

# Virginia Rugby Union

Annual General Meeting

11:00 am, Saturday 25 January, 2003

University of Richmond

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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

Officer Reports

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

MARFU/USA Representative

Women's Club Coordinator

Women's Collegiate Coordinator

Men's Club Coordinator

Men's Collegiate Coordinator

Youth Coordinator

Disciplinary Chairman

Newsletter Editor

Referees Society of Virginia

Sportsmanship Award

New Clubs

Additional Items / New Business

Election of Officers for 2003

Adjourn

## President

Please do the following:

CIPP register your club.

CIPP register your players.

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

Verify your online directory information.

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

## **CERTIFY A COACH!!**

### **NEW MARFU REQUIREMENT**

By the beginning of 1 January 2004, all high school, college, and clubs must have at least one coach who has been USA Rugby level 1 qualified.

If a team does not have a certified coach, they must have a certified coach no later than the next available MARFU clinic.

If a team does not have a coach, they will be suspended from play.

Exemptions to this will be reviewed by the MARFU Board of Directors.

Kris Kabza

[president@rugby.org](mailto:president@rugby.org)

IM: kabza

## Vice-President

Yet another year of the easiest VRU Executive Committee job has come and gone. The Vice President's three primary functions are managing tournament applications, monitoring CIPP compliance, and the administering the Don Bridge's Fund. None of these takes a lot of time, and one of them, the Don Bridges fund, is currently being handled by our Treasurer. As I said last year, I'll probably spend more time at the AGM than I spent on Vice President duties last year.

Tournament Applications. Teams have done a much better job of submitting tournament applications on time this year, but there is still room for improvement. Remember the VRU Handbook requires that Event Applications be submitted on the official form provided in the handbook at least three months in advance of the event in order to be considered. We have this requirement to make sure that there are not conflicts with other tournaments, that there are enough referees to go around, and to allow time to correct any problems with the application. The critical decision points for approval are the host organization's current standing in the VRU (current on dues, CIPP registration), past experience in hosting events, availability of satisfactory medical personnel/services and any other liability issues.

CIPP Compliance. There has been some improvement in CIPP reporting. But there's a long way to go. The VRU needs to find a way to make verification of CIPP status easier and more reliable. At present, I don't have any good ideas. We currently require the referee to collect CIPP rosters from each team and send them to the VRU Vice President. There are at least two problems with this policy: 1) Not all matches are refereed by a certified RSV referee, and 2) not all referees remember to collect and submit the forms. There are a lot of insurance and liability issues that can arise if non-registered teams or players play a match. For these reasons, I feel the VRU Executive Committee needs to come up with a procedure to allow the VRU to effectively monitor CIPP compliance. Club liability insurance program requires that both clubs and all the players in a match be CIPP registered in order for the liability insurance to be in force. Fifteens clubs must have at least 15 players registered in addition to the club being registered to qualify for the insurance. The VRU will monitor the USA Rugby CIPP database and will be notifying teams that have too few players registered to get in compliance or be liable for sanctions. I know CIPP is a pain, but it's a requirement, so let's get with the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lucas  
[vp@rugby.org](mailto:vp@rugby.org)  
IM: BillLucas

## Treasurer

The treasurer's report consists of 4 items. Three of the items are on the pages that follow. The items are:

Balances (as of 01/18/03)

Regular Checking \$10,116.26  
Money Market Checking \$7035.01  
Mutual Fund \$12,767.77  
Don Bridges Fund \$6537.16

2002 Budget Execution and 2003 Proposed Budget

Virginia Rugby Union Dues

Checks

David Chapman  
[treasurer@rugby.org](mailto:treasurer@rugby.org)  
IM: davidcaim

## Secretary

Greg Markham  
[secretary@rugby.org](mailto:secretary@rugby.org)  
IM: TBirdPIC

Balances (as of 01/18/03):

Regular Checking:	\$10,116.26
Money Market Checking:	\$7,035.01
Mutual Fund	\$12,767.77
Don Bridges Fund:	\$6,537.16

## 2002 Budget Execution and 2003 Proposed Budget

### INCOME

	2002 Budget	2002 Actual		2003 Budget
Dues	\$26,000.00	\$27,050.00		\$31,200.00
Fines	\$0.00	\$100.00		\$0.00
Misc	\$50.00	\$63.45		\$60.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$26,050.00</b>	<b>\$27,213.45</b>		<b>\$31,260.00</b>

