

1) Opening of the meeting

9:40 meeting opens.

2) Choosing 1 chairman, 1 secretary and 2 scrutinizers and if necessary 2 vote counters for the meeting.

Chairman: Palemia Field

Secretary: Mathieu Nicodème

Scrutinizer 1: Jens Willadsen

Scrutinizer 2: David McDougall

Voter counter 1: Bro Bannatyne

Vote Counter 2: ?

3) The Regularity and the Quorum of the meeting are confirmed.

CONFIRMED

4) The agenda of the meeting is agreed.

Unanimously approved.

5) The minutes of the last meeting are agreed.

Unanimously approved.

6) Budget and Annual Operational Plan are presented.

The budget and the Operational Plan have been submitted in advance of the meeting. Clubs have forwarded questions and SRL is replying to them.

QUESTION

*There seems to be inconsistency between budget sheets.*

Further clarification is needed from the General Secretary (absent and excused for this meeting). The chairman is reminding the clubs that the numbers in income and spending are projections; eventually numbers will be impacted as incomes are confirmed allowing the projected spending.

ACTION: Clarification to be forwarded from the General Secretary to the clubs.

VOTE:

Price of affiliation for Male Championship participating clubs is raised from 150 to 175 and price of affiliation for club not participating in the Male Championship is raised from 30 to 35.

Unanimously approved.

ADOPTED: Price increases for club affiliation.

As previous year, new club are not subjected to the payment of the first year of participation / affiliation. A vote is requested to define if the club should pay the affiliation subscription 1 year after 1<sup>st</sup> participation to a championship OR after 1 year of affiliation. (A club could be affiliated for a few years before being able to engage in one championship).

VOTE:

Those in favor of payment due after 1 year of affiliation: 6

Those in favor of payment due after 1 year of participation: 22

Abstention:

2

ADOPTED: Payment due after 1 year of participation to a championship.

Steve Whittacker, Technical Director, (SW) is presenting the operational plan. An open discussion starts about the possibilities for an IRB approved all weather stadium. SRL has contacts and rough budget but no candidate to finance at this stage.

QUESTIONS:

*Why should the cost associated to the SRL Website be at 600,- Euros per year where Helsinki Rugby Club is paying only 100,- Euros per year?*

SRL is interested to constrain cost on every part of its activities and businesses, the chairman was under the impression that the price was fair given the range of services but is interested nonetheless to benefit of HRC experience.

ACTION: HRC to share its organization and cost associated to the website with SRL webmaster.

*Could we have a male 7<sup>th</sup> competition this winter?*

3 competitions have been organized in the past with 2 cancelled. If the clubs are willing to have a 7<sup>th</sup> competition, SRL will support it but organization, invitations and commitment are the clubs responsibilities.

ACTION:

Process ongoing between the clubs; JRC, Vaasa and Porvoo are volunteering to host the competitions. George Mossford will represent SRL for the organization of these events. Organizers should get in touch with George.

*Why is SRL closing the 15' Women National Team (15WNT)?*

SW is presenting the facts and the reasoning behind the suspension of the 15WNT. SRL is counting 178 female licensees players for 2013. This number has not been growing fast enough to justify among the IRB the necessity to support and finance a 15WNT. IRB is questioning our judgment if we are continuing the active support of the 15WNT. SW is making an analogy with an house building process where the NT would be the roof. Without solid foundations and walls the roof is likely to collapse soon after its installation. SW has the perception that the Finnish Women Rugby has not yet the walls and foundation necessary to support a functional 15' NT (contrary to the 7'). More importantly IRB, the SRL main source of finance is considering the 15WNT a distraction from other priorities. The idea is to restore the 15WNT as soon as the resources and number of girls trained in 15' allow it.

A lot of comments and questions are fusing from the clubs:

*Suspending the 15WNT is a bad decision because:*

- *It will put to waste a lot of work done with the players over the past 5 years.*
- *We risk losing good players and coaches for the lack of challenges and interest in the rugby if there is no more international game.*
- *It is a recruitment factor, and without it, the recruitment will be harder.*

*Some advises for the future of 15WNT:*

- *During the championship, field 15 players then use additional players for sub if any; as opposed to if only 16 players on one side and 13 on the other side play 12' to manage for a few subs on both side.*
- *Take one year to regroup and to recruit and then start again.*

- *15WNT should not aim for too strong opposing team, a few games played in the last months have been unbalanced and nobody enjoy a beating.*

On the budget of the SRL, the budget for the Academy is the same as the cumulated budget for 2014 of the 15WNT and the Academy. The women rugby in Finland is receiving the same attention as last year for the 15', but to IRB and other resources SRL is focusing its effort on the development not on the National Team. The decision was taken to comply with the expectations from IRB and therefore to secure the funding for the women 15' rugby development in Finland.

There seem to be a lack of communication between coaches, players, Technical Director and SRL. SW is complaining that his emails are remaining without response. Persons involved with the 15WNT are complaining of the lack of information and support from the TD.

ACTION: Academy will invite former coaches and players from the 15WNT to participate in their activities. The Academy will become de facto the laboratory from which the future 15WNT will emerge.

ACTION: Chain of communication between SRL and its actors on the field should be clarified and communicated. If Emails are unanswered other communication materials should be used to ensure that the information has been shared and actions related will be taken.

VOTE:

Those in favor of the budget:	12
Those against the budget:	10
Abstention:	6

Budget is adopted.

