

# Virginia Rugby Union

## Annual General Meeting

10:00 am, Saturday 28 January 2006

University of Richmond, Richmond Virginia

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### Agenda

Opening Remarks

Roll Call  
VRU Officers  
Men's Clubs  
Women's Clubs  
College Men's Clubs  
College Women's Clubs  
High School Clubs

Youth and High School Presentation - Pat Walsh  
Proposal for a change in VRU dues structure (Blackwater)

#### Officer Reports

President - Kris Kabza  
Vice-President - Shannon Plum  
Secretary - Greg Markham  
Treasurer - Bill Lucas  
MARFU/USA Representative - David Chapman  
Men's Club Coordinator - David Yancey  
Women's Club Coordinator - Margy Dessypris-Thomas  
Men's College Coordinator - Carl Schmitt  
Women's College Coordinator - Julie Comer  
Youth Coordinator - Kevin Kilgore  
Disciplinary Chairman - George Durocher  
Newsletter Editor - Jeff Anderson  
Referees Society of Virginia Chairman - Jeff Anderson

Ed & Sandy Lee Cup Format Change

Sportsmanship Award

New Clubs

Additional Items / New Business

Proposal for Increased Reporting of Executive Committee Meetings (Blackwater)

Election of Officers for 2006

Adjourn

# President

## CIPP Register

Club, Player, and Coach registration can now be done online.  
<http://www.usarugby.org>

## Schedules

Submit schedules to the RSV (with game time & number of matches) by **February 1, 2006**.

## Online Information

Keep your contact information current. Verify your online directory information and submit to [secretary@rugby.org](mailto:secretary@rugby.org).

## Referees

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

## Tournaments

Information must be submitted to the VRU Vice-President 3 months prior to the tournament.

## 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.

There is a new coaching structure in place.

*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 **90 days 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 35 days prior to their proposed event. **This is down 4% from the previous year.** 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 to the referee prior to the match. **It is the responsibility of the teams playing the match to find the referee and submit the roster. The referee is not required to find you.** 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. USA Rugby now provides online registration with "real-time" CIPP application processing. **Teams are no longer allowed to write "pending" next to any name on the roster to denote applications that are pending approval from USA Rugby.** If a certified RSV referee is not available for your match, please have the acting referee for your match submit the rosters. This is the responsibility of the hosting team.

This year 60% of rosters required were turned in to the VRU VP. **This is up 12% from the previous year, but improvements must still be made.** 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

## REMINDER

- It is the responsibility of the Club to contact the Secretary (secretary@rugby.org) with information updates.
- Please return corrected contact information (handout given at roll call) to the Secretary at the conclusion of the AGM
- Contact Information Submitted to Rugby Magazine is a separate procedure

Clubs With Dated Information (greater than 6 months)

### Club Men

Raleigh Vipers (Jan 2004)

Richmond Lions (Jan 2004)

### Club Women

Blackwater (Nov 2004)

James River (Feb 2005)

Raleigh Venom (Oct 2004)

### College Men

Christopher Newport (-SUSPENDED- Feb 2005)

Old Dominion University (Jan 2005)

University of Virginia (Dec 2004)

### College Women

James Madison (Jul 2004)

Radford (Aug 2004)

University of Richmond (Feb 2005)

William & Mary (Feb 2005)

