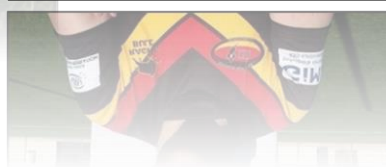




RUGBY LEAGUE
EUROPEAN FEDERATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020





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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to present the 2020 European Rugby League (ERL) Annual Report. 2020 has presented several challenges that none of us expected and none of us would have foreseen the effects that the global pandemic have had on international Rugby League. Nonetheless we have adapted, and it was a pleasure to welcome 30 members to Congress which for the first time in our history took place online. Whilst by no means an ideal solution, it demonstrated the flexibility that Rugby League is known for and we all look forward to being able to meet in person soon.



We were all very much looking forward to all our continental championships taking place in 2020, with competitions planned in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East and Africa and it was with a heavy heart that we had to cancel or postpone these events.

We did take great pride in seeing the efforts of both the Nederlandse Rugby League Bond and the Nationaler Rugby League Deutschland, both of whom pulled out all the stops, including relocating to a third-choice venue at a few days' notice, to stage the only senior Rugby League international to be played in the world this year.

The dogged determination to stage the game was a fitting tribute to Simon Cooper who sadly passed away earlier in the year. Simon, who led the inception and foundations of Rugby League in Germany, would have been proud of the efforts that both federations went to and whilst Netherlands narrowly recorded a victory, the result was inconsequential in celebrating Simon's life and contribution to Rugby League in Germany and indeed wider in Europe.

Despite the reduced activity, our staff and volunteers continued their efforts behind the scenes to continue the work of the Federation. Jovan Vujosevic, Remond Safi and Romeo Monteith continued to engage with members and to provide services to grow Rugby League in each of their regions. You can read more about their activities later in the report.

Similarly, Phil Caplan (Media Manager), George Stilianos (Social Media Manager), Martin Crick (Coaching Manager) and Tom Mather (Match Officials Manager), who all give their time freely to ERL, continued to do so and adapted what they do in line with the restrictions that the global pandemic brought with it.

I would also like to put on record my thanks to Graeme Thompson and to Mahdi Choudhury who stepped in to fill the role of interim General Manager for a period of six months and three months respectively.

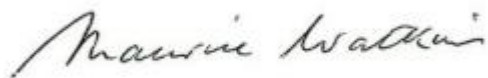
www.europeanrugbyleague.com European Rugby League, 55 King Street, Manchester M2 4LQ

Both maintained a steady hand on the tiller of the organisation until a new full time General Manager begins in January 2021.

We also look forward to launching our new strategy in 2021, which has been delayed taking into account of the effects of Covid-19. Our extensive consultation with the members has informed the development of this strategy and I look forward to all our members uniting behind the strategy to achieve success for Rugby League.

Finally, I would like to thank the members who make up this confederation. It has been a very disruptive and challenging year for many of our members and many have lost momentum. We know your colleagues, clubs, coaches, match officials, staff and volunteers will be looking forward to progressing Rugby League again in 2021 and beyond and ERL looks forward to playing a leading role.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Maurice Watkins' in a cursive script.

Maurice Watkins CBE

Chairman

ERL PROFILE & VALUES

The European Rugby League 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 ERL 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 ERL is 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

The Covid-19 virus did not bypass Europe, with the pandemic impacting all European countries. The pandemic and lockdown interrupted competitions across Europe, where the professional leagues, Super League (England and France) and Elite 1 (France) were also suspended.

In the first part of 2020 there was no opportunity for professional or community games to be organised across Europe. Thanks to pandemic prevention measures in the second half of 2020, the professional leagues returned and competitions in countries such as Ireland, Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia and Ukraine were able to play.



I would like to emphasise the success of Polska Rugby XIII, as an observer member, which managed to organize a competition with four clubs for the first time in their history, which was a positive step forward. Turkey also played, a winter-spring season, managing to complete their 2019/2020 season until the pandemic started with their first ever U18 domestic competition grand finale.

Europe was able to say that it was the only continent to stage an official international match in 2020, with the annual Griffin Cup played for by Netherlands and Germany taking place, despite the pandemic and the venue changing three times. Nederlandse Rugby League Bond and Nationaler Rugby League Deutschland made a huge effort to play this match and preserve the continuity of international Rugby League in Europe and the wider world.

The pandemic also prevented the ERL AGM and Congress, scheduled for September 2020 in Italy, from taking place in person, but the Congress was successfully organised online, and we can say that the pandemic conditions led to greater interaction of members and a significant use of online communication platforms and improved work and interaction between the ERL and its members.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jovan Vujosevic".

