



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

Member of World Rugby
Member of Rugby Europe
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English summary of the minutes of the SRL autumn general meeting

Time: 25th November, 11 am

Place: Kumppanuustalo, Hämeenlinna

Participants: Jens Willadsen (chairperson of the meeting, no vote), Leena-Maija Vanha-aho (TRC, secretary of the meeting), Riika Poikela (TRC), Oskari Tenhunen (Linna), Pete Pitkämäki (Linna), Jessi Mäenpää (Turku), Hanne Yli-Parkas (Turku), Chris Gibbons (FRRA), Palemia Field (FRRA), Rasmus Basilier (Åland), Samuel Kuutti (Kuopio, saapui klo 11.45 kohdan 6 aikana), Mika Partanen (Kuopio), Chris Dryd (Espoo), David McDougall (Espoo), Ville Siiskonen (HRC), Niilo Kivistö (HRC), Jatta Harju (WRC), Heikki Harju (WRC), Heidi Koffert (JRC), Tero Siivonen (JRC), Ray Dickson (Porvoo), John King (Porvoo), Jaakko Salo (Pori), Madis Kopper (Kalev, no vote), Mathieu Nicodème (no vote), Steve Whittaker (no vote), George Mossford (no vote), Akseli Eskolin (no vote), Jaakko Kannainen (no vote), Sini Hakkarainen (no vote)

Summary:

Jens Willadsen opened the meeting at 11.05

Jens Willadsen was elected as chair of the meeting, Leena-Maija Vanha-aho as secretary of the meeting, and Pete Pitkämäki and Oskari Tenhunen as scrutinizers and vote counters for the meeting.

The **membership fee** of the SRL for 2018 will be 200 € per member (25 € increase in membership fees). The board will look into, if the membership fees could be based on club size/level of competition.

The proposed **action plan** and **budget** were discussed in length. The main discussion point was the suggested change in the administrative structure of the SRL, where the technical director (TD) and general secretary (GS) would be part-time workers. Also, the TD and GS together with the treasurer would form an executive team, which would carry most of the work load of the SRL.

Several points were made during the discussion. George Mossford suggested that the TD would be a full-time position and the GS role would be handled by a volunteer. He also brought up the matter of renaming the TD position to development officer or something similar. George Mossford also noted that an annual growth of 10% in player numbers is not realistic in Finland. The need for a development officer, an administrative person and a marketing person was discussed. It was also suggested that the potential marketing person could work on commission. The recruitment of local development officers was suggested by John King. HRC wished for more transparency in the recruitment and opening up the application process also to non-rugby applicants. The abilities of the SRL to act as an employer and the contents of TD's consultancy contract were discussed.



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It was noted that SM-viikko and the SRL's 50-year celebration were not mentioned in the budget.

The votes were 12-10 against the proposed action plan and budget.

After revising the administrative part of the action plan and the admin budget related to it, the **action plan and the budget were accepted** (19 votes in favor, 3 against). In addition, a mention about the 50th anniversary of the SRL was added to the action plan. It was noted that according to Rasmus Basilier (Åland) there was an error in the voting process.

George Mossford was unanimously elected as the **new chairperson** of the SRL.

New board members were elected. Five two-year positions and one 1-year position were open. Nine people stated their interest in a **board position**:

Mika Sirviö (ex-HRC)
Samuel Kuutti (HRC)
Paavo Honkanen (HRC, primarily interested in a 1-year position)
Mathieu Nicodème (HRC, SRL)
Palemia Field (FRRA, SRL)
Akseli Eskolin (FRRA)
John King (OTS)
Saara Ilmonen (JRC)
Sini Hakkarainen (WRC, team manager for women's 15's NT)

Clubs were advised to name 6 candidates in preferential order. Number 1 received 6 points, number 2 five points etc.

Result of the vote:

Saara Ilmonen, 96
Samuel Kuutti, 80
Sini Hakkarainen, 79
John King, 71
Palemia Field, 44
Mathieu Nicodème, 31 (1-year position)

Paavo Honkanen, 29 (deputy member for 1 year)

Akseli Eskolin, 19
Mika Sirviö, 13

Saara Ilmonen, Samuel Kuutti, Sini Hakkarainen, John King and Palemia Field were elected for two-year positions and Mathieu Nicodème for a 1-year position (replaces Chris Gibbons). Paavo Honkanen was elected to be deputy member for one year to replace Palemia Field, who was elected as a full board member. Janne Lumme and



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Leena-Maija Vanha-aho will continue their terms as board members and Akseli Eskolin will continue his term as deputy member.

Jussi Okkonen was appointed the auditor (*'toiminnantarkastaja'*) for 2017 and Hanne Yli-Parkas for 2018.

There has been an active discussion about the timing and structure of the women's 7's series and 15's championship series. The beginning of the 15's season may be delayed next summer. Discussion will continue later.

Ville Siiskonen presented the plans for the men's sevens series. There will be four tournaments (Järvenpää, Lahti, Turku, Åland). It will be discussed later, whether SM-viikko will be part of the tournament series.

Jyväskylä has proposed a change in the regulations regarding player loans. Because Mauno Konttila was not able to be present at the meeting to present the proposal, discussion will be continued later via email.

SRL's treasurer suggested that new boards would start their term at the beginning of each calendar. The suggestion was accepted.

The finals day venue for 2018 was discussed. Linna volunteered to organize the finals. Kuopio would also be interested, but the time of the year is a challenge, since 4 matches need to be played and most of the pitches will be closed already. More discussion to follow.

The SRL will be recruiting a new team manager for the women's 7's NT. Mikko Aalto has been temporarily in the manager role.

The reasons behind Aussie Bar not continuing their sponsorship of the men's 15's NT was discussed. Espoo asked, whether AB requested the SRL chairperson and GS to change in order to renew their sponsorship. The new board will decide, whether the SRL will discuss the potential renewal of the contract.

The issues regarding the Macron contract and women's 7's NT were discussed. Mathieu Nicodème told that after discussions with the SRL board and 7's NT team management, the SRL board issued a warning to the head coach of the women's 7's NT. The head coach refused the warning.

Espoo requested an amendment to the SRL's constitution that would require the board to deliver the necessary documents for AGM's one month in advance. It was noted that the timetable is not possible for spring AGM due to closing of the accounts. No official decisions were made. The future board will do its best.

The possibility of live streaming SRL board meetings to increase transparency was discussed. Live streaming of board meetings can prove problematic, if delicate



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matters are discussed. Live streaming of general meetings will be considered. The board will also aim to deliver minutes of board meetings to the clubs within 2 weeks of the meeting. The board will use its discretion to determine what will be included in the minutes.

Better governance initiative related to the treating of volunteers was brought up by Espoo. No advances have been made in the issue. However, the Finnish Olympic Committee has been contacted and has helped with relevant matters. In addition, the current treasurer Riika Poikela has also experience in the matter.

Jens Willadsen closed the meeting at 4.50 pm.