

If a sufficient number of universities are interested, the ERFU will be working at a competition format for the 2009/2010 season and will be providing the universities assistance for the training of coaches and referees. The IRB and CAR have already confirmed that they could send an international coach and an international referee for that purpose before September 2009 and invited the ERFU to the 7s tournament that will be taking place in Tangiers, Tunisia, in May 2010.

The ERFU sought to organise a meeting with potentially interested universities, with the support of the AUC's Sports Department, in June 2009. However, to date, it has received no response. The ERFU intends to send a reminder shortly. If that reminder is unanswered or the number of universities interested is too limited, the ERFU will not work on the development of 7s at university level for the 2009/2010 season.

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## 5. Women's rugby

### 5.1 National team

At the beginning of April 2009, the ERFU was invited by the IRB/CAR to send a team to the women's 7s tournament scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana, on 5 and 6 June 2009.

The ERFU appointed Laura Cook as the coach of the women's national team, Elizabeth Uprichard as the assistant coach and Hoda Mostafa as the team manager. Together with the assistance of the coaches of the teams of the Alexandria Rugby Club and AUC, a team was selected and training sessions took place in May 2009.

Even though most of the members of the women's national team have had very limited exposure to rugby and the ERFU's financial resources are very limited, the ERFU considered that it was important to send a team to the Accra women's 7s tournament for the development of women's rugby in Egypt and for the image of Egyptian rugby in Africa.

### 5.2 Championship, cup, others, e.g. team tournaments, tours, friendly games

Since all those involved with the development of women's rugby were in Alexandria training for the Accra women's 7s tournament at the time of the Council meeting, these will be invited to voice their ideas for the 2009/2010 season at the next Council meeting.

## 6. Junior rugby

Since his appointment as Junior Development Manager in February 2009, Dave Sargent has contacted the different schools where rugby is played in Cairo and the Junior Section of the Cairo Rugby Club to determine how the ERFU could structure junior rugby for the 2009/2010 season and the assistance those currently involved with junior rugby need. Dave Sargent intends to continue his consultations until the end of June 2009 to establish a development plan for junior rugby.

## 7. University rugby

Further to the recommendations of Jean-Luc Barthes, at the end of April 2009, the ERFU contacted the Head of the Sports Department of the AUC, i.e., the only university where rugby is played in Egypt, to discuss the development of 7s at university level.

requests, the clubs have not provided the ERFU with such information this year.

#### 4.3 National team

John Regan, the coach of the men's national team indicated, that because of the clubs' failure to meet their commitments, he had been able to conduct only two training sessions since his appointment in December 2009. John Regan called for the clubs and the players to have a more serious approach. He regretted, in particular, the unsatisfactory level of fitness of the majority of players and the lack of punctuality.

For the 2009/2010 season, John Regan requested to have more training sessions and at least two international matches in 2009 and two in 2010.

#### 4.4 ERFU coaching, refereeing support

The club representatives were reminded that Mohsen Bouchmel, a Tunisian international referee and IRB Development Officer, will be visiting Egypt mid-June 2009.

Mohsen Bouchmel has been appointed by the IRB/CAR to assist the ERFU with its development. Mohsen Bouchmel will try to meet all those associated with the development of rugby in Cairo and Alexandria.

On 18 and 20 June, Mohsen Bouchmel will be organising a refereeing seminar in Alexandria. This seminar will be sanctioned by the IRB level-1 refereeing certificate. Given the difficulties encountered with refereeing during the 2008/2009 season, there should be at least five representatives of each club – excluding coaches and captains – attending the refereeing seminar. During the 2009/2010 season, all clubs will be required by the ERFU to provide qualified referees for championship and cup games. As indicated above, the ERFU plans to pay referees during the 2009/2010 season.

On 19 June, Mohsen Bouchmel will also conduct an IRB "Rugby Ready" seminar in Alexandria. It is essential that all ERFU members attend since the "Rugby Ready" seminar will teach respect of the game of rugby so as to gain maximum enjoyment from it. In order to play for the national team, players will have to be "Rugby Ready" certified.

The ERFU is currently negotiating with the IRB/CAR to have them send, M. Sahraoui, the National Technical Director of Tunisian rugby and the former coach of the Tunisian national team, in September 2009 to Egypt for coaching seminar.

