

Virginia Rugby Union

Annual General Meeting

10:00 am, Sunday 6 February 2005

Richmond, Virginia

Agenda

Opening Remarks

Roll Call

VRU Officers

Men's Clubs

Women's Clubs

College Men's Clubs

College Women's Clubs

High School Clubs

Officer Reports

President - Kris Kabza

Vice-President - Shannon Plum

Secretary - Greg Markham

Treasurer - Bill Lucas

MARFU/USA Representative - David Chapman

Men's Club Coordinator - Tony Ferguson

Women's Club Coordinator - Marsha Durocher

Men's College Coordinator - Carl Schmitt

Women's College Coordinator - Julie Comer

Youth Coordinator - Noel Lowenson

Disciplinary Chairman - George Durocher

Newsletter Editor - Jeff Anderson

Referees Society of Virginia Chairman - Jeff Anderson

Ed & Sandy Lee Cup Bid Submission

Sportsmanship Award

New Clubs

Additional Items / New Business

Improper Match Cancellations

Election of Officers for 2005

Adjourn

President

CIPP Register

- Club - <http://www.usarugby.org/membership/forms/2005club.pdf>
- Players - <http://www.usarugby.org/membership/forms/2005cipp.pdf>
- Coach - <http://www.usarugby.org/membership/forms/2005coachcipp.pdf>

Schedules

Submit schedules to the RSV (with game time & number of matches) by **February 1, 2005**.

Online Information

Keep your contact information current. Verify your online directory information and submit to secretary@rugby.org.

VRU Email List

- Subscribe
virginiarugbyunion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Send a message
virginiarugbyunion@yahoogroups.com
- Unsubscribe
virginiarugbyunion-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Referees

Contact the referee for confirmation of match time and pitch location.

Tournaments

Remember to submit your tournament application to the VRU Vice-President.

MARFU Coaching Policy

Applicable for the EPRU, PRU and VRU, effective **January 1, 2004**:

All clubs (men's & women's clubs, men's & women colleges, boys' & girls' high school teams) will be required to have as a coach an individual that is certified at USA Rugby's Level I (minimum standard); the only exception is Youth (defined as an Under-15 team). After January 2004, a club that doesn't have an individual coaching them certified at Level I would be denied a referee. In lieu of this 2004 requirement (for a new coach-only), the club must have their coach registered at the next MARFU sponsored coaching clinic; if the coach fails to attend the clinic, referees will not be assigned and any referees already assigned will be re-allocated.

The next coaching clinic is scheduled for:
28 February 2004 - Philadelphia, PA
Coaching Accreditation: Levels I, II and III

Kris Kabza
president@rugby.org

Vice-President

The Vice President's three primary functions are managing tournament applications, monitoring CIPP compliance and administrating the Don Bridge's Fund. Currently, our Treasurer administers the Don Bridge's Fund.

Tournament Applications

The VRU Handbook requires Event Applications be submitted on the official form provided in the handbook at least **three months in advance** of the event in order to be considered. We have this requirement to make sure there are no conflicts with other tournaments, that there are enough referees to cover the matches, and to allow teams time to correct any problems with their application. Teams must be current with all financial obligations to the VRU, be Club CIPP registered and have a viable number of players CIPP registered. This year teams submitted Event Applications an average of 39 days prior to their proposed event. I urge teams to submit their Event Application according to the guidelines outlined in the VRU Handbook so that the VRU can better accommodate requests.

CIPP Compliance

The VRU currently requires the match referee to collect CIPP rosters from each team and send them to the VRU Vice President. Teams are required to submit rosters with both players' names and CIPP numbers. The VRU Handbook has a recommended form to use when submitting this information. Team rosters printed directly from the USA Rugby website can be used if the positions played by each player are annotated. Players whose applications are pending approval from USA Rugby must add their names to the roster and write "pending" next to their name. Teams are discouraged from attempting to write "pending" when no application has been submitted. USA Rugby now provides online registration. If a certified RSV referee is not available for your match, please have the acting referee for your match submit the rosters.

This year 12% of rosters required were turned in to the VRU VP. Club liability insurance programs require that Clubs and all the players in a match be CIPP registered in order for the liability insurance to be in effect. Fifteens clubs must have at least 15 players registered in addition to the club being registered to qualify for the insurance. The VRU VP will monitor the USA Rugby CIPP database and will be notifying teams that have too few players registered. Teams that are not in compliance will be liable for sanctions. So please turn in your rosters.

