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ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE RUGBY

Special FIRA-AER Congress

EDITO



120706 Assemblée générale Odense-Prince Joachim-Credit: N.Godvin

CALM AND STEADY PROGRESS

Guided clearly and competently by its Captain, the FIRA-AER ship has reached its full cruising speed. It has sailed the winds and tides, making calm and steady progress on its voyage. The fruits of this calm, steady progress were illustrated at the 88th General Assembly which took place in Odense (Denmark) alongside the Sevens Grand Prix Series tournament, providing the ideal combination of policy and sport.

The Head of the World Cup, Kit Mc Connell, was fulsome in his praise for the wealth of ideas and initiatives which FIRA AER contributes to the RWC and asked for the association's full cooperation in terms of suggestions and strategies so as to ensure that the 2015 event, to be held in England, is a great success. IRB representative, David Carrigy, was equally complimentary, reaffirming his organisation's high regard for FIRA's hard work, continued efforts and on-going success in the development of rugby in Europe.

Progression: In a nod from the world of sport to the world of politics, Turkey became the 47th nation to become an official member of FIRA AER

Continuity: Our organisation continues to expand. Our next objective is to increase the number of members from one million to one million two hundred thousand and to prioritise the development of the Men and Women's Sevens Rugby (FIRA-AER is a pioneering force in this area).

Calm: Despite a disastrous financial climate, finances remain healthy thanks to tighter management.

This above triptych aptly illustrates FIRA's philosophy of working in harmony toward a shared passion.

Good intentions are well and good so long as they are backed up with hard work and there was indeed no shortage of hard work to be observed at the 88th A.G.M., as you will discover in the report to follow. This work impressed the IRB Head of Development, Morgan Buckley, who congratulated those present on their efficiency, thanking them for their cooperation, their effort and the aid provided by the IRB. It is worthy of note that FIRA-AER and the IRB are now working in tandem, thereby fulfilling the wish of Jean-Claude Baqué who has always insisted the on the importance of two organisations working in harmony.

HENRI GATINEAU



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J.C. Baqué : "FIRA-AER and IRB need to work in harmony"

Before tackling the meeting agenda, starting with domestic competitions, Kit Mc Connell praised the Russian Union which is currently organising the Sevens World Cup 2013. "The IRB and the Russian Union are working closely together" he said.

The Russian Chairman, Vyacheslav Kopiev gave details of their progress, emphasising that the Moscow Council and the government are offering full support to the organisation of the event which will take place in the Loujniky Olympic Stadium (70,000 seated places) and at a 180km²; grass sports complex comprising 9 pitches. The biggest event-organiser company in the country is providing six groups of sponsors, in addition to the traditional sponsors. The Minister for Sport is presiding over the organising committee (120 people are already on site and working in collaboration with the RWC). Reservations are open and ticket prices are very reasonable in order to ensure that the sport receives maximum exposure among young people, families and the general public.

Howard Thomas, Chairman of the Sevens Rugby Committee, followed with a report on European Sevens competitions, emphasising the tremendous progress made in the Women's sector. This was confirmed by Douglas Langley who spoke of the training courses and the 34 women's teams which participated in competitions.

In his conclusion to this section of the meeting, Jean-Claude Baqué gave some wise advice. "FIRA-AER should not try to compete with the IRB but rather to complement it. Harmony should be are main concern", he said.

Prince Joachim, patron of Danish Rugby



Chairman of the Danish Union and host, Ole Nielsen took on the duty of opening the Administrative Council and the General Assembly. He had the added task and pleasure of welcoming his Royal Highness, Prince Joachim of Denmark, to whom he gave an account of the state of European Rugby.

Then it was Jean-Claude Baqué's turn to address the Prince: "We are delighted, honoured and proud to welcome you. You are a true rugby man, recognised by the 44 nations present here today and we thank you for all you have done for Danish rugby and for rugby in general. Let us not forget that it is in Denmark that rugby became an Olympic sport". The FIRA-AER Chairman then presented his Royal Highness with the European Gold Medal and Ole Nielsen with the Honorary Medal in

recognition of his tremendous work in organising the General Assembly and the Sevens Tournament.

In impeccable and gracious French, Prince Joachim responded as follows: "I am delighted to welcome you to Odense in my capacity as patron of Danish Rugby. Odense is flattered to be at the centre of European rugby this week-end. Rugby is a sport of traditions and exemplary values. It creates networks of friends. You are making it a global sport. It is a spectacular discipline which I look forward to enjoying when I attend your tournament".

