

MINUTES

RLEF LIMITED

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2016

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| Location | The Royal Hotel, Bray, Republic of Ireland | Date | Saturday 29 October 2016 |
| Chair | Maurice Watkins (RFL) | Time | 2pm |
| Members present | Aitor Davila, Salome Sansano (Asociación Española de RL), Vadim Fedchuk, Dmitrii Polovykh (Association of Rugby League Clubs), Jaroslav Bzoch (Czech RL Association), Mathieu Khedimi, Marc Palanques (Federation Française de Rugby a XIII), Remond Safi (Lebanese RL Federation), Graeme Sarjeant (Rugby Football League), Richard Egan, Mick Molloy (RL Ireland), Anne Haigh (RL Norge), Graeme Thompson (Scotland RL), Blagoje Stojilkovic, Jovan Vujosevic (Serbian RL Federation), Artur Martyrosyan (Ukrainian Federation RL), Jon Ellis, Peter Tiffin (Wales RL) | | |
| Observers present | Leslie Heron, Thijs van der Zouwen (Nederlandse RL Bond). | | |
| Co. Secretary | Danny Kazandjian | | |
| In attendance | Vladislav Parizov, Tihomir Simeonov (Bulgaria), Aris Dardamanis (Greece), Per Thorkildsen (Norges Rugby Forbund), Sally Bolton, Tom Mather, Paul Nicholson, Nebojsa Sretenovic, James Vukmirovic (RLEF), David Collier (RL International Federation), Declan Foy, Des Foy (RL Ireland), Julian Treu (Turkey) | | |
| Apologies | Yves Kazadi (Belgian RL Association), Paul O'Keefe (Canada RL Association), Richard Naylor (Danmark RL Forbund), Orazio D'arro (Federazione Italiana RL), Zsolt Lukacs (Hungarian RL Federation), Ventley Brown (Jamaican RL Association), Vilmars Sokolovs (Latvia RL), David Axisa (Malta RL), Simon Cooper (Nationaler RL Deutschland), Kareem Captan (RL Federation of Ghana), Paul Briggs (Svensk RL Förening), Peter Illfield (United States Association of RL) | | |
| Absent | Ethiopia (ERL), Morocco (FMRL), Nigeria (RLN), Palestine (PRL), Saudi Arabia (SARLA), Leone (SLRLF), Trinidad & Tobago (TTRL) | | |

Item No. Agenda Item

1.0 Roll call of voting representatives & apologies

Maurice Watkins opened the meeting, welcoming all the delegates and recording the apologies. Danny Kazandjian called the roll. The meeting was declared quorate.

Following the roll call MW noted that it was a busy weekend in European rugby league, with Italy playing Wales in Monza, the Four Nations commencing in England, and both Hungary and Poland receiving incoming tours.

Despite this level of activity nine of 10 Full Members were present, the same number as 2015, which was a commendable representation. Three Affiliate Members were also present, as well as one Observer.

He extended a particular welcome to the delegates from Bulgaria and Turkey, who were in attendance for the first time, and looked forward to receiving the membership applications from those countries in due course; and to RLIF CEO David Collier, attending his first RLEF Congress. He congratulated Denis Korolev and Marc Palanques, both newly elected presidents, of the Russian and French federations respectively.

MW then thanked RL Ireland chairman Mick Molloy on behalf of his organisation for its efforts in hosting the Congress. Finally, he noted that it was fitting that two European nations would confirm their places at the 2017 RLWC on the same day as the RLEF Congress.

2.0 Minutes of 2014 Meeting

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 July 2015 were presented and unanimously approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3.0 Matters Arising from Last Meeting

3.1 Send 2014 statutory accounts to Haysmacintyre to lodge with Companies House

MW confirmed that Haysmacintyre had lodged the company's 2014 statutory accounts with Companies House, in line with UK company law.

3.2 Disseminate voting instructions and ballots to all members (to amend the RLEF Ltd Articles 57 and 58(d))

MW reminded the meeting of the amendments to Article 57 (to raise maximum number of RLEF Directors from six to seven) and Article 58(d) (to increase number of Independent Directors from two to three) discussed at the 2015 Council Meeting, and the use of a written resolution to process this motion. The members had voted 20-1 in favour of the resolution and the results had been declared on 24 August 2015. The constitution had been changed and duly circulated.

3.3 Greece update

Danny Kazandjian spoke to the paper that had been provided to all members. He said it was important to deliver a full report to Council as the members had been instrumental in the process of disciplining the Hellenic Federation of RL.

He reminded the plenary that the Council had suspended HFRL by 33 votes to one on 8 April 2016 for acting against the interests of international RL. He then reported the steps the RLEF had taken to try to rehabilitate HFRL and reconcile the opposing Greek factions, which had met without success due, in the RLEF's view, to HFRL's lack of cooperation or good will. The RLEF had concluded that HFRL had been illegitimate due to the absence of any members. Then, following the HFRL's collusion in creating a RL committee under the modern pentathlon federation, the RLEF decided to expel HFRL from the membership, which it did on 8 August

2016. This decision was accepted by HFRL, which resigned in writing pursuant to the articles on 8 August.

DK thanked the membership for their support in this important constitutional process, which should result in a new Greek organisation admitted to the RLEF by the end of November.

