

WESTERN RUGBY UNION

Minutes of the General Meeting

**Red Lion Hotel
Denver, Colorado
16-17 August 2003**

President Sexton opened the meeting at 12:00 noon on Saturday 16 August 2003. Roll call was taken with the following present:

Attendees

Bill Sexton (President), Wendy Cook (Vice President and ER), Alan Sharpley (USA Rugby Competitions and Texas), Anil Kanat (RG), Dave Higgins (OZ), Rich Cortez (West Collegiate Squad), Dan Ward (MO), Charlie Haupt (West Referees), Kurt Torkelson (HOA), Steve Glentzer (West Referee's Chair), Gene Nelson (GP), and Bill Haffner (West Administration). Proxies were held as follows: Texas to Alan Sharpley, Dave McPhail by Bill Sexton, Paul Mabry by Bill Sexton, and Bob Latham by Bill Sexton. Guest - Bob Lesnansky (ER Treasurer). In the absence of Secretary Jenkins, Bill Haffner was asked to take the minutes of the meeting.

Agenda Review - See Tab 1

The agenda was reviewed and the following items were added under New Business: Men's Division III competition, Women's Club Challenge System, the review of various squad proposals, and the Denver Harlequins. The revised agenda was approved.

Minutes of the Kansas City Meeting - See Tab 2

Upon motion by Torkelson and second by Cook the minutes were approved. Secretary Jenkins was asked to clean up the typos in the submitted minutes and post the corrected copy to the web site by 1 September.

Financial Reports - See Tab 3

In the absence of Treasurer McPhail, Bill Sexton reviewed the complete report which was not included in the meeting book. Discussion centered around the \$10,500 in the savings account and the CDs valued at \$116,000. Comment was made on the several bounced checks received from Northeast Oklahoma State. Upon motion by Torkelson and second by Nelson, the report was accepted. After discussion it was agreed to post to the Web site a summary of the financial report.

Lunch

A working lunch was served in the meeting room.

President's Report

Bill Sexton provide a verbal report on the state of the Western Rugby Union. There was no

written report. Upon motion by Sharpley with second by Nelson, Sexton was thanked for his efforts and the report was accepted.

USA Rugby Report

In the absence of the two other USA Directors, Bill Sexton provided a report of the state of USA Rugby. Topics included: CIPP forms, online registration, coaching background check, collection of TU dues via CIPP, temporary national office relocation, the National Technical Panel, Game Development Officers, College Commitment, NCAA complaint about championship terminology, rotation of the Collegiate ITTs, etc. After motion by Ward and second from Torkelson, the report was accepted.

USA Rugby Competition - See Tab 8

Alan Sharpley reviewed the materials in his report. The material was very well explained. Some discussion ensued concerning the promotion/relegation systems, loss of Western seeds in Men's Division II competition, the Men's Division III competition (the West would regain its seed if we asked for it), and the new Women's club challenge system. Upon motion by Ward with second by Higgins, the report was accepted.

Dues and Accounts Receivable Reports , Membership Analysis - See Tab 3

Haffner reviewed the two reports on dues and receivables. He added comments on several charts discussing the status of Western dues collection through the end of June. With motion from Ward and second by Sharpley, the reports were all accepted.

Western Competition Reports - See Tab 4

Haffner reviewed the results to date and the status of the various regional leagues to begin in September 2003. Discussion ensued concerning the dates of certain Western events due to the date of Easter Sunday in 2003 and potential USA Rugby changes in their event dates. Haffner agreed to follow with USA rugby and to poll the Western clubs on their wishes for scheduling Western events.

Western Championship and League Regulations - See Tab 6

Haffner reviewed the need of updating some regulations to account for the creation of the Men's Division I College leagues and other changes. League regulation changes were reviewed and upon motion by Sexton and second by Sharpley the suggested changes were approved. These included an amendment by Cortez to include input from Men's Collegiate coaches on seeding the Sweet Sixteen weekend, changing the outcome in the event of defaults in league matches, and the correction of several typos.

Haffner the suggested changes in the Combined Regulations for Western competition programs. With a motion by Ward and second by Torkelson, the suggested changes were approved.

Referee Reports - See Tab 8

Three reports were reviewed by Haupt and Glentzer. The first covered the finances of the

committee and the various activities of the group. Charlie Haupt presented a report on the Recruitment and Retention of Referees. The reports were accepted.

Old Business

1. **Fines and Discipline Actions** - Cook reviewed the process of setting up a system to track players who received yellow or red cards during any match in the West.

2. **Certified Touch Judges** - after lengthy discussion it was moved by Torkelson with a second by Ward to adopt the following: By 1 February 2004, each Division I and II club within the West must have at least two certified touch judges within their membership. At least one of these touch judges must be available for any match the club plays. These persons may not be current referees.

Further to the above motion: The penalty for a club failing to meet this criteria by 1 February 2004 will be exclusion from Western and USA competitive programs. Further, a club who appears for a match without a certified touch judge will be fined \$50 for the first offence, \$100 for the second offence, and exclusion from Western competition for the third offence. Motion by Sexton, with second by Ward. Approved.