VOTE:

Those in favor of the Operational Plan:	16
Those against the Operational Plan:	10
Abstention:	2

The operational Plan is adopted.

ACTION:

The TD SW will contact the clubs against the plan and/or the budget to understand the matters justifying their decision. If other matters than the suspension of the 15WNT are behind their decision to reject either or both of these important documents, they must be identified.

IMPORTANT:

During the meeting SW (TD for SRL) has received the info from IRB that they will observe and encourage women rugby development in Finland and use the experience and success as a case for future women rugby development in other countries.

7) Domestic Season 2014 review

8) 2015 Domestic season preparation

As previously agreed the Championship organization remain the same as last year. It was agreed to repeat the same procedure for 3 years to allow for minor adjustments to take place without reconsidering the guiding principle of the competition.

Men 15' Championship will be the same as 2014

Women 15' Championship will be the same as 2014. With a request for the team to field as many player as possible up to 15 and then to have subs. Clubs may have to play in numeric inferiority but it is the key to a 15' experience for most of the players in Finland.

Division 1 game will continue on the same model as 2014.

**PROPOSITION:**

Porvoo is proposing a new kind of Rugby event: "Karhu Game". It would allow for team to have more games and without interfering with the Championship. Straight Knockout open to all clubs.

**ACTION:** Bro (Porvoo) and Chris (TRC) are taking the lead on this proposition and will inform further the clubs about it.

Division 1 games have been hurt with forfeit due to distance and/or to the lack of players available at this time.

Porvoo is proposing for Division 1 to have 3 games on the same day implying 6 teams.

**ACTION:** Bro (Porvoo) will send a description to George and George will explore the different options before reporting to the SRL.

The aim for division is to play 15' rugby. Some clubs are struggling to field the necessary players. Questions about incentives and sanctions regarding commitment of clubs to games are raised. Chairman decides this discussion requires a different frame and suggests creating a subcommittee that will discuss and make proposition to the SRL for the future of the competition.

**VOTE:**

Those in favor of the creation of such committee: Unanimously approved.

**ACTION:** 6 Persons will be part of the committee (George for the SRL + 5 clubs representative). The 5 clubs to nominate a representative are: Turku, Linna, Joensuu, Porvoo and Pori.

The committee will typically look into ruling for forfeit and player loan for the competition among other aspects.

Final day for 2015 will be held in Tampere.

**PROPOSITION:**

Linna is proposing to have the AGM after the World Cup over a week end at a different date than the finals or the snow rugby. Idea being to spend more time together and prepare the meeting in advance with informal (or formal?) discussion during the week end. Agenda could include: Dinner, Sauna, Informal and Committee meetings, Mediation...

**ACTION:**

Idea well accepted by SRL board members present. This will be suggested for the next AGM.

Snow Rugby in Jyvaskylä is scheduled 1st week end of March.

Midnight Rugby in Helsinki is scheduled 1 week before Juhannus.

**10) Disciplinary and citing procedure 2015: Quick review.**

In the past, one red card would automatically generate a one game suspension.

Starting 2015, the procedure will follow an IRB motivated decision process.

IRB has defined 24 offenses with adapted responses depending on the gravity of the offense. Given the structure of the Finnish Championship, the sanction per offense for week suspension will be divided by 3 (e.g. 3 weeks suspension per IRB will become 1 match suspension for the Finnish championship).

There are 12 factors to be considered which might aggravate or minimize the offense.

There will be 3 people in the disciplinary committee chosen by George.

**11) International season 2012-2014 quick review : Men (NT and A teams).**

Ladies and U20's (selection, organization, funding).

15MNT are maintaining their position. Welcome to the new coach.

7WNT have reached their goal.

U20 and U17 are working together with Peter Tennet and Sanni Virtanen.

New recruitment will be announced to support these activities.

**12) Junior Report**

Junior have been through a lot of activities since last March.

There has been huge enthusiasm and commitment as the activities on the Facebook group and during the camps testify.

**PROPOSITION FROM SANNI:**

- To involve the Old Boys in the process to vary the coaches and multiply the experiences.
- To get kids involved in support activities on the side lines of games (championship, friendly, international...), in the style of junior helping with picking up balls during tennis tournament.
- Club to inform all their members about the youth recruitment program
- Rugby.fi website will report more accurately the activities, places and conditions to join for every one interested to take part or to support.

**ACTION:**

Sanni to inform SRL webmaster on all activities with contact details and web link if any for people to get involved.

Webmaster to publish the information on the SRL website.

13) Olympic Committee liaison report.

Ville is representing SRL among the Finnish Olympic Committee.

There have been a new board in 2012.

Valo and the Olympic committee will merge soon.

SRL will apply for the Olympic Solidarity Funding for 7WNT.

14) Anti Doping Report.

No report.

15) Important other subjects.

One of the board members of the SRL (NAME) has decided to stop her activities with the board. As per the status of the association, she will be replaced by one of the deputy member. No election necessary, a new deputy member will be elected during the next AGM.

2 auditors have been nominated to audit the accounts: Taina (VASP) and Minna (VASP).

Chris Gibbons (TRC) and Mathieu Nicodème (former SRL General Secretary, HRC member) will conduct a survey among the Finnish Club to help the building of our next 4 years strategic plan to be submitted to IRB shortly after the World Cup. Thank you for the support you will provide to their activities.

16) Closing of the meeting.

14:30 meeting is closed.

Scrutinisers's signatures: