Elected to the VRU Executive Committee at the VRU AGM were the following:

President: Kris Kabza
Vice-President: Shannon Plum
Secretary: Molly Blanton
Treasurer: Bill Lucas
MARFU/USA Rep: David Chapman
Men’s Club: David Yancey
Women’s Club: Margy Dessypris-Thomas
Men’s College: Carl Schmitt
Women’s College: Julie Comer
Youth: Kevin Kilgore
Disciplinary: George Durocher
Newsletter: Jeffrey Anderson
Referee Chairman: Jeffrey Anderson

Charlotte has joined the Rugby Super League and thus will not be participating in the Division I playoffs.

Division II and III MARFU Playoff Schedule:

MARFU 2006 Division II Playoffs

April 22 - Quarterfinals

Game 1  Brandywine (D2N #4) at Raleigh (D2S #1)

Game 2  Doylestown (D2N #3) at Frederick (D2S #2)

Game 3  Washington Irish OR Severn River (D2S #4) at Lancaster (D2N #1)

Game 4  Norfolk Blues (D2S #3) at Media (D2N #2)

April 29-30 - D2 Final Four

Location: Raleigh, NC
Andy Richards (andyrichards@nc.rr.com) is Raleigh's POC.

MARFU 2006 Division III Playoffs

April 22 - Quarterfinals

Game 1   #8 Virginia at #1 Quantico
Game 2   #7 Happy Valley at #2 James River
Game 3   #6 Roanoke at #3 Old Gaelic
Game 4   #5 North Bay at #4 Second City Troop

April 29-30 - D3 Final Four

Location: Quantico, VA
Bob McCarthy (robertmccarthy@cox.net, robert.e.mccarthy@usmc.mil) is Quantico's POC.

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COLLEGE MEN:

Moving on in the MARFU Playoffs are:

Division I: UVA, Virginia Tech
Division II: Mary Washington, VMI, U of Richmond
Division III: VCU

From Carl Schmitt:

On February 25, a group of the VRU Collegiate Men's coaches were able to meet in Charlottesville to plan a more successful program for 2006. We hope that each of you will support the program in any way possible.

Jon Conrad of UVA will be the Head Coach of the VRU, and will lead the East squad. Wayne Howe of VMI will be leading the West squad, and assisting Jon with the VRU side. The rest of us will be their eyes and ears, scouting players from our teams and our opponents during the fall season, adding input during the selection process. I will function as the team manager, doing the paperwork and attending to the details that coaches don't want to handle themselves. I am sure Jon and Wayne will let each of us know how we can contribute.
The process begins now. We are asking that each of you develop a list of the names, emails addresses and phone numbers of the players (junior and under) that YOU believe can perform at a higher level, and send the list to me BEFORE April 29, 2006. This will allow us to contact these nominees before they leave for the summer break.

collegemen@rugby.org

We will be contacting the nominees at the very beginning of the fall term, to remind them (and you) of the schedule of All-Star events for the months of September, October, November.

The list of nominees will be divided up into an East and West squads. The West squad will likely meet in Blacksburg / Radford, or Lexington. The East squad will likely meet in Richmond or Fredericksburg.

Each squad will meet twice to train, and then in mid October the two squads will meet and play in Richmond. The VRU All-Stars will be selected from this match. The All-Star squad will re-assemble one week after the Ed Lee, in Richmond, Charlottesville or even Fredericksburg, for a one off match with the EPRU. One week following that the VRU will travel to the Potomac RU for the LAU All Star Championships.

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Sunday, Sept 24    East and West practice sessions
Sunday, October 1  East and West practice sessions
Sunday, October 16 East West Selection Match
S & S, November 4&5 Ed Lee Cup
Saturday, November 11 Training
Sunday, November 12  VRU vs EPRU
S&S , November 18 & 19  LAU All-Star Championships, Potomac RU

Please note that all information will be posted on the VRU website.

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COLLEGE WOMEN:

Moving on in the MARFU Playoffs are:

Division I: UVA, JMU, Virginia Tech
Division II: Mary Washington, U of Richmond, VCU

University of Virginia won the Virginia Women’s Invitational Tournament by beating the U. S. Naval Academy in the final.

Rachel Warden of UVA is on the US Under-23 Pool and played Feb 11 against the Southern California Griffins.

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WOMEN’S CLUB:

From Margy Thomas:

Hello VRU women!!!

I happy to announce the plans for this years VRU Select Side team's adventures. So please mark your calendars!

Sunday March 26 is the VRU SS Tryouts. It will take place at Pole Green. Brett Burdick will be present to coach.
Times and other such details will be sent out later.

Sunday April 23 will be another VRU Clinic, hopefully more like a VRU team practice. I plan on keeping this open to the entire VRU women, so Final Selections will be made after this date. Details for this are shaping up.

