

**Mid-Atlantic Rugby Football Union
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes:
Saturday, March 16, 2003
Courtyard Springfield, 6710 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA.**

Call to Order: 11:00 am

Roll Call: Officers present:

President Alan Matas
Vice President Tom Lyons
Secretary Carl Schmitt
Treasurer Pat Costello
Immediate Past President: Reyn Kinzey

LAU Reps present:

VRU (3): Dave Chapman, Kris Kabza

PRU (3): Eric Pittelkau, Ed Gafney, and Tom Walsh

EPRU (3): Dana Bateman (for Sean Conroy), Susan Martinko (for Elaine Recchiuti), and Carl Ostermann.

Note: Elaine Recchiuti attended the meeting, but notice had already been given regarding her substitute.

Absent: Stephie Jo Edwards (VRU)

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the Dec., 2002 meeting were not available. The Secretary was requested to compile and distribute the minutes for the last three meetings (inclusive of these minutes) to be reviewed and approved at the next MARFU Board Meeting.

Discussion of Blacksburg's declination of USA Playoff spot

Blacksburg did not attend to plead their case.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Costello presented the final financial analysis for 2002, including a MARFU Budget Comparison: 1997 to 2003, Program Percentages of Total Budget, 2001-2003, Potential MARFU Dues Increase Worksheet, and a Budget vs Actual spending for 2001 and 2003 and the proposed Budget Breakdown for 2003.

Motion: Schmitt

Second: Lyons

To accept the various reports, and specifically the Proposed Budget Breakdown for 2003, as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously.

Report by the MARFU 's Seven's Committee:

The MARFU 7's Committee presented its recommendations for remaining two qualifiers for the 2003 Sevens Season. (Note: Two Qualifiers (Norfolk and Lehigh) had been approved at the Board previous meeting, and Washington's bid to host the 2003 Seven's Championships was approved pending approval of the financials by Pat Costello, to be submitted by Washington RFC no later than March 28th.)

After discussion on the advisability of having a qualifier on June 14th in Pittsburgh, due to the distance from the majority of MARFU clubs, the following motion was put forward.

Motion: Kabza
Second: Pittelkau

That the recommendation for the 4th qualifier be returned to the 7's Committee for re-evaluation of Pittsburgh as a host site. The report is due to the Board via email by March 31. It was specifically noted that the Board was not rejecting Pittsburgh.

Motion: Pittelkau
Second: Bateman
To accept NOVA's bid for the third 2003 Qualifier. Motion passed.

[The Sevens Committee distributed their re-evaluation before the deadline, and this re-evaluation recommended that the 4th qualifier be dropped and that the 2003 Seven's season would be based on the three approved qualifiers. President Matas allowed an email motion to accept the re-recommendation, which failed. (Yeas: Schmitt, Matas, Rechiutti, Ostermann. Nays: Costello, Chapman, Kinzey, Pittelkau, Gaffney, Lyons, Kabza, Walsh, and Conroy.)

President Matas allowed a second email motion by Pittelkau (seconded by Chapman and Gaffney) that the Board accept the original recommendation concerning the placement and dates of qualifiers for calendar year 2003, specifically the Norfolk, Lehigh, Pittsburgh, and Nova hold this years qualifiers on the dates recommended in the report. Motion passed: Yeas: Pittelkau, Gaffney, Chapman, Walsh, Matas, Schmitt, Kinzey, Lyons, Rechiutti, Kabza, Ostermann.))]

Motion to increase MARFU Dues in 2004:

Motion: Pittelkau to increase MARFU Dues by \$100 per club for 2004. No Second.

After discussion, an Ad Hoc Committee of Tom Lyons, Pat Costello, Elaine Rechiutti and Eric Pittelkau was formed to make recommendations on how much we should be charging for dues and what programs, existing or new, that we should be spending these revenues, looking forward to the next three years. This report is due at the next Board meeting.

Motion to increase awareness of safety issues: Pittelkau
Tabled for recommendations

MARFU Lightning Policy (New)

Tabled

Report from the Men's Competition Committee:

David Chapman discussed the problems in the men's competition that have been caused by the severe winter weather and cancellation of matches. The most pressing problem is the rescheduling of the Philly-Whitemarsh/NOVA match. The match will determine if NOVA or Pittsburgh is our second seed in the playoffs with the Northeast. If NOVA wins the match, they will move into second place ahead of Pittsburgh. If they lose the match, they will remain in third place. Our second seed hosts the first playoff match with the Northeast, while the third seed travels to the Boston area.

Chapman moved that the Whitemarsh-Whitemarsh match be declared "no contest" and the second seed be awarded to Pittsburgh because they defeated NOVA on the field. Kabza seconded the motion. It was defeated by a 6 – 5 vote. However, Ed Gaffney moved that we accept Chapman's proposal with the addition of the clause "If the match is not played by March 30." It is understood that this is a home match for NOVA, and it is also understood that NOVA will make every effort to accommodate Philly-Whitemarsh's schedule and its Premier League commitments. However, it is also understood that Philly-Whitemarsh should make every effort to play the match and can be held accountable if they do not make such efforts. The motion passed unanimously in this revised form.

Expansion of the Men's Committee and the Men's Collegiate Committee

President Matas has increased the size of these two Committees to consist of two representatives from each LAU. These expanded Committees can be found on the MARFU website. He also announced his intention to appoint a MARFU Technical Director.

{The appointment of Brett Burdick was announced by email in early April}

Men's 15's Competitions Committee

VRU - David Chapman (Chair)

VRU - Tony Ferguson

East Penn - Carl Ostermann

East Penn - Sean Conroy

Potomac - Eric Pittelkau

Potomac - John Solomon

Men's Collegiate Committee

VRU - Kris Kabza (Chair)

VRU - Carl Schmitt

EPRU - Steve Cohen

EPRU - Steve Green

PRU - Tom Walsh

PRU - Don Briggs

Motion to create MARFU D1/D2 for Senior Women

Tabled pending a recommendation from the Women's Club Committee.

Release of the Winchester RFC

The VRU confirmed that it has released the Winchester RFC to join the PRU, effective January 1, 2003.

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MARFU Division III Championships :

At the suggestion of Tom Lyons, the Men's Competition Committee will research what other Territories are doing with regard to Division III championships.

Motion to restructure the Board

Withdrawn

Motion to restructure the Method of Voting

Withdrawn

Motion to reconsider appropriate action regarding Keystone Women

Withdrawn

New Business

Allan Matas reports that USA Rugby has now made Director's & Officer's Liability Insurance available. He will look into this and report at our next meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 11:00 Am on May 4th, 2003

Submitted by Carl Schmitt, Secretary, MARFU
With assistance by Reyn Kinzey.