Jovan Vujosevic
Europe Regional Director

MEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The MEA Region has shown substantial growth despite the pandemic and began implementing the roadmap to forming an independent confederation. The MEA Steering Committee was appointed for the next 12 months with representatives from the two full members, Dr Frans Erasmus (South Africa) and Nayef Abi Said (Lebanon), plus elected members Yamina Abdeselem (Morocco) and Carol Manga (Cameroon). This quartet is chaired by the MEA Regional Director.



MEA nations are expressing a growing desire for more input in the future of the game which demonstrates their growing capacity and confidence. The region witnessed its first affiliate members with Ghana and Nigeria voted in at the IRL AGM on 25 November. As part of the membership process Ghana and Cameroon underwent governance reforms, adopting new constitutions with emphasis on their members obtaining local sports law recognition, which will further stabilise their wider organisations.

Seven nations - Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone - completed their post-Level 1 course professional development tasks. Further technical L1 coaching education was completed online.

Looking ahead to the World Cup, Lebanon appointed Michael Cheika to lead a team that will include local players. COVID cut short championships in many nations, with Lebanon and Ghana halting after one round, although Cameroon rebounded and managed to complete their championship in three categories: men, women and youth.

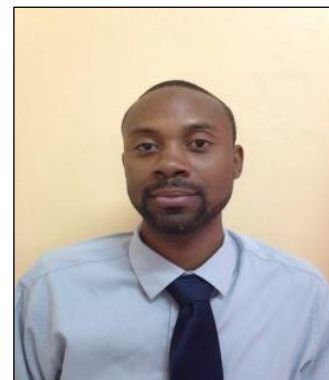
Ghana demonstrated the type of innovation that permeates this exciting region, running online virtual games to keep fans involved. They also established a five-team women's programme and using dynamic media techniques to lift the visibility of women's Rugby League in West Africa.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a final flourish.

Remond Safi
MEA Regional Director

AMERICAS REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In 2020, the Americas members faced numerous on field challenges throughout the year however, the organisations managed to remain relevant and, in some areas, even recorded improvements to their operations.



The Covid-19 pandemic severely disrupted activities throughout all the nations and continues to have a debilitating effect on every aspect of the game. Domestic club championships in each country usually run during the summer months and each country saw lock down measures preventing the majority of play. There was some on field joy though as the USA saw a few friendly games played, Canada executed their East vs West All Stars game in January and Jamaica got past the halfway point in both their Collegiate Championship and U14 and U16 High school competitions before play was halted.

Reports of small-scale Rugby League activities continue to come out of countries such as Mexico and Nicaragua and we hope to welcome formally to the game in the near future.

The 2020 Americas Championship which was due to be hosted in Kingston, Jamaica but was postponed to September 2021 in Jacksonville, USA. The competing nations are USA, Canada, Chile, and Jamaica. On a positive front, both USA and Jamaica started senior women's programs in 2020 and plans are well under way for international clashes plus domestic games in the future. All three countries also continued their behind-the-scenes preparation for their respective national teams to take part in RLWC 2021.

The Region adopted the IRL roadmap towards forming an independent confederation with representatives from 6 countries forming the Americas Steering Committee. The members of the committee are Bob Jowett (Canada), Billy Nielson (USA), Zach Grundy (Brazil), Juan David Espinal (Colombia), Rod Millar (Chile) and Adrian Hall (Jamaica).

Finally, despite Covid, Coach and Match Official education activities continued throughout the region utilizing virtual platforms.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Monteith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Romeo Monteith
Americas Regional Director

COACHING MANAGER

This has undoubtedly been the strangest and most difficult year of my tenure as Coach Education Manager. The Covid pandemic has impacted hugely on the coach education programme, with no visits or face-to-face courses possible. Nonetheless some progress has been made.



In February 2020, I travelled to Australia to work with Peter Corcoran of Asia-Pacific RL on the completion of the joint Level 1 and Level 2 coaching programmes. The revised programmes now have both the traditional delivery model i.e. 2 days on-course for Level 1 and 4 days for Level 2, and a more flexible delivery model, 1 day home study and 1 day on-course for Level 1, and 2 days home study and 2 days on-course for Level 2. Following on from the agreement with the French RL in 2018 to recognise each other's qualifications this is a significant step towards a global suite of coaching qualifications for International Rugby League.

