

WESTERN RUGBY UNION
Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 9, 2007
Holiday Inn-Downtown
San Diego, California

Welcome: Bill Sexton, President of the WRFU, welcomed all attendees to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests: Secretary Rich Cortez conducted the roll call.

Attendees: Bill Sexton (President and Representative), Paul Mabry (former Director), Paul Hoskins (Vice-President), David McPhail (Treasurer), Rich Cortez (Secretary), Matt Poteraj (President, Eastern Rockies), Gene Nelson (President, Great Plains), Kurt Torkelson (President, Heart of America), Dan Ward (President, Missouri), Holly Iker (Secretary, Ozark), Greg Smith (President, Rio Grande), David Jenkins (President, Texas), Tom Coburn (Chair, West Referees), John McBride (West Competitions Committee, interim Representative), John Wolf (Manager, West Senior All-Stars), Bill Haffner (West Administrator), Mark Bullock (Coach, West Senior Women's All-Stars), Alan Sharpley (interim Representative and Chair, USA Competitions Committee).

Guests: Curtis Cochran (Vice President, Great Plains), Anil Kamat (Vice President, Rio Grande). The following guests made brief presentations during the meeting; Nigel Melville (CEO, USA Rugby, Bob Latham (former Director and Vice Chair, USA Rugby), and Pete Steinberg (USA Rugby Development Officer).

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Minutes: The Minutes of the July 29, 2006 Denver Meeting were approved by voice vote upon motion by Sexton and second by McPhail.

Year-End Financial Reports: The 2006 year-end financial report was presented in detail by David McPhail. On voice vote, the report was accepted upon motion by Torkelson and second by Cortez.

Matters from Denver Meeting:

- a. The "Dan Hartwig Award", which has never been presented, will now be presented to an individual for his performance at the Men's Division I Championship, rather than a team award as was suggested at the Denver meeting. Dan Ward will follow through on selection and presentation of the award under a special projects expense line item for spring 2007.
- b. The Colorado Youth Rugby update was moved to an afternoon time slot for discussion.

- c. ERRFU Mountain Teams' West Dues: As previously determined, the ER West Teams are to enroll their players in CIPP. Each full team will receive a refund of the West dues less \$100. The ER has been asked to provide the West Treasurer with the current club contacts and mailing addresses.
- d. West Bids on USA Events: The Boulder Rugby AC declined to bid on USA events for 2007. The Board agreed that more bids from the West should be made to USA for national events. No consensus was reached on how to achieve this.
- e. Western Referee Association Job Descriptions: Tom Coburn informed the board the WRFURA is working on the documents.
- f. Western Referee Association Treasurer Report: Rich Cortez assisted Joe Zevin, WRFURA Treasurer, by re-formatting his data into a more acceptable form. David McPhail found the format, organization and the level of detail unacceptable.
- g. Other Old Business: Bill Sexton led a discussion on how to best improve women's rugby in the West. He suggested the possible appointment of a committee to examine issues of numbers and performance. Women's collegiate and division 1 women's leagues could be formed with division 2 competition as a possibility.

Reports:

- a. State of the West: Bill Sexton focused on the management of West business and activities issues versus taking stronger leadership positions. He emphasized the West must necessarily balance time and responsibilities in both management and leadership, while maintaining accountability. He indicated that with the acceptance of responsibility, the West Board must be more accountable to its members and more responsible in adhering to its standards. Sexton also noted that it is critical to assess the performance of the West to determine the effectiveness of the organization. He reminded everyone that this was a volunteer Board and to realize that everyone had jobs, families and other duties and that it is important to balance their time relative to the jobs that they accept. He informed the Board that USA Rugby was performing a Competitions Audit and an Administrative Audit that should be ready by mid-August 2007. It was agreed to identify specific Focus Items and to review them periodically to determine how the West is performing against expectations.
- b. State of USA Rugby: USA Rugby is now governed by a nine-member board of directors, including six that were previous unaffiliated with USA Rugby. The Board included two international athletes: Jen Joyce and Dave Hodges. Bob Latham, former director of the West was elected the Representative from the USA Rugby Congress. Latham elected representative from Congress. As part of USA Rugby's improvements, it will introduce a new registration and competition management tracking system via the internet. Dues collection may be restructured with a one payment ability for USA/TU/LAU dues.

