

# Virginia Rugby Union

## Annual General Meeting

10:00 am, Saturday 24 January 2004

University of Richmond, Richmond Virginia

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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

Secretary

Treasurer

MARFU/USA Representative

Men's Club Coordinator

Women's Club Coordinator

Men's College Coordinator

Women's College Coordinator

Youth Coordinator

Disciplinary Chairman

Newsletter Editor

Referees Society of Virginia Chairman

Ed & Sandy Lee Cup Date Change

Ed & Sandy Lee Cup Bid Submission

Sportsmanship Award

New Clubs

Additional Items / New Business

Election of Officers for 2004

Adjourn

# President

## CIPP Register

- Club - <http://www.usarugby.org/membership/forms/registration/2004club.pdf>
- Players - <http://www.usarugby.org/membership/forms/registration/2004cipp.pdf>
- Coach - <http://www.usarugby.org/membership/forms/registration/2004coachcipp.pdf>

## Schedules

Submit schedules to the RSV (with game time & number of matches) by **February 1, 2004**.

## 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.

28 February 2004 - Philadelphia, PA  
Coaching Accreditation: Levels I, II and III

## Online Information

Keep your contact information current. Verify your online directory information and submit to [secretary@rugby.org](mailto:secretary@rugby.org).

## Referees

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

*Kris Kabza*  
*president@rugby.org*

## Vice-President

The Vice President's three primary functions are managing tournament applications, monitoring CIPP compliance, and administering the Don Bridge's Fund; however, our Treasurer is currently handling the Don Bridges fund.

Tournament Applications. In general, teams did a good job of submitting tournament applications on time this year, but there is still room for improvement. I still had to contact several teams that host annual tournaments and request their Event Applications. If you host an annual event, I suggest keeping a tournament application on file within your club, so you can just change the dates each year. 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. First off, I'd like to thank the division coordinators for doing an outstanding job keeping up with their clubs. We have seen some improvement in CIPP reporting over the past couple of years, but there's a long way to go. Prior to each match, teams are required to submit rosters with both players' names and CIPP numbers. While the VRU Handbook does have a recommended form to use when submitting this information, I have found the most efficient method is to print off your team's roster directly from USA Rugby. If you have players whose applications are pending approval from USA Rugby, then just add their names to the list and write "pending." I'd like to discourage all teams from attempting to write "pending" when no application has actually been submitted. We currently require the referee to collect CIPP rosters from each team and send them to the VRU Vice President. If a certified RSV referee was not available for your match, please have the acting referee for your match submit the rosters. The rosters may be submitted by fax, email, or snail mail, whichever is easiest for the referee.

A lot of insurance and liability issues can arise if non-registered teams or players play a match. Club liability insurance programs require 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.

*Jamie Jones*  
*vp@rugby.org*

## Secretary

Union Clubs are typically not prompt with submitting club officer information to the Union Secretary.

Many contacts listed at the VRU website are out-of-date.

Many clubs have received a questionnaire from Rugby Magazine for officer information. This information is a separate from the VRU efforts. The VRU does not supply this information to Rugby Magazine, and vice-versa.

### **Up to date clubs:**

Raleigh Vipers	21-Jan-2004
Virginia Men	21-Jan-2004
Blue Ridge	21-Jan-2004
Raleigh Venom	21-Jan-2004
Hampden-Sydney	15-Jan-2004
University of Virginia Men	11-Jan-2004
Mary Washington Men	21-Jan-2004
Longwood Women	28-Dec-2003
Mary Washington Women	22-Jan-2004
William & Mary Women	21-Jan-2004

### **Marginally Dated:**

Blacksburg	17-Aug-2003
Norfolk City Blues	17-Aug-2003
Blackwater Women	30-Sep-2003
Norfolk Storm	8-Sept-2003
CNU Men	7-Sept-2003
Longwood Men	4-Sept-2003
Radford Men	19-Sep-2003
JMU. Women	30-Jul-2003
Radford Women	9-Sep-2003
Virginia Tech Women	6-Sept-2003