*Greg Markham*

*secretary@rugby.org*

## Treasurer

### Dues Status

Category Description	Overdue Jan 1, 2005	2005 & Past Due	2005 Paid	Overdue Jan 1, 2006	2006 Dues	Total Due	Notes
Blacksburg M	(\$685.00)	\$1,520.00	\$1,102.50	(\$417.50)	\$835.00	\$1,252.50	Overdue from 2004
Blackwater M	(\$435.00)	\$1,270.00	\$870.00	(\$400.00)	\$835.00	\$1,235.00	Overdue from 2005
Blackwater W	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	\$852.50	(\$817.50)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not Active in 2006
Blue Ridge W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Charlotte M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	
CNU M	(\$1,135.00)	\$1,970.00	\$621.56	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	See Dues Notes below
Hampden-Sydney M	(\$835.00)	\$1,252.50	\$1,252.50	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
James River M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
James River W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
JMU M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
JMU W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	
Longwood M	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	\$1,670.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Longwood W	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	\$1,670.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Mary Wash M	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	\$835.00	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	
Mary Wash W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	
Newport News M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Norfolk M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Norfolk W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Old Dominion M	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	\$1,670.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Radford M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Radford W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	
Raleigh M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Raleigh W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Richmond Lions M	(\$417.50)	\$1,252.50	\$1,252.50	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Roanoke M	(\$35.00)	\$870.00	\$870.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
UofRichmond M	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	\$1,670.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
UofRichmond W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	
UVA M	(\$835.00)	\$1,670.00	\$835.00	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00	
UVA W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
VCU M	(\$1,635.00)	\$2,470.00	\$2,470.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
VCU W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Beach M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Virginia M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$838.00	\$3.00	\$835.00	\$832.00	
Virginia Tech M	(\$685.00)	\$1,520.00	\$1,520.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Tech W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
VMI M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
W&L M	(\$435.00)	\$1,270.00	\$1,670.00	\$400.00	\$835.00	\$435.00	
William & Mary M	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
William & Mary W	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	
<b>TOTAL Dues</b>	<b>(\$12,142.50)</b>	<b>\$44,290.00</b>	<b>\$35,864.56</b>	<b>(\$7,077.00)</b>	<b>\$31,730.00</b>	<b>\$37,989.50</b>	
Less BW Women 2005				\$817.50			
Expected for 2006				<b>(\$6,259.50)</b>	<b>\$31,730.00</b>	<b>\$37,989.50</b>	

## 2005 Budget and Proposed 2006 Budget

Category Description	2005 Budget	2005 Actual	Difference	2006 Proposed	
<b>INCOME</b>					
Dues	\$44,290.00	\$35,864.56	\$8,425.44	\$37,989.50	(Adjusted for CNU and BW W)
Don Bridges	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00	\$500.00	
Interest	0.00	\$1,318.92	-\$1,318.92	\$1,000.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$44,790.00</b>	<b>\$37,683.48</b>	<b>\$7,106.52</b>	<b>\$39,489.50</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
All Star					
College Men	\$1,200.00	\$554.56	\$645.44	\$1,200.00	
Jerseys	\$1,500.00	\$694.10	\$805.90	\$1,500.00	
Senior Men	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Senior Women	\$600.00	\$499.96	\$100.04	\$1,200.00	
U-23 Women	\$1,200.00	\$1,369.23	-\$169.23	\$1,200.00	
Coaching Coordinator	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Clinic Expenses
Ed Lee Cup	\$600.00	\$700.00	-\$100.00	\$600.00	
Emergent	\$100.00	\$531.55	-\$431.55	\$500.00	
Grants					
Player	\$4,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,900.00	\$4,000.00	See Outstanding Obligations
Team	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Handbook	\$750.00	\$1,223.63	-\$473.63	\$750.00	2005 and 2006 Handbooks
Internet Site	\$500.00	\$430.34	\$69.66	\$500.00	
MARFU	\$16,965.00	\$16,530.00	\$435.00	\$16,095.00	See Budget Notes below.
Officer Expenses	325.00	5.00	\$320.00	100.00	Email & Cell Phones Save Money
Officer Travel	\$1,500.00	\$2,530.54	-\$1,030.54	\$2,500.00	USA Rugby Rep Travel
Reimbursements					
TJ & Ref Course Attendance	\$700.00	\$750.00	-\$50.00	\$700.00	
Coaching Clinic Attendance	\$0.00	\$175.00	-\$175.00	\$0.00	
All Star	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	
Stationery	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Trophies	\$500.00	\$712.65	-\$212.65	\$500.00	
Youth	\$100.00	\$436.45	-\$336.45	\$500.00	
VRU Supplies	\$200.00	\$90.86	\$109.14	\$100.00	AGM & VA Incorporation Fee
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$35,815.00</b>	<b>\$30,883.87</b>	<b>\$4,931.13</b>	<b>\$37,020.00</b>	
Outstanding Obligations	\$0.00	\$700.00	-\$700.00	\$0.00	MARFU 7s Player Grants Owed
<b>Total Obligations and Expenses</b>	<b>\$35,815.00</b>	<b>\$31,583.87</b>	<b>\$4,231.13</b>	<b>\$37,020.00</b>	
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,975.00</b>	<b>\$6,099.61</b>	<b>\$2,875.39</b>	<b>\$2,469.50</b>	See Budget Notes below.

