

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**







# **CONTENTS**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	3
RLEF PROFILE & VALUES	5
EUROPE REGIONAL DIRECTOR	6
MEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR	8
AMERICA REGIONAL MANAGER	10
COACHING MANAGER	11
MATCH OFFICIALS MANAGER	14
MEDIA MANAGER	16
GOVERANCE	18
RLEF COMPETITIONS	20
AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS	26
OTHER INTERNATIONALS	30
FINANCIAL REPORT	33
THE BOARD	35
APPENDIX1: ORGANISATION	38
APPENDIX2: DOMESTIC CH	39

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I have great pleasure in warmly welcoming you to the 2019 RLEF annual report. The 2019 Congress was held in Turkey, which was another debut location for us. Over 35 delegates together in May.

It was fitting that we witnessed a women's international, Turkey v Italy, as this is a growing area for our sport. Our thanks to Gurol and his colleagues at Turkey Rugby League for their excellent efforts in hosting us.



On the field, 2019 was a key year for World Cup qualifier men's matches. Norway v Greece was the starting fixture of the season. Greece took the honors and their place in the final group stages. From that four teams emerged as qualifiers to 2021 Rugby League World Cup – Greece, Ireland, Italy and Scotland – and they join three other European nations – England, France and Wales. This is a record number for European countries at the men's World Cup. Alongside them is Lebanon (Middle East and Africa) and debutants, Jamaica (Americas). USA men unfortunately missed out, when losing in a play-off to Cook Islands, in the later part of 2019.

The men's competition is only one of three at the Rugby League World Cup 2021. In the women's World Cup, from our Federation, there is England, Canada and France. Whilst in the Wheelchair World Cup, seven out of the eight nations competing, come from the Federation – England, France, Norway, Scotland, Spain and United States of America. Across all 3 Worlds Cup in 2021, the RLEF will provide over 50% of the participating teams.

There were regular international matches – men, wheelchair and women, youth and students across the year. A prime example was the first qualifier for the European U19 male Championships, which was won by Ukraine. I would like to highlight the Middle East and Africa Championships. Held in Lagos, Nigeria in October 2019. The hosts emerged as winners, and congratulations to them. The rugby produced by them and Morocco, Ghana and Cameroon were fast and entertaining. The logistics to the Championships were very challenging but I commend Ade and Abbey from Nigeria RL and their colleagues for all their efforts. I also commend Remond Safi and his fulsome commitment before and during the Championships.

Americas held their first 9s Championships. Congratulations to USA men and Canada women, who emerged as the winners, and to hosts, Canada. Our new member in 2019 was Libya, and we welcome them to our Federation.

Around the MEA Championships, there was a coach and match official education programme, which was done in conjunction with the RLWC staff. 8 Nations sent representatives and as ever, Martin Crick, with help from Phil Smith, Phil Jones and Kevin De La Rose, delivered engaging activity. Martin has also made trips in 2019 to Canada, Wales and Lebanon. Our other prime educator is Tom Mather, who oversees the match officials. Through Tom's previous work, there was self-staffed Level 1 courses in the Netherlands, Serbia, Czech, Ukraine, Ireland and Greece.

Both Martin and Tom, continue to be constant sources of ongoing mentoring for coaches and match officials across all our members. Our thanks to them especially as they are volunteers. Out other key volunteers are James Vukmirovc (website), George Stilanos (Facebook), David Lahr (YouTube) and of course, our long-standing media manager, Phil Caplan. We appreciate their commitment.

Chris Thair was our General Manager in 2019. He conducted extensive consultation with the members including on a new RLEF strategy. The Board did receive a final strategic document in early 2020. There will need to be a reconsideration of it, due to COVID-19, in terms of the objectives.

Finally, to the most important organisations: the member nations. Thank you, your fellow Federation colleagues, your clubs, your representative team staff, your coaches and match officials for all your efforts to promote and develop our sport in 2019.

Maurie Walkin

Maurice Watkins CBE

Chairman

# **RLEF PROFILE & VALUES**

The Rugby League European Federation's statutory objectives are to foster, develop, extend, govern and administer the sport of rugby league throughout Europe. Its rapid growth since 2003 has impelled the extension of that remit to additional, non-European regions. In 2019, the RLEF administered national governing bodies [NGBs] in Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean and North America, in addition to its diverse European responsibilities.



# **EMPOWERMENT**

Enhance the growth of rugby league among members, in all facets, through a policy of empowerment



# **DYNAMISM**

The RLEF recognised as a dynamic, results-based leader



# **CULTURE**

Cultivate rugby league culture among member nations, making the sport a habitual part of participants' lives

# **EUROPE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

After the successfully completed final of the European Championship C between Greece and Norway in London on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019, which was broadcast on TV, two groups of 3 teams were formed, from which the two best placed teams qualified for the 2021 Rugby League World Cup. Unfortunately, after the sudden withdrawal of Russia from the competition, we were forced to offer a place to Serbia, as a team that competed in the European Championship B. At the end of the qualification cycle, four national teams qualified for the 2021 Rugby League World Cup, Ireland, Scotland, Italy and Greece. Greece qualified for World Cup for the first time



and this is the biggest success in the development of rugby sports leagues in Greece.

In the youth development, a large number of international matches were played, the most important of which was the qualifying match for the Rugby League U19 European Championship 2020 in Italy, between Turkey and Ukraine, in which Ukraine won with result 24:0 and qualified for Rugby League U19 European Championship 2020



Rugby League European Federation AGM and Congress Istanbul – May 2019

In May 2019 the Rugby League European Federation in association of the Turkish Rugby League Association as host nation successfully organized the AGM and Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. with the presence of 35 delegates, 9 out of 11 full members were present, 7 (2 via Skype) out of 10 affiliated

members were present, 7 out of 18 observer members were present. During the congress, a match was organized between the women's teams of the hosts Turkey and Italy, in which Turkey won with the result 18:14. This match also marked a great development, bigger than ever in terms of women's rugby league. The countries of continental Europe, such as Italy, Turkey, Greece and Serbia, have achieved exceptional results in the development of the women's rugby league, which has resulted in an ever-increasing number of international women's 13 side games, with as many as 7 international matches played.

While September 14 remains a day inscribed in golden letters in the history of the rugby league in Europe, on that day as many as 6 international matches were played at 4 locations, of which 4 were in the men's competition and two in the women's competition.

Members continued the organic growth and development of domestic competitions as well as the technical education of domestic coaches and match officials, which resulted in successful domestic competitions in most member countries. Rugby league activities have been launched in Lithuania, Belarus and Montenegro, as three potential observer countries.

