

## THE RUGBY in SAN MARINO

### The République of San Marino : 1706 years of History !!!

The Republic of San Marino is the oldest Republic of Europe, it is also smallest, it is the third smaller European State after the Vatican and Monaco. Its capital is San Marino.



The history of San Marino, begins the day when a Dalmatian stonemason, Marino, settles there as a hermit, then founds a community. The official date of creation is on September 3, 301. San Marino has a legal code which was established on September 21, 1600.

It is a Republic equipped with a Parliament of 60 members: The Great and General Council, and of two Heads of State: the Captains Regents whose mandate lasts 6 months.

The neutrality of San Marino during the Second World war made it possible in this small State to welcome nearly 100 000 refugees fleeing the hostilities. San Marino became a member of the Council of Europe in 1988 and takes the presidency of this council from November 2006 to May 2007. In 1992 it became a member of the O.N.U and is member of many international organizations.

This small state of a surface of 61 km<sup>2</sup> is along the Italian peninsula on the Adriatique coast.



The Sammarinese population was about 30.400 inhabitants on February, 2007 that is to say a density close to 500hab/Km<sup>2</sup>. It is composed of 83,1% of Sammarinese origin and 12 % Italian. More than 15. 000 citizens of San Marino live abroad.



San Marino has an economy based on industry, trade and services and is a paradise for tourists thanks to its architecture, monuments, craft industry, ceramics, textiles, jewels, wine, etc.. Tourism accounts for about 60% of the incomes of this State. The sale of stamps and coins of San Marino to many passionate philatelists throughout the whole world generates 10% of the gross domestic product (GDP).



The GDP/person in 2005 is 14,790 \$. San Marino uses the € as its currency and is authorized to strike its own coins and it is also granted the right to use its own designs on the national side of the coins.

## **San Marino Rugby**

### **Birth of Rugby in San Marino:**

In 2004 Sammarinese young people, mainly students, met regularly every week on a small ground with a rugby ball. Marino Albani, the current President of the FSR, meets and exchanges some words with them. He discovers that this is a regular practice and that these enthusiastic and motivated young people take pleasure with an oval ball, without any lines and posts on a ground the size of a pocket handkerchief. The interest and the passion of these young people motivated Marino Albani and his friends to assist them.

In a few month various meetings were organized with Sammarinese young people interested in playing Rugby. Contact was made with various people - the President of Bologna Rugby 1928, a leader of Rimini Rugby and Sammarinese citizens involved with Rugby in Italy and France - to set up an initial structure at San Marino.

A group of young people who played at the University of Bologna or in certain clubs of Rugby close to San Marino trained several time with the RENO Rugby Club.

### **Key facts about Rugby in San Marino:**

#### **The creation of the club:**

The growing enthusiasm of this small group of young people and friends made it possible to create the San Marino Rugby Club on October 4, 2004: Slowly but surely various activities and meetings made it possible to set up a rugby activity by attracting new young people and their friends. Some young people with the possibility of playing at the University of Bologna or in certain clubs of Rugby close to San Marino continued to play and to attract their friends.

### **Setting up the Fédération Saint Marinaise de Rugby (San Marino Rugby Federation) :**

One of the fundamental steps was the creation of the on May 26, 2005 in the presence of Giancarlo Dondi, President of the Italian Rugby Federation (F.I.R.), and of Angelo Vicini, the President of the San Marino National Olympic Committee (CONS), and of other friends who supported the birth of Rugby in San Marino. Also present were Felice Biglioli, President of the Panathlon Club and Marino Albani who will be the President of this new



San Marino Rugby Federation (FSR)



Today the FSR has 40 players and about 150 members.

At the end of August an agreement was made with the San Marino Football Federation allowing the use of a ground for training. However the availability of a ground to practise and play remains a need.

### **The first training session with a coach:**



Finally, on October 15, 2005 the first official meeting of Rugby in the sporting history of the republic of San Marino took place. This first "fray" was carried out between the young people of San Marino and those of Rugby Club Bologna 1928. The session was directed by a technician of the Bologna club and made it possible to put into practice the fundamental phases of this game.

### **The training :**

Training is fundamental to establish good basics and to allow the development of the sport especially at school level. This is why on May 13, 2006 the first training session of the teachers of Rugby (Corso CAS: Corso Allenatori Sportivi) took place in San Marino. It was given by an executive trainer from the F.I.R. from the nearby province of Marches. This first session was followed by another at level two, which took place on October 28, 2006 again in San Marino. This second stage allowed diplomas to be awarded to 11 young players.

### **Convention between F.I.R. and F.S.R.**



In Parma on June 22, 2006 a convention was signed between the Italian Rugby Federation and the San Marino Rugby Federation setting up a sporting partnership. This convention signed just a year after the creation of the FSR is recognition of San Marino Rugby. It is essential for the development of Rugby in San Marino. It allows the clubs affiliated to the FSR to participate in the various Italian championships (juniors, seniors). The FIR will assist in the technical and material areas; it will supply technical experts and referees for training. The FIR will also give its support for the FSR at the international level.

### **The development in the Educational Area:**

Since the summer 2005, the San Marino Rugby Federation requested the National Education Ministry to integrate the practice of Rugby like the other sports in the programmes of Physical Education of primary schools, high and secondary Schools.