### **Out-of-date:**

Blackwater Men	25-Jan-2003
James River Men	12-Oct-2002
Newport News	19-Aug-2002
Roanoke Men	21-Jan-2003
Southwest Virginia	18-Apr-2002
United	10-Nov-2002
James River Women	23-Jan-2002
JMU Men	29-Jan-2003
ODU Men	20-Jan-2003
VCU Men	6-Feb-2003
University of Richmond Men	20-Jan-2003
VMI	24-Jan-2003
Virginia Tech Men	22-Jan-2003
W&L	20-Jan-2003
W&M Men	18-Mar-2003
University of Virginia Women	31-Jul-2002
VCU Women	09-May-2003

*Greg Markham*  
*secretary@rugby.org*

# Treasurer

## Virginia Rugby Union Dues

As of 1/17/2004

	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Spring 2004	Overdue	4/1/2004 Total Due
1. Blacksburg Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
2. Blackwater Men	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00	\$1,200.00
3. Blackwater Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
4. Blue Ridge Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
5. Christopher Newport University	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00	\$1,200.00
6. Hampden-Sydney	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
7. James Madison University Men	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
8. James Madison University Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9. James River Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
10. James River Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
11. Longwood Men	\$0.00	NA	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
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. Old Dominion U 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 Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
22. Raleigh Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
23. Roanoke Men	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
24. University of Richmond	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
25. University of Virginia Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
26. University of Virginia Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
27. United	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
28. Virginia Commonwealth U Men	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
29. Virginia Commonwealth U Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
30. Virginia Military Institute	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
31. Virginia Tech Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
32. Virginia Tech Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
33. Virginia Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
34. Washington & Lee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
35. William & Mary Men	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
36. William & Mary Women	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Due:	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,800.00	\$10,800.00
Collected:	\$13,600.00	\$12,000.00	\$6,400.00		

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.

VRU - 2003 Budget and 2004 Proposed Budget (includes \$35 MARFU increase)

Category Description	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Difference	2004 Proposed	Notes
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Dues</b>					
Blacksburg	\$800.00	\$1,200.00	\$400.00	\$835.00	
Blackwater	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	\$1,635.00	Includes prior year debt
Blackwater Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Blue Ridge	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Christopher Newport U	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	\$1,635.00	Includes prior year debt
Hampden-Sydney	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
James River	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
James River Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
James Madison U Men	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	\$1,635.00	Includes prior year debt
James Madison U Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Longwood Men	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	\$1,235.00	Suspended in Fall 2003
Longwood Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Mary Wash Men	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Mary Wash Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Newport News	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Norfolk Blues	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Norfolk Storm	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Old Dominion U Men	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Radford Men	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Radford Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Raleigh	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Raleigh Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Roanoke	\$800.00	\$400.00	(\$400.00)	\$1,235.00	Includes prior year debt
Roanoke Women	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	NA	Defunct
Southwest Virginia	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	NA	Defunct
University of Richmond	\$800.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$835.00	
United	\$800.00	\$400.00	(\$400.00)	\$1,235.00	Includes prior year debt
VA Tech Men	\$800.00	\$950.00	\$150.00	\$835.00	
VA Tech Women	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	\$1,635.00	Includes prior year debt
VCU Men	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	\$1,635.00	Includes prior year debt
VCU Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Collegiate Men	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Men	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Virginia Women	\$800.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$835.00	
VMI	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Washington & Lee	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
William & Mary Men	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
William & Mary Women	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$835.00	
Winchester	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	NA	Moved to PRU
Returned/New Clubs	NA	NA	NA	\$1,670.00	VB, UofRW
<b>TOTAL Dues</b>	<b>\$31,200.00</b>	<b>\$25,350.00</b>	<b>(\$5,850.00)</b>	<b>\$36,930.00</b>	
Miscellaneous	\$60.00	\$37.93	(\$22.07)	\$40.00	Decrease
Borrowed from Reserves	NA	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	NA	
Repayment to Reserves	NA	NA	NA	(\$5,200.00)	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$31,260.00</b>	<b>\$30,587.93</b>	<b>(\$672.07)</b>	<b>\$31,770.00</b>	