Jovan Vujosevic

**Regional Director** 

Central & Eastern Europe

John Coppredel

# **MEA REGIONAL MANAGER**

The MEA Region has shown substantial growth with the likes of Cameroon, Ghana, Morocco, and Nigeria whilst welcoming the newest member Libya Rugby League Association joining in 2019, and further new applications being vetted. The RLEF continues to provide fundamental assistance to its members which has resulted in more 13 aside games played locally in the region. Middle East Africa witnessed another busy year amongst its members, with the focus on Nigeria hosting three major events (MEA Championship, Regional Educator Course and RLWC IDP) for the region within its first year of operations.



The region enjoyed the return of the 2019 MEA Championship, with 4 teams (Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Morocco) in Lagos, Nigeria during October 2019. These 4 nations had shown substantial growth and required an international fixture to aid their Affiliate Membership Application. Nigeria hosted and won their first event defeating [38-10] Morocco in the final, Ghana defeating [10-4] Cameroon in the semi-final match leaving Ghana to come third.

Phase 1 of the technical education (Coaching and Match Official) program led by Martin Crick and Phil Smith was hosted by NRLA during October 2019 during the MEA Championship. Three delegates from 8 Nations: Burundi, Cameroon, Dr Congo, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and representatives from Kenya, completed a week of coaching and match official educator courses who will lead on their NGB technical programs during phase 2 of the program.



MEA Nations Delegates]



Martin Crick Delivering Lv1 Coaching course to MEA Nations Educator delegates with Paul Barrière trophy in Lagos, Nigeria

The RLWC2021 InspirationALL Legacy Project completed its 4th International Development Programme visit which was accompanied by the then IRL Chairman Graeme Thompson during the 2019 MEA Championship. International Development Program held workshops with the aims to develop good practice and share knowledge and experience with the Rugby League nations in attendance. The Paul Barrière trophy was on display throughout the trip, giving the players, British Embassy staff, coaches and supporters a chance to see the famous world cup.

The MEA Region had a record attendance in the 2019 RLEF Congress with delegates from Cameroon, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria and Palestine. The Nations held a forum with Chris Thair moving towards a regional confederation and establishing a road map with IRL. Over the next 12 months RLEF/IRL will be anticipating receiving 4 Affiliate membership applications. MEA Nations will be working to establish an interim management committee to oversee the formation of the regional confederation's strategy, constitution. MEA Nations are expressing more input in the future of the game and region which demonstrates their growing capacity and confidence.

Remond Safi

**MEA Regional Director** 

# **AMERICA REGIONAL MANAGER**

The Americas Region has maintained a steady level of activity amongst its active members, USA, Canada and Jamaica. Trinidad and Tobago continue to record no activity. El Salvador has submitted an application for membership; however, further documentation is required. Rugby League activities continue to take place on a small scale in other non-member countries such as Mexico and Nicaragua.



Domestic 13-a-side Championships in the member nations continue to be the highlight of growth and rugby league culture. In 2019, Canada recorded 25 games, USA 45 games and Jamaica 172.

The 2019 period was moderately busy at the international level with the playing of the inaugural 2019 Americas Nines Championship, featuring male and female teams from the USA, Jamaica, Canada and Latin Heat. The USA male and Canadian Women teams emerged winners. The tournament was hosted in Toronto, Canada. All three countries also participated in international 13s matches.



USA v Jamaica Americas Cup



Jamaica youth Championship

Coach and Match Official education activities continued throughout the region. Jamaica hosted a Level 1 Match Official course under the supervision of Phil Smith and had two Educators certified. Meanwhile, Martin Crick led a Level 1 Coaching course in Canada with 15 candidates and a level two with 7 candidates.

Additionally, the RLWC2021 Inspiration ALL Legacy Project impacted Jamaica with its International Development Programme visit in 2019. The International Development Program held workshops aimed at developing good practice and sharing knowledge and experience with the Rugby League community. The

Paul Barrière trophy was on display throughout the trip, giving the players, British High Commission staff, coaches and supporters a chance to see the famous Cup.

Romeo Monteith

**America Regional Director** 

h. Monteith

# **COACHING MANAGER**

Whilst there were some very real achievements in coach education during 2019, there were also disappointments. Whilst we have made good progress with the running of Level 1 courses, the issue remains the subsequent enrolment of coaches onto the CATO programme by the educators and their mentoring towards Level 2. Part of the problem is that all educators are volunteers, with limited time available to do the work. Level 2 courses have been successful, and we now have 12 qualified Level 2 coaches. However we are still acting retrospectively, running the courses



before coaches have completed their post- Level 1 professional development (CATO). We must insist going forward that only qualified Level 1 coaches can attend Level 2. There is now a clear pathway available to coaches. Level 1 certification – CATO-Level 1 accreditation – Level 2 certification-CATO-Level 2 accreditation. Accredited Level 2 coaches can then apply to become Level 1 educators. A number of countries have no qualified coach educators, others have only one, which puts them at risk. We need a programme going forward to rectify this. I would like to commend Greece, Norway and the Czech Republic for their work in driving coach education forward in their countries.

One area of real progress has been the collaboration with Asia-Pacific RL to align our coach education programmes. The Level 1 is now completed, and work on Level 2 is well underway. One very positive outcome is that we now have a flexible delivery alternative. In countries where geography or other factors make it difficult for coaches to attend for two days there is now the option of one day 'home study' and one day on course. At the moment 'home study' is a workbook to be completed before attending the course. Ideally, we would have online capability for this, with modules delivered online, coaches able to participate in online seminars, and work completed and submitted online. At this moment in time we have no technical support to enable this to happen and this must be a priority for the organisation if we are to support our educators and make it easier to deliver coaching courses.

I made four visits during the year, to Wales, Canada, Lebanon and Nigeria. Progress in Wales has been somewhat erratic due to constantly changing personnel. This has impacted upon the development of coach educators, and also upon record keeping. Consequently, none of the applicants for the Level 2 course in Cardiff in April had completed their post-Level 1 work. However, we went ahead with the course, attended by six coaches, two of whom have subsequently completed all the required work.

My visit to Canada in September was a significant initiative and a milestone, the first time that we have been able to run coach education courses in North America. The instigator and driving force behind this were Bob Jowett, and I must thank him for the excellent preparation and arrangements. A Level 1 course was run over the weekend of 5-6 September, with 15 candidates, 10 male and 5 females, ranging from current and ex-Canada RL internationals to complete beginners. All were certified at the end of the two days, and now need to complete the post-course work to become fully accredited. The following weekend saw the delivery of a Level 2 programme, with 7 coaches in attendance. The

numbers were impacted by the Wolverines/ and Ravens' tour of Serbia running at the same time. This was the first trial for the new flexible Level 2 programme, which involves two days on course and an equivalent amount of off-course study.

I also visited one school and ran a 'fun' introduction to Rugby League. Getting the game played in schools in Canada would be a massive step forward for the game, and it is encouraging to hear that two of the coaches are already running coaching sessions in their schools.