This year, the VRU SS will be going to Baltimore for the Rites of Spring Tournament May 6 and 7. So far other teams entered are:
Mt. St. Mary's
Fredrick
MD Stingers
Morris
Baltimore
Lancaster/York
UMBC

I have already made hotel reservations in Baltimore and will need your commitments for the tournament by April 4th.
I would expect everyone to travel to Baltimore on Friday night and stay for the tournament. Basically, if you plan on trying out for the team, and want to go to Baltimore you need to let me know by April 4th!!!!!!

As concerns selections, past history tells me that the 20-25 ladies who show up are the ones who make the team. And because not everyone may make the tournament, we will
welcome those who want to join. So please, come out to play, increase your rugby knowledge and we can all play some new teams!

Now the good news is, due to the successful jersey sales, I plan on putting this money towards the cost of the hotel to make it more affordable for everyone. I hope to keep your total hotel cost somewhere around $50 to $70 for the whole weekend. the more jerseys i can sell, the cheaper it will be!!!! :) And the tournament fee will be covered as well. Besides a hotel fee - you will need to get yourself up there and cover your own food and beverage.

We should have our new jerseys for the ROS tournament. We'll be stylin'!!!

If you have any other questions, please let me know.
I hope to see most of you at the MARFU clinic tomorrow!

Thanks!
Margy greekdaisy@mac.com

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OLD BOYS:

The Virginia Cardinals won the Over 35 bracket at the Fort Lauderdale Ruggerfest. The Over 45’s lost in the final. The Over 50’s were winless. For more, please see http://www.richmondrugby.net/post_ftl_06.html

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YOUTH:

Massanuten Military Academy has started a club rugby team.

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REFEREES:

Dr. Bill Lucas has been reappointed as Sportmanship Officer.

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DISCIPLINE:

Those from the VRU who have been yellow-carded to date include:

Austin McPherson, U of R
Brett Flynn, ODU
Scott Thompson, ODU
ED AND SANDY LEE CUP:

The Club Men and Women at Ed and Sandy Lee this fall will be open to clubs from outside Virginia.

SEVENS:

IRB 7’s:

Dec 1-2: Dubai, UAE – Winner: England
Dec 9-10: George, South Africa – Winner: Fiji
Feb. 3-4: New Zealand – Winner: Fiji
Feb. 11-12: Los Angeles, Ca. – Winner: England
Mar. 31 – Apr 2: Hong Kong -
Apr. 8-9: Singapore -
May 27-28: Paris, France -
June 3-4: London, England –

Named to the US Women’s National 7’s Squad was former Virginia collegiate rugger Beth Black.

MARFU 7’s Schedule:

June 10       Lehigh Valley 7s – Contact: Susan Martinko
June 17       NOVA 7s – Contact: Charlie Kaiman
July 8        Norfolk 7s – Contact: David Chapman
July 15       Maryland Exiles 7s – Contact: Jason Maloni
July 22       MARFU Championships (Hosted by Rocky Gorge)
July 29       Back-up date for MARFU Champs/Possible All Star Camp
NATIONAL:

The Women’s National Team went 3-0 in their UK and Ireland tour. Playing were former VRU ruggers Annie Collier (W & M), Jamie “Jay Jay” Burke (UVA), Heather Hale (UVA), with Stacy Bennet (UVA) as a reserve.

Dates and games for the 2006 Churchill Cup:

June 3 – England A v Scotland A
June 3 – USA v Ireland A
June 7 – Canada v Scotland A
June 7 – USA v New Zealand Maori
June 10 – Canada v England A
June 10 – New Zealand v Ireland A
June 17 - Finals

From USA Rugby:

BOARD VOTES TO ADOPT NEW STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOVERNANCE MODEL

BOULDER, Colo.— By a resounding vote of 25-to-1, USA Rugby’s Board of Directors approved to adopt a new strategic plan and a radically different governance model at its meeting here Friday.

The vote supports the Board’s unanimous AGM vote in November to seize change and grasp the opportunities facing USA Rugby, measured by five goals: 1. Sustain strong growth and participation in rugby in the United States; 2. Be in the top-10 of men’s rugby and top-4 in women’s; 3. Provide great, effective leadership; 4. Raise the profile and respect of rugby in the U.S.; 5. Generate the revenue to secure the future.

The new governance model will initially consist of a Congress, which will meet annually, of representatives from Territorial Unions. A nine-member Board that will consist of one Congress-elected member, two player representatives (one male, one female) and six appointed independent high-impact members whose professional and life experiences can help propel the organization, and the sport, forward.

The organizational model of USA Rugby will be aligned to implement the strategic plan and ensure the policies of the Board can be implemented within available capacity. The employees and Board will be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing the annual operational plans and establishing appropriate networks of volunteers and expert advisory groups to assist them in implementing the strategic and operational plans.
“Following on our initial steps taken last November, I was proud to chair a Board that issued a powerful message today in essence voting itself out of existence and in doing so put the organization above any personal or parochial interests,” said outgoing Chairman of the Board Neal Brendel. “A message that intends to deliver fundamental change in the strategic direction of USA Rugby as well as directing the implementation of a modern, streamlined governance structure suited for the commercial demands of the game and the expectations of our members.”