### EXPENSES

Coaching Coord	\$700.00	\$2,315.00	***	\$700.00	
College Coord	\$25.00	\$32.19	***	\$35.00	>
College Coord W	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
College Selects	\$1,000.00	\$419.50		\$1,200.00	>
College W Slcts	\$1,000.00	\$1,308.72	***	\$1,200.00	>
Discipline Comm	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Ed Lee Cup Exp	\$650.00	\$614.61		\$650.00	
Emergent	\$250.00	\$138.25		\$250.00	
Grants to Clubs	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	***	\$2,000.00	>
Grants to Select Side Players	\$800.00	\$1,450.00	***	\$2,000.00	>
Handbook	\$850.00	\$931.72	***	\$1,000.00	>
Internet Site	\$650.00	\$458.02		\$650.00	
MARFU	\$13,050.00	\$14,300.00	***	\$15,600.00	>
Men's Club Coord	\$25.00	\$15.55		\$25.00	
Men's Selects	\$600.00	\$0.00		\$350.00	<
Newsletter	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$100.00	
Officer Travel	\$1,500.00	\$1,728.32	***	\$2,025.00	>
President	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Publicity	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Secretary	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Select Side Jerseys	\$1,500.00	\$965.58		\$1,500.00	
Sportsmanship	\$550.00	\$550.00		\$550.00	
Stationary	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Treasurer	\$50.00	\$14.95		\$50.00	
Trophies	\$300.00	\$243.59		\$250.00	<
U19	\$500.00	\$423.79		\$450.00	<
USARFU Rep	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
VRU Supplies	\$100.00	\$59.97		\$100.00	
Women's Coord	\$25.00	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Women's Selects	\$600.00	\$0.00		\$350.00	<
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$26,025.00</b>	<b>\$27,969.76</b>		<b>\$31,260.00</b>	

**OVERALL +/-      \$25.00      (\$756.31)      \$0.00**

# Virginia Rugby Union Dues

1/18/2003

	Spring	Fall	Spring	4/1/2003	
	2002	2002	2003	Overdue	Total Due
1. Blacksburg M	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2. Blackwater M	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
3. Blackwater W	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
4. Blue Ridge W	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
5. Christopher Newport U.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
6. Hampden-Sydney	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
7. JMU Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8. JMU Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9. James River M	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
10. James River W	NA	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
11. Longwood Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12. Longwood Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13. Mary Wash Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14. Mary Wash Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15. Newport News	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
16. Norfolk Blues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
17. Norfolk Storm	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
18. ODU Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Radford Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
20. Radford Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
21. Raleigh M	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
22. Raleigh W	NA	NA	\$400.00	NA	\$400.00
23. Roanoke M	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
24. Roanoke W	NA	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
25. Southwest Virginia	NA	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
26. U of Richmond	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
27. U of Virginia M	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
28. U of Virginia W	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
29. United	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
30. VCU M	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
31. VCU W	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
32. VMI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
33. Va Tech Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
34. Va Tech Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
35. Virginia Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
36. W&L	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
37. W&M Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
38. W&M Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
39. Winchester	NA	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Balance Due:	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$7,750.00	\$400.00	\$8,150.00
Collected:	\$12,800.00	\$14,800.00	\$7,850.00		

Note: Fall and Spring Dues for College Clubs are due on 10/1 (College Fiscal Year).  
 Dues for City Clubs are due on 10/1 and 4/1.

