

## Minutes of the meeting

### Extraordinary Annual General Meeting of the Finnish Rugby Federation 2008

**Place:** Tampere University of Technology, Korkeakoulunkatu 10

**Time:** Saturday 30th March 2008

**Present:**

Roy Casey  
Joakim Grader  
Noora Lampinen  
Mathieu Nicodeme  
Palemia Field  
Semu Salmivalli  
Jussi Kivelä (left 13:25)  
Petri Virrankoski (arrived 13:25)  
Emmi Laine  
Virpi Sironen  
Henri Tyrväinen  
Heta Lampinen  
Kevin Collet

1. Opening of the meeting

- The meeting was opened at 12:30.

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 Mathieu Nicodeme.
- Secretary for the meeting was Heta Lampinen.
- Scrutinizers were elected as Emmi Laine & Joakim Grader.
- Vote-counter for the meeting was Kevin Collet

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: Mathieu Nicodeme & Palemia Field

TRUC: Semu Salmivalli, Jussi Kivelä, replaced by Petri Virrankoski at 13:25

Rauma Ice Pack: Heta Lampinen

WRC: Roy Casey & Joakim Grader

JRC: Virpi Sironen & Emmi Laine

4. The agenda of the meeting is agreed

- The agenda was approved.

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

Mathieu Nicodeme, volunteered as a deputy auditor when the auditors (Scott Fraser and David Murray) chosen by the AGM 2007 in Tampere, informed the FRF board that they could not do the task. Mathieu have gone through the balance sheet 2007 and recommends it to be closed.

6. Closing the accounts for the year 2007 and releasing of the board and other liable bodies of 2007

It is voted whether the accounts should be closed and the board and the liable bodies of 2007 released.

In favor: 8

Against: 1

The accounts are closed and board and the liable bodies of 2007 released.

7. The budget 2008 is presented.

The action plan was presented and approved in the AGM 1.3.2008 in Jyväskylä. The budget 2008 is presented by Roy Casey of behalf of the FRF board. General discussion of the items within the budget.

Henri Tyrväinen pointed out that the playing kit for women's team, is not included in the budget. It was pointed out that the kit arriving on October 2008, can be given to the women's team.

Emmi Laine commented about the budget for under 18 tag tournaments. It seemed high to her. She questioned what the money was meant for, as to her knowledge playing the tournaments and teaching rugby in schools doesn't require much money.

Roy Casey explained about his idea of under 18 tag tournaments, where there would be a price money for teams/ coaches and possibly the referees could need to be compensated of their travel.

Emmi made a question whether this kind of tournament is arranged too soon. And were there enough youth involved in rugby. Petri Virrankoski and Joakim Grader pointed out that there is a lot of youth involved in rugby in Oriveri and in Porvoo and that they should be given a chance to utilise and develop their rugby skills. Pa-lemia Field also pointed out that something needed to happen soon in the youth rugby development.

Joakim raised the issue on behalf of Warriors, of the club payments and asked why they were double compared to the previous ones. It was pointed out that decision regarding the club payments to FRF were voted on in the AGM in Jyväskylä. Joakim had no argument against this.

The approval of the budget for 2008 was put under vote.

In favour: 7

Against: -

Absentention: 2

The budget for 2008 was approved.

8. One or two auditors are chosen as well as their deputies for the 2008 accounts.

- Auditors selected were: Joakim Grader and Palemia Field
- Their deputies: Petri Virrankoski and Lasse Sariola

9. Hosting the Men's NT Home Internationals on 17th and 24th of May 2008.

Mathieu raised a question whether the guest teams, Bosnia and Luxembourg have been contacted about the internationals in Finland. Mathieu also said that he, as the FRF International Officer, would be happy to do it. The information he needed for the guest teams were following:

- In which city are the games played: Helsinki
- What time are the games scheduled to begin: 15:00
- On which pitch are the games played: Myllypuro, Pitch 1.

It was decided that an Organizing Committee would be formed for the Home Internationals. Roy Casey volunteered to act as a contact person from the FRF and make a list of volunteers.

Palemia Field volunteered to give a press release on the matter.

There was general discussion about "lucky door prize" that could be given to a spectator and to a player. Nothing was decided on the matter.

It was pointed out that a training pitch would be needed for the opponent team and also a place for the third half and banquet.

