

Minutes of the meeting

Annual General Meeting of the Finnish Rugby Federation 2008

Place: Jyväskylä, hotelli Laajavuori

Time: Saturday 1st March 2008

Present:

Bro Bannatyne
Tytti Yli-Viikari
Roy Casey
Stephen Whittaker
Mathieu Nicodeme
Juhani Majanen
Henri Tyrväinen
Petri Virrankoski
Andras Devenyi
Pauliina Paananen
Henriikka Riekkö
Karita Muotka
Jussi Kivelä
Otto Nojonen
Kevin Collet (arrived 13.19)
Kaariina Sahala (arrived 13.19)
Noora Lampinen (arrived 13.24)
Marc-Olivier Meunier (arrived 13.36)
Aurélien Commare (arrived 13.36, left 13.55)
Emmi Laine (arrived 14.00)
Tanja Malinen (arrived 14.00)
Kukka Aho (arrived 14.00)
Heta Lampinen (arrived 14.56)

1. Opening of the meeting

- The meeting was opened at 13.03.

2. Choosing a president, a secretary and two scrutinizers and if necessary, two vote-counters for the meeting

- The chairman for the meeting was elected as Roy Casey.
- Secretary for the meeting was Stephen Whittaker.
- Scrutinizers were elected as Bro Bannatyne & Tytti Yli-Viikari.

3. The regularity and the quorum of the meeting are confirmed

- It was agreed that a quorum was met

The Club representatives were noted as below:

HRFUC: Stephen Whittaker & Juhani Majanen

Eagles: Karita Muotka & Heta Lampinen
TRUC: Petri Virrankoski & Otto Nojonen
Rauma Ice Pack: Noora Lampinen
Rovaniemi: Henriikka Riekk
WRC: Roy Casey & Kukka Aho
JRC: Tanja Malinen & Emmi Laine

4. The agenda of the meeting is agreed

- The agenda was approved.

The discussion of the Men's NT was requested to be added to any other business, although it also coincided with discussions on the 2008 budget and action plan.

5. The balance sheet 2007, the annual report 2007 and the auditor's opinion are presented

- The Accounts of 2007 were presented but unfortunately they were unaudited due to one of the auditors being in Australia and the other not available. Therefore the accounts could not be closed for the year 2007 and the Board of 2007 could not be released. This will take place in the upcoming Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- Roy Casey questioned a breakdown in the budget of how much each National Team (NT) spends, it had been requested prior to the Annual General Meeting but hadn't been answered. This info should be made available at the EGM.

6. A decision is taken on the confirmation of the balance sheet and on the discharge given to the board and other liable bodies

- The Annual Report of the Finnish Rugby Federation 2007 was presented by Tytti Yli-Viikari. The report had been sent to clubs by e-mail prior to the meeting.
The FRF board have had 5 meetings since the AGM of 2007. Since then, there have been many resignations;
Mikko Juvonen – 02/08, Akseli Eskolin 10/07, Stevan Thorne 01/08,
Non-FRF Board members Frederic Lavalie (General Secretary) 02/08 and Laura Laakso 8/07 (but replaced by Heta Lampinen) Women's rugby coordinator.
Several Board members have been fairly inactive throughout the year.
Problems within the Board seem to be that too much work is laden on to too few people.
There were no long-term sponsorship contracts for 2007.
There was no sponsorship manager for 2007.

7. The action plan 2008, the budget 2008 and the inscription and membership fees' amounts for 2008 are decided upon

Andras Devenyi raised the question of the Men's National Team, (the relevance being that it was related to the Budget of 2008 which was in turn linked to the Annual Report and Action Plan).

Due to the amount of finance the Women's NT's are proposed to receive in 2008 against the Men's, he questioned whether the women should concentrate on 15's or 7's rugby, which might then enable the men's team to continue. He questioned whether the FRF was stretching itself too thin financially by supporting 4 National Teams.

Roy Casey questioned supporting a Men's NT which showed a lack of motivation, with less than half those invited to training camps attending.

Mathieu Nicodeme commented that one of the reasons that the former NT Men's coach quit was this lack of player engagement.

Andras Devenyi stated that in his view, the NT coach quit because of a lack of support from the FRF and a possibility of demoting ourselves to European group 3D.

Tytti Yli-Viikari stated that the NT's are the flagships of Finnish rugby and should bring motivation and competitiveness. Women's rugby at the national level doesn't yet have a high level of competitiveness; however NT tours and games raise that. In 2 years the women's NT has helped grow the motivation of players and the National Team players have become active in developing the sport.

Roy Casey commented that NT & development go in tandem, particularly on a grass roots level.

Petri Virrankoski added that over the last 5 years the Men's NT has been the driving force of Finnish Rugby & the level of the men's game has improved.

Bro Bannatyne agreed with Petri but given this, numbers of players within clubs have not increased.

Roy Casey stated that core NT players are not pushing their knowledge onto other clubs.