Date	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Clr	Amount
			BALANCE 12/31/2001			\$17,907.58
01/01/02	Intrnl	S	S 02, Partial F 02 (from MARFU credit)	Dues:Norfolk Blues	R	\$432.00
			MARFU Credit from MARFU 7s (for Norfolk)	MARFU	R	(\$432.00)
			Credit from Ed Lee Sportsmanship Award	Dues:W&M Women	R	\$100.00
			From 2001 event	Sportsmanship	R	(\$100.00)
			Credit from 2001 Coaching Clinic	Dues:United	R	\$140.00
			United RFC member	Coaching Coord	R	(\$140.00)
			From 2001 competition	Sportsmanship	R	(\$450.00)
			Credit for Sportsmanship	Dues:United	R	\$150.00
			Credit for Sportsmanship	Dues:Radford Men	R	\$150.00
			Credit for Sportsmanship	Dues:VA Tech Women	R	\$150.00
01/22/02	674	Roanoke RFC	Flowers for John Daffron	Emergent	R	(\$57.25)
01/23/02	675	USA Rugby	Materials	U19	R	(\$115.00)
01/31/02	677	Bunkie Trinite Trophies	Sportsmanship Awards	Trophies	R	(\$243.59)
01/31/02	678	Treasurer Of Virginia	Incorporation Fee	Emergent	R	(\$25.00)
01/31/02	679	James F. Booker	Attorney Fee	Emergent	R	(\$50.00)
01/31/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$4.90
02/10/02	680	Vanguard Group - 09	Don Bridges Fund	Emergent	R	(\$1,000.00)
02/12/02	DEP	S	F02	Dues:Southwest Virginia	R	\$400.00
			F02	Dues:Winchester	R	\$400.00
			Don Bridges Fund (from Roanoke for Ed Lee Cup)	Emergent	R	\$500.00
			Don Bridges Fund (from Virginia RFC)	Emergent	R	\$500.00
			S02	Dues:Norfolk Storm	R	\$400.00
			S02	Dues:Blacksburg	R	\$400.00
			S02	Dues:United	R	\$110.00
			F/S 01/02	Dues:JMU Women	R	\$800.00
			S02	Dues:James River	R	\$400.00
			S02	Dues:Roanoke	R	\$400.00
			S02	Dues:Virginia Men	R	\$400.00
02/12/02	682	Carl Schmitt	Postage, phone	College Coord	R	(\$32.19)
02/22/02	683	Dan Bicehouse	Mailing	U19	R	(\$9.03)
02/28/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$4.06
03/05/02	684	Reyn Kinzey	USA BOD meeting	Officer Travel	R	(\$695.44)
03/24/02	685	USARRA	Touch Judge Clinic	Coaching Coord	R	(\$60.00)
03/29/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$5.52
04/03/02	686	Kris Kabza	Copying items for AGM	VRU Supplies	R	(\$59.97)
04/04/02	687	James Madison W	Playoffs	Grants to Clubs	R	(\$500.00)
04/04/02	688	Mary Washington W	Playoffs	Grants to Clubs	R	(\$500.00)

04/11/02	689	UVa W	Playoffs	Grants to Clubs	R	(\$500.00)
04/14/02	691	MARFU	First dues installment	MARFU	R	(\$9,568.00)
04/30/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$4.73
05/17/02	692	Kris Kabza	MARFU Mtg	Officer Travel	R	(\$64.00)
05/31/02	693	David Chapman	Rm for S. Bustillo for Youth Clinic	U19	R	(\$224.76)
05/31/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$1.75
06/06/02	694	Brittany Martin	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
06/06/02	695	Jamie Burke	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
06/06/02	696	Fionna Foxon	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
06/06/02	697	Megan Washburn	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
06/06/02	698	Liz King	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
06/06/02	699	Carolyn Carpendo	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
06/06/02	700	Beth Black	ITTs (to be split with Jen Starkey)	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$100.00)
06/07/02	DEP	S	S02	Dues:Raleigh	R	\$400.00
			S02	Dues:Newport News	R	\$400.00
			S02	Dues:Blackwater W	R	\$400.00
			F02, S03	Dues:VCU W	R	\$800.00
			S02	Dues:Blackwater	R	\$400.00
			S02, F02	Dues:CNU	R	\$800.00
06/28/02	TXFR			[Money Market]	R	(\$7,000.00)
06/28/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$1.53
07/05/02	701	George DeLacherois Day	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
07/05/02	702	Chris Ball	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
07/05/02	703	S	First USA	Internet Site	R	(\$360.00)
			Yearly fee for hosting	MARFU	R	(\$69.99)
			NSI Registration for marfu.org (3 yrs)	MARFU	R	(\$20.00)
			Vhost fee	MARFU	R	(\$300.00)
			Yearly fee for hosting	MARFU	R	(\$15.55)
07/05/02	704	Reid McClure	AGM - Copying	Men's Club Coord	R	(\$36.00)
07/05/02	705	David Chapman	VRU Mtg	Officer Travel	R	(\$14.95)
07/11/02		Service Charge	New checks	Treasurer	R	(\$500.00)
07/30/02	706	Darin Darden	Nat'l 7s Championship (Norfolk Blues)	Grants to Clubs	R	(\$36.00)
07/30/02	707	David Chapman	MARFU Mtg	Officer Travel	R	(\$36.00)
07/31/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$0.64
08/04/02	DEP	S	F02, S03	Dues:VCU M	R	\$800.00
			F02	Dues:Norfolk Blues	R	\$368.00
			S02, F02	Dues:BRATS	R	\$800.00
08/13/02	708	Carl Schmitt	Clinic setup	Coaching Coord	R	(\$1,000.00)
08/16/02	711	Ed Stockunas	MARFU 7s	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
08/16/02	712	Chris Porter	MARFU 7s	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
08/17/02	713	USARRA	Touch Judge Clinic	Coaching Coord	R	(\$100.00)
08/22/02	714	Shannon Plum	Clinic reimbursement	Coaching Coord	R	(\$150.00)
08/25/02	715	Mary Washington M	Clinic reimbursement	Coaching Coord	R	(\$150.00)