Dues Notes

CNU is suspended but if they return Fall 2006, CNU will pay full due for Academic Year.

Budget Notes:

MARFU - 37 Clubs at \$835, for now no CNU or BW Women

Overall Total - In 2005, we had several clubs that did not pay some or all of their dues (see list below). 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:           \$7,480.00  
  Blacksburg   \$417.50  
  Blackwater   \$400.00  
  Charlotte     \$835.00

Senior Women  
  Blackwater   \$817.50

College Men  
  Mary Wash   \$835.00  
  UVA           \$835.00

College Women  
  JMU           \$835.00  
  Mary Wash   \$835.00  
  Radford      \$835.00  
  UofR          \$835.00

VRU ACCOUNTS - As of 01/01/06

BB&T Checking	\$13,379.57
Suntrust Account	\$401.50
Don Bridges Fund (VIGRX)	\$10,569.52
Long Term Savings (VFINX)	\$18,046.82
Total	\$42,397.41

*Bill Lucas*  
*treasurer@rugby.org*

## MARFU/USARFU Representative

First: There's no reason to "sugar coat" any of this. Very simply: USAR has financial and management/leadership problems. If you read the online rugby press (like Goff) you would think that the USA Board of Directors is at fault; that bit of misinformation makes a huge assumption that some of these pundits know what they are talking about.

### Membership

In 2005, there were 63,953 CIPP registrations (as of Nov 2005). In the VRU:

		Players	
Senior	Men	493	31%
Senior	Women	135	8%
College	Men	621	39%
College	Women	353	22%
		1602	

### May 2005 TU President's Meeting

Elaine Recchiuti (MARFU President) could not attend, so I attended a "pre-meeting meeting" prior to the May USAR Board meeting with Pat Costello (PRU). In general, we found that the TUs generally spend half of their \$\$\$ on select sides and the other half on internal competitions. Each TU has issues with referees and the latter's autonomy. MARFU's (and the VRU's) issues are not unique.

### Olympics Report

As everyone has heard by now, the IOC rejected rugby (7s) as an Olympic sport. This is a dead issue for the foreseeable future.

### Finance

At the May meeting, USA Rugby was said to be insolvent. However, the USA 7s buyout by a third party, the receipt of iRB grant funds, and the increase in CIPP fees will bring needed cash into the National organization. [Note: As of May, the NO had raised \$1.8M in two years; however, ONLY \$800,000 has been in cash (the rest have been in-kind contributions, like Kooga).]

### High Performance

USAR has a plan for high performance rugby and will be receiving significant funding from the iRB for this. The execution of the plan may take many forms before we see the final model.

### Sevens

An investor came in and has taken over the USA 7s (as well as certain other rights to 7s) in exchange for a large sum of money that is paying paid in increments to USAR. USAR still has an interest in the USA 7s, but now has very little financial liability.

### Eligibility/Competitions

In early Spring 2005, there was an agreement between USAR and RSL that allowed certain D1 players to move to RSL teams (less than 12 players nationally were involved). This was (and is) quite contrary to existing eligibility rules and is a significant precedent, even though this was through the waiver process.

### USA Rugby Referees Association (USARRA)

Finances are ok; USARRA is solvent; USARRA uses a zero-based budget and their budget is ~\$100,000/year. There are 700+ referees across the country, but this is not enough.

### USA Rugby By-Law Change Proposals

There was an attempt to make some USA by-law changes at the May 2005 meeting:

Motion #1: Reduce TU reps from 3 to 2. Motion failed (9 yes, 15 no). I voted no (as in "heck" no).

Motion #2: Add Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and an International Athlete as voting members of the Board of Directors. Motion failed (6 yes, 18 no). I voted no (as in really "heck" no).

#### NCAA Emerging Sport Task Force

Current College Women's varsity programs: Eastern Illinois (D1), West Chester (D2), Vassar (D3), Bowdoin (D3); need to get to 40 teams spread across divisions (D1-D3) to get a NCAA Championship. Current competitors on the list: Archery, Badminton, Equestrian, Squash, Sync Swimming, Team Handball. Recent NCAA D3 legislation has been proposed to expand minimum number of teams/school. Title IX requirements still exist, of course.

#### CIPP

Increase - While there was no direct requirement or threat from the iRB, there was an understanding that, if USAR did not raise the member fees, USAR's High Performance (HP) grant money would be in jeopardy. Although the HP funding is generally for the Men's Eagles, the support that USAR will be getting from the iRB will directly affect every member of USA Rugby - youth, high school, college, senior, and national teams. The support will range from game development to bringing more high profile games to North America to assisting with the continued advancement of the United States own "professional rugby product". The IRB is making a huge financial commitment to developing the game at all levels and the Board was informed that the IRB wanted to know what kind of financial commitment USA Rugby was willing to make to our own teams and towards the development of the game.

As a result, the BOD unanimously passed a motion to allow CIPP revenue to support the National Teams; the impact is that this now includes funding for the Men's National Team (which had never been included before). Although USAR has given the non-Men's National Teams financial support in previous years, they were only token amounts; the majority of the funding for these teams came from the players themselves (e.g., airfare, lodging, medical care). The increases in categories are as follows:

Senior	\$35
College/U24	\$30
U18	\$20
Sustaining	\$25
Club Fee	\$150

The new fees will an *additional* amount of approximately \$860K to USAR program (depends on member count). The total amount of \$\$\$ collected under CIPP will be over \$2M in 2006.

The dues increase will **only** support the following programs:

Men's National Team	\$400,000	(asked: \$762,000)
USARRA (Refs)	\$40,000	
NCAA Task Force	\$75,000	(asked: \$100,000)
Women's National Team	\$130,000	(asked: \$250,000)
Youth	\$50,000	
Membership Program	\$100,000	
Insurance	\$20,000	
Total	\$815,000	

The balance, if any, will go to the cash reserve.

Background checks – Screening for 1,100 coaches (Youth, High School and Collegiate) were performed in 2005; about 15 were rejected.

On-line Registration – Negotiations continue with the contractor (Statera) regarding additional work to be completed on the USA Rugby registration software. We have repeatedly told the National Office our need for “the old reports” and for some streamlining of the user interface.

Paper forms – As a result of the high labor costs, there will be a \$1.50 per form processing fee for people who mail in the forms. USAR: “During the busiest season, paper forms may take up to 3 weeks to be processed. Online registration requires no additional fee, and occurs immediately upon full payment!”

Player registration – Please remember that if the *invoice* method of payment is used for a player, that player is not eligible to play until USAR receives the payment.

Registration Website: <https://register.usarugby.org> -- As Membership Relations identifies issues or questions that recur on a frequent basis, they will be updating the website with FAQs or other information. The following items have been updated on the registration website:

Why is my club “NOT IN GOOD STANDING”? – Explanation of USAR policies and roster reports regarding club standing.

Club responsibility for waivers – Explanation of club responsibility for individual waiver forms.

FAQ - Liability Coverage -- NOTE: Coverage limits in this document reflect the current limits. This information will be updated when the limits increase effective February 2006.

FAQ – Certificates of Insurance

Directors & Officers Coverage

2006 Club Rosters: Some of the early birds saw problems with the 2006 rosters. USAR is getting the bugs fixed. Club and member information (including expiration dates) now appearing appears to be accurate, including club standing designations. The club rosters reflect real time enrollment, but will **NOT** reflect members or clubs who have “invoiced” registrations, without completing payment.

The old CIPP Reports: They’re on the way!

### Competitions and Eligibility (Part 1)

As many of you saw on-line of through the rugby press, Dan Lyle suggested five (5) eligibility proposals that had varying levels of rancor:

1. NASC (change All Star citizenship requirements to match Eagle citizenship requirements) – Accepted.
2. RSL (easier movement between home club and RSL) – Tabled.
3. Intra-club Movement (movement between sides in a club that plays in multiple divisions) – Tabled.
4. Elimination of non-resident restrictions for D1, D2, and D3 – Tabled.
5. Movement to allow college players to move to club teams – Tabled.

Competitions and Eligibility (Part 2) – A proposal to allow five (5) non-resident players for Senior Club 15s clubs was accepted. While we had this for rosters in the past, the new rule will allow all 5 to be on the field at the same time; the old rule only allowed 2 non-resident players on the field at any one time. (Note: Sevens will still only allow two (2) non-resident players.)

*David Chapman*  
*usa@rugby.org*

## *Men's Club Coordinator*

Congratulations to the Norfolk Blues for being the 2005 VRU Men's Club Premier League Champions.

