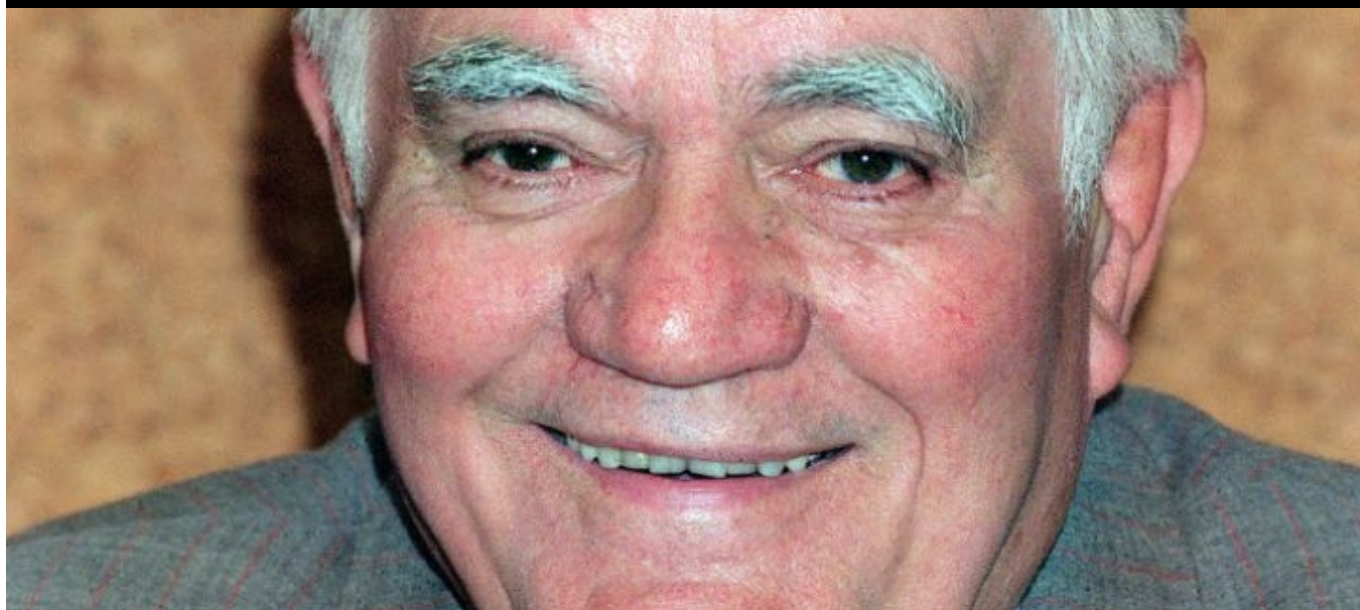


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110831 Ferrasse Photo: G. Bouys / AFP

FIRA-AER MOURNS THE PASSING OF ALBERT FERRASSE

This summer saw the passing of Albert FERRASSE and, in the same time, a page was turned: the last page of a chapter written under his chairmanship, a crucial chapter in the history of the European institution. He was a unique official who helped FIRA-AER to grow in the same way he brought vision to all his projects. It is under his chairmanship that antagonism with the International Rugby Board changed into a partnership, safeguarding what all world rugby's leaders have always described as "ASSOCIATION-PILOT". Fear or respect? Both undoubtedly! The dimension of his personality ensured the institution gained the status it deserved. Just as he had the French Rugby Union reach a higher level, Albert FERRASSE gave FIRA an exceptional position in the reorganisation of world rugby. This exceptional leader who was also a very generous man (epitomised by the Foundation he created in support of players who suffered catastrophic injuries and to which he left his inheritance) deserves recognition from the whole sporting world. The International Olympic Committee obviously knew this as he had been inducted in their "Hall of Illustrious Officials" even before rugby was reinstated as an Olympic Sport. For all these reasons and for all his accomplishments, Albert FERRASSE has been a great influence in the history of our Association!

But this period of mourning does not mean our activities have stopped: it has been a busy summer with the Euro Beach Rugby Cup (ten participating nations: France (winner) - Romania (runner-up) - Ireland, Wales, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Ukraine and Georgia) which was the successful culmination of two years of preparations, thanks to the Territorial Committee's assistance and facilities in Anglet. With next season's budget to be submitted to the IRB and the Executive Committee during which the men's and women's strategic plans as well as the competitions schedule will be approved. With the Ukraine-Romania match played in the city of Lviv in front of a record audience, which turned out to be such a promotion for our Game. With the three U20 tournaments in Luxembourg, Lithuania and Greece. All these events saw the kick-off for season 2011-2012 which will pause during the World Cup before resuming in October.

Summer of mourning. Progressive start of the season dedicated to a great official whose legacy will be engraved in our memory forever.

HENRI GATINEAU



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U20 - 2011 Tournaments in Luxembourg and Lithuania



The first two U20 tournaments were completed end of August in Luxembourg and Lithuania. Moldova and Poland have validated the ticket for the final tournament.

In Luxembourg, 4 tight games for a win of Moldova in final face to Switzerland. Luxembourg has won Czech Republic for the third place. The crowd has appreciated the excellent level of each game.

In Lithuania, Poland and Lithuania were on top of the pool; Latvia and Finland got two large defeats. In final game, Poland won 27 to 22, and Latvia got the third place.

The third tournament will be played in Greece from 21 to 25 September with Hungary, Serbia, Ukraine and Greece.

U17 Tournament in Baia Mare (RO)



From 22 to 27 August in Baia Mare (RO) was held the U17 Tournament with Poland, Russia and Romania.

The Managers of this workshop for the coaches and players were Philippe Filiatre and Pierre Lautier, and for the referees Michel Lamoulie.

About 25 players per country with 5 to 10 coaches and referees have participated to this workshop under a strong Romanian sun.

Photos: Vlad Sabau

Belgium - Level 1 for Coaches



The Belgium rugby Union along with the rugby clubs of Leuven and Schilde organized two IRB level 1 rugby courses on 5 & 6 August in Schilde and on 19 & 20 August in Leuven. In total 37 new IRB level 1 coaches received their certificated.

On day 1 (Friday evening) the course was focused on modules 1 and 2, the day after (Saturday) the course continued with the other modules.

We want to thank the educators: Alex Michiels, Raf Renders, Michel De Baets and Mathias Rondou as well as the clubs for the organization.

The next FIRA-AER/IRB course is planned on 17 September under the guidance of Frank Michiels, Johan Meersman and John Van Beek. This time the target is to train new IRB level 1 referees.

Israël - Level 1 Course for 7s Coaches



Israel Rugby Union has organised a FIRA-AER/IRB Level 1 course for Rugby 7 coaches in Wingate Institute - Netanya (IL) from 15 to 20 August 2011.

David Fraser (RFU) assisted by IRB Licenced Ronen Kalai (IL) were the Course Manager's. Finally 32 participants including 8 female have followed this workshop, some were designated for the Level 2.

Special thanks to all personnes involved and to the Israel Olympic Committee for his support.