08/25/02	716	Mike Lee	Clinic reimbursement	Coaching Coord	R	(\$170.00)
08/25/02	717	Tom Lovell	Clinic reimbursement	Coaching Coord	R	(\$170.00)
08/30/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$0.70
09/03/02	718	Fionna Foxon	ITTs 7s	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
09/21/02	719	Matt Roller	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
09/21/02	720	Sean Kim	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
09/21/02	721	Patrick Buck	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
09/21/02	722	Ji Hwan You	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
09/21/02	723	Jim Perrin	Clinic Reimbursement	Coaching Coord	R	(\$150.00)
09/28/02	724	Jerry Eller	Clinic Reimbursement	Coaching Coord	R	(\$150.00)
09/28/02	725	USA Rugby	Materials	U19	R	(\$75.00)
09/30/02	DEP	S	F 02	Dues:Newport News	R	\$400.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:W&M Women	R	\$700.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:Virginia Collegiate Men	R	\$800.00
			F 02	Dues:Norfolk Storm	R	\$400.00
			F 02	Dues:James River W	R	\$400.00
			F 02	Dues:James River	R	\$400.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:VMI	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:Radford Men	R	\$650.00
			F 02	Dues:Virginia Men	R	\$400.00
			F 02	Dues:Roanoke	R	\$400.00
			F 02	Dues:Raleigh	R	\$400.00
09/30/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$0.55
10/29/02	726	Kris Kabza	Engraving, invitations	Ed Lee Cup Exp	R	(\$100.52)
10/31/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$1.34
11/12/02	727	AAA Financial Services	Friday Reception	Ed Lee Cup Exp	R	(\$514.09)
11/29/02	728	Reyn Kinzey	USA BOD meeting	Officer Travel	R	(\$707.68)
11/29/02	729	Nancy Kechner	Hotels for All Star event	College W Slcts	R	(\$1,308.72)
11/29/02	730	Francisco Jimenez	Hotel room at All Star event	College Selects	R	(\$93.48)
11/29/02		Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$1.12
11/30/02	DEP	S	F/S 02/03	Dues:Mary Wash Men	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:Mary Wash Women	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:Longwood Men	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:Longwood Women	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:JMU Men	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:JMU Women	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:VA Tech Men	R	\$650.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:VA Tech Women	R	\$650.00
			Va Tech W match cancellation	Fines	R	\$100.00
			F02	Dues:Blackwater	R	\$400.00
			F02	Dues:Blackwater W	R	\$400.00
			F02	Dues:United	R	\$400.00

