

Virginia Rugby Union

2000 Annual General Meeting

(10:00 am, Saturday 22 January, 2000, University of Richmond)

Agenda

Roll Call

VRU Officers

Men's Clubs

Women's Clubs

College Men's Clubs

College Women's Clubs

High School Clubs

Officer Reports

President..... page 2

Vice-President..... page 2

Secretary..... page 3

Treasurer..... page 4

MARFU/USA Representative..... page 9

Men's Club Coordinator..... page 10

Women's Club Coordinator..... page 10

Men's Collegiate Coordinator..... page 11

Women's College Coordinator..... page 11

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Disciplinary Chairman..... page 12

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RSV Rep..... page 14

Internet Report..... page 15

Sportsmanship Award

New Clubs

Additional Items / New Business

Election of Officers for 2000

President

CIPP register your club.

CIPP register your players.

Submit your schedules to the RSV (with game time and number of matches)

Verify your online directory information.

Prior to your matches, contact the referee for confirmation of match time and pitch location.

Thank you,
Kris Kabza

Vice-President

The Vice President's office reports another banner year of anonymity thanks to the outstanding performance of the President. The VP's two primary functions are managing tournament applications and the Don Bridge's Fund (although this is currently being handled by our Treasurer). The office of the VP is being vacated this year and you are encouraged to run for this office if interested in becoming involved in the Executive Committee of the VRU.

The major issue addressed by this office is the approval of tournament applications. It is imperative and stipulated by the VRU that Event Applications must be submitted on the official form provided in the handbook at least three months in advance of the event in order to be considered. The critical decision points for approval are the host organization's current standing in the VRU (current on dues, CIPP registration), past experience in hosting events, availability of satisfactory medical personnel/services and any other liability issues.

The vice presidency is a great way to get involved in the VRU at a high level without a lot of burden yet with the opportunity to make a significant contribution.

Kind Regards,
Jay R. Borkowski

Secretary

Directory info:

Men's clubs: All up-to-date

Women's clubs:

Tidewater has **NOT** submitted any info which is unusual.

Blackwater and BRATS are up-to-date

College Men: (Have submitted info)

Hampden-Sydney

JMU

VMI

Va Tech

Have **NOT** submitted info:

Longwood (submitted a schedule, info may be the same but haven't indicated that)

Mary Wash

ODU

Radford (I thought they sent info, but I can't find it.)

UofR. (made contact to say they were electing officers, haven't heard anything)

W&L

W&M

College Women: (Have submitted info)

JMU

Mary Wash (I need to change the date online)

Radford

Va Tech

Virginia

W&M

Have **NOT** submitted info:

Longwood

All clubs need to submit changes as they occur. I recall Kris saying some clubs were saying their addresses were incorrect when he mailed out President's Reception invites for Ed & Sandy Lee.. Unless new info comes in, I have to assume the addresses are correct. The only club that has any right to complain about this would be Tidewater who submitted some changes in the summer that got lost in the shuffle.

Schedule info submitted to the RSV:

Longwood, Raleigh.

Please remind everyone **schedules are due 1 Feb**. After that any changes, submissions, etc, **MUST** go through the respective coordinator. Without their approval, no changes will be accepted.

The directory pages need some work. I will try to get to shortly. Some of the links are dated.

rugby because

Bob Underwood

Treasurer

1999 USA Rugby Club and Individual Participation Program

CLUB NAME	CIPP #
Blacksburg Rugby Football Club	32
Blacksburg Women's R F C	10
Blackwater Rugby Football Club	23
Blackwater Women's RFC	30
Blue Ridge Area Training Side Rugby Club	26
Hampden-Sydney College Rugby Club-Tigers	43
James Madison Univ. Men's Rugby Club	45
James Madison Univ. Women's Rugby Club	25
James River Rugby Football Club	32
Longwood College Men's Rugby Football Club	43
Longwood College Women's Rugby Football Club	12
Mary Washington College Men's Rugby	33
Mary Washington College Women's Rugby Club	39
Newport News Rugby Football Club	32
Norfolk City Blues Rugby Club	40
Old Dominion University Rugby Club	19
Radford University Rugby Football Club	47
Radford University Women's Rugby Club	28
Raleigh Rugby Club, Inc	58
Randolph-Macon Women's Rugby Club	2
Rappahannock Youth Rugby Football Club	17
Referee Society Of Virginia	11
Roanoke Rugby Football Club	44
Tidewater Women's Rugby Football Club	31
United Rugby Football Club	49
Univ. Richmond Rugby Football Club	20
Virginia Beach Falcons Rugby Football Club	31
Virginia Military Institute Rugby Club	31
Virginia Rugby Football Club	47
Virginia Tech Men's Rugby Football Club	50
Virginia Tech Women's Rugby Football Club	43
Virginia Women's Rugby Football Club	46
Washington & Lee University Rugby Club	35
William & Mary College Rugby Football Club	20
William & Mary College Women's Rugby Club	48
Total (as of 12/30/99)	1142

Virginia Rugby Union Budget Report

INCOME	1999 Budget	1999 Actual	2000 Budget
Club Dues	\$22,475.00	\$22,474.00	\$23,637.50
Misc Income	\$200.00	\$428.17	\$400.00
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,675.00	\$22,902.17	\$24,037.50
EXPENSES			
Coaching Coordinator	\$2,000.00	\$492.00	\$2,000.00
College M's Coordinator	\$100.00	\$16.40	\$100.00
College W's Coordinator	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
College M's Select Side	\$900.00	\$791.16	\$1,100.00
College W's Select Side	\$900.00	\$810.54	\$1,100.00
Discipline Chairman	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Ed Lee Cup Expenses	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
Emergent Requirement	\$250.00	\$212.25	\$250.00
Grants to Clubs	\$600.00	\$2,000.00	\$600.00
VRU Handbook	\$750.00	\$736.10	\$1,200.00
High School	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Internet Site	\$500.00	\$395.00	\$800.00
MARFU Dues	\$9,300.00	\$9,300.00	\$9,300.00
Men's Club Coordinator	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Men's Select Sides	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,100.00
Newsletter Editor	\$1,075.00	\$903.64	\$1,075.00
Officer Travel	\$1,800.00	\$798.99	\$1,400.00
President	\$250.00	\$109.63	\$200.00
Publicity	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Secretary	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Sportsmanship Awards	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
Stationary	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Treasurer	\$200.00	\$145.92	\$100.00
USARFU/MARFU Rep	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Vice President	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
VRU Supplies/Goods	\$300.00	(\$53.70)	\$300.00
Women's Club Coordinator	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Women's Select Sides	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$1,100.00
Youth	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,675.00	\$18,857.93	\$23,975.00
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TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$4,044.24	\$62.50

Virginia Rugby Union - Checks and Deposits for 1999

BALANCE 12/31/98			\$23,267.30
1/4/99	492 Kinko's	Handbook printing	Handbook R (\$736.10)
1/9/99	493 Kam Kelly	W's rep, Treas, News Ed., 1/9/99 mtg	Officer Travel R (\$40.00)
1/14/99	494 Copytron	1/99 VRU AGM Material	Treasurer R (\$28.85)
1/14/99	496 MARFU	1st 1999 Installment	MARFU R (\$2,000.00)
1/23/99	S	Norfolk. Raleigh. UofR, MWCW	Sportsmanship R (\$550.00)
		Partial S99	Dues:Norfolk Blues R \$75.00
		Partial S99	Dues:Raleigh R \$75.00
		Partial F99	Dues:U of Richmond R \$150.00
		Partial F99	Dues:Mary Wash Women R \$150.00
		Partial F99	Dues:W&M Women R \$100.00
1/23/99	497 Carl Schmitt	AGM Refreshments	President R (\$58.68)
1/24/99	498 S David Chapman	AGM for Treas, News, RSV	Officer Travel R (\$40.00)
		Phone	Treasurer R (\$3.88)
1/26/99	DEP S	S99	Dues:Blackwater R \$362.50
		S99	Dues:Blackwater W R \$362.50
		S99	Dues:Newport News R \$362.50
		MARFU cost share	Internet Site R \$300.00
1/29/99	Interest Earned		Misc R \$24.44
2/2/99	499 Treasurer of Virginia	Yearly Inc Fee	Emergent R (\$25.00)
2/2/99	500 James F. Booker	Attorney Fee for Incorporation	Emergent R (\$50.00)
2/2/99	501 Bunkie Trinite Trophies	VRU Awards for 1998	Emergent R (\$137.25)
2/19/99	DEP S	Final S'99	Dues:Norfolk Blues R \$287.50
		S'99	Dues:Roanoke R \$362.50
2/21/99	502 Jeff Anderson	Winter (Feb 99) Newsletter	Newsletter R (\$270.51)
2/26/99	Interest Earned		Misc R \$18.58
3/1/99	DEP S	S99	Dues:Blacksburg R \$362.50
		S99	Dues:Raleigh R \$287.50
		F/S 98/99	Dues:Mary Wash Men R \$725.00
3/4/99	503 Vanguard Group	Investment	Emergent R (\$11,000.00)
3/8/99	DEP	S99	Dues:Tidewater Storm R \$362.50
3/26/99	DEP S	S99	Dues:H-S R \$362.50
		F/S 98/99	Dues:JMU Men R \$725.00
		S99	Dues:United R \$362.50
		S99	Dues:BRATS R \$362.50
		S99	Dues:VA Beach R \$362.50
			Misc R \$7,510.90
3/26/99	504 Vanguard Group	Investment	Misc R (\$7,510.90)
3/31/99	Interest Earned		Misc R \$15.39
4/1/99	505 U. of Virginia W	Nat'l Championship Travel	Grant to Club R (\$500.00)
4/14/99	506 Kris Kabza	Postage	VRU Supplies R (\$28.80)
4/14/99	507 Virginia Tech Men	Nat'l Championship Travel	Grant to Club R (\$500.00)
4/19/99	DEP S	S99	Dues:James River R \$362.50

			Jersey sale (for DB Fund)	Misc	R	\$159.00
4/29/99	DEP		Jersey sale	Misc	R	\$43.20
4/30/99		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$13.39
5/3/99		510 Maggie Applebaum	MWC W Hosting Nat'ls	Grant to Club	R	(\$500.00)
5/3/99		511 Raleigh RFC	Nat'l Championship Travel	Grant to Club	R	(\$500.00)
5/8/99		512 Jeff Anderson	Spring (May 99) Newsletter	Newsletter	R	(\$114.45)
5/15/99		513 MARFU	2nd 1999 Installment	MARFU	R	(\$5,000.00)
5/15/99		514 Network Solutions	Domain fee	Internet Site	R	(\$35.00)
5/15/99		515 VServers	12 months of service	Internet Site	R	(\$660.00)
5/19/99	516	S Carl Schmitt	MARFU Trip	Officer Travel	R	(\$40.00)
			Phone, etc.	College Coord	R	(\$16.40)
5/23/99		517 Henrico County Parks & Recreation	Meeting Rooms	Coaching Coord	R	(\$150.00)
5/28/99		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$11.15
5/29/99	DEP		Jersey sale	Misc	R	\$68.20
6/5/99		518 Vanguard Group	Investment	Emergent	R	(\$270.40)
6/8/99		519 Jeff Anderson	Summer Newsletter	Newsletter	R	(\$107.86)
6/23/99		520 Reyn Kinzey	USARFU Mtg Travel	Officer Travel	R	(\$562.99)
6/28/99		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$6.05
7/13/99	DEP		Jersey sale	Misc	R	\$28.20
7/28/99		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$4.92
8/19/99		521 Carl Schmitt	Advance	Coaching Coord	R	(\$300.00)
8/23/99	DEP		Fees	Coaching Coord	R	\$1,000.00
8/24/99		522 MARFU	3rd 1999 Installment	MARFU	R	(\$2,300.00)
8/30/99		523 USA Rugby	21 coaches @ \$80/coach	Coaching Coord	R	(\$1,680.00)
8/31/99	DEP		Fees	Coaching Coord	R	\$938.00
8/31/99		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$4.62
8/31/99		524 Matt Robinette	Refund (could not attend; work)	Coaching Coord	R	(\$50.00)
9/4/99		525 Jeff Anderson	Early Fall Newsletter	Newsletter	R	(\$178.13)
9/20/99	DEP	S	VRU Shirts	VRU Supplies	R	\$82.50
			F/S 99/00	Dues:W&M Men	R	\$725.00
			F/S 99/00	Dues:W&M Women	R	\$625.00
			F99	Dues:Blacksburg	R	\$362.50
			F99	Dues:James River	R	\$362.50
			F/S 99/00	Dues:VMI	R	\$725.00
			F99	Dues:Raleigh	R	\$362.50
			F99	Dues:Norfolk Blues	R	\$362.50
			F99	Dues:VA Beach	R	\$362.50
			F/S 99/00	Dues:H-S	R	\$725.00
			F99	Dues:Roanoke	R	\$362.50
			F/S 99/00	Dues:VA Tech Women	R	\$725.00
9/26/99	526	S Carl Schmitt	Clinic expenses	Coaching Coord	R	(\$50.00)
			MARFU mtg	Officer Travel	R	(\$40.00)
9/30/99		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$4.26
10/18/99	DEP	S	F/S 99/00 (left out \$1)	Dues:Radford Men	R	\$724.00
			F/S 99/00	Dues:JMU Men	R	\$725.00
			F/S 99/00	Dues:JMU Women	R	\$725.00

