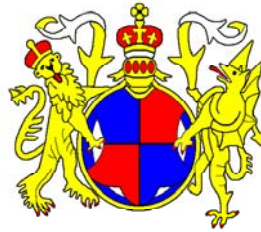


Virginia Rugby Union

Annual General Meeting

10:30 am, Saturday 27 January 2007

University of Richmond, 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

Report of Blackwater proposal for a change in VRU dues structure (AGM 2006)

Officer Reports

President - Kris Kabza

Vice-President - Shannon Plum

Secretary - Molly Blanton

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

Awards

New Clubs

Additional Items / New Business

Election of Officers for 2007

Adjourn

Virginia Rugby Union Clubs

In 2006, the VRU reported 38 clubs to the Mid-Atlantic Rugby Football Union (MARFU). They were:

Club Men (11)

Blacksburg
Blackwater
Charlotte
James River
Newport News
Norfolk Blues
Raleigh
Richmond
Roanoke
Virginia
Virginia Beach

Club Women (4)

Blue Ridge
James River Women
Norfolk Storm
Raleigh Venom

College Men (14)

Christopher Newport University
Hampden-Sydney College
James Madison University
Longwood University
Old Dominion University
Radford University
University of Mary Washington
University of Richmond
University of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia Tech
Washington & Lee University
William & Mary

College Women's Clubs (9)

James Madison University
Longwood University
Radford University
University of Mary Washington
University of Richmond
University of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
William & Mary

President

CIPP Registration

Club, Player, and Coaches need to be registered - can be done online.
<http://www.usarugby.org>

VRU Website

<http://www.rugby.org>

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

Schedules

Submit schedules to the RSV (with game time & number of matches) by **February 1, 2007**.

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.

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 63 days prior to their proposed event. **This is down 80% from the previous year, but there is still room for improvement.** 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 37% of rosters required were turned in to the VRU VP. **This is down 23% from the previous year.** 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.** Please turn in your rosters.

Shannon Plum
vp@rugby.org

Secretary

GENTLE REMINDER

- It is the responsibility of each of the Clubs 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 today's AGM. If you do not have this information readily available, please e-mail it to above address at your earliest convenience. Call it a pet peeve, but I hate very outdated contact information on a website.
- Contact Information Submitted to Rugby Magazine is a separate procedure

Clubs With Dated Information (greater than 6 months)

Club Men

Charlotte (1/28/06)
Newport News (7/18/06)
Raleigh (3/27/06)
Richmond Lions (3/16/06)
Roanoke (1/28/06)
Virginia Beach (1/28/06)

College Men

Christopher Newport (1/28/06)
University of Virginia (1/28/06)

Club Women

Blue Ridge (2/8/06)
Norfolk Storm Women (9/8/05)
Raleigh Venom (10/11/04)

College Women

Radford (2/14/06)
University of Richmond (1/28/06)
University of Virginia (7/20/06)
William & Mary (1/28/06)
VCU Women (1/28/06)

Molly Blanton
secretary@rugby.org

Treasurer

2006 VRU Dues Activity

	Status 01/01/06	Dues 2006	Paid in 2006	Paid in 2007	Status 01/025/07
Club Men					
Blacksburg Men	(\$417.50)	\$835.00	\$417.50		(\$835.00)
Blackwater Men	(\$400.00)	\$835.00	\$435.00		(\$800.00)
Charlotte Men	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,252.50		(\$417.50)
James River Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
Newport News Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$417.50		(\$417.50)
Norfolk Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
Raleigh Men	\$0.00	\$685.00	\$685.00		\$0.00
Richmond Lions Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$417.50		(\$417.50)
Roanoke Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$435.00		(\$400.00)
Virginia Beach Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$440.00		(\$395.00)
Virginia Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
Club Women					
Blue Ridge Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
James River Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$417.50	\$417.50	\$0.00
Norfolk Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
Raleigh Women	\$0.00	\$685.00	\$685.00		\$0.00
College Men					
CNU Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
Hampden-Sydney Men	(\$417.50)	\$835.00	\$417.50		(\$835.00)
JMU Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
Longwood Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
Mary Wash Men	(\$835.00)	\$735.00	\$1,670.00		\$100.00
Old Dominion Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
Radford Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
UofRichmond Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
UVA Men	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$835.00		(\$835.00)
VCU Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
Virginia Tech Men	\$0.00	\$685.00	\$0.00		(\$685.00)
VMI Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
W&L Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
William & Mary Men	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
College Women					
JMU Women	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00		\$0.00
Longwood Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
Mary Wash Women	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$835.00	\$0.00
Radford Women	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$835.00		(\$835.00)
UofRichmond Women	(\$835.00)	\$835.00	\$1,670.00		\$0.00
UVA Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
VCU Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$0.00		(\$835.00)
Virginia Tech Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
William & Mary Women	\$0.00	\$835.00	\$835.00		\$0.00
Totals:	(\$7,080.00)	\$31,180.00	\$21,050.00	\$1,252.50	(\$15,957.50)