			F02	Dues:H-S	R	\$400.00
			F02	Dues:Roanoke W	R	\$400.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:W&L	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:ODU Men	R	\$800.00
			F/S 02/03	Dues:Radford Women	R	\$800.00
12/02/02	731	Matt Godek Rugby & Soccer	Collegiate Men Inv # 98597	Select Side Jerseys	R	(\$965.58)
12/02/02	732	MARFU	Dues installment	MARFU	R	(\$3,910.01)
12/06/02	733	Evan Davis	Hotel room at All Star event	College Selects	R	(\$93.48)
12/06/02	734	Todd Applebaum	Hotel room at All Star event	College Selects	R	(\$93.48)
12/06/02	SrvChr	Bad Check Fee	UVa W	Emergent	R	(\$6.00)
12/08/02	735	Jeffrey Ferguson	Hotel room at All Star event	College Selects	R	(\$139.06)
12/08/02	736	S David Chapman	MARFU Mtg 12/02	Officer Travel	R	(\$38.00)
			Software upgrade	Internet Site	R	(\$98.02)
12/11/02	737	Jennifer Starkey	USA U23 to England	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$75.00)
12/22/02	738	Kara Smith	ITTs U23	Grants to Select Side Players	R	(\$50.00)
12/23/02	739	Kris Kabza	MARFU mtg	Officer Travel	R	(\$19.20)
12/23/02	740	Fionna Foxon	U23 15s	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/23/02	741	Greg Markham	Travel to meetings	Officer Travel		(\$132.00)
12/30/02	EFT	Kinko's	Printing	Handbook		(\$931.72)
12/31/02	DEP		F/S 02/03	Dues:W&M Men	R	\$800.00
12/31/02	742	Chris Porter	MARFU 15s	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/31/02	743	Ed Stockunas	MARFU 15s	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/31/02	744	Brad Bell	MARFU 15s	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/31/02	745	Paul Gilly	MARFU 15s	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/31/02	746	Isaac Myers	MARFU 15s	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/31/02	747	Angie Marfisi	MARFU 15s	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/31/02	748	Peador Little	Ref clinic reimbursement	Coaching Coord		(\$75.00)
12/31/02	DEP	Interest Earned		Misc	R	\$1.60
12/31/02	749	Emily Pelliccia	ITTs	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$50.00)
12/31/02	751	Kathy Borkoski	USA U23 to England	Grants to Select Side Players		(\$75.00)
			TOTAL 1/1/2002 - 12/31/2002			(\$7,791.32)
			BALANCE 12/31/2002			\$10,116.26

## MARFU/USARFU Representative

DOUG ARNOT HIRED AS CEO: USA Rugby has hired a CEO, which is a significant change from the Executive Director model it has been working under. Arnot, with Olympic Games and World Soccer Cup experience, is very competent and very professional. Having a CEO, particularly one with Arnot's energy and drive, may change the way USA Rugby does business.

PERSONNEL CHANGES (AS ALWAYS): USA Rugby has been without a Technical Director for some time, and that job search continues. We also need a Director of Communications. Arnot has also proposed hiring additional personnel, including an Events Manager and possibly a Technical advisor.

FINANCIAL STABILITY: USA Rugby has at least stabilized its financial position, although there are still reasons for concern. USA approved a 2003 budget of \$1.7 million, but that is really not sufficient to support the programs USA wishes to offer. Much of the relative stability is because CIPP enrollment is at an all-time high of 50,000. Our revenues are heavily dependent on CIPP (about 50% of revenues) and IRB grants, and we are losing the B Sky B contract that has supported the men's national team, and, in some fashion, all of USA Rugby.

CIPP CHANGES: Club registration has increased from \$10 - \$25, mostly to cover the rising cost of liability insurance. Individual CIPP dues are now determined by team affiliation rather than by age: \$20 for Collegiate; \$25 for Club. The secondary team affiliation option has been dropped. It appears that USA has made a decision to discontinue the mailing of individual CIPP cards, although no official notification of that change has been sent.

NATIONAL REFEREE SHORTAGE: The national referee's society reported that they currently are able to cover only about 80% of scheduled matches, not including youth rugby.

FOCUS ON ELITE PLAYERS: USA Rugby seems to be more and more focusing on the "identification" and "development" of elite players rather than on club play. For example, it is pressuring the LAU's and TU's to increase their support of all star play. On the other hand, USA Rugby is continuing to support youth rugby and the coaching clinic program. Whether this focus on elite players is appropriate for a national governing body might be debatable, but currently no debate seems to be openly taking place.

FINALLY: I want to thank all of you in the VRU for your support over the past years. Despite the personal frustration which I have sometimes felt because of decisions made by USA Rugby, it has been a constant honor to have served this union.

Reyn Kinzey  
[usa@rugby.org](mailto:usa@rugby.org)  
IM: reynkinzey

## Women's Club Coordinator

In January 2002 James River and Roanoke Women become Full Members of the VRU, while Raleigh Women applied for Associate Membership. This brought our Women's Club total to an all time high of 6 clubs!

Raleigh will be applying for Full Membership "today".

In the spring of 2002 Blue Ridge went to the first round of Marfu Play-offs, but was unfortunately defeated by Nova Women. Blue Ridge is once again the VRU Champions and they will return this spring to the Marfu play-offs to take on Nova Women again. Good Luck Ladies!

This summer Cindy Wilks, of James River, made the Marfu All-Star 7s team. Unfortunately, due to injury, Cindy was unable to play in California.