Continuation of IRB aid for developing nations

The prologue to the Danish AGM, delivered by the Head of the World Cup, Kit Mc Connell, proved most reassuring.

We were told that the 2011 World Cup brought in 142 million sterling in commercial revenue and 420 million sterling in ticket sales. This resulted in a net profit of 92 million. The Head of Finance at the Fédération Française, René Hourquet, posed the question "Does this financial success mean that aid to emerging nations is set to continue?" The positive response he received from the speaker was accompanied by a request for a redoubling of efforts to ensure that "this major event is repeated in 2015 thanks to the participation of all regional and national bodies and the widespread involvement of volunteers". From a practical point of view, the qualification process will start in September/October of this year. The pools will be selected on the 3rd of December in London. The strategic plan has already been drafted. From a European point of view, Michel Arpaillange announced that three qualifying stages will take place in 2013, with the fourth taking place in 2014. Finally, the icing on the cake will be the 2019 event in Japan (with an office in Tokyo) Preparations for this are already underway with the support of the government having been secured.



A year of sporting and administrative success. Time now to work on policies says JC. Baqué

In his review of a year abundant in sporting as well as administrative successes, Jean-Claude Baqué singled out the following for praise: the community values espoused by the Justin Bridou U18 Championship, the high standard of play at the Sevens Grand Prix Series and Women's competitions, the great work carried out at the NTD and General Secretary meetings in Budapest. He also spoke of the frank and open discussions on the action plan which took place in Dublin and the closer relations between FIRA-AER and the Six Nations. The Chairman finished his sporting review by stating that "the countries that have a NTD in place are making the most progress".

In terms of projects, FIRA-AER's commitment to the development plan (mass participation) initiated by the IRB was mentioned. The following issues were also highlighted: The need to relocate, from October 1st onwards to a new headquarters (3 offices and 2 conference rooms) just a few feet away from the old building, following the sale of the FFR building, the creation of a committee to deal with the standardization of pitches. Some great work has already been carried out in this area. It was recommended that countries take out civil liability insurance in order to avoid huge disappointments in the case of accidents. FIRA-AER is revaluing its own guarantees. René Hourquet informed us that "specific insurance already exists for players under contract".

In his overall conclusion, Jean-Claude Baqué stated that "we have had a year abundant in sporting and administrative success. It is now up to us to implement our policies at European and International level in an effective manner"

JL Barthes: "47 nations, 6 000 clubs, across all of Europe"

In his report, which was unanimously passed, the General Secretary, Jean-Louis Barthes, having thanked the Danish organisers (their 3rd time to host an AGM, having done so in 1975 and 1990) and paid homage to the memory of Albert Ferrasse, gave a detailed, pithy review of FIRA-AER's activities. These activities are outlined in a 107-page document produced in French and English and covering the competitions, meetings and training courses. He went on to state that this document is extremely comprehensive and of an excellent standard and that it contains all of the events which punctuated the season: results, competition classifications, working meetings, administrative, sporting technical and refereeing courses, and reports from the Executive Committees, Administrative Councils and AGMs"

Now comprising 47 nations (Turkey being the latest member) and 6 000 clubs spread throughout Europe, FIRA-AER is a force to be reckoned with at all levels of global activity (development, competitions, refereeing, Men and Women's Sevens rugby, beach rugby). Its administrative sector is constantly improving and adapting to new technologies. All documents are sent by electronic means in both French and English. Its internet site is extremely well-run.

Having thanked the IRB and the FFR for their help and support, the General Secretary asked the participants to "to ensure that the legacy lives on so that FIRA-AER will earn the right to be cited as an example of reliability and quality the world over"

Michel Arpaillange: "Our priority is to have 1,200,000 members by 2015"

It was the job of the two Regional Development Managers, Michel Arpaillange and Douglas Langley to present the sporting review of the NTD meeting in Budapest. This was a detailed and comprehensive report which included; the training of NTDs, grant applications, educator courses (32 participants), mass participation projects and competitions by grade and age category. A meeting has been scheduled for August to standardize all of the IRB initiatives.

The main objective according to Michel Arpaillange is to increase the number of member-players from one million to one million two hundred thousand (i.e. 20%) by 2015, using the World Cup as the primary impetus. Particular emphasis needs to be put on young people. Countries should identify opportunities in the schools sector. FIRA-AER will provide them with an educator who will canvass in schools on 10 occasions per year, over a 3-year-period. It will also establish education plans and cultural projects related to rugby and create a specific strategic plan. FIRA-AER has already targeted 5 countries. The possibility of twinning another European country with a county in England is being explored. This will be followed by Inter-school exchanges and the creation of a competition between national teams who fail to qualify for the RWC.

Jean-Claude Baqué made a further point: "In France, the World Cup competitions have allowed us to increase our numbers from 15 to 20%. FIRA-AER will provide you with the necessary resources (human, material, road maps, guidance, twinning, exchanges)". Michel Arpaillange gave a list of nations who have appointed a qualified National Technical Director since the launch of the initiative in 2005/2006. It comprises 19 countries: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine. 16 other countries are in the process of training an NTD: Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cypress, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland. 5 countries have no NTD.



Preparations for Justin Bridou U18 European Championship already underway

The details of the Men's, Women's, Youth and Sevens rugby competitions will be outlined in detail later in this edition. Michel Arpaillage and Douglas Langley presented a report on the work carried out in the different sectors and spoke of a policy aimed at creating greater movement between the different nations. He complimented Georgia and Belgium (two nations at the top of their game), and also congratulated Denmark, Bulgaria and Bosnia on their promotions. He singled out the progress made in the Women's sector and called for greater work in the area of the Youth sector, which is currently dominated in world competitions by the southern nations.

In keeping with tradition, the drafting of the calendar for the European Nations Cup was carried out in groups.

Michel Arpaillage went on to talk about what he described as "a competition unequalled anywhere in the world, involving 24 nations competing over one week from March 21st to 31st 2013". He was of course referring to the Justin Bridou U18 European Cup for which two working meetings have already taken place. Gilbert Celli, representative from the Alps Committee (Isère, Savoie, Haute-Savoie) which is hosting the event, gave a presentation in which he discussed issues such as hotels, transport, pitches and cultural and sporting activities.

Two countries, Poland and Spain, have already applied to host the 2014 event. England has also shown interest. The closing date for official applications is the 1st of October, with a final decision to be taken in December.

Morgan Buckley: "Thank you for your cooperation, your effort and your help

IRB Head of Development, Morgan Buckley, was pleased to announce that: Europe is at the cutting edge of rugby development and is working in full collaboration with the IRB. I congratulate you on your efficiency. We have produced a number of documents which will be helpful to you.

13 programmes are at your disposal, 14 videos are regularly updated, and strategic plans are in place with educational tools to attract young people to the game and to hold on to them. We are also providing financial aid. Thank you for your cooperation, your efforts and your help. Your work reflects our own values of respect, integrity, solidarity, passion and discipline.

IRB: 10 million sterling for strategic plans

One of the top referees from the European AGs, David Carrigy, representing the Chairman of the IRB Bernard Lapasset, delivered a cordial message on his behalf. "It is always a great pleasure to be here with you. The IRB representatives appreciate your hard work. Your support for the development of rugby can only get better. You are truly part of the IRB. We are living in difficult times; however the positive financial figures of the last World Cup mean that the IRB can continue to provide financial aid. A new financial policy has been adopted. It involves the release of funds for strategic purposes (on-going development) which will be outlined at a later date, totalling 10 million sterling. Our internet site and videos are at your disposal. A huge effort has been made in Women's rugby (110 nations, more than one million players). This steady growth has exceeded our expectations. We are sure FIRA-AER will take full advantage of this growth in the development of its structures. Thank you for the work you are doing".

Role of Commissioner is finalised and telephone directory is completed

The administrative review of the General Secretaries' Conference in Budapest was given by Gilles Bizot (Director) and Amandine Guichard, (Sports and Communications Assistant). It comprised the strategic plan, the membership management software (which shows FIRA-AER's desire to assist unions), the establishment of a working group to deal with meetings and objectives, the application of Regulation 9 (availability of players), grants, the standardization of competitions (ENC, U18 and 7s), insurance, communications (articles on the internet site).