With the imposition of travel bans the plan to hold further coach education courses in Africa around the MEA Championships had to be postponed. However, such is the enthusiasm there that we agreed to trial the new flexible delivery of Level 1 via zoom courses with Nigeria and Ghana, delivering lectures via zoom and with coaches then completing a workbook after each module. This was partially successful in that numbers were good, but delivery was hampered by poor connectivity and by the lack of infrastructure, which meant that some participants were accessing via phone or from internet cafes. The challenge now is to complete the courses with the on-field delivery, as there are no accredited coach educators there at present. Another positive from Africa is that following on from the Level 1 course that I delivered during the MEA Championships in October 2019 14 coaches have completed their Level 1 qualification.

There has been progress in the USA too, where Mike Brogan has taken charge of coach education. The USARL has agreed to deliver our coaching qualifications, and Mike has followed the model outlined above by delivering zoom sessions in the Florida region. Following discussions with John Coumbs-Lilley in Chicago we are hoping to introduce Rugby League to the curriculum in the university, to include coach education courses.

We are now exploring our online education capacity with which we could make significant progress in our coach education delivery. An interactive online education portal is vital, as even in normal times travel and accommodation costs make face-to-face delivery difficult.

Finally, congratulations to David Hunter of Norway RL, who has become the first coach to complete the Level 2 qualification, thus also completing his Level 1 coach educator qualification.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Crick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Crick
Coach Manager

MATCH OFFICIALS MANAGER

As with many of the other areas of the ERL development programme, 2020 was badly affected by the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Development activity has been confined to online groups, with very little sport played over the season at all.



There were, however, some significant developments in the year, which will allow progress to be continued to be made in both the development and performances areas of officiating in 2021.

From a development perspective, the work that was carried out in MEA during 2019 allowed online training to continue at a small scale. This involves representatives who completed Level 1 training at the 2019 MEA championships and has included the re-engagement of South Africa. Online groups have been set up, and African officials have begun to undertake CATO activities via the educational portal. Steps are now being taken with South Africa as a trialist to review options to take Educator training online; this is part of the wider review of the portal and interactive and online education resources.

From a performance perspective, there were some positives to come out of the year. The IRL have set up a series of groups (Elite, International and Emerging) for which international referee appointments are to be made. I spent time with Stuart Cummings and Graeme Thompson developing a framework from which appointments will be made and European officials have contributed significantly to both the International and the Emerging panels; many of the officials who have been nominated for the emerging panel have followed the ERL pathway.

Finally, the only International fixture to be played in 2020 was officiated by Jarda Bzoch from Czechia. He has worked with us to come through the ERL pathway and is testament to the success of the development programme in bringing officials through to an Internationally accepted performance standard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Mather'.

Tom Mather

Match Officials Manager

MEDIA MANAGER

With the understandable lack of live action across the nations as the pandemic began to take hold, the focus of media content inevitably had to change. Ingenuity became the watchword, the need to look for context as opposed to natural content, a greater switch from the flow of news to the creation of features.



Whilst that meant a more manufactured process, it also gave an opportunity to focus more on development, overall strategy planning and objective setting in the nations or continents and, ultimately, return to play protocols and plans. The playing countries in Africa were a particularly fertile ground for telling wider stories with a particular focus on the evolution of the women's game gaining increased traction.

The hiatus also allowed more thought to be given to how to separate considered news releases from more immediate social media content. Whilst more work needs doing to ensure greater coordination, unnecessary duplication of scarce resource and the strands, effectively, competing with one another, it clearly made the overall offering more accessible. There is still, however, a concern that there needs to be a more formal acknowledgement of what constitutes news value, both on the ground with the NGBs and within the ERL.

One of the major differences that delineates the varied content is that formal releases are quote driven and explanatory, whereas social media content in all its expanding forms is action first, broader message later.

What needs to be brought into all of that is greater realization and differentiation between domestic market appeal - with content put directly on such as Facebook and readily copied on the ERL handles - and the need for a simultaneous release of the story behind it by more formal means, in order to reach the wider and a different audience.

P.S.

Phil Caplan

Media Manager

GOVERNANCE

Changes to the Board

Brian Juliff was elected the Board as a member-elected director, replacing Colin Kleyweg, following the 2020 Council meeting. Luc Lacoste, following his election as President of the FFRXIII was appointed to the Board to replace Marc Palanques as the FFRXIII representative. Alison O'Brien was appointed to the Board by the Rugby Football League, replacing Karen Moorhouse.