Shannon Plum
vp@rugby.org

Secretary

Clubs have been better than usual at reporting contact changes.
Charlotte has never submitted any information. Please submit.

Changes received since ~ December 15 have yet to be posted for 2 reasons: Secretary's Holiday business, and recent server change.

Server change now complete - Secretary decided to wait and collect any new information at AGM and make one overhaul.

Anyone unsure if information is current, please submit officer/contact information before leaving AGM.

Club Men	Updated	Club Women	Updated
* Blacksburg	17-Aug-03	Blackwater	22-Nov-04
Blackwater	27-Nov-04	Blue Ridge	9-Dec-04
* Charlotte	24-Jan-04	* James River	26-Jan-04
+ James River	21-Jul-04	+ Norfolk Storm	27-Jul-04
Newport News	29-Oct-04	Raleigh Venom	11-Oct-04
* Norfolk City Blues	24-Jan-04		
* Raleigh Vipers	21-Jan-04		
Richmond Lions	5-Oct-04		
* Roanoke	26-Jan-04		
+ Virginia Beach Falcons	12-Feb-04		
Virginia	1-Dec-04		
Collegiate Men	Updated	Collegiate Women	Updated
+ Christopher Newport University	1-Jul-04	James Madison University	17-Oct-04
+ Hampden-Sydney College	2-Jun-04	+ Longwood University	7-May-04
+ James Madison University	2-Jun-04	Mary Washington	7-Dec-04
Longwood University	22-Sep-04	Radford University	26-Aug-04
Mary Washington	25-Aug-04	+ University of Richmond	29-Jun-04
Old Dominion University	13-Sept-04	+ University of Virginia	30-Jun-04
+ Radford University	1-Jul-04	Virginia Tech	26-Oct-04
Virginia Commonwealth Univ	11-Nov-04	* William & Mary	21-Jan-04
* Randolph-Macon College	24-Jan-04	* Virginia Commonwealth Univ	9-May-03
* University of Richmond	25-Jan-04		
* University of Virginia	11-Jan-04		
* Virginia Military Institute	24-Jan-03		
+ Virginia Tech	23-Jun-04		
Washington & Lee University	8-Sep-04		
William & Mary	27-Sep-04		

+ Information update July 2004 or prior

* Information update Jan 2004 or prior

Greg Markham
secretary@rugby.org

Treasurer

Virginia Rugby Union Dues

As of 1/29/2005

		Spring 2004	Fall 2004	Spring 2005	Overdue	4/1/2005 Total Due
1	Blacksburg Men	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
2	Blackwater Men	\$17.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$435.00	\$852.50
3	Blackwater Women	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00	\$1,252.50
4	Blue Ridge Women	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
5	Charlotte Men	NA	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
6	Christopher Newport Men	\$200.00	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$617.50	\$1,035.00
7	Hampden-Sydney Men	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
8	JMU Men	-	-	-	-	\$0
9	JMU Women	-	-	-	-	\$0
10	James River Men	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
11	James River Women	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
12	Longwood Men	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
13	Longwood Women	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
14	Mary Wash Men	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
15	Mary Wash Women	-	-	-	-	-
16	Newport News Men	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
17	Norfolk Blues Men	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
18	Norfolk Storm Women	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
19	ODU Men	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
20	Radford Men	-	-	-	-	\$0
21	Radford Women	-	-	-	-	\$0
22	Raleigh Men	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
23	Raleigh Women	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
24	Roanoke Men	-	\$35.00	\$417.50	\$35.00	\$452.50
25	U of Richmond Men	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
26	U of Richmond Women	-	-	-	-	\$0
27	UVA Men	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
28	UVA Women	-	-	-	-	\$0
29	Richmond Lions	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
30	VCU Men	\$400.00	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$1,217.50	\$1,635.00
31	VCU Women	-	-	-	-	\$0
32	VMI Men	-	-	-	-	\$0
33	Virginia Tech Men	-	\$267.50	\$417.50	\$267.50	\$685.00
34	Virginia Tech Women	-	-	-	-	\$0
35	Virginia Men	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
36	Virginia Beach Men	-	-	\$417.50	-	\$417.50
37	Washington & Lee Men	-	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$835.00
38	William & Mary Men	-	-	-	-	\$0
39	William & Mary Women	-	-	-	-	\$0
	Total Due:	\$15,480.00	\$16,282.50	\$16,282.50		
	Collected:	\$14,445.00	\$10,552.50	\$5,010.00		
	Balance Due:	\$1,035.00	\$5,730.00	\$11,272.50	\$7,165.00	\$18,437.50