Note: Where annual dues are less than \$835, it is because of credit for sportsmanship awards, e.g. \$150 credit for RSV awards and \$100 for ESL award.

VRU Budget 2006 Actual & 2007 Proposed

Category Description	2006 Budget	2006 Actual	Difference	2007 Budget	Notes
<u>INCOME</u>					
Dues	\$30,895.00	\$21,050.00	\$9,845.00	\$32,015.00	38 Clubs @ \$842.50 *
Misc	\$0.00	\$100.00	(\$100.00)	\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$30,895.00	\$21,150.00	\$9,745.00	\$32,015.00	
Less pass through to MARFU	\$16,095.00	\$16,095.00	\$0.00	\$16,530.00	38 Clubs at \$435
Net for VRU Operations	\$14,800.00	\$5,055.00	\$9,745.00	\$15,485.00	
<u>EXPENSES (VRU Operations)</u>					
All Star					
College Men	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	(\$400.00)	\$1,200.00	
Jersey (Purchase - Sales)	\$1,500.00	\$1,021.10	\$478.90	\$1,200.00	
Senior Men	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	MARFU All-Stars
Senior Women	\$1,200.00	\$1,050.00	\$150.00	\$1,200.00	
U-23 Women	\$1,200.00	\$1,739.47	(\$539.47)	\$1,200.00	
Coaching Coordinator	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	Clinic Expenses
Ed Lee Cup	\$600.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	USA Rugby Rep
Emergent	\$500.00	\$246.73	\$253.27	\$500.00	
Grants					
Player	\$4,000.00	\$2,700.00	\$1,300.00	\$2,500.00	
Team	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Handbook	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$600.00	
Internet Site	\$500.00	\$324.00	\$176.00	\$500.00	
Officer Expenses	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Officer Travel	\$2,500.00	\$2,196.24	\$303.76	\$1,500.00	
Reimbursements					
TJ & Ref Course Attendance	\$700.00	\$695.00	\$5.00	\$1,200.00	
Coaching Clinic Attendance	\$0.00	\$1,320.00	(\$1,320.00)	\$1,500.00	
Sportsmanship Awards	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	
Stationery	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Trophies	\$500.00	\$448.89	\$51.11	\$500.00	
Youth	\$500.00	\$436.45	\$63.55	\$500.00	
VRU Supplies	\$100.00	\$55.00	\$45.00	\$100.00	VA Inc Fees
Total VRU Operations	\$20,925.00	\$16,182.88	\$4,742.12	\$16,675.00	Dues income \$15,485
NET OPERATING RESULT	(\$6,125.00)	(\$11,127.88)	\$5,002.88	(\$1,190.00)	

* - See next page

***Note: The VRU Executive Committee is recommending a \$15 per year dues increase.**

- The VRU part of the dues (currently \$400) has not had an increase in at least six years.
- In that time the cost of travel and lodging for the officers and All-Star teams has increased noticeably.
- This increase would not take effect until the Fall 2007 season.
- Clubs will be billed for \$417.50 in the Spring and \$425.00 in the Fall
- Colleges will be billed for \$850 in the Fall for the 2007 - 2008 Academic Year

VRU ACCOUNTS 12/31/06	Amount	Date
BB&T Checking	\$14.82	12/31/06
Suntrust Account	\$2,865.67	12/31/06
Don Bridges Fund (VIGRX)	\$12,386.01	01/12/07
Long Term Savings (VFINX)	\$20,960.04	01/12/07
Total	\$36,226.54	

Bill Lucas
treasurer@rugby.org

MARFU/USARFU Representative

CIPP

In late 2007, we will have a new membership registration and reporting system for 2008 registrations. This is being blended with a Competitions system and a High Performance component and will, in fact, be cheaper than the present system to purchase and maintain. I have seen the alternatives and our members will be much happier than with the current piece of cr*p. In the meantime, the old reports returned in the Fall season (good), but are no longer real-time.

