

# MINUTES

## RUGBY LEAGUE EUROPEAN FEDERATION LIMITED

### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2015

<b>Location</b>	Hotel Srbija, Belgrade, Serbia	<b>Date</b>	Saturday 4 July, 2015
<b>Chair</b>	Maurice Watkins (RFL)	<b>Time</b>	1200 hrs

**Members Present** Tony Palacios (Asociación Española de RL), Lukas Hergott (Czech RL Association), Carlos Zalduendo (Federation Française a RXIII), Fabio DiPietro, Tiziano Franchini (Federazione Italiana RL), Andreas Kolettis, Tasos Pantazidis (Hellenic Federation RL), Vilmaris Sokolovs (Latvian RL), Remond Safi (Lebanese RL Federation), Nigel Wood (Rugby Football League), Michael Aughey (RL Ireland), Enrique Guy, David Hunter (RL Norge), Keith Hogg, Graeme Thompson (Scotland RL), Marko Janković, Radoslav Novakovic (Serbian RL Federation), Kobus Botha (South African RL), Artur Martyrosyan (Ukrainian Federation RL), Brian Juliff, Chris Thair (Wales RL)

**Observers** Zsolt Lukacs, Balint Mezes (Hungarian RL Federation), Timo Meinders (Nederlandse RL Bond), Raj Shah (Swedish RL Förening)

**Co. Secretary** Danny Kazandjian

**In attendance** Martin Crick, Tom Mather, Nebojsa Sretenovic, Jovan Vujosevic, James Vukmirovic (RLEF), Čedomir Hrnjaz, Zreten Sec (Bosnia & Herzegovina)

**Apologies** Cory Tukeli (Canada RL Association), Richard Naylor (Danmark RL Forbund), Ventley Brown (Jamaican RL Association), Anthony Micallef (Malta RL), Bob Doughton (Nationaler RL Deutschland), Jatin Hiranandani (Sierra Leone RL Federation), Peter Illfield (United States Association of RL)

**Absent** Association of RL Clubs (Russia)

#### **Item No.    Agenda Item**

##### **1.0    Roll call of voting representatives & apologies**

Maurice Watkins opened the meeting by thanking the Serbian RL Federation for their excellent organisation, welcoming all the delegates and asking company secretary Danny Kazandjian to call the roll for the official record.

Following the roll call MW noted that nine of 11 Full Members, six of nine Affiliate Members and three of 13 Observers were represented. The presence of 15 members equaled the record number set in 2014. All but one European member was represented.

He extended a special welcome to RLIF chairman Nigel Wood and SARL president Kobus Botha, who had travelled a long way to attend. MW thanked everyone for their effort in attending the Congress; he read out the apologies (listed above); and confirmed the meeting was quorate, with 42 of the RLEF's available 53 votes present in the room.

MW introduced the top table, including the RLEF Board to the delegates.

MW noted the last minute absence of director Paul Nicholson on account of serious family illness.

## **2.0 Minutes of 2014 Meeting**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 August 2014 were presented and unanimously approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

### **3.1 Amend the Membership policy document, to re-word the "under-18" segment following further consultation, and submit to the RLIF on behalf of the RLEF Council**

DK reported that, following 2014 Council Meeting, there had been a consultation between DK, Chris Thair (WRL), who had proposed the amendment to the regulation, and Nebojsa Sretenovic and Graeme Thompson, representing the RLEF Membership. The quartet agreed to define the age categories as:

*"The age range of the competition may be anything from U14 to U18, with the six named teams all being of the same age category."*

The RLIF Board subsequently accepted the RLEF's recommendation and the new membership policy was adopted on 24 October 2014. The policy was then distributed to Members and published on official RLEF website. MW said this was a good example of the RLEF members positively contributing to the global game.

## **4.0 General Manager's report**

DK delivered his report to Council.

## **5.0 Financial report to the Council**

NS delivered the financial report to Council, including a report on the 2014 RLEF Ltd statutory accounts, which he confirmed had been signed off by Graeme Thompson on behalf of the Board earlier that day; the 2015 management accounts as at 31 May 2015; and budget forecasts. NS took questions from the members.

CT highlighted the lack of commercial income generated by the RLEF. NS said the RLEF had appointed an Independent Director in December 2013 specifically to address the RLEF's commercial performance but that the absence of a stable, long-term international calendar had made progress difficult. GT confirmed that selling the rights of the European Championship and generating income through this competition were priorities for the RLEF.

Brian Juliff (WRL) said the RLEF needs to establish the brand of the European Championship. Nigel Wood (RLIF) said that commercial income was difficult to generate and estimated six months before the RLIF's calendar would be completed.

Tiziano Franchini (FIRL) asked NW to explain the RLIF's properties. NW said that the RLIF owns the rights to the Rugby League World Cup and the RLWC qualifiers.

There being no further discussion MW read out the following resolutions:

*Council moves to adopt 2014 RLEF accounts.*

Remond Safi (LRLF) moved and BJ seconded the motion.

The members voted unanimously in favour and the 2014 accounts were adopted.

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

RS moved and CT seconded the motion.

The members voted unanimously in favour.

**Action: DK to send statutory accounts to Haysmacintyre to lodge with Companies House.**

#### **6.0 Proposal to amend the RLEF Ltd Articles 57 and 58(d)**

GT summarised the year-long process to get to this position and explained the rationale behind the proposal to increase the number of Independent Directors from two to three and the Board from six to seven Directors.

MW said that every member would now have the opportunity to examine the proposal and discuss internally before voting on the changes outlined in the supplied paper.

**Action: DK to disseminate voting instructions and ballots to all members.**

#### **7.0 2015 Independent Director recruitment**

MW reported to Council that RLEF Director Richard Graham had notified him that he intended to step down from his role after four years on the Board. MW thanked RG for his contribution to the RLEF, especially for his leadership of the Financial Audit Risk Committee.

He reported that the Board felt that a replacement Independent Director should cover one or more of the following sectors: event management, EU / EC relations; international sporting relations.

MW confirmed that the Board had instructed DK to advertise for applicants.

#### **8.0 Any other business**

MW informed Council that, following the RLEF's recent move into new premises in central London, the Board felt it would be appropriate to change the company address from the RFL's address in Leeds to the new London address and had instructed the company secretary to make that change.

#### **9.0 Next meeting**

MW said that the tendering process for 2015 had been quite compact due to Council only agreeing to move the Congress around Europe in August 2014. He said that now more time was available and confirmed that the tendering process would begin very soon for the 2016 Congress.

There being no further business, MW once again thanked the delegates for their presence and contributions and closed the meeting at 13.10.