Also this past summer the VRU Women were very happy to welcome Jeff Hollier as the VRU Women's All Star Head Coach. Jeff has run 3 developmental camps for us and has been a great motivator and educator to all of us. There was an average of 30 women at each camp and due to the success of Jeff's Developmental Program we will have Try-outs for the 2003 VRU Women's All Star Team on February 22 & 23 in Richmond.

The team selected will travel to Charlotte, NC on March 8th to play the Nationally Ranked Atlanta Harlequins.

For Questions please contact the team's Manager, Marsha Clayton of James River, if you have any questions durocher01@attbi.com.

Here is a list of the VRU Standings for the 2002 Year:

- 1) Blue Ridge
- 2) Norfolk
- 3) James River
- 4) Blackwater
- 5) Roanoke
- 6) Raleigh (unable to advance due to Associate Status)

Blue Ridge will host Nova on March 22nd for the first round of Play-offs. Good Luck Ladies!

The VRU was represented by 6 (?) players on the Marfu All-Star 15s Team:

Meagan Washburn, Roanoke

Emily Pellcia, Blue Ridge

Felicia Foxon, Blue Ridge

Emily Black, Blue Ridge

Kara Smith, Blue Ridge

J J Burke, UVA

The team went to ITT's in Tampa, FL in December. They placed 4th in their tier.

Unfortunately not all players were able to attend due to the weather. A big

congratulations to these players. I believe this is the highest number of VRU players on a Marfu team in history. For more information please contact the Manager, Nancy Kechner, carrot@cstone.net.

Stephie-Jo Edwards  
women@rugby.org  
IM: Packdown8

## Women's Collegiate Coordinator

The VRU went to 8 total teams this year with the addition of VCU.

This year 3 Div 1 teams and 3 Div 2 teams from the VRU advance to the marfu play-offs.

Div 1 JMU, UVA TECH

Div 2 Mary Washington, Longwood, Radford

Jennifer Starkey (JMU) represented the VRU on the U23 teams tour of England this year. Liz King (Mary Washinton) was also invited but due to injury had to decline.

The following players from the VRU were named All-American  
JMU- Beth Black, Jennifer Starkey, Naomi Sandler  
UVA- Jaime Burke, Fiona Foxon, Brittany Martin  
Mary Washington-Liz King

This year many players after graduating went on to play for club sides continuing their involvement in rugby. Hopefully this coming year we will have as many continue to play if not more.

Julie Comer  
collegewomen@rugby.org

## Men's Club Coordinator

Article VI of the VRU By-laws assigns the following responsibilities to the position of Men's Club Coordinator:

- Coordinate all aspects of membership of the Men's Clubs within the VRU.
- Serve as coordinator of league matches, keeping an accurate and up-to-date record of the results of all league matches and of the standings of the Men's clubs within their division of play.
- Serve as the primary point of contact on issues that affect the Men's clubs within the VRU.
- Communicate to the Men's Clubs all matters related to the Virginia Rugby Union, Inc.

2002 passed rather smoothly for the Men's Clubs.

All Men's Division III clubs should have their spring 2003 schedules sent to [Schedules@rugby.org](mailto:Schedules@rugby.org) by February 1, 2003. This is important. The RSV depends on having the schedules in so they can work on ref assignments. In addition to sending the schedules to [Schedules@rugby.org](mailto:Schedules@rugby.org), they need to be sent to the Men's Club Coordinator at [Men@rugby.org](mailto:Men@rugby.org).

Concerning ref assignments, I would like to remind all clubs hosting a match to contact the assigned referee and verify that the match is taking place as scheduled. This is to be done by C.O.B. the Thursday prior to the match.

One more reminder, it is the responsibility of the home team to report the score of their league match. This should be done by the following Tuesday. This is done by going to [www.rugby.org](http://www.rugby.org) and clicking on Men's Club Divisional Play.

Congratulations to the Raleigh Vipers in winning the 2002 Ed Lee Cup.

In closing I would like to issue two pleas to the Men's Clubs:

1. Stay on top of their CIPP requirements.
2. Encourage those members in your clubs that have knowledge and experience to pick up the whistle.