For your information, here is a summary of year-end 2005 and 2006 CIPP numbers for the VRU, MARFU (including the VRU), and USA:

VRU	12/31/2005	12/31/2006
(Senior) Club Dues	601	675
Collegiate Dues	985	1,100
Referee and Laws	23	37
Under 18 Dues	8	4
Grand Total	1,617	1,816

MARFU	12/31/2005	12/31/2006
(Senior) Club Dues	2,699	3,043
Associate	2	1
Collegiate Dues	4,399	4,988
Referee and Laws	79	139
Under 18 Dues	2,902	3,728
Grand Total	10,081	11,899

USA	12/31/2005	12/31/2006
(Senior) Club Dues	19,116	20,273
Associate	48	7
Club Dues	2	12
Collegiate Dues	25,095	26,387
Referee and Laws	685	862
Under 18 Dues	17,658	20,451
Grand Total	62,604	67,992

Olympics

As everyone knows, the IOC rejected rugby (7s) as an Olympic sport, but... there's talk of something in the next decade. We'll see.

7s

The USA is bidding on the 2009 World Cup 7s, but this is still being evaluated. The 2007 USA 7s is in San Diego on Feb 10-11, 2007. Allegedly, the new "owner" of the USA 7s lost a ton of money in 2006; we'll need to see what happens in 2007.

Competitions Audit

Nothing to report. The rumor mill says that this may be in the hands of the USA Board, but when the information will be released (if approved) is unknown. However, we have been promised something as later as April.

The New USA Congress and USA Board

In March 2006, the new strategic and governance plans, passed by a 25-1 margin. In July, an "Extraordinary General Meeting" of the now-old Board of Directors was held; the primary purpose was to review and approve the new By-laws, establish the Congress, and seat the new executive-level Board. Between the March and July meetings, the

revised By-laws had been tweaked and debated. Besides the people on the USAR committee for the effort, the individuals who seemingly had the most involvement in critiquing the draft By-laws were Pat Costello (PRU; a government attorney) and myself. The revised document was passed by an overall vote of 24-2.

Thus... the approval of the new By-Laws led to the seating of the new Board. The "old" USA Board is now the USA Congress (which will generally meet once/year). The new Board was discussed and all five (5) of the recommended executive members were unanimously accepted (information on those individuals can be found at various web sites). In addition, Bob Latham was elected from the Congress to be the Congress rep on the new Board. The International Athletes elected were Dave Hodges and Jen Joyce.

Note: the new Congress will meet for the first time on August 4, 2007 in Chicago.

The USA Congress will be added to the USA Rugby Director's and Officers liability insurance. They weren't going to add us and I asked "Why not?" Others harped up after I did and... we're getting it. (This provides legal liability!)

CIPP and VRU Dues Collection

At the January 2006 AGM, Jim Collum of Blackwater RFC asked that we look into the collection of VRU and/or MARFU dues via CIPP fees. There are a number of reasons for this, but the concept would be to place more of the burden on the registrant rather than the clubs. Also, the smaller clubs would have less of a load than the larger clubs (some might even call the current fee structure a "regressive tax").

Before I elaborate further, please note the following:

1. Be aware that clubs have their players pay their fees in two different ways:
 - a. Individually. Players are on their own to pay. The club expects the player to register prior to their first match.
 - b. Through the Club. Clubs pay for their players through their club. Club dues may be higher (to offset the delta on the CIPP fee) or the club may (somehow) eat the cost or the institution (in the case of a college/university) may pay for individual registration.
2. Please note that there is NO grace period for registering. A player **must** be registered before they step on the field for a match; there are **no** exceptions to this despite "urban legends" to the contrary.
3. VRU dues are currently \$835 per year and consist of two components:
 - a. \$400 – VRU dues
 - b. \$435 – MARFU dues
4. Currently, the USA CIPP process permits collection of West TU and Pacific Coast TU dues:
 - a. \$15 additional for Senior players.
 - b. \$12 additional for Collegiate players.
 - c. \$10 additional for High School and Youth.
5. Many (but certainly not all) of the VRU's colleges pay for their club's dues.

Since I'm on the USA Membership Committee, I knew how a lot of this worked, but double-checked with folks who are very "close" to the current system. What I found was that the system was never developed to easily/effectively "add others"; in fact, although the process is automated for the two TUs, there is still a lot of staff time taken with this (and the West TU and Pacific Coast TU are not paying for that extra help. The West TU and Pacific Coast TU do(!) pay for the credit card fees, although those are small). This process represents additional time and effort for staff (membership and finance personnel) to manage the additional fees and resulting issues through membership and accounting.

