

MINUTES FIR AGM 2023

Sunday 12th November 2023, 14:00 – 17:00

Zoom online

Chair: FIR Executive President Duncan Stahl

Minutes: FIR Vice-President Graham King

Final Agenda

- 1) Welcome note to members
- 2) Confirmation of minutes of 2022 AGM (02.04.2022) & EGM (27.08.2022), as published on www.racketlon.net
- 3) President Report, 2023 finance preview, 2024 budget plans, Duncan Stahl
- 4) Financial & Auditor Report 2022, Amke Fischer
- 5) Discharge of Executive President and Council Members remaining in office:
 - Duncan Stahl (GBR)
 - Anna-Klara Ahlmer (SWE)
 - Myriam Enmer (FRA)
 - Amke Fischer (GER)
 - Kresten Hougaard (DEN)
 - Kirsten Kaptein (NED)
 - Jean Michot (FRA)
 - James Pope (GBR)
 - Poku Salo (FIN)
 - Adarsh Vikram Narayanaswamy (IND)
 - Marcel Weigl (AUT)

Discharge of Council Member, whose term of office expires:

 - Graham King (SUI)

Discharge of Council Member leaving office:

 - Dan Busby (GBR)
- 6) Election of Graham King (SUI) as Vice President for the period 2023-2026
- 7) Discharge of FIR Auditors:
 - Patrick Bürgi (SUI)
 - Joachim Gersdorf (GER)
- 8) Discharge of FIR Board of Arbitration:
 - Karim Hanna (SUI)
 - Zigmars Puikevics (LAT)
 - Carola von Heimburg (GER)
- 9) FIR Council proposal – amendment of Rules of Racketlon
 - a) New, additional 11-up format for “Racketlon Sprint” (full proposal attached)
 - b) Doubles server-receiver sequence for badminton and tennis (full proposal attached)

10) FIR Member proposals

a) Austria: FIR to become immediate of SRE Sports Recognized from 13.11.2023 again.
FIR to apply for membership with GAISF

b) Austria: FIR to order and pay doping tests of at least 4 elite players at world championships

c) Romania: Vote for the following FIR Statute modifications:

To replace:

Art 7.2. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall take place once a year, in the first three months of the year

To be added:

Art 8.k) Review the draft budget proposed by the Council for that year and approve a final version

The current FIR Statutes / Articles of Association are attached.

11) Place & Date of next AGM

12) Any Other Business

Request by Romania: 3 years WC in Rotterdam to be an AGM decision, not a Council one

FIR AGM Attendees

25 Countries present or delegated their voting power to other members, with a total of 66 of the possible 83 votes (80%):

Member Country	Nominated Representative	AGM Votes
Australia	Leigh Sands	2
Austria	Marcel Weigl	7
Belgium	delegated to Netherlands	0
Canada	delegated to USA	0
Czech Republic	Svatopluk Rejthar/ Michael Horacek	4
Denmark	Kim Ljungberg	3
Finland	Poku Salo	3
France	Jean Michot	6
Germany	Thorsten Kuntz	6
Great Britain	James Pope	6
Greece	Delegated to Austria	0
China - Hong Kong	Steven Cheng Wai Kit	2
Hungary	Balazs Döbörhegyi	3
India	KK Cheema Adarsh Vikram	3
Ireland	Gary O'Hara	1
Malta	Duncan Stahl	1
Netherlands	Marc Veldkamp	4
New Zealand	Delegated to Australia	0

Norway	Joel Durston	1
Romania	Radu Ionescu	2
South Africa	Delegated to Switzerland	0
Sweden	Jimmy Tay	3
Switzerland	Graham King/ Karim Hanna	5
Thailand	Frank Kleiber	1
USA	Patrick Moran	3
Total		66

11 Countries absent with a total of 17 votes

Member Country	votes
Afghanistan	3
Croatia	1
Estonia	1
Israel	2
Latvia	2
Luxembourg	1
Poland	3
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Turkey	1
Total	17

Non-voting FIR AGM attendees

1. Parick Bürgi (SUI, Auditor)
2. Joachim Gerdorf (GER, Auditor)
3. Carola von Heimburg (GER, Board of Arbitration)
4. Kirsten Kaptein (NED, Council Member)

1) Welcome note

FIR President Duncan Stahl opened the AGM at 14:00, took over as chair and welcomed all representatives. He requested swapping the order of agenda items 3 and 4, so that the 2022 results could be discussed before his President's Report, which addresses 2023 and 2024 finances. There were no objections.