		F/S 99/00	Dues:VA Tech Men	R	\$725.00
		F/S 99/00	Dues:Virginia Women	R	\$725.00
		F/S 99/00	Dues:Radford Women	R	\$725.00
		F99	Dues:United	R	\$362.50
		F/S 99/00	Dues:U of Richmond	R	\$575.00
		F99	Dues:Newport News	R	\$362.50
		F/S 99/00	Dues:Longwood Men	R	\$725.00
		F/S 99/00	Dues:Longwood Women	R	\$725.00
10/29/99		Interest Earned	Misc	R	\$7.32
11/9/99	DEP	S	Dues:Tidewater Storm	R	\$362.50
		F99	Dues:Virginia Men	R	\$725.00
		F99	Dues:Blackwater	R	\$362.50
		F99	Dues:BRATS	R	\$362.50
11/9/99		529 Carl Schmitt	Hotel, post event fee	R	(\$800.00)
11/23/99		530 Jeff Anderson	Late Fall Newsletter	R	(\$232.69)
11/23/99	531	S USAA (Kris Kabza)	Trip to EPRU	R	(\$720.48)
			Trip to EPRU	R	(\$810.54)
11/24/99	DEP	S	F/S 99/00	R	\$725.00
			F/S 99/00 Balance	R	\$575.00
11/25/99		532 Kris Kabza	Invitations and postage	R	(\$50.95)
11/25/99		533 David Chapman	President's Reception	R	(\$650.00)
11/30/99		Interest Earned	Misc	R	\$9.86
12/8/99		534 Steve Guiffre	Food for players	R	(\$70.68)
12/10/99		540 Aaron Smith	MARFU M Selects		(\$50.00)
12/10/99		541 Rob Munsell	MARFU M Selects		(\$50.00)
12/24/99		535 Steve Guiffre	Clinic	R	(\$100.00)
12/27/99		536 Kris Kabza	Clinic		(\$100.00)
12/27/99		537 Kambeth Kelly	Kelly/Kuchta trip w/MARFU		(\$100.00)
12/27/99	543	S David Chapman	Meeting mileage		(\$76.00)
			Phone calls and mailings		(\$113.19)
12/31/99		Interest Earned	Misc	R	\$9.59
TOTAL 1/1/99 - 12/31/99					(\$7,226.16)
BALANCE 12/31/99					\$16,041.14

