

MINUTES

ERL ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

15th October 2022

Location	Inside Hotel Newcastle With attendance online via Zoom	Date	15 th October 2022
		Times (UK)	Start: 10.30 End: 11.30

Present:

Full Members (11/11)	Alison O'Brien, Simon Johnson, Tony Sutton, England (RFL), Luc Lacoste, France (FFRXIII), Jim Reynolds, Adam Cox, Ireland (RLI), Orazio D'Arro, Ileana Iacopetti, Paolo Iollo, Italy (FIRL), Nayef Abi Said, Assaad Feghali Lebanon (LRLF), Jon Christie, Russia (RARLC), Darren Fisher, Serbia (SRLF), Krappie Eloff, South Africa (SARLSA) Artur Martyrosian, Ukraine (UFRL), Brian Juliff, Wales (WRL)
Affiliate Members (12/15)	Joshua Knight, Canada (CRLA), Lukas Hergott, Czech Republic (CZRLA), Bob Doughton, Germany (NRLD), Stuart McLennan, Terry Liberopoulos, Greece (GRLF), Jafaru Mustapha, Ghana (RLFG), David Axisa, Jean-Pierre Zarb, Malta (MRL), Yamina Abdesselem Morocco (FMRL), Daan van Rossum, Netherlands (NRLB), Ade Adebisi, Nigeria (NRLA), Anne Haigh, Tom Haugen, Norway (RLN), Victoria Hogg, John Harris, Scotland (SRL), Gurol Yildiz, Fatih Mehmet Çetinkaya, Turkey (TRLA)
Observers (12/18)	Xhino Drangu, Orion Jucja, Albania (ARL), Tihomir Simeonov, Vladislav Parizov, Bulgaria (BRLF), Jean Du Christ Rusiga, Burundi (BRL), Kajibwami Arsène, DR Congo (CRL), Katerin María Herrera, El Salvador (ARLES), Issouf Ouattara, Ivory Coast (CIRL), Quicks Nyakwaka, Charles Cardivillis, Kenya (KRLF), Abdul Karim Forjani, Libya (LRLA), Rabieh Al Masri, Palestine (PRLA), Łukasz Łucka, Poland (PRXIII), Rajendra Shah, Sweden (SwRL), Daniel Geno, Fortunate Irankunda, Uganda (UAERL)
Directors	Dean Andrew OBE (Chair), Tatiana Doncaster, Mahdi Choudhury, Graeme Thompson, Alison O'Brien, Luc Lacoste, Brian Juliff, Gurol Yildiz
<u>Apologies Received</u>	None
<u>In Attendance</u>	David Butler (ERL General Manager), Remond Safi (ERL Regional Director – MEA), Jovan Vujosevic (ERL Regional Director – Europe)

Item		Action
1	Introduction	
1.1	<p data-bbox="300 315 614 353">Welcome & Apologies</p> <p data-bbox="300 383 1235 450">Dean Andrew OBE (DA) introduced the agenda for the 20th Annual Council Meeting of the European Rugby League.</p> <p data-bbox="300 483 1235 618">DA noted the sad passing of Tiziano Franchini of the Italian Rugby League Federation, noting his contributions to Rugby League in Europe over the past two decades and asked those present to pause for a moment of reflection.</p> <p data-bbox="300 651 1235 786">DA proceeded to introduce himself as Chairperson, having been appointed in May and noted his career in the Royal Air Force and his contributions to Rugby League, including playing a leading role in the staging of the 2013 Armed Forces Rugby League World Cup.</p> <p data-bbox="300 819 1235 987">DA noted the efforts that all members in Europe have gone to in order to continue the growth and development of Rugby League and noted that despite the global pandemic no longer being an issue, the rising costs of living and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine continued to present challenges.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1021 1235 1122">DA welcomed representatives from Kenya, Ivory Coast and Uganda to their first Council Meetings, noting the continued growing footprint of membership.</p>	
1.2	<p data-bbox="300 1160 1023 1198">Roll call and confirmation of voting representatives</p> <p data-bbox="300 1227 1235 1395">David Butler (DB) and Remond Safi (RS) conducted the roll call (as listed above) and confirmed that with 10 full members and 12 affiliate members present, there were 64 of the 74 votes present and thus the meeting was quorate. 33 votes would be required to pass an ordinary resolution and 56 required to pass a special resolution.</p>	
1.3	<p data-bbox="300 1429 703 1467">Conflicts of Interest Register</p> <p data-bbox="300 1496 1235 1630">The most recent Conflict of Interest Register for Board and Staff had been distributed with the papers for the meeting for the members' information. DA gave the opportunity for members to ask any questions on this. No questions were asked.</p>	
2	Minutes of the 2021 Annual Council Meeting	
2.1	<p data-bbox="300 1711 1235 1856">The draft minutes of the 2021 Annual Council Meeting were supplied with the papers for the meeting. DA gave the opportunity for members to raise any issues or ask any questions on the minutes. No questions were asked.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1901 1235 1980">As such the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting, with the motion moved by Jim Reynolds (Ireland) and</p>	