He noted that Graham King would be taking the minutes of the meeting with the aid of the Zoom meeting replay.

Graham confirmed that 18 countries were present at the meeting, with 66 of the 83 votes (80%) either present, or represented at the AGM, and declared that the 50% quorum necessary for the AGM to take decisions had been reached.

2) Confirmation of Minutes of the FIR 2022 AGM (02.04.2022) & EGM (27.08.2022)

Duncan asked for approval of the minutes of the last General Assemblies, which have been available on racketlon.net for the whole of 2023. No objections were raised.

Marcel Weigl asked for the minutes to be distributed with the invitation in the future. Graham counter-proposed that any objections are requested within 30 days of distributing the AGM minutes, so that a vote at the next AGM is not necessary. Marcel accepted the counter-proposal.

3) Financial & Auditor Report 2022

Amke presented the 2022 financials, compared to the budget, pointing out a surplus of EUR 5'502, and commenting on various items such as the number of player licences resulting from increased World Championships participation, the lack of SWT's, Marketing costs and fee-revenue, reduced President travel costs, reduced Council member tournament participation, FX loss.

Amke also presented the Auditors' Report, commenting on how thoroughly they controlled the finances and organisation.

Amke asked for questions. Marcel asked the auditors to explain further their statement that there was room for improvement. Patrick responded that this was not relating to the financial numbers themselves, as all their questions were answered satisfactorily, but related to administrative and organisational matters.

Radu Ionescu (Romania) asked various questions, such as the difference between the EUR 5500 surplus and the change in the bank balance of EUR 10'000, the inclusion of lines with zero values, the naming of the account for "Personnel costs", the lack of social insurances and taxes etc. Amke and Patrik answered all questions.

Jean Michot asked whether FIR plans to remain based in Switzerland, which Duncan confirmed.

Marcel congratulated FIR on the good result, but commented that FIR, as a not-for-profit organisation should look to see how in the future it can spend the money to good effect.

The AGM then voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Financials and Audit Report.

4) President's Report, 2023 finance preview, 2024 budget plans

Duncan presented the President's report (available on racketlon.net), listing the goals of relaunching the FIR World Tour post-Covid and growing the number of tournaments and players, especially juniors and women, giving graphical statistics to show how these goals had been met.

Duncan also described the various marketing activities, spread across the transition from Sam Barker to Sanne Veldkamp, giving metrics to show how the activity on our web page and social media had exploded. He concluded with his plans to grow further in 2024, saying how important tournaments are for Racketlon compared to other sports, where two players can just agree between themselves to meet up for a game. He gave examples of the addition of new tournaments to the 2024 World Tour, including the strong support lent by the new Satellite tournament category, such as Hong Kong, Australia, Ireland, Austria's LGBTIQ+ Eurogames.

Duncan then went on to summarise the 2023 financial forecast, pointing out the biggest variances from budget such as the increase of player licences resulting from the number of tournaments, the

delay with the merchandising campaign (still planned for later this year), and on the expenses side, the activity of the Council members' tournament participation and the cost of the leads generation campaign.

Radu stated that this information, although nice to see, is not OK, as it should have been made available earlier, and now that the AGM is taking place in mid-November, it is effectively history, as it is no longer possible for the AGM to make any changes, which is not OK.

Duncan and Amke explained that the financials had been presented to the FIR Council, who approved them in a FIR Council meeting back in March 2023, with the minutes being published online for everyone to see soon afterwards.

Radu then went on to say he sees the budgets for this year and 2022 are 10% lower than the forecast (or actuals in previous years), and it would be sound to find a way to do the forecast so that the budget, or the actuals are higher than the forecast, not lower.

Amke explained that the goal for FIR, like for any other organisation, should be that the budget should be as realistic as possible, and the forecast as accurate as possible, and that it makes no sense to have an artificially conservative budget or forecast so that the actuals can exceed these.

Turning to 2025, Duncan hoped to develop a budget during the first two months of the year, once the 2024 financials have been signed off and more clarity on sponsorship has been reached.

Radu asked about the Development Fund, which Duncan explained.

Graham explained that President's Report should be voted on, though not the forecast and budget. The AGM then voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Presidents Report.

5) Discharge of Executive President & Council Members

Graham explained that the discharge is for Council members remaining in office, Dan Busby, who left the FIR council last year, and for himself, as he has resigned to stand for election for another 3-years.

The AGM approved the Council discharge unanimously.

6) Election of FIR Vice-President 2023-2026

Graham explained that the FIR statutes require the President's and the Vice-President's terms of office overlap, to ensure some continuity. As a result, he was only voted in for a one-year period at the last election, and so he now needs to be re-elected.

The AGM voted unanimously to elect Graham King as Vice-President for a 3-year term of office.

7) Discharge of FIR Auditors

Graham thanked the auditors, Patrick Burgi and Joachim Gersdorf, for their work, pointing out that they were appointed for a 3-year term at the last AGM and so are not up for election at this AGM.

The AGM approved the Auditor's discharge unanimously.

8) Discharge of FIR Board of Arbitration

Graham thanked the Board of Arbitration, Carola von Heimburg, Karim Hanna and Zigmars Puikevics, for their work, pointing out that they were also appointed for a 3-year term at the last AGM and so are also not up for election at this AGM.

The AGM approved the Board of Arbitration's discharge unanimously.

9) Council Proposal to change Rules of Racketlon

a) Racketlon Sprint

Duncan explained the background behind the Racketlon Sprint idea, stressing that it is not in any way a replacement for traditional Racketlon, but an additional format to be used at selected tournaments. Racketlon Sprint sets are played to 11, following a 1-minute warm-up, and with a golden point at 10-all, meaning a set can finish 11-10. He noted that other sports, such as squash and tennis, also have modified scoring formats, so there is nothing unusual about it. Racketlon Sprint has the advantage that it is faster and more exciting to play, and allows tournaments to schedule more games against more players, which is likely to be especially interesting to juniors and newcomers. Further, there is the added interest that maybe the best 21-up Racketlon player is not also the best 11-up player. Duncan had done a survey of 40-50 players, the greater majority of whom thought it would be a good idea to try.

Jean Michot added that Racketlon France had tried 15-up Racketlon for their university event of 60 players very successfully, allowing them to play 5 matches in a day.

Kresten added that Racketlon Sprint would use the same ranking system as traditional Racketlon, as the same player pool is involved as for traditional matches, and Racketlon is too small to have two different rankings anyway.

James Pope added that Racketlon UK is planning to do a full-day trial at a 2-day county championships next year to get a feel of how many matches can be played.

Kim Ljungberg-Jensen asked whether Racketlon Sprint would be used at tournaments already announced for the World Tour – Duncan says it could be left to the TD to approach FIR, who is looking for only a handful or so of tournaments next year and wants to ensure the messaging going out to players is very clear.

Marcel Weigl related a discussion with Duncan earlier, in which Duncan convinced him of Racketlon Sprint by arguing that there is only little difference between 15-up and 21-up. Marcel added that TV and live-stream benefit from shorter matches.

Duncan added, venues should have courts near to each other, and not e.g. in a different hall, to get matches completed quickly.

He explained that small changes are needed to the Rules of Racketlon (distributed with the AGM invitation) to allow sets to be played to 11, not 21, thereby giving FIR the option to do some Racketlon Sprint trials at tournaments in 2024, before the FIR Council can decide how to roll out more widely. Another vote on the Rules of Racketlon for 2025 will not be necessary.