I made my third visit to Lebanon from 26-30 September. Although one of the RLEF's full members, due to various personnel and organisational issues there have been no qualified Level 1 educators to run courses there. The first priority was to train two potential educators, Gaby Haddad and Nayef Abi Said. They delivered a Level 1 to 10 candidates, with varying degrees of experience as players or coaches, and proved more than capable. This is a significant step forward for Lebanon RL, who should now be able to organise regular Level 1 coaching courses. I then delivered a Level 2 course. The attendance was disappointingly low given Lebanon's level of activity and history in Rugby League, with only 6 coaches, and this seems to reflect a period of upheaval in the game there, with both club and university competitions truncated.

My programme of visits for the year was rounded off by a trip to Nigeria, where the aim was to run a Level 1 coaching course during the MEA Championship. The week proved to be a roller coaster of highs and lows, frustrations and achievements, and definitely one to remember. But the first thing to say is what a great success the Championship was on the field. The four teams, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria and Cameroon, are to be congratulated on their performances: the physicality and athleticism on display was magnificent. When you consider the handicaps that the teams had to overcome even to get to Lagos then their performances become even more creditable.

For the coaching course there were candidates from 8 countries, the four competing nations plus Sierra Leone, Burundi, Kenya and Congo. It would be fair to say that the logistics left much to be desired. Transport to bring them into the venue was erratic, so time keeping was a problem. The venue was simply not suitable. The classroom was next to a bar, where there was often loud music playing. The only outdoor facility was a small patch of artificial grass in between the classroom and the bar. Torrential rain on one day meant even that was unusable and we had to clear the tables and chairs in the classroom and improvise there. And yet much was achieved. The coaches were engaged and contributed well. What was glaringly obvious was the limited technical knowledge of most of the candidates, a number of whom had seen very few games of Rugby League. They desperately need resources, but above all extended time on a field to put them into game scenarios. One really useful session was in a school, where the coaches got the opportunity to coach RL to beginners, but even here the Gods conspired against us, and after half an hour we had to abandon the session as the heavens opened.



MEA Regional Nation representative during Lagos, Nigeria Educational Course



RLWC IPD Tracey Powers and Karen Moorehouse workshop

The course was certainly an experience for me, operating in some very trying conditions, but in the end the game of rugby league triumphed, as it always does. What has been most heartening has been the level of contact with the coaches since the course. A number have completed their post-course work and thus become accredited Level 1 coaches, and I am constantly fielding questions and requests for assistance. There is massive potential to develop Rugby League in the region, but what is needed is more resource, in terms of personnel, equipment and time. In particular someone with the IT knowledge and background to assist with the development of online learning resources.

Whilst this occurred at time of writing in 2020, I could not end however, without paying tribute to Simon Cooper, the pioneer of German Rugby League, who sadly passed away after a long battle against cancer. Originally from Halifax, Simon put heart and soul into developing the game in his adopted country. Those from the established heartlands of the game have very little idea of the difficulties confronted by such stalwarts, but those of us in the RLEF know them only too well. My condolences to his family and friends. RIP Simon, you will never be forgotten by the RLEF family.

Martin Crick

**Coach Manager** 

# **MATCH OFFICIALS MANAGER**

With the focus on development activity in the European countries becoming more focussed on local education and training, the RLEF Tutor team spent more time in 2019 looking at development outside of the European region and turned focus to developing the match officials performance pathway. In Europe, at grassroots level, organic local development began to show true signs of taking hold. Level 1 courses were held in The Netherlands, Serbia,



Czech Republic, Ukraine, Ireland and Greece which were all organised and locally tutored by graduates of the RLEF Educator training programme. Meanwhile, first time Level 1 courses were delivered in Albania and Turkey also by graduates of the Level 1 programme, with the new local referees immediately embarking upon CATO, showing how the system can work.

Activity in Europe was generally lower than in previous years, which reduced the opportunities for new officials to complete the 8 games they needed to complete CATO in their first seasons. Aligning courses to early weekends of local seasons and providing more officiating opportunities are important to ensure that CATO as part of CPD development can be undertaken quickly and effectively to improve officiating standards.

From an Educator Development and level Two perspective, training at Level Two took place in Jamaica in January and Lebanon in September, with 12 match officials educated, and once they have completed their respective CPD via CATO, eligible to be accredited Level Two Match Officials. Level 1 Tutor courses were also run at the same time in both these locations, so qualified personnel now exist on the ground in both Jamaica and Lebanon.

Phil Smith travelled to Nigeria in October to tutor in a camp at the MEA regional championships, where a level 1 course was delivered to over 30 interested players and officials from all over the African continent. Phil then spent time with officials getting them up to speed to officiate in the MEA championships with the assistance of Kevin De La Rose from the French federation, in what was a ground breaking visit for an RLEF tutor.

Unlike the coaching team, we were unable to carry out any Match Officials Development in the Americas in 2019 which is a disappointment, but, the success of trips to Lebanon and Nigeria, alongside Martin Crick, has demonstrated that there are real benefits to local education of tying up training courses, allowing coaches, players and officials to understand the importance and interdependencies of each other's roles. Where possible, its hoped that this can be adopted moving forward on a number of educational visits around Level 2 qualifications.



Tom Mather with referee course participants in Lebanon

Back in Europe, the performance group of officials, established for the 2018 U19's championships, were mentored by members of the match officials team, which led to world cup qualifier appointments for officials from France, Spain, Italy, Wales and Czech Republic with some good performances being recognised at review. It is essential that Match Officials from some of these countries are given opportunities to officiate at the highest standards of the game, and working closely with the IRL, there has never been a better time to realise these. The RLEF and member nations needs to continue to work together to find and educate the officials of the future who can be good enough to become international officials and it is vital that development work builds on the education foundations that have been laid.

Finally, as with coaching, the Match Officials department continues to work with colleagues in the APRLC to align educational material, with agreement on content for Level 1 referee qualifications made in 2019.

Tom Mather

**Match Officials Manager** 

# **MEDIA MANAGER**

There were some excellent opportunities to create varied and different content throughout the year and credit must go to the nations involved and match commissioners for making the best of the opportunities presented.

The two major highlights were the World Cup qualifiers, which saw Jamaica and Greece become tournament debutants, both of whom came with unique angles and stories to focus on that got wide traction across a number of media outlets.



Likewise the MEA championship, where the stories surrounding the competition were even more important than the results, and contained a human interest element that clearly resonated.

Similarly, the European Students championship worked well and the flow of stories about the women's game from across the areas was also of great value in finding new media space.

There is still a need to better coordinate the breaking of stories via the various media platforms available and still a need to acknowledge that immediacy is key, windows are smaller and closed sooner and it may well be worth more clearly defining and coordinating roles, responsibilities and timing with the varying outlets and audience preferences, on which greater research would be advisable.

The need for any story to be framed by quotes is even more paramount to give it added authority, veracity and a different interest angle for a governing body, and differentiate it from NGB facebook pages in particular where there is a tendency to post and then not formally and expediently follow up for a wider, alternative audience; we are better served by servicing the best of both worlds.

