sizes, on venue costs and other factors. So to vote to make this a rule was dangerous as it would mean less flexibility and potentially less applications to hold World Championships tournaments.

Duncan Stahl also said that while he agreed that having Teams and Doubles as one event was a good idea, the research he had done into the finances of holding World Championships showed that the entry fee income from Teams and Doubles only was often not enough to cover the costs of the venue and courts required to host such a tournament. So a Teams and Doubles event would often be dependent on finding significant sponsorship in order to make it possible. Therefore a vote to make it a rule that the Teams and Doubles should always be one event could easily result in no applications to hold this type of World Championships. In the light of this information, RFA decided to withdraw their proposal.

Proposal by Racketlon Federation of Austria (RFA):

French as on official language of FIR shall be removed, thus the name changed to FIR – Federation of International Racketlon

RFA briefly gave the background behind their request.

Duncan Stahl commented that he agreed with this approval, as in his experience the current FIR name had often caused confusion.

The RFA proposal was approved, with 45 votes for, 5 votes against and 3 abstentions, as it did not reach the 36 votes required for a 2/3 majority.

15) Place and Date of 2019 AGM

Duncan Stahl announced the date of the next FIR AGM is planned to be during the 2019 European Championships (19 – 24th November) in Braunschweig, Germany.

16) Any other business

Michael Horacek (Czech Racketlon Federation) suggested age group changes to include u18's or

u19's as the gap between u16's and u21's was too currently too large. Marcel Weigl and RFA approved the idea. Agreed that this should be discussed at Council level.

Kresten Hougaard and Duncan Stahl suggested that the World Championships should return every year and that there was no need for a continental championship. Duncan Stahl said an annual World Championships allowed FIR to have better, more effective communication with newer membership countries outside of Europe and gave them a more regular incentive to come and be a part of the global Racketlon community. Duncan Stahl also pointed out that organisers of tournaments in Asia and N. America were not interested in holding continental championships as they wanted to hold tournaments that attracted European players. Marcel Weigl also pointed out that in the future the holding of any continental championships, such as the European Championships, should not be the responsibility of FIR, but should be the responsibility of a European Federation. It was agreed that this should be discussed at Council level.

Mr. K.K. Cheema (India) stated that Racketlon India Sports Association would gladly act as host for any guests wanting to play Racketlon in India and asked the FIR member countries to get in touch with him for any interested players.

The AGM was closed at 10:35

Minutes taken by Duncan Stahl / Graham King and confirmed by the outgoing and incoming Presidents