



International Rafting Federation

MINUTES - CONGRESS 2013 16 and 19 Nov 2013, New Zealand

1. Opening – The congress was opened by Rafa Gallo, the President
Apologies roll call/ establish delegates, establish a quorum: Countries that attended: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech, France, Germany, Great Britain, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey,
2. Reports on memberships, applications, suspensions:
 1. Belgium (BRAAF being replaced by VKKF/FFC) - accepted
 2. Portugal – as organisation that is a member no longer exists or can not be contacted Portugal's membership has been suspended.
 3. France – France Raft is accepted as a full member
 4. Ukraine – Dragonboat federation was a member but is not longer contactable so Ukraine is now suspended.
 5. India – the newly formed Rafting Federation of India is accepted as a provisional member
 6. Mongolia – is accepted as a provisional member.
3. Report by the President – Rafa gave a brief summary of his report
4. Report by the Secretary – Sue gave a brief summary of her report.
5. Financial report/s for approval – approved. Noted that banking fees are still very high. Preferable to move the account to Europe but not easy. Pieter Bekkers is working on this process.
6. Budget and Financial outlook for 2014 - accepted
7. Reports from Heads of Committees - these will NOT be read during the Congress so please read them before hand. Any questions relating to these reports can be asked during this time:
 1. S&C Committee by Oleg Grigoriev and Joe Willie Jones – congratulations were given to them on job well done even though they both feel a lot more needed to be done.
 2. Guide Training & Education by Gaspar Goncz – congratulations to Gaspar and Raewyn once again for running this section so well.
 3. International Relations by Jakob Faerch;- no report
 4. Media & Marketing by Pieter Bekkers – appreciation to Pieter for dealing with the hard task of marketing in these hard financial times.
 5. Recreational Rafting & Conservation by Deb Cook – appreciation to Deb for heading a section that is not her comfort zone.
 6. Development Officer Report by Alex Pastir – no report.
 7. Judges Committee Report by Eric Boudreau – congratulations to them for improving a large number of things in the Judging sector.

8. Rafting in FISU Report by Zeljko Rajkovic – appreciation given for all Zeljko has done with this and hopefully will continue to do.
9. Rafting Ergometer Report by Boris Purjakov – appreciation given for what Boris has done and will be doing in this sector.
10. Anti-doping Com Report by Michael Lindberg – appreciation given to Michael for his work on this and expected continued work.

8. Discussions and resolutions on the proposals submitted by National Federations and BOD:

1. BOD proposals on IRF future management:

Sue explained that the work load of the ever-growing IRF needed to be shifted out to more people. We already have people like Michael Lindberg (anti-doping), Boris Purjakov (ergometer), Rafa Gallo (conservation/ carbon neutral events), Zeljko Rajkovic (FISU) who have come up with ideas and in their own time and own energy are taking these things forward.

Sue challenges all the federations and people in the IRF to take up their own ideas and to expand them to grow beyond their own regions so as to have a positive influence on rafting world wide and to grow the status of the IRF.

For instance – Alex to grow his regatta to include as many countries as possible and maybe another regatta through other parts of Europe; Italy to work at getting an IRF person onto the Olympic Committee; Great Britain to expand their Euro training camps so as less experienced countries and teams can gain from it as well; Peter Micheler – looking into getting the IRF GT&E Scheme official in EU; Netherlands to report on how their operator accreditation scheme works and so how we should roll it out internationally.

IRF is ready and eager to support ideas – as long as they are managed by those putting them forward.

Challenge was accepted by Congress.

2. Promotion of IRF and its schemes – Sue Liell-Cock

Sue spoke about the duty written in the Bylaws of members to promote and support the IRF and its schemes.

- i. Challenge was accepted by all at Congress to get one IRF GT&E Instructor in their country by next Congress or to be at least taking positive steps for the IRF Scheme to be established in their country.