Note: Dues for City clubs are due on 10/01 and 04/01.
Fall and Spring Dues for College Clubs are due 10/01 (College Academic Year)

VRU - 2004 Budget and 2005 Proposed Budget

Category Description	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	Difference	2005 Proposed	Notes
INCOME					
Blacksburg Men	\$835.00	\$150.00	(\$685.00)	\$1,520.00	Includes \$685 rcvd Jan 05
Blackwater Men	\$1,635.00	\$1,200.00	(\$435.00)	\$1,270.00	Includes prior year debt
Blackwater Women	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	
Blue Ridge Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Charlotte Men	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$0.00	\$835.00	
CNU Men	\$1,635.00	\$500.00	(\$1,135.00)	\$1,970.00	Includes prior year debt
Hampden-Sydney Men	\$1,235.00	\$400.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	Includes prior year debt
James River Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
James River Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
JMU Men	\$1,635.00	\$1,635.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
JMU Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Longwood Men	\$1,235.00	\$400.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	Includes prior year debt
Longwood Women	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	Includes prior year debt
Mary Wash Men	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	Includes prior year debt
Mary Wash Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Newport News Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Norfolk Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Norfolk Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Old Dominion Men	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	Includes prior year debt
Radford Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Radford Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Raleigh Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Raleigh Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Richmond Lions Men	\$1,235.00	\$817.50	(\$417.50)	\$1,252.50	Includes prior year debt
Roanoke Men	\$1,235.00	\$800.00	(\$435.00)	\$1,270.00	Includes prior year debt
Uof Richmond Men	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	Includes prior year debt
Uof Richmond Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
UVA Men	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	Includes prior year debt
UVA Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
VCU Men	\$1,635.00	\$0.00	(\$1,635.00)	\$2,470.00	Includes prior year debt
VCU Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Beach Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Tech Men	\$835.00	\$150.00	(\$685.00)	\$1,520.00	Includes prior year debt
Virginia Tech Women	\$1,635.00	\$1,635.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
VMI Men	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Washington & Lee Men	\$835.00	\$400.00	(\$435.00)	\$1,270.00	Includes prior year debt
William & Mary Men	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	
William & Mary Women	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	Includes prior year debt
TOTAL Dues	\$37,747.50	\$26,040.00	(\$11,707.50)	\$44,272.50	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$2.65	\$2.65	\$0.00	
Borrowed from Reserves	NA	\$12,442.50	\$12,442.50	NA	
Repayment to Reserves	(\$5,200.00)	(\$5,200.00)	\$0.00	(\$12,442.50)	Includes \$685 dues rcvd in 2005
TOTAL Income	\$32,547.50	\$33,285.15	\$737.65	\$31,830.00	

Category Description	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	Difference	2005 Proposed	Notes
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
All Star					
College Men	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$200.00	\$1,000.00	
Jerseys	\$1,500.00	\$577.50	\$922.50	\$1,200.00	
Senior Men	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Senior Women	\$600.00	\$445.51	\$154.49	\$500.00	
U-23 Women	\$1,200.00	\$921.73	\$278.27	\$1,000.00	
Coaching Coordinator	\$2,000.00	\$2,167.56	(\$167.56)	\$2,000.00	Clinic Expenses
Ed Lee Cup	\$500.00	\$592.20	(\$92.20)	\$600.00	Increase based on history
Emergent	\$100.00	\$172.50	(\$72.50)	\$100.00	
Grants					
Player	\$2,800.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Team	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Handbook	\$500.00	\$468.75	\$31.25	\$500.00	
Internet Site	\$700.00	\$563.40	\$136.60	\$500.00	Decrease
MARFU	\$16,747.50	\$16,747.50	\$0.00	\$16,965.00	39 Clubs at \$435
Officer Expenses					
Club Men Coordinator	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Club Women Coordinator	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
College Men Coordinator	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
College Women Coordinator	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Disciplinary Committee	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Newsletter Editor	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Publicity	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Secretary	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Treasurer	\$50.00	\$26.00	\$24.00	\$50.00	
USARFU Rep	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Officer Travel	\$1,750.00	\$1,041.35	\$708.65	\$1,200.00	Decrease
Reimbursements					
TJ & Ref Course Attendance	\$0.00	\$680.00	(\$680.00)	\$700.00	New Category
Sportsmanship	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	
Stationery	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Trophies	\$250.00	\$315.56	(\$65.56)	\$365.00	Increase
U19	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
VRU Supplies	\$100.00	\$168.96	(\$68.96)	\$200.00	Incr for AGM Photocopies
Total Expenses	\$33,447.50	\$28,738.52	\$4,708.98	\$31,830.00	
Outstanding Obligations	\$0.00	\$1,643.04	(\$1,643.04)	\$0.00	
Total Obligations and Expenses	\$33,447.50	\$30,381.56	\$3,065.94	\$31,830.00	
OVERALL TOTAL	(\$900.00)	\$2,903.59	(\$2,328.29)	(\$0.00)	See notes below.