There is a slight problem with transfers and headcounts for payments. This happens when a player leaves a TU and transfers to another TU. There are alleged problems with the processes and reconciliation of headcounts (for USAR payment to the TU).

There is a question on whether the current system can really handle two different supplemental payment types. Some say yes, some say no. But... the current system has a fundamental constraint: it can **only** be configured as a TU collection system. This **cannot** (currently) be driven down to the LAU level. Thus, using CIPP collection for VRU dues collection is a moot point for the VRU until further notice.

As with everything that is "IT", the above can be fixed. However, the costs to do so that were thrown-around (\$10K+) just isn't too appetizing. Across the country, no one is clamoring at the LAU level for this and the TUs are too wary of USAR's accounting to trust that this works.

As of 12/31/2006, the VRU had 1816 members. Of this number, 675 were with senior clubs and 1100 were with colleges (the balance of members is in other categories). Using the \$15 and \$12 system at the currently fixed TU level, our players would have paid \$23,325 to MARFU. However, our MARFU dues are "only" \$16,095 for the whole year.

My opinion: the MARFU Board would be opposed to USA collection of our TU fees. It really wouldn't un-complicate things for the MARFU or LAU treasurers, but it would add an additional, direct burden to the players (depending on current club dues structures, fund raisers, and other financial considerations).

Finally:

As mentioned earlier in this report, we will be under a **new** membership registration system at the end of 2007 and the current posture at the national office is to eliminate TU dues collection.

David Chapman
usa@rugby.org

Men's Club Coordinator

In Division II, Raleigh had a perfect season as it won the VRU Crown.

In Division III, a new format was attempted that created two divisions in which clubs played each other twice. Following that, a tournament at the conclusion of the season was held at Ed Lee to determine the VRU Champion. Virginia, which went undefeated, defeated Blacksburg, which also went undefeated, to win the conference crown. Both Virginia and Blacksburg will represent the VRU at MARFU.

2007 will see a return to the original format of Division III conference play between clubs. If, in the future, additional clubs join the VRU on a DIII level then the experimented format could return.

Finally, the Norfolk Blues are working on featuring rugby at the 2007 Virginia Beach Soccer tournament at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront in June. All men's clubs are encouraged to contact the Blues about participating in this beach tournament.

David Yancey
men@rugby.org

Women's Club Coordinator

Congratulations to Raleigh Vipers!

- During the Spring Season, Caroline Duckworth, Heather Ferrell, Jamie Jones, and Jen Cowman made the MARFU Developmental Team.
- Defending National Division II Champions: Raleigh Venom won for the 2nd time the National Division II Championships November 11-12. They also hosted it.

The VRU women did some fundraising and had two sets of jerseys to sell. About \$1200 was raised and the proceeds went towards hotel costs for the Baltimore Rites of Spring tournament. Thanks for everyone's support. They also dawned their new set of jerseys at this tournament.

This year, all VRU Women's Club members were invited to take part in the Baltimore-Chesapeake Rites of Spring tournament on May 6th and 7th in the Inner Harbor of Baltimore. Brett Burdick coached with a new Zen approach and commented that he saw some good things from the VRU women. We were all very sad that members from Raleigh were not able to join us.

The VRU women who had selected themselves to represent the union were:

- 1) Miwa Ng (Blue Ridge)
- 2) Alissa Ashley (James River)
- 3) Carolyn Runyon (Blue Ridge)
- 4) Darcy Nelson (Norfolk)
- 5) Emily Pauler (Norfolk)
- 6) Margy Thomas (James River)
- 7) Lisa Green (Blue Ridge)
- 8) Giza High (Blue Ridge)
- 9) Deb King (Norfolk)
- 10) Misha Heller (James River)
- 11) Jackie Bariletto (Norfolk)
- 12) Carla Harrell (Norfolk)
- 13) Stephie Jo Edwards (James River)
- 14) Heather Weaver (James River)
- 15) Shannon Lennahan (Formerly James River)

