

Virginia Rugby Union Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 30, 2008, 10:30 AM

O'Toole's Restaurant & Pub (4800 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225)

Roll call:

Present:

President - Carl Schmitt; Vice-President - Bill Lucas; Secretary - David Chapman;
Treasurer - Tommy Krebs (Arrived at 11:40 AM); Men's Club Coordinator - Jeremy
Miller; Women's Club Coordinator - Margy Dessypris Thomas (Arrived at 10:45 AM);
Women's College Coordinator - Julie Comer; Youth Coordinator - Kevin Kilgore;
Disciplinary Committee Chair/MARFU/USARFU Representative - George Durocher;
Referees Society of Virginia (RSV): Stuart Willis

Absent:

MARFU-At-Large - Shannon Plum; Newsletter Editor (send stuff!) - Emily Pauler;
Men's College Coordinator - Matt Robinette

The meeting began at 10:40 AM.

Treasurer's Report

General account: there was approximately \$7,900 in the general account. MARFU dues will be due soon; several teams will be reminded of their overdue status (also available on the web site).

Don Bridges Fund: Approximately \$3K was provided to the family of Todd Miller to help defray some of the costs. There is a request for some new equipment for Don Bridges; Kevin will check and once we are aware of the amount the EC will discuss a possible expenditure.

VRU Fiscal Year, Billing Procedure

The current billing cycle is different for colleges than it is for clubs (yearly v semi-annually); additionally, the fiscal year (FY) is a calendar year rather than the competition year. The EC discussed this issue and will submit a by-law amendment for the 2009 AGM with the FY will be changing from 1/1-12/31 to 9/1-8/31.

Current Fall billing is on 9/1 with 60 days to pay.

Restructuring Referees Fees

The EC discussed the referee's fees and a flat fee system. The problem that needs to be addressed is how clubs budget when the referees fees can vary widely, based on mileage charges. Potentially, a median-based rate could be more reasonable and clubs would be able to plan/budget a bit more optimally. Stuart agreed to examine this issue.

The Ed and Sandy Lee (ESL) Cup

In 2008, the ESL will be held on 11/1-2.

For 2009, Carl made a motion (seconded by Jeremy) that the 2009 ESL will be held on November 14. The reasoning is that we are still having problems with college getting their league matches in due to school starts, breaks, or weather problems. However, the cons were the lack of light due to the change from Daylight Savings Time, and the College Women's select sides. The motion failed on voice vote.

For the 2008 event, there was a plan to add two matches (High School and Old Boys), but there was a problem with field space. George would check to see if something might free up, but would not know right away.

There was a discussion, initiated by Carl, about helping with ESL expenses. George provided a 2004-2007 cost breakdown; there didn't appear to be much to cut; most of JR's revenues had come from t-shirt sales. George reminded the group that the colleges decided they wanted to retain the event even though the ESL was going to be dropped. David C mentioned that Carl had not offered a plan. Carl stated that a college team (with sufficient field space) could host the event. The issue was dropped since extra funding was not feasible at this time.

Old Boys Rugby

John Carr & Mike Puopolo (Virginia Cardinals) have mentioned setting up an Old Boys league. Carl will be working with them on that.

The question of CIPP for Old Boys and "alumni" was asked. Motion by Julie (seconded by David C): The VRU reminds all clubs that all players, including Old Boys and Alumni, must be CIPP registered. Passed on voice vote.

Concussion awareness

Coordinators are/were reminded to send a standalone message to all of their clubs regarding USA Rugby guidelines about concussions.

VRU Communication mechanism

Carl suggested monthly Emails about events, news, etc. Tommy suggested forums, but David C mentioned the overhead required for those (monitoring, removing offensive posts); eRugbyNews and Kurt Oeler have had problems with non-responsible free speech.

Sideline behavior

Statement by the EC: MARFU and the VRU will not tolerate abusive situations involving players, coaches, and spectators.

Youth Rugby Report: Summer 2008 Results

Kevin provided a report on what has happened since the January AGM. He mentioned that James River's and Richmond's summer youth programs went well. Kevin stated that there is an initial effort going on in Roanoke that may lead to Spring play. Discussed the coaching clinic scheduled in Charlottesville on 10/4-5.

2008 Law variations

Stuart mentioned that the RSV has offered to come out to local club practices to go over the Experimental Law Variations (ELVs). He also requested the coordinators to ask the clubs not to have new players serve as touch judges.

Spring Coaching Clinic

Given the October coaching clinic, there are no current plans to set up a coaching clinic for Spring 2009.

Collegiate Sports Medical Match Coverage

Carl is still working on the issue of medical coverage at college-based events (i.e., aid provided by the institution). In particular, he would like to see trainers at college matches. Both Julie and George stated that our first concern should be qualified medical personnel

Blackwater Women Dues Timeline

In the event that a new group of Blackwater Women resurface, we will discuss the issue of the former club with them. Margy has an Email history and will review. However, the EC determined that the Blackwater Women will not owe any money.

MARFU Senior W's Select Side Player Reimbursement

MARFU Senior W's Select Side Players received varying amounts of reimbursement, but these were necessary exceptions because of the large amount of travel in the current program. However, this must be monitored closer.

Men's Collegiate Meeting

The VRU college coaches will meet on 9/20 to discuss various issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.