

FlashInfo 146 - Special AGM

EDITO



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HISTORICAL CONTINUITY

The unexpected announcement in May 2013 of the resignation of Jean-Claude BAQUE, FIRA-AER Chairman since 1997, had the European Game left hanging. It is with a heartfelt tribute to Jean-Claude and a call for continuity and the FIRA-AER stakeholders' formidable resources which the actors of the conceal that Octavian MORARIU (Romania) presented his candidature at the 90th General Assembly held in Stockholm (Sweden). Continuity, since the new Chairman wishes to pursue the way initiated by his predecessor (now Honorary Chairman) while putting the players at the heart of discussions and actions. Beyond this commitment, the management, marketing and visibility of the European competitions will have to reflect and highlight performance and high level.

Change of generation certainly but also of dimension given the new strong man for the European Game is to enter, as soon as September 2013, the world sporting Pantheon: the International Olympic Committee. This double culture will certainly open more political and media doors for our sport.

Belorussia became the 48th FIRA-AER Member, while Gibraltar application was rejected after a vote by secret ballot. Finally, Turkey have become a full member in accordance with the bye-laws.

The General Assembly ratified the project of proposed free electronic FIRA-AER application for the Member Unions, and dedicated to administrative and sporting management. The sevens competitions are to grow even more and European refereeing is going from strength to strength with a shared strategy between the IRB, the ERC and the 6 Nations!

Lastly, a historic or anecdotal fact, FIRA-AER is now chaired for the first time by a Chairman not coming from the French Rugby Union.

LES EDITEURS



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Octavian Morariu is the new president of the FIRA-AER



Octavian Morariu (52 years old) was elected FIRA-AER president in Stockholm during the 90th General Assembly with 255 votes out of 301.

"I'm honored and happy, but at the same time I fully realize the responsibility that I'll have now, especially because rugby is a passion. I dedicate this success to all the Romanian players, coaches and managers", said Octavian Morariu right after his election.

President of the Romanian National Olympic Committee and future member of the International Olympic Committee from September, he was FIRA-AER vice-president since 2004.

His mandate is for at least three and a half years as he follows Jean Claude Baque in this position.

Congress in Stockholm - Sport news

As the tradition goes, the General Meeting in Stockholm started on Friday 5th July with a complete review of the Men's and Women's competitions, the fixture schedule, the plans for 7's rugby... performed by the two Region Development Managers, Michel Arpaillange and Douglas Langley.

The fixture schedule for the 2013/2014 ENC, U20 and U19 were updated and published on the website. Four 7's Grand Prix series are scheduled: Lyon (France), Moscow (Russia), Bucharest (Romania) and maybe Manchester (England). A Women's U18 7's competition will be launched following the example of the Men's U19 7's GPS sponsored by Société Générale with a total of 20 nations in 2014. A second tournament for division A will be organised for the Women's 7's championship.

Congress in Stockholm- Administrative changes

The congress in Stockholm allowed the General Assembly to take decisions on many items in the agenda.

The only candidate Octavian Morariu (Romania) was elected FIRA-AER president with a vote by secret ballot (85% of the votes expressed). Turkey was accepted as FIRA-AER full member with a vote by show of hands. In accordance with the FIRA-AER bye-laws and regulations, Belarus and Gibraltar made a short presentation to support their candidature as associate members. The attending unions were able to ask questions before the votes by secret ballot, knowing that a majority of 2/3 is required to obtain membership. The Belarus Rugby Union became the 48th FIRA-AER member, whereas the Gibraltar Rugby Football Union did not reach the relevant number of votes. Octavian Morariu handed over the medals of the 90th General Meeting: Gilbert Celli (San Marino), Bill Nolan (Scotland), Carlos Amado Da Silva (Portugal), Peter Schupbach (Switzerland), Robert Brophy (IRB), Felipe Gallardo (Andorra) the FIRA-AER bronze medal. Michel Lamoulie (France), Bruno Kudrna (Czech Republic), Gilbert Courades (Monaco), Jean-Jacques Zander (Sweden) received the FIRA-AER silver medal. Finally, Stina LEIJONHUFVUD (Sweden) and Jus Van DOORN (Netherlands) received the FIRA-AER gold medal.