c. All-Star Team Reports:

1. Senior Men: John Wolf presented plans and budgets and asked for an increase to allocations to accommodate a development team program. He also mentioned problems with recruiting participants and suggested there may be Super League resistance to the All Star program. Senior Men's Squad Players at ITT's: A list was presented and included in the meeting notebook.
2. Senior Women: Mark Bullock presented complete plans and budgets.
3. Collegiate Men: Rich Cortez reviewed the results and budgets for Craig Coates for the West Men's Collegiate All Star Program.
4. U23 Women's Squad: Angie Cranmore, not in attendance, provided a written report.
5. Women's 7's Squad: Michelle Persica, also unable to attend, provided a written report.
6. Men's 7's Squad: David McPhail reviewed the Men's 7's program and results.

Competition Analysis/Remarks:

Bill Haffner reviewed the West/USA calendar, West seeds in USA events, & West results in West and National events.

LAU Compliance, or lack thereof, with West competition directives was once again reviewed. The Board agreed a **focus item was needed for reviewing and enforcing LAU responsibilities of score reporting and associated referee's responsibilities.** Haffner also provided a list of coaches for West and LAU/Regional Squads and suggested a poll of women's D2 teams regarding a proposed league. Coaching appointments, equipment inventory, and hosting responsibilities will be reviewed by email. Any revision of competition and league regulations will be subject to a vote.

Men's Collegiate All-Stars tournament format: The previously approved revised format for the Men's Collegiate All Star Competition was **reviewed**. Four regional teams are set to compete in Fort Worth in April 28-29, 2007: West 1, West 2, Central, & Texas.

Report on USA Competition Committee: Alan Sharpley gave a brief report on seeding for next year's USA Championship events.

Grant Program: Rich Cortez informed the board of grants provided by the West to its members and reminded Board members to inform their constituents of the availability of grants and deadlines for applications.

Disciplinary Report: Paul Hoskins provided information on pending disciplinary matters including a red card for a University of New Mexico player that included suspension, fine, and probation for his club. A discussion regarding appropriate disciplinary action for the Kansas City Jazz for “throwing a championship match” was conducted. The matter was referred to the disciplinary committee.

Fines Report: Bill Haffner provided the open fines report, included in Tab J of the meeting notebook.

Membership Analysis: Bill Haffner provided a membership update, included in Tab K of the meeting notebook.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections:

- a. **President:** Bill Sexton was nominated by Sharpley with a second by Jenkins. With no other nominations, Sexton was elected by acclimation.
- b. **Vice President:** Paul Hoskins was nominated by Gene Nelson, seconded by Greg Smith. Hoskins was elected by acclimation.
- c. **Treasurer:** David McPhail was nominated by Paul Hoskins and seconded by Alan Sharpley. McPhail was elected by acclimation, with note that McPhail abstained.
- d. **Secretary:** Two nominations were offered - Rich Cortez, nominated by Kurt Torkelson, second by Greg Smith. Dan Ward was nominated by Paul Hoskins with a second by Greg Smith. Dan Ward was elected.
- e. **Representative to the USA Rugby Congress for a two-year term:** Alan Sharpley was nominated by John McBride, second by Gene Nelson. Amy Rusert was nominated by Greg Smith and seconded by Matt Poteraj. Nominations were closed with extensive discussion. Sharpley was elected.
- f. **Representative to the USA Rugby Congress for a one-year term:** Amy Rusert was nominated by Gene Nelson with Matt Poteraj second. David McPhail was nominated by with Kurt Torkelson with Paul Hoskins second. John McBride was nominated by Greg Smith with Dan Ward second. David McPhail then declined his nomination. John McBride was elected.

