

# MINUTES

## RLEF LIMITED

### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2018

<b>Location</b>	Stari Grad Municipality council chamber, Belgrade Belgrade, Serbia	<b>Date</b>	Saturday 11 August 2018
		<b>Time</b>	2pm
<b>Chair</b>	Maurice Watkins (RFL)		
<b>Members present</b>	<p>Full Members 9: Alan Darfi (England), Mathieu Khedimi, Fabienne Albert, Anne L'Heuillet (France), Mike Aughey (Ireland), Tiziano Franchini (Italy), Remond Safi (Lebanon), Denis Korolev, Evgeby Shishanov (Russia), Predrag Pantic (Serbia), Roman Bykhov (Ukraine) and Chris Thair (Wales)</p> <p>Affiliate Members 7: Lukas Hergott (Czech Republic), Bob Doughton (Germany), Jean Pierre Zrab, Yanika Spiteri (Malta), Thjs Van der Zouwen, Benjamin Cueni (Netherlands), Anne Haigh, Karl-Fredrik Velle (Norway), Aitor Davila (Spain) and Steve Davy (Denmark)</p> <p>Observers 5: Gurol Yildiz, Fatih Cetinkaya (Turkey), Carol Manga, Thomas Manga (Cameroon), Yamina Abdeselem, Mohamad Boukassal (Morocco), Ilir Dashi, Kein Turdiu (Albania) Zeljko Ljubanic, Dragan Matkovic (Bosnia)</p>		
<b>Board Members present</b>	Paul Nicholson (RLEF), Graeme Thompson (RLEF/Scotland), Maurice Watkins (RLEF/RFL), Blagoje Stoilkovic (RLEF/Serbia),		
<b>Others</b>	Nigel Wood (RLIF)		
<b>Apologies</b>	Canada (CRLA), Greece (GRLA), Jamaica (JRLA), USA (USARL)		

#### **Item    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 was unable to attend due to illness and is confined to the hotel bedroom, minutes were to be produced by Remond Safi in his absence.

MW thanked SRLF Predrag for hosting the AGM, Congress, the Erasmus+ course and the U19s European Championships and recognized Blagoje's hard work and service on the RLEF Board.

## **2.0 Minutes of 2017 Meeting**

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Council Meeting held on 23-25 June 2017 were presented and unanimously approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved by Wales, Seconded by Lebanon and all subsequently approved.

## **3.0 Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

**3.1** Lodge resolution amending Article 66(f) of RLEF constitution and amended articles to Companies House. It was confirmed DK has completed this action

**3.2** Reappoint Haysmacintyre at RLEF Auditor

Proposed Wales, Seconded Russia, all approved.

## **4.0 Result of Independent Director Elections**

Resolution (ii): move to confirm election of Independent Directors. All in favour – approved.

Result of the election of two election for two member elected Directors were Graeme Thompson (Scotland) and Colin Kleywag (Serbia).

MW thanked all members for their nominations and support of this important process of ensuring member representation on the RLEF Board

## **5.0 General Managers Report**

MW confirmed the report is circulated with the meeting papers.

## **6.0 General Manager Recruitment Update**

MK confirmed DK was leaving the RLEF to take up a new position with the RLIF and it was a shame DK was ill as the Board along with its members would like to place on record the tremendous service DK as provided to the organisation. DK's contribution, hard work and attention to detail leading the RLEF would be missed however everyone wished him well with his new role and were glad he remained in the sport. All members held a round of applause for DK's services.

MK said finding a replacement is important to us all and measures are in place during this transition phase to ensure RLEF operations continue smoothly.

Received 28 applications for the GM position, 6 interviewed and from this 3 have been shortlisted for a second round of face to face interviews. The RLEF Board have seen a very good caliber of applicant and a new person should be in place in the coming months.

## **7.0 Financial report to the Council**

**7.1** 7.1 resolution (iii): move to approve 2017 accounts. Proposed Wales, seconded Lebanon, all approved

**7.2** CT asked what the RLEF's plans were for diversifying the income streams.

GT said that this would be a key consideration in recruitment of a new GM and everyone is supportive of increasing and diversifying income streams. The continuation of EU support such as the Erasmus grant, which finishes at the end of 2018 is important, as this has been the RLEF's main income outside of that received from the RLIF.

PN said TV are interested in the European Championships and the RLEF were close to a deal for a 6 team Championship however it didn't materialize. The RLIF's decision to finalise the long term calendar for the sport will assist the RLEF and other attractive competitions such as nines ensure there are possibilities.

CT responded by saying if the RLEF define the commercial properties to members then the members could assist in securing partners for the benefit of all.

#### **8.0 Resolution (iv) move to appoint auditors for 2018 accounts**

Confirmed in agenda item 3.

#### **9.0 Any Other Business**

Graeme Thompson spoke about the **RLIF Governance Review** and the move to ensure improved member and independent representation on the RLIF Board. This is potentially a big step forward for the organisation and one which the RLEF fully support. The RLEF Board have been involved with since the start of this process and the support of members in the process is important.

Nigel Wood spoke about the gaps in the **RLIF's financial model** as the only profit making venture is that of the World Cup. These funds are subsequently spent over the next 4 years until the profits are derived from the next World Cup. The governance project is important to improving and diversifying these income streams as more independent thought is involved.

NW confirmed the 2017 World Cup delivered a profit of \$7.2m from the expected \$10.2. The RLIF are currently in negotiations with the NRL/ARL about the \$3m shortfall and are confident the RLIF will be able to find other revenue with ventures such as the 2019 and 2023 World Nines. The **2021RLWC has guaranteed much larger profits** than previous tournaments.

RLIF infrastructure: Danny Kazandjian, RLIF Global ops manager, Jermei Edwards South Hemisphere manager and further admin to be appointed in six months.

**Sport Accord is now GAISF.** RLIF have 2 years to reach 40 members who are recognised by their sports councils.

Gurol Yildiz requested the RLIF or RLEF Board consider rugby league being involved in the **Mediterranean games** which is being hosted in Algeria in 2021. NW responded by saying this is a new area for the game to look into and GY should contact DK to explore the possibilities.

#### **10.0 Next Meeting**

Maurice Watkins reported 4 expression of interest in hosting the 2019 Congress, 2 of these submitted proposals and the Board have reached a decision.  
Congratulations to Turkey Istanbul pending contractual agreement for next Congress

The meeting ended at 3.45pm.