



RUGBY LEAGUE
EUROPEAN FEDERATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

It is with great pride that I present the 2021 European Rugby League (ERL) Annual Report. As the world and the sport of Rugby League emerged at different rates from the global pandemic, we saw a gradual return to normality across the game and we hope that by 2022 all of our members will have been able to resumed activity without COVID restrictions.



Reflecting on 2021, it is of course with great sadness that I write this introduction, due to the passing in August, of our late Chairman, Maurice Watkins CBE. Maurice provided great experience to our organisation in the Chair role, which he held from 2012.

Maurice's reputation in the sport's world was high and having him as our chair brought us credibility and the ability to develop new partnerships. His strong legal career provided great guidance on many matters, governance was another key area he led on. All our general managers benefited from his wisdom and mentoring, which was always delivered in such a supportive manner and his board colleagues enjoyed the same and appreciated his kindness and the generosity of time he gave to everyone. Maurice will be remembered as a great servant to European Rugby League and is very much missed by us all.

The decision for France to host the 2025 World Cup was a momentous appointment. I congratulate Luc Lacoste and his FFR X111 colleagues on this success and will fully support them over the journey to the return of our World Cup to its original location in 1954.

Although we were disappointed to see the postponement of the 2021 Rugby League World Cup, Europe led the world in the return to playing international games as Serbia took the Euro B title in Belgrade in early October, before the Netherlands claimed the Euro D title in Bodrum shortly afterwards, both teams demonstrating huge progress after investing resources into growing their domestic competitions which has in turn translated into international success. Our congratulations and thanks to the two hosting countries as well.

We were also thrilled to see an array of bilateral fixtures in the men's, women's and wheelchair games taking place in the Autumn, which demonstrates the continued passion in the northern hemisphere for the international game.

Off the field European Rugby League broke new ground by becoming the first sports governing body in the world to receive a governance rating from the Sports Integrity Global Alliance. ERL was awarded a silver rating on the SIGA Independent Rating & Verification System (SIRVS) which was the result of a comprehensive series of audits and corrective action plans over a six-month period. We will continue

to work with SIGA to monitor our performance against the framework and deliver against their recommendations to achieve an improved rating in the future.

Alongside the SIRVS programme the organisation concluded a governance review, informed by our wider membership and with a focused governance working group made up of members from different classes of membership with the proposed changes being voted through at our AGM in November. The collaborative process, including members, was an important facet, which once again showed the care about and camaraderie across our Federation. The Board and the executive will continue to develop and deliver against these changes throughout 2022.

European Rugby League is fortunate to be supported by some fantastic volunteers who give their time freely to support our paid staff structure with expertise and time to help us to achieve our objectives. Phil Caplan (Media Manager), George Stilianos (Social Media Manager), James Vukmirovic (Webmaster), Martin Crick (Coaching Manager) and Tom Mather (Match Officials Manager) are essential cogs in our engine and their contributions make a huge difference to our members.

I would also like to thank our staff, David Butler, Jovan Vujosevic, Remond Safi, Romeo Monteith and Nigel Hansford for their ongoing efforts. They are hardworking and care deeply about the work they do,

I would also like to thank my Board colleagues for their diligent work on behalf of the Confederation.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the members of European Rugby League who, for a second COVID year, have persevered in the face of adversity with their efforts to grow this great game of ours. It has been a trying time for your clubs, coaches, match officials and colleagues but the game is returning and demonstrating the appetite for it across the Northern Hemisphere. We look forward to the postponed World Cup in 2022 and the qualification journey to the 2025 which many of you will be involved in. There is plenty to be invigorated about and we look forward to supporting you with your aspirations.

Best wishes and health,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Thompson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Graeme Thompson
Interim Chairperson

ERL VISION, MISSION & VALUES

OUR VISION

To Grow Participation and Develop High Quality Rugby League

OUR MISSION

Deliver Great International Competitions and Enable Sustainable Federations to Grow Rugby League



EXCELLENCE

We deliver high quality services and events so all users have the best possible experience.

We continually seeking to improve, listen and have outstanding governance practices and behaviours.



DYNAMISM

We make it as easy as possible for people to engage with the European Rugby League and be proud of their involvement.

We respect language, culture and participant needs.



INNOVATION

We look for new and better ways to achieve our goals and strive to look at positive solutions to barriers.



INTEGRITY

We create an environment of trust, respect and honesty between members of European Rugby League.

We protect the positive image of our sport.



UNITY

We generate a spirit of togetherness with members and partners by showing respect and celebrating our individual and collective successes.

GENERAL MANAGER

Joining European Rugby League in January 2021 was a challenging time with Coronavirus restrictions in place for many of our members and sport being on hold in many countries. Sadly, we had to take an early decision to cancel the Euro C competition and for the second year running the U19s Championships, however we were able to stage Euro B and Euro D and with some changes to the formats and hosting the competitions in one place to reduce the exposure to risk, we presented two excellent international tournaments.



One of my first jobs in post was to finalise the organisation's strategy, something European Rugby League had been without for a few years. With a direction of travel and an accompanying operational plan to measure our progress, all staff now have clear annual objectives to allow us to deliver our strategy and focus our resources accordingly.

Working through the SIGA Independent Rating & Verification System gave a valuable insight into the workings of the company and with the support of the governance working group and insight gained from the member survey we were able to identify several areas of reform which were voted through at the AGM and led to us being awarded a silver rating by SIGA and we will continue to embed the proposed changes to maintain both our rating and our strategic objective of being the leading confederation in global Rugby League.

