

2010 Vernon PUGH Trophy for Jean-Claude Baqué

EDITO



2010 IRB V Pugh Trophy to JC Baqué photo 4: Christelle Glémet

DEEPLY EUROPEAN

Each General Assembly gives us the opportunity to report on our actions, which are generally - and this is appreciated- largely positive. The 85th GA is a further proof of this, but not a self-congratulatory exercise, more of a kind of official report, an assessment of the current situation within our Association. Our 2010 meeting will mark the winning record of deep European nations at all levels! Here are some achievements:

- Two European countries: Georgia and Russia will represent FIRA-AER in the Junior Trophy 2011. With regard to the U20 let us congratulate the quartet: Lithuania - Switzerland - Hungary - Ukraine, as they reached the final tournament. These performances illustrate the successful development of nations reaching the top through hard work, efforts in training and education which characterize our philosophy.

- What the IRB Chairman, Bernard Lapasset, and the FIRA-AER Chairman, Jean-Claude BAQUÉ, have recently witnessed is a further proof of our Game's great progress: at the time of their visit in Georgia, where they met with the top national political and sporting representatives, they noted the creation of an Academy and many installations - including an artificial pitch, a major technical progress - and a real buzz around a sport which has fraternally reached all the structures of the nation. This also linked to being deeply European. Just like the last step under Jean-Claude BAQUÉ for Estonia's membership, following meetings with the most senior national, local, Rugby, political and Olympic officials, in the presence of the French Ambassador, who is incidentally honorary vice-president of the Estonian RU. Let us add the operational kick start, in Anglet, of European Beach Rugby Championship by the duo BAQUÉ - ARPAILLANGE.

All this will be developed during our Parisian meetings in this splendid working place that our Friends of Société Générale put at our disposal. And as we always try to innovate, the GA will have as curtain raiser, a meeting of Cross Borders, the resurgence of an old project of a European Cup initiated by Jean-Claude BAQUÉ that is being revived.

Let's not forget the growth of our U18 championship with the participation of the British nations. The stakeholders will have an update for the future plans. We will consider the senior, Men's and Women's competitions; the RDMs will go through the 2010—2011 action plan; the High Level Committee will update us on their important progress as will the other committees for Sevens, Refereeing, Medical and Insurance. Our IRB representative will report and the new Executive Committee and Governance will be presented.

Finally, and this was kept for dessert, let's congratulate Romania's qualification for the World Cup, after a high level match in front of 7,000 spectators. Another proof, should it be necessary, of Europe's success. Europe will have nine representatives in the next RWC! (translation: Gilles Fabre IRB)

HENRI GATINEAU



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U20 - Lithuania won the final four in Hungary



Hungary have had the right to organize the final of the group finalists: Ukraine, Lithuania, Switzerland and the host themselves.

The event takes place in the ancient crowning city, Esztergom located on the River Danube. The semi-finals have shown no surprise with the wins of Lithuania and Hungary at home.

10 November, Wednesday

11.00 Switzerland - Lithuania 6-21

13.00 Hungary - Ukraine 28-8

The finals on Saturday 13 November were watched by the local public to support the Hungarian team. Lithuania was leading 15 - 0 with strength and a good defense when Hungary came back to score to finally lose 15 to 11.

13 November, Saturday

11.00 match for the third place: Switzerland - Ukraine 33-6

13.00 Final Lithuania - Hungary 15-11 Kick Off was done by Mrs. Éva Tétényi, Mayor of Esztergom. The match to be broadcasted at Sport1TV from 21.30 on Thursday on the 18th

Very good tournament under the sun but with mud on the ground following by 700 spectators.

And the video summary of the Ukraine-Hungary game (down there) and the Lithuania-Hungary match at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiDIkp0Dd_o!