Also discussed were the Sevens and ENC competition kits (an essential FIRA document and aid to the General Secretary in helping to obtain the list of players), the schedule for the 2012/2013 and 2013/14 seasons (this shows forward planning on the part of FIRA), the FIRA-AER phone directory (difference between the electronic version which is to be found in the administrative section of the internet site and the information which available to the public) which is regularly updated with the help of the unions. Official appointments to the ENC will take place in August/September and in January for the U18/U19/U20, the camps, the cross-border tournaments and Sevens. The role of the Match Commissioner was also reviewed and finalised. Other issues dealt with included safety and equipment controls, communication between match officials, the filling in of the match sheet which must be sent within two hours after the end of the match to the FIRA-AER office at communication@fira-aer-rugby.com and the approval of the classification of stadiums (standardization process).



Romanian referee officiates at international tournament

René Hourquet (Chairman) and Patrick Robin (Referee Manager) represented the Referees Committee.

They did not go into the detail of last season which was comprehensively covered in a document given out to all participants, but rather concentrated on the main points notably that: 33 referees from 28 nations officiated at the championships, the most experienced referees officiated at the Six Nations tournament while other matches were refereed by the Game Managers from emerging nations, women referees are more at ease refereeing Sevens matches, the level of refereeing is generally good, 13 nations took part in a course in Belgium which resulted in the creation of a panel, 2 other referees were appointed following an application by DVD and a problem has arisen in Lithuania and Jean-Claude Baqué and Patrick Robin will travel there to sort it out locally. Finally, as a practical illustration of the progress made by the FIRA-AER refereeing body, it was announced that a referee from Romania officiated at an International tournament in the United States.

New Head of Marketing in association with the IRB

Jean-Claude Baqué and Octavian Morariu spoke about the work of the High-Performance Committee created at the end of 2008 and officiating since January 2009 with the aim of improving the marketing of competitions.

Octavian Morariu explained the idea of centralising commercial rights. Concerning the agreement Six Nations / FIRA a meeting took place at the start of the year which resulted in a draft agreement. Currently, there are three points which remain unresolved. These will be addressed at a meeting on July 18th in Roissy. If an agreement is made, it will be put to a vote at the end-of-year AGM. Jean-Claude Baqué has negotiated with the IRB to hire an Assistant Head of Marketing. "We need to organise ourselves in order to be able to bring in financial resources ourselves. The IRB has a body of knowledge in this area. It will provide us with help. It will be our common objective to serve rugby. Huge progress has already been made in this area. The solution will require trust and good faith on both sides" concluded the Chairman of Europe.

Expenditure down, revenue up by 2%

It was the job of the Head of Finance, José Maria Epalza, to give a review of the financial situation of the last tax year (1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012). Despite the reimbursement of visas and the aid given to unions who do not receive financial assistance from the IRB and also to countries who have increased by 6% on the previous tax year (due to new competitions) and thanks to the tighter control of administrative costs (10% decrease (i.e. €10.000) on last year and 30% decrease due to organising the Executive Committee meetings in Paris), expenditure is down by 3% on last year.

Revenue from sponsorship (slightly increased), subscriptions (status-quo), investments (Increase of 16%), grants and aid from the IRB (2% increase) generated a total which represents a 2% increase on last year. JM Epalza prudently pointed out that the next budget will have to take into account the rent for the new headquarters which up until now was offered free-of-charge by the FFR. The new budget will be made official in October.

Jacques Mombet: "Negative drug tests"

In his report, the Chairman of the Medical Committee, Dr. Jacques Mombet, firstly expressed his delight at the negative drug tests carried out at the Men's European Sevens Championship in Heidelberg.

He reminded unions that they must forward details of any drug tests carried out and the results of same. On another positive note he highlighted the "Low incidence of exposure to risk ... 47 injuries and 7 surgical interventions requiring a cessation of play across all competitions". He reminded participants that any "declaration of accidents, surgical interventions, hospitalisations, examinations or any other incidents, should be filled out in either in French or English. The organisers of tournaments should appoint someone to take responsibility for this area. Documents which are not filled out in either of the two languages will not be dealt with and will be returned to the union concerned" he said.



Internet site: 30% increase in hits

In his introduction, Bernard Jargeac, Head of Communications, reminded us that the site is now available in two languages (French and English). He gave details of how the site functions and expressed his delight at the success of the forum and especially at the large number of hits, (600,000 per year, i.e. 100,000 more than last year) from all over the world. This amounts to a 30% increase on last year.

With regard to communications in general, he was very pleased with the global improvement in this area and drew attention to a document entitled "Image rights" (Protection and supervision of FIRA-AER competitions, identification of FIRA and its competition partners).