There also needs to be more coordination with the IRL who, in an understandable quest for content, trawl social media sites for stories that are generated within the RLEF regions but, once published on the overarching governing body feed, deny the opportunity for use.

There was sufficient diversity of content to keep the valued weekly bulletin going but concern towards the end of the year that without regularity of stories it may run out.

What a federation should publish, as opposed to an NGB, is also worth further debate and clarification with a feeling that stories on local sponsors and weekly results should be the preserve of the latter and context the former.

There is also a need to find ways to boost followers on the various sites, numbers are relatively static and we need to be aware that fashions as to preferred channels change quickly and to be responsive to that.



Phil Caplan

**Media Manager** 

# **GOVERNANCE**

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

### Changes to the Board

There were no changes to the Board in 2019.

### **Board meetings**

The Board held six meetings throughout the year, on 12 February (London), 1 May (teleconference), 18 May (Istanbul), 23rd July (teleconference), 11 Sept (London), 27 November (London).

	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during Director's period of office
Mahdi Choudhury	6	6
Paul Nicholson	6	6
Marc Palanques	2	6
Colin Kleyweg	6	6
Graeme Thompson	6	6
Maurice Watkins	5	6
Alan Darfi	5	6
Tony Sutton	1 *	
Matthieu Khadimi	1**	

<sup>\*</sup>As alternate to Alan Darfi

#### **SUB-COMMITTEES**

The RLEF administers three sub-committees, all of which operate independently of the plenary Board and reporting to it at the subsequent Board Meeting.

## **Dispute Resolution Committee**

The DRC was created following a Board resolution taken at its 19 February 2016 Board Meeting. It is a standing committee of the RLEF and is the first instance organ for Members to lodge formal grievance. The Committee is convened by order of the Board upon formal complaint being lodged in writing to the RLEF General Manager or the Board and therefore there are no sitting members or fixed terms. The DRC was not required to be convened in 2019.

## Financial, Audit and Risk Committee

The purpose of the FARC, constituted in February 2012, is to advise the Board on financial management, audit and risk management matters. In 2019 FARC was chaired by Mahdi Choudhury in

<sup>\*\*</sup>As alternate to Marc Palanques

an interim capacity, with Colin Kleyweg a sitting member. A third member, independent accountant Nigel Hansford, was co-opted onto the committee in October.

Meetings are usually held approximately every six months. In addition, also monitored the risk register in close consultation with the executive team.

	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during Member's period of office
Nigel Hansford	1	1
Marc Palanques	0	1
Mahdi Choudhury	1	1
Colin Kleyweg	1	1

#### **Remuneration Committee**

The purpose of the Remuneration Committee, constituted in September 2011, is to oversee a formal and transparent procedure for developing policy on executive and consultant remuneration. It is chaired by Maurice Watkins, with Graeme Thompson its other member. There was no requirement for the committee to meet in 2019.

#### COUNCIL

Nations represented at the 2019 Annual Council Meeting:

<u>Full Members</u>: Alan Davidson (**England**/United Kingdom), Mathieu Khedimi, Anne L'Heuillet (**France**), Barry Coede, Andrew Coede (**Ireland**), Tiziano Franchini (**Italy**), Assaad Feghali, Nayef Abi Said (**Lebanon**), Allan Cameron, Ollie Cruicshank (**Scotland**), Dragon Pavlovic, Vladan Kikanovic (**Serbia**), Artur Martyrosian, Sergiy Kirpichnikof (**Ukraine**) and Brian Juliff (**Wales**)

<u>Affiliate Members</u>: Joshua Knight via Skype (**Canada**), Tomas Douda (**Czech Republic**), Bob Doughton (**Germany**), Jean Pierre Zrab, Yanika Spiteri (**Malta**), Daan Van Rossum (**Netherlands**), Gurol Ylidiz, Julien True (**Turkey**) and Steve Williams via skype (**United States**)

Observers: Xhino Drangu, Arnaldo Telo (**Albania**) Carol Manga, Adamou Sadjou (**Cameroon**), Yamina Abdeselem, Mohamad Boukassal (**Morocco**), Daniel Potts, Martin Crawford (**Nigeria**), Rabieh El Masri (**Palestine**), Lukasz Lucka (**Poland**), Rajendra Shah (**Sweden**)

## MEMBER ACTIVITY EUROPE

SENIOR [community | military | professional | student | wheelchair | women]

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	TEAMS 2018	<b>TEAMS 2019</b>	MATCHES 2018	MATCHES 2019
CZECH REPUBLIC	12	11	30	14
ENGLAND	100+	100+	100+	100+
FRANCE	100+	100+	100+	100+
GERMANY	4	4	6	6
GREECE	7	7	21	24
IRELAND	8	6	22	42
ITALY	7	7	14	12
MALTA	2	3	0	10
NETHERLANDS	4	4	17	14
NORWAY	11	10	14	24
RUSSIA	2	3	2	2
SCOTLAND	7	5	17	34
SERBIA	14	8	64	75
SPAIN	5	3	10	6
TURKEY	14	14	14	28
UKRAINE	14	7	37	44
WALES	30	30	100+	81

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2018	TEAMS 2019	MATCHES 2018	MATCHES 2019
CZECH REPUBLIC	6	6	15	30
ENGLAND	100+	100+	100+	100+
FRANCE	100+	100+	100+	100+
GERMANY	0	0	0	0
GREECE	0	0	0	0
IRELAND	1	6	4	16
ITALY	3	3	0	3
MALTA	0	0	0	0
NETHERLANDS	2	2	0	0
NORWAY	1	1	2	2
RUSSIA	0	0	0	0
SCOTLAND	0	2	0	3
SERBIA	7	5	13	36
SPAIN	2	0	2	0
TURKEY	0	4	0	12
UKRAINE	24	24	24	19
WALES	87	87	100+	100+

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES [national | regional | women | wheelchair | student]

