

52nd FIRAC CONGRESS 2013

---- Galyatatető, Hungary ----

Minutes of the working session of the General Meeting held on 17/05/2013

Present :

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Geoff Sims, G4GNQ | - Karel Praet, ON4CIR |
| - Mario Vandervelde, ON4KV | - Pál Szesztay, HA5SZP |
| - Detlef Ramsch, DL8DWL | - Giuseppe Santodirocco, IZ7CIK |
| - Monika Fleischanderl, OE5MOM | - Peter Kozar, OM5CX |
| - Hendryk Zwolski, SP9JPA | |

Excused :

- LX, F.

1. Opening :

Because the absence of Gheorghe Zaharie YO6HAY, the vice-president opens the general meeting by illuminating the candles. France is represented by Mario Vandervelde ON4KV and Romania by Detlef Ramsch, DL8DWL;

A warm welcome is given to the 9 countries and all participating members.

During a commemoration minute the meeting honours the deceased members;

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|-----------------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| - DK2DR | Alfred Stachowitz | - DB3QE | Sieglinde Bartelsen |
| - DO1BJW/DE2BJW | Hans-Joachim Wegmann | - SWL066 | Otto Mayer |
| - SWL020 | Gustav Kiehl | - IK5LZB | Signorini Remo |
| - G0POJ | Judy Middleton | - OE5LGL | Leopold Gierlinger |
| - HA8QO | Istvan Marton | - OM3WRZ | Rudolf Zdarsky |

2. Adoption of the agenda :

Point 11 is moved to the back. Point 23 : contest dates are known and can be cancelled.

3. Minutes of meeting Sheffield (U.K.), September 2012

The minutes of meeting of the working session are accepted unanimously.

4. Yearly report of the vice-president by Geoff Sims :

Good afternoon and thank you all for attending the 52nd Firac Congress in Hungary. For a second time I have been called upon to chair congress, the previous time being in 2009 in Slovakia.

Last year the United Kingdom organised the 51st Firac congress and after the event our organisers received several good reports about the congress meeting.

This was the first time the hotel staff had been involved with multi cultural meeting and after the event their conference manager commented on how smooth everything seemed to run. Indeed he commented that in his opinion nothing appeared to go wrong.

Within the Firac organisation we are facing an uphill struggle, with quite a percentage of the membership no longer at work, we need to focus on the future and actively involve the younger members.

Unless we look to the future and be forward looking, this could result in a declining membership.

Group activity.

In my opinion the German group is by far the most active within Firac, our Austrian members certainly put considerable effort into organising national events. The Italian group are also quite active. Several of the group home pages make very interesting reading, with the Polish homepage listing many activities, not all of them connected with FIRAC. The internet and the group homepage can

stimulate members in participating in various railway and amateur radio activities and this in the long term, benefits both Firac and amateur radio.
In closing I wish all a successful congress.

Geoff Sims

5. Report of the PR manager by Geoff Sims - G4GNQ

Since the congress last year I have been particularly busy trying to find a solution to the problems in Denmark and Norway. Regarding the Danish situation it appears from the feedback and other reports I have received the group has no current leader. For the time being I am keeping the members informed as best possible. Sadly the OZ database is so out of date it resulted with several of the letters being returned as unknown or no longer at this address. I have started to update the information and eventually it will be more accurate than the present details. The original trial added to my postage bill and Mario was informed of the cost. Regarding Norway, I wrote to Tor Ivar LA6FV to request information on the situation within their group, however no reply was received. My recommendation is that we accept he is no longer their president. Fortunately LA4OGA, Roger Haug has reformed the group and it is up to the board to recognise all his efforts. Currently the group are associate members within the Firac M/C group. Hopefully during this congress the situation can be resolved.

I have done a few promotional activates to promote publicity. Hopefully if I am able to continue with this work, more time can be committed to seeking new member countries, increasing the membership of Firac.

Any suggestions would be most welcome on how we improve the image of Firac.
That is all for this year.

Geoff Sims G4GNQ

6. Cash report by Mario Vandervelde – ON4KV

1210,- € (income) – 754,76 € (outcome) = + 455,24 € grow in 2012
Saving accounts : 2.808,03 + 4.601,38 + 8.000,- = totally 15.409,41 €

7. Cash audit

Giuseppe Santodirocco, IZ7CIK and Detlef Ramsch, DL8DWL confirming the treasurer's correct bookkeeping and proposes the discharge of the treasurer. This proposal is unanimously agreed.

