

**MID-ATLANTIC RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2004
MINUTES**

Present: Officers: Alan Matas, president; Tom Lyons, vice-president; Carl Schmitt, secretary; Pat Costello, treasurer; Reyn Kinzey, immediate past president. EPRU Directors: Sean Conroy, Carl Ostermann, Elaine Recchiuti. PRU: Eric Pittelkau, Tom Walsh, Ed Gafney. VRU: Bill Lucas for Stephie Jo Edwards, Kris Kabza, David Chapman. Guests: Nigel Willis (High School), Pat Walsh (Youth), and Curt Baker and Dana Bateman representing The Sports Institute.

Presentation from The Sports Institute: Curt Baker, president and CEO of The Sports Institute, and Dana Bateman, who now works for the Institute, opened the meeting with a short presentation to introduce The Sports Institute to the Board. The Sports Institute (TSI) has recently added The Rugby Institute to its list of institutes, which include The Lacrosse Institute, The Football Institute, and the Athlete's Institute (for sports specific training). TSI is a for-profit organization offering camps, tournaments, and training for young athletes between the ages of 6 – 18. TSI expressed a willingness to work with MARFU in the future and would like to explore the possibility of having one of our directors on their advisory board.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Minutes from the last meeting were not yet available. Carl Schmitt will provide them at a later date. That meeting was not well attended but there was a quorum present.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Costello provided a written report, including a Category Detail Report detailing all of our expenses by category, a Transaction Detail Report listing all checks written, and a budget vs. actual expense report for 2001, 2002, and 2003. This year, we were a total of \$1,712.50 over budget. The largest overages were the Men's collegiate select side, which was \$2,860.89 over budget, the referees, which were \$2,495 over budget, and the Men's 15 Select Side, which was \$1,493.27 over budget.

Some extenuating circumstances exist with the men's select side. They men had eight players who dropped out at the last minute, and we do have travel credit for them which we can use next year. The collegiate side had problems with travel as well, and many players still owe MARFU for their travel (apparently, only 10 players have reimbursed us). Tom Lyons will coordinate efforts to get that money reimbursed.

We clearly need to work towards better management and accountability with the program managers and the select sides.

Several directors expressed a great deal of dissatisfaction with the referees. They have offered us no real documentation of services and costs. We need to work for greater accountability with the Referee's Society.

Elections of Officers for 2004: Three of the four offices were uncontested: Elaine Recchiuti for president; Reyn Kinzey for secretary; and Pat Costello for treasurer. Reyn moved that these elections be accepted by acclamation, the motion was seconded by numerous people around the room, and the motion passed. Tom Lyons was then elected vice president. Alan Matas announced that he would stay on as immediate past president. The officers for 2004 are, then, as follows:

President: Elaine Recchiuti
Vice President: Tom Lyons
Secretary: Reyn Kinzey
Treasurer: Pat Costello
Immediate Past President: Alan Matas

Elaine Recchiuti chaired the rest of the meeting.

Youth Report: Pat Walsh reported orally on the youth program. He is the MARFU Youth Committee Chairman and the USA Youth Development Officer for the PRU and VRU. Jim Hall is YDO for the EPRU. Pat will provide a written report at a later date.

Elaine asked each LAU to present a report on youth and high school programs in their area within two weeks, including numbers of people involved, people CIPPed, and teams. Sean will report on the EPRU; Nigel for the PRU; and Reyn for the VRU.

High School Report: Nigel presented an oral report on high school activity. He will present a written report at a later date.

Budget: Pat put forward a number of alternative budgets for the board to consider: a red version, which included \$1,000 for trainers for all-star events and \$420 for medical kits for all all-star programs; and a gray version that included the \$420 for medical kits but not the \$1,000 for trainers; and both of these budgets showed versions with no change in income, a \$25 per club increase, and \$35, \$50, \$75, and \$100 increases per club.

All of the proposed increases would provide more money for the all-star programs.