Graham pointed out that a 2/3 majority is required to approve the change. The AGM approved these changes to the Rules of Racketlon unanimously with one abstention.

b) Doubles server/receiver sequences at deuce

Graham explained that the current Rules of Racketlon leaves almost everything up to interpretation when a doubles match gets to deuce in badminton and tennis, leading to a lot of confusion amongst players and referees alike. He then ran through the proposed changes to the Rules of Racketlon (attached to the AGM invitation) to define the exact sequence better. He added that the sequence can be more complicated if a pair decides to switch forehand and backhand sides at tennis at half-time. The changes were generally understood and accepted.

Duncan added that the FIR Council should draw up picture/schematic illustrating the sequence, as suggested by James Pope, and distributing to all TD's, with coordinated social media posts. The TD's can then print them out for display near the courts to ensure the players are as clear as possible.

The AGM approved these changes to the Rules of Racketlon unanimously.

10) Member Proposals

a) Austria: FIR to become immediate of SRE Sports Recognized from 13.11.2023 again. FIR to apply for membership with GAISF

Graham pointed out that this is effectively two separate points, with two separate votes
- one to become a member of Sports Recognised
- one to apply for GAISF (formerly Sports Accord) membership

Graham pointed out that FIR had always agreed that recognition through GAISF was important but preferred to wait with the application until the timing was right. He then handed over to Marcel to elaborate on the proposal.

Marcel said he wanted to make everyone aware again the importance of recognition, especially for Racketlon, adding that his latest investigations indicated that fulfilling the criteria to become an ordinary member can be very difficult, but that applying to become an associated member could be more easily possible. For RFA it is important to become a member as soon as possible.

The second part, as long as FIR cannot become a member of GAISF, FIR should at least become at least a member of Sports Recognised (SRE). SRE also recognises sports and although much smaller than GAISF, it has helped RFA in Austria with ordinary membership of Austrian Sports Federation, which requires that the international federation (FIR) should be a member of GAISF or a similar organisation. He added that we would have to find out whether it could help any other members, but as membership only costs EUR 500 per year, and FIR has EUR 28'000 on the bank account, he felt it should not be such a big issue.

Graham requested splitting the vote into two, one for GAISF, one for Sports Recognised, to make sure members are clear what they are voting for. Marcel agreed.

GAISF

Graham stated he had no questions and Switzerland would approve. Duncan added he also fully agreed, and as he said in his President's Report, FIR will be setting up a Recognition Working Group, with the main goal of making an application to GAISF, who would be looking at all the information available and deciding on the best timeline to get that done. Duncan and Graham invited the members to vote for GAISF.

19 members voted unanimously to approve applying for GAISF membership

Marcel thanked the AGM for the approval.

Sports Recognised (SRE)

Marcel stated that before the AGM votes on SRE, he wishes to adjust the request to say that at least until FIR becomes a GAISF member, FIR should have some kind of membership with Sports Recognised, so that it is "somewhere", adding that he considers it only a stepping stone and would not be against leaving SRE once GAISF membership had been awarded.

Graham responded that although he appreciates Sports Recognised helps RFA in Austria, looking at the federation's membership and activities, he can't see that it benefits FIR in any way. Marcel replied that although it may not directly help FIR, it does help the FIR members, and FIR consists of its members, and one member is asking for help, and he hopes other members can follow it and might also help them, reiterating that it only costs EUR 500 per year, why do we need to discuss this.

Graham responded that it was less about the money, if it was value-for-money, but looking at the SRE membership and finding what appears to be pole-dancing as one of the sports, and no other known sports represented as members, he has serious reservations and asks whether it helps or harms us to be associated with such minor sports. Marcel says currently it is helping and that is why FIR can leave again once we are GAISF members. Duncan added that, although he appreciates it has helped Austria, SRE hasn't posted anything on their website since 2020 and has very little or no activity on Facebook, so he cannot say it will help any other of our members to be associated with an organisation as small or inactive as SRE, adding he has looked at the regulations for 7 or 8 countries, and that SRE isn't mentioned in any of them.

Marcel asks to move to a vote, unless other members have questions.