Don Bridges Fund

VIGRX

Start (3/30/99)	\$7,510.91
Jersey Auction Deposit(6/9/99)	\$270.40
Total Cash In	\$7,781.31
End of Year Value (12/31/99)	\$9,236.08
Change from start + deposit	19%

Charitable Contribution Fund

VFINX

Start (3/8/99)	\$11,000.00
End of Year Value (12/31/99)	\$12,729.82
Change from start	16%

MARFU/USA Representative

USA RUGBY:

CIPP: Approximately 32,000 people registered through CIPP in 1999, about the same as 1998. Because of the increase in dues, USA Rugby had prudently budgeted for a drop in membership of up to 4,000. (Income from CIPP was projected on 28,000 members). This will create a small surplus for the budget, but more importantly, shows that CIPP is generating enough income to support the office and basic functions of USA. (CIPP is the major source of income for USA Rugby: The Men's National Team supports itself and provides 5% or more of all its income to USA Rugby. USA Rugby does not financially support the men's national team).

Personnel Changes: USA Rugby is continuing to go through a high number of personnel changes: Executive Director Paul Monteville left USA Rugby to take the same position with amateur boxing, and has been replaced with Mark Rudolph, who has a background in ice hockey. George Hook was not re-appointed as National Technical Director and Ron Mayes resigned as Director of the National Technical Panel. Chuck Depew is reorganizing the National Technical Panel. George has not been replaced. Eddie O'Sullivan, George's assistant and assistant coach to the USA Eagles, has returned to Ireland to be one of the coaches of his national team.

Jack Clark has retired as head coach of the Eagles but remains as General Manger of the Men's national team.

IRB Grant: The IRB has provided a grant of \$180,000 to help develop and support Youth Rugby in the United States. This is similar to the IRB grant to support collegiate development that we received a few years ago. Youth rugby is a major priority for the IRB and it is becoming one for USA.

Possible Reorganization: USA Rugby is organizing an ad hoc committee to study the organization of USA Rugby and potentially make recommendations to the USA Board of Directors about the reorganization of USA Rugby.

MARFU:

CIPP and Overall Organization: MARFU recorded the second highest CIPP registration among the seven territories in 1999. MARFU enjoys the reputation of being an extremely well administrated territory, thanks to people such as Dana Bateman and David Chapman. MARFU also controls a large number of votes on the board of USA Rugby because of the election of special representatives such as Eric Pittelkau, Nigel Willis, and Dana Bateman.

ITT (All-Star) Success: The MARFU men won both of their ITT matches, winning the "second" division and moving them back into the first division for next year. The women won one of their two matches, finishing third. The MARFU U-23's WON the inaugural Women's U-23 ITT.

Dues Increase: The success of the all-stars has been gratifying. However, in order to support the growing number of all-star programs, MARFU will almost certainly be forced to raise dues next year (all-stars are our primary expense and dues are our only source of income). MARFU has not raised dues in its five year existence, and it will not do so lightly. However, at this point, it appears inevitable.

Reyn Kinzey
MARFU/USA Representative

Men's Club Coordinator

Congratulations to:

Raleigh - winners of the Ed Lee Cup and MARFU Division II South

Norfolk - winners of the VRU Division II League

Blacksburg - winners of the VRU Division III League

In the MARFU Division II playoffs, the VRU will be represented by Raleigh, Norfolk, and James River.

In the MARFU Division III playoffs, the VRU will be represented by Blacksburg and Virginia Beach.

Congratulations to MARFU All-Stars Aaron Smith (Virginia) and Rob Munsell (Raleigh)

Women's Club Coordinator

It was an exciting year for VRU women's club rugby. For the first time we had four teams represented at the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup.

The VRU had three women (Annie Collier, Dana Kuchta, and Kam Kelly) play for MARFU and two women (Ann Zearfoss and Trish Dickerson) play for the Combined Services Team at the annual Invitational Territorial Tournament in Tampa Florida.

Dana Kuchta and Kam Kelly also attended the National 7's Camp in New Orleans.