Congress in Stockholm - AOB

Just as usual, FIRA-AER reported on the work done by the different committees and the results of the competitions in a document called "Annual report" with more than a hundred pages given to the attending unions either in French or English.

Stina Leijonhufvud and Madeleine Lathi, the former and the current President of the Swedish Rugby Union as well as Robert Persson, the General Secretary, welcomed the unions and facilitated their stay and visits of Stockholm in a warm weather. A dinner in an Irish pub was organised on Thursday, a barbecue on the sea side on Friday night and a cruise around the islands of the Baltic Sea staged the final banquet. The Flash Mob get Into Rugby on the main square of Stockholm was a huge success. Many passers-by were able to see this happening on a spot ideally located between the old town and the shopping area.



Get Into Rugby Scandinavia - 6th July 2013 (Stockholm)



Immediately after the FIRA-AER General Meeting, the Swedish Rugby Union organised Get Into Rugby activities on Saturday 6th July 2013 in the streets of their capital city.

After the project launch held on 22/23 February in Stockholm, this Rugby promotion activity facilitated by David HANLEY (TD Sweden), was held on one of the main squares of the city. Spectators and those participating were very pleased with this initiative.

Many passers-by and delegates also joined in.

The increase in the number of players for Scandinavia from 9 000 to 14 000 by the end of 2015, relies on a close relation with the schools and clubs in order to facilitate recruitment and retention.

Laws of the game - Scrum: Crouch-Bind-Set

FIRA-AER suggests that you read the IRB page (click on link) applicable from 1st August 2013.

Please use the link below:

<http://www.irblaws.com/index.php?domain=16>

Choose your language on top right side of the page.



Michel Lamoulié (FIRA-AER) receives IRB Referee Award for distinguished service



Former French referee Michel Lamoulié has become the latest recipient of the IRB Referee Award for Distinguished Service.

A native of Mont de Marsan in France, Michel has played a very important role in developing young match officials, especially at Under 19 and Under 21 levels.

Lamoulié was an assessor and performance reviewer ever since the inception of merit-based selection in 1997, and became an IRB selector in 2006.

He also worked on many different tournaments over the years with FIRA-AER, coaching and developing elite referee talent.

Presenting the award in Nantes during the IRB Junior World Championship, IRB High Performance Match Officials Manager Joel Judge said: "It's a real honour for me to present this award to Michel."

"He is a man with a great passion for developing match officials, and he is also a man of great integrity and well respected by referees worldwide."

"The IRB Referee Award for Distinguished Service recognises those who have contributed significantly to the area of officiating and Michel is certainly worthy of this award," said Judge.

Before he received the prestigious award in Nantes, Michel Lamoulié was introduced to up and coming referees who have been officiating at the IRB Junior World Championship in France.

The key developmental tournament for players and coaches also provides a similar role for aspiring Test referees from all over the world. Romain Poite, Chris Pollock, Jérôme Garcès and Greg Garner are just some of the established whistle-blowers that have officiated at the JWC in the past.

The IRB Junior World Championship is part of a process to ensure the highest quality referees are in place for the Rugby World Cup in 2015 in England, as it gives officials the perfect environment to learn from each other as a group, focus on continual coaching, assessment and mentoring to ensure the best-possible standards of consistency and performance.

From IRB Media release



Beach Rugby in Anglet (FR)- France beat Italy in final game



The Euro Beach Rugby in Anglet (FR) started on 19th July on the large beach of Anglet where 10 teams will play for three days. After the first day with the play-off game (Friday 19th July), the final stage is on Sunday 21st July.

Play-off stage: On 19th July, the initial ranking was changed due to the remarkable performances of Russia and Georgia. France comes 3rd on the podium while the other countries are ranked exactly the same as in 2012.

There were huge expectations on Russia and Georgia for the final, but France and Italy happened to be the best. The Cup went to France, Plate to Spain and Bowl to Moldova. An important crowd was on the beach of Anglet.

England won the Lyon 7's Grand Prix Series for the third time



With almost 3 000 spectators in the Matmut Stadium of Lyon, the English 7's team won the French round of the Men's 7's European Championship for the third year in a row. The victory was easy against Russia (33-5) after a very tactical and physical game. The score at half time was very balanced (7-5 for England). During the second half though, England played with feet on order to go through the Russian defence.