During the voting process, Jean Michot asked questions about GAISF, to which Duncan explained that we had already voted to go ahead with applying for GAISF membership, and that what we are now voting on is Sports Recognised/SRE membership. Jean then asked for another explanation of what SRE is, which Marcel explained again.

The AGM voted:

- 15 votes for (4 members)
- 11 votes against (6 members)
- 37 votes abstained (15 members)

Marcel thanked the countries who supported this and hoped it would help them, and the others later.

- b) Austria: FIR to order and pay doping tests of at least 4 elite players at world championships

Marcel said RFA thinks it is very important for the credibility of our sport that at least at World Championships there should be compulsory doping tests for the Elite players, adding that there are several reasons: a) that our Elite world champions should be demonstrably clean of doping and that there is the same possibility for everyone to win, b) in Austria it is important that World Championships are taken as a professional sports event, even if amateurs are also taking part, c) Austria also considers international sports events are professional, which is why at least a few doping tests are taken at the Austrian Open.

RFA therefore requests that doping tests at the World Championships should be taken and either paid for by the tournament organiser, or by FIR, adding that the cost to RFA for the Austrian Open were around EUR 1'500.

Kresten, as an Elite player affected by such tests, says he has no information on what medicine is legal or not legal, and what medicine is ok, or not. Further we have no sanctions defined on what to do with any players who would take the wrong medicine and end up testing positive and may require being banned from participation for a few years. He feels we are definitely not ready for mandatory doping-tests at this point.

Duncan invited Graham, who is part of the World Tour Committee (WTC) already looking into such issues, to relate his findings so far.

Graham said that WTC definitely wants a clean sport with an anti-doping policy, like all other established sports, who have a consistent concept covering all aspects, clear objectives of what they are trying to achieve, a clear definition of which in-competition and out-of-competition testing is needed, whether it applies to Elite and/or amateur players, a comprehensive education programme to inform players what is allowed, established sanctions for doping violations, roles and responsibilities within the organisation etc. FIR currently has none of these. Graham feels that for FIR to behave professionally, then the FIR Council should first develop and approve its own anti-doping policy, and that carrying out a few random tests on a very few random players proves nothing at all, other than that the individual concerned was clean on that day.

Duncan informed the members that the WTC was actively in the process of doing this now, and asked Graham whether it was his wish to be allowed to carry on with the work, rather than have an AGM to vote on it while it was in progress. Graham confirmed this, adding that we have a 2-page study document which is planned to be presented to the Council later this month, so the Council can take this on professionally, rather than risk having to ban a player for 4 years because they used the wrong deodorant one day.

James agreed with Graham, giving various examples of how a few random unplanned and uncoordinated tests are a complete waste of time and money, not to mention all the logistics issues concerned.

Marcel did not agree with James that there are no Racketlon players doing doping to improve their results, but suggested RFA withdraw their request be taking into the anti-doping program whenever the Council / Working Group is ready.

c) Romania:

Graham pointed out that this is also effectively two separate points, with two separate votes

- one to change Art. 7.2: "The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall take place once a year, in the first three months of the year"

- one to add 8.k: Review the draft budget proposed by the Council for that year and approve a final version

AGM timing

Graham invited Radu to present the idea behind the timing of the AGM.

Radu said we have seen in this AGM that we are presented with budgets which lie in the past and which are effectively being rubber-stamped without any discussion. He feels the AGM should discuss the budget when we can do something about it, rather than after it is a fact.

Graham added that in the olden pre-Zoom days, FIR had its AGM's at a World Championships to ensure maximum attendance. As these usually took place towards the end of the year, the statutes were written to allow AGM's to be held so late in the year. With Zoom, we are no longer restricted by this, and so are free to hold AGM's much earlier.

He repeated the request to stick to the splitting of these two requests, adding that Switzerland would be in favour of holding the AGM in Q1.

James added that Racketlon UK points out that a late AGM allows any issues arising during the year, such as the server-receiver sequence, to be worked on and handled at the AGM in preparation for the coming year. Graham pointed out that such issues could also be handled by an EGM, specifically called for that purpose.