Members through Adham Salloum (AUC), Benjamin Sellé (Cairo Rugby Club) and Shady Abou Shady (Alexandria Rugby Club).

#### 4. Men's rugby

##### 4.1 Calendar / priorities

The ERFU Chairman first indicated that it was important that the clubs stick to the commitments that they agreed to.

This year, the ERFU Board and the men's national team coach have had to constantly play around with the fixtures that had been decided by the clubs in Council meetings. While some flexibility should be allowed – in particular in the opening season – all those involved in the development of rugby in Egypt cannot be expected to have to amend the calendar regularly to take into account individual requests.

For the 2009/2010 season, clubs are given until 19 June 2009 to indicate the periods when they wish and do not wish to play and/or train. These wishes will be taken into account when preparing the 2009/2010 season calendar. After approval of the 2009/2010 calendar, clubs will have to comply with it in the absence of extraordinary circumstances.

The clubs indicated that their priorities for the 2009/2010 season were: (1) the national team; (2) the Egyptian championship and cup; and, (3) tours, tournaments and friendly fixtures. The idea is to provide more or less equal periods of time for all of these throughout the season. This may imply reducing the number of games in the championship to 9 or 6 but significantly increasing training and game times for the national team.

##### 4.2 Organisation

During the second half of the year, clubs have improved their organisation but have still failed to comply with most of the rules they had agreed to at the Council meeting of November 2008. For the 2009/2010 season it is very important that these rules be strictly observed. The home team should: have a proper pitch – with official rugby posts -; inform the visiting team of the details of each fixture sufficiently in advance; have a nurse/doctor standing by the side of the pitch; and inform the closest decent hospital that a game is taking place.

Also, shortly after the end of each match, the home team should send the ERFU secretary the completed match sheet, a match report and photos of the game. These will be posted on the website and used for statistical/ranking purposes, e.g., best try scorer. Despite numerous

### 3.3 Structure

Further to the meetings that Chahir Habib had with the National Sports Council, the club representatives were informed that the ERFU structure and the Board membership may have to be amended in order to be fully consistent with Egyptian Law. These amendments will be made if and when required by the National Sports Council.

### 3.4 Financing, marketing, sponsorship

In order to promote rugby in Egypt, the ERFU needs financial resources.

During the 2008/2009 season, the ERFU has exclusively relied on the contributions of its members. These were so limited that the Chairman of the Board had to fund the trip of the national team to the IRB/CAR women's 7s tournament organised in Ghana on 5 and 6 June 2009 and the manufacture of the national team jerseys and shorts. The grant promised by the IRB/CAR and the sale of jerseys and shorts should enable the ERFU to break even.

For the 2009/2010 season, if it wants to organise a men's tournament with Algeria and Libya and fund touring teams to the tournaments organised by the IRB/CAR in Africa, the ERFU will need to significantly increase its financial resources. The tournament with Algeria and Libya should cost a minimum 100,000 LE to the ERFU. Also, the ERFU would like to be in a position to invite IRB/CAR officials for more referee and coach training seminars and to pay referees during the 2009/2010 season.

Cub representatives were invited to mobilise their members to assist the ERFU in findings the necessary financial resources since, without any, the development of rugby in Egypt will only be limited.

### 3.5 Public relations, media

Hassan Khaled, the ERFU's PR and media manager could not be present at the Council meeting but has been active since his appointment in February 2009. He has been in contact with journalists of Osprts, the sports program on OTV. These indicated that they were interested in covering Egyptian rugby and came to the Alex 10s. These journalists will be invited to the national team training session and to the game that will be taking place in Alexandria on 19 June.

### 3.6 Equipment

The ERFU shirts and shorts that were designed by Hany Shehata are being manufactured in Alexandria under the supervision of Shady Abou Shady, the ERFU's equipment manager. These should be ready for the Accra women's 7s tournament and will then be sold to ERFU

Alexandria and that both had expressed interest in starting a rugby section in 2009/2010.

Registration with the National Sports Council is essential since without it, the ERFU is not officially established in Egypt. Until it is registered, the ERFU cannot open a bank account and therefore not collect any funds for the development of rugby in Egypt. Also, the championship cannot be considered as official, nor can the national teams be officially representative of Egypt. Furthermore, if the ERFU is not registered with the National Sports Council in a few years, the CAR and IRB have indicated that they will no longer be able to continue to support it.

