

Minutes, VRU Executive Committee Meeting  
January 12, 2002  
Richmond Virginia

Meeting was called to order by Kris Kabza, President.

In attendance, Kris Kabza (President), Greg Markham (Secretary), Reid McClure (Men's Coordinator), Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men's Coordinator), Julie Comer (Collegiate Women's Coordinator), Dan Bicehouse (Youth Coordinator), Rodney Hall (Disciplinary Chair), Reyn Kinzey (MARFU/USARFU Representative)

Bo Brown, of University of Richmond RFC was a guest.

#### AGM

- UofR RFC will post signs and obtain refreshments.
- Julie Comer will pick up a check from David Chapman (Treasurer) in order to reimburse UofR RFC for refreshments.

#### ED & SANDY LEE TOURNAMENT

- Reid McClure posed a question from Roanoke RFC as to whether the tournament will continue to be a viable event. Discussion ensued and Reid was assured that the tournament will continue to be meaningful as a seeding of teams for Territorial Playoffs.
- The format of the tournament was discussed due to the growing disparity between strength of teams. A motion was made and passed that the men's division be broken down into two brackets. The top bracket will consist of the top four mens teams of the VRU, the second bracket will hold host seeds 5 through 8. Playoff matches will be held only within a bracket but not between brackets, so there will be only two matches for each club (one on Saturday and one on Sunday. Winners will play winners on Sunday, losers will play losers). Each playoff match will be a full 80 minute match. A provision was made so that any team wishing to participate may, this being a "playin" match for the lower bracket.
- Kris, Carl, and Julie agreed to discuss a similar arrangement for colleges, and how this would affect playoff seeding. Greg offered that some issues with this had been discussed last year, and he could (and would) provide transcripts of the email discussions. Kris and the coordinators agreed to work on this and have a solid proposal prior to the beginning of the fall season.
- Reid mention liability difficulties with the Tournament Party. Roanoke RFC cannot accept the liability, and they are have no luck with and establishment that will. Discussion ensued about the options. Reyn reported that USA Rugby has taken the official stance that any rugby social with a collegiate team in attendance must be alcohol free. There are some exceptions such as cash bar, and other contrivances. The exact handling, within those guidelines, of the situation shall be up to the bidding club.
- Reid and Roanoke requested that additional time to work up proposal for hosting the E&SL tournament, within the new guidelines, be given. A motion was made and passed to allow bids up until March 1. All clubs wishing to bid will be informed of the new guidelines and the extended deadline at the upcoming AGM.

#### NEW MEN'S CLUBS

- A group in Richlands, Virginia is planning on putting together an application package for admission to the union. This package should be in before the AGM. The group is led by Chris Plaster.
- Winchester RFC has already submitted its application and dues check to the Secretary. This package was passed on to Reid McClure with high recommendation. The check was given to Julie Comer to deliver to David Chapman. Winchester's organizer and first president will be Jeffrey Zarbo.
- The group in Danville, Dan River RFC, has decided to join the North Caroline Rugby Union.

#### NEW WOMEN'S CLUBS

- A group of women in Roanoke are planning on applying for admission to the Union. This group is led by Megan (unknown last name), a former player at Radford.
- The James River Women will be applying for admission. Stephanie-Jo Edwards is the contact.
- The Blacksburg Women have been attempting to re-form.

#### WOMEN'S MATRIX

- There was discussion of requiring a women's club matrix. The discussion was tabled until the number of women's clubs is determined.

#### WOMEN'S COORDINATOR

- Kam Kelly is planning on stepping down. Kris urged everyone to seek out a suitable replacement. Stephanie-Jo was mentioned.

#### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Dan reported that there has been excellent reception to the non-contact classes being taught in middle schools in the Richmond area. The program is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and has picked up momentum with more and more schools adopting the program. One school has been successful enough they are considering an after-school program.
- Dan expects to have a youth rugby team in Richmond within 2 to 3 years.
- Dan plans to get certified as a non-contact coach instructor so that he may give the proper training to Physical Education professionals in school systems. There are currently only two certified trainers, and this will increase the resource pool.
- Greg and Dan reported being in contact with two groups, one in Ashburn and one in Winchester, that wish to start youth programs. The committee discussed how this relates to our relationship to the PRU. We have a friendly relationship with them now, and it was determined that we should offer membership to the VRU to the clubs contacting us, but we should also make the PRU aware of the situation, so that the club may have a choice. It is also recognized that competition against PRU youth clubs will be of the essence. The VRU would like for these clubs to be the starting point for a strong VRU program.

Greg and Rodney needed to leave the meeting at this point.

<Further Minutes were taken by Julie Comer>

#### COLLEGIATE DEVELOPMENT

- Virginia Commonwealth University Collegiate Men and Collegiate Women will be applying for associate membership. The men do not have to apply for full membership since it has been 4 years since they were in the VRU.

#### COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- A Coaches Code of Conduct Contract, similar to the EPRU, was voted down unanimously.

#### BY-LAW CHANGES

- A new By-Law concerning on line information Each club must contact the vru secretary at least twice a year on or before Feb. 1st and Sept 1st either confirming their information on-line or changing it. Or they will be considered not in good standing with the Union.

#### MEETING MINUTES

- A motion was made that the secretary email minutes of meeting to every club president/organizational head. It was voted down. If the coordinators would like to take that upon themselves they certainly can.

#### NEW CIPP REQUIREMENTS

- A new USA Rugby rule that clubs must have 15 players CIPP'ed in order to get insurance was discussed. Coordinators were reminded to let their teams know.

#### BUDGET

- Budget was passed unanimously.
- Discussion about the mens select side program being cut.
- U19 Program requested possibly more money to buy balls, it was decided that if people put the program together and came to the program money could be found.

#### DELINQUENT CLUBS

- It is recognized that JMU Women is in arrears on their dues, they must provide a check by Feb 15th or they will be replaced in the MARFU tournament leading to the Women's Collegiate Championship as a VRU representative.