Additionally, the SIRVS process allowed us to review several policies and processes and review a lot of internal documentation which was time well spent the unusual circumstances preventing activity in the opening half of the year.

Looking ahead to 2022, we can plan with more certainty for competition to return and we intend to expand our official competition portfolio to stage a Women's European Championships, to stage the Youth European Championships in Italy at the third time of asking and to begin the 2025 Rugby League World Cup qualifying journey in the MEA region with the MEA Championships and to recommence supporting our members with their technical education to increase the number of coaches and match officials globally and improve the sustainability of technical education by qualifying more educators.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Butler'.

David Butler
General Manager

EUROPE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

After the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, that left great consequences on the whole sport in Europe, as well as rugby league, in 2021, there has been a revival of domestic and international activities in Europe and many countries returned to play.



Nations such as England and France have successfully delivered professional leagues, while Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Czech Republic, Malta, Serbia, Greece and Ukraine have successfully organized amateur full 13-side competitions. Some countries, such as Germany, were not able to hold domestic competitions due to restrictions on the pandemic.

In second part of 2021 ERL manage to deliver return of official competitions after two years. European Championship B and D were successfully organized in Belgrade, Serbia and Bodrum, Turkey. Both competitions were delivered in “balloon” following all Covid-19 local measures to protect all players and staff involved. Serbia, Ukraine and Russia took part in European Championship B, while the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Turkey and Malta took part in European Championship D. Serbia won European Championship B and Netherlands won European Championship D.

What is encouraging is the return of the women's and wheelchairs rugby league to international scene. England, France, Wales, Ireland and Scotland have successfully realized wheelchair rugby league competitions and test matches, while England, France, Ireland and Wales have realized international women's matches.

The European Rugby League family has become richer for another member, Montenegro, while contacts have been made with Slovakia, Northern Macedonia, Belarus, Georgia, Austria and Croatia. Slovakia and Northern Macedonia have registered a legal entity in their countries and both countries are in the process of applying for observer membership.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Jovan Vujosevic'.

Jovan Vujosevic
Europe Regional Director

MEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The MEA Region has shown further growth despite the pandemic and continues to implement the roadmap to forming an independent confederation.

The MEA Steering Committee appointed its new extended board for the next 12 months with representatives from the two full members, Dr Frans Erasmus (South Africa) and Nayef Abi Said (Lebanon), plus elected Affiliate member representative Adam Sadler (Nigeria) and Observer member representative Ghassan Badawi (Libya). Three independent members have also been added to the extend committee with Sami Garebedian (Chair), Bolu Fagborun, Saad Boujmal. Remond Safi has been appointed as Secretary of the Steering committee. A sub.committee has been established to develop the region's first strategy.



MEA welcomed back South Africa who has realigned to the region from APRL. 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 welcomed its newest member Kenya Rugby League Federation after lengthy process which ensured strong governance around its constitution, its members obtaining local sports law recognition, which will further stabilize the organisation.

South Africa and Libya (in Arabic) completed an online technical L1 coaching education.

Ghana demonstrated the type of innovation that permeates this exciting region by partnering with Salford red devils with plan to have player pathways to Salford and establishing academies to be led by Ghana coaches.

Local championships were completed by Lebanon, Ghana (women, men and youth), whilst Nigeria, Cameroon, Burundi and South Africa seasons conclude in 2022. Looking ahead to the world cup, Lebanon are looking to include a record number of local players which recognises their efforts locally.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Remond Safi'.

Remond Safi
MEA Regional Director

AMERICAS REGIONAL DIRECTOR

2021 began with the formation of the Americas Steering Committee (ASC), tasked with providing the region towards eventual Confederation status. Each regional IRL member country has a representative on the Committee.

The region welcomed El Salvador as its newest member after European Rugby League and the IRL ratified their Observer application mid-year. Their admittance is a historic first for a country from Central America.



There were Technical Education activities were delivered in the USA, as that country continue to grow its ranks of level 1 candidates.

In North America, both Canada and the USA were able to execute domestic men's championships. However, there were growing concerns for the game in the US, as several teams on the East Coast withdrew from the National competition for varying reasons. Neither team were able to play internationals as Covid played havoc with international travel. Jamaica was again stymied in its efforts to play any Rugby League as government restrictions prevented play. They did manage to play a full international against Scotland.

Though the year began with Canada, USA, and Jamaica undertaking major planning and expenditure as they prepared for the RLWC21, the tournament was postponed to 2022 and this had significant impact on the local volunteer administrators and finances and work continues to support them ahead of the 2022 tournament.

Romeo Monteith

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

Romeo Monteith
Americas Regional Director

COACHING MANAGER

The Covid pandemic once again impacted heavily upon coach education activity throughout all regions under the ERL banner. Travel between countries was once more almost impossible, so I was unable to conduct any training with either coaches or educators on the ground. However, there were some encouraging developments in spite of this, particularly in the Middle East and Africa region.



Most significant was the re-emergence of South Africa as a force within MEA. Previous attempts to develop coach education there have been largely unsuccessful, but under a new regime SARL seems to be much more dynamic and proactive. Three coaches with considerable experience have been trained as Level 1 educators. Nico Serfontein has previous RL experience in the United Kingdom, working with Hemel Hempstead; Jean Coetzer is a qualified NRL coach; and Fanie Bredendam has vast experience in rugby union plus is the current National Coach for SARL. Under my supervision a very successful Level 1 course was held via zoom. Practical sessions and assessments will be delivered once Covid regulations permit and therefore we should see the first properly qualified SARL coaches early in 2022.