Board meetings

The Board held six meetings throughout the year, on 24 February (London), 21 April (Zoom), 3 June (Zoom), 7 July (Zoom), 20 October (Zoom), 2 December (Zoom)

	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during Director's period of office
Maurice Watkins	6	6
Paul Nicholson	6	6
Graeme Thompson	6	6
Mahdi Choudhury	5	6
Alison O'Brien	4	4
Colin Kleyweg	4	4
Brian Juliff	2	2
Karen Moorhouse	2	2
Marc Palanques	1	6
Luc Lacoste	0	0

SUB-COMMITTEES

The ERL 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 ERL 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 ERL General Manager or the Board and therefore there are no sitting members or fixed terms. The DRC was not required to be convened in 2020.

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 2020 FARC was chaired by Mahdi Choudhury in

an interim capacity, with Colin Kleyweg and Marc Palanques as sitting member, with the fourth member of the group being Nigel Hansford (ERL Finance Manager)

Meetings are usually held approximately every six months. In addition, FARC 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	2	2
Marc Palanques	0	2
Mahdi Choudhury	2	2
Colin Kleyweg	1	2

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 2020.

COUNCIL

Nations represented at the 2020 Annual Council Meeting:

Full Members: Ralph Rimmer (**England**), Dave Fitzhenry (**Ireland**), Tiziano Franchini (**Italy**), Nayef Albert Abi Said (**Lebanon**), Jon Christie (**Russia**), Vladan Kikanovic (**Serbia**), Artur Martyrosian (**Ukraine**) Brian Juliff (**Wales**), Adrian Hall (**Jamaica**)

Affiliate Members: Lukas Hergott (**Czech Republic**), Bob Doughton (**Germany**), Mark Camilleri (**Malta**), David Hunter, Karl-Fredrik Velle (**Norway**), Tony Palacios (**Spain**) Gurol Yaldiz (**Turkey**), Cody Cuxmann (**USA**), Thomas Hughes (**Canada**), George Stilianos (**Greece**), Keith Hogg (**Scotland**)

Observers: Rabie Masri (**Palestine**), Zsolt Lukacs (**Hungary**), Carol Manga (**Cameroon**), Dejev Dashi (**Albania**), Rodgers Mbanza (**DR Congo**), Yamina Abdesselem (**Morocco**), Richard Naylor (**Denmark**), Zakaria Zoubir (**Belgium**), Abbey Cole (**Nigeria**), Sebastian Johnson-Cadwell (**Sweden**), Jean Du Christ Rusiga (**Burundi**).

MEMBER ACTIVITY - EUROPE

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

	TEAMS 2020	TEAMS 2019	MATCHES 2020	MATCHES 2019
CZECH REPUBLIC	11	11	11	14
ENGLAND	100+	100+	100+	100+
FRANCE	100+	100+	100+	100+
GERMANY	0	4	0	6
GREECE	7	7	23	24
IRELAND	6	6	13	42
ITALY	0	7	0	12
MALTA	0	3	0	10
NETHERLANDS	0	4	0	14
NORWAY	0	10	0	24
RUSSIA	0	3	0	2
SCOTLAND	0	5	0	34
SERBIA	8	8	31	75
SPAIN	0	3	0	6
TURKEY	0	14	0	28
UKRAINE	6	7	8	44
WALES	0	30	0	81

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2020	TEAMS 2019	MATCHES 2020	MATCHES 2019
CZECH REPUBLIC	6	6	8	30
ENGLAND	100+	100+	100+	100+
FRANCE	100+	100+	25	100+
GERMANY	0	0	0	0
GREECE	0	0	0	0
IRELAND	0	6	0	16
ITALY	0	3	0	3
MALTA	0	0	0	0
NETHERLANDS	0	2	0	0
NORWAY	0	1	0	2
RUSSIA	0	0	0	0
SCOTLAND	0	2	0	3
SERBIA	4	5	13	36
SPAIN	0	0	0	0
TURKEY	0	4	0	12
UKRAINE	0	24	0	19
WALES	0	87	0	100+

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

	YOUTH 2020	YOUTH 2019	SENIOR 2020	SENIOR 2019
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	1	0	2
ENGLAND	0	6	0	14
FRANCE	0	2	0	3
GERMANY	0	0	1	3
GREECE	0	0	0	5
IRELAND	0	5	0	11
ITALY	0	0	0	7
MALTA	0	0	0	2
NETHERLANDS	0	0	1	1
NORWAY	0	0	0	3
RUSSIA	0	0	0	0
SCOTLAND	0	5	0	9
SERBIA	0	1	0	11
SPAIN	0	0	0	2
TURKEY	0	1	0	5
UKRAINE	0	2	0	0
WALES	0	4	0	9