Mathieu requested a detailed budget about the costs of home internationals. Joakim answered that he has a budget. Mathieu replied that the detailed budget should be approved before the internationals.

The HRC and WRC members raised an issue of potential profits from arranging home internationals. It was agreed in principle that the clubs that were involved in the arrangements should profit of their work, if there is any.

HRC and WRC will have a meeting with the FRF representative in order to decide on details.

It was pointed out that the Luxemburg team that has their flight to Tampere is obligated to pay their bus trip from Tampere to Helsinki and back by themselves, as it is in the (FIRA-AER, IRB?) rules that the flight should be on the host country's capital. It was also decided that the Organizing Committee would assist on getting the bus for Luxemburg if necessary.

10. Referees 2008 status

Heta presented briefly the status update of the Finnish referees by George Mossford. At the moment there were 4 referees that had replied on George's questionnaire regarding willingness to referee on the 2008 season. 2 of the referees that had replied were players that will not be available when their own team plays.

Palemia pointed out that each club should bound to provide a referee and that the problem was also geographical. It was pondered how to get more referees, what determines a referee, and how to get beginners to referee. One suggestion was to have the beginners' refs as touch judges in championship games.

Emmi suggested that clubs should be sent a questionnaire of people who would be willing to learn how to ref.

Mathieu summarized that following must be done:

- must find people who are interested in to become a referee
- those candidates must attend a course
- people that attended a course must referee 2 development games and evaluate their success.
- Goal is that each club would have 2 referees.

Joakim suggested that FRF board would come up a referee plan and give a mandate to the clubs.

Mathieu volunteered to formulate the mandate.

## 11. League review 2008 - Women and Men

Heta informed that George will provide the finalized league structure soon.

## 12. Touch Rugby League

Petri Virrankoski presented an initiative of Winter Touch Cup that would be played indoors on artificial grass.

The idea would be to prolong the season and introduce the proper touch rules to the clubs. The Cup would be competed as a series of tournaments (both men and women).

Mathieu raised a question of funding the tournaments.

Petri replied that the expenses would be covered by the participation fees or be otherwise self-funding, so the Cup would require no budgeting from FRF.

Henri Tyrväinen volunteered to act as a FRF representative and contact person on a matter.

Roy raised a question would there be possibility for a club to have 2 teams competing?

Petri replied that it would be one team/club.

The proposal was found good and given a go-ahead by the club and board representatives at the meeting.

Petri would start to build up an organising committee for Winter Touch Cup.

## 13. Sevens League for Women

Henri Tyrväinen presented a proposal of women's 7's league. The league would be 5 tournaments held on spring and autumn. The estimated cost for such league would be 1500 euros and Henri volunteered to organise the events if there were club interest. The sevens would be good way to introduce rugby to small teams.

Emmi pointed out that the rugby calendar for the women was already very booked.

Joakim made a remark that the game of sevens is totally different from 15's and also quite difficult for a beginner.

Mathieu pointed out that FIRA finds rugby sevens very important and that it is lobbed as a Olympic sport.

Joakim asked about the FRF board's opinion about the 7's. Do they want men to start play sevens as well? Mathieu replied that the board hasn't discussed about the matter, but that FIRA is emphasizing rugby sevens a lot.

Some general discussion regarding the nature of the sevens game.

Petri raised an issue why 7's league should only be for women? And could it be played before the XV season?

It was agreed by everyone present that the Sevens League for both men and women is a good idea, but requires deeper research and promotion. It is suggested that Henri will keep on doing this.

#### 14. Any other issues

It was mentioned that in next year (2009) the men's (senior) side would have the 2-year season transformed into 1-year season. This would mean 8 games/year. This needs to be clarified from FIRA.

Nordic Cup competition. Jyväskylä Rugby Club ladies and Tampere Rugby Club men raised the issue of Nordic Cup competition, scheduled to take place in Oslo this year. This competition is for the winners of the local (Nordic countries) competitions. The FRF board was requested to find out the arrangements. Both JRC ladies and TRC men's teams are prepared and willing to travel to Oslo and also willing to fund and arrange their own journey. The tournament is scheduled take place at the same time as Midnight Rugby. Mathieu Nicodeme volunteered to find out the arrangement on behalf of FRF.

#### 15. Closing of the Meeting

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 15:30

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Heta Lampinen

Emmi Laine

Joakim Grader