

2001 Virginia Rugby Union Annual General Meeting  
Detailed Minutes  
January 27, 2001  
Richmond, Virginia

#### Roll Call

Officers Attendant: Kris Kabza, President; Bill Lucas, Vice President; Greg Markham, Secretary; David Chapman, Treasurer, RSV Representative, WebMaster; Reyn Kizney, MARFU/USA Representative; Reid McClure, Men's Clubs Coordinator; Carl Schmitt, Men's Collegiate Coordinator; Dan Bicehouse, Youth Coordinator; Rodney Hall, Disciplinary Chair; Jeff Anderson, Newsletter Editor

Officers Absent: Kam Kelly, Women's Clubs Coordinator; Julie Comer, Collegiate Women's Coordinator

Clubs Attendant: Blackwater Women, Blue Ridge Women, Blacksburg Men, Blackwater Men, James River Men, Newport News Men, Norfolk Men, Raleigh Men, Roanoke Men, United Men, Virginia Men, Virginia Beach Men, JMU Women, Longwood Women, MWC Women, Radford Women, Uva Women, VPI Women, W&M Women, Hampden-Sydney Men, Longwood Men, MWC Men, ODU Men, Radford Men, VMI Men, Uva Men, VPI Men, W&L Men, W&M Men

Clubs Absent: Norfolk Women, JMU Men, University of Richmond Men

Clubs Folded: Blacksburg Women

Club Cipp Commenced. Raleigh and Norfolk Men have submitted paperwork to USA Rugby prior to the AGM

No questions raised to the President's Report.

No questions raised to the Vice President's Report.

No questions raised to the Secretary's Report.

The Treasurer presented the year 2000 VRU Financial Report. The VRU ran a surplus of \$7,608.96. The 2001 Budget, recommended by the Executive Committee, is a proposed deficit of (\$6,150). Deficit spending is covered by surplus funds from 2000. New budgetary items are VRU Select Side Jerseys and a one-time U19 Grant. Select Side Players Grants is now a separate line item. It was formerly incorporated under the budget of select sides and various coordinators. High School and Youth line items have been combined into a new U19 Line Item. A one time line markup has been allocated to the Coaching Coordinator. This markup is to subsidize a single representative from each club to attend the USA Rugby Level I or Level III Coaching Clinic in August.

Larry Summers (W&M) Questioned MARFU Dues Increase.

Treasurer: MARFU Dues increased to pay for Select Sides

President: This is NOT optional, but a contractual obligation with USA Rugby

VPI Men: What is Grant to Clubs?

Treasurer: A token grant to any club that makes the top 16 (or 8, depending on division) ranking in USA Rugby Championship Tournament. Each club is eligible each year for a one-time \$500 payout.

Carl Schmitt: What is grant to Select Side Players?

Treasurer: \$50 per person to help cover expenses when invited to attend a select side tournament.

Jim Kelly (Raleigh) motioned for approval. Tom Gardiner (James River) seconded. The budget was approved with no opposition.

The MARFU/USA Representatives report was subject to the following discussion.

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): Where is the Men's Club Div I, Div II going?

MARFU Rep: No definitive answer. A USA Rugby ad-hoc committee will present a plan to affected Men's Clubs. VRU/MARFU has limited input for "premier" league men, but has a large delegation in USA Rugby to affect policy for other men's clubs. No definitive answer can be given for planning at this point.

Rodney Hall (Blackwater) asked for verification that college eligibility rules no longer incorporate an age limit, but within 5 years of first matriculation.

Larry Summers (W&M) asked about NCAA involvement in Women's Collegiate Rugby.

MARFU/USA Rep: Under the auspices of emerging sports programs, Women's Collegiate Rugby will potentially become a varsity sport for desiring colleges. USA Rugby would lose control over these members.

Bill Lucas (Vice President) asked about teams fielding multiple sides in differing Divisions.

MARFU/USA Rep: MARFU is considering allowing a club to field sides in multiple (Div I, II, or III) divisions.

Jim Kelly (Raleigh) asked about the non-naturalized provisions.

MARFU/USA Rep: Men's or Women's clubs are now allowed 4 non-citizens (up from 2).

Colleges are covered under Collegiate Eligibility Rules

MARFU Rep: Select Side structure for Men is likely to radically change due to waning interest.

Larry Summers (W&M): Select Sides should be funded by corporate sponsors, not by the Union. The Union should invest in the future, such as youth rugby programs.

MARFU Rep: Concurrence

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): Has USA Rugby received any monies from World Cup participation?

MARFU/USA Rep: Unaware to any grants given to USA Rugby other than a \$60,000 grant specifically for Youth Rugby.

President: Clarification, CIPP Does NOT support National Team.

Men's Coordinator Report had limited discussion

Marty (Newport News) Date of Coaching Clinic?

Men's Coordinator: August

Women's Coordinator Report was given by Kris Kabza (President)

Greg Markham (Secretary): Blacksburg confirmed folded?