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2020	2019	Notes
CZECH REPUBLIC	262	147	
ENGLAND	33,706	44,215	
FRANCE	8,269	8,140	
GERMANY	0	98	
GREECE	200	170	
IRELAND	202	437	
ITALY	0	N/A	
MALTA	696	677	Large majority of players registered in Australia
NETHERLANDS	128	128	
NORWAY	311	569	
RUSSIA	0	N/A	
SCOTLAND	0	263	
SERBIA	703	712	
SPAIN	N/A	125	
TURKEY	463	511	
UKRAINE	1005	802	
WALES	1382	1306	

MEMBER ACTIVITY - AMERICA

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

	TEAMS 2020	TEAMS 2019	MATCHES 2020	MATCHES 2019
CANADA	0	11	0	22
USA	0	11	0	42
JAMAICA	6	20	19	99
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ¹	-	-	-	-

1. No activity

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2020	TEAMS 2019	MATCHES 2020	MATCHES 2019
CANADA	-	-	-	-
JAMAICA	15	28	45	65
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ¹	-	-	-	-
USA	-	-	-	-

1. No activity

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

	YOUTH 2020	YOUTH 2019	SENIOR 2020	SENIOR 2019
CANADA	-	-	2	2
JAMAICA	-	-	2	2
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ¹	-	-	-	-
USA	-	-	2	2

1. No activity

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2020	2019	Notes
CANADA	88	365	-
JAMAICA	431	907	-
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	-	-	No activity
USA	0	368	

MEMBER ACTIVITY - MEA

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

	TEAMS 2020	TEAMS 2019	MATCHES 2020	MATCHES 2019
BURUNDI	-	11	-	20
CAMEROON ²	7	7	13	21
DR CONGO	-	6	-	46
ETHIOPIA ¹	-	-	-	-
GHANA	-	4	-	23
LEBANON	4	12	1	26
LIBYA	-	9	-	-
MOROCCO	-	4	-	8
NIGERIA	-	9	-	16
PALESTINE	-	3	-	3
SAUDI ARABIA ¹	-	-	-	-
SIERRA LEONE ¹	-	-	-	-

1. No activity

2. Cameroon also had 6 women's teams playing a 9s tournament which totaling 10 games.

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2020	TEAMS 2019	MATCHES 2020	MATCHES 2019
BURUNDI	-	4	-	4
CAMEROON	3	6	3	2
DR CONGO	-	4	-	-
ETHIOPIA ¹	-	-	-	-
GHANA	-	2	-	2
LEBANON	-	7	-	16
LIBYA	-	1	-	-
MOROCCO	-	4	-	4
NIGERIA	-	2	-	-
PALESTINE	-	1	-	-
SAUDI ARABIA ¹	-	-	-	-
SIERRA LEONE ¹	-	-	-	-

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

	YOUTH 2020	YOUTH 2019	SENIOR 2020	SENIOR 2019
BURUNDI ¹	-	-	-	-
CAMEROON	-	-	-	2
DR CONGO ¹	-	-	-	-
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	-
GHANA	-	-	-	2
LEBANON ²	-	2	-	2
LIBYA	-	-	-	-
MOROCCO	-	-	-	2
NIGERIA	-	-	-	2
PALESTINE	-	-	-	-
SAUDI ARABIA	-	-	-	-
SIERRA LEONE	-	-	-	-

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2020	2019	Notes
BURUNDI	459	1404	-
CAMEROON	1018	260	-
DR CONGO	130	136	-
ETHIOPIA¹	-	-	No player registration or activity recorded in 2020.
GHANA	326	80	-
LEBANON	230	530	230 registered players in Lebanon from 2 nd div competition; nil in Australia due no activity
LIBYA	170	166	Became member late 2019
MOROCCO	419	782	-
NIGERIA	308	255	-
PALESTINE	90	90	-
SAUDI ARABIA¹	-	-	No player registration or activity recorded in 2020.
SIERRA LEONE	84	340	-

MEMBERSHIP AT 31/12/2020

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, Hungarian Rugby League Federation, Latvia Rugby League, Libya Rugby League Association, Fédération Marocaine de Rugby League, Palestine Rugby League, Polska Rugby XIII, Sierra Leone Rugby League Federation, Svenska Rugby League Förening.

AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS

AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS

As a result of the global pandemic, the European Championships at A, B and C level, the European Youth Championships, the MEA Championships and the Americas Champions were all postponed.

SENIOR INTERNATIONALS

DATE	FIXTURE	CATEGORY	VENUE
26 SEP	NETHERLANDS 20-18 GERMANY	MEN	Zwolle

The Netherlands won the 2020 Griffin Cup, 20-18; in the only rugby league Test Match to take place in the world this year.