Category Description	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Difference	2004 Proposed	Notes
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
All-Stars Jerseys	\$1,500.00	\$2,008.52	(\$508.52)	\$1,500.00	
Coaching Coordinator	\$700.00	\$3,563.41	(\$2,863.41)	\$2,000.00	Increase
College Coordinator Men	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	Decrease
College Coordinator Women	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
College Men All-Stars	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
College Women All-Stars	\$1,200.00	\$1,261.50	(\$61.50)	\$1,200.00	
Discipline Committee	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Ed Lee Cup Exp	\$650.00	\$725.25	(\$75.25)	\$500.00	Decrease
Emergent	\$250.00	\$22.00	\$228.00	\$100.00	
Grants to Clubs	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
Grants to All-Star Players	\$2,000.00	\$2,800.00	(\$800.00)	\$2,800.00	Increase
Handbook	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	Expense for '03 was in '02
Internet Site	\$650.00	\$696.40	(\$46.40)	\$700.00	Increase
MARFU	\$15,600.00	\$15,200.00	\$400.00	\$16,530.00	Increase (clubs and \$35)
Men's Club Coordinator	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Men's All-Stars	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$500.00	Increase
Newsletter	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$25.00	Decrease
Officer Travel	\$2,025.00	\$1,511.83	\$513.17	\$1,600.00	Decrease
President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Publicity	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Secretary	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Sportsmanship	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	
Stationary	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Treasurer	\$50.00	\$11.84	\$38.16	\$50.00	
Trophies	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	Expense for '03 was in '02
U19	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$100.00	Decrease
USARFU Rep	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
VRU Supplies	\$100.00	\$140.21	(\$40.21)	\$100.00	
Women's Club Coordinator	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Women's All-Stars	\$350.00	\$582.73	(\$232.73)	\$600.00	Increase
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$31,260.00</b>	<b>\$31,098.69</b>	<b>\$161.31</b>	<b>\$33,080.00</b>	
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$510.76)</b>	<b>(\$510.76)</b>	<b>(\$1,310.00)</b>	

**Notes:** In 2003, we had several revenue problems: **\$\$\$ Impacted**

1. Winchester went to the PRU. \$800.00
2. Roanoke W and Southwest VA went inactive. \$1,600.00
3. Overdue (\$5,200):

Blackwater \$800.00	CNU \$800.00	JMU M \$800.00	Longwood M \$400.00
Roanoke M \$400.00	United \$400.00	Va Tech W \$800.00	VCU M \$800.00

#### **OTHER VRU ACCOUNTS**

Cash (Checking) \$11,490.51 As of 01/01/04 \$10,949.81 As of 01/16/04 Items written against 2004  
Don Bridges Fund (VIGRX) \$8,712.98 As of 01/16/04  
Long Term Savings (VFINX) \$15,952.38 As of 01/16/04