1 In 2004, we had several clubs that did not pay some or all of their dues. See list below.

2 Grants to players and reimbursements for coaching, referee and touch judge courses have increased a lot.

Consideration needs to be given to either raising dues or reducing the grants.

Overdue (\$11,757.50)

Blackwater Men	\$435.00
Blackwater Women	\$835.00
Christopher Newport U Men	\$1,035.00
Hampden-Sydney Men	\$835.00
Longwood Men	\$835.00
Longwood Women	\$835.00
Mary Wash Men	\$835.00
Old Dominion Men	\$835.00
Richmond Lions	\$417.50
Roanoke Men	\$35.00
University of Richmond Men	\$835.00
University of Virginia Men	\$835.00
Virginia Tech Men	\$635.00
VCU Men	\$1,635.00
Washington & Lee Men	\$835.00

VRU ACCOUNTS

BB&T Checking	\$4,924.41	
Suntrust Account	\$949.34	
Don Bridges Fund (VIGRX):	\$9,572.73	> As of 01/06/05
Long Term Savings (VFINX):	\$17,224.71	

Bill Lucas
treasurer@rugby.org

MARFU/USARFU Representative

Here's a summary of goings-on from 2004...

USA/IRB 7s in Los Angeles

Everyone was happy with the February 2004 event (except for some logistical problems from the concessions), but more "butts in seats" are needed to keep the event alive and prosperous. Folks from the VRU and MARFU area attended, even though the event was in all the way in LA (it also helped that it was over a three-day weekend for many people).

This year's event is on February 12-13 and will be held again at the Home Depot Center in Carson, California (greater Los Angeles area). For more information, please go to: <http://www.usasevens.com/>

International Rugby Board

There has been a brief discussion regarding the possibility of a Tier 1 and Tier 2 nation arrangement; the USA would be in Tier 2 for competitions like the Men's 15s World Cup. The general feeling is that this could create a more competitive World Cup event.

The IRB is also looking at other issues: the timing of the World Cup (because of differing seasons in the hemispheres), funding needs (believe it or not, the "Celtic" nations need \$\$\$ help, not just the "Tier Two" guys), world seasons (one or two), and player welfare (too many matches, etc.).

USA Rugby Governance

Certain individuals within USA Rugby have been suggesting that the USA Board of Directors is too large, so an ad hoc Committee was formed (none of whom were in MARFU) to study the issue and provide a recommendation. [As some of you may recall, a number of the clubs in MARFU swung the last election of "Special Directors" by getting their players to vote in blocks for the special directors; a number of folks at the National Level were a little put off by this display of grassroots representative democracy...]

The ad hoc Governance Committee recommended that the USA Board of Directors should be reduced from 3 Directors/Territory to 2 Directors/Territory AND called for the elimination of the Special Directors. At the AGM, 34 votes were present at this meeting; 23 votes were needed for a 2/3's vote to pass a By-Law change.