A L1 course via zoom was also delivered in Ghana, although several the coaches had very intermittent wi-fi reception, which hampered the delivery somewhat. Ghana RL has been very active this year and have organised a number of training courses for both coaches and match officials. They have established a link with Salford Red Devils which hopefully will prove fruitful not just in logistical terms but in furthering their knowledge of Rugby League. The MEA region also saw a historic first with a zoom course in Arabic in Libya, delivered by Gaby Haddad from Lebanon. However, the difficulty, as so often, is the inability to follow up with the practical elements of the course as there is no coach educator in Libya and their knowledge of the fundamentals of Rugby League is limited. Once travel becomes easier a priority must be to follow up on these new developments with coach educator visits.

Elsewhere Mike Brogan was able to continue his work in the USA, holding Level 1 courses in California and Chicago. The latter was highly significant in that it was hosted by the University of Chicago, where James Coumbe-Lilley, a former England Student international and RFL qualified Level 3 coach, is a lecturer. He is hoping to put RL coaching on the curriculum there and to develop student rugby league. Also in the area is Janet Keane, an RFL Level 2 coach interested in developing junior rugby league.

Meanwhile German Rugby League was boosted by the arrival of Andy Hay, ex Castleford and Leeds Rhinos player and subsequently on the coaching staff at Castleford and Salford. Since then, he has been development officer for Auckland RL in New Zealand. This wealth of experience will be hugely beneficial to the game in Germany and Andy is already working with Bob Doughton to develop both coaches and players there. Congratulations should also go to Michalis Chatziioannou in Greece who has become the second coach to complete the Level 2 qualification.



Martin Crick
Coach Manager

MATCH OFFICIALS MANAGER

Whilst the backdrop of Covid still drastically affected operations in the past 12 months, there were the green shoots of some progress in key areas of collaboration, planning and Match official performance.

In 2016, we set out a pathway to give individuals support from a technical education and a performance point of view. Whilst the past year may have been light on activity, it has shown real strength in how the pathway has worked for individuals who have been prepared to work with the system and follow the development process. It has shown that the system does work and with the improvements that we intend to make to the Technical Education Portal in 2022.



From a technical education perspective, two courses were delivered with the level one materials having received a comprehensive upgrade as part of the improvements that are being made to the technical education offering. What is more exciting is that these two courses were delivered by Erasmus + alumni who have both graduated via the ERL educator development system, which shows the progress we have made in taking fledgling match officials and giving them a path in becoming an educator. Courses were delivered in Kenya and in Norway engaging 22 people in person, with online technical support being given on an ad-hoc basis. In the coming year, we will look to run 3 regional level 2 courses and develop a pathway for a Level 2 Educator.

The lack of formal online technical support has proved a challenge and as part of the updates required to the Technical Education portal this is something that has to be considered. However, we have been able to amass a fair amount of video in the last couple of years and we have been working closely with the coaching team to put together laws of the games quizzes which have allowed some level of interaction whilst physical training has not been possible.

From a performance perspective the first full tournaments were appointed via the IRL performance squads. Euro D saw officials from Greece, Czechia, Ireland and Spain travel to Turkey to officiate the games there, whilst Euro B in Serbia saw Serbian, Welsh, French and Spanish officials taking to the field to officiate those games. Again, the majority of these individual officials had progressed through the Euro RL development pathway, coming into the performance group and officiating at the highest level possible. The officials used their time in camp to analyse their performances, which were then reviewed by the IRL Head of Match Officials with some good performance feedback. Elsewhere, on the performance pathway, several ERL educated officials officiated in mid-season test matches as the process for appointments and match sanctioning began to bear fruit in ensuring that the right official is appointed to the right game.

It has been a difficult year, but we can move forwards into the 2022 season with the confidence that the processes that we have put in place over the last 6 years work, and we can begin to work again with the individual nations in bringing forward the next generation of officials whilst working with those who are accredited to move them forward down a suitable pathway.

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

Tom Mather

Match Officials Manager

MEDIA MANAGER

Having, understandably, struggled for news and releases during lockdown in 2020, gradually stories began to emerge as playing seasons and competitions recommenced.

There was a conscious attempt to chart and document the various returns to play so that a journal of record for future generations would be established. In a similar vein, releases were also put out regarding the first steps in the Americas and MEA of self-determination with the setting up of steering groups in each region, important landmarks for illustrating the process.



Likewise, plans for women's and wheelchair competitions were highlighted, made even more relevant when the World Cups were postponed for a year, ERL coming out strongly in support of the organizing committee and their stance.

A spread of stories from across the various regions was maintained although there is still work to do to persuade nations that coordinated releases to amplify the message are preferential and more valuable than chasing contextual information once they have gone out. Clearly social media has a sense of immediacy, and some material is ideally suited to be dispersed directly by that method, but certain key stories still benefit in terms of wider exposure from a centralised formal release to specific media contacts and then bespoke follow up.

New nations playing, such as Slovakia, Belarus, El Salvador, Kenya and Montenegro, gained widespread interest, as did Serbia's four nations' tour around the Balkan region again illustrating that having the information as matches were completed ensured maximum impact, which was not always the case. Similarly, France bidding for the 2025 World Cup and updates on the process and progress were very warmly received.

The Euro B and D competitions were extremely well covered on the ground which enabled the information to be out there instantaneously, and provided an ideal template for tournament coverage.

P.S.