The board decided to continue to provide \$300 for the Division III college tournament, but the treasurer will move this amount to “internal championships.”

Ed Gafney moved to accept the second column of the gray version, with the \$420 for medical kits but not the \$1000 for trainers as the “basis for the budget discussion.” There was some confusion over the motion, in that at least the secretary thought that since he was using the second column, which is the “no change in income” column, the motion was meant to exclude any increases in dues. Ed explained that he did not intend that, but only that we use these figures as a point of reference for discussion of allocations. Tom Lyons, acting as parliamentarian, ruled that this was in fact a “point of order and did not need to be motioned. Ed then moved to reduce men’s coaching, men’s club coordinator,

women's collegiate and women's collegiate coordinator all from \$400 to \$250. The money saved would be divided between high school and youth. The motion was seconded by Matas. The motion was passed by voice vote (Chapman dissenting).

Eric commented that he would support a dues increase if it were truly driven by need. Elaine and others commented that many of our programs are not fully funded. Eric then proposed that we raise the budgets proposed for the all-star programs by 25%. The motion was seconded by Tom Walsh. There was some confusion about how much this would increase dues for each club, since we will have some additional new teams next year, which, in itself will produce some increase in income.

Since this is a budget item, the vote was weighted by LAU:

PRU, 44 votes, all yes
VRU, 38 votes, all no
EPRU, 76 votes, all no

The motion failed.

Reyn then moved that we increase dues by \$35 per club and accept that budget offered by the treasurer, with the modifications already set out by the Gafney motion. The motion was seconded by Carl Schmitt, with the provision that the treasurer verify the amount budget for referees with the Referee Society.

Again, this was a weighted vote:

PRU, 44 votes, all yes
VRU, 38 votes, all no
EPRU, 76 votes, all yes

The motion passed, and the budget was accepted.

It was noted that this motion increases due to \$435 per club, so it is less than a 10% increase. It was further noted that this is the first dues increase in three years.

Enforcement of MARFU Coaching Certification requirement: Carl Schmitt is developing a data base of MARFU coaches to help with the enforcement of the requirement that all teams have a MARFU certified coach. Eric had developed an online form for coaches to fill out. Schmitt will monitor compliance with help from Brett Burdick and Eric's technical assistance. He will provide a report at the next meeting. Tom, as vice president, will chair a subcommittee to determine rules and regulations for the enforcement of the requirement. Carl Schmitt will represent the VRU and Dana Bateman will represent the EPRU.

There will be a coaching clinic in the EPRU the last weekend in February.

Collegiate Playoffs: Kris reported that the recommendations for seedings for the collegiate playoffs were passed unanimously by the collegiate committee. The board passed the recommendations unanimously.

The VRU cannot host the collegiate championships, even though it is the VRU's turn by rotation. The EPRU probably cannot as well, so the PRU will try to find a host. The championships will be the last weekend in March, March 27 – 28. Division I and Division II can be hosted separately, but our policy has been to split by division and not by gender (so, bids should be for Division I men and women or Division II men and women, not for Division I men and Division II men or Division I women and Division II women).

Teams which qualify for USA play and fail to do so: Acting on a tabled item from the last meeting, Ed Gafney moved that any MARFU teams that qualify to move on to USA regional or national play and fail to do so be penalized by being disqualified from MARFU championship play the following season. The motion was seconded by Kinzey. The motion was passed by voice vote with three abstentions.

Venues for MARFU Championships: The following venues were awarded:

Division I, Men: Pittsburgh Harlequins
Division II, Men: Raleigh
Division III, Men: Newport News
Division I, Women: North Bay

The 7's qualifiers and championship will be voted on by email, after the board receives recommendations for the 7's Committee.

Meeting dates: The following dates were determined for this year's meetings:

March 7 (Sunday)
June 19 (Saturday)
September 12 (Sunday)
December 11 (Saturday)