

Flash Info 124

EDITO



110507 WET EN Champion photo Sotelo

STATE OF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS AND PREPARATION

According to the proverb, "if you don't go forward, you are going backward". Given the numerous activities performed by FIRA-AER, on the pitch for competitions and off the pitch in meetings, there is no use for any reverse gear for the European Association: the forthcoming GA, which will write a new chapter in our history with a true State of the Unions (NTD, General Secretaries and Chairmen) of the European Game, is taking place after a great sporting event.

The U18 Justin Bridou championship had hardly ended when the Women's took over in La Coruña where England defeated title-holder Spain. It is also in Iberia that the kick off of the new training and talent identification platform for the U17 was given with games opposing Portugal - winners of Spain in the final - the Netherlands and Belgium. Georgia, Russia, Romania and Ukraine on the one hand, Poland, Czech Republic, Sweden and Switzerland on the other hand also participated: 12 nations had therefore been in a position to prepare for their U18 competition programme in 2012!

In parallel the 6 Nations Age Grade Committee reported, in Cardiff, on the 2011 event in Bigorre, with extremely positive feedback on the organisation while noting some uneven oppositions need to be addressed and remedied.

Two new sectors activities to go forward!

Progress was also made, in Dublin at the time of the Council meeting: the IRN held a Regional Associations Workshop to discuss worldwide matters as well as the role of these Associations, Fifteens and Sevens competitions for Men's and Women's and in particular the qualifications for the World Cup whose kick off for Europe will be given as soon as next September, 2011. Information on Olympics qualifications - long discussions have been held for this subject - will follow. FIRA-AER asked for the creation of interregional tournaments to have a better assessment of the playing standards. FIRA-AER Executive Committee met in Paris to put in place the 2011-2012 season which will be fully communicated during the meetings in the Canaries, when the delicate subject of the future Grants will also be addressed while we already know that the Grants will be subject to an austerity approach depending on a New Zealand's World Cup financially affected by the consequences of the dramatic events of which we are all aware. Before these budgetary issues, which will have to be submitted to the IRB at the end of July, sporting matters will prevail with Sevens tournaments and a Beach Rugby event in Anglet.

A great cocktail including and mixing all the sporting, administrative, and financial ingredients, required for the management of an absolutely enthralling Game.

HENRI GATINEAU



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WET - England winner of the Women European Trophy



2010 European Trophy winners Spain, hosted the 2011 Trophy which was won by England A 5 - 3 over the hosts. The 2011 competition had an excellent level with 16 games in 9 days.

In Pool A, Spain beat France A 12 - 11 before defeating Sweden and were therefore placed at the top of this pool.

In Pool B, a single try for England A was enough to beat Italy in the opening game and contributed to England A winning this pool.

The final between Spain and England was a dramatic game with a 0-0 score line at half time. A penalty kick by Patricia Garcia (50 minutes) gave hope to a large crowd to see Spain win a second consecutive Trophy. However, two minutes before the final whistle, Sarah Hunter scored a try for

England A to take the lead over Spain and eventually the title.

In the other games on the final day of the Tournament, France A dominated Italy 17 - 7 for 3rd place, whilst the Netherlands beat Sweden for 5th and Russia beat Finland for 7th place.

WET - Legacy program during the tournament



Legacy project have been undertaken during the Women European Trophy in Coruña, Spain on Thursday 5th May.

Coaches and players from all the 8 participating teams took part in a training session with boys and girls from the local club and schools. Around 90-100 players from U7 to U17 participated and very much enjoyed the training and games at the Stadium Acea da Ma, Coruña.



