

VRU Annual General Meeting
Gottwald Science Center, U. of Richmond, Richmond, VA
01/31/2009

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 AM.

Roll Call

The following officers were present:

President - Carl Schmitt; Vice-President - Bill Lucas; Secretary - David Chapman; Treasurer - Tommy Krebs; MARFU/USARFU Representative & Disciplinary Committee Chairman - George Durocher; Men's Club Coordinator - Jeremy Miller; Women's Club Coordinator - Margy Dessypris Thomas; Men's College Coordinator - Matt Robinette; Women's College Coordinator - Julie Comer; Youth/High School Coordinator - Kevin Kilgore; Newsletter Editor - Emily Pauler

Note: An RSV officer could not attend, so David Chapman filled in for Stuart Willis at the latter's request.

The following clubs were present:

Blacksburg; Blackwater; Charlotte; Christopher Newport U.; Hampden-Sydney College; James River M; James River W; JMU Men; JMU Women; Longwood U. Men; Longwood U. Women; Mary Washington Men; Mary Washington Women; Newport News; Norfolk Blues; Norfolk Storm; ODU; Radford U. Men; Richmond Lions; Roanoke; U of Richmond Men; U of Richmond Women; Univ of Virginia Men; Univ of Virginia Women; Va Tech Women; VCU M; VCU W; Virginia RFC; Virginia Beach; VMI; W&L; W&M Men; W&M Women

The following officers were absent:

MARFU-At-Large – Shannon Plum

The following clubs were absent:

Raleigh Vipers M
Raleigh Venom W
Va Tech Men

Officer Reports

Officers provided written and verbal reports. The written reports will also be available on-line.

In addition to the written reports, the following had items to say of note:

President – Discussed the Todd Miller tragedy from Spring 2009 and the need for professional medical care at events. Gave a background of the Don Bridges Fund and what the VRU endeavors to do with it, if it is ever needed. Spoke about coaching clinics; the VRU pays for one person/club/year to attend a clinic.

VP – Mentioned that applications to host tournaments must be submitted three (3) months prior to the tournament. Teams must meet CIPP requirements in order to host a tournament. The

President interjected about the issue of alumni matches and CIPP; there may be some assistance from USA Rugby on this issue, in the form of one time fees for events.

Secretary - Talked about some possible problems with move of web site and its short-term impact on the referee scheduling application.

HS/Youth Coordinator – Mentioned the current Newport News effort with four (4) High School clubs starting in Spring 2009.

Rugby VA Report – Fred Bardot came to speak again and related what had happened this past year. Rugby VA had its first HS Championship in Northern Virginia, which a number of people in the VRU attended. There are more clubs being formed in Northern Virginia and he was pleased to hear about the formations of HS clubs in Southeastern Virginia. Discussed development efforts relating to children, including touch rugby and USAR's Rookie Rugby.

Men's Club Coordinator – Spoke about the general positive state of the club teams.

Women's Club Coordinator – Reported that the issue that had been discussed at the 2008 AGM is a dead issue; if Blackwater Women resurface, then whatever debt they may or may not have had has been written off. Noted that the Charlottesville Women are inactive and that their players are either playing for other clubs or are playing at-large. Noted that although the MARFU Women's Select Side program took the emphasis away from any local VRU Select Side effort, several players played for MARFU.

College Men's Coordinator – There was some discussion about the number of bye-weeks within the proposed schedule (in order to accommodate Fall Breaks and make-ups), as well as the date of the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup. The general consensus was to keep the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup on the (current) standard weekend and to eliminate several of the by-dates. The coordinator was going to adjust the schedule to reflect this. Additionally, the issue of VRU Select Side came up; several had tried to get the program going, but they were met with a decided lack of interest from the majority of the coaches; this issue is still to be resolved.

College Women's Coordinator – Spoke about the success of the College W's Select Side A and B teams; believed it would hurt the program to change the date of the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup because of player overextension during the Fall (as well as academic concerns). Called for a meeting with the College W teams at the end of the meeting to discuss scheduling.

USA Congress – Chatted about efforts at USAR to increase sponsorship and funding.

Disciplinary Chair – Communicated to the clubs about the success of the on-line system for reporting and tracking problems. The HS/Youth Coordinator asked about consistency of red/yellow cards between referees and between the LAUs; the referees' representative stated that everyone had the same instructions, but that interpretations and follow-through may be different (i.e., some things are not in lock-step formation).

Newsletter Editor – Stated that she needs more information. The President suggested that everyone subscribe to the VRU Yahoo Group.

Referees – Discussed six (6) clubs that reportedly owed back referee payments.

Treasurer – Provided the executed budget, as well as the budget for a split year. The VRU is migrating to a "Competition Year" budget, so the Treasurer provided a budget for Jan-Aug 2009

and a budget for Sep 2009 – Aug 2010. There was some discussion about the mechanics to do this, but this is mostly a paperwork maneuver for a better alignment with the way that dues are actually collected. The dues were passed on voice vote with no dissents heard.

After the Treasurer's report, Kris Kabza (former VRU President and current MARFU President) was asked "where does MARFU money go?"; Kris discussed the make-up of the MARFU budget, which includes select sides, referees, reimbursement to hosts of championship events, and so on). Kris was also asked about player reimbursement for a club player who played for "MARFU" in 2008; however, it was pointed out that the match in question (Ambassador's Shield) was not a MARFU event in 2008 and that MARFU did not field the team (and, in fact, MARFU/VRU players had not been reimbursed for that match in the past, as they would have been for attending the NASC).

Ed & Sandy Lee Cup

As mentioned above, there was a lot of discussion about changing the event date in 2009. The President opted to table the discussion for this year and to reconsider the issue at a later date.

James River and Roanoke submitted bids for the 2009 event. The VRU Executive Committee will review and vote at a later date.

Presentation of League Awards

Plaques were given to various teams that ended up in 1st or 2nd place in VRU-based league play.

Announcement of Sportsmanship Awards

The 2008 Sportsmanship Awards (for Match play throughout the year) went to:

Raleigh (Club Men)
VCU (College Men)
U. of Mary Washington (Women)

Additionally, it was announced that the following team won the Sportsmanship Award at the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup:

University of Virginia Women

Election of 2009 Officers

The following individuals were elected to the VRU Executive Committee for 2009:

President - Carl Schmitt (incumbent) - president@rugby.org
Vice-President - Bill Lucas (incumbent) - vp@rugby.org
Secretary - David Chapman (incumbent) - secretary@rugby.org
Treasurer - Tommy Krebs (incumbent) - treasurer@rugby.org
MARFU/USARFU Representative - George Durocher (incumbent) - usa@rugby.org
MARFU-At-Large - David Chapman - marfu_at_large@rugby.org
Men's Club Coordinator - Jeremy Miller (incumbent) - men@rugby.org
Women's Club Coordinator - Margy Dessypris Thomas (incumbent) - women@rugby.org
Men's College Coordinator - Matt Robinette (incumbent) - collegemen@rugby.org

Women's College Coordinator - Julie Comer (incumbent) - collegewomen@rugby.org
Youth/High School Coordinator - Kevin Kilgore (incumbent) - youth@rugby.org
Disciplinary Committee Chairman - George Durocher (incumbent) - discipline@rugby.org
Newsletter Editor - Emily Pauler (incumbent) - newsletter@rugby.org

New Business

No new business was brought forward.

A motion and a second were made to conclude the meeting; the meeting was closed at 1:58 PM.