



**FLASHINFO 134**  
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ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE RUGBY

## Flashinfo 134

EDITO



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### EXCO, GS, NATIONAL TECHNICAL DIRECTORS CONFERENCES

It is not too late to come back to the successful Justin Bridoux U18 European Championship. Our Spanish friends showed exemplary organisational skills as well as a great sense of hospitality. It was for Jean-Claude BAQUÉ one of the most successful Age Grade tournaments he's ever attended.

And as success brings success, the recent meetings were also fruitful. The Executive Committee met in Paris, France, over two days, and dealt with the Senior Cross Border competition (semi-finals draw), Women's Sevens (integration of Ireland and Luxembourg's first participation), Cyprus proposal to become an IRB Member and the creation of a commercial/marketing manager. The Agreement with the 6 Nations was also discussed and the latest draft is to be submitted to the 6N Committee on May 2 in Paris. In Budapest, 60 General Secretaries and National Technical Directors (including for the first time delegates from the 6 Nations Unions) met to discuss governance matters (including commercial matters for elected members, administrative and sporting staff), schedules and planning for 2013 (over 2 years), common norms for European registrations, performance objectives in the organisation of FIRA-AER events and IRB Trust Grants and competitions (including talent identification and pathways). Hard work and focus in a friendly atmosphere!

If April belonged to the youth and the administrators, May will be for Women's XV, with Group A event in Italy and Group B to compete in Sweden while June will be dedicated to Sevens. Enjoy!

**HENRI GATINEAU**



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## 2012 - U18 Closing ceremony



Following the win in the Ciudad universitaria de Madrid of U18 England, the Spanish Union has invited all players, Management, Volunteers, Officials, Clubs ... to the great auditorium in the Hotel Auditorium Madrid for a big closing ceremony.

First of all, the team Captains has received a gift, then the Spanish clubs. Alfonso Mandado therefore has awarded the Spanish responsible of referees, Jose-Maria Epalza and Jean-Claude Baqué. To finish the ceremony, Jean-Claude Baqué has highlighted the exceptional performance of Spanish Rugby Union to organise a great tournament without a mistake.

Finally a very impressive Gala Diner for more than 800 persons in Auditorium Hotel has been give, an other great performance. Next U18 Tournament in Grenoble (FR).

Photos: Hector Sanchez

## New Unions Responsibles



Following elections in affiliated Unions, FIRA-AER has registered the following changes:

New President in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Semsudin Mehmedovic (photo)

News General Secretaries:

Lithuania: Irmantas Kukulkis

Netherlands: Michel Arends

Russia: Oleg Samartsev

Switzerland: Sébastien Cottreau

## Iceland - IRB/FIRA-AER "TES" supported Match Officiating Course, Valur (IS), 13th April 2012



There were 10 participants on an IRB/FIRA-AER Level 1 Course entitled "Introducing Officiating".

Andrew Macpherson (Scotland) facilitated FIRA-AER's newcomers with its first Officiating course. It is hoped that delegates will assist the Icelandic Union with its projects to develop the Game in the near and long-term future.

## Belgium - Continuity for coaches



As part of the IRB/FIRA-AER Training & Education Support "TES" scheme, IRB Licensed Educator Jean Bidal (FR) delivered a coaching workshop (4th-6th April) for the Belgium Rugby Federation on "Continuity" at Kasterlee.in Hoge Rielen.

20 coaches attended and players from the VRB U17 & LBRF U16 teams attended to allow the coaches to practise what they had learnt during the workshop.



## Friendly game - Slovakia hosts Turkey



In the long list of friendly games at the end of each season, FIRA-AER would like to highlight Slovakia which is hosting Turkey on 29 April 2012.

This game will be held in Bratislava KO 3pm, This game will give a idea of Turkey in the European countries before the request for admission to FIRA-AER which should be effective during the next AGM Meeting.

Finally, Turkey won in Slovakia by 31 to 5.

## FIRA-AER Technical Director Conference (Budapest), 19-22 April 2012



The Conference will be run alongside the FIRA-AER General Secretary Conference. The aim of the Conference is; by using information gathered and discussed, delegates will have the ability to assist and further assist their unions in improving strategic & action planning.