The motivation, promotion, recruitment and advancement of the NT's was generally discussed and should be discussed further at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

The budget proposal for 2008 was presented by Tytti Yli-Viikari. The proposal had been sent to clubs by e-mail prior to the meeting. IT was noted, that the representatives of clubs had not read the proposal for Action Plan 2008, which had been sent to clubs prior to the meeting. Thus it was decided, that given that the clubs did not present any points for an Action Plan, nor any comments on the proposal, the discussion on both the Action Plan 2008 and the Budget 2008 would be postponed to the Extraordinary General Meeting.

It was also noted how the figures in the budget proposal were devised; by order of how the current board realized the priorities of Finnish Rugby;

1. Women's NT 7's. 2. Under 20's / Development. 3. Women's NT 15's. 4. Men's NT 15's

Petri Virrankoski noted that the budget of NT's shouldn't be decided by recent form alone and that the criteria should reflect accordingly. New players are naturally a good thing but the current team also needs to be supported and if the talked about idea of demoting the men's team down a division to group 3D would result in at least 10 of the core men's NT players leaving the sport.

- A proposal was made in relation to introducing a player's license fee against a club team fee, championship fee and referees fee. By introducing such a player's license fee at ~25€ plus the FRF membership fee of 100€ this could equate to an income of roughly 8000€, which could be used for development. This would be a sum of money that wasn't previously available to the FRF.
- The proposal of Players License fees was put to vote, the cost being discussed was 15€, 20€ and 25€. 25€ was the chosen amount. 8 voted in favour of the license and the amount, 1 vote was against and 1 vote was in abstention.

Subsequently Players license fees at 25€ per player was agreed upon for the year of 2008.

it was noted of extreme importance that 1 person needs to take charge of the upkeep and issuing of these licenses.

- The License cards will also apply to Under 18's at a fee of 10€.

There were 10 votes in favour and 1 against. The proposal was adopted.

- It was raised that the current treasurer has an outstanding bill of ~1500€ which was acquired in 2006, these accounts have been closed. The bill was brought to the Board's attention in October 2007, after several requests previously for any outstanding debts that needed paying. It was questioned whether the Board was still liable to pay this debt, given that the 2006 accounts had been audited and closed.

A vote was cast in which the outcome was 7 in favour of paying this sum to Esa Launis, 3 were against paying the debt and there was 1 abstention. The proposal was adopted.

It was then questioned whether this debt should be paid in a 1 off payment or in installments. The treasurer was supposed to issue monthly bills to the former FRF President for reclamation of outstanding debts, but these bills were not issued regularly. A suggestion was made that EL should perhaps reclaim his outstanding debt from the former President who still has an outstanding debt. The issue was left to be dealt by the board 2008.

- The FRF membership fee was voted on, for it to stay at the current rate – 100€ per club.

10 were in favour and 2 were against. The proposal was adopted.

Rovaniemi proposed that the fee should be based on the membership size per club rather than as a club payment.

Turku requested that there should be either an FRF membership fee or a License fee.

- It was then voted on as to whether the Championship / development league and Women's division fees should be abolished, currently 100€, 50€ & 100€

11 were in favour of abolishing these fees, none were against and 1 abstained. The proposal was adopted.

- The referees fee for 2008 was voted on. Championship league teams would pay 150€ per team, Development league teams would pay 0€ and Women's league would pay 150€ per team.

11 were in favour of this and 1 was against. The proposal was adopted.

8. The board's President is elected and the other members of the board are elected

- The election of FRF Chairman.

As no nominees stepped forward for this position, Bro Bannatyne raised the point of a figure head running the FRF over a Chairman, although this would need competent and productive board members.

Tytti Yli-Viikari proposed 3 persons for the position of Chairman – Roy Casey, Heta Lampinen & Emmi Laine. Roy Casey declined the position, as did Emmi Laine. Heta Lampinen deliberated and accepted the nomination, It was put to vote on electing Heta Lampinen as FRF Chairman

In favour: 9 votes, against: 1 vote, ABSTAIN: 1 vote.

Heta Lampinen was elected as Chairman for 2008. Bro Bannatyne was thanked for his personal engagement, efforts and all he's done during his time within the FRF.

- Nominations of Board members for 2008
Henry Tyrväinen (continuing)
Roy Casey
Noora Lampinen
Kevin Collet
Mathieu Nicodeme

Semu Salmivalli
Djamal Amalou – Deputy (continuing)
Emmi Laine – Deputy

Tytti Yli-Viikari withdrew her nomination.

On the voting of Board members for the year of 2008, the decision was unanimous, as above.
On the voting of Deputy board members for the year of 2008, the decision was unanimous, as above.

Kevin Collet raised the question regarding the job description for the General Secretary. Tytti Yli-Viikari answered referring to the FIRA-AER recommendations, where the Administrative and Financial tasks are the responsibility of the Secretary General, whereas the Development of the Sport is the responsibility of the Development Officer.

9. One or two auditors are chosen as well as their deputies

- For the nominations of and voting for Auditors and their deputies for 2008
Akseli Eskolin was proposed.
This was moved to discussion and decision at the EGM

10. Any other business

- Petri Virrankoski raised the possibility of a winter Touch Rugby League, more details and further discussions at the EGM
- The continuing discussions regarding the Men's NT 15's will be discussed at the EGM.

11. Closing of the Meeting

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 16.16

Stephen Whittaker

Bro Bannatyne

Tytti Yli-Viikari