Phil Caplan

Media Manager

GOVERNANCE

Changes to the Board

Following the passing of Maurice Warkins CBE, Graeme Thompson was elected to the position of Interim-Chairperson of the Board. Following the approval of the Annual Council Meeting to enlarge the Board composition, a recruitment process commenced to recruit new Independent Directors which will be concluded in Spring 2022 and an election concluding in January 2022 was triggered to recruit an additional Member-Elected Director.

Board meetings

The Board held 9 meetings throughout the year, on 25 January (Zoom), 25 March (Zoom), 27 April (Zoom), 2 July (Zoom), 27 July (Zoom), 20 August (Zoom), 17 September (Zoom), 14 October (Zoom), 13 November (Medway Park, Kent)

| | No. of meetings attended | No. of meetings held during Director's period of office |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Maurice Watkins CBE | 4 | 5 |
| Graeme Thompson | 9 | 9 |
| Paul Nicholson | 7 | 9 |
| Mahdi Choudhury | 7 | 9 |
| Brian Juliff | 9 | 9 |
| Alison O'Brien | 8 | 9 |
| Luc Lacoste | 4* | 9 |

*A deputy was appointed from FFRXII who attended 2 meetings where Luc Lacoste was unable to attend

SUB-COMMITTEES

The ERL administers four 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 2021.

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 2021 FARC was chaired by Brian Juliff, with Mahdi Choudhury as a sitting member. Robert Graham (RFL Finance Director) is a co-opted member with ERL General Manager David Butler and ERL Finance Manager Nigel Hansford in attendance.

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 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Brian Juliff | 2 | 2 |
| Mahdi Choudhury | 1 | 2 |
| Robert Graham | 2 | 2 |
| David Butler | 2 | 2 |
| Nigel Hansford | 2 | 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 Graeme Thompson, with Graeme Thompson its other member. The committee met once in 2021.

| | No. of meetings attended | No. of meetings held during Member's period of office |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Graeme Thompson | 1 | 1 |
| Alison O'Brien | 1 | 1 |
| Paul Nicholson | 1 | 1 |

Governance Working Group

The Governance Working Group was created following the Annual Council Meeting in 2020 to review the governance of the Company including an independent governance review, and make recommendations to The Board on future governance. The group met twice during 2021 in addition to receiving information and making recommendations via correspondence.

| | No. of meetings attended | No. of meetings held during Member's period of office |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Mahdi Choudhury | 2 | 2 |
| Alison O'Brien | 1 | 2 |
| Anne Lheuillet | 2 | 2 |
| Bob Doughton | 2 | 2 |
| Jon Christie | 2 | 2 |
| Dragan Pavlovic | 2 | 2 |
| Dean Buchan | 1 | 2 |
| Tiziano Franchini | 1 | 2 |

COUNCIL

National Federations represented at the 2021 Annual Council Meeting:

Full Members: Ralph Rimmer, England (**RFL**), Luc Lacoste, France (**FFRXIII**), Orazio D'Arro, Italy (**FIRL**), Adrian Hall, Jamaica (**JRLA**), Nayef Abi Said, Lebanon (**LRLF**), Jon Christie, Russia (**RARLC**), Vladan Kikanovic, Serbia (**SRLF**), Krappie Eloff, South Africa (**SARLSA**) Brian Juliff, Wales (**WRL**)

Affiliate Members: Lukas Hergott, Czech Republic (**CZRLA**), Bob Doughton, Germany (**NRLD**), Jafaru Mustapha, Ghana (**GRL**), Jean-Pierre Zarb, Malta (**MRL**), Yamina Abdesslem Morocco (**FMRL**), Sjoerd Botterblom, Netherlands (**NRLB**), Ade Adebisi, Nigeria (**NRL**), Tony Palacios, Spain (**AERL**), Juan Jasso, USA (**USARL**)

Observers Members: Goran Marjanovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina (**BHRLA**), Tihomir Simeonov, Bulgaria (**BRLF**), Jean Du Christ Rusiga, Burundi (**BRL**), Kajibwami Arsène, DR Congo (**CRL**), Katerin María Herrera, El Salvador (**ARLES**), Abdul Karim Forjani, Libya (**LRLA**), Jovan Petrovic, Montenegro (**MERL**), Mohamad Sakka, Palestine (**PRL**), Stuart Hicks, Sweden (**SRL**)

MEMBER ACTIVITY - EUROPE

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

| | TEAMS 2021 | TEAMS 2020 | MATCHES 2021 | MATCHES 2020 |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| ALBANIA* | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| BULGARIA* | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| ENGLAND | 100+ | 100+ | 100+ | 100+ |
| FRANCE | 100+ | 100+ | 100+ | 100+ |
| GERMANY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GREECE | 9 | 7 | 11 | 23 |
| IRELAND | N/A | 6 | N/A | 13 |
| ITALY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MALTA | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| MONTENEGRO* | 1 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| NETHERLANDS | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NORWAY | 6 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| POLAND* | 2 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| RUSSIA | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| SCOTLAND | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| SERBIA | 7 | 8 | 58 | 31 |
| SPAIN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TURKEY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UKRAINE | 6 | 6 | 17 | 8 |
| WALES | 18 | 0 | 100+ | 0 |