*Bill Lucas*  
*treasurer@rugby.org*

## MARFU/USARFU Representative

1. International Matches:
  - 1.1. On the February 14-15, 2004 (President's Day Weekend and Valentine's Day), the US will host a leg of the IRB sevens tour (Men's rugby). Sixteen teams, including the USA, New Zealand, England, Kenya, Australia, and France will be play two days of sevens. The venue is the Home Depot Center in Carson, California (outside of LA) (note: Home Depot is not a sponsor; it is just a named stadium). Matches are on both days and tickets are available through Ticketmaster. For additional information on this event, please go to [www.usasevens.com](http://www.usasevens.com). Note that the USA 7s team is coached by Mike Coyner, formerly of JMU and the Norfolk Blues (as well as Washington, Alaska, Denver, etc.). This is a huge event for the United States - a successful hosting of this event could mean additional opportunities from the IRB, increased revenue dollars from sponsorship, and so forth. Clubs are encouraged to pass along the word on the event and to send members if possible.
  - 1.2. France is tentatively scheduled to come to the US during the summer of 2004 to play the Men's Eagles. The tentative date for this event is 3 July 2004 and may be held in Houston, Texas.
  - 1.3. Territorial Union presidents will begin receiving RFPs for International Events.
2. USA CIPP/Registration:
  - 2.1. The new player, coach, and club CIPP forms for calendar year 2004 are available on the USA Rugby website ([www.usarugby.org](http://www.usarugby.org)). Please be aware there is a SEPARATE form for the coaches; this has a different waiver and includes the new background check process. Forms are also available on a request-basis from the USA Rugby Office (303-539-0300). FYI: forms are not being bulk-mailed as they have been in the past because: (1) if the forms are not mailed, USA Rugby can save up to \$20K in postage and production costs and (2) many clubs were not using the printed forms but were just copying the forms or printing the PDFs.
  - 2.2. Although online CIPP registration was expected to be implemented before 1/1/04, that function is not yet available. The beta test for online registration was supposed to start in October 2003, but the testing has not yet begun. Even with the beta test, the latest word (on 01/15/04) is that it would be available no later than 4/15/04; this is even later than the 03/01/04 date given to the Board of Directors in December. In my opinion, that will not happen and I doubt that we'll see it until 6/1/04. (Note: I could provide a lecture about IT project management, but that's for another forum and another time.) When online registration becomes available, notice will be sent to all of the clubs. Also, online registration will still require that an individual print an insurance certification document and then sign and send it to the USA Rugby CIPP processors.
  - 2.3. There has been discussion over the last few years about changing the CIPP cycle (and the change is one that I support) from a calendar year system to a "competition year" cycle that closely aligns with the academic year; to complicate matters, a premature announcement was made in September by the National Office of a change for 2004. At the USA Rugby AGM, a proposal was made to change the CIPP cycle to a September to August system. After much discussion/debate, the proposal was rejected by the Board and the CIPP will remain from 1 January to 31 December. Of note is that the costs for CIPP registration will remain the same in 2004; however, the dues structure in out-years could increase if there are increases in insurance costs.
  - 2.4. For the upcoming year, coaches of youth, high schoolers, and collegiates must undergo a background check (as well as being CIPP'ed). This is very similar to background checks that scoutmasters and many youth volunteers must now undergo and the process it isbeing done for the protection of the players, the coach, and the host club or school.
3. Unrelated to the on-line CIPP problem (above), USA Rugby may be unveiling a new look for the USA Rugby website; everyone hopes that it will provide more information for all users (and not just be a forms and document site). New items that will be located on the new site will be features/bios of national players and the results of test matches that have been played (all national teams). However, there is some unrevealed hang-up that is delaying this.