As Women's Club coordinator I would like to establish a position to coordinate all VRU Women's Select Side practices and games. We need to make sure that all VRU women get an opportunity to play upper level rugby. If anyone is interested please let me know.

Tidewater Storm has changed their name to Norfolk Storm due to pressure from the city of Norfolk. They have basically stated that teams who want to use fields in the city of Norfolk must have Norfolk as part of their club name.

Kam Kelly
Norfolk Storm

Men's Collegiate Coordinator

The year 1999 was a successful one for the VRU Collegiate Men, although there were some pretty serious problems as well. The lack of referees available to referee college level rugby matches, if not corrected, will lead to a greater risk of injury to players, and decline in the level of play and the number of players, and ultimately a decline in collegiate rugby in Virginia. It is particularly difficult for the colleges, because they are not in a position to call on an old boy to ref a match, let alone become a ref.

On the up side, the VRU anticipates two new collegiate men's clubs seeking admission to the union, UVA and Germanna CC (Fredericksburg). With the admission of these clubs, the VRU will return to a Division II East and West format that was instituted in 1998, and abandoned in 1999. The split Division II in 2000 will hopefully lead to the installation of a Collegiate Mens Division III in 2001, and a Division III MARFU playoff in the spring of 2002. Only time will tell.

Congratulations to VA Tech, who finished as the 5th ranked collegiate rugby club in the United States, and to Mary Washington and James Madison who also advance to the MARFU Championships. Congratulations to Longwood and VMI, who also went on to represent the VRU in the MARFU Collegiate Division II Championships.

The results of the 1999 Ed Lee will see Tech, JMU and Mary Washington again representing the VRU in this springs MARFU Division I Championships, with Radford and ODU representing the VRU in the Division II Championships. Also, for the first time since 1995, when the Division I/II system was instituted, Radford University is promoted to Div I, while W&M has elected to be relegated to Div II for rebuilding.

We wish all of the VRU Collegiate Mens teams luck in 2000, and ask that your clubs and officers continue the excellent work off the field that keeps the VRU flowing smoothly.

Carl Schmitt

Women's Collegiate Coordinator

Congratulations to UVa, winners of the Sandy Lee Cup.

In the MARFU Division I playoffs, the VRU will be represented by the University of Virginia, James Madison, and Virginia Tech

In the MARFU Division II playoffs, the VRU will be represented by Mary Washington College, William & Mary, and Longwood.

Congratulations to last year's All-Americans Laurie Peverill (UVa), Heather Walsh (Mary Wash), and Leigh Wilkins (UVa).

Congratulations to MARFU U-23 All-Stars Jamie Burke (UVa), Kristin Engener (UVa), Lisa Houy (Va Tech), and Liz King (Mary Wash). Laurie Peverill (UVa), and Stacey Reherman (UVa).

Finally, congratulations to William & Mary who won the Referee's Sportsmanship Award at the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup for the third time in five years.

Youth Representative

The first non-contact clinic in May 2000, which yielded thirteen USARFU certified non-contact youth rugby coaches in VA. In addition, the clinic paid off immediately with the introduction of rugby to students at Brookland Middle School as a phys. ed. Unit. Over the summer United RFC worked Friday Cheers as a fundraiser, but it yielded more than just funds. I met a phys. ed. coordinator from Powhatan High School. In the fall, 9th grade students at Powhatan HS learned basic rugby in October and November. Plans are to continue the non-contact rugby program during the 2001 school year, but expanding it to 9th and 10th grade phys. ed. classes.

There is a second non-contact youth rugby certification clinic scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2001. The course is from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Falling Creek Middle School in trailer #4. Course instructors are Brett Burdick and Pat Walsh. The course costs \$5.00.

In March, United RFC members will head up an after school program at the Chester YMCA in March for kids 9 to 12 years old. The Chester YMCA will follow this up in the summer with a weeklong instructional session July 9th thru 13th. Roanoke YMCA is also starting a youth rugby program this spring.