And 15 was enough for a full great and awesome day of rugby on Saturday. The VRU played their hearts out. The games consisted of 20-minute halves, so time was short and had to be used as effectively as possible. The tournament kicked off at 9:20 am against the Chesapeake, MD women. The final score was 30-0. The day began to get hot and most of the team found a spot up in the shade overlooking Bocek Field Park. The second game against UMBC finished 63-0. And finally, the VRU met Lancaster. Showing signs of being tired, it was only Lancaster that managed to score a try all day long against the VRU. The final was 15-5. So having won all three games that day, the VRU women were in, going to the semi's to kick off at 10:20 against Morris Women. The other semifinal game was Lancaster versus the MD Stingers. The only challenge the VRU faced was finding enough players to play on Sunday. We picked up one Chesapeake player and three others from UMBC. Those three were yanked away in order to start their own Bowl game since the two fields were on slightly different schedules. So in the last 5 minutes, the VRU had 11 players on the field, as Lisa was out with an injury. Amazingly enough, the intensity picked up and we worked extra hard, and the VRU pushed back Morris and almost made a try before the whistle was blown. The final score was 5-10 and ended the tournament for the VRU. Had there been a full VRU side with extra VRU subs, we would have wagered that the VRU would have won the tournament. VRU had the most tries and won all of their games unlike any of the other teams at the end of Saturday, and we clearly showed dominance. I wish more players had been able to attend.

Everyone commented they had great fun, and I was honored to play with everyone and represent the VRU together.

Margy Dessypris-Thomas
women@rugby.org

Men's College Coordinator

2006 was yet another good year for the VRU Men's Collegiate Division. Longwood won the CM Div III portion of the Ed Lee and then went on to defeat the EPRU Div III Champion (Penn State –Berks) to claim the MARFU title for the VRU. They will play in a East Coast Playoff in April of this year, 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".

There was an unprecedented three-way tie between Radford, VMI and University of Richmond for 1st Place in League play. Radford settled the tie at the Ed Lee, taking the Championship Trophy for Division II and the number 1 seed from the VRU at the MARFU's later this spring. Thanks to Mary Washington's strong finish last year, Radford will join VMI and University of Richmond advancing to the MARFU playoffs beginning March 24.

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

One major change on the horizon is the formation of a MARFU wide Collegiate Men's Division I for the Fall 2007 League Season. Right now, Va. Tech and UVA are included in the field for this extremely competitive division, and JMU may be required to move into the VRU Division II while they rebuild their program under Coach Holmes Brown.

The new Collegiate Men's format for the Ed Lee received rave reviews from the clubs, but more significant changes are still on the horizon for the traditional VRU event.

CIPP

There were several clubs that had problems with CIPP registration this year, resulting in some forfeits and some fines. 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. The VRU has applied to host a Coaching Certification Clinic again this August, in Richmond. 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 MARFU website. 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.

2007 League Structure

Division I: Virginia, Virginia Tech, JMU

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

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

Independent: Hampden Sydney

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

Reminders

- CIPP
- Contact your referee by Monday prior to the match w/game times and directions
- Make sure you have restraint ropes up and goal post pads
- Bring a printed copy of your CIPP list to turn into the ref before the game w/your captain's signature at the bottom

National Championship - April 2006

2 teams advanced to National playoffs in 2006, in Div 2 Mary Washington, in Div 1 UVA

All-Americans

The VRU had 4 players named All-Americans:

- 1st team - Fiona Foxon-UVA, Rachel Warden-UVA
- 2nd team - Sarah Miller-JMU, Carrie Perdue-UVA

MARFU All-Star Round Robin Competition - November 2006

The VRU U-23 team beat the EPRU and PRU to win the competition.

The following players were named to the all-tournament team:

- Erin Ridout-Mary Wash
- Alison Hunter-UVA
- Winnie Chao-UVA
- Rachel Winters-UVA
- Kelly Schumann-UVA
- Laurie Bryan-Tech
- Nicole Cauffman-Tech
- Sarah Miller-JMU
- Kathleen Brady-JMU

Women's National Team

This year the Women's National Team had 3 former VRU players and the National 7's team has 1 former VRU player.

National Team

- Annie Collier William and Mary
- Heather Hale UVA
- Jaime Burke UVA

7's

- Jen Starkey JMU

MARFU 2007

Advancing to the MARFU Playoff this year:

- Div 1 - UVA, Virginia Tech, James Madison
- Div 2 - Mary Washington, University of Richmond, William & Mary

Julie Comer

collegewomen@rugby.org

Youth Coordinator

Youth and High School Rugby in the Virginia Rugby Union (VRU) is slowly gaining interest more so at the Youth recreational league level. At this time the VRU does not have any High School Team participants as VRU High School programs.