The themes to be covered: TD Role & Function, Mass Participation, Competitions, Training & Education, FIRA-AER Strategic Planning & Trust Grant Applications. 29 delegates have gathered from Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, Wales & Switzerland. The Conference was opened by Balazs Bohn on behalf of the Hungarian Rugby Union & Conference facilitators Michael Arpaillange & Douglas Langley on behalf of IRB/FIRA-AER. The first day began

with group discussions on the role and function of the Technical Director which will build the framework of the Conference. Tomas Morais then gave a presentation on his TD role with the Rugby Union of Portugal.

the 2nd day of the Conference began with the delegates focusing on Mass Participation. More delegates also joined the Conference from Israel, Lithuania & Romania. Presentations were given to share mass participation project ideas from Ruben Duque (Spain), Magnus Stangenberg (Sweden), Nick Rennie (Scotland) & Steve Grainger (England). Steve's presentation looked at how the RWC 2015 will be linked to mass participation legacy projects in England. Working groups then discussed the current situation in their unions with participation and looked at goals and actions to increase the participation numbers in their countries. Douglas Langley also presented the IRB Mass Participation pilot project "Get into Rugby". The 5 unions in Europe that will be piloted were also announced; Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland & Romania. Anne O'Callaghan (IRB) then informed the delegates of the updates that there will be with the 2013 Trust Grant application process.

During the day the Technical Directors also worked with the General Secretaries on the updated FIRA-AER Strategic Plan presented by FIRA-AER President Jean-Claude Baque, Director Gilles Bizot and Douglas Langley.

The 3rd Day of the Conference saw delegates being informed and discussing competitions, talent identification programs and training & education. Martin Kafka (Czech Republic) reported back to the group on the FIRA-AER national Coaching Conference that was held last month whilst Michel Arpaillange gave an update on FIRA-AER men's women's & age-grade tournaments. Jeff Roach (Wales) & Scott Walker (Ireland) followed this with examples from their union on talent-identification. In the afternoon Douglas Langley gave an update on IRB on-line technical support resources whilst Max Godemet (France) & Franco Ascione (Italy) made a presentation on coach education certification equivalency. After this the delegates along with the General secretaries enjoyed a tour of the Budapest and a dinner hosted by the Hungarian Rugby Union.

The final day of the Conference saw the delegates make summary presentations on the key points that they can take from the Conference to assist them in their development as Technical Directors and what they can implemented to assist their unions. The Technical Directors then joined the General Secretaries to sum up the outcomes of the Conferences and the FIRA-AER president Jean-Claude Baque to closed the Conferences. Many thanks must go to the Hungarian Rugby Union for their support and hospitality in hosting the Conference. A special thanks to General Secretary Balazs Bohms who was always at hand to assist.



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## General Secretary Conference, Budapest, 20/22 April 2012



A conference for General Secretaries was held in Budapest from 20 to 22 April 2012, at the same time as another conference for Technical Directors. After FIRA-AER President, Jean-Claude BAQUE, & Pal TURI, President of the Hungarian Rugby Union, opened the meetings, a busy programme started to stop on Sunday at midday.

Firstly, the GS, together with Jean-Claude BAQUE, discussed the FIRA-AER strategic plan, which defines both sports and political orientations from 2012 to 2016.

After an individual meeting with every union, Patrick ROIn, referee manager, presented the refereeing situation in Europe. Thanks to Anne O'CALLAGHAN's support, Douglas LANGLEY was able to explain the new grant system for 2013.

On Saturday 21st April, Delfim BARREIRA, general secretary of the Portuguese union, reminded the main points when organising a European Nations Cup game (hospitality, accommodation, internal transport, support to the commissioner...). Grzegorz BORKOWSKI, general secretary of the Polish union, detailed the different steps of the organisation of a 7's tournament - presentation which was much appreciated by the new general secretaries. Guy MOLVEAU, from the French Rugby Union, pointed out the importance of complying to regulation 9 Competitions kits, competition manuals and host agreements have also been reviewed. The implementation of a central data base to list the licences was also discussed.

Gilles BIZOT & Amandine GUICHARD encouraged the general secretaries to communicate, through FIRA-AER, on the activities of their unions and showed the possibilities of the website.

Commercial issues (partnership, commercial strategy) were also presented.

On Sunday morning, the conference aimed at explaining the planning of a season and the appointments of match officials.

29 countries attended: Germany, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Scotland, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and of course the Hungarian host.

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## Poland - IRB/FIRA-AER Level 1 Match Officiating Course, Sopot (PL), 21-22 April 2012

The Polish Rugby Union organised a IRB/FIRA-AER Level 1 Match Officiating course "Introducing Officiating".

The Course Educator was Tomas Jarowicz and 14 delegates attended. The weekend course included the participants practising their new found skills during an U11, U13 & U15 Youth Tournament. The Course was also used to select candidates for the coming FIRA-AER U17 Camp being organised in Myslenice.