CZECH REPUBLIC         0         1         3         2           ENGLAND         N/A         6         N/A         14           FRANCE         5         2         7         3           GERMANY         0         0         3         3           GREECE         0         0         6         5           IRELAND         3         5         9         11           ITALY         6         0         4         7           MALTA         0         0         8         2           NETHERLANDS         0         0         2         1           NORWAY         0         0         4         3           RUSSIA         0         0         2         0           SCOTLAND         5         5         8         9           SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0           WALES         6         4         11         1		YOUTH 2018	YOUTH 2019	SENIOR 2018	SENIOR 2019
FRANCE         5         2         7         3           GERMANY         0         0         3         3           GREECE         0         0         6         5           IRELAND         3         5         9         11           ITALY         6         0         4         7           MALTA         0         0         8         2           NETHERLANDS         0         0         2         1           NORWAY         0         0         4         3           RUSSIA         0         0         2         0           SCOTLAND         5         5         8         9           SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	CZECH REPUBLIC	0	1	3	2
GERMANY         0         0         3         3           GREECE         0         0         6         5           IRELAND         3         5         9         11           ITALY         6         0         4         7           MALTA         0         0         8         2           NETHERLANDS         0         0         2         1           NORWAY         0         0         4         3           RUSSIA         0         0         2         0           SCOTLAND         5         5         8         9           SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	ENGLAND	N/A	6	N/A	14
GREECE       0       0       6       5         IRELAND       3       5       9       11         ITALY       6       0       4       7         MALTA       0       0       8       2         NETHERLANDS       0       0       2       1         NORWAY       0       0       4       3         RUSSIA       0       0       2       0         SCOTLAND       5       5       8       9         SERBIA       7       1       7       11         SPAIN       0       0       4       2         TURKEY       1       1       4       5         UKRAINE       4       2       2       0	FRANCE	5	2	7	3
IRELAND       3       5       9       11         ITALY       6       0       4       7         MALTA       0       0       8       2         NETHERLANDS       0       0       2       1         NORWAY       0       0       4       3         RUSSIA       0       0       2       0         SCOTLAND       5       5       8       9         SERBIA       7       1       7       11         SPAIN       0       0       4       2         TURKEY       1       1       4       5         UKRAINE       4       2       2       0	GERMANY	0	0	3	3
ITALY       6       0       4       7         MALTA       0       0       8       2         NETHERLANDS       0       0       2       1         NORWAY       0       0       4       3         RUSSIA       0       0       2       0         SCOTLAND       5       5       8       9         SERBIA       7       1       7       11         SPAIN       0       0       4       2         TURKEY       1       1       4       5         UKRAINE       4       2       2       0	GREECE	0	0	6	5
MALTA         0         0         8         2           NETHERLANDS         0         0         2         1           NORWAY         0         0         4         3           RUSSIA         0         0         2         0           SCOTLAND         5         5         8         9           SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	IRELAND	3	5	9	11
NETHERLANDS         0         0         2         1           NORWAY         0         0         4         3           RUSSIA         0         0         2         0           SCOTLAND         5         5         8         9           SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	ITALY	6	0	4	7
NORWAY         0         0         4         3           RUSSIA         0         0         2         0           SCOTLAND         5         5         8         9           SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	MALTA	0	0	8	2
RUSSIA       0       0       2       0         SCOTLAND       5       5       8       9         SERBIA       7       1       7       11         SPAIN       0       0       4       2         TURKEY       1       1       4       5         UKRAINE       4       2       2       0	NETHERLANDS	0	0	2	1
SCOTLAND         5         5         8         9           SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	NORWAY	0	0	4	3
SERBIA         7         1         7         11           SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	RUSSIA	0	0	2	0
SPAIN         0         0         4         2           TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	SCOTLAND	5	5	8	9
TURKEY         1         1         4         5           UKRAINE         4         2         2         0	SERBIA	7	1	7	11
UKRAINE 4 2 2 0	SPAIN	0	0	4	2
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	TURKEY	1	1	4	5
WALES 6 4 11 9	UKRAINE	4	2	2	0
	WALES	6	4	11	9

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2018	2019	Notes
CZECH REPUBLIC	146	147	
ENGLAND	43,201	44,215	
FRANCE	7,220	8,140	
GERMANY	96	98	
GREECE	124	170	
IRELAND	369	437	
ITALY	255	N/A	FIRL did not provide numbers of participants in AMA 2019
MALTA	564	677	Large majority of players registered in Australia
NETHERLANDS	133	128	
NORWAY	332	569	
RUSSIA	N/A	N/A	ARLK did not keep a register
SCOTLAND	236	263	
SERBIA	679	712	
SPAIN	309	125	
TURKEY	394	463	
UKRAINE	774	802	
WALES	1585	1306	







France Wheelchair v England Wheelchair – June 2019

## MEMBER ACTIVITY AMERICA

## SENIOR [community | military | professional | student | wheelchair | women]

	TEAMS 2018	<b>TEAMS 2019</b>	MATCHES 2018	MATCHES 2019
CANADA	11	8	22	24
USA	11	11	42	53
JAMAICA	20	20	99	92
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-

<sup>1.</sup> No activity

## YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	<b>TEAMS 2018</b>	<b>TEAMS 2019</b>	MATCHES 2018	MATCHES 2019
CANADA	- -	2	-	1
JAMAICA	28	28	65	80
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO <sup>1</sup>	-	•	- -	-
USA	-	-	-	-

<sup>1.</sup> No activity

# REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES [national | regional | women | wheelchair | student]

	YOUTH 2018	YOUTH 2019	SENIOR 2018	SENIOR 2019
CANADA	-	-	2	4
JAMAICA	-	-	2	2
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	•
USA	-	-	2	2

<sup>1.</sup> No activity

# REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2018	2019	Notes
CANADA	175	365	-
JAMAICA	1002	907	-
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	-	-	No activity
USA	-	368	

## MEMBER ACTIVITY MEA

# SENIOR [community | military | professional | student | wheelchair | women]

	TEAMS 2018	<b>TEAMS 2019</b>	MATCHES 2018	MATCHES 2019
BURUNDI	14	11	4	20
CAMEROON	4	7	12	21
DR CONGO	-	6	-	46
ETHIOPIA <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-
GHANA	4	4	8	23
LEBANON	15	12	53	26
LIBYA	-	9	-	-
MOROCCO	6	4	-	8
NIGERIA	-	9	-	16
PALESTINE	2	3	-	3
SAUDI ARABIA <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-
SIERRA LEONE <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-

## 2. No activity

# YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2018	<b>TEAMS 2019</b>	MATCHES 2018	MATCHES 2019
BURUNDI	-	4	-	4
CAMEROON	4	6	12	2
DR CONGO	-	4	-	-
ETHIOPIA <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-
GHANA	0	2	0	2
LEBANON	6	7	14	16
LIBYA	-	1	-	-
MOROCCO	-	4	-	4
NIGERIA	-	2	-	-
PALESTINE	1	-	-	-
SAUDI ARABIA <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-
SIERRA LEONE <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-

2. No activity

# REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES [national | regional | women | wheelchair | student]

	YOUTH 2018	YOUTH 2019	SENIOR 2018	SENIOR 2019
BURUNDI <sup>1</sup>	-	-	1	-
CAMEROON	-	-	-	2
DR CONGO <sup>1</sup>	-	-	1	-
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	-
GHANA	-	-	-	2
LEBANON <sup>2</sup>	-	2	-	2
LIBYA	-	-	-	•
MOROCCO	-	-	-	2
NIGERIA	-	-	-	2
PALESTINE	-	-	-	-
SAUDI ARABIA	-	-	-	-
SIERRA LEONE	-	-	-	-

<sup>1.</sup> Unsanctioned match

# REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2018	2019	Notes
BURUNDI	784	1404	-
CAMEROON	80	260	-
DR CONGO	96	136	No player registration recorded in 2018.
ETHIOPIA <sup>1</sup>	-	-	No player registration or activity recorded in 2019.
GHANA	60	80	-
LEBANON	850	530	385 registered players in Lebanon; 145 in Australia
LIBYA	47	166	Became member late 2019
MOROCCO	360	782	-
NIGERIA	-	255	No player registration provided 2018, new entity empowered
PALESTINE	90	90	-
SAUDI ARABIA <sup>1</sup>	-	-	No player registration or activity recorded in 2019.
SIERRA LEONE <sup>1</sup>	-	340	No player registration or activity recorded in 2018.

