

FlashInfo 144 - Special U18

EDITO



130330 EN FR U18 Justin Bridou photo 7 credit D Mour

CONFIRMATION (U18) + INNOVATION (U19) = (GREAT) SATISFACTION

Following the recent outstanding success of the U18 Championships in the Alps, no doubt that many partners will be interested in sponsoring this event!

It was a real success at all levels:

GAME. The overall playing level, skills and entertainment is greatly improving in all divisions. The suspense in remarkable final between France and England kept the 12.000 spectators in the Grenoble venue and the thousands of TV viewers on the edge of their seat.

PROMOTION. Beyond the number of fans in the venues, the media exposure was exceptional: written press, radio and - the cherry on the cake ! - TV (Eurosport et Equipe 21) and let's not forget the Internet. Comments by the charismatic Daniel HERRERO together with Didier RETIERE's technical expertise added great value to those 5 matches!

ORGANISATION. Following hosting by France and Italy before last year's outstanding organisation in Spain had raised the bar very high for the Alps region organisers. But they managed to do even better. The organisers in Poland know they have a challenge for 2014.

Double strike for Spain: Men's Sevens and Women's Fifteens.

Innovation in Palma de Majorca with the first U19 Sevens competition, a project with a long term vision of the Olympic Games.

A Women's Fifteens competition in Madrid will involve five European nations and Samoa which will battle for WRWC 2014 qualification.

And the last, but not the least: the highly competitive clashes to determine the nations that will qualify for RWC play-offs.

CONFIRMATION (U18), plus INNOVATION (U19), plus Sevens and Fifteens Women's and Men's competitions for the Olympic Games and RWC = Great SATISFACTION. I told you so!

HENRI GATINEAU



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England won the U18 Justin Bridou Trophy



In Stade des Alpes Grenoble (FR) and facing to a superb crowd of 12 000 people, England U18 wins the Trophee Justin Bridou European championship Elite. The game was outstanding to France for a final score of 27 - 22.

Till half time, 14 to 3 for England the game was uncertain. England U18 was more powerful than French, but France has decided to play and to get the balls out of the strong white forwards.

In curtain raiser, Ireland finishes third after having beaten Scotland by 50 to 0 after a total control of the game.

More details, photos, interviews in this web site.

Division Elite:

Wales has easily defeated Georgia 50-0 in Sassenage.

In Sessin, Portugal was closed to win Italy who has core the last try in the last minutes of the game. 13-7

Final ranking of 2013 U18 Championship

England

France

Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Georgia

Italy

Portugal

Division B

Netherlands was out of the others teams and will be promote to Division A in 2014 (win against Croatia 51-3). Ukraine finishes third after having beaten Luxembourg 10-5. For the 5th place, Lithuania won Serbia 29-3 and Latvia will play in Division C in 2014 after his lost to Switzerland 35-5.

U18 - Managers meeting



On Thursday 28 March the Managers from all Divisions of the U18 Tournament and their liaison Officers met for the traditional mid tournament meeting. The "Maison du Rugby" of the Comite des Alpes hosted this meeting.

The agenda for this meeting allowed for all present to discuss both technical sporting issues and the general organisation of the tournament. After an hour and a half of discussion and debate all delegates were invited to a wonder meal at the "Fort Barraux" where the agenda allowed for conviviality and good humour.

U18 Justin Bridou: Spain overpowered Russia to take the title in division A.



The first of the finals of the U18 Justin Bridou Trophy was decided in division A: Spain had a brilliant win against Russia (47-0). The Spanish team won the division without conceding any point with their different opponents (Sweden, Germany and finally Russia). Ranking third of division A, Poland did a surprising performance against Germany (30-6). Romania took fifth place easily against Czech Republic (30-7). Finally in the relegation game, Belgium avoided defeat, which means Sweden will now be relegated to division B (46-14).

Friday 29th March

In Rives, Spain was crowned European Champion of division A. Thundering from the first minutes of the match, thanks to a dynamic and very clever defence, Spain dominated from kick-off to final whistle (47-0).

Thanks to a well thought out and dynamic game first half (27-7), Romania beat a tough Czech team who fought bravely in the second half



(30-7) but were unable to maximise on opportunities presented.

In Saint Geoirs, Poland, with the work of its forward pack, surprisingly dominated Germany, who gave up in the second half (30-6), Belgium, 2012 winner, won over Sweden (46-14) in the relegation match. Belgians entirely controlled this tough match. Sweden was still confident at the end of the first half when they were only two tries away (27-14). In the second half, Belgium confirmed its advantage.

For more details, photos, videos : <http://www.fira-aer-rugby.com/competition-57.htm>



France U18 to visit Grenoble



Wednesday, March 27, the team of France had a very full day with the Legacy program: after a swimming session in the pool, they went to the reception organised by the pupilles de l'air, an important military institution in Grenoble, to meet the students, who appreciated this visit very much. A team jersey of France was offered by Captain Anthony Meric to the Colonel Chabane, commander of the EPA in the center and Lieutenant Colonel Bordère commander EPA. Students talked with Thomas Jolmes, one of the players who come from Grenoble.

The bleus then attended in the afternoon the games UNSS at Bachelard and UGSEL at Seyssins. They presented awards and shook hands with the young rugby players who were amazed by this encounter.

Finally, the team and the staff went to the Home of Rugby in Montbonnot after a brief training, for the official reception with representatives of the municipalities, in the presence of the Tournament Director Michel Arpaillange and Chairman of the Alps Committee Christian Dullin, who congratulated the players for their two wins and addressed the strong encouragement for the final against England to be played on Saturday, March 30. After exchanging gifts and autographed jerseys, the players left to enjoy a well deserved rest.

U18 2014 - Austria in Division B and Denmark in Division C



The Division C and Division D U18 tournaments were played from 2nd to 7th April in Ezstergom (HU) and Zenica (BH). All games were very tight and finally Austria will play in 2014 in Division B and Denmark in Division C.

Latvia, last of Division B in Grenoble 2013 will play in Division C in 2014 and Moldova last in Division C will play in Division D.

All results and photos in this web site.

Hungary : President Pal Turi reelected



On 20th March 2013 Hungarian Rugby Football Union had new vote for the next 4 years. Mr. Pal Turi was the only candidate for President and he elected by 100% support.

Please find the 6 board members with their roles:

Mr. Denes Debreczeny: Youth Development

Mr Peter Vaczi: Rugby Women

Mr Andras Neuzer: Performance

Mr Andras Toth: GIR Budapest

Mr Zsolt Haboczki : Communication

Mr Gabor Stiglmayer: Olympic Rugby

Germany - New Coaches of Match Officials



The German Rugby Referees Association (SDRV) used the weekend from 5 to 7 April with the European Cup match in Hamburg for several activities.

On Friday evening a board meeting took place. The main topic was to work on the strategic and operational plan of the DRV and to plan the upcoming events. On Saturday and Sunday a course for new CMO's took place. Six participants from all over Germany were educated in coaching Referees. The international between Germany and Sweden was used to collect data about the referee's performance to work out the strength and areas to develop. Afterwards further theoretical and practical work had been done in the famous clubhouse of Hamburg Rugby Club.

To get a top outcome of the weekend the three IRB Referee Educators of Germany (Klaus Blank, Werner Cromm and Ralf Tietge) were evaluated and reviewed as part of their development in this

role by the two IRB licenced Trainers Kerstin Ljungdahl and Bernd Gabbei.



First time in Europe : the 7's U19 Grand Prix Series Société Générale



The 7's U19 Grand Prix Series Société Générale, as it will be called, will take place on 13/14 April 2013.

The tournament with 12 Men's teams (Portugal, France, Spain, Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Germany, Romania, Belgium, Lithuania, Poland & Monaco) will be organised in Palma de Mallorca (Spain). The Société Générale, FIRA-AER historic partner, decided to sponsor the competition since it is widely involved in 7's rugby and its development in Europe.

According to Jean-Claude BAQUE : « FIRA-AER is very proud to be part of the preparation steps to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio and the 2020 Olympic Games. Indeed, the European nations need

to improve in order to face the nations from the South Hemisphere. It obviously implies high level age grade competitions."

To be in line with the decisions of the International Olympic Committee and the IRB, FIRA-AER is willing to create the same competition for women from 2014.

The competition was in streaming Live on DailyMotion FIRA-AER Chanel.

France 7's U19 : European champion

In Palma de Mallorca, Sunday 14 April, France 7s is the first winner of U19 European championship named "U19 7s Grand Prix Series Société Générale".

France has beaten in Final Russia 55-12 with 9 tries. Spain is third with a last minute try against Belgium 15-12. Following the ranking, Italy won the "plate" with a win to Portugal 22-7 and Germany the "Bowl" 24-0 to Lithuania.

France coached by Thierry Janezeck, has succeeded a excellent tournament with no defeat and an excellence defence (only 2 tries against).

This first tournament is the first step dedicated to Youth competitions to develop an Olympic programme for in view of Olympic Games in 2016 and 2020.

All results, photos ... in FIRA-AER web site.



U18 - Grenoble in brief

Flash news from Grenoble after the first round of the 2013 U18 Competition.

On 26 March, the two games in Chambéry Ireland Vs France and Georgia Vs Italy were broadcasted LIVE on FIRA-AER channel on DailyMotion platform.

Performance reviewing for Referees: Donal Courtney (ERC), Joël Judge (IRB) et Dave Pearson (6Nations), referee Managers of ERC, IRB and 6 Nations have watched several games on the U18 European championship (all Divisions) for a performance reviewing of the match Officials.

Legacy in sport activities:

1. On 22 March, Czech Republic players and Managers were in AS Fontaine to carry on a commun training with rugby school. Alain David, club contact and Laurent David have reserved a warm welcome to Czech players.

2. Wales was on 23 March in Ravoire for a Rugby school tournament. Exchanges were made between kids and players by checking hands rather than long speeches.

3. On 23 March, England staff has visited Aix les Bains to follow the Queen Victoria traces, then following the cultural activities, English players have been hosted in Cityhall of Aix les Bains. On 25 March they have shared a training with the Croatia team.

4. The Mayor of St Etienne de St Geoirs Yannick Neuder with C. Nier President of Isère Rugby Committee and Mr Barbier, MEP has hosted the Poland staff. For this event, JC Baqué accompagné by C. Dullin was present.

5. On Tuesday 26th, the Ukrainian delegation went to visit the very touristic town of Annecy with their manager Mr Dimitri Samoylenko, the coaches and General Secretary of the Ukrainian union. They were then welcomed at the town hall of Annecy le vieux by the General Secretary of the town office and the president of the rugby club of the city, see picture.

6. On Wednesday 27th of March, the Welsh U18 enjoyed an exceptionnally day and went to visit the town of Chambéry.

Interviews: FIRA-AER performs interviews of players, managers, participants ... of the 2013 U18 tournament in Grenoble. Please find these interviews in mp3 format on the FIRA-AER web site (page associated to the games).

Video: All games are recorded and made available to the teams on the evening of the game, all other games are available 24 hours after the end of the games on a dedicated server.

Video clips are available on the FIRA-AER web site associated to daily summary news. The video clips of the Elite games are ready .

Réception: On 23rd March, the FIRA-AER President Mr Baque was in Seyssins for the party in the City hall in honour of the Irish team. President Baque congratulated the Irish team and more particularly the "man of the game". A folk band was playing Irish tunes & local products were offered.

Problem: Following a bus failure, the game England Vs Portugal was delayed by 30 minutes. England feared that they might miss the KO.

LIVE on Internet: FIRA-AER and the organising Committee agreed to provide LIVE of two Division B games (Ukraine-Serbia &



Lithuania-Croatia) on FIRA-AER Dailymotion chanel. It is now official the two Elite games France Vs Ireland and Georgia Vs Italy will be LIVE on our chanel inDailymotion.

Photos: All photos received are now associated to the relevant game. However, they are all available on the photo gallery on this website.

Protocol: a lot of crowd for the protocol, kids with flags, mums to repeat the protocol before the game and finally kids to get autographs after the game.

After the game: FIRA-AER insisted on a shared and friendly communication between the teams after the game. Exchange of gifts, captain's speeches ... really appreciated by the host clubs.