This is Norfolk's Nineteenth Championship in the VRU Men's Club Premier League!

Congratulations to James River for winning, for the second year in a row, and eighth time overall, the 2005 VRU Men's Club Senior League.

Charlotte, for the second year in a row, won the Ed-Lee Tournament.

The 2005 Sportsmanship Award will be given at the 2006 VRU AGM, January 28th. Newport News won the award in 2004.

*David Yancey*  
*men@rugby.org*

## Women's Club Coordinator

### Summer Sevens

Mandy Cox, Caroline Duckworth and Heather Ferrell made the MARFU side for 7's.  
Caroline Duckworth made final selections for the ITT's.

VRU 7's Coach: Chris Porter

THE VRU TEAM selections were:

A-SIDE - Mandy Cox(Ral), Tracie Sauers(Ral), Giza High(BR), Stephi Jo Edwards(JR), Caroline Duckworth(Ral), Jen Mitchell(JR), Jackie Kruszewski(UVA), Monica Gittings(JR), Leigh Prpich(Nor), Carrie Ann Perdue(UVA), AJ Steffen(Ral), Jamie Jones (Ral), Calley (Ral), Lindsey Kinsler (Nor)

B-SIDE - Jessie Grafflin(BR), Deshia Williams(JR), Emily Pauler(Nor), Yen Hwang(JMU), Carla Harrell(Nor), MaryBeth Boogren?(Nor), Brittany Martin "Bubba"(Nor), Heather Weaver(JR), Alissa Ashley(JR), Daniele Canney "Beaver"(Ral), Shoshana Griffith "Shosh"(UVA)

VRU team A and B side attended the **Potomac Athletic Club Annual 7's** tournament. James River did too. Final outcomes – VRU A side was 2nd to NOVA in the overall tournament and won 2nd place Cup. VRU B side was 2nd to NOVA B in the Plate division. James River won the Bowl.

At **Cape Fear**, VRU A and B sides plus a Norfolk based team with pick ups from Blue Ridge and James River attended and gave a decent showing of VRU talents.

The VRU A Side outcomes were 1) Won against ? 2) Lost to MidWest Select 3) Won to MARFU B, 4) Lost to MidWest again in the Semifinals

The VRU B Side outcomes were: 1) Lost to the Furies, 2) Won to Ft. Bragg, then 3) Lost to Atlantis 4) Lost to South Select Side in the Semifinals

### Fifteens: Spring Season

VRU teams and NOVA B make up the D-2-South Division of MARFU.

In the Spring Season - MARFU playoffs DIVISION 2 - Semifinals

- Raleigh 62 Lehigh Valley 0
- Blue Ridge beat Chesapeake (score not available)
- Championship: Raleigh 35 Blue Ridge 10

Both Raleigh and Blue Ridge went to the Women's National Championship in Tampa Florida, which Raleigh went onto win.

In the Quarterfinals, the game Raleigh vs. Albany was 21-0 in favor of Raleigh.

Semifinals were against Milwaukee, and Raleigh overcame with a score of 28-10.

Championship game, Raleigh had a long drawn out defense against Detroit, but succeeded with an 8-3 win.

### Fifteens: Fall Season

In the Fall Season – NOVA B joined the MARFU DIVISION 2 matrix, so all the VRU teams will play NOVA B as part of the matrix matches. Unofficial Final Rankings for the Fall Season 1) Raleigh Venom, 2) Norfolk Storm, 3) Blue Ridge 4) James River

Noted scores are:

BR 17 v NOVA 71, BR 0 v Ral 122, BR 17 v NS 43, BR 15 v JR 7  
NS 38 v JR 5, NS 0 v NOVA 0 unrecorded, NS 0 v Ral 53  
Ral 77 v JR 7, Ral 0 v NOVA 0 unrecorded  
JR 0 v NOVA 13

### Ed and Sandy Lee

Unfortunately, there was no Women's VRU Ed and Sandy Lee State Championship tournament held this year much to the dismay of all the women. However a joint team between James River and Norfolk Storm (Stormy River) came to play against a Mary Washington B side. The women were glad to have a game. Following that, the Debutant

Debauchery occurred. Ladies put on dresses and rucked around for fun in a smattering of colorful gowns that were all ripped at the end of about 15 minutes.

There are many pictures in existence to commemorate the event.