When the issue came up to eliminate the Special Directors (7 seats), the vote was 24 for, 10 against (I was against). Thus, that specific amendment passed. That will now make 21 Territorial directors + 6 International Athletes¹ = 27 BOD members. This also means that Tom Lyons (PAC, PSRFR), Buzz McClain (PSRFR), Nancy Kechner (UVa W), Dana Bateman (EPRU At-Large), Col. Bob Destafney (USMC, ex-RSV, NC Referee), Eric Jerpe (Pittsburgh Harlequins), and Barb Fugate are all off the BOD as of 1/1/05. Amazingly enough, Buzz and Dana voted for this. A consequence of this is that USA Rugby will not be conducting the Fall elections for Special Directors

The vote to change the number of Territorial Directors from 3 to 2 failed; the vote was 20 for, 14 against (did not make the 23 for the necessary 2/3s vote; I voted against).

A new Governance Committee may re-address the issue of the number of Directors and I have volunteered to serve on it. [Note: I don't have a problem with reducing the number of Board seats, as long as we have representational voting (in other words, a House of Representatives model and not a Senate model). MARFU does not have the proper proportional representation based on our number of registered players; this has been a traditional problem within USA Rugby, even in the days of the Eastern Rugby Union.]

USA Rugby's 2005 Challenges

Doug Arnot (USA Rugby CEO) says that his biggest Challenges for 2005 are:

- Men's National Team (funding) – As of 2005, the BSKyB money is finally "done". Other stuff is allegedly in the works (but we'll see).
- USA 7s – Need to get more "butts in seats", sponsors, exposure.

¹ By the USA By-laws, 20% of the USA BOD must consist of International Athletes (IAs). Given the new size of only 21 (3x7) general (TU) Directors, there will be five (5) IAs (a loss of two IAs).

- Marketing
USA v Wales – A venue needs to be finalized as well as funding issues.
- Women's National Team in 2006 for the Women's World Cup (support)

Coaching Background Checks

Primarily because of a problem with one of the VRU's "own" (a college coach and VRU Officer that we all know and love), USA Rugby found that its procedures on background checks had some problems. The main reason for doing the background checks was to protect younger players from individuals with unsavory pasts (sexual predators, felons, and so on) and the intent was to parallel what most youth leagues (or schools) do. However, the process also caught folks with minor items, like Sunday AM speeding tickets. The system is still in place, but is not quite as draconian.

Resident Player Status (RPS)

The "Resident Player Status" category has been eliminated after the Men's 15s Season (06/13/05; the new system takes effect for Summer 7s); however, this affects less than 100 players out of almost 60,000 registered members. Non-citizens will either be required to have green cards or they will count against the max number of foreigners. The RPS had allowed non-resident players to not be excluded from the number of non-residents in a match. The cost to do this for such a small fraction of the teams and playing population was enormous (in relative costs).

The general rules are:

For Club 15s, no club or team shall have more than five (5) non-resident players on its roster and no team shall field more than four (4) non-resident players at any one time for any single match.

For Club 7s, a maximum of two (2) non-resident players may be on the roster and may play simultaneously in any match.

CIPP 22-day Rule

The 22-day Rule for CIPP for championship eligibility was replaced for 2005: 15s - 4/15, 7s - 7/15.

Yep... This *is* a little odd, given that the college championships are already taking place, but this primarily addresses problems in the club game. Of course, players must be registered with USA Rugby before playing in their first match (A, B, or whatever).

Women's Club USA Championship

The Women's Club USA Championship System (only) is changing competitive cycles; the National team is trying to align Select Side play with the International seasons and the Women's World Cup. Thus, the Fall Season will become the league season and the Spring will be for Select Side or "regular" club matches and tournaments

2005 – National Championship in the Spring (same as previous years)

2006 – No National Championship in the Spring
National Championship in the Fall

USA Men's Club Competitive Region Competition

A few of us were able to get USA to agree to pay for the referees for the Men's Club Competitive Region Final Four; previously, we had to "cost share" this, but we argued that it was their (USA Rugby's) event. Anything else (quarterfinals) is an expense to the TUs. This was a good compromise; while MARFU and the Northeast we do quarterfinals, there are some Territories that Home/Away and other off schemes.

Olympics

We should know by July if Rugby 7s will become a sport in 2012. If it does not, then efforts to make it so may be put on the backburner (in terms of time and money spent on pushing this).

Transgender players

USA is adopting language that's similar to the IOC guidelines. Basically, transgender players are allowed, with some scrutiny if necessary.

CIPP

As a number of you know, I'm on the USA Membership Committee. For a few years now, we've been trying to find a method to allow us to put CIPP on-line. This has not been easy; the technical part is relatively trivial, but the insurance

company that provides our liability insurance had a procedural difficulty. After some negotiation, we got approval to proceed.