Preparations underway for the 2013 Congress in Sweden



In her presentation on the 2013 Congress in Stockholm (3 to 7 July), the Chairwoman of the Swedish Union announced that she was ready to welcome the entire European delegation. Jean-Claude Baqué pointed out to her however, that to "to enable them to work more efficiently the General Secretaries and the NTDs would prefer to be accommodated separately". This unfortunately means they will not get to experience the historic location chosen to accommodate the Congress, i.e. the hotel in which the Nobel Prizes are awarded!

Rugby at the Youth Olympics 2014

Jean-Claude Baqué gave a report on behalf of Raul Martins who was unable to attend and whom he had already replaced at the IRB Council. He spoke firstly about the creation of an official committee (as requested by Chairman Lapasset) to deal with regional associations. This committee would have a rotating presidency and would serve to highlight the needs, projects and the opinions of the associations. It would hold 2 or 3 meetings per year.

These meetings would have the full support of the IRB. On behalf of FIRA-AER, Jean-Claude Baqué proposed the creation of a tournament for countries situated between 20th and 30th place in the IRB rankings. This would help to standardization levels among countries. In a discussion on the regulations which followed, France proposed that U20s be included in the list of eligible players. Samoa and the Arab Emirates have been accepted as members of the IRB. Artificial pitches need to be updated. The Junior Trophy 2013 will take place in Chile and the 2014 event will take place in Hong Kong. Rugby will be part of the Youth Olympic Games in 2014 (by invitation on this occasion, qualifiers will be put in place for the next games). The age limit will be 18 years. All players listed on the Sevens match sheet will be entitled to take part. The 23rd player will be allowed to be included on the match sheet. The European Multi-Sports Games has not obtained the approval of the Unions.

Unanimous vote for Turkey

The three candidates for the Administrative Council, Rossen Cholov (Bulgaria), Klaus Blank (Germany) and Bill Nolan (Scotland) were unanimously elected by the AGM. The Chairman of the Legal Committee, Jean-Jacques Zander, announced the permanent withdrawal of Armenia due to its inability to pay its subscription fees and stated that it will be penalised at the Executive Committee meeting in October. He also made reference to the financial compensation that Lithuania owes to Sweden (travel expenses).

Following the declaration by its Chairman that his union was ready "to become part of the large family of European rugby and to implement FIRA's programmes", Turkey, which has a population of 78 million and is a candidate for the organisation of the 2020 Olympic Games, was unanimously accepted as a member. Its rugby credentials were listed: It has championship in place since 1940, a NTD, an official referee and several referee training courses in place, 31 IRB approved coaches, a strategic plan, two friendly matches by its national XV's team (Men) and Sevens team (Women), 15 clubs in Istanbul with 120 children aged 5 to 12 years in several centres and schools and 6 centres in the city for Women's rugby. JC Baqué, who has attended to the final of Seniors Turkish's League and to U18s matches, was delighted with the vote. "Turkey has everything that is required" he said.



Medals: An investment in the future

It is a FIRA-AER tradition to end all General Assemblies with the awarding of bronze, silver and gold medals. These awards are, usually and in almost all cases awarded for services rendered. In his speech during the awarding of the medals to the recipients, Jean-Claude Baqué stated that "it is an excellent idea to reward the young". It is an effective way of investing in the future".

The following received bronze medals: Stina Leijonhufvud (Sweden), Xavier Vilasetru (Andorra), Archie Ferguson (Scotland), Ben Claveley (England), Vladislav Bulgavo (Ukraine). Silver medals were awarded to the following: Palle Andersen (Denmark), Alin Petrache (Romania), Pal Turi (Hungary), Vasile Revenco (Moldova).

Ole Nielsen and Leo Van Herwijnen (Netherlands) received the gold medal. Nielsen was also announced, during the closing dinner (a sporting feast held in the stadium club house) as the recipient of the FIRA-AER Honorary medal of recognition for his "outstanding level of achievement in his double job as AGM and Sevens Tournament organiser and equally for his work as Assistant Head of Finance at FIRA" according to Jean-Claude Baqué.

This provided a pleasant end to a "well-run" Congress as the Chairman described it. He concluded by thanking his flock and inviting them to attend the next AGM (elective) on 30th November and 1st December in Paris.