<sup>2.</sup> No international activity player boycott 2018

#### **MEMBERSHIP AT 31/12/2019**

#### Full





















### **Affiliate**

























#### Observer

Albania Rugby League, Belgian Rugby League Association, Bosnia and Herzegovina Rugby League Association, Bulgarian Rugby League Federation, Burundi Rugby League, Cameroon Rugby League XIII, Dansk Rugby League Forbund, DR Congo Rugby League Association, Ethiopia Rugby League, Rugby League Federation of Ghana, Hungarian Rugby League Federation, Latvia Rugby League, Libya Rugby League Association, Fédération Marocaine de Rugby League, Nigerian Rugby League, Palestine Rugby League, Polska Rugby XIII, Sierra Leone Rugby League Federation, Svenska Rugby League Förening.

New member Libya Rugby League Association

# **AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS**

### **EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP C**



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP C FINAL

18 MAY 2019 G

**GRC 56-26 NOR** 

London





# **MEA CHAMPIONSHIP**



	VV	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
NIGERIA	2	0	0	63	22	41	4
MOROCCO	1	1	0	18	42	-24	2
GHANA	0	1	1	22	29	-7	1
CAMEROON	0	1	1	8	18	-10	1

RESULTS		
02 OCT	NIG 25-12 GHA	Lagos
02 OCT	CAM 04-08 MOR	Lagos
05 OCT	GHA 10-04 CAM	Lagos
05 OCT	NIG 38-10 MOR	Lagos





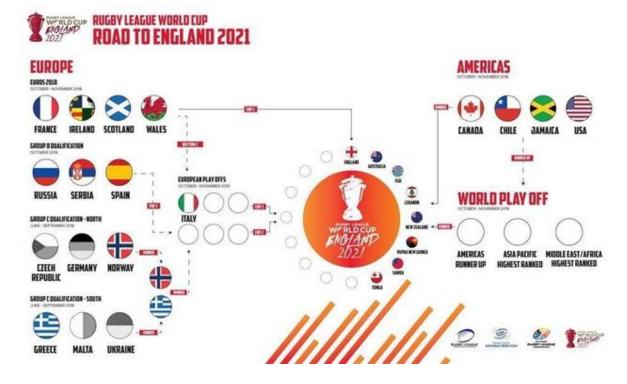
## **AMERICAS CHAMPIONSHIP**



	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
USA	2	0	0	68	12	56	4
CANADA	0	1	1	46	16	30	2
JAMAICA	0	1	1	6	92	-86	0

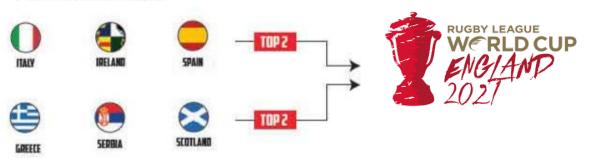
RESULTS		
17 JUL	CAN 38-2 JAM	Levittown
23 JUL	USA 54-4 JAM	Philadelphia
12 DEC	CAN 8-14 USA	Toronto

### WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION EUROPEAN ZONE



## **EUROPEAN PLAY OFFS**

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2019



## WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION EUROPEAN ZONE GROUP A



GROUP A	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
IRELAND	2	0	0	67	12	55	4
ITALY	1	1	0	38	29	9	2
SPAIN	0	0	2	12	76	-64	0

RESULTS		
26 OCT 2019	ESP 8-42 IRL	Polideportivo M.
02 NOV 2019	ITA 34-4 ESP	Lignano S.
09 NOV 2019	IRL 25-4 ITA	Santry





# **WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION EUROPEAN ZONE GROUP B**



GROUP B	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
SCOTLAND	2	0	0	128	24	104	4
GREECE	1	1	0	106	48	58	2
SERBIA	0	2	0	6	168	-162	0

RESULTS		
26 OCT 2019	SCO 86-0 SRB	Glasgow
01 NOV 2019	GRC 24-42 SCO	London
09 NOV 2019	SRB 6-82 GRC	Belgrade

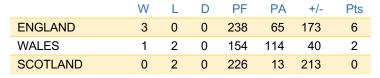






## WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE HOME NATIONS









RESULTS		
28 SEP 2019	WLS 90-12 SCO	Wrexham
28 SEP 2019	WLS 24-48 ENG	Wrexham
28 SEP 2019	ENG 136-1 SCO	Wrexham
29 SEP 2019	WLS 40-54 ENG	Wrexham





## WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE CELTIC CUP



	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
WALES	2	0	0	211	18	125	4
SCOTLAND	1	1	0	62	144	-82	2
IRELAND	0	2	0	50	180	103	0
RESULTS							
27 APR 2019	IR	L 42-	52 S	CO	Halifax		
27 APR 2019	WLS 102-10 SCO Halifax						
27 APR 2019	WLS 109-8 IRL		ŀ	Halifax			





## **OTHER INTERNATIONALS**

Below is a list of all internationals with at least one RLEF Member national team participating.

## SENIOR INTERNATIONALS

DATE	FIXTURE	CATEGORY	VENUE
06 APR	IRELAND 44-4 NORWAY	MEN	Gormonston
18 MAY	TURKEY 18-14 ITALY	WOMEN	Istanbul
21 JUN	ENGLAND 31-25 FRANCE	WHEELCHAIR	England
22 JUN	JAMAICA 26-24 USA	MEN	Kingston
22 JUN	FIJI 58-14 LEBANON	MEN	Lilyfield
22 JUN	ITALY 26-0 SERBIA	WOMEN	Lignano
23 JUN	FRANCE 50-46 ENGLAND	WHEELCHAIR	Tulon
15 JUL	ENGLAND LIONHERATS 26-22 SERBIA	MEN	Heworth
18 JUL	ENGLAND LIONHERATS 28-10 SERBIA	MEN	Stanningley
17 AUG	KEIGHLEY C. RES. 22-32 IRISH DOMESTIC XIII	MEN	Keighley
24 AUG	CZECH REPUBLIC 18-10 SERBIA	MEN	Vrchlabi
7 SEP	FEATHERSTONE R. RES. 72-10 IRISH DOMESTIC XIII	MEN	Featherstone
14 SEP	TURKEY 40-4 GREECE	WOMEN	Edrine
14 SEP	TURKEY 24-38 GREECE	MEN	Edrine
14 SEP	GERMANY 18-58 NETHERLANDS	MEN	Gnarrenburg
14 SEP	ALBANIA 0-48 GB PIONEERS	MEN	Tirana
14 SEP	SERBIA 6-34 CANADA	WOMEN	Belgrade