4. A few of the dates and locations for 2004 events are still being finalized. However, some of the dates and locations that do appear ready for publication are as follows:
  - 4.1. Men's Division I, II, and III finals will be held in Pittsburgh and will be hosted by the Pittsburgh Harlequins.
  - 4.2. The Men's Sevens Championships will not be held in Pittsburgh; they may be held west of the Rockies but clubs interested in hosting such an event should contact USA Rugby (Wendy) as soon as possible. A club must have access to two playing pitches along with a practice area, along with many other requirements.
  - 4.3. The Collegiate Championships will be held in Stanford University. This will be a threeday event, vice a two-day event. Division I men and women will play their first match on Friday. Division II championships will be played on Saturday. The finals for Division I will be played on Sunday. Consolation matches may or may not be played. I will note that I am opposed to the three-day concept and I support consolation matches. [Note: the CEO did note that the Div II event (our participant: Radford U. Men) was played on a sub-standard field; he wants everything at the same venue.]
  - 4.4. For Men's Club Division II, all pool play will be in Newport, Rhode Island.
  - 4.5. The Women's Club Championships will be held in Blaine, Minnesota, at the Sports Complex.
  - 4.6. Men's and Women's Fifteens ITTs are tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in December in Orlando, Florida.
  - 4.7. Three out of the four pools for Division I collegiate women will be held at Penn State. The fourth pool will be traveling to Florida. Three out of four of the MARFU four seeds for this event will be placed at Penn State.
  - 4.8. Men's Collegiate ITTs will be in Boulder, Colorado, the second weekend of June 2004.
  - 4.9. The USA Competitions Committee suggested that the National Div III Men's Club championship go to a two-day/three-match format (like the MARFU Div III playoffs). This was not accepted by the BOD (I will note that I support the two-day/three-match format).
  - 4.10. In what some of you know as a "personal" topic with me: as an incentive to host events, USA Rugby has decided to put a plan into place that would give a team a \$500 incentive for hosting a national event, IF the host club meets all of the hosting milestones and objectives. Additionally, the club would have more control over revenue and concessions and be provided one-time licensing of the official logo. For 2004, USA Rugby is hosting one rep/hosting club to attend an event management session; this is pretty positive stuff.
5. The 2004 USA Rugby budget was not passed. A continuing resolution on funding was approved for a period of approximately 50 days. The position of bookkeeper at the national office was vacant for four months and a new bookkeeper has been hired; that person, along with the USA Rugby Treasurer (Fred Roedel), are reviewing all the 2003 expenditures to make sure that all monies spent were properly assigned to the appropriate program (as you will have seen with the VRU Treasurer's report). Once that has been accomplished, the new 2004 budget will be compiled and presented to the Board for approval. I will note that that the national organization appears to be financially healthy, operating in the black, and projected to operate in the black in the future. [An editorial note: while some USA Rugby line items are in the red, others were underexpended; however, this is true in the VRU, too; the bottom line is that at the end of the year and after the final expenses are posted, USA Rugby should be in the black.]
6. In the new budget, the amount allocated from the general fund to the non-Men's National Teams will be raised from \$50,000 to \$150,000. This money had come from revenues such as sponsorship, grants, donations, and the

like. Even given this increased funding (the \$150,000 plus a percentage of CIPP dues), all teams will be under funded (similar to the under-funded territorial (MARFU) and local area union (VRU) select side teams).

7. It was proposed that the Board of Directors be allowed to direct up to 10% of all CIPP monies collected to the NON-Men's National Teams. Unfortunately, that measure was passed (I voted against it); I use the word "unfortunately" because I firmly believe this puts USA Rugby on the "slippery slope". CIPP money is intended for the sustainment of the National Office (the staff, the office infrastructure, and so on). Given the aggressive building of the staff that USA Rugby CEO Doug Arnot appears to seek, I would project that the new positions would consume the available funds (unless grant money can be found). At this time, the 2004 budget does not include this allocation or line item (but, as mentioned above, there is no approved budget anyway). The bottomline of all of this is that up to 10% of all CIPP revenue may be allocated to the following teams: Women's National Team, Women's Sevens National Team, Men's Collegiate Team, Women's U-23 Team, Men's U-19 team, and the Women's U-19 team; if this had been allowed in 2003, the sum would have been approximately \$110,000. Again, CIPP dollars WOULD NOT be allocated to the Men's National Team or the Men's Seven's National Team. Assurances were made that the services provided by the national office would not suffer as a result of this proposal; staffing or nonnational team program monies will not be decreased in order to provide funds to the national teams under this proposal. Also, this action does not automatically mean that the teams will receive these monies; it just provides the Board with the ability to do so. Nevertheless, the genie is out of the bottle. Be aware that the Men's National Team and the Men's Seven's National Team do not receive ANY FUNDS from USA Rugby; both teams are self-funded relying on funds from the IRB, sponsorship contracts, and the player's own checkbook. The Men's National Team has basically supported the other national teams through the BskyB and adidas contracts.
8. There has been some discussion about changing the size of USA Rugby's Board of Directors. Given three reps from each of the three Territories plus seven elected reps plus elected International athletes plus the Executive Committee, the BOD is rather large. Note: I'm not opposed to a change in the numeric breakdown, as long as it shifts the "House of Representatives" model rather than the current "Senate" model (e.g., based on CIPP enrollment/population rather than a static figure).
9. The Midwest may be splitting into two TUs. They have a huge geographical expanse and this is probably overdue; however, this also flies in the face of the BOD size (see above). Given the current USA By-laws and a limit on BOD size, the By-laws would need to be amended to permit the entry of "Midwest-West" and "Midwest-East" (or whatever they'll call themselves).
10. USA Rugby has a new, aggressive sports marketing firm working; the CEO believes we will have some positive output from this new partner.
11. There were less than 1100 votes cast during the last USA Rugby election. MARFU had the best voter response of any territory (because of the initiatives of several MARFU-area clubs to "block vote"). MARFU was able to place a MARFU individual in six out of the seven positions that were up for election (and MARFU did not have a candidate competing in the seventh position).
12. There is a major change in the eligibility rules for sevens. The July 1st registration and transfer date no longer applies (hooray!). The new rule basically says that a person he must be registered for CIPP the Friday before he plays in his first qualifier and 22-days prior to the national championship.
13. The Berkeley, CA USA Rugby National Teams office will be closed by the end of the year -December 2003. The National Team office is being relocated to Boulder, CO so that all functions of USA Rugby are under one roof.
14. No decision has been made on a permanent home for USA Rugby. Although the National Office moved from Colorado Springs to Boulder, USA Rugby may re-submit (in the near future) their request for proposals to potential candidate cities.
15. The Men's Club Rugby Super League (RSL) provided a report concerning its competition. The Board was informed that the rules and regulations surrounding promotion and relegation have been hammered out and they