Rather than the outcome, however, this was a triumph for perseverance and dedication to get the game on, after further government restrictions for the region saw it moved to its third venue at very short notice. The match was also played in dedication to the memory and development work of Germany RL founder Simon Cooper.

In increasingly heavy rain, Germany started strongly, Basti Peter causing problems with his strong runs and, on the half hour, Connor Hampson crashing over from close in, Brad Billsborough converting for a narrow half time lead. Two tries in five minutes just after the hour swung the contest, Den Haag Knights pair Frank Longhurst with a lovey diagonal run and Thomas Farrell posting tries; Lucas Gout converting both. Home centre Joran Schoenmaker, who created problems for the visiting defence throughout with his strong runs and swerve, posted a superb solo try from long distance up the middle, Gout goaling. But the visitors hit back immediately, Rhineland Raiders' Richard Seidler going over and Benedikt Esser converting to narrow the gap to six points with five minutes left to play. Germany were offside at the restart and Gout kicked the resulting penalty which ultimately proved crucial as Hampson crashed over for his second try when the visitors regathered the kick off; Liam Doughton converting, to set up a tense finish.

Netherlands: Arie-Tjerk Razoux-Schultz, Jededaih Timisela, Joran Schoenmaker, Thomas Farrell, Ruben Stuifzand, Auke Idzerda, Lucas Gout, Bonne Wilce, Paul Dirkzwager, Romeo Goldman, Frank Longhurst, Daniel de Ruiter, Ben Dommerhuijsen (C). Interchanges: Laury Renac, Patrick Funk, Adam Braksator, Edson Neves.

Tries: Longhurst (60), Farrell (65), Schoenmaker (71). Goals: Gout 4/4

Germany: Martin Apostel, Jannek Hagenah, Max Kother, Basti Peter, Aarre Heinrichsen, Benedikt Esser, Brad Billsborough, Connor Hampson, Liam Doughton, Karsten Bruning, Matthias Akyel, Henning Brockmann, Phil Wadewitz

Subs: Richard Seidler, Mawuli Amefia, Benjamin Lauer, Niklas Fullgraf

Tries: Hampson (30, 78), Seidler (75). Goals: Billsborough 1/1, Esser 1/1, Doughton 1/1

www.europeanrugbyleague.com [European Rugby League, 55 King Street, Manchester M2 4LQ](#)

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. This Report covers the year until 31 December 2020
2. Net losses of £82,081 reported as compared to a budgeted loss of £8,000
3. The Accounts have been reviewed by Haysmacintyre 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 2020.
4. Total revenues of £133k were achieved in the year as compared to Budget of £218k with the main variance being in relation to the IRL Revenue which was £92k lower than Budget as a result of the IRL finances being pressured. 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 still not completed during 2020 and it is expected that the accrued income included in the balance sheet will be received during the 2021 financial year.
5. RFL Income was £26,711 as compared to Budget of £26,000. RFL passes on its annual IRL Grant to ERL each year and the changes in exchange rates determines the precise figure receivable.
6. Owing to the global pandemic, members subscriptions were waived for 2020 which saw a reduction on the Budget of £6.3k. Some members subscriptions for 2018 and 2019 remain outstanding at the year end of 2020.
7. Competition costs were only £2k as compared to a Budget of £40k. Given the pandemic unsurprisingly no competitions took place in the year.
8. Staffing costs were £12k higher than Budget owing mainly the MEA Regional Director moving to the UK and becoming a direct employee of the organisation (rather than a consultant) and costs associated with replacing and recruiting for a new General Manager.
9. Compliance and delivery costs were significantly higher than Plan because of the additional work done by Haysmacintyre on the EU Project Audit and some unplanned legal and professional costs of circa £16k.
10. Balance Sheet Reserves reduced by the loss for the year to £294k
11. The combined bank balances at the year-end were £158k with the other key asset being the EU Debtor carried forward at £112k. The main risk to the Company Balance Sheet is the possibility that this money cannot be recovered.
12. 2020 was a year of low-level activity and the first half of 2021 will be similarly quiet. Bank balances at the time of writing are £276k following receipt of the first part of the IRL Grant and the active collection of Debts. The cash flow is satisfactory and can be managed for the remainder of 2021.