The meeting recessed at 6:00 PM. The meeting resumed at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday 17 August. Same attendees with the exception of guest Lesnansky. Kanat arrived at 8:45; Nelson arrived a few minutes later.

Old Business (Continued)

3. Youth and High School Development

Eastern Rockies reported a new touch league during the summers with support from the Rugby Foundation and the Denver Recreation Department. CYR is working well, but the relationship with CHSAA is still open to improvement.

Great Plains reported the existence of six high school teams with approximately 120 to 130 players involved. There was a state high school championship with all teams participating. The Omaha YMCA held a youth seminar over three summer weekends with 50 to 60 players per weekend.

Heart of America reported a lack of coaches is seriously affecting the development of high school rugby in the region. Five good high school clubs exist with two others struggling. Some of the Kansas City men's clubs have been asked to help with the development of high school rugby programs.

Missouri also reported a continuing problem with the availability of coaches for some high school teams. One existing program is coached by a women with good results.

Ozark's report stated the existence of seven high school teams with three being new in 2003. The YDO - Ken Foreman - in the area has done a good job.

Rio Grande reported that youth rugby in the northern area on New Mexico is doing very well with several age grad programs, the revival of several high school teams and the possible expansion of the programs into El Paso.

Texas has a fourteen team high school league, four of which are new teams. Alliance has several age grade teams and has created a Division II Men's club from their efforts. Questions for USA Rugby on the ability of "composite" high school teams to play in competition were raised.

4. Elite Player Data Base

Cortez and Mc Phail will work on this task and report to next meeting on their progress.

Squad Reports

1. Men's Collegiate. See Tab 8 Cortez reviewed his report. The West squad finished second to Pacific.

2. Women's U-23 Squad. See Tab 8. Written report submitted by Dustin George. No discussion.

Old Business (Continued)

5. Competition and Other Event Calendar. Was reviewed by Haffner and will continue to be updated and posted to the Web site.

6. Western Meeting Dates. Tentatively agreed to hold Western meetings on 24/25 January in Houston and 24/25 July in Denver.

7. Western Player Development Grants - the process was reviewed and discussed. Western forms and current process is fully described on the web site.

New Business

1. Texas moved to have the West re-enter the USA Rugby Men's Division III championship. Second by Higgins. After much discussion, the motion carried. The West will apply to Colleen Chapin to be given a seed in the 2004 event.

2. The Board directs the Western Competition Committee to set up a Western Division III competition.

3. The West agreed to provide a grant to the St. Louis Women to play the challenge match in Los Angeles against UCLA. No amount was specified.

4. The Denver Harlequins were some sort of problem at the recent USA Rugby competition. Several questions were raised as to what, if anything, USA Rugby would decide to do to the club. What will the West do to the club? Should the club be allowed to advance to the USA event in 2004?

5. Proposal for Change - See Tab 5

A. Communication Enhancement. The Board approved the following: By January 1, 2004, each Western LAU will have available an accurate email distribution list for EVERY club within their geography. The list must contain at least three contacts for each club. For college clubs, one of the three contacts must be the person on the staff who manages the rugby club(s). For high schools, one of the persons must be the athletic director or principal unless the rugby program is not recognized by the school. This email list must be made available in electronic form to the Western Rugby Union. The owning LAU has the right to deny the west usage of the list with cause. The West will utilize the list at least on a monthly basis to inform clubs of business, schedules, meetings, events, results, etc. Failure to create such a list is a finable offence.

B. The Board approved the following: By 1 October 2003, each Western LAU will create a league structure for any competitive program that has at least four member clubs participating. The format of the league schedule should be very similar to those used by the West. LAUs are required to track league match results and update league results on a weekly basis. Failure to create such a program is a finable offence.

C. The Board approved the following with motion by Kanat and second by Nelson: By 1 January 2004, each Western LAU is required to create an email list of all major media outlets within their geography. This includes newspapers, radio, and TV stations, college and high school newspapers, and other media as appropriate. The LAUs are expected to utilize the list for appropriate promotional purposes. Failure to create and utilize such a list is a finable offence.

D. The Board approved of the following after motion by Kanat and second from Sharpley: In order to implement the Western program that requires every club playing rugby in the West to have at least one certified coach, each LAU is required by 1 October 2003 to create a list of their participating clubs and the names and certification level of the coaches who are ACTIVELY coaching the club. Old Boy clubs are exempted from this requirement. For U-19 and under clubs, the coach must be present at every training session and match scheduled by the club. The list of certified coaches must be submitted to the Western office by 15 October 2003.

Failure to provide such information is a finable offence to the LAU and will lead to the dismissal from Western competitive programs of clubs that fail to comply with the requirement to have an active certified coach.

E. The following was approved by the Board: the manager of each Western All Star squad is required to create an email distribution list of the clubs that are likely to provide players to their

squads. The intent is to make the distribution of squad information, schedules, camps., selection, etc. as broad as possible. These lists are to be in place by 1 January 2004. Failure to create such a list is cause for dismissal from the position.

6. The proposal for the revised Men's Collegiate All Star program was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 A. M. by approved motion from Torkelson and second by Kanat

Respectfully submitted
W.T. Haffner
6 January 2004