However... the system was supposed to be in place a year ago and that effort failed, as a result of a poor developed selection by the National Office. Late last summer, USA Rugby selected a new vendor (Statera; Denver, CO) to re-start the development.

To make a long story short: the system was supposed to be in place by 1/1/05. There have been a number of technical problems, but people can register now. The reports need to be refined, as well as the club admin stuff; nevertheless, you can go on and register your self and club now.

Reminder: MAKE SURE that your club keeps a copy of the waiver forms for each of your players; I have attached one for reference.

At the end of 2004, here's how the regional CIPP numbers stood:

Mid-Atlantic	
Eastern Penn	4910
MA At Large	4
Potomac	3545
Virginia	1617
Mid-Atlantic count	10076

Out of the seven Territories, MARFU was #3 in registration after the Midwest (14106) and the Northeast (10953).

Paperwork for Championship Events

Clubs attending national championships have been slack in the past in turning in paperwork; a new procedure is coming from USA Rugby that might add fines to late paperwork (and that are due on-site).

I should point out that MARFU (and VRU) teams have not had this problem.

Finally...

There are many more things going on in USA Rugby and the preceding were "The Greatest Hits". At the USA Annual General Meeting in November, the rep from MetNY/NRU said the following and I find that it's very appropriate when dealing with USA Rugby:

"Be born a cynic and become paranoid over time."

David Chapman
usa@rugby.org

Men's Club Coordinator

Congratulations to the following rugby clubs regarding their advancement to the divisional playoffs:

Division II - Raleigh and Norfolk
Division III - James River and Newport News

Congratulations to the Charlotte Rugby Club in winning the 2004 Ed Lee Cup.

VRU Standings for the 2004 Year:

<u>Division II</u>	<u>Division III</u>
Raleigh	James River
Norfolk	Newport News
Richmond	Virginia
	Virginia Beach
	Blacksburg
	Roanoke
	Blackwater

In 2004, the Charlotte Rugby Club joined the VRU. During the fall season, Charlotte began play in the Mid-Atlantic RFU Division I league. The Virginia Beach Falcons RFC was reinstated in the VRU and played a spring and fall schedule in Division III.

All Men's Divisions I, II, and III clubs should submit complete schedules via email to the VRU Men's Club Coordinator (men@rugby.org) and the Referee Society Scheduler (schedules@rugby.org) by February 1st for the spring season and August 1st for the fall season. The RSV depends on the schedules so they can work on referee assignments.

Beginning in CY 2005 in VRU League matches, the MARFU maximum match point differential system will be used. A team will receive no more than 60 differential points for a match win in the divisional standings. The 60 point differential will be determined from the losing team's final score.

All clubs hosting a match must consult the online schedule and contact the assigned referee(s) by Tuesday evening prior to a weekend match. It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the score of a league match. If the winning team does not report the result to the VRU Coordinator by the Friday following the match, the game will be considered a 0-0 tie.

Recruitment of players remains a continuing problem with our men clubs. In 2004, several clubs canceled or forfeited matches due to not having the numbers to support a side. The solution to this problem is the development of an OLD BOYS side and a youth rugby program.

I would like to thank you, the VRU, for your support and patience.

Tony Ferguson
men@rugby.org

Women's Club Coordinator

Marsha Durocher
women@rugby.org

Men's College Coordinator

2004 was another good year for the VRU Men's Collegiate Division. There was no movement between divisions, but there were some new results from the Ed Lee. Congratulations to the Radford Men on their 1st Union Championship, to VMI on their steady progress and first time seeding to the MARFU playoffs, and to the Longwood RFC on their successful return to the fold, and winning the VRU Division III League Championship.

CIPP

All CM clubs were compliant for CIPP and Union dues. No clubs required "special handling". Remember that ALL of your players must be CIPP registered before they can take the field. This is due to the USA Liability Insurance requirements. If any player in a game is not CIPP registered, then the coverage on each club, all players and administrators and the referees is not in effect. This is too important to ignore, and the VRU will be very strict with any club that does not register all of its players.

Communication

Club officers need to make sure that your officers addresses are kept up to date on the VRU website. Email has made communicating much easier, but we can't keep you informed if we don't know how to find you.