Therefore it is my recommendation that the VRU direct more resources toward both Youth and High School program development to include local recruitment of coaches and team organizers.

The levels of youth and High School participation continue to develop well in the Potomac Rugby Union as well as in other Local Area Unions (LAUs). If the VRU does not develop a good base in youth development the level of play will continue to suffer when compared to other LAUs that have Youth and High School Rugby development.

At this time I am aware of the following programs;

Existing Youth Programs

- Hanover Youth Rugby (www.hanoveryouthrugby.org), Report third season
- Richmond; Chesterfield Parks & Rec, Report first season
- Lynchburg; Parks & Rec., No Report
- Roanoke; Parks & Rec., No Report
- Norfolk; Parks & Rec., No Report

Existing High Schools

- Massanutten Military High School, in Virginia but currently in PRU
- Ocean Lakes High School, Virginia Beach (<http://www.bluesrugby.org/ncbrfc/bluyouth.html>). They play touch and are a co-ed group.

Possible High School Age Programs

- Peninsula Catholic High School is just starting
- Menchville High School is also just starting
- Hanover County

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Kilgore
youth@rugby.org

Disciplinary Committee Chairman

In 2006 there was a significant decrease in the number of infractions. Another noticeable difference this year was the support of videography. Not being able to attend all games makes it difficult to judge some situations. With the increasing presence of video cameras at games I have been provided a front row seat to the actual infraction. On several occasions this year I was either provided via email or disc actual clips of the situation. With this assistance I am able to view events leading up to and surrounding the infraction to insure that the offender is properly disciplined. Through the help of all teams, referees, and in conjunction with the MARFU Disciplinary board we are making great strides towards promoting the safety of all rugby players and referees on and off the field.

Yellow Cards

2006	2005
45	71

Red Cards

2006	2005
7	11

Reported incidents of 2006

Longwood Men	6
Raleigh Men	6
Norfolk Men	5
Christopher Newport	4
U of Richmond Men	3
Virginia Beach	3
Washington & Lee	3
Blackwater Men	2
Newport News	2
ODU Men	2
Radford Men	2
Radford Women	2
VCU Men	2
Virginia Tech Men	2
VMI	2
Charlotte Men	1
Mary Washington Men	1
Richmond	1
U of Richmond Women	1
UVA Women	1
Virginia	1
Total	52

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

George Durocher
discipline@rugby.org

Newsletter Editor

This past year completes my 12th year as your Newsletter editor. I am stepping down as the time commitment is becoming a little too much on my schedule.

I have usually published the Newsletter four times per year. However, at the suggestion of the Executive Committee, I added a fifth issue last year in the Spring which had a plethora of news, including playoffs.

The Newsletter is published on the VRU website. At each publication, I send out a general announcement about its publication and location on the VRU, RSV, and Old Boys listserves. I also send an attachment version to several individuals.

It has been a pleasure serving you over the years.

Jeff Anderson
newsletter@rugby.org

Referee Society of Virginia Chairman

The RSV had a great year in 2006. We covered just over 96% of matches in the VRU. Nationally, the coverage rate is around 75%. We missed only 5 matches all year. We constantly work to get all A side matches covered. However, this is difficult in the Fall league play when all teams are playing within the VRU on the same weekend.

Since I became RSV president five years ago my #1 priority has been referee recruitment and development. We have had four referee and touch judge clinics which so far has added 12 referees to the RSV. We had a fifth referee clinic last Saturday with nine in attendance. They will have to pass a take home test and come back next month for the touch judge clinic to become certified referees. Nationally only 5% of those who come to a referee clinic go on to become referees. In Virginia our success rate is 20%

For referee development, we have an excellent trainer in Steve Myers, a B-1 referee. We also have IRB trainer Don Musacchio who gives the referee and touch judge clinics. Each season we send three referees out on assignment to other MARFU sites, that is, Potomac and Eastern Penn, for evaluation and coaching. We also have exchanges set up with Texas, the South, and Northern California. Every referee who comes to the Ed and Sandy Lee Cup gets an evaluation or coaching session. We send all interested referees to Potomac for the Level 2 referee clinic to progress up the refereeing grading scale.

Those wishing to become referees will have to take the Level 1 referee clinic and Level 1 and 2 touch judge clinic. Since we just had one, the next opportunity will be in Potomac up in DC, probably in February. Anyone interested, please contact me. The VRU will sponsor you.

Jeff Anderson
ref@rugby.org