Reid McClure  
[men@rugby.org](mailto:men@rugby.org)

## Men's Collegiate Coordinator

Collegiate Men's Rugby continues to be one of the strongest programs within the VRU, and at the same time, it has a long way to go before living up to its potential in all three divisions. Congratulations to VMI on their successful advancement to Division II, and we look forward to the possibility of a club(s) moving up into Division I at the close of 2003, making room for another club to climb out of Division III.

### High Points for 2002:

All CM clubs were compliant for CIPP and Union dues. No clubs required "special handling".

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 will be a requirement in January of 2004. As many of you know, the VRU hosts this clinic the last weekend of August each year, and will pay the full ticket for one coach from each club each year, so if you have coach, there is no reason why he/she should not be certified. If you do not have a coach, send a Captain or leader from your club.

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

Match Cancellations and Scheduling: There continues to be a problem with scheduling and cancellation of matches by clubs, for a variety of reasons, or excuses, if you will. Clubs need to keep in mind that a match scheduled is a commitment, and that when you do cancel, you are damaging another club, and the union will not take it lightly. However, short of monetary penalties and barring clubs from play-offs. There is little we can do. Not realizing when your school breaks are, what other campus events may interfere, or things that have been scheduled well in advance are no excuse, and will not be accepted.

But the solution is simple. 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.

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: 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.

Enough nagging. Here is the great news. I had the good fortune to attend several Collegiate matches this past fall, and I can say without any reservation that ALL divisions of VRU Collegiate Men's rugby are far beyond what they were 10 years ago. The level of play has improved dramatically, and the administration of the clubs has gotten better and better. Clubs are more often than not in uniform kit, clean and in good repair. The free for all style of play is slowly making way to better cleaner rugby, and the behavior of the clubs on the pitch, and afterwards, is less and less of a problem. To be sure, there is still plenty of room for improvement, but everyone's hard work is paying off, and we will continue to grow and learn together.

Carl Schmitt  
[collegemen@rugby.org](mailto:collegemen@rugby.org)  
IM: schmittcf

### *Youth Coordinator*

Dan Bicehouse  
[youth@rugby.org](mailto:youth@rugby.org)

### *Disciplinary Committee Chairman*

Rodney Hall  
[discipline@rugby.org](mailto:discipline@rugby.org)

## *Newsletter Editor*

In 2002 a VRU Newsletter was put out in April (to colleges), June (to clubs), September, and November. This year a copy will also go out in February. All Newsletters are sent via e-mail to every person with an e-mail address listed on the Contacts section of the VRU website. Also, a copy is located on the VRU website. Distribution is timely, free, and the newsletter is more likely to be read than in hard copy. Also, I have on a number of occasions sent information to clubs on breaking news pertinent to U-19, MARFU, or clubs in general.

The Newsletter is only as good as its contributors. Please send me all stories or news you think others should know. My e-mail is [newsletter@rugby.org](mailto:newsletter@rugby.org) My work phone is (757) 226-4109 and my fax is (757) 226-4369.

Jeffrey Anderson,  
[newsletter@rugby.org](mailto:newsletter@rugby.org)

## *Referees Society of Virginia*

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

When I was elected president of the Referee Society of Virginia last August, I knew the first thing that we needed to do was to recruit more referees. Last November, 18 people came to the Level I referee certification course. I am hoping that all of them will come to part 2 of the certification process, Touch Judge I, II, and III on February 16. Out of the 18 I am planning on seeing 9 join the ranks of the Referee Society of Virginia and the rest being available to referee their club when no referee is available. Unfortunately, of the five clubs that got referees the least, none of them sent a recruit to the referee training.

Speaking of unavailability, last Fall there were 130 VRU home games scheduled. Of this number, the Referee Society of Virginia covered 102 games, a percentage of 78%. This is slightly above the national average of 75%. This is not good enough for me. Ideally I hope to see 100% coverage. However, we all know this is unrealistic. Referees have families and jobs that often take precedence. Also, clubs often make last-second schedule changes which cannot be met by the Society. However, I would like to see this coverage figure climb each year and plan on holding annual or biannual referee training clinics.

Having numbers of refs is nice, but I want to see better refs. Last fall we cranked up the referee coaching and assessing as well as sent referees out on exchange to other unions for assessing. I am planning on pairing up the new referees from the clinic with veteran referees for early season coaching this Spring. We will also have on-going referee training for all referees.

One final word - it is the referee's responsibility to be given a CIPP roster of all players on your team. Please endeavor to have this ready before your games.

Jeffrey Anderson  
President, Referee Society of Virginia