will be shortly enacted/published. The RSL spent over \$625,000 in 2003 for travel, hotel rooms, and vans, all of which was either paid for by the RSL, individual RSL teams, or the players themselves. There's a tremendous amount of dedication that goes into this league (obviously).

16. Conference on the Game. There will be a Conference on the Game in Denver, Colorado. The dates are July 29 through August 1, 2004. The conference will be geared towards referee, coach, and player development.
17. USA Rugby will be introducing a new logo. While we are all used to the "old" logo, this is a departure from the "old" and is, actually, pretty refreshing. It also conveys a dynamic, more modern image. This may be seen soon on USA-wear, National jerseys, and so on. "Soon" may apply, just like the on-line CIPP stuff mentioned above...

*David Chapman*  
*usa@rugby.org*

## Men's Club Coordinator

Congratulations are in order to the following rugby clubs regarding divisional playoffs:

Division II - Norfolk and Raleigh

Division III - Virginia, Newport News, and Blacksburg

Congratulations to the Norfolk Blues in winning the 2003 Ed Lee Cup.

VRU Standings for the 2003 Year:

Division II

Norfolk

Raleigh

United

Roanoke

Division III

Virginia

Newport News

Blacksburg

James River

Blackwater

In 2003, the VRU approved the Winchester RFC request to move to the PRU. Southwest Virginia RFC cancelled all fall 2003 matches due to lack of players. The Virginia Beach Falcons RFC is on the pitch again. The Falcons have applied for reinstatement to the VRU and are looking forward to their spring 2004 schedule.

All Men's Divisions II and III clubs should have their spring 2004 schedules sent to [Schedules@rugby.org](mailto:Schedules@rugby.org) by February 1, 2004. The RSV depends on having the schedules so they can work on ref. assignments. In addition to sending the schedules to [Schedules@rugby.org](mailto:Schedules@rugby.org), please send them to the Men's Club Coordinator at [Men@rugby.org](mailto:Men@rugby.org).

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. It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the score of a league match. If the winning team does not report the result to the VRU Coordinator by the Friday following the match, the game will be considered a 0-0 tie.

All men clubs are required to have a coach that has completed at least Level I of the USA Coaches Certification Program. Please be reminded that this is a requirement as of January 2004.

Recruitment of players is a continuing problem with our men clubs. In 2003, several clubs canceled or forfeited matches due to not having the numbers to support a side. I suggest a two-prong solution to this problem. First, you must develop a competitive Old Boys side and schedule as many matches as they desire to play. The club's benefit will be the Old Boys financial support and their experience through coaching clinics. Secondly, you must develop a youth rugby program managed and directed by the Old Boys network. The Old Boys would like nothing better than to teach their children and grand children the game of rugby.