President: Affirmative

College Men's Report was given verbally

Funding in place for a \$50 grant per person in a MARFU select side event

Coaching Clinic, Dorey Park, Last weekend of August, Club must pay USA Rugby, will be reimbursed by VRU

No Schedules have been reported to the Coordinator or to the RSV

Officer Updates are due Sunday January 28

Leagues have been restructured for 2001, added Div III

Announcement of divisional breakdowns

Any club can be promoted to a higher division by requesting such from the VRU. Requesting club must have been highest finisher in division. Request will be evaluated based on performance and obligations.

Congratulations to Radford and Longwood for their performance in Div II. Radford won MARFU Div II and progressed to top 6 in national play.

Ed Lee no longer determines post season play\*, only a state tournament

Hampden-Sydney: Will there be Division III playoffs?

CM Coordinator: MARFU will have Div III playoffs.

Longwood: Will ODU be a viable club:

ODU: Yes

Longwood: What is Christopher Newport?

President: Tabled until the New Applicants agenda item.

Tom Lovell (W&L): Division III will play all other Division III clubs?

CM Coordinator: Yes

President: Report any scheduling problems due to the larger number of obligations.

Contact referee 1 week in advance

If any problems prior to game, contact referee first, coordinator second.

Report all scores to coordinator

Request all clubs to consider contributions to Don Bridges Fund

The Collegiate Women's Report was presented by Kris Kabza, President. There were no questions.

A short recess was ordered.

Blacksburg RFC was recognized for a contribution to the Don Bridges Fund made during the recess.

The Youth Coordinators report stimulated exciting discussion concerning youth programs.

Program has been successful with Richmond area school systems

The youth coordinator explained his plan to get youth rugby balls printed with VRU contacts and distributed through the state for youth programs.

Reid McClure (Roanoke): The program really sells itself to schools and organizations

Youth Coordinator clarified that the program was for 8-12 year olds, non-contact, touch 7's

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): If unable to attend clinic, how does one get a copy of the tape?

Youth Coordinator: May have a source for extra copies. You may also contact Scott Novak of USA Rugby

The Disciplinary Chair's report was subject to the following discussion:

The Chair pointed out Section III, Article C describing major offenses and ejection as a reminder

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): How does the VRU decide on the the actual punishment when the range in the USA guidelines allows a lot of latitude?

Dis. Chair: Referee reports and how infraction occurred are the strongly taken into advisement

President: The VRU has generally taken the middle of the range

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): Does an appeals process exist?

Dis. Chair pointed out the specific passage, Sec. V, Article B: 10 day window, appeal goes to MARFU chair.

President: A waiver on the 10 day rule can be had based on circumstances

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): Asking for clarification so that his club procedures can reflect the VRU procedures. Also wants to have a quick resolution to appeals, particularly when league play and/or playoffs are concerned

President: On a sensitive matter when tournaments/league play is concerned, the Appeals Board is made aware at the time of the ruling that an appeal may occur, so that they may prepare.

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): Just wants to be sure he can make the club aware of the consequences of their actions

President: VRU will follow USA Guidelines

Dis. Chair: Safe to assume at least middle of the road of the USA Guidelines

The Newsletter Editor's report was subject to the following discussion:

Radford Men submitted a correction: two Radford Men's names are absent from the VRU allstar list

Reid McClure (Roanoke RFC): Correction: Blacksburg upset Norfolk in the Ed & Sandy Lee, not Roanoke

Radford Men: Correction to final league standings: Radford's loss was not a league match.

Editor: Corrections will be made in next newsletter

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): Is Newsletter posted on website?

Editor: yes

The RSV report was subject to the following discussion:

Only 10 Schedules have been submitted  
MWC Women have been awarded the Ed & Sandy Lee Sportsmanship Award  
"Blades" on Boots - at the discretion of the referee  
IRB Logo required on all gear

Reid McClure (Roanoke): What is the Testing Standard for protective gear?  
Jim Kelly (Raleigh): CEN - Central European Nations; European version of ANSI  
Gardiner (James River): Will Aluminum blades be allowed?

RSV Rep: Yes

ODU Men requested clarification on the ruling about Black Headgear

RSV Rep: Specifically disallowed. Reasoning: Hides Blood.

Radford Men: No grandfather clauses?

RSV Rep: No (No black headgear will be allowed)

Reid McClure (Roanoke) recognized Mr. Chapman's ability to keep Law Interpretations posted and available for all.

The WebMaster report was subject to limited discussion.

Bill Lucas (MWC): Can Email aliases forward to a list?

WebMaster: Yes

Awards Presentations:

Men, Div III, Runner Up: Blacksburg

Men, Div III, Champion: Roanoke

Men, Div II, Runner Up: Virginia

Men, Div II, Champion: United

Men, Div I, Runner Up: Norfolk

Men, Div I, Champion: Raleigh

Women, Runner Up: Norfolk

Women, Champion: Blue Ridge

College Men, Div II, Runner Up: Longwood College

College Men, Div II, Champion: Radford University

College Men, Div I, Runner Up: James Madison University

College Men, Div I, Champion: Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University

College Women, Div II, Runner Up: College of William & Mary

College Women, Div II, Champion: Mary Washington College

College Women, Div I, Runner Up: University of Virginia

College Women, Div I, Champion: James Madison University

Sportsmanship, Men: Blacksburg

Sportsmanship, College Men: VPI/SU

Sportsmanship, Women: MWC

The President made a call for any clubs wishing to apply for admittance to the union.