After some meetings with teachers, Rugby is registered with the program in the primary schools. Experiments were undertaken during the school year 2005/2006 but the real kick-off

was carried out in September 2006 at the start of the school-year in the primary schools. The Technical Director of the Club of Viadana who is in charge of the school and technical project, took part in the first Rugby initiative with schoolboys and gave the first advice on the field to the young teachers of San Marino.

Twice a week a small group of schoolboys supervised by a club trainer meets on the field to discover Rugby and in particular its values. This group grew regularly to reach about fifteen in mid year.

From April 2007, the Rugby activity is proposed to the students from college and high school with a program established until June.

### Various meetings:



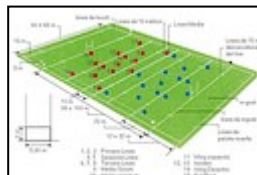
Several friendly and directed matches were organized to make it possible for the players of the Club to put into practice on the field the lessons learnt from the numerous training sessions.

- **12/06/2006** Triangular tournament in Fermignano where the San Marino Club won of matches.
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- **17/09/2006** Four way tournament in Tortoreto,
- **14/10/2006** Training session directed by Andrew Jepson, person in charge for the School project and Technique of Arix Viadana Rugby Club followed by the match between Viadana and Trévis (Top 10 Italian).
- **21/11/2006** Another training session directed by Andrew Jepson, technical director of Viadana, who took advantage of his trip to meet the teachers of the schools of San Marino
- **11/02/2007** Friendly match with the club of Bologna which ended in a loss but with a lot of pleasure..
- **11/03/2007** Match in Tortoreto where 25 players met for a well fought match lost by a small margin.
- **25/03/2007** Another friendly match in the Abruzzo region against Rugby Città di Castello.
- **07/04/2007** Three way tournament in Forli with an English Team.



## **Next Objectives:**

### **The Rugby field:**



A field equipped with posts is necessary to be able to take part in the Italian championship of series C in 2007/2008. This remains an issue and becomes the first priority for the FSR; discussions are underway with the San Marino National Olympic Committee (CONS) and the Saint Marino Football Federation (FSGC) to find a solution before September 2007. The city of Cesena (30km from San Marino) is allowing the FSR to use their infrastructures, standard for official and international meetings..

### **The Fédéral Structure:**

The FSR must be structured to ensure the development of San Marino Rugby. Various federal organizations must be reinforced and are setting up:

- Administration: Statutes, general rules, legal
- Treasury: budget, insurance
- Competitions: local, International, sélection
- Technical and training Section: Players, teachers, referees, educational Rugby
- Medical Section
- Referees Section
- Partnerships
- National Championships.

### **The School Project :**

The efforts will be continued in the primary schools; new actions on the field are envisaged during the last quarter of the year in the Colleges and High Schools and a program will be undertaken to allow teachers and parents to be made aware of the values of Rugby. From September 2007 Rugby will be part of the school syllabus in all the schools of the Republic of San Marino: primary and secondary

### **The Rugby School :**

The objective is to create a school of Rugby within the club with training by qualified coaches. The actions in the school and the promotion of Rugby in the Republic must enable us to achieve this goal during season 2007/2008. New coaches will be trained while following the courses (corso CAS).

### **Italian Championship Série C :**

One of the priorities is the participation in the Italian championship in the Marche Region during the 2007/2008 season. All the administrative and sporting tasks are underway with the support of the FIR.

### **Training:**

A training scheme is under development with the FIR to increase the number of coaches within the club. A level 3 course (Corso CAS) is planned to obtain the level of coach able to train a team in the Series C. The objective is to create an internal structure of technical experts within the FSR to develop the sport in the Republic of San Marino.

### **Affiliations : FIRA-AER and CONS :**

The preparation for the affiliation with the FIRA-AER is an important step for the development of Rugby in San Marino. This recognition is needed because it is a condition for the integration of Rugby as a new discipline within the San Marino National Olympic Committee (CONS).

### **Budgets:**

Funding is necessary to support the various actions for the development of Rugby. A forecast budget is under development. Participation of a senior team in the Italian Championship, training of players, teachers, referees and the project in the Schools will cause an appreciable increase in the Budget. Partners have supported San Marino Rugby since its start and have shown an interest and much kindness. Actions are underway to create loyalty and to find partners by promoting the values of Rugby

### **Statutes and Internal rules:**

During the next general assembly in May it is planned to approve the federal statutes which are compatible with those of the San Marino National Olympic Committee (CONS) as this is a condition for affiliation. In the coming months, the rules of procedure will be adapted to the international obligations.

### **Competition :**



Friendly matches are planned in the next months:

- 19/05/07 the curtain raiser of the Italian Super 10 Final match against the Italian national team of fireman.
- 12/07/07 friendly match in France against a team selected by the committee of the Alps

The First Cup of Federation which will run in June as a tournament of Rugby Sevens with teams from each Castello (City of the republic of San Marino).



A Three way Tournament is envisaged in September with foreign teams. This tournament, organized under the auspices of the Secretary of Sport of the Republic of San Marino, aims to create a large sporting and popular event and to promote Rugby.