Nigel Hansford FCA

ERL Finance Manager

European Rugby League Federation Ltd. Accounts

Year to 31 December 2020

Prepared by Haysmacintyre of 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4AG


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	4	146,361	148,284
Cash at bank and in hand	5	157,746	233,104
		<u>304,107</u>	<u>381,388</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(9,580)	(4,780)
Net current assets		<u>294,527</u>	<u>376,608</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>294,527</u>	<u>376,608</u>
Net assets		<u><u>294,527</u></u>	<u><u>376,608</u></u>
Reserves			
Surplus and deficit account	7	294,527	376,608
		<u><u>294,527</u></u>	<u><u>376,608</u></u>

The directors consider that the Company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - small entities. The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf.



Maurice Watkins CBE (Chairman)

Director

THE BOARD

MAURICE WATKINS CBE

Maurice became ERL 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.

CHAIRMAN



MADHI CHOUDHURY

Mahdi has extensive international sport administration experience, particularly in the legal, governance and operational fields. Mahdi has previously worked for the British Olympic Association, UK Sport and was most recently CEO of the British Athletes Commission.

INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



PAUL NICHOLSON

Paul Nicholson is a sports media specialist who has worked with several 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 ERL representative on the IRL Board.

INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



BRIAN JULIFF

Brian is a member elected director and joined the board in September 2020. Now Chairman of Wales Rugby League, he made 8 appearances for Wales between 1979 and 1985 in a career spanning 270 professional Rugby League appearances for clubs including Wakefield Trinity, Wigan, Castleford and Halifax, with whom he was a Challenge Cup winner in 1987. Professionally Brian is a business and management consultant.

MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR



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 ERL 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 ERL representative on the IRL Board.

MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR



ALISON O'BRIEN

Currently Director of Insight & Customer at the Rugby Football League, Alison represents the Rugby Football League on the board of ERL, having worked for the governing body in England since 2015. Prior to joining the RFL, Alison worked in insight and strategy roles with major FMCG companies and food retailers in the UK.