### VRU Fifteens All-Stars

This year the VRU held two tryout sessions and selected the following players to participate in the VRU 15's All-Star Team. Coach Brett Burdick was instrumental in raising the skill set of these 26 players. This VRU team met on September 10th against the EPRU and the PRU for the Local Area Union Tournament. The tournament was also used for selection purposes for the MARFU All-Star Team.

Vernetta "V" Alston (Prop, Raleigh)  
Caroline "Brick" Brickhouse (Flanker, Raleigh)  
Daniele "Beaver" Canney (Flanker, Raleigh)  
Sheri Cantor (Hooker, James River)  
Sara "Dartmouth" Carpenter (Flanker, Raleigh)  
Caroline "Duck" Duckworth (Center, Raleigh)  
Stephie Jo "Smiley" Edwards (Scrumhalf, James River, Selector)  
Heather "Puma" Ferrell (Wing, Raleigh, Captain v. PRU)  
Monica Gittings (Center, James River)  
Jessica Grafflin (Lock & Flanker, Blue Ridge, Selector)  
Carla Harrell (Center, Norfolk)  
Giza High (Eight and Prop, Blue Ridge)  
Berkley Hobson (Wing, James River)  
Jamie Jones (Flyhalf, Raleigh, Selector, Captain v. EPRU)  
Aubri Marron (Hooker, Norfolk)  
Dawn "Fooch" Malfucci (Hooker, Raleigh)  
Brittney "Bubba" Martin (Prop, Norfolk, Selector)  
Jessica Miller (Prop & Flanker, Univ. of Richmond)  
Marisa "Flash" Parker (Flanker, James River)  
Mary Parker (Scrumhalf, Raleigh)  
Emily Pauler (Lock, Norfolk)  
Lindsey Kinsler (Fullback, Norfolk)  
Erin Krupa (Center, Raleigh)  
Karen Vandercar (Wing, Blue Ridge)  
Rosemary "Ro" Wallace (Lock, James River)  
Deisha "Dory" Williams (Flanker, James River)

The VRU, all MARFU Division II-South players, stepped up to this challenge of taking on the EPRU and PRU, MARFU Division I players. The VRU Women's team played a lot of great defense that made the other Union Sides work for their points. All the VRU women played hard, aggressively, and had lots of fun playing together. No points were scored by the VRU, and offensive measures were difficult to execute, however, this was the first time at the start of this season that all the players had a chance to play on the field together. Timing and rhythm were worked out by the second half for each game, and the VRU achieved progress quickly.

Unfortunately, the team was not able to use the skills of Vernetta Alston, Karen Vandercar, Caroline Brickhouse, or Sheri Cantor. However, the team was able to use the shoulders of Miwa Ng as Prop from the University of Virginia.

The final scores of the day: EPRU 22-0 and PRU 46-0

And I had a great time watching these skilled players in action. – Margaret A. D. Thomas

The LAU tournament served as tryout for the MARFU All-Star team. The VRU players chosen were Raleigh's Jamie Jones, Caroline Duckworth, Heather Ferrell, and Vernetta Alston, and Norfolk Storm's Lindsey Kinsler. Caroline Duckworth continued with the MARFU team to play at the ITTs.

*Margy Dessypris-Thomas*  
*women@rugby.org*

## Men's College Coordinator

2005 was another good year for the VRU Men's Collegiate Division. VCU won the Cm Div III portion of the Ed Lee and then went on to defeat the EPRU Div III Champion to claim the MARFU title for the VRU. They will play in a East Coast Playoff here in Richmond on April 22, against NE and the South Territorial Champs. Well done. Our thanks also to the James River RFC for hosting the 2006 MARFU Collegiate Men and Women's Division I and II Semi finals and finals here in Hanover County. This keeps the costs down for the VRU teams, and gives them "home field advantage".

VCU has also requested to be promoted to Division II, as is their privilege for winning the division. There is one more open slot in Division II, and then we will revert to promotion relegation.

Mary Washington returns to the top of Division II both during the League season and at the Ed Lee. They, VMI and University of Richmond will advance to the MARFU playoffs in March.

Virginia secured the Championship for Division I, defeating Va. Tech and James Madison at the Ed Lee.

The new Collegiate Men's format for the Ed Lee received rave reviews from the clubs, but more significant changes are on the horizon for the traditional VRU event, as will be discussed later in this meeting.