*Observer member

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

| | TEAMS 2021 | TEAMS 2020 | MATCHES 2021 | MATCHES 2020 |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| CZECH REPUBLIC | N/A | 6 | N/A | 8 |
| ENGLAND | 100+ | 100+ | 100+ | 100+ |
| FRANCE | 100+ | 100+ | 25 | 25 |
| GERMANY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GREECE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IRELAND | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 |
| ITALY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MALTA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NETHERLANDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NORWAY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RUSSIA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SCOTLAND | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SERBIA | 4 | 4 | 12 | 13 |
| SPAIN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TURKEY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UKRAINE | 6 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| WALES | 13 | 0 | 100+ | 0 |

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

| | YOUTH 2021 | YOUTH 2020 | SENIOR 2021 | SENIOR 2020 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| ALBANIA* | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA* | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| BULGARIA* | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| ENGLAND | 2 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| FRANCE | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| GERMANY | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| GREECE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IRELAND | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ITALY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MALTA | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| MONTENEGRO* | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| NETHERLANDS | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| NORWAY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RUSSIA | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| SCOTLAND | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| SERBIA | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| SPAIN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TURKEY | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| UKRAINE | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| WALES | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 |

*Observer member

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

| | 2021 | 2020 | Notes |
|----------------|--------|--------|---|
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 280 | 262 | - |
| ENGLAND | 75,238 | 80,383 | - |
| FRANCE | 7,123 | 8,269 | - |
| GERMANY | 0 | 0 | No activities, due Covid-19 restrictions |
| GREECE | 190 | 200 | - |
| IRELAND | 420 | 202 | - |
| ITALY | 60 | 0 | - |
| MALTA | 696 | 696 | Large majority of players registered in Australia |
| NETHERLANDS | 0 | 128 | Did not submit participation numbers |
| NORWAY | 396 | 311 | - |
| RUSSIA | 0 | 0 | Did not submit participation numbers |
| SCOTLAND | 369 | 263 | - |
| SERBIA | 703 | 703 | - |
| SPAIN | 0 | N/A | Did not submit participation numbers |
| TURKEY | 511 | 511 | - |
| UKRAINE | N/A | 1005 | No data, because of Russian aggression and war in Ukraine |
| WALES | 1703 | 1382 | - |

MEMBER ACTIVITY - AMERICAS

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

| | TEAMS 2021 | TEAMS 2020 | MATCHES 2021 | MATCHES 2020 |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| CANADA | 8 | 0 | 16 | 2 |
| USA | 8 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| JAMAICA | 0 | 20 | 0 | 19 |
| TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ¹ | - | - | - | - |
| EL SALVADOR | - | - | - | - |

1. No activity

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

| | TEAMS 2021 | TEAMS 2020 | MATCHES 2021 | MATCHES 2020 |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| CANADA | - | - | - | - |
| JAMAICA | 0 | 15 | 0 | 45 |
| TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ¹ | - | - | - | - |
| USA | - | - | - | - |
| EL SALVADOR | - | - | - | - |

1. No activity

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

| | YOUTH 2021 | YOUTH 2020 | SENIOR 2021 | SENIOR 2020 |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| CANADA | - | - | 0 | 2 |
| JAMAICA | - | - | 2 | 0 |
| TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ¹ | - | - | - | - |
| USA | - | - | 1 | 0 |
| EL SALVADOR | - | - | - | - |

1. No activity

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

| | 2021 | 2020 | Notes |
|---------------------|------|------|--|
| CANADA | 350 | 88 | - |
| JAMAICA | 78 | 431 | Covid-19 – no season 2021, aborted season 2020 |
| TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | - | - | No activity |
| USA | 519 | 0 | Covid-19 – no activity 2020 |
| EL SALVADOR | 0 | 0 | New member |

MEMBER ACTIVITY - MEA

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

| | TEAMS 2021 | TEAMS 2020 | MATCHES 2021 | MATCHES 2020 |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| BURUNDI | 24 | - | 24 | - |
| CAMEROON* | 17 | 7 | 33 | 13 |
| DR CONGO | - | - | - | - |
| ETHIOPIA | - | - | - | - |
| GHANA* | 7 | - | 21 | - |
| KENYA | - | - | - | - |
| LEBANON | 4 | 4 | 16 | 1 |
| LIBYA | - | - | - | - |
| MOROCCO | - | - | - | - |
| NIGERIA | 12 | - | 64 | - |
| PALESTINE | - | - | - | - |
| SAUDI ARABIA | - | - | - | - |
| SIERRA LEONE | - | - | - | - |

*Cameroon Women also played 9s tournament with 6 teams, Ghana also played Men 5 teams and Women 9s tournament with 4 teams

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

| | TEAMS 2021 | TEAMS 2020 | MATCHES 2021 | MATCHES 2020 |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| BURUNDI | 2 | - | - | - |
| CAMEROON | 8 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| DR CONGO | - | - | - | - |
| ETHIOPIA | - | - | - | - |
| GHANA | 2 | - | 3 | - |
| KENYA | - | - | - | - |
| LEBANON | - | - | - | - |
| LIBYA | - | - | - | - |
| MOROCCO | - | - | - | - |
| NIGERIA | 2 | - | 1 | - |
| PALESTINE | - | - | - | - |
| SAUDI ARABIA | - | - | - | - |
| SIERRA LEONE | - | - | - | - |

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

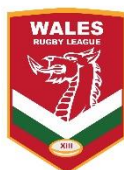
| | YOUTH 2021 | YOUTH 2020 | SENIOR 2021 | SENIOR 2020 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| BURUNDI ¹ | - | - | - | - |
| CAMEROON | - | - | - | - |
| DR CONGO ¹ | - | - | - | - |
| ETHIOPIA | - | - | - | - |
| GHANA | - | - | 4 | - |
| KENYA | - | - | - | - |
| LEBANON | - | - | - | - |
| LIBYA | - | - | - | - |
| MOROCCO | - | - | - | - |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|
| NIGERIA | - | - | - | - |
| PALESTINE | - | - | - | - |
| SAUDI ARABIA | - | - | - | - |
| SIERRA LEONE | - | - | - | - |