RFL DIRECTOR



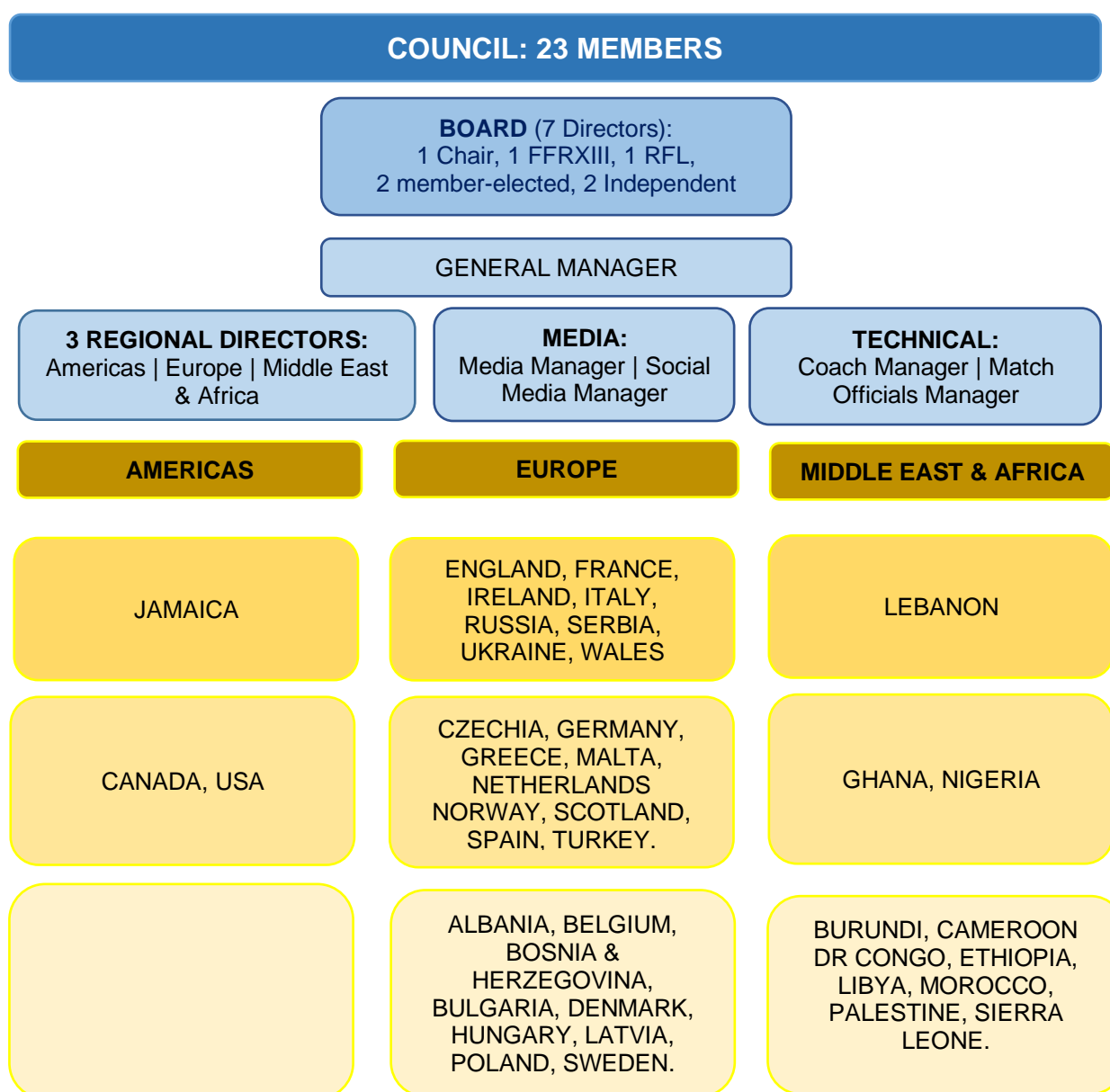
LUC LACOSTE

Elected president of FFRXIII in December 2020 with a landslide vote, Luc simultaneously joined the ERL Board. A native of Bordeaux, but resident in Paris for over 25 years having spent 4 years in London as a student, Luc's business interests previously included being CEO of a major car parts company which was sold in 2008 and since then he has focused on investment works.

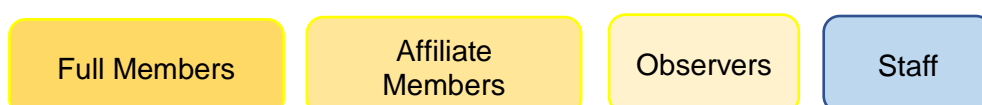
FFRXIII DIRECTOR



APPENDIX 1: ERL ORGANISATION



KEY:



APPENDIX 2: DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

EUROPE DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 ND DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
ENGLAND 2020	FULL	Super League XXV [12 reduced to 11] St. Helens	Championship [14] Competition did not finish because of Covid- 19 pandemic	Multiple
FRANCE 2019-20	FULL	Elite 1 [10] Competitions did not finish because of Covid-19 pandemic	Elite 2 [10]	Multiple
IRELAND 2020	FULL	All Ireland Championships [6] Longhorns RL	-	-
ITALY 2020	FULL	-	-	-
RUSSIA 2020	FULL	-	-	-
SCOTLAND 2020	FULL	-	-	-
SERBIA 2020	FULL	Championship [5] RLC Red Star Belgrade	-	U19 [4]
UKRAINE 2020	FULL	Championship [6] Legion XIII	-	-
WALES 2019	FULL	-	-	-
CZECH R. 2020	AFFILIATE	First Division [4] Vrchlabí Mad Squirrels and Lokomotiva Beroun	-	-
GERMANY 2020	AFFILIATE	-	-	-
GREECE 2019-2020	AFFILIATE	Greek Championship [7] Rhodes Knights	-	-
MALTA 2020	AFFILIATE	-	-	-

NETHERLANDS 2020	AFFILIATE	-	-	-
NORWAY 2020	AFFILIATE	-	-	-
SPAIN 2020	AFFILIATE	-	-	-
TURKEY 2020	AFFILIATE	-	-	-

AMERICAS DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 ND DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
CANADA 2020	AFL	Men's Championship [0] Provincial Winners Women's Championship [0]	-	-
JAMAICA 2020	FULL	National Club Championship [0] Women's Championship [0]	Collegiate [6] Div. 2 : [0]	U16s : [9]
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2020	OBS	No Activity	-	-
USA 2020	AFL	National Championship [0] Women's Championship [0]	-	-

MEA DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 ND DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
BURUNDI 2020	OBS	Men's Championship [0] - Women's Championship [0] -	-	-

CAMEROON 2020	OBS	National Championship [4] Rock RL de Douala Women's Championship [4] Raiders Academie de Yaounde	-	U17 [3] Rock RL de Douala
DR CONGO 2020	OBS	National Championship [0] - Women's Championship [0] -	-	-
GHANA 2020	OBS	Ghana Rugby League Championship [0] -	-	-
MOROCCO 2020	OBS	National Championship [0] -	-	-
NIGERIA 2020	OBS	National Championship [0] -	-	-
LEBANON 2019-20	FULL	Lebanon Rugby League [0] -	Colligate Div 1. [0] Colligate Div 2. [0]	Multiple