### 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. There are also severe fines set in place for any club caught playing a non-CIPPed player. 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 immediately. The Referees Society of Virginia has instituted a 10% fine for payments not received within 30 days of invoice. Real problem arise when these clubs do 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 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

Red and Yellow card issued during the past year or more can viewed at the VRU website. There was only one severe disciplinary matter involving a collegiate mens player, and that was a case of a player suspended through the rest of this academic year for stomping the head of an opponent. Clubs and players are warned that Big Brother is watching, and foul, dangerous or abusive conduct will not be tolerated.

### 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.

#### 2006 League Structure

Division I: Virginia, Va. Tech and JMU

Division II: Mary Washington, Radford, University of Richmond, VCU and VMI.

Division III: CNU, Hampden Sydney, Longwood, ODU, W&L, W&M.

(Division III will NOT play an East West division, so each club has 5 league matches.)

#### VRU Collegiate Men's All-stars

The VRU Collegiate All-stars was a complete bust for 2005. The VRU and the Collegiate Men's coaches will be meeting within the next 6 weeks to plan the Fall All Star schedule, and get this program coordinated and back where it should be. The 2006 ALL Star matches will be held in the Potomac Rugby Union.

#### 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 following teams for qualifying to go on to MARFU's

Div 1 - University of Virginia, James Madison University, Virginia Tech

Div 2 - Mary Washington, University of Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University

For competition purposes next year, I would like to start the discussion of Div 3 for college women. Which I think can be accomplished as an email discussion with all teams involved.

Congratulations to:

VRU players that made MARFU U23 team

Vernatta Alston (Raleigh)

Ellie Brim (JMU)

Winnie Chao (UVA)

Catherine "Catfish" Easterling (Mary Wash)

Fiona Foxon (UVA)

Shoshana Griffith (UVA)

Yen Hwang (JMU)

Katie Miller (Mary Wash)

Sarah Miller (JMU)

Miwa Ng (Blue Ridge)

Carrie Perdue (UVA)

Carolyn Runyon (Blue Ridge)

Rachel Warden (UVA)

Invited to U23 Camp

Vernetta Alston (Raleigh)

Carrie Perdue (UVA)

Rachel Warden (UVA)

Invited to tour w/U23's

Fiona Foxon (UVA)

Playing w/U23's in Feb

Rachel Warden (UVA)

VRU All-Stars in Nov

Jackie Adair (W & M)

Meredith Black (Va Tech) - Captain

Kathleen "Jersey" Brady (JMU)

Winnie Chao (UVA)

Aly Clements (Va Tech)

Catherine "Catfish" Easterling (Mary Wash)

Kate Farley (UVA)

Shoshana Griffith (UVA)

Erin Howley (JMU)

Yen Hwang (JMU)

Renee Leirs (Mary Wash)

Heather McKenzie (Mary Wash)

Sarah Miller (JMU)

Miwa Ng (Blue Ridge)

Ashley Owens (UVA)

Carrie Perdue (UVA) - Captain

Erin Rideout (Mary Wash)

Carloyn Runyon (Blue Ridge)

Julia Swavoli (JMU)

Siobhan Tiernan (UVA)

Jennifer Uchidia (Va Tech)

Rachel Winters (UVA)

Andrea Wyatt (Mary Wash)

VRU U23 7's player

Fiona Foxon (UVA)

Past VRU collegiate players

National 7s Team

Beth Black (JMU)

National team Tour 15's

Jamie Burke (UVA)

Annie Collier (W & M)

Heather Hale (UVA)

*Julie Comer*

*collegewomen@rugby.org*

# Youth Coordinator

## Youth Rugby in the Virginia Rugby Union – Plan of Action

### Research

- Other websites – USARFU, LAU, Clubs
- Other Programs, Unions – get a form letter out to request to attend meetings
- Other geographic areas in the World including stronger Rugby nations through internet and personnel contact
- Survey from club via mail, e-mail network, and AGM 2006.
- Compile information – from survey and other research data for report Spring 2006

### Resources

- VRU Clubs – send out letter asking if they are interested – survey again
- Get direction from VRU Executive board for dollar amount for outreach programs.
- Find out what retailers may sponsor youth programs. i.e. Godek, Rugby Imports, etc.,
- Contact coaching groups and RSV for instruction and direction
- Compile areas into groups 1. Having youth programs, 2. Planning to youth programs, 3. Having resources to start, but not yet, 4. Not having resources but would with assistance, 5. Need complete package – no resources.
- Report findings at Spring 2006.