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

| | 2021 | 2020 | Notes |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| BURUNDI | 459 | 459 | - |
| CAMEROON | 500 | 1018 | - |
| DR CONGO | - | 130 | No AMA Submission |
| ETHIOPIA | - | - | No player registration or activity recorded in 2021. |
| GHANA | 409 | 326 | - |
| KENYA | 120 | - | Became member in 2021 |
| LEBANON | 157 | 230 | 157 registered players in Lebanon no 2 nd div competition; nil in Australia due no activity |
| LIBYA | - | 170 | No AMA submission |
| MOROCCO | - | 419 | No Ama Submission |
| NIGERIA | 258 | 308 | - |
| PALESTINE | - | 90 | No AMA Submission |
| SAUDI ARABIA | - | - | No player registration or activity recorded in 2021. |
| SIERRA LEONE | - | 84 | No AMA Submission |

Full Members At 31/12/2021



FULL
 England
 France
 Ireland
 Italy
 Jamaica
 Lebanon
 Russia
 Serbia
 South Africa
 Ukraine
 Wales

Affiliate Members At 31/12/2021



AFFILIATE
 Canada
 Cameroon
 Czechia
 Germany
 Ghana
 Greece
 Malta
 Morocco
 Netherlands
 Nigeria
 Norway
 Scotland
 Spain
 Turkey
 United States

ERL Observer Members At 31/12/2021



OBSERVERS
 Albania
 Belgium
 Bosnia &
 Herzegovina
 Bulgaria
 Burundi
 Denmark
 DR Congo
 El Salvador
 Ethiopia
 Hungary
 Kenya
 Latvia
 Libya
 Montenegro
 Palestine
 Poland
 Sierra Leone
 Sweden

AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP B



| | W | L | D | PF | PA | +/- | Pts |
|---------|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|-----|
| SERBIA | 2 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 28 | 92 | 4 |
| UKRAINE | 1 | 1 | 0 | 114 | 72 | 42 | 2 |
| RUSSIA | 0 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 162 | -134 | 0 |

RESULTS

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------|
| 03 OCT 2021 | SRB 66-10 RUS | Paracin |
| 06 OCT 2021 | RUS 18-96 UKR | Belgrade |
| 09 OCT 2021 | SRB 54-18 UKR | Belgrade |



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP D



RESULTS

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------|
| 17 OCT 2021 | CZE 10-36 NLD | Bodrum |
| 17 OCT 2021 | MLT 12-36 TUR | Bodrum |
| 14 OCT 2021 | NLD 40-18 TUR | Bodrum |
| 14 OCT 2021 | MLT 16-40 CZE | Bodrum |



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE CELTIC CUP



| | W | L | D | PF | PA | +/- | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|-----|
| WALES | 2 | 0 | 0 | 194 | 34 | 160 | 4 |
| IRELAND | 1 | 1 | 0 | 68 | 126 | -58 | 2 |
| SCOTLAND | 0 | 2 | 0 | 50 | 154 | -104 | 0 |

RESULTS

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------|
| 12 JUN 2021 | SCO 18-102 WLS | Edinburg |
| 12 JUN 2021 | WLS 92-16 IRL | Edinburg |
| 12 JUN 2021 | SCO 32-52 IRL | Edinburg |



INTERNATIONAL FIXTURES

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

SENIOR INTERNATIONALS

| DATE | FIXTURE | CATEGORY | VENUE |
|--------|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 6 JUN | BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 4-50 SERBIA | MEN | Vitez |
| 19 JUN | BULGARIA 16-28 SERBIA | MEN | Sofia |
| 25 JUN | ENGLAND 60-0 WALES | WOMEN | Warrington |
| 26 JUN | ENGLAND 102-22 WALES | WHEELCHAIR | Sheffield |
| 27 JUN | MONTENEGRO 16-24 SERBIA | MEN | Tivat |
| 21 AUG | SERBIA 46-4 CZECH RUGBY | MEN U20 | Belgrade |
| 4 SEP | SCOTLAND 37-22 IRELAND | MEN U20 | Dalkeith |
| 11 SEP | ENGLAND 48-22 SCOTLAND | MEN U20 | Leigh |
| 25 SEP | IRELAND 12-38 ENGLAND | MEN U20 | Santry |
| 25 SEP | IRELAND 18-64 ENGLAND | MEN | Santry |
| 2 OCT | GERMANY 16-48 NETHERLANDS | MEN | Dusseldorf |
| 15 OCT | JAMAICA 4-54 ENGLAND KNIGHTS | MEN | Castleford |
| 16 OCT | WALES 62-48 IRELAND | WHEELCHAIR | Wrexham |
| 17 OCT | WALES 24-26 IRELAND | WOMEN | Colwyn Bay |
| 23 OCT | FRANCE 4-40 ENGLAND | WOMEN | Perpignan |
| 23 OCT | FRANCE 10-30 ENGLAND | MEN | Perpignan |
| 24 OCT | JAMAICA 30-30 SCOTLAND | MEN | Featherstone |
| 30 OCT | WALES 70-34 SCOTLAND | WHEELCHAIR | Wrexham |
| 10 NOV | ENGLAND 24-49 FRANCE | WHEELCHAIR | Gillingham |
| 13 NOV | ENGLAND 26-39 FRANCE | WHEELCHAIR | Gillingham |