Additional Info

1. Interest from the Chinese. One of the most satisfying things to emerge from the last World Cup (the most sensational yet, according to Kit Mc Connell) was that it produced the greatest number of television viewers ever. This included viewers from China.

2. Three new Chairmen were announced: Santiago Mazza (San Marino), Semsudin Mehmedovic (Bosnia Herzegovina), Jan Coupe (Belgium). They were warmly welcomed by the Assembly.

3. The Champions of various competitions were congratulated. ENC: Georgia (division 1A), Belgium (1B), Lithuania (2A), Switzerland (2B), Israel (2C), Cyprus (2D), Bosnia Herzegovina (3). Women's European Cup: England (group A) and Sweden (group B). Justin Bridou European U18: England. For the Seven's: Romania (Division A), Croatia (Division B). GPS Lyon and Moscow: England, GPS Odense France, and European Champion Men and Women: England.

4. 5 absent countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Lithuania, Slovenia were not present. Slovakia was represented by Czech Republic and Liechtenstein by Switzerland in Odense.

5. Catalan appeal is rejected. In his report, the General Secretary, JL Barthes discussed the rejection of the appeal brought by the Catalan union before the French Court of Cassation.

6. There will be no Sevens rugby at the Mediterranean Games next year. The participation could be possible in Tarragona for the following edition.

7. Greece has applied to become a full member of the IRB.

8. The English Women's movement is to become one. From July 1st the two branches of the movement are to join forces.

9. The IRB is protecting the rugby community by negotiating a commercial partner with experts.

10. FIRA-AER wants to create a U19 Sevens competition. Apart from this project, discussion were held on the three regional cross-border competitions, the dates and locations of the training courses and the Sevens Grand Prix Series. The timetable for the ENC was also discussed.

11. Georgia will act as a tutor for Turkey with whom it is to co-organise training courses, including courses for referees.

12. The IRB will penalise nations who are not organising sufficient activities. (Countries may be downgraded or even be struck off).

13. Baqué honours Bacchus! The participants were all accommodated in the same hotel and shared meals together. Just before the first evening meal, Ole Nielsen announced that drinks were not included in the price of the package at which point Jean-Claude Baqué announced that "FIRA would be delighted to pay for the wine". This precious nectar warmed the hearts and bodies of those present and a most convivial evening ensued. This is part of what FIRA is all about!

England, 2012 7s European Champion



After 3 tournaments France (Lyon), Russia (Moscow) and Denmark (Odense), England is crowned 2012 7s European Champion.

Portugal is second and France third for the 2012 Podium. See details et ranking in web site



England Women 7's european Champion



After their wins in Ameland and Moscow, England is crowned for the second year in a row Women's European Champions. Spain is second in the final rankings whilst France are third. You can download the final ranking for EWSS 2012 along with the countries that have qualified for the WRWC 2013 in Russia: England, Spain, France, Russia, Netherlands and Ireland

Grand Prix Series 3 for France in Odense (DK)



France has won the GPS 2012 in Odense (DK) after the final face to Portugal. Success for GPS 3 in Odense with an outstanding work given by the Danish Rugby Union with for the first time 16 teams. France won the Cuip, Georgia the Plate, Italy the Bowl and Belgium the Shield. All details and results in web site

Moscow 7's Grand Prix Series : England, the best



England win the second 7's GP after a victory versus France in final (21-15). For all the results click here. You can download the ranking after 2 stages and before Odense last stage for GPS 2012.

European Women' Sevens Series EWSS, Ameland (NL) - Legacy program



Some teams have already arrived in preparation for the 1st Round of the EWSS. The day before the Tournament saw a Legacy project linking the schools of the island of Ameland with the Tournament. 320 children participated in a schools' Beach Rugby Sevens festival. The children will also be attending the EWSS and acting as volunteers

U17 - Camp in Israel



Between 5th/8th July 2012, the Israeli Rugby Union hosted the Cypriot Rugby Union for the FIRA-AER U17 camp that was held in Hadasa Neurim boarding school right next to the beautiful Mediterranean beach. 40 youth rugby players & 10 coaches took part in this camp led by camp director Raanan Penn (Israel) & Nick Charalambides (Cyprus). During these days, pitch rugby sessions alternated with video analysis, swimming pool activities & skills competitions on the beach. Theme: identifying & attacking the gaps between defenders. All the players improved nicely during the camp, worked hard and showed they already took on the core values of rugby.