Union Dues and Referees Fees

College Men's Clubs are reminded to arrange for payment of their VRU dues and the Referees fees in a timely manner. Real problem arise when these clubs to not stay in touch with your coordinator and the treasurer's so that we know you are working getting these two separate fees paid. For the college clubs only, your VRU dues come each September for the next academic year. Your referee's fees are invoiced shortly after each season, and are due by the beginning of the following season. Check your club mailboxes regularly.

Coaching

Many of the College Men's clubs have full time coaches, most of which have completed at least Level I of the USA Coaches Certification program. Please be reminded that this has been a MARFU requirement as of January 1, 2004. Also, each collegiate coach must CIPP register on a special form which can be located at the USA website. As many of you know, the VRU hosts a USA Coaching Certification Clinic the last weekend of August each year, and will pay the full ticket for one coach from each club each year, so if you have coach, there is no reason why he/she should not be certified. If you do not have a coach, send a Captain or leader from your club.

Discipline

There were no incidents requiring Disciplinary action by the Union, at least that I am aware of.

Match Cancellations and Scheduling

Schedules should be completed early and submitted for posting on the VRU website. Then, your match secretary needs to go to the website and verify that your clubs schedule is posted correctly, and immediately notify me of any problems. Then, at least a full week (Sunday night, usually) before a match, get on the phone or the internet and verify that all is set with your opponent, whether you are home or away. At the same time, contact your referee. Contact me as soon as you suspect there may be a problem. If you have not gotten a response by Tuesday, let me know right away. Thursday night is too late to help. Even with all of these precautions, there are going to be problems due to weather, unforeseen conflicts, and good ole Murphy. Try and be patient and have some understanding for other clubs problems. If you are reasonable, it will be a lot easier for the VRU to be reasonable with you when you have a problem. And if you insist on getting your butt up on your shoulder, remember, what goes around, comes around.

Restructuring of the College Men's Ed Lee Cup: The VRU Championships

In an effort to eliminate the unbalanced first round matches, to include more clubs in the tournament, and to allow the event to determine the best clubs to move onto the MARFU Playoffs in each Division, the VRU Executive Committee has instituted the following changes, beginning in the 2005 Ed & Sandy Lee Cup.

Collegiate Men's Division I

The # 3 seed will play the # 2 seed Saturday morning in an 80 minute match.

The # 3 seed will play the # 1 seed Saturday afternoon in an 80 minute match.

The # 2 seed will play the # 1 seed Sunday afternoon in an 80 minute match.

Ties will be settled based on the following tiebreakers: Points for, Points against, # of tries, # of conversions. If a tie still exists, the seedings will be the results.

Collegiate Men's Division II

The #1 seed will play the # 4 seed, and # 2 will play # 3, on Saturday in an 80 minute match.
Winners will play winners, losers will play losers, on Sunday in an 80 minute match.
Tournament tiebreaker rules will govern.

Collegiate Men's Division III

#1 West will play the # 2 East, and # 1 East will play # 2 West, on Saturday in an 80 minute match.
Winners will play winners, losers will play losers, on Sunday in an 80 minute match.
Tournament tiebreaker rules will govern.

VRU Collegiate Men's All-stars

The VRU Collegiate All-stars had a relatively successful squad in 2004, losing to eventual champion PRU, and soundly defeating the NCRU in Sundays match. The MARFU Selectors were present in force, and requested information on a number of VRU players. It was, and is, our goal to find and select the best players from ALL the collegiate men's clubs in the union, and in 2004, the squad featured players from 9 of our 13 college men's clubs.

Fields, Sideline Barriers, and Goalpost Pads

We understand that all of you are at the mercy of your Universities. But sideline restraints and crowd control are your responsibility. Goalpost Pads are your responsibility. And if you cannot provide a safe field to play on, you will have to play all your matches away.

Old Boys

Same thing as last year. If I had to make one suggestion to the CM clubs, it would be to develop your Old Boys network. Your former members can provide much needed funding, support and leverage with your University. You can benefit from their experience, and in those cases where they are active members of a Men's Club, they can provide coaching clinics, balls, equipment and invitations to events. In return, you can provide them with much needed new blood, that already knows the basics and is ready to take the pitch when they graduate. And I would encourage all of you to continue to play once you leave school. Clubs can help you find jobs, places to live, and friends with similar interests, a real boost as you step out of Never Never Land into the real world.