YOUTH INTERNATIONALS

| DATE | FIXTURE | CATEGORY | VENUE |
|--------|---------------------|----------|------------|
| 22 AUG | WALES 18-34 ENGLAND | U16 | Colwyn Bay |
| 22 AUG | WALES 10-16 ENGLAND | U17 | Colwyn Bay |

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. This report covers the year to 31st December 2021
2. A net profit of £25,089 for the year is reported as compared to a loss of £82,081 for 2020 and a budgeted loss of £101k.
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 2021
4. Total revenues were £222k as compared to a budget of £202k. The main variance was that we received a £10k increased contribution from IRL than we had originally anticipated towards staffing costs.
5. Member fees were reintroduced in 2021 after a moratorium in 2020 as a result of the Covid pandemic.
6. Income from RFL was very close to what was planned (£34k).
7. Expenditure at £196k was much less than the Budgeted £303k as savings were made on Competition costs where there was only minimal technical education activity.
8. Savings in the Compliance & Delivery budget line were achieved principally from the absence of an 'in person' Congress. The management of expenditure has been good in the period with all costs keenly scrutinised and evaluated for value for money.
9. Net assets increased by the surplus in the year from £294k to £320k and are represented by £217k in bank balances; £112k EU Accrued income with debtors and creditors accounting for the difference. The EU balance has been carried forward once again and with the EU Project audit currently taking place it is hoped that the matter will be resolved in 2022. If we receive more than £112k the extra amount will be taken to profit in the year but conversely if we receive less than this then the write down would be taken as a loss in the current year income statement.
10. After a period of successful 'chasing', debts owed to ERL are much reduced with prepayments and accrued income combined down from £34k in 2020 to £13k in 2021.
11. Cash flow is satisfactory with combined balances of £217k at the year end and we are well placed to meet our obligations as they fall due.

Nigel Hansford FCA

ERL Finance Manager

European Rugby League Federation Ltd. Accounts

Year to 31 December 2021

Prepared by Haysmacintyre of 10 Queen Street Place, London EC1R 4AG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

| | Note | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|--|------|----------------|----------------|
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors: amounts falling due within one year | 4 | 125,666 | 146,361 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 5 | 217,236 | 157,746 |
| | | <u>342,902</u> | <u>304,107</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 6 | (23,286) | (9,580) |
| Net current assets | | <u>319,616</u> | <u>294,527</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | <u>319,616</u> | <u>294,527</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>319,616</u> | <u>294,527</u> |
| Reserves | | | |
| Surplus and deficit account | 7 | 319,616 | 294,527 |
| | | <u>319,616</u> | <u>294,527</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.



Graeme Thompson (Interim Chairperson)

Director

THE BOARD

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 an ERL representative on the IRL Board.

MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR



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 is currently Assistant Secretary (Membership) at the Marylebone Cricket Club.

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.