On Dec. 27th I met with a Henrico County educational specialist about using the non-contact program as a phys. ed. class in Middle Schools. (It helped that Brookland Middle School, a Henrico County school, is teaching the non-contact program in April.) The school system will look to purchase size 4 youth balls in July, and in August the Richmond Rugby Foundation (RRF) and VRU will train about 140 instructors in non-contact rugby.

A major cost to starting youth programs, other than volunteers, are size 4 youth balls. On Friday, Jan. 5th I submitted a bid to many rugby suppliers for quantities of 200, 500, and 800 size 4 youth balls. The balls will have the VRU logo and local RFC contact phone numbers for info on youth rugby. Quotes are coming back anywhere between \$8.00 and \$13.00 per ball. I'm hoping that all VRU men and women's clubs will contribute funds to the procurement of youth balls. In southern Virginia there are no established youth programs. I'm under the philosophy that if you give a child a ball, that child will play with it.

Volunteers are another resource that is hard to come by. That is why I taken the approach of using the non-contact rugby program as a phys. ed. class. It's a win/ win situation for rugby and for the schools. Rugby gains exposure to the youth of a community and the middle schools find a new and exciting sport to teach. I'm hoping children will gain interest in rugby from the school program, which intern will cause them to seek out rugby outside of school. This could stimulate after school clubs, park & rec. and YMCA programs to begin.

Dan Bicehouse
youth@rugby.org

Disciplinary Chairman

Hello, my name is Rodney Hall, I have been the disciplinary chair of the VRU for the past year. We in the VRU don't really have many disciplinary problems that I have to deal with, which is a good thing. We stayed in single digits this year in ejection and sin bins.

To the players, I would like to point out that the game is more enjoyable when the cheap shots are left off the field.

To the coaches and administrators of the various teams, I would like to stress that if a player does get caught doing something that warrants ejection he or she is going to miss a minimum of 2 weeks for the first offense. With that said I would now like to inform you that the laws concerning suspension are in the VRU Handbook this year. We are now using USA Rugby's discipline guidelines in our handbook, which I just want to say will put individuals on the sideline for longer amounts of time.

To the referees, please report sin-bins to me.

Thank you,
Rodney Hall
discipline@rugby.org

Newsletter Editor

This has been my fifth year of being Newsletter Editor, a job I greatly enjoy.

The Virginia Rugby Union Newsletter comes out four times per year: Spring edition in February, Summer Edition in April for colleges and in May for clubs, Fall Edition in August, and Winter Edition in November.

I get my information from many sources: various Internet sites and listserves, my emailing and telephoning VFU folks for stories, Rugby magazine, and good old networking. I get very few leads and have to root out lots of my news. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone with a newsworthy story get in touch with me.

My e-mail: news@rugby.org

My work phone: (757) 226-4109

My work fax: (757) 226-4369

Ten copies of each newsletter go out via the U.S. Postal Service to each club. In addition, e-copies go out to individuals, such as the VRU Executive Committee, referees, and "friends" of the VRU. If you personally want a newsletter sent via e-mail or know someone who does, let me know.

Finally, and most important of all, I need correct club mailing addresses. Some clubs don't have permanent addresses. You really need one. Make sure that the VRU Secretary has the latest address of your club. Make sure he knows if it is a permanent address or the address of a club officer or player that will change upon graduation or team elections. If you don't have a permanent club address, then PLEASE get the newest address to the VRU Secretary every time your club address changes: secretary@rugby.org If you have not been receiving a copy of the newsletter, go on-line to the VRU website (<http://www.rugby.org/>) and see where your club's copies are being mailed to. Check around to see who picks up the club mail and ask for a copy of the newsletter next time one is due.

I look forward to another year of being your newsletter editor.

Best regards,
Jeffrey Anderson
news@rugby.org

Referees Society of Virginia

The Referees Society of Virginia provides coverage to Virginia Rugby Union matches and, when resources permit, to other rugby unions on an invitational basis and reciprocal basis. Because of the distances that the members have to travel on a weekly basis, only two meetings are held/year: the Fall Season Annual General Meeting in August and the Spring Season meeting in mid-February. Both are used to discuss seasonal assignments and law interpretations.