Mike Moore stood up to present Christopher Newport University. Mr. Moore did not have a completed application process, though had submitted VRU Dues. Mr. Moore stated that all monies raised to start the club came from the dedicated members. There has been, to this point, no monetary aid from the University, but financial support is promised in the future. The club has received lots of support from Newport News and Virginia Beach. Several CNU players have game experience playing for Newport News.

Jim Kelly (Secretary): Where does the team play?

Mike Moore: Home pitch will be the Newport News pitch, which is located adjacent to the campus.

Greg Markham (Secretary): Any effects to existing Newport News Club

Newport News: No

Rodney Hall (Blackwater): Will be a collegiate side?

Mike Moore: yes  
Reid McClure (Roanoke): Mr. Moore's Position? Board in place?  
Mike Moore: President. Yes.  
Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men's Coordinator): C-N has not submitted a formal application package. Made a suggestion on the form of the motion to accept, including provisions.  
Kris Kabza (President): Will C-N meet existing deadlines for schedule and officer submissions?  
Carl Schmitt, Mike Moore: Yes  
Rodney Hall (Blackwater): Did C-N play any matches last year?  
Mike Moore: Scrimmage against W&M; scrimmages against Newport News and Va Beach, all under the CIPP registration of Newport News.  
W&M Men: Supports C-N. Asks VRU to accept C-N.  
Tom Gardiner (James River): Offer to host CNU in a "B" match to help fill schedule.  
Jim Kelly (Raleigh): Coach? Certification?  
Mike Moore: Coach is a professor at C-N with extensive play in many nations. Not known to be a USA Rugby certified coach. The Coach has asked for information on coaching clinics.  
Longwood: Longwood has never had a coach.  
Reid McClure (Roanoke): Motion to accept C-N as an associate collegiate member, contingent upon a completed application package supplied to Carl Schmitt by Feb. 3  
Rodney Hall (Blackwater): Second  
Verbal affirmation, no opposition.

Averett has postponed decision.

Rodney Hall (Blackwater): Averett will participate as part of Blackwater while developing the infrastructure required of an independent club.

Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men's Coordinator): Collegiate Clubs cannot just "form" and play matches. They must work under a CIPP umbrella, such as the current cases of C-N and Averett

Jim Kelly (Raleigh): The old Dan River club folded. Its pitch is located in Yanceyville as well as some old players. They will be a good contact for Averett.

Larry Summers (W&M): We should not discourage college clubs forming and "scrimmaging" against member clubs.

Greg Markham (Secretary): Would collegiate clubs be allowed to form and scrimmage as "At Large" members? Discussion Tabled until next EC meeting.

Jeff Anderson (Newsletter Editor) presented weaknesses of current newsletter system, including old news and postage and printing costs, and lack of rapid turnaround. Proposed that the newsletter go out to club presidents as an email, and a PDF posting on the webpage.

Kris Kabza (President): Motion to go to an all electronic newsletter

Tom Gardiner (James River): Second

Verbal affirmation, no opposition

Roshna Wunderlich (JMU Women) presented the details of her medical survey on athletic footwear for rugby players. Roshna asked that all clubs fill out the surveys she distributes. If there is any interpretation to be made of any questions, have the club use the same interpretation and let her know what this is. Contact her at: WunderRE@JMU.edu

Coaching Clinics were covered under other items

Joe Schmitt (VPI Men) announced that VPI is sponsoring a high school rugby clinic February 24/25. Details can be found at [http://www.vt\\_rugby.com](http://www.vt_rugby.com)

Greg Markham (Secretary) nominated Kris Kabza (MWC Women) for President

VPI Men: Seconded

Verbal affirmation, no objection

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Bill Lucas (MWC Women) for Vice President

Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Greg Markham (Blackwater) for Secretary  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated David Chapman (Norfolk) for Treasurer  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Reyn Kizney (United) for MARFU/USA Representative  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Reid McClure (Roanoke) for Men's Coordinator  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Kam Kelly (Norfolk Storm) for Women's Coordinator  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Carl Schmidt (United) for Collegiate Men's Coordinator  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Julie Comer (Blue Ridge) for Collegiate Women's Coordinator  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Dan Bicehouse (United) for Youth Coordinator  
Seconded.  
Affirmed by acclamation

Kris Kabza (President) nominated Carl Schmidt (United) for At-Large Director, MARFU

Kris Kabza (President) gave notice for cleaning the surroundings

Adjourn

\* Kris Kabza (President) called a sidebar after adjourning to set the schedules of the 2001 EC Meetings. Mr. Kabza also wished to discuss the Men's Collegiate Ed Lee issue. The new structure of Ed Lee for the collegiate men had not yet been widely discussed among the EC members.

EC Meeting times and places were set as:

- EC - Jan 12, Richmond
- VRU AGM - Jan 19, Richmond
- EC - May 20, Lynchburg
- EC - August 18, Charlottesville