Jean Michot points out that Racketlon France has an annual year from September to August and organises its AGM in October, which is effectively Q1 for them.

The AGM voted:

- 42 votes for (15 members)
- 5 votes against (1 member)
- 2 votes abstained (2 members)

Budget

Regarding the vote on the AGM's budget approval, Graham related his earlier discussions with Karim, the Swiss Racketlon President, who advised to request changing the proposal to only a consultative vote, not a definitive one, to avoid any procedural difficulties, should a decision not be reached and we need an EGM to try again; further, dealing with a vote for which there was not enough time or information available to think it through thoroughly could result in a hasty, poor decision. He explained that the budget would be proposed to, and discussed at the AGM, and that the AGM could give their feedback in an advisory fashion. This would still make the Council accountable for either implementing the AGM requests, or explaining why they followed a different path, but inability to find consensus would not risk everything shutting down.

Graham proposed, and Radu accepted, changing the request to

8k) Take a consultative vote on the draft budget proposed by the Council for that year

Amke asked how we can limit the budget discussion, given that the typical AGM recently already lasts several hours.

Duncan suggests making the budget available as soon as possible in advance of the AGM.

Amke points out that many issues could be handled ahead of the meeting, if members have questions.

Radu proposes the AGM only discusses points raised prior to the AGM.

The AGM approved the addition of 8k to the statutes unanimously.

11) Date and time of next AGM

Duncan proposed a zoom meeting towards the end of March 2024. The AGM acknowledged.

12) Any Other Business

Graham explained that Radu's request to vote on the WTC's award of the World Championships for 3 years to Racketlon Netherlands, with DWS Events (Duncan Stahl) as Tournament Director, was, after consultation with legal counsel, moved to AOB, as it is defined in FIR's Tournament Regulations that such a decision is the duty of the WTC, and neither do the statutes mandate it being discussed at an AGM, nor is there such a precedent case of the AGM voting on it.

Radu accepted the move to AOB, since he agrees that the important aspect is that it is discussed.

Graham explained that the reasons behind the WTC's decision to award the World Championships for 3 years were

- To remove the extremely time-consuming selection process effort needed by those involved, such as Duncan, Kirsten Kaptein (World Tour Officer) and himself
- To avoid complications and delays in announcing the FIR World Tour, as it is planned around the World Championships and so has to wait until the World Championships has been defined and agreed
- To free up key personnel (e.g. Duncan and Graham) for other tasks, rather than require them to spend a huge amount of effort in setting up everything for a World Championships every single year
- To allow improvements to repeat performances of the World Championships at the same venue through a very extensive "lessons learned" review process

Duncan added that it is a huge undertaking, that it is very difficult to find venues which are big enough and of a good enough quality for a World Championships, and there are also very few people willing to take on the responsibility for it. Thus, when he found the Rotterdam venue, one of the best he has seen for such an event, the application went to the WTC. Further, it is very rare for anyone to step up and say they would like to take on the World Championships without FIR having to ask and persuade them first, so we are not holding anyone back.

He reiterated what Graham said, that amount of time it frees up for FIR by knowing that the World Championships are defined for 3 years is huge, allowing FIR to do so much other work without having to worry about that big issue.

Radu stated he agreed with the decision to put the World Championships 3 years at the same venue, but there are also reasons not to do it.

He doesn't agree that it is not an AGM issue, as the AGM has the need to discuss anything which might be different in Racketlon. The value to put on Racketlon is the same as putting one on FIR,

which according to the budget presented, he sets at EUR 50k. Looking at the World Championships, he sees that this is the only asset that FIR has. Further, as the budget of the World Championships is almost the same as the budget for FIR, it doubles the value of Racketlon. Also, because of the number of entries, it is the only tournament which is profitable by itself. This profit would be a good opportunity for FIR, so FIR should organise the Championships and profit directly from it. Hearing that FIR cannot do this, as it has no people, no manpower, no knowledge etc., it is normal, as elsewhere in the public/private sector, for FIR to “privatise” it, awarding the profit of the World Championships to a private entity. What he found absolutely not right, was that nobody knew that FIR wanted to award its most valuable asset to a private entity for 3 years. Had he known, he would have thought himself about bidding for it, to think about how he can get this profit from this event for 3 years. But instead, the WTC awarded the World Championships for 3 years without communicating their intention. Radu says he knows someone who wanted to apply for 2025, but now he cannot.