4.0 Motion to amend Articles on expulsion of Members

Maurice Watkins explained the Board's view that a perceived imbalance exists in the Board's constitutional powers in that the Board can expel a member but not suspend (Article 18). He suggested that suspension gives more constructive options than expulsion, which is a drastic step. MW asked the members to refer to the supporting paper, which illustrated the recommended wording amendment, and read out the main motion:

Council moves to amend Articles 18 and 19 of RLEF constitution in line with the recommendations.

Remond Safi (Lebanese RL Federation) moved and Richard Egan (RL Ireland) seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the Special Resolution was carried unanimously.

ACTION: lodge the resolution and amended articles with Companies House.

5.0 Appointment of Directors

Maurice Watkins delivered the Board's recommendation to Council to appoint Independent Director Paul Nicholson for a second two-year term. The members voted unanimously to extend PN's mandate until the 2018 Annual Council Meeting and he was duly re-appointed.

MW then informed Council that only two nominations for the two vacant Member-Elected Directorships had been eligible, with a further two enquiries received outside the deadline. In accordance with Article 63 of the constitution the two nominees, Graeme Thompson (Scotland RL) and Blagoje Stojilkovic (Serbian RL Federation) were elected unopposed, with a mandate expiring at the 2018 Annual Council Meeting.

MW proceeded to deliver a brief biographical report on the new director, BS, and his predecessor, Nebojsa Sretenovic. MW went on to thank NS for his six years of admirable service on the RLEF Board and presented him with an award.

MW announced that Marc Palanques had been elected vice chairman of the RLEF.

6.0 General Manager's report

Danny Kazandjian indicated that a full chairman's report and general manager's report were included in the 2015 annual report.

DK summarised a busy period on the field, illustrated by the most extensive world cup qualifying campaign in the sport's history: compared to the 2013 world cup qualification tournament, which comprised seven countries and nine matches, the current tournament comprises 15 countries and 21 matches. He congratulated the Lebanese RL Federation and United States Association of RL for their qualification; noted Spain's achievement in winning European Championship C 2015 and their impressive domestic progress; Serbia's victory in the 2014-15 European

Championship B; England's victories in both the 2015 European Wheelchair RL Championship and against New Zealand in last autumn's Test series. He concluded by reporting that 2015 was officially the RLEF's busiest year on the field, with 41 full international matches played by 26 nations, compared to the previous record of 35, played by 24 countries, set in 2014.

DK then reported on the RLEF's EU-backed projects, the successful conclusion of the 2014-15 Leadership Devolution Project (one of 14 successful applications from 135 eligible submissions) and the start of the 2016-18 Training and Education Portal (one of 22 successful applications from 330 eligible submissions), which represents a €739,000 investment into technical development and a significant opportunity for the sport's growth.

He concluded the report by thanking all the nations for their continuing work in the field; thanked outgoing RLEF Director Nebojsa Sretenovic for his work since 2010; and welcomed Blagoje Stojilkovic to the Board.

7.0 Financial report to the Council

Nebojsa Sretenovic delivered the financial report to Council, including a report on the 2015 profit and loss account; a comparison between split of income between 2014 and 2015; the balance sheet; the 2016 budget; and the 2016 management accounts to date. He confirmed that the 2015 statutory accounts had been adopted by written resolution on 20 September to ensure compliance with UK law and that the accounts had been lodged with Companies House.

Richard Egan (RL Ireland) questioned the delay in receiving the A\$90k discretionary grant from the RLIF and asked whether remittance could be earlier going forward. David Collier said the delay was due to the extended world cup qualification campaign and confirmed timing of remittance was under discussion.

Maurice Watkins then reported on the Board's view that independent auditors should be appointed as the RLEF was dealing in substantial sums of public money. The Board recommended appointing Haysmacintyre. MW read out the main motion:

Council moves to appoint Haysmacintyre as auditors and authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.

Remond Safi (LRLF) moved and Richard Egan (RL Ireland) seconded the motion. The members voted unanimously in favour.

Action: appoint Haysmacintyre to audit the RLEF's 2016 accounts.

8.0 Any other business

Richard Egan (RL Ireland) requested the floor for his colleague Des Foy to address the plenary on EuroTag. Des Foy explained the concept and rules of this reduced contact variant of RL and its successful deployment in Hungary, Poland and some parts of England. He proceeded to deliver some personal testimonies from people who have been involved in EuroTag and concluded by stating that reduced contact versions were very important in the current climate of scrutiny surrounding concussions and head injuries.

Danny Kazandjian informed Council that no immediate vote was possible due to the constitutional requirement of 35-days' notice, but that RLI was invited to lodge a written resolution, which the RLEF would then circulate on its behalf to the members.

Jovan Vujosevic (Serbian RL Federation) was then given the floor. He confirmed SRLF had recently circulated a letter to all Full Members suggesting an increase in local players in national team squads. JV stated SRLF had invested between A\$50-70k in its 2016 Australia tour and had diverted resources from domestic development, which had been a retrograde step in the overall development of the sport. He concluded by saying that several members felt it was timely to discuss this issue and would be jointly raising a written resolution via the RLEF in due course.

9.0 Next meeting

Maurice Watkins reported that the timing and location of the 2017 Congress was still under consideration.

The meeting ended at 3.15pm.