

## FlashInfo 143

### EDITO



130316 ENC1A GE European champion

### DOUBLE EUROPEAN TICKET

Spring season is coming and the sporting season is budding: the ENC and the U18 European Championships are in full bloom!

Georgia, after a draw against Romania (Georgia has a better G.A.), is crowned and Jean-Claude Baqué handed the trophy to the winner and congratulate both teams for their performance.

Next on the agenda: the Justin Bridou U18 European Championships to be played in the Alps. Last year's event was successfully hosted by Spain whose organisation raised the bar very high with an original single accommodation venue, perfect facilities and a young, dynamic and competent supporting staff. This year, the Comité des Alpes returned to the roots with the concept: "One nation, One club, One community". Gilbert Celli's organisation will have the support of three departments (Isère, Savoie, Haute Savoie), 59 clubs, 15,000 registered players, a 20,000-seat stadium for the final, 12 international referees, fit-for-purpose accommodation. Add to this mix cultural and sporting exchanges, touristic landmarks and there is no doubt all 624 participants (who are insured and medically covered) of the 24 nations will enjoy this tournament. All matches will be recorded and some will be on TV. Last year's finalists England and Ireland will have face the fierce challenge from the French, Welsh, Scottish, Georgian, Italian...

Next year's event could take place in Poland where have already made a visit. After all, it has been said to govern means to make plans.

**HENRI GATINEAU**



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## Georgia 2013 European Champion



Georgia is European Champion for 2013 after his important draw in Romania. The game was difficult, engaged and interesting till the end, without winner but with an European Champion: Georgia (better GA in pool games). Congratulations to Georgians who have perfectly negotiated the first championship for the RWC2015 Qualification.

In the others games of the ENC1A, Russia has beaten with difficulties the Belgians who had 2 bonus points before the last Russian try. 75 points in this game for the pleasure of Sochi spectators. 9-9 between the Iberians "brothers", same score than in Romania. Spain and Portugal has shared the points under the rain in Santiago de Compostelle. The draw does not benefit to any country which will have to fight with the Belgians to avoid the relegation at the end of the season 2013/14.

## The U18 European Championship Justin Bridou 2013: first matches this week



The U18 « Justin Bridou » Trophy will take place from 22nd to 30th March in the Alps and more precisely in the departments of Savoie, Haute Savoie & Isère and in 18 cities. FIRA-AER, European Rugby Association, has granted the organisation of this competition to the Comité des Alpes.

As a result of an agreement with the French National Olympic Committee, the final of the Elite division will be broadcasted live on L'Equipe21 on Saturday 30th March from 16:45.

### Competition Format

24 teams divided into 3 groups of 8 teams, 624 players & 36 matches, almost 40 referees and over 100 volunteers will participate in this outstanding competition. The 2013 edition will end up in a celebration of rugby with the finals of the Elite division on 30th March in the Stade des Alpes.

In all three groups, teams will play quarter-final, semi and then final and ranking games.

### Stakes

In the « Elite » group with the 6 Nations and the best two FIRA-AER teams, England will put back in play the Justin Bridou shield and its 2012 title. Last year in Madrid, the final England/Ireland (25-13) impressed the spectators. Finally, France must pull itself together after two disappointing editions. Georgia & Portugal qualified following the qualifier tournament with Belgium & Germany.

In Group A, Belgium will definitely try to keep the title. Germany, Spain, Romania & Russia must prove they have made progress. In 2012, Poland clearly stood out of Division B. What will happen this year in the higher division?

Group B is diversified but there is no doubt Lithuania, Netherlands, Ukraine & Switzerland will try to impose the hierarchy. Luxemburg, Serbia, Latvia & Croatia should aim for a masterstroke to qualify for the semi.

### Organisation

The aim of the Comité des Alpes & FIRA-AER is to turn those 10 days into a great success having in each department, each city, each club, activities other than rugby-oriented. Filling the stadium on 30th March would be the best possible way to show them our gratitude proving, if ever needed, that the Alps are a land of hospitality & rugby.

### Tickets on sale

The box office is opened for the final games (third place and finale) which will take place on Saturday, March 30th in Grenoble in the magnificent Stade des Alpes.

For more information



## U18 2014 in Poland ?



Jean-Claude Baqué and Michel Arpaillange were in Poland from 12 to 14 March in Poznan and subroundings where could be organised the next 2014 U18 championship.

The FIRA-AER responsables have visited numbered hotels and stadium presented by Poland Rugby Union to host the 2014' competitions. A final decision will be made at the end of the 2013 Competition in Grenoble.

## FIRA-AER: 7s tournaments Operationals Directors meeting



FIRA-AER has notified all Operational 7s Director's Tournaments organised in 2013 to join Paris from 15 to 16 March to review all different aspects of this type of tournament. More than 15 personnes have participated to this meeting. At the end of the day, all together were invited to follow the 6 Nations game between France and Scotland in Stade de France.

Michel Arpaillange and his team have presented the 2013' Competitions to the Operational Directors and have insisted on outstanding quality of performance which must represent the 7s Rugby three years before the Olympics Games. Directors have launched questions and have manifested an interest to upgrade this competition. 2013' programme is various with this year a U19 tournament in Spain. All schedule and matches in FIRA-AER Web site in Competitions.