She also pointed out that the IRF scheme does NOT have to replace schemes already in a country but can be set up to work together. Anyone interested on how to do this should contact the IRF or Gaspar directly

- ii. Congress accepted that all members would put the IRF logo and link onto their front page of their websites.
- iii. Congress accepted promoting the IRF through
 1. Sharing IRF website content with them
 2. Promoting the IRF through their facebook pages
 3. Encouraging their members to sign up for the IRF Newsletter
 4. Encouraging their members to use the IRF website to follow scheduled events, results, photos and videos.
 5. Encouraging their members to submit content that can be used on the IRF website
 6. Remind their members that there is a Google translate button on the IRF website so as to help them if they do not understand English.

3. World Rafting Day – Boris Purjakov

This was accepted by the Congress as a good idea. It was proposed to do it on a Saturday so that everyone can participate. Two dates chosen: 2nd Saturday in July in Northern Hemisphere; 2nd Saturday in February in Southern Hemisphere (suggested northern hemisphere could use it as a day to have fun in the snow on rafts!)

The aim would then be for all to promote recreational rafting as well as conservation and any other ideas like river clean ups, etc on those days.

4. World Cup future – Sue Liell-Cock

Problem is that name implies a different sort of event to what is being run now. However, the “festival/open” type event that is being run is needed far more than a “World Cup” type event. “World Rafting Series” was a suggested name.

The details as to how to select / appoint these series of events and final decision will be left up to the S&C Com.

5. Water Rescue Organisation – Boris Purjakov

- i. This is an excellent concept for less developed countries
- ii. In developed countries it is more complicated in that there are many laws that govern rescue personnel, eg Great Britain as Matt explained.
- iii. NZRA have already been approached by their other rescue sections to start working with them for the future so there is potential that other countries will start looking into this more seriously as well. Nick Chater will keep us up to date as to what happens there.
- iv. Decision was that Boris would work with Gaspar on this. Boris would look at who else would be keen on doing this and what the steps would be to implement something like that and get a report back to the IRF some time in the future. From there the next steps could be taken.

6. Euro Champs future – Sue Liell-Cock

Petra Plecita will gather all the Euro countries together to discuss this and report back.

7. Serbian Rafting Federation Proposal – Secretary assistance

- i. This will be discussed amongst BOD as they look at new methods of running and managing the IRF. Zeljko Rajkovic's offer to assist has been noted and how to include him will be looked at. Extra help at this stage would have to be voluntarily done as there is no funding yet.

9. Election of office bearers – Rafa pointed out to everyone that being on any committee brings responsibility and there will be accountability as well. Anyone not participating to the standard set down by the BOD will be asked to leave the committee.

1. Board of Directors:

- i. President: Alex Pastir (7 votes) and Joe Willie Jones (17). Well done Joe.
- ii. 1st Vice President: Peter Micheler. Accepted. Peter will focus on GT&E issues in Euro zone and S&C.
- iii. 2nd Vice President: Oleg Grogoriev (22) and Robert Kazik.(2). Well done Oleg. Oleg will focus on S&C Com and IR Com issues.
- iv. Secretary: Sue Liell-Cock. Accepted.
- v. Treasurer/ Development: Alex Pastir. Accepted
- vi. Sport & Competitioj: Deb Cook. (Andrej Petkovic removed himself as candidate). Accepted

- vii. Guide Training & Education: Gaspar Goncz. Accepted
- viii. International Relations: Jakob Faerch (2 votes), Petra Plecita (22 votes). (Janko Tavcar removed himself as candidate). Well done Petra.
- ix. Media & Marketing: Pieter Bekkers. Accepted.
- x. Recreational Rafting & Conservation: Rafa Gallo and Emilia Begunova. Vote was taken to accept 11 BOD members and so both were accepted as Co-Heads of this section. Well done Rafa and Emilia.

This concludes the election for BOD

2. Committees – all those interested in being on committees please contact IRF Admin. The committees are:

- i. International Relations Committee
- ii. Recreational Rafting & Conservation Committee
- iii. Media & Marketing Committee
- iv. Sport & Competition committees

10. In closing the outgoing President was presented with a gift.

Thank you all for attending and we look forward to a new and innovated period in the IRF committees.