The French team of Frederic Pomarel, its coach, beat Wales (12-10) for the third place. The European title is still possible. France lost the semi final against the English team (7-21) with a very enthusiastic public.

Portugal, who went through a very difficult first day won against Scotland (26-7) and obtained the

Plate, which means fifth in the ranking.

Lastly, Italy managed, in extremis, to beat Germany (15-12) for the bowl (9th in the ranking).

During the tournament, 7 887 spectators were in the Matmut Stadium. Big success!

The second round of the Grand Prix Series will be organised in Bucharest on 21/22 September. The 2013 European title will be given (England and Portugal are the last two winners).

Out of the 12 participating teams, 8 will play the world best teams for the RWC from 26 to 29 June 2013 in Moscow: Wales, France, England, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Scotland, Georgia.

To watch the Highlights of Day 2 click [here](#)

Seven : Belgium promoted to 2014 7's GPS



Belgium won the second round of the Men's 7's European Championship Division A at home and will play in the 2014 7's Grand Prix Series.

Belgium brilliantly won the Cup final against Sweden (22-12) in Brussels last weekend. After its victory in the first round in Israel, Belgium left no chance to its opponents for the promotion. In 2013, they didn't lose a single game.

Poland, who reached the final in Israel, ranked 3rd in the tournament after a win against the Netherlands (33-28).

Lithuania went back home with the Plate (victory against Cyprus : 19-17).

Finally, Israel won the Bowl beating the Czech Republic 22 to 20.

Serbia & Czech Republic will be relegated to Division B next year.

To see all the Tournament results click [here](#)

IRB Talent Optimisation Programme "TOP", Stellenbosch (South Africa), 22-27 July 2013



15 participants from 8 FIRA-AER unions are attending this programme being held at the Stellenbosch Academy of Sport. The programme is aimed at coaches and match officials with significant experience and qualifications (from IRB Strategic Investment or targeted Unions) who are looking to optimize their talent in a high performance environment.

The FIRA-AER participants are from Belgium, Georgia, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland & Sweden and are being observed by one of the RDM's - Europe. There are a total of 34 participants from 22 unions at the Programme.



England becomes RWC Junior winner : celebrations in Europe



For the first time in history, England becomes U20 World champion after the victory against Wales 23-15. For the first time an European Country from FIRA-AER Members is World champion in U20 age grade.

During the second half, England managed to reverse the trend (score at half time 3-15) in front of a strong Welsh team (score at half time: 3-15). 9 500 spectators enjoyed the game in Vannes (France) after which Sam Davies (Wales) was named IRB Junior Player of the year 2013.

France ranked 5th with a victory on the edge against Argentina (37-34).

Ireland ranked 8th after a defeat against Australia (28-17).

Scotland only gets the 9th place because of their loss against Samoa 33-24.

For more information: [click here](#)

England winner of the Brive 7's Women GPS



England won the Brive 7's Women Grand Prix Series after beating Russia in Final (30-7).

With the score of 15-0 at half time, England has taken a physiological advantage to Russia, tiered after the dramatic semi final against France. England was quicker and more collective. Russia has given a good reaction at the end of the game.

Game for third place shown France against Spain (5-35). France was tired and ceded in second half face to an heroic Spain. France lost the semi-final against Russia in the last second of the game. Christelle Leduff with 46 points is second on player ranking.

Ireland concluded the 5th place against Netherlands (12-7). Netherlands finished 3th behind

England and Russia on pool phase.

After a good tournament, Italy and Germany have played for the Place 7th. Italy won by 24-0.

Portugal won the bowl (17-7 face to Wales) with the best-scored Joana Viera with 50 points. Ukraine 11th let Scotland for the 12th place with 7 games played with 7 games lost.

All team will now played the Round 2 in Marbella (ES) on 15 and 16 June. After this stage, the European winner and the two teams relegated will be known. This is also the last tournament before the WRWC2013 in Moscow for England, Netherlands, France Spain, Ireland and Russia.

Game level increased year after year with is interesting in view of the 2016 Olympic games. All results and photos on Web site.