### Develop Outreach Program – VRU

- Take data from research and information from resources and develop a program of youth Rugby outreach by the VRU community with direction from the Executive board through the Youth Coordinator.
- Maintain and monitor programs progress and report to VRU Executive Committee on
  - Where we are after one year, - August 2006.
  - Where we can go from there, - August 2006 - ?
- Publish a VRU youth development manual or handbook for each local club similar to USARFU.

### Other items to discuss

- What level of VRU status do we give these programs/youth clubs? Touch vs. Tackle? CIPP? Union dues? Youth 8 – 12 and High School?
- What direction does the VRU Executive board want this to go?
- High School development – grants and coaching clinics, getting the VHSL involved with other High School coaches. Private vs. Public Schools.

*Kevin Kilgore*  
*youth@rugby.org*

## *Disciplinary Committee Chairman*

With the current reporting procedures all disciplinary infractions are being accurately recorded and tracked on a regular basis. The three disciplinary boards of MARFU are now working closer together insuring that when violations occur outside a players union the offenses are precisely reported and the offending players disciplined accordingly. Through the help of all referees and the MARFU Disciplinary board we are making great strides towards promoting the safety of all MARFU players on and off the field.

The following were the reported incidents of 2005

71 Yellow Cards

11 Red Cards

Blackwater Men	2
Charlotte Men	5
James River Men	2
JMU Men	1
JMU Women	1
Longwood Women	1
Longwood Men	1
Mary Washington Men	3
Newport News	2
Norfolk Men	5
Norfolk Women	1
ODU Men	5
Raleigh Men	4
Richmond	1
Roanoke Men	6
University of Richmond Men	4
UVA Men	3
UVA Women	1
Virginia Tech Men	5
VCU Men	3
VCU Women	3
VMI	4
William and Mary Men	1
Total	64
Clubs Outside of the VRU	18

I would like to thank the RSV for assisting me in the efforts to document these infractions.

*George Durocher*  
*discipline@rugby.org*

## Newsletter Editor

This marks the completion of my 11th year as your Newsletter editor. The Newsletter has been published electronically four times a year. However, starting this year, it will be published more frequently to keep the news fresh.

Each Newsletter is put on the VRU website ([www.rugby.org](http://www.rugby.org)) and an announcement goes out over the VRU listserve that the newsletter is published, with a link to the site. Not too many people take advantage of the VRU listserve. Please go to the VRU website for subscription information.

The Newsletter is only as good as the news it gets. If you have any news, please send it to me at [news@rugby.org](mailto:news@rugby.org). What is news? A tour, a story on a player, upcoming matches, a game report...if in doubt as to the newsworthiness of something, send it along.

This is your newsletter. Please make sure you and your teammates are in it.

*Jeff Anderson*  
*[newsletter@rugby.org](mailto:newsletter@rugby.org)*

## Referee Society of Virginia Chairman

While the VRU has been growing by leaps and bounds, the RSV has been growing to keep up. In the past four years we have added nine new referees to our roster and hope to have another one or two more this season.

In 2005 we held another Referee Level 1 Clinic and followed that up with another Touchjudge 1, 2, and 3 Clinic. The Referee Clinic is held every November and the Touchjudge every February.

Last season the Referee Society of Virginia covered 124 matches in the VRU, an increase of 41 games over the spring. Only three matches went uncovered all season, for a coverage rate of 97.5%. Compare this to MARFU's 90% coverage and USA Rugby's 75% coverage rate and you will see that we are doing an excellent job. In 2004 we had 90% coverage, so we are improving rapidly. However, we will not be satisfied until we get 100% of coverage.

Please be aware that for every match a CIPP roster is required. It is up to the teams to get the roster to the referee and there is a VRU fine of \$50 for each roster not turned in and a VRU fine of \$100 for each non-CIPPed player who plays in the game.

Last season there was a large number of yellow cards issued. I hope that this can go down drastically in the spring. On the plus side, no one was issued a red card.

If you would like to join the Referee Society of Virginia, please send a e-mail to [ref@rugby.org](mailto:ref@rugby.org) or simply speak to a referee.

*Jeff Anderson*  
*[ref@rugby.org](mailto:ref@rugby.org)*