14 SEP	SOUTH SERBIA 2-78 CANADA	MEN	Belgrade
18 SEP	SERBIA XIII 6-54 CANADA	MEN	Belgrade
21 SEP	SERBIA 4-26 CANADA	WOMEN	Belgrade
21 SEP	SERBIA 36-8 CANADA	MEN	Belgrade
28 SEP	POLAND 34-18 CZECH REPUBLIC	MEN	Lodz
05 OCT	TURKEY 4-54 FRANCE	WOMEN	Istanbul
12 OCT	ENGLAND LIONHERATS 24-18 GERMANY	MEN	Leigh
12 OCT	MALTA 23-20 ITALY	MEN	Sydney
12 OCT	POLAND 16-50 SWEDEN	MEN	Lodz
19 OCT	POLAND 0-68 NORWAY	MEN	Lodz
19 OCT	ITLAY 44-16 PHILIPPINES	MEN	Sydney
20 OCT	ENGLAND KNIHGTS 38-6 JAMAICA	MEN	Leeds
26 OCT	MALTA 28-12 TURKEY	MEN	Sydney
02 NOV	ITALY A 6-26 GERMANY	MEN	Lignano
09 NOV	IRISH DOMESTIC XIII 14-26 ENGLAND LIONS	MEN	Dublin
16 NOV	ENGLAND A 20-24 WALES	WOMEN	St Helens

# YOUTH INTERNATIONALS

DATE	FIXTURE	CATEGORY	VENUE
14 APR	IRELAND 6-20 SCOTLAND	U19	Gormonston
19 JUL	SCOTLAND 19-24 IRELAND	U19	Livingston
17 JUL	ENGLAND 36-12 FRANCE	U16	Hull
20 JUL	ENGLAND 24-16 FRANCE	U16	Wakefield
04 AUG	SERBIA 10-32 UKRAINE	U18	Belgrade
24 AUG	IRELAND 4-20 WALES	U19	Gormonston
24 AUG	IRELAND 28-20 SCOTLAND	U16	Gormonston
24 AUG	CZECH REPUBLIC U18 52-0 POLAND U20	U20	Vrchlabi
31 AUG	WALES 16-38 ENGLAND YOUTH	U16	Llanelli
31 AUG	TURKEY 0-24 UKRAINE	U18	Istanbul
15 SEP	SCOTLAND 30-24 IRELAND	U16	Newcatsle
28 SEP	WALES U19 20-26 ENGLAND LIONS U18	U19	Colwyn Bay
12 OCT	ENGLAND LIONS U18 12-12 SCOTLAND U19	U19	Leigh
19 OCT	WALES U19 0-62 ENGLAND ACADEMY	U19	Llanelli

# STUDENT INTERNATIONALS

DATE	FIXTURE	CATEGORY	VENUE
23 JUN	SCOTLAND 26-28 IRELAND	MEN	Edinburgh
23 JUN	ENGLAND 52-16 WALES	MEN	Edinburgh
26 JUN	SCOTLAND 30-8 WALRES	MEN	Edinburgh
26 JUN	IRELAND 0-40 ENGLAND	MEN	Edinburgh
29 JUN	SCOTLAND 14-36 ENGLAND	MEN	Edinburgh
29 JUN	WALES 16-12 IRELAND	MEN	Edinburgh





# FINANCIAL REPORT

- 1. This Report covers the year until 31 December 2019
- 2. Net Profit of £164,633 reported as compared to Budget of £137,000
- 3. The Accounts have been reviewed by Hays Macintyre and they have reported that nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that the financial statements have not been prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2019
- 4. Total revenues of £515k were achieved in the year as compared to Budget of £455k with the main positive variance being in relation to the IRL Revenue which was £98k higher than Budget. Members will recall that the EU Project was forecast to complete at the end of 2018 and that owing to the movement on the exchange rates that an additional £50k income would accrue in 2019 when the final receipt from EU was anticipated. In the event the Project reporting was not completed until 2020 and it is expected that the accrued income is included in the balance sheet will be received before the 2020 Year-end
- 5. RFL Income was £53,717 as compared to Budget of £53,000. RFL passes on annual IRL Grant to RLEF each year and the changes in exchange rates determines the precise figure receivable
- 6. Income from Members fees was close to Budget at £6k. Full Members were charged €500 for the year and Affiliate Members were charged €100 per year. Not all invoices raised and included as income for 2019had been settled at the year end
- 7. Affiliate Grant Expenditure was £2k higher than Budgeted at £17k
- 8. Activity costs were circa £16k higher than Budget at £170k and are related to the increased IRL Income in the year
- Administration costs were higher than Budgeted albeit the staff and consultant costs elements were circa £2k lower than Budget at £124k for the year. The adverse variances were on Congress expenditure and Audit and Accountancy costs
- 10. Balance Sheet Reserves increase by the Surplus in the year to £378k
- 11. Combined Bank balances were £233k at 31 December 2019 with the £112k EU Accrued income being the other significant item on the Balance Sheet
- 12. The 2020 year has been a year of relatively low activity in terms of financial transactions. The Bank balance at the time of writing is £134k and so with the EU and IRL monies to be received the cash flow position is satisfactory.

Nigel Hansford FCA

**RLEF Accountant** 

## **RLEF LIMITED ACCOUNTS**

Year to 31 December 2018

Prepared by independent auditors Hays Macintyre of 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4AG

## RLEF LIMITED (A Company Limited by Guarantee) REGISTERED NUMBER: 07508065

		INANCIAL PO CEMBER 201			
	Note		2019 £		2018 £
Current assets					
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	4	148,284		109,596	
Cash at bank and in hand	5	233,104		236,088	
	-	381,388		345,684	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(4,780)		(133,709)	
Net current assets	-	-	376,608		211,975
Total assets less current liabilities			376,608	,	211,975
Net assets			376,608		211,975
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account	7		376,608		211,975
		-	376,608	-	211,975

# THE BOARD

#### **MAURICE WATKINS CBE**

Maurice became RLEF chairman in August 2012 when serving as the interim chair of the RFL. He is Senior Partner in a prominent law firm and a former Director of Manchester United. Maurice is on the board of the Lancashire County Cricket Club and is currently chair of British Swimming and Barnsley Football Club. He is President of the British Association for Sport and Law.

### **MARC PALANQUES**

Elected president of FFRXIII in July 2016, Marc joined the RLEF in September. A former captain of France and ranked in the world's top 10 players in 1986, he won four cups and three championships. Outside his rugby career, Marc founded sports equipment company Kingsport, was responsible for trade negotiations with INTERSPORT France, and sold his company in 2014 allowing him to return to a leadership role in rugby league.