### 3.1.2 IRB - CAR

The ERFU is an associate member of the CAR since October 2008 and should become a full-fledge member after two years.

While IRB membership is part of the medium-term plan of the ERFU, neither the ERFU nor rugby are sufficiently developed in Egypt for such an application to be considered. For the time being, the priorities of the ERFU are its recognition by the National Sports Council and its active participation in the CAR.

## 3.2 Membership

### 3.2.1 Clubs, teams, schools, universities

Even though the ERFU has very limited financial resources, it does not plan to increase the membership fee for clubs, schools and universities for the 2009/2010 season. It should remain of 2,000 LE for the season.

### 3.2.2 Individual members

The ERFU also does not plan to increase the yearly participation, i.e., 150 LE/year, of individual members for the 2009/2010 season. However, it plans to increase the fees so as to cover the cost of insurance.

The ERFU is in contact with the IRB Administrators Academy and AON and expects to receive a quote for an insurance for personal accident, public liability, travel and competition shortly.

3.3 Others, e.g, team tournaments, tours, friendly games

**4. Junior rugby**

4.1 ERFU coaching, refereeing support

4.2 Championships, tournaments

4.3 National teams

4.3.1 IRB/CAR calendar

**5. University rugby**

5.1 ERFU coaching, refereeing support

5.2 Championship

5.3 National team

No items were added to the agenda.

**3. ERFU**

3.1 Registration

3.1.1 National Sports Council

The ERFU Council appointed Chahir Nicola Habib as the official representative of the ERFU for its registration with the National Sports Council in February 2009.

In March and April 2009, Chahir Habib met officials of the National Sports Council and provided them with a copy of the Articles of Association and the minutes of the General Assembly and Council meetings. During the last meeting that was held in April 2009, the representatives of the National Sports Council stressed that under Egyptian Law, a union must be made of at least four officially registered club.

Since none of the teams currently playing rugby are part of officially registered clubs, the club representatives were invited to approach officially registered clubs. The ERFU is awaiting letters from the IRB and the CAR to facilitate contacts with officially registered clubs.

The representatives of Alexandria Rugby Club indicated that they had approached the Sporting and Smoua clubs in

- Fees
- Insurance

1.3 Structure

1.3.1 General assembly

1.3.2 Council

1.3.3 Board

1.3.4 Council

1.4 Financing, marketing, sponsorship

1.5 Public relations, media

1.6 Equipment

**2. Men's rugby**

2.1 Championship

2.1.1 Calendar

2.1.2 Organisation

- Pitch
- Referee
- Doctor / nurse
- Match report

2.1.3 Laws

2.2 Cup

2.3 National team

2.3.1 IRB/CAR calendar

2.4 ERFU coaching, refereeing support

2.5 Others, e.g. team tournaments, tours, friendly games

**3. Women's rugby**

3.1 National team

3.1.1 IRB/CAR calendar

3.2 Championship, cup

# **Egyptian Rugby Football Union**

## **Council Meeting – Cairo – 29 May 2009**

### **Minutes**

On 4 May 2009, the representatives of the Alexandria Rugby Club (Caesars and Gladiators teams), Cairo Rugby Club and American University in Cairo (AUC) were invited by the Chairman of the Egyptian Rugby Football Union (ERFU) to attend a Council meeting in Cairo on 29 May 2009.

#### **1. Attendees**

ERFFU Board:

- Chairman: Charles Julien
- Secretary: Benjamin Sellé
- Treasurer: Aly Kabeer

Team representatives:

- Alexandria Rugby Club: Mohamed Ahmed Mostafa Mohall “Moody”, Ahmed Mohamed Zakaria Ali Ahmed
- Cairo Rugby Club: John Regan, Mohamed Salah
- AUC: Adham Salloum

The meeting was chaired by Charles Julien

#### **2. Agenda**

The agenda proposed on 4 May 2009 was the following:

##### **1. ERFU**

###### **1.1 Registration**

1.1.1 National Sports Council

1.1.2 IRB - CAR

###### **1.2 Membership**

1.2.1 Clubs, teams, schools, universities

- Fees

1.2.2 Individual members