8/9. Relieve of the old and election of a new presidium :

There are 11 votes cast, presidents and representatives (11 groups and the MC groupe). Resulting in the next outcome :

President of the FIRAC	YO6HAY	Gheorghe Zaharie	7/11 votes
Vice-president	SP9JPA	Henryk Zwolski	5/9 votes
Secretary	ON4CIR	Karel Praet	unanimously
Treasurer	ON4KV	Mario Vandervelde	unanimously
Public relations	G4GNQ	Geoff Sims	unanimously

As the Tsjech (OK) and the Slovak (OM) as one country are represented, confusion was made as the re secretary (OK1FUK Kamil) gave his vote to late.

10. Appoint the commissioners, art 7 FIRAC rules :

Geoff Sims - G4GNQ will continue with the MC group, P.R. and the function of award manager.
Detlef Ramsch – DL8DWL will continue to be the webmaster and do the update of the rapid call book.
Tibor Kiss – HA5BSW will continue to be the contest manager.

The contest awards will be done by Gheorghe Zaharie – YO6HAY.

12. Cash auditors

Detlef Ramsch DL8DWL has to be replaced.

Monika Fleischanderl OE5MOM is candidate for 2 years, together with Giuseppe Santodirocco – IZ7CIK, they will be the cash auditors for the next congress in 2014 Hamburg, Germany.

13. Subscription of membership fee

As Firac is doing financial well, the subscription will stay on a single Euro per member for the year 2014 which is accepted unanimously.

14. Radio Traffic by Geoff Sims - G4GNQ)

As in previous years I am giving my annual report to you today regarding group activity and radio communication on the nets.

As with previous reports Sunday morning has seen little participation on the 20 Metre band even though the conditions have been slowly improving since last year.

With my commitment earlier in the year in helping the French group translate the new regulations for the F9ZX coupe, this meant I was not able to participate. Hopefully next year I can correct this.

Overall propagation on 21MHz has been very unpredictable however occasionally there have been some favourable conditions into the USA on Wednesday afternoon allowing the occasional contact with our members. On most week-end the 40 and 20 Metre bands have seen far too many contest stations. Whilst this is not to my liking it does keep the frequencies in use despite the problems associated with poor operating practice these amateur seem to have and finding a free frequency to conduct the net at times can be difficult. There is speculation from recent astronomic observations the sun could be entering into an entering a period when there are likely to be few or even worse no sunspots. This last occurred in the 16th century with the mini Ice Age. So while the good times are with us make the most of what you hear and keep the contacts flowing. That is the end of my report.

Glossop 12.05.13

15. : European nets :

The European nets are really quite. With increasing conditions sometimes nobody at all. But as long there are frequencies ad times, we can meet again.

16. The 53th Firac congress 2014

This congress will be organised by the D group in Hamburg (HH) from 04 – 08 september.

It will be the 50th birthday of the creation of the FIRAC in Hamburg 1963. It was hard to find a hotel for an acceptable price. The program is worth to come : a visit to the world biggest miniature trains, visit to harbour and much more. Price around 360,- €

17. The 54th congress in 2015

The board received 2 candidates YO and SP. A short election is held resulting in Poland. This congress will be split up in 2 parts: the real congress and a touristic programme (worth while !). It will be held during an international steam festival in surrounding of Krakow.

18. Hamradio 2013 in Friedrichshafen :

Exceptional is the Firac congress organised before Friedrichshafen. This automatic moved to the agenda for the presidents meeting in Bad Salzuflen 5/8-09-2013.

19. Report about the issued FIRAC awards by G4GNQ FIRAC-Homepage

3 New awards are proposed to be the Firac award. The board decided via a paper vote, the German entry was the best overall design.

20. Firac home page :

21. Future of Firac :

As long as we can come together on congresses, we have a future. Only the youth don't find his way by radio

22. Discussion of the proposals :

In LA Norway a new group is formed, the old who did not pay there contribution for about 5 years, the old group is replaced by the new one. Accepted unanimous. OZ group passed away and the few who left joined the MC group.

23. Sundries, the classic items :

Addresses of the national groups, Addresses of the Firac members

Don't forget to send all information about activities and reports on the webmaster.

11. New contest rules :

An example is given what has to be corrected. A small group of contested minded people worked out the new rules. This will be presented on the next presidents meeting in Bad Salzuflen.

Geoff on behalf of the vice-president Henryk Zwolski SP9JPA thanks all participants.

He blows out the candles and closes the working session of this 52th congress.

FIRAC Vice-President

FIRAC secretary

Henryk Zwolski SP9JPA,

Karel Praet, ON4CIR

Appendix : National Reports

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