Radu is concerned that the procedure is faulty, as nobody knew about it, and FIR does not benefit from the profit. He related the 2022 World Championships awarded to Austria, which resulted in a EUR 30k-40k of real-money profit for FIR, in the form of prize money, free accommodation for Elite teams, subsidised entry fees etc.

In addition, Radu feels it is a faulty procedure to award a World Championships for 3 years to a private entity “under the table”, especially as the private entity also belongs to the President, making it even more faulty. Further, Radu feels it is also wrong that FIR gets no profit from its most valuable asset.

Frank Kleiber stated that if we are to take more and more decisions away from the elected Council and instead make them in an AGM, then we will run into a chaos. Given we have elected the Council, we should let them do their job. If you don’t find the Council is doing a good job, then vote against them at the next election.

Duncan asked Graham to explain the process that actually did take place when WTC proposed to the FIR Council to vote on assigning the World Championships for 3 years. Duncan rejected Radu’s proposal that the award was made “under the table” in any way.

Graham explained his recollection that the World Championships was offered to Racketlon Netherlands for a single year back in 2022, although this was later prevented by the Covid pandemic. Once Racketlon tournaments re-started following Covid, the World Championships were once again offered to Racketlon Netherlands, although they no longer wanted to fully take on the tournament organisation themselves. Instead, Duncan stepped in to ensure that we did have a World Championships at all in 2023, given that no other options were available. After various discussions on the tournament requirements, the WTC put it to the Council to discuss and vote. The Council met in an online Council meeting and agreed unanimously to award the Championships to Racketlon Netherlands for 2 years, with DWS Events (Duncan Stahl) as Tournament Director.

Duncan reiterated the process, that the WTC gave the details to the Council to discuss and vote on the issue. He supported Frank’s statement, that if we take such things away from the Council, who have the necessary expertise to make these decisions, and move to an AGM, there will be chaos.

Radu added that he is not attempting to change the FIR statutes here, or take decisions in general away from the Council, but is just challenging this one particular decision.

Duncan countered that the same process was followed as in all other years, the decision was a logical one for the Council, and that the Council meeting minutes have been online for over a year.

Radu wanted to have the chance to bid for this, as if he knew it would be for 3 years, he would bid, and then WTC would have two offers to choose between.

Amke agreed with Frank that we need to be careful that the AGM does not discuss too many operative topics. We have already discussed anti-doping in the Council, we have discussed Sports Recognised/SRE in the Council, when we decided after long discussions to leave SRE several years ago, we have discussed the World Tour with the WTC in the Council. The Council has been elected for this job and the AGM should not try to undermine them and their processes. We are all here as volunteers, so lets try to give them the trust and encouragement so they can do their job.

Marcel added that he does not want to comment on the topic itself, as he does not care whether the Championships are awarded for 3 years or not, but that members should be allowed to say what their opinion is, and has the right to take issues to the AGM if they think the Council is not acting correctly. He insists that member rights to bring proposals to the AGM be respected. Radu had now given his opinion and that's it.

Radu wanted to hear other members opinions about the issue. Although no members wanted to speak, all messages posted on the meeting chat were supportive of the Council.

Duncan and Graham then suggested concluding the meeting.

Marcel wanted the last word in thanking Duncan, Graham and the Council for everything, adding that FIR and ERU had had some talks in the last weeks and that they are trying to work together for the best of Racketlon. Duncan did not want to go into long detail at this time, but confirmed that FIR has always been happy to work with ERU when there are good things to work on. He can make a wider statement in more detail at another time.

Duncan then closed the AGM at 17:10

Minutes taken by Graham King and confirmed by Duncan Stahl

Duncan Stahl

(President)

Graham King

(Vice-President)