All rugby matches must be coordinated with the RSV prior to each season by VRU clubs. **For that reason, schedules are due on 2/1 for the Spring and 8/1 for the Fall; last minute changes can be accepted, but referees cannot be guaranteed.** Due to the extremely limited number of RSV rugby referees each week, selection of matches is based on the judgment of the RSV and the personal schedule and general availability of the referees.

The club's match information should include the time and date of the match, directions to the home pitch (even when it is well known to all), and telephone numbers of one or two club officials (daytime and evening hours).

Unless there is a specific note to the contrary, we will assume there is a B-match; if there is not one and a ref is assigned, the teams may be charged accordingly. In the event of a round-robin event, we must know **all** of the games that will be played on that day. Changes can certainly occur in a club's schedule, but it is the home club's responsibility to notify the referee assigned to the match in a timely fashion; if no notification is given, a \$100 penalty (as well as the standard fees) may be assessed.

Payment of the RSV match fee of \$50 and referee's travel expenses are expected upon the receipt of the end-of-season billing.

The RSV encourages club members and senior rugby players to consider refereeing as a part of their rugby commitment. The RSV can sponsor certification clinics for potential referees during the year to discuss the laws of rugby.

Each RSV referee is evaluated by his peers to encourage the individual improvement and promotion within the referee ranks. They are frequently asked to call important inter-union club and union select side matches.

There is a tremendous shortage of referees in the VRU, MARFU, USA and world-wide and the problem seems to be growing. The RSV is taking a renewed effort in the recruitment of potential referees; on 1/15/00, we sponsored a Level I and II USA Rugby certification clinic in Fredericksburg. It should be noted that it is our feeling that requiring the clubs to provide referees would be a futile requirement.

Irregardless of the current shortage, the RSV and VRU have a policy of zero tolerance for referee abuse; this includes both on *and* off the field behavior. The RSV and the VRU annually honor the clubs for the best jobs done in their interaction with the referees and contribution to the quality of rugby in Virginia. It is hoped that these awards will encourage improvement in the administrative caliber of all clubs with the VRU. The annual award winners are announced at the VRU Annual General Meeting (and will be done so in a few minutes).

In addition, the RSV honors a single club for sportsmanship during the Ed and Sandy Lee Cup for their contribution to the quality of rugby in Virginia. The William & Mary Women's Rugby club was selected as the annual award winner at the conclusion of the 1999 tournament.

For more information about joining the RSV, send us an EMail at ref@rugby.org or talk to any of the RSV referees when you see 'em!

David Chapman
President, Referees Society of Virginia

Virginia Rugby Union

<http://www.rugby.org>

Internet/Website -1999 Report

We had **31469** visitors (home page) from January 1, 1999 through until December 31, 1999 (not too bad for a site with a limited audience!). In comparison, we had **20845** visitors (home page) from January-December 1998 and **5852** from January-December 1997.

We currently house:

- The Seasonal Schedules
- The On-Line Version of the Handbook
- The Newsletter
- The Addresses of Officers and Clubs and other Contacts
- Links to Club Web Sites
- Program Compliance
- Forms
- General Announcements
- Link to the MARFU Site (housed at rugby.org)
- Links to USA Rugby
- Men's Club Divisional Play
- The Regional Calendar
- Minutes of Meetings
- History
- ...and Other Stuff!

We provide mailing lists for regional scores, VRU/MARFU/USA Rugby information and various committees.

We've offered a service that has had surprisingly few takers on, but it's simple:

Provide us with a permanent point-of-contact with an Email address and we'll provide (for free) an alias that uses the rugby.org domain.

For example: norfolkblues@rugby.org is set to point to davidc@pilot.infi.net

(This is not "free Email" this is just a pointer that provide (at no charge) some identity for your club; one caveat: one alias/club, please!)

Provide us with your club's Email address and we'll provide (for free) a pointer that uses the rugby.org domain.

For example: <http://www.rugby.org/united/> points to <http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Court/6118/zunited.html>

If you'd like more information, simply send an Email message requesting the service to: rugby@rugby.org.