In addition to adopting a new strategic plan and governance model, USA Rugby’s Board of Directors also elected a new Executive Committee Friday, promoting previous vice-chair Bob Latham (Dallas/South) to chair and electing Frank Merrill (Atherton, Calif./Pacific Coast) as vice-chair, Tom Schmitt (Milwaukee, Wis./Midwest) its treasurer and Alex Magleby its player representative (Norwich, Vt./Northeast). David Pelton (Kirkland, Wash./Pacific Coast) and John McConnell (Arlington, Texas/West) will retain their roles as secretary and referees and laws representative, respectively.

--usa rugby--

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INTERNATIONAL:

The IRB has instituted its own world rankings. Here are the current rankings for the top 20 countries:


From the Ruggerworld listserve:

The Women's World Cup will be played in Edmonton Canada from 31 August to 17 September this year. The IRB has announced the match schedule.

The opening match will be between the reigning champions New Zealand and the hosts Canada at Ellerslie Rugby Park.

Pool matches, which will be played at Ellerslie Rugby Park and St. Albert Rugby Football Club, will determine the rankings that will position teams for the knockout rounds. The final will be played at Commonwealth Stadium on 17 September.

Edmonton, a city accustomed to holding events of this calibre, will welcome two-time defending champions New Zealand Black Ferns along with England

Graham Brown, CEO of Rugby Canada said: "This is an excellent opportunity for the Canadian rugby community to host a world level championship of this nature, and showcase rugby, more specifically women's rugby to the Canadian public.

"We encourage Canadians to support this event, as it is important not only to the growth of the women's game internationally, but to future opportunities of hosting other major international championships here at home."

Simon Jelowitz, Rugby World Cup Limited's Tournament Director, said: "The women's game continues to expand and the fact that nations from five continents will be present in Edmonton to contest the Women's Rugby World Cup is testament to that. We are delighted to be working with Rugby Canada on such a prestigious tournament and we are sure that they will produce an event of the highest calibre."

The teams are seeded and divided into pools.

Seedings

1. New Zealand
2. England
3. France
4. Canada
5. Scotland
6. USA
7. Australia
8. Spain
9. Kazakhstan
10. Ireland
11. South Africa
12. Samoa

The 12 teams are divided into four pools:

Pool A: New Zealand, Spain, Kazakhstan
Pool B: England, Australia, Ireland
Pool C: France, USA, South Africa
Pool D: Canada, Scotland, Samoa

Each team will play three matches in the pool rounds. Pool A will play Pool
D, and Pool B will play Pool C.

Fixtures

Match day 1 - Thursday 31 August, 2006

Ellerslie
New Zealand vs Canada
Kazakhstan vs Samoa
Australia vs South Africa

St Albert
Spain vs Scotland
England vs USA
Ireland vs France

Match day 2 - Monday 4 September, 2006

Ellerslie
England vs South Africa
Australia vs France
Ireland vs USA

St Albert
New Zealand vs Samoa
Spain vs Canada
Kazakhstan vs Scotland

Match day 3 - Friday 8 September, 2006

Ellerslie
New Zealand vs Scotland
Kazakhstan vs Canada
Australia vs USA

St Albert
Spain vs Samoa
England vs France
Ireland vs South Africa

Match day 4 - Tuesday 12 September, 2006

Ellerslie
Knockout matches - triple header

St Albert
Knockout matches - triple header

Match day 5 - Saturday 16 September, 2006

Ellerslie
7th place play-off
9th place play-off
11th place play-off

Match day 6 - Sunday 17 September, 2006

Commonwealth Stadium
5th place play-off
3rd place play-off
Final

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OF INTEREST:

Don't forget about the on-line services for rugby. Some of the main ones are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The rugby newsgroup:</th>
<th>rec.sport.rugby.union</th>
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<td>On the World Wide Web:</td>
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<td>VRU WWW Site:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rugby.org">http://www.rugby.org</a></td>
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<td>EPRU Web Site:</td>
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<td>US National Team:</td>
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USA Women's rugby mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: subscribe uswrugby-discussion (your e-mail address) without the parens.

Rugby coaches’ mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: SUB RUGBYCOACH
The referees have a mailing list, but it’s closed to non-referees. Weekly, more and more Internet rugby services go on-line. Get on-line yourself and see what there is! Two great places to start:

http://www.sportszineuk.co.uk
http://www.rugby-union.info

**FINAL WORD:**

All you have to do is decide what to do with the time given you. - Gandalf

Jeffrey Anderson,
Newsletter Editor