## FIRA-AER celebrates the International Women's Day



The International Women's Day is marked on Friday 8th March. For this occasion, FIRA-AER wants to pay tribute to the women in rugby.

They proved that rugby was not just for men, and they do it splendidly every year through many tournaments.

Over the last four years, Women's rugby has considerably increased in Europe.

FIRA-AER supports the development of women's rugby by offering them the chance to participate in some prestigious competitions but also by allowing the best referees to come on the field.

With 36 European 7's teams, FIRA-AER manages the Women's European Championship divided in 3 levels: 7's Women's Grand Prix Series, Division A and B.

Apparently more accessible, 7's rugby is based on the concept of motion and claimed to be more universal than XV-a-side rugby, which explains its admission in the program of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The women are more and more represented in age grade categories, clubs, primary school, secondary school, high school; it has widely spread in Universities. Physically restrictive (explosive, endurance), this refined practice attract more and more women while professionalism among women doesn't really take off.

Nevertheless, Women's XV-a-side rugby is still played in the countries with rugby tradition. Every year, at the beginning of Spring, the teams compete for the European Trophy. This year, the format will be different in order to qualify two additional teams for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2014.

FIRA-AER is planning to organize a 7's U19 Tournament in 2014 to help European Women's rugby being more competitive on an international scale.

This celebration should remind everyone that the development of rugby is a daily work and that all the women have their role to play in the European Project of Mass Participation (increase the number of players).



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## Moscow RWC 2013 : allocation of the pools



The sixth edition of the Rugby World Cup Sevens will take place in Moscow, Russia, from 28th June to 30th June 2013.

The Welsh, World Champions Males and the Australians, World Champions Females will soon have to defend their titles.

The Male tournament will be made up of 24 teams and the Female one of 16 teams. They will face each other on the Luzhniki Stadium's grass in order to win the most important title in the Rugby World: World Champion.

The venue selection has been made by the IRB, to develop the image of Rugby beyond countries where it is already deeply settled.

But before the beginning of the competition, the pools draws took place today, in Moscow at the Petroff Palace.

For Men, 24 teams are divided in 6 pools of 4.

Pool A: Australia, France, Spain, Tunisia

Pool B: South Africa, Scotland, Russia, Japan

Pool C: Samoa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Philippines

Pool D: New Zealand, USA, Canada, Georgia

Pool E: Fiji, Wales, Tonga, Uruguay

Pool F: England, Argentina, Portugal, Hong Kong

For Women, 16 teams are divided in 4 pools of 4.

Pool A: Canada, New Zealand, Netherlands, Tunisia

Pool B: Australia, South Africa, China, Ireland

Pool C: USA, Spain, Brazil, Fiji

Pool D: England, Russia, France, Japan

For more details: [click-here](#)

In less than 120 days, you will see all your favorite teams deliver an outstanding show in Luzhniki Stadium.

If you don't have your tickets yet, [click-here](#)

For more details on the competition: [click-here](#)

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## IRB/FIRA-AER Trainer & Educator Courses, 28 February-3rd March 2013 (Luxembourg)



From 27 February to 3 March, Luxembourg was the centre of Europe for IRB/FIRA-AER Training activities. 40 persons were engaged in different courses in the excellent premises of National Sport Institute of Luxembourg.

4 delegates from Georgia, Italy, Luxembourg & Russia attending the Trainer Course whilst 27 delegates attended the Educator Course from Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland & Ukraine. Trainers that receive their license after the course will be able to assist with delivering Educator courses as well as work with Educators on their continued development in that role. Those that receive their Educator license will be able to deliver relevant IRB/FIRA-AER Level 1 & 2 courses for coaches or match officials in their unions. The Trainers

delivering the Educator course were Mark Harrington (IRB), Kerstin Ljungdahl (Germany), Seam Mallon (Netherlands), Johnny Meersman (Belgium), Daniel Mitrea (Romania), Henrique Rocha (Portugal) & Douglas Langley (IRB/FIRA-AER). On the final day of the Courses and in order that Educators could practise their new found skills as well as a legacy project for the hosting union, 3 Level 1 courses were organised for local coaches and match officials. 30 local youth players were available for them to also practise their new found skills on. Many thanks must go to the Luxembourg Rugby Federation for hosting so well these activities.



## Youth Indoor Tag Rugby Series in Hungary



Rugby in Central Europe during winter time? Yes, it is possible! More than 25 school and club teams and 150 players from different age groups participated in February in the Hungarian Youth Indoor Tag Rugby Series in winter of 2013.

In the three rounds of this championship both experienced and barely new teams appeared in 4 age groups from U8 to U14, girls and boys, as well. The cups were hosted by the Rugby Clubs of Esztergom, Budapest and Szekesfehervar during February.

Balazs Bohm - the general secretary of HRU - was really glad to watch the number of the participants from all over the country. 'We have just started our new youth rugby program -he said - and we really made a forestep. The number of girls were bigger than ever!'

'The spirit and enthusiasm of the kids was amazing and this is what we want - to teach them to love sports and rugby passionately' - told us the coach of the U12 winners, Ferenc Gyolcsos, from Fehervar Rugby Club.

'The youngest player in our team was just 6 years old, we wrote history, this was the first time to take our U8 and U10 kids to a tournament' - said the coach of FW Gorillak Rugby Club of Szeged from the southern part of Hungary.