I would like to thank you, the VRU, for your support and patience.

*Tony Ferguson*  
*men@rugby.org*

## Women's Club Coordinator

In January 2003 Raleigh Women became full members of the VRU. This brought our division to a total of 6 clubs. Unfortunately in the fall of this year Roanoke women disband so the VRU currently has 5 total clubs.

In the spring of 2003 VRU's top women's club, Blue Ridge, lost to NOVA in the first round of the MARFU Play-offs.

Also during the spring 2003 season the VRU Women's Select-side played their first official 15's match. We traveled to Charlotte, NC to play the nationally ranked Atlanta Harlequins. The speed and skill of the 4 Eagles in their back line ultimately defeated us, but we were ignited with a passion to continue to play together as a select-side squad. We had chosen this venue as a way for the squad to gain valuable experience before playing an inter-regional match, and our goal was achieved. Jeff Hollier coached the try out venue, and Kara Smith from Blue Ridge was an incredible game day coach (all though she should have been on the field instead).

This summer the VRU Women's Select-side also played their first official 7s matches at Cape Fear. Camp/Tryouts for this venue was held in Richmond with assistance from Pete Sweet (thanks again Pete). MARFU Women also entered a squad in to this tourney who ended up knocking us out in the semi's, 15-0. The defeat wasn't as difficult considering there were several VRU women on their squad. In the end we are proud of all the women who represented this summer, whether at the state or regional level. And we are especially thankful to Beth Black and Emily Pelicia who were selected to the MARFU 7s squad who represented us at ITT's at the close of the 7s season. Congratulations.

The fall season began with another 15s developmental camp. Raleigh hosted this event, and we say thank you again to the coaches and players for their time and devotion.

This fall concluded with the following 2003 VRU Standing:

- Raleigh
- Blue Ridge
- Norfolk
- James River
- Blackwater
- Roanoke

After the Ed & Sandy Lee Cup the VRU Women experienced another first. We played the VRU U23 squad in Charlottesville. Both sides utilized the morning as a camp and the afternoon hours for game time. This enabled the U23 coaches valuable time for making their selections, and enabled the Senior side's latest and greatest coach, Brett Burdick, an opportunity to get to know the players. It was an awesome day for women's rugby in Virginia.

The VRU was represented by 6 players on the MARFU All Star 15s Squad:

- Emily Pelicia, Blue Ridge
- Beth Black, Blue Ridge
- Kathy Borkowski, Norfolk
- Calley Gerber, Raleigh
- JJ Burke, Blue Ridge
- Rachel Warden, UVA

Congratulations Ladies! The squad played in December at ITT's in Kissimmee, Florida.

The women are looking forward to moving forward with all of our select-side efforts!  
(Please visit the VRU website for archived newsletters and the women's select-side page for further info)

*Stephie-Jo Edwards*  
*women@rugby.org*

## Men's College Coordinator

2003 was another good year for the VRU Men's Collegiate Division. We should first acknowledge our National Collegiate Men's Division II Champions, Radford University. We also congratulate the UVA Men's Club who finished at #2 in the MARFU Championships behind Radford.

Two clubs advanced a division for 2004. The UVA Men moved up to Division 1 to join Tech and James Madison, and the University of Richmond has moved up to Division II, joining Radford, Mary Washington and VMI. Good luck to these clubs as they look to take their clubs to a higher level.

Joining Division III for 2004 is the Longwood Men's RFC, returning from a season off to reorganize their club, and new member Randolph Macon College, looking to add the rugby tradition to yet another Virginia college.

Honorable mentions go to the Washington and Lee RFC, who have made dramatic improvement over the past two years, and to the Hampden Sydney RFC, who exhibits the true defiant spirit of rugby each fall season, despite any and all adversity.