U17 - Camp with Monaco and Liguria Region (IT)

A common U16/17 workshop between Monaco and Region of Liguria (Italy) was held from 6 to 8 July in Recco (Italy).



The Director of the camp was Martin Kafka (CZ), he has prepared a heavy programme for the 50 players presents which the main targets were one to one, support in attacks and use of free spaces, 8 trainees from the two countries assisted Martin. In parallel, Yves Brochard (MC) has performed the Referee workshop indoor and outdoor using video clips. The last day was concluded with a tournament played under a high temperature with good spirit.

CZ - Domestic League of 7s Rugby

RC PRAG was crowned in 5 July, Czech Rep 2012 7s Champion after 4 Regionals tournaments played between 8 teams from Czech and Moravia.

The last tournament has a good level of Rugby and also a very good spirit. Title was won by RC Prag Vs RC Sparta 24-19. The 3rd place was for RC Dragon Brno after a very tight game against RC Tatra. Ranking is completed by RC Prelouc, RC Vyskov, RC Olomouc and RC Rental Havirov



Golden Oldies from Trieste 2012 to Prague 2013

Growing Attractivity of Golden Oldies Rugby: This Game is Possible to Practice till the High Age - 11th Festival in Trieste finished with Great Success: 40 teams from 15 countries = 1200 Participants - Next Time to Prague, Czech Republic in June 13-17, 2013 - First Entries Have Already Came



The 11th European Golden Oldies Rugby Festival (EGORF) finished on Sunday June 17, 2012 in Trieste, Italy and was acknowledged to be a great success. Around 40 Teams from 15 Countries were represented by about 1200 individual participants, who took part in this great celebration of Golden Oldies Rugby with - Fun, Friendship and Fraternity...

Trieste was another example of the increasing interest in Golden Oldies Festivals in Europe, because also in 2 previous Festivals - in Madeira, Portugal - 2008 and Caernarfon, Wales - 2010,

the total number of participants reached over 1000 people. The history of the EGOR Festivals, started in 1992 in Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands but the greatest popularity of this event among Golden Oldies has culminated just during the last several years...

The next EGOR Festival was awarded to Prague, Czech Republic and the expectations for the Event, are also high. 12th Festival will take place from June 13-June 17, 2013 and the Organising Committee is already now ready to accept Entries. All necessary information has already been available at the Official EGORF 2013 website <http://oldboys.rugby.cz/en/egorf-2013> or can be requested from the Official EGORF 2013 e-mail address egorf2013@estec.cz. The Organising Committee has just accepted the first 3 entries from England, Wales and France. If you intend participating in this Festival....make sure you Register NOW.....to save disappointment.

Lechia Gdansk - new Polish Champion

In a beautiful, sunny weather, about 7000 fans (!) strongly motivated the finalists Polish Extraleague in Lodz.

Rugby debut at the Widzew football stadium fell perfectly, as the match was a high level, a clash was very balanced and certainly kept in suspense until the last minute of the game. To be completely happy Lodz supporters lacked their winning favorites only ...

The first defeat of Budowlani in a league match this season has made Lechia Gdansk and there is their first title since 2002, first captured in the play-offs system ending competition.

After a very equalized the first part of the game (6:7), the other guests began to include more in 53 minutes after a Tomasz Hebda try and successful conversion by David Chartier running 17:9. The

next minutes, however, brought a great host shares, which culminated in a great Tomasz Kozakiewicz touchdown after Georgian fly-half Teimuraz Sokhadze fantastic kick which giving two-point lead for Budowlani (19:17). The game decided the fate of shares of 75 minutes when introduced from the bench Yuriy Bukhalo regained the ball, cheated one of the rivals and giving a quick pass to winger Robert Kwiatkowski, who a 70-meter long rally provided the decisive points and the visiting team victory.

Blachy Pruszyński Budowlani S.A. Lodz v RC Lechia Gdansk 22-27 (6:7) /referee: Tomasz Jarowicz, Marcin Zeszutek, Kacper Michalkiewicz, technical - Grzegorz Michalik/



Points for Lechia: David Chartier 12 (3C, 2P), Robert Kwiatkowski 10 (2T), Thomas Hebda 5 (T);
Points for Budowlani: Teimuraz Sokhadze 17 (1C, 5P), Tomasz Kozakiewicz 5 (T)