	<p>seconded by Krappie Eloff (South Africa) and were unanimously approved by the voting members present (64 For, 0 Against)</p> <p>Action: The 2021 Annual Council Meeting Minutes to be added to the ERL website.</p>	DB
3	Matters Arising From Previous Meeting	
3.1	<p>DB noted that the reconciliation and recovery of the Erasmus+ Funding remained ongoing and updated on the progress since the previous Council meeting had taken place, which included an independent audit of the project by Deloitte.</p> <p>DB said that the report had been received from Deloitte the day before the Annual Council Meeting and a deadline to respond to the report by European Rugby League was 8th November 2022.</p> <p>No questions were asked and DB confirmed that a future update would be provided in due course.</p>	
4	2021 Annual Report	
4.1	<p>DB noted that the 2021 Annual Report had been circulated to members with the papers for the meeting and had been publicly released earlier in the week preceding the Annual Council Meeting:</p> <p>DB summarised some of the highlights of the year, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe had led the way with a return to competition, with Euro B Men and Euro D Men taking place and a series of Autumn Internationals across the men’s, women’s and wheelchair disciplines having been staged. • Domestic Championships had returned, with nations breaking new ground and using innovation to return to playing following the global pandemic. • The governance review had taken place and seen several changes voted in by members at the 2021 Annual Council Meeting which had seen ERL awarded a Silver rating by the Sports Integrity Global Alliance. • A new strategy had been published and the company is actively delivering against it. • DB congratulated France on their awarding of the 2025 World Cup which was announced late in 2021, noting that it put the spotlight on Europe for two consecutive cycles. <p>Looking ahead, DB noted several positives from 2022 which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The successful staging of the first European women’s competition for six teams, with Wales winning the north group and Greece 	

	<p>winning the south group. All six participating teams will join a seventh team in 2023 in a qualification tournament for the 2025 World Cup.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U19s Men's Tournament had returned and been staged successfully in Italy, with seven teams taking part, including Ukraine who had overcome all of the challenges currently being faced in the country to attend. • 2025 Rugby League World Cup qualifying pathway had been confirmed with a men's European Championships A and B set to take place next year and a Wheelchair event also being planned. 	
5	Company Finance	
5.1	<p>DA explained that the ERL Annual Accounts had been circulated to members on the 18th June 2022 with a ballot sheet to be returned by 7th July 2021. As such the accounts were approved with 58 Votes For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Votes Against, and had been duly filed with Companies House ahead of the deadline of end of September 2022.</p> <p>DA gave the opportunity for members to ask any questions. No questions were asked.</p>	
6	Election Of Directors	
6.1	<p>DA explained that a recruitment process had taken place earlier in the year to recruit three new Independent Directors. Two, himself and Tatiana Doncaster had been appointed by the Board, pending approval from the membership, and should the membership approve the appointments they will be deemed to have commenced from the 2021 Annual Council Meeting.</p> <p>Richard Coleman, also recruited, has been acting in an Associated capacity and should be approved by the membership his terms will be deemed to commence from the 2022 Annual Council Meeting.</p> <p>As the first Independent Director to be approved was DA, he handed over to DB who read out the resolution: It is resolved to confirm the election of Independent Director Dean Andrew. This was proposed by Darren Fisher (Serbia) and seconded by Gurol Yildiz (Turkey) and was unanimously approved by the voting members present (64 For, 0 Against).</p>	
6.2	<p>DA then proceeded with the next election: It is resolved to confirm the election of Independent Director Tatiana Doncaster. This was proposed by Victoria Hogg (Scotland) and seconded by Raj Shah (Sweden) and was unanimously approved by the voting members present (64 For, 0 Against).</p>	
6.3	<p>DA then read the final resolution: It is resolved to confirm the election of Independent Director Richard Coleman. This was proposed by</p>	

	Daan Van Rossum (Netherlands) and seconded by Assaad Feghali (Lebanon) and was unanimously approved by the voting members present (64 For, 0 Against).	
6.4	<p>DA informed the membership that following the closure of the ballot to elected a Member-Elected Director, Ileana Iacopetti had been elected with 54 Votes For, 4 Votes Against and was also to be duly appointed to the Board as of the 2022 Annual Council Meeting.</p> <p>Action: David Butler to update the record on Companies House with the new appointments.</p>	DB
7	Any Other Business	
7.1	<p>Departing Directors</p> <p>DA noted the contribution that Mahdi Choudhury had made to the European Rugby League over the four years he had been involved as a Director, which also included a 3-month stint as General Manager before DB joined the business on the full time basis. Mahdi's contributions to the FARC and the Governance Working Group have made a huge difference to the organisation. DA thanked Mahdi Choudhury once more for his efforts and wished him well for the future.</p> <p>DA noted Graeme Thompson's 13 years' contribution to the European Rugby League as a Director, which included being interim-chairperson from August 2021 to May 2022 and also a period as interim-chairperson of the IRL from November 2018 to January 2020 which he had also served as a Director since 2011.</p> <p>DA highlighted Graeme's commitment to the international game, especially in Europe and noted that his exceptional contributions to the sport will be missed.</p> <p>DA presented a commemorative shirt to Graeme to recognise his contribution.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1112hrs to allow the 2023 European B Men's competition draw to take place.</p>	