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EDITO



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IRB / FIRA-AER: FULL OSMOSIS

Traditionally, Jean-Claude BAQUÉ would cross the Channel and present the IRB with next season's programme. But a change has occurred: David Carrigy, who has recently been appointed for the Development in the Regional Associations, visited us last 21-22 February before performing his new responsibilities in Paris along Brett Gosper, a former Racingman three-quarters and IRB's new CEO. Everything went well, the two parties were on the same wavelengths. Discussions remained informal as the 6 Nations Agreement has not yet been finalised (Pierre Camou could not travel to London). Decisions will be made next March in Dublin and will include the appointment of a high level sporting director, strengthening of Sevens competitions, especially the Women's, and the new governance. These matters have been discussed at the Executive Committee meeting but will only be formalised at the next session (21-22 May), after the meetings with the IRB and 6 Nations. Through its President, the IRB was informed of FIRA-AER's position to retain Rugby World Cup Sevens and a European anti-doping body is being put in place. The Executive Committee discussed the future organisation (role of the vice-presidents), the Commercial Company's operations, the major competition's format, the first U19 Sevens tournament (12 nations in Palma, next April), the hosting in Poland of the U18 European Championships 2014 following England's withdrawal and maintaining Beach Rugby in its current format. On a purely sporting level, competitions were addressed (dates of the three ENC playoff rounds), Rugby World Cup Sevens in Russia (46,000 tickets already sold). Finally, Jean-Claude BAQUÉ and Michel ARPAILLANGE mentioned the perfect preparation plans for this year's U18 European Championships in the Alps in a press conference and a meeting with the Sponsors. For this matter, the search has started for a new sponsor following Justin Bridou's decision not to renew the partnership. Let us know if you are interested (the finals broadcast is practically finalised).

HENRI GATINEAU



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FIRA-AER - Executive Committee meeting

For the first time, the Executive Committee with all Members presents, was held in the new FIRA-AER Offices, 5 rue de Liège on 29 and 30 January;

Président JC Baqué and his staff have welcomed the Members of Executive Committee and have shown the new offices, with space, light and a conference room with a capacity of 20 personnes.

Numbered debates were completed in two days. Then the technical committee have continued the meeting with a regard to the administrative documents.



Lithuania - Referees workshop 27-28 January 2013

The Lithuanian Rugby Union and Lithuanian Rugby Referee Association have organized on 27 and 28 January a workshop for Lithuanian referees.

On Saturday 27 January, law application and new amendments that will be put trial from April 2013 were discussed. Video material used to enhance the learning process and the feedback from participants was very positive. The opportunity was taken to inform Lithuanian referees of the necessary bureaucratic formalities when refereeing in domestic competitions.

On Sunday 28 January, a session on safety and continuity and one more law application was held. Afterwards participants took first or second level examination, depending on their experience.

Two more similar courses will be organized in 2013, one in May and one in September.



FIRA-AER - Union Visit - Spain, 10th-11th January 2013

FIRA-AER President Jean-Claude Baque and RDM's Michel Arpaillange & Douglas Langley were in Madrid at the FER offices to meet with the new management of the Federation. The President of the union and relevant staff discussed the restructuring of their organisation and what their Rugby development priorities will be going forward.

The opportunity was also taken in Madrid to make a site visit for the coming WRWC 2014 Qualification Tournament and was held in connection with an IRB/FIRA-AER Level 3 Accreditation Coaching Course. President JC Baqué thanks Sr Javier Gonzalez Cancho and his staff for the warm welcome received.

« Get into Rugby Europe » - Scandinavia Launch, 22-23 February 2013 (Stockholm)

The Rugby unions of Denmark, Norway and Sweden have taken the initiative to develop this Mass Participation project through sharing cross-border resources & activities. The project is in cooperation with FIRA-AER in its goal of increasing registered players in Europe from 1 million to 1.2 million by the end of 2015.



The 2 day workshop saw RDM Douglas Langley work with the union's Technical Directors; Mikael Rasmussen (Denmark), Jose Gorroategui (Norway) & David Hanley (Sweden), on their union's mass participation strategic plans and for the region of Scandinavia. The goal is to increase player participation in Scandinavia from 9000 to 14000 by the end of 2015 through linking schools and their

curricula with relevant clubs and the recruitment and retention phases of the project. The TD's then trained some of those that will be educating coaches and teachers from their unions, with how to deliver this tool to coaches and teachers. On the second day of the workshop, these educators had a chance to practise their role on local coaches who will be responsible for delivering the tool to children. They in turn then had a chance to practise their delivery to local children at the official launch of the project. During the launch the Swedish National 7's Men's Squad gave their support for the project and joined in some games with the children. The launch's success can be considered positive after the enthusiastic reaction of the children who said they wanted to come back for more, as well as the parents who enjoyed what they saw.

For more information on Get into Rugby Europe please see www.irbgetintorugby.com



U18 Justin Bridou Grenoble - it's time to start!



French Alps Committee and FIRA-AER has completed a press conference on 11 February in Grenoble to start the U18 Justin Bridou European championship which will be held in France (Alps Committee) from 22 to 31 March, the final game will be played in Alps Stadium in Grenoble on 30 March.

Details of the press conference are available with first games schedules are already on line in FIRA-AER web site.

France - first in world Ski-Rugby in 6 French ski resorts



The Rugby and the Mountain share multiple values: taste for effort, solidarity, joy of living and celebrating sport and victory together... and are both the favorite sports and leisure activities of the French people. It was natural to associate them and to mix these positive universes.

Yann DELAIGUE, former international of Rugby and organizing member of the Tournaments of Beach Rugby of Bercy, Toulouse, Marseille and Sainte Maxime, has created with his partners of PIXMA Vent, Stéphane ROUAULT and Eric Laurent, a new shape of rugby, "Snow Rugby".

For 6 days, from February 26th till March 3rd, 2013, school period in France, and week of rest of the Tournament of 6 Nations, 12 stars of the Rugby, are going to ski, to coach and to play with the

teams trained by 6 big French Ski resorts: Menuires, Val Thorens, La Plagne, Valmorel, Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc and Clusaz.

More information on <http://www.tournoides6stations.fr>

Lithuania - Refereeing course in Kaunas



From 15 to 17 February, the Lithuanian Rugby Referee Association and the Lithuanian Rugby Federation co-organized a Level 1 refereeing course in Kaunas.

Klaus Blank of Germany (DRV) has managed the course for 19 referees. This event included sessions on theory as well as real refereeing and assessment. It took place alongside the Independence Day Tournament that has been going on for more than a decade in commemoration of Lithuanian Independence of 1918.

On Friday, Klaus Blank gave lectures on theoretical aspects of refereeing, often acting out game-like situations and using videos to illustrate his arguments. On Saturday the referees had the chance to referee in the tournament. Their work was observed and recorded. In the evening participants

discussed their own work and were made aware of the importance of self-assessment for development. After the long day the Kaunas vice-mayor and a longtime rugby administrator Vytautas Vasilenko invited everyone for a dinner.

On Sunday referees had exams and those who have earlier passed their exams were awarded licenses. In the end, Klaus Blank bid everyone farewell, wished good performances on the field and thanked for the event.

Romania - Alin Petrache elected Chairman of Romanian Union



Alin Petrache was re-elected Chairman of Romanian Rugby Union during AGM held on 8 February 2013.

The Executive Office is completed with, Florin Matei as General Secretary, Peter Ianusevici as National Trainer and Sorin Nicula as Treasurer.



