

Virginia Rugby Union
Annual General Meeting
January 19, 2008, 10:00 AM
Ginter Park Baptist Church,
Richmond Virginia.

Meeting Call to Order: 10:30 AM

Roll call:

Executive Committee (EC) Officers in attendance: Kris Kabza (President), Shannon Plum (VP), David Chapman (Sec), Tom Krebs (Treas), George Durocher (Disciplinary Chair, MARFU/USA Rep), Kevin Kilgore (Youth), Jeff Anderson (RSV), Margy Dessypris Thomas (W's Clubs), Carl Schmitt (College M's Clubs), Julie Comer (College W's Clubs), Marsha Durocher (Newsletter).

EC Officers not in attendance: Dave Yancey (M's Clubs)

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

Clubs not in attendance: JMU Men, Longwood U. Women, Newport News, Radford U. Women, Raleigh Vipers, Raleigh Venom, Va Tech Men, W&M Women

Youth Rugby:

Fred Bardot of the new Virginia High School Rugby Association discussed the current State Based Organization (SBO) that has been recognized by USAR. There are currently 8 HS Men's teams and 4 HW W's teams, all in Northern Virginia. On June 7th, 2008, the Association will have the first State championship.

Fred's goal is to grow the Association (to the eventual point of a paid director) and to spread the competition and game into other regions of Virginia.

Kevin Kilgore is following up with discussions from VRU members in various regions of the state.

Officer Reports

The full officer reports were provided at the AGM and are posted on-line.

Of note:

From the Treasurer: Tom Krebs presented the budget and it was approved as presented.

From Youth: Kevin Kilgore solicited volunteers for a geographically based committee.

From RSV: Jeff Anderson noted that the new laws that many people have heard about will not come into effect until sometime in 2009.

From several presenters: Reiteration that there is absolutely no grace period for CIPP registration.

Ed & Sandy Lee Cup Format Change / New Playoffs

The Ed & Sandy Lee Cup has evolved since its inception in 1975 from a championship for all divisions to championships (with MARFU/USA playoff implications) for some and not all. Prior to the AGM, the VRU EC wanted to offer the tournament as a regular tournament, but not for playoff entries or seedings. Given the state of the current tournament, James River RFC was given the possession of the event by the VRU EC and suggested an event in the early Fall.

However, there was considerable discussion considering the VRU College playoff format. Most of the speakers were in favor of having a one weekend event.

Funding for the event was brought forward. Some speakers believed the event should be subsidized (not all colleges get the same amount from their schools and some are being cut back drastically).

Motion: Keep the ESL in 2008 for the college teams as it has been with James River hosting. The VRU EC will explore method to subsidize in 2008. Motion accepted by voice vote.

Charlottesville Women

The new Charlottesville Women's club noted that they had changed their name (from the Virginia W's RFC), so as not to conflict with the U. of Virginia Women.

Motion: Accept Charlottesville Women as an Associate Member of the VRU. Motion accepted by voice vote.

Awards

The following awards were presented:

Sportsmanship (which provides \$150 off of VRU dues and \$100 off of RSV fees):

Men: Norfolk Blues
College Men: VMI
Women: James River Women

VRU Championships: Plaques for regular season divisional winners and runners-up were provided.

Additional Items / New Business

VCU Women - Announced that they were looking for a coach,

Charlotte - Discussed several grievances they had. They believe they were fined excessively for CIPP violations, that they were overcharged for referees, and that they had issues with referee assignments. Regarding CIPP, the game in question had numerous players who were not CIPPed and at least one yellow card during the match; in fact, the VRU's fine policy was implemented because of an incident in 2005 between Charlotte and Norfolk where players from both teams were carded and not CIPPed; as a senior club that was involved in a prior significant incident, Charlotte's argument about unfairness does not hold water. On the alleged overcharge, this was part of a previous arrangement between the RSV and Charlotte. Finally, the previous Charlotte administration knew of refereeing assignment problems (due to their location) when they joined the VRU and, at the time of their admittance, they said they could handle it down there. It was pointed out that this was the first VRU AGM that Charlotte had attended since their admittance in January 2004.

Steroids – A question from the floor was offered about the possibility of steroid testing. Unfortunately, the costs for this testing is beyond the current resources of the VRU and is not done at any championship level within USAR (that is, below the International level).

Blackwater Women – Question about their 2005 dues and what is really owed or not owed due to the lack of their playing status. One concern was that any new club that might form there could be burdened with this debt, which may not be correct. Motion: the VRU EC will assemble a timeline for Blackwater Women's financial status and will present it to the full board at the next AGM. Motion accepted by voice vote.

Election of Officers for 2008

The following were elected as VRU Executive Committee officers:

President	Carl Schmitt
VP	Bill Lucas
Sec	David Chapman
Treas	Tom Krebs
MARFU/USA Rep	George Durocher
MARFU-at-Large	Shannon Plum
M's Club Coord	Jeremy Miller

W's Club Coord	Margy Dessypris Thomas
CM Coord	Matt Robinette
CW Coord	Julie Comer
HS/Youth Coord	Kevin Kilgore
Disciplinary Chair	George Durocher
Newsletter Editor	Emily Pauler
RSV (appointed by RSV)	Jeff Anderson

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.