Sadly, we report the passing of Chris Ball, a VRU Collegiate Men's All-star who was killed earlier this year. We extend our sympathy to his family and teammates for this terrible loss. What is remarkable is the number of players from clubs other than his own that knew Chris well enough to speak highly of him.

### CIPP

All CM clubs were compliant for CIPP and Union dues. No clubs required "special handling". Furthermore, many of the college men's clubs already have players registered for 2004. 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 for both clubs, all players and administrators and the referees is not in effect. 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

There seems to be a growing problem of clubs not getting their fees paid in a reasonable amount of time. The VRU and RSV Treasurer have been very patient, and in deed sometimes things get fouled up and payments delayed. The real problem arises when these clubs do not stay in touch with me and the treasurers so that we know you are working on the problem. 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 is 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. As many of you know, the VRU hosts a USA 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.

*Carl Schmitt*  
*collegemen@rugby.org*

## Women's College Coordinator

The VRU U-23's defeated NC U-23's and EPRU U-23's to win MARFU all-stars.

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

Div 1 JMU, UVA

Div 2 Mary Washington, VCU, William & Mary

The following players from the VRU were named All-American

JMU- Naomi Sandler, Kerrie Fischer, Jen Starkey

UVA- Jaime Burke, Svea Stromme, Miwa Ng

Jaime "Jay Jay" Burke Was awarded the Woodley Award (The female collegiate player of the year)

Lizzie Scerbo (JMU) was captain of the U-19 US team

AT U-23 ITT's this summer the VRU was well represented with:

Kerry Fischer, Maia Paglinawan, Jen "SBJ" Starkey, Jaime Burke, Miwa Ng, Svea Stromme, Rachel Warden, Katie Mandel, Angie Marfisi, Fiona Foxon

One Collegiate player participated in Sr Side ITT's this year: Rachel Warden

Two more were invited but were unable to attend: Naomi "Na Na" Sandler, Fiona Foxon

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*

## Youth Coordinator

*Scott Ruby*

*youth@rugby.org*

## Disciplinary Committee Chairman

*George Durocher*

*discipline@rugby.org*

## Newsletter Editor

This completes my ninth year as your Newsletter Editor. It is a job that I greatly enjoy. It can only be done with your cooperation. If you have any news items, please send them to me at [newsletter@rugby.org](mailto:newsletter@rugby.org)

The Newsletter is published electronically four times per year – February, June, September, and November. It is first posted on the VRU website – [www.rugby.org](http://www.rugby.org) – and then an e-mail is sent out to the VRU listserve announcing it being there. If you are not notified of it, please sign up for the VRU listserve by sending an e-mail to [virginiarugbyunion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:virginiarugbyunion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

This is the third year that the Newsletter is being sent out electronically. It saves \$1,100 over printing and mailing costs, it doesn't cost one cent to produce, and it can go to anyone who gets online.

*Jeff Anderson*  
*newsletter@rugby.org*

## Referee Society of Virginia Chairman

In 2003 the RSV covered 87% of available games in Virginia. By available that means teams that were up to date in their finances with the RSV. This 87% is far above the national average for game coverage. In 2004 teams must be current with their bills with the RSV. If your club still owes for Fall 2003 you will not get coverage for Spring 2004 until the past due bill is paid in full. We have to take this strong stand as we have outstanding bills going back three seasons with at least one club and two seasons with others.

Last year we had both a touch judge clinic and a referee training clinic. Although many new people came to both clinics to qualify as referees, all but two chose to remain as players. Fortunately the two new referees were from the central and western parts of the state where we need referees the most. This year we had a referee training clinic on January 11 with 11 people showing up. The completion of this process – the touch judge clinic – will be on February 22. Hopefully we will get four or five people who will become active referees.

Last season we had the pleasure of seeing Virginia referee Steve Myers promoted to B1, which is one level below international referee. Steve has gone higher than any other Virginia referee ever.

Finally, please remember to get your Spring 2004 schedules in to Bob Underwood at [schedules@rugby.org](mailto:schedules@rugby.org) by February 1.

*Jeff Anderson*  
*ref@rugby.org*