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



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



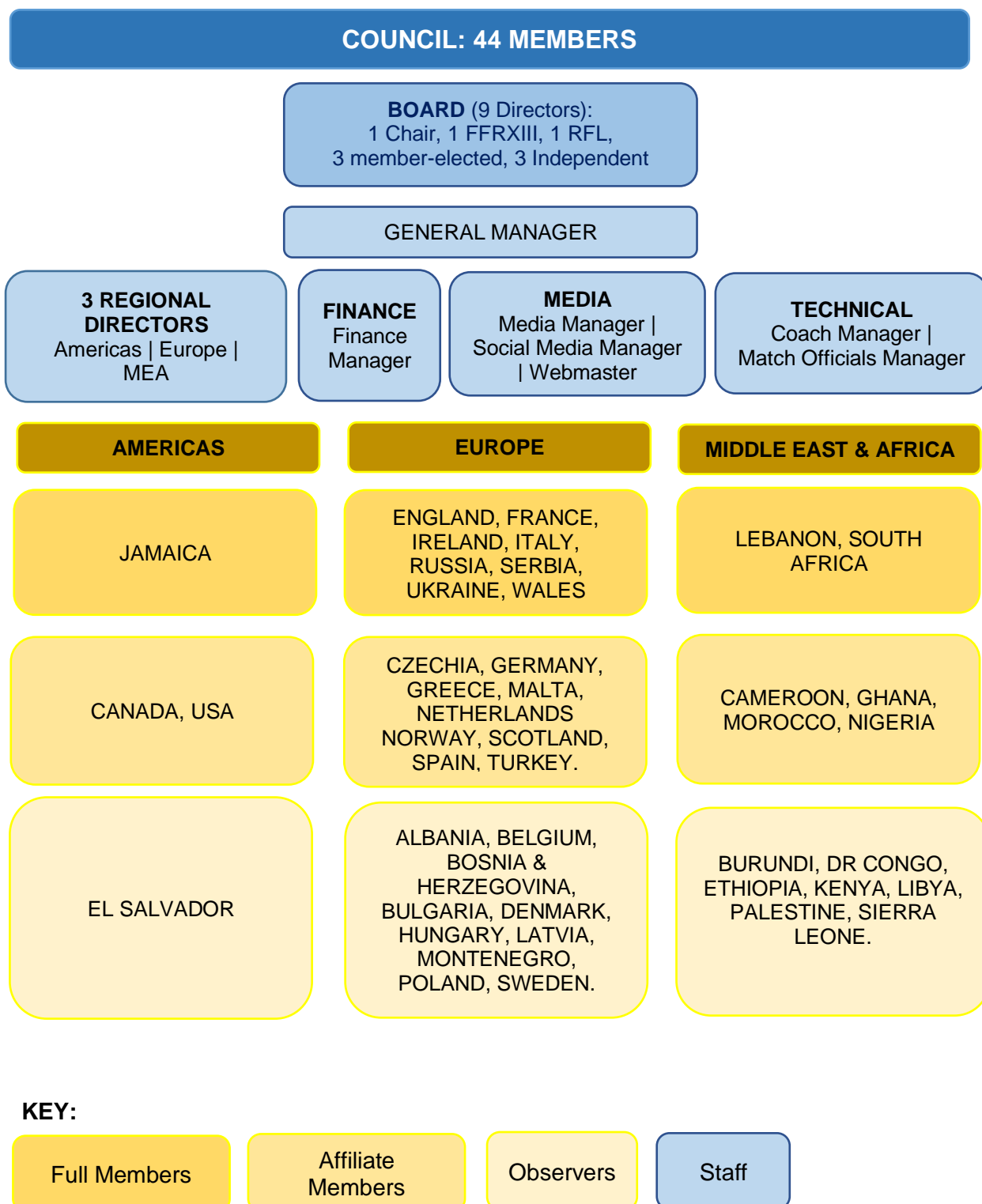
LUC LACOSTE

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. Luc is an ERL representative on the IRL Board.

FFRXIII DIRECTOR



APPENDIX 1: ERL ORGANISATION



APPENDIX 2: DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

EUROPE DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

| MEMBER | LEVEL | Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS | 2 ND DIVISION* [teams] | Jr. LEAGUE [teams] |
|----------------------------|-----------|---|--|--------------------|
| ENGLAND 2021 | FULL | Super League XXVI [12] St. Helens | Championship [14] Toulouse Olympique | Multiple |
| FRANCE 2020-21 | FULL | Elite 1 [10] FC Lezignan XIII | Elite 2 [10] Didn't finish, due Covid-19 pandemic | Multiple |
| IRELAND 2021 | FULL | All Ireland Championships [6] Longhorns RL | N/A | N/A |
| ITALY 2021 | FULL | - | - | - |
| RUSSIA 2021 | FULL | - | - | - |
| SERBIA 2021 | FULL | Championship [6] RLC Red Star Belgrade | - | U19 [4] |
| UKRAINE 2021 | FULL | Championship [6] Legion XIII | - | Multiple |
| WALES 2021 | FULL | Championship [4] Bridgend Bl. Bulls | - | Multiple |
| CZECH R. 2021 | AFFILIATE | First Division [5] Krupka Dragons | - | N/A |
| GERMANY 2021 | AFFILIATE | - | - | - |
| GREECE 2020-2021 | AFFILIATE | Championship [N/A] Rhodes Knights | - | - |
| MALTA 2021 | AFFILIATE | Championship [3] N/A | - | - |
| NETHERLANDS 2021 | AFFILIATE | - | - | - |
| NORWAY 2021 | AFFILIATE | Championship [6] Stavanger Storm | - | - |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| SCOTLAND 2021 | AFFILIATE | Championship [5] Edinburg Eagles | - | - |
| SPAIN 2021 | AFFILIATE | - | - | - |
| TURKEY 2021 | AFFILIATE | - | - | - |

AMERICAS DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

| MEMBER | LEVEL | Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS | 2 ND DIVISION* [teams] | Jr. LEAGUE [teams] |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| CANADA 2021 | AFFILIATE | Men's Championship [6] Provincial Winners Women's Championship [0] | - | - |
| JAMAICA 2021 | FULL | National Club Championship [0] Women's Championship [0] | Collegiate [0] Div. 2 : [0] | U16s : [0] |
| EL SALVADOR 2021 | OBSERVER | - | - | - |
| USA 2021 | AFFILIATE | National Championship [6] Tampa Mayhem Women's Championship [0] | - | - |

MEA DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

| MEMBER | LEVEL | Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS | 2 ND DIVISION* [teams] | Jr. LEAGUE [teams] |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BURUNDI 2021 | OBSERVER | Men's Championship [16] - XIII Des Béliers RL Women's Championship [8] -XIII des Gorilles | - | - |
| CAMEROON 2021 | AFFILIATE | National Championship [8] Rock RL de Douala Women's Championship [4] Raiders Academie de Yaounde | - | U17 [14] Panda RL Yaoundé |
| DR CONGO | OBSERVER | National Championship [0] | - | - |

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2021 | | - | | |
| | | Women's Championship [0] | | |
| | | - | | |
| GHANA | AFFILIATE | Ghana Rugby League | - | U16 [2] |
| 2021 | | Championship [4] | | Africa Warriors |
| | | - Ghana Skolars RLFC | | |
| | | Ghana Womens Championship [3] | | |
| | | - Accra Panthers RLFC | | |
| MOROCCO | AFFILIATE | National Championship [0] | - | - |
| 2021 | | - | | |
| NIGERIA | AFFILIATE | National Championship [9] | - | - |
| 2021 | | - Kano Lions | | |
| | | Womans Championship [3] | | |
| | | -Lagos Haven | | |
| LEBANON | FULL | Lebanon Rugby League [4] | Colligate Div 1. [0] | - |
| 2021 | | Wolves RLFC | Colligate Div 2. [0] | |