

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES, MARFU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 9, 2006

Present:

Officers: Elaine Recchuiti, president; Tom Lyons, vice president; Reyn Kinzey, secretary; Pat Costello, treasurer; Carl Schmitt, at large.

EPRU: Carl Ostermann, Susan Martinko.

PRU: Eric Pittelkau, Jason Wallach (and son), Maria Vastola.

VRU: David Chapman, Kris Kabza, Bill Lucas.

Guest: Mike Bertoni, representing Severn River

Minutes of last meeting approved:

The minutes to the August meeting were approved and will be posted to the web site.

Calendar of Events:

The calendar events for the coming year were reviewed. Pat passed out a copy of the existing calendar. To this was added the following: High School Boys' Championship (MARFU U – 19) on May 6. Collegiate Division II Men's and Women's pool play in Sanford Florida on April 21, 22; Men's Collegiate and Women's U – 23 round robin in Virginia on November 17, 18; MARFU 7's Championship on July 21; Women's DII Championship on October 20, 21. David will add these events to the calendar on the web site. Note: Again this year, we will not have a Women's Division I championship: There are only four teams in the division, so seeding will be determined by league play.

Discipline

Carl reported that the new standard format is now online and the procedure is working well. However, the referees need to fill the reports out consistently.

High School and Youth

A conference on high school and youth rugby is currently taking place in Nashville. Lee Kelly is there representing the PRU and Bob Weir is representing the EPRU. We still need to develop a women's U 19 program for MARFU. We also need a high school coordinator to replace Nigel Willis.

Referees

Terry Haas sent a written report, which was distributed. Pat re-caped the financials. We spent \$11,875 on referees this year. MARR has gotten bills to us in a more timely manner than in years past. We provided them with new jerseys for 7's.

Tom Lyons has been promoted to B1.

There is still a shortage of referees, and the board wishes to go on record as being willing to support the referees in recruiting efforts.

MARR brought in ED Todd, National Referee Development Manager to provide coach training to 9 MARR coach/assessors. This was a major achievement.

EMT's vs ATC's

The board continued a discussion about whether we should continue to require EMT's at our events or if we should allow certified athletic trainers. Kris pointed out that ATC's often have more training than EMT's. Still, some of the board members were concerned about how using one group or the other might affect our liability. The board concluded that we did not have enough information in front of us to make a decision. Kris will gather more information by our next meeting, when we will revisit the issue.

Men's Competition

David Chapman passed out a written report. This year Super League teams were allowed to also enter sides in Division I and/or II. In April, we are supposed to hear from USA Rugby's competitions audit, which may or may not impact our structures.

The weather policy has been re-written to offer greater flexibility when weather forces the cancellation of matches. The revised policy is on the web site.

The competitions committee recommended that Norfolk host the Division II Championship and that Old Gaelic host the Division III Championship. The board accepted these recommendations.

The Competitions Committee will re-evaluate the Div II Championship structure.

Seven's Committee

Susan Martinko presented the 7's Committee report, which was distributed. The Committee recommended moving from four qualifiers to two. The board asked them to reconsider this recommendation, perhaps adding a third qualifier. The Committee also recommended suspending the Tier 2 qualifier because of a lack of interest. The board also asked them to reconsider this. While the board acknowledged that not as many teams were interested in the Tier 2 qualifier as we had hoped, the teams who were interested in

it felt that it benefited them tremendously. If it can be maintained without an unreasonable stress on the qualifying system, the board would like to see it maintained. The board did pass the date of July 21 for the championship. The board also passed a recommendation that any team not fulfilling its obligation to attend the MARFU championships would be fined \$500 (teams would have up to July 13 to explain any extenuating circumstances). The board also passed a recommendation that the deadline for submitting a bid for the Championships to January 31, 2007. The board did not pass a recommendation that would have the MARFU secure plane tickets for teams for Nationals, but the board will work with individual teams. She will communicate with her committee and report to us by the end of January.

Collegiate Men's Competition

Eric has been circulating a plan for MARFU-wide Division I Competition for the collegiate men. Eight of the 10 Div I teams have accepted the plan. The Division I teams will meet on January 13 to discuss further details.

The board passed a voice motion to the effect that we want to move in this direction.

After the meeting in January, Eric will send the plan to the Men's Collegiate Committee, which can make recommendations and/or suggest revisions, and the board will vote on the plan at the next meeting.

Select Side

Pat reported on the select sides. Right now, the men's 7's program is about \$1,400 over budget, but he believes much of that can be resolved with a final accounting of travel costs (they may have a hotel credit). We also have not gotten a full accounting of the Men's 15 from 2005. The women's programs have worked very well. Pat will take what he has learned and provide all the select side programs with instructions about what they need to do. He will inform managers about what budget items are allowed.

Budget

Pat submitted a written proposal for the 2007 budget, which he moved to accept, seconded by Kinzey. It was passed by voice vote.

Election of Officers

The current slate of officers ran unopposed and was re-elected by voice vote. Since he was elected to the position of secretary, Reyn chose not to accept the position of immediate past president, which meant that the board needed to elect an executive member-at-large. Reyn nominated Carl Schmitt, who held the position this past year, seconded by Elaine. Carl was elected by voice vote.

Collegiate, High School Championships

The collegiate championships rotate through the LAU's. It is the PRU's turn to host them. Eric is looking at possible venues. We will try to settle the issue by mid- January.

It is also the PRU's turn to hosts the High School championship on May 6. Eric will identify a venue by the end of January.

Date for next meeting:

The next board meeting will be Sunday, March 11, 2007.

DRAFT