## **CHAIRMAN**



### **VICE CHAIRMAN**



#### **MADHI CHOUDHURY**

Current British Athletes Commission CEO with extensive international, governmental, professional, and Olympic organization experience in legal, governance and operational fields. Mahdi has previously worked for the British Olympic Association and UK Sport. Experienced independent officer holder multiple in organizations, including government and Olympic, with fiduciary, commercial, strategy development and policy-making responsibilities.

#### INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



#### **PAUL NICHOLSON**

Paul Nicholson is a sports media specialist who has worked with a number of governing bodies and federations. He is currently the CEO of Insideworldfootball magazine. He worked with London Broncos in the early days of their set up and coached a development group in the community. Paul is a former international water polo player for Wales. Paul is a RLEF representative on the IRL Board.

### **COLIN KLEYWEG**

Currently the Rugby League Club Red Star director. He has been involved in rugby league in Serbia from 2016 and has served as Director of Rugby League Club Red Star. Colin has over 27 years' experience in the design and project management of various urban infrastructure projects for private clients and local and state government authorities in New South Wales and Western Australia.

## **GRAEME THOMPSON**

The RFL's former Performance Director and England team manager during the 2008 Rugby League World Cup, Graeme, a former Scotland rugby league international, was elected to the RLEF Board in 2010. He has been the Performance Director for GB Curling, having also served as the performance director for GB water polo. Graeme is a RLEF representative on the IRL Board.

#### INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



**MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR** 



**MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR** 



### **ALAN DARFI**

Alan spent 6 years at the FA in a range of regulatory roles prior to qualifying as a Solicitor, specializing in sport. He then joined a Regional FA as Head of Operations & Legal before joining the RFL in 2017 as Head of Legal, then becoming Director of Projects & Legal. In this role, Alan was responsible for the legal, compliance and safeguarding teams and also the management of a range of high-profile cross-business projects.

### **MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR**



# **APPENDIX 1: RLEF ORGANISATION**

## **COUNCIL: 21 MEMBERS**

**Board** (7 Directors): Chair, 1 FFRXIII, 1 RFL, 2 member-elected, 2 Independent

General Manager

3 Regional Directors:

America | Central & Eastern Europe | MEA

Media:

Media Manager

Technical:

Coach Manager | MO Manager

AMERICAS JAMAICA **EUROPE** 

ENGLAND, FRANCE, IRELAND, ITALY, RUSSIA, SERBIA, UKRAINE, WALES MIDDLE EAST AFRICA LEBANON

CANADA, USA

CZECH REPUBLIC, GERMANY, LATVIA, MALTA, NETHERLANDS NORWAY, SCOTLAND, SPAIN, TURKEY

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

BELGIUM, DENMARK, GERMANY, HUNGARY, SWEDEN BURUNDI, CAMEROON, DR CONGO, GHANA, LIBYA, MOROCCO, NIGERIA, PALESTINE, SIERRA LEONE,

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, GREECE, POLAND

ETHIOPIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SIERRA LEONE

KEY:

**Full Members** 

Affiliate Members

Observers

Unranked

Staff

# APPENDIX 2: DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

# **EUROPE DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 <sup>ND</sup> DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
ENGLAND 2019	FULL	Betfred Super League XXIV [12] St. Helens	Betfred Ch. [14] Betfred Lg. 1 [11] Multiple amateur comps	Multiple
FRANCE 2018-19	FULL	Elite 1 [10] St Esteve-Catalan	Elite 2 [11]	Multiple
IRELAND 2019	FULL	Provincial championships [6] Longhorns RL	-	U19 [N/A]
ITALY 2019	FULL	Italian Championship [4]  Not assigned because clubs forfeit	-	-
RUSSIA 2019	FULL	No domestic competition	-	-
SCOTLAND 2019	FULL	National League [5] Strathmore Silverbacks	-	U16 [2]
SERBIA 2019	FULL	Championship [8] RLC Red Star Belgrade		U18 [5] U16 [3] U14 [3]
UKRAINE 2019	FULL	Championship [5] Legion XIII-Giants	-	U19 [4] U16 [4] U14 [4] U12 [4]
WALES 2019	FULL	Premier League [4] Rhondda Outlaws Various RFL leagues [4]	BUCS Student comps [7]	Multiple
CZECH R. 2019	AFFILIATE	First Division [4] Chrudim Rabbitohs	Second Division [N/A] Rugby league 9s	U18 [N/A]
GERMANY 2019	AFFILIATE	Bundes League [4] Moorteufel	-	-
GREECE 2018-2019	AFFILIATE	National Championship [4] Rhodes Knights	-	-
MALTA 2019	AFFILIATE	Men's First Division [3] Knights	-	-

NETHERLANDS	AFFILIATE	NRLB Championships [4]	-
2019		Den Haag Knights	
NORWAY	AFFILIATE	Norway Premiership [N/A]	-
2019		Final postponed due to	
		weather	
SPAIN	AFFILIATE	Championship [3]	
2019		Tigers Torrent	
TURKEY	AFFILIATE	Men's first Division [N/A]	Women's first Division U19 [N/A]
2018-2019		Ankara Phrygians	[N/A]
			Izmir Bati Gucu

# **AMERICAS DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 <sup>ND</sup> DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
<b>CANADA 2019</b>	AFL	Men's Championship [6] Provincial Winners Women's Championship [None]	-	-
JAMAICA 2019	FULL	National Club Championship [7] Duhaney Park Red Sharks Women's Championship [None]	Collegiate :EXED. [6] Div. 2 : Duhaney Park Firestorms [7] .	U19s : Campion College [10 ]
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2019	OBS	No Activity	-	-
USA 2019	AFL	National Championship [11] Brooklyn Kings Women's Championship [None]	-	-

# **MEA DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams]	2 <sup>ND</sup> DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE
		CHAMPIONS		[teams]
BURUNDI	OBS	Men's Championship [4]	-	-
2019		Tigers RL de Kinindo		

		Women's Championship [4]		
CAMEROON	OBS	National Championship [4]	-	U19 [4]
2019		Panda RL De Yaounde		Rock RL de
				Douala
DR CONGO	OBS	National Championship [6]	-	-
2019		Jaguars Rugby		
		Women's Championship [4]		
		Les Buffles		
GHANA	OBS	Ghana Rugby League	-	-
2019		Championship [4]		
		Bulls RLFC		
MOROCCO	OBS	National Championship [4]	-	-
2019		Guilmen RL		
NIGERIA	OBS	National Championship [4]	-	-
2019		Kano Gazelles		
LEBANON	FULL	Lebanon Rugby League [3]	Colligate Div 1. [5] UOB	Multiple
2018-19		Tripoli RLFC	Colligate Div 2. [3] AUB	