USA Rugby Report - Nigel Melville and Bob Latham: Nigel Melville was introduced to the Board of Directors by Bob Latham. A short presentation by Nigel included an overview of USA Rugby staff direction and focus, youth and elite development programs, and elite coaching development camps. A question and answer period followed. Sexton presented, on behalf of the Western Rugby Union, an award of appreciation for service to Bob Latham.

Referee's Report: Tom Coburn presented the WRFURA report. He noted that several college teams (e.g., OU, OSU, KU, UNL, UNM) have overdue invoices for referee fees associated with Division I collegiate competition. He also noted a request from the Central scheduler to get the collegiate teams to play on opposite weekends of men's matches due to the paucity of referees in that region. A minor amendment in Article 4 Membership, Rules and Procedures of WRFURA was made to be consistent with current practice. A directory of West Referees is included in Tab M of the notebook.

Pete Steinberg: Steinberg, USA Rugby Development Officer reviewed USA Rugby's plans for youth rugby development, including physical education curricula in high schools, inner city programs, best practices outlines, etc. Interested members may email Pete for a copy of the strategic plan at psteinberg@usarugby.org. Pete and Bill Haffner reported on the USA Rugby Conference on Youth and High School Rugby recently held in Nashville, TN.

WRFU By-Law Amendments: Upon motion by Greg Smith and Dan Ward, the wording in the West Bylaws was changed so the Directors to USA Rugby who formerly comprised the Board, are now Representatives who make-up the new USA Rugby Congress. The motion passed.

Proposal to Appoint Western Technical Director: The Board approved, by voice vote, a motion made by Bill Sexton, seconded by Greg Smith, to provide a \$1,000.00 stipend with per diem and a per player incentive payment (for growth in numbers), subject to Board approval, for a West Technical Director. The motion passed. The Vice-President of the West will be in charge of supervising the new director.

Review of Current Status of High School, Women's Club and College Programs: Each LAU President was asked to forward all information to Bill Haffner.

Status of Kansas Jayhawks and the Kansas University Men and Women: Kurt Torkelson reported KU is under new management. Alun Morrall is the new CEO. Information may be found on their website which can be located through the Heart of America website at www.hoarfu.com/.

Proposal for recognition of SBRO's by the West (Tab Q for requirements): Bill Haffner provided a proposal for recognition of State Based Rugby Organizations (SBRO's). A motion to approve, without paragraph 5, was offered by Bill Sexton. No second was forthcoming, at which time, Sexton suggested the proposal be turned over to a **focus group for study**. Alan Sharpley seconded the idea. Sexton offered a new motion to accept the proposal in principle and send it to the focus group/task force. McPhail seconded. The motion was approved.

Proposal for support of Youth and High School Clubs: Bill Haffner brought forth a proposal to assist youth and high school programs. Discussion centered on providing practice/game balls, coaching grants, DVD's, & website assistance. The board suggested working with the USA Rugby Football Foundation and LAU's for grants assistance. West grants must be limited due to budgetary constraints. On motion by David McPhail and second by Ward, the Board approved limiting the grants to a total of \$3,000.00 and suggested enforcement of equity considerations.

Proposed By Law Amendments to eliminate membership of the OZ and GP RFU's in the West RFU: David Jenkins offered this proposal due to these LAU's lack of compliance with competition requirements. Extensive discussion ensued. The board was reminded a 2/3 vote of approval by the board is required to change the by-laws. On a straw vote, the amendments failed to gain approval. **A focus group will be created to provide guidance to the Ozark and Great Plains unions to improve LAU administrative performance.** Ozark and Great Plains LAU's are to address their roles and responsibilities during the summer meeting in St. Louis after getting feedback from their member clubs.

Proposed Budget Proposal for 2007: The 2007 budget was approved on voice vote, on motion by Sexton, second by Jenkins, with the addition of \$3,000.00 of youth development money.

Awards of appreciation were given to Paul Mabry and David Jenkins for their service to the West.

Next meeting: The summer West Board meeting is set for July 28, 2007 in St. Louis, MO.

On Motion by Smith, second by Nelson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.