Carl Schmitt
collegemen@rugby.org

Women's College Coordinator

Congratulations to the University of Virginia and the University of Mary Washington. They won the MARFU 2004 Championships for Division I and Division II respectively. Each team went on the finish 3rd in nation in their divisions. In November, both teams repeated as VRU Division Champions at the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup.

For 2005, 6 teams will advance to the MARFU playoffs.

Division I

University of Virginia, James Madison University, Virginia Tech

Division II

Mary Washington, William and Mary, University of Richmond

Last year the VRU had 6 collegiate players named All-American
JMU-Lizzy Scerbo, Kerri Fisher, Naomi Sandler
UVA-Fiona Foxon, Lauren Baker, Rachel Warden

The VRU U-23 All-Stars won the MARFU U-23's Round Robin this year by beating the EPRU 50-7 and the PRU (score reported as "by a wide margin").

There were three former VRU collegiate players capped for the Eagles during the Scotland tour.
Annie Collier (W&M), Heather Hale (UVA), Jaime Burke (UVA)

Restructuring of the College Women's Sandy Lee Cup: The VRU Championships

In an effort to eliminate the unbalanced first round matches, to include more clubs in the tournament, and to allow the event to determine the best clubs to move onto the MARFU Playoffs in each Division, the VRU Executive Committee has instituted the following changes, beginning in the 2005 Ed & Sandy Lee Cup.

Collegiate Women's Division I

The # 3 seed will play the # 2 seed Saturday morning in an 80 minute match.

The # 3 seed will play the # 1 seed Saturday afternoon in an 80 minute match.

The # 2 seed will play the # 1 seed Sunday afternoon in an 80 minute match.

Ties will be settled based on the following tiebreakers: Points for, Points against, # of tries, # of conversions. If a tie still exists, the seedings will be the results.

Collegiate Women's Division II

The #1 seed will play the # 4 seed, and # 2 will play # 3, on Saturday in an 80 minute match.

Winners will play winners, losers will play losers, on Sunday in an 80 minute match.

Tournament tiebreaker rules will govern.

Julie Comer

collegewomen@rugby.org

Youth Coordinator

youth@rugby.org

Disciplinary Committee Chairman

George Durocher

discipline@rugby.org

Newsletter Editor

I have completed my tenth year as Newsletter Editor of the VRU. It is a job that I enjoy, mainly because of the helpful cooperation I get from everyone. I can only print news that I know about. If you have any news item, no matter how small or large, please let me know at news@rugby.org.

The VRU Newsletter is published and sent out electronically four times per year, usually February, June, September, and December. It goes to the VRU listserv and select individuals. If you have not gotten an e-mail attachment of it, please subscribe to the VRU listserv.

The newsletter is only as good as the news I get. It's your newsletter, so let's hear from you.

Jeff Anderson
newsletter@rugby.org

Referee Society of Virginia Chairman

In 2004 the Referee Society of Virginia gave a Level 1 Referee Clinic in January in which 15 people attended. We followed this up with a Touchjudge clinic in February. The Referee Society got three new referees out of this training. While this may seem low, with 20% of those coming to the training following through on becoming referees, the national average is only 5%.

This past month we had 11 people come to the latest Referee Level 1 Clinic. They will return next month to go through the required Touchjudge clinic. I hope to see 4 or 5 go on to become weekly referees.

In 2004 the Referee Society covered 80 of 89 eligible games for a coverage rate of 90%. In the fall the RSV covered 94 of 106 eligible games for a coverage rate of 89%. This gives us 174 of 196 games covered in 2004, an 89% coverage rate. This is far better than the 75% rugby receives nationally.

Each season the RSV sends three of its promising referees out on assignment to other LAU's for referee coaching and evaluation. We also send referees to other LAU tournaments, such as the Washington Irish Tourney in DC or St. Pat's Tourney in Savannah, GA. Each ref who goes to these gets evaluated and coached.

The RSV has one referee who is in the prestigious DRiP program. This is a national program administered by the USA Rugby Referee Association and is used for fast-tracking promising referees. We also have a referee ranked at B-1, just one grade under national A panel.

The RSV has three evaluators and four coaches to help newer referees grow in their refereeing capabilities.

It would be ideal if each club would supply us with one referee candidate at the next Referee Level 1 clinic, which will be this next November.

Jeff Anderson
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