

# **Western Rugby Union**

## **Minutes of the General Meeting**

**Marriott Airport Hotel  
Kansas City, MO  
26-27 January 2002**

President Sexton called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM on Saturday, 26 January 2002. Roll Call was taken with the following present.

### **Attendees**

Bill Sexton (President); Paul Mabry (USA Rugby Director); Bob Latham (USA Rugby Director); Jared Hollinger (GP); Rich Cortez (West Collegiate Coach); Julie McCoy (West Women's Coach); Marsha Birkby (MO); Steve Glentzer (Referee Assignments); Greg Smith (RG); David McPhail (Treasurer); Dave Jenkins (TX); Wendy Cook (Vice President and ER); Bill Haffner (Administration); Kurt Torkelson (HOA) arrived at 12:30 PM; and Rich Hartke (Youth/High School). Mr. Torkelson carried a proxy from Mac MacLaughlin of OZ.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 3 November 2001 in Norman, OK were reviewed as distributed and approved. Attachment B

### **Agenda for this Meeting**

The agenda was briefly reviewed and entered as Attachment A. An item for an U-15 allocation was added to New Business, while New Business item #6 - related to Discipline- was moved to Old Business.

### **Financial Reports – David McPhail**

The reports were entered as Attachment C. The proposed 2002 Budget was entered as Attachment D. Expense Forms and Codes were entered as Attachment E. General discussion ensued, with question about the proposed budget put off until the Squad Reports were received. Mr. McPhail reported there was a continuing difficulty of expenses, particularly for Western teams, being submitted late.

It was announced that the so-called "Torkelson Fund" monies must be used in 2002, after which any remaining funds would be placed in the West's general operating fund. Budget requests for 2003 should be received by the treasurer prior to the August meeting.

## **Dues Collection and Analysis – Bill Haffner**

These reports were received as Attachment F. There is an on going problem with LAUs failing to monitor their membership listings in a timely manner. LAUs also are not editing the CIPP membership lists as produced by USA Rugby. It was noted that the current CIPP process does not take into account the situation in which a player is registered with two different clubs.

## **Old Business**

1. Discipline Sanctions for Event Related Situations – Cook. Received as Attachment G. Approved. Wendy Cook will collect, report on the status of, and track all fines related to discipline issues.
2. The Dues Arrears lists that are part of Attachment F were presented by Mr. Haffner and reviewed. It was noted that a college club from Missouri was the only club still in arrears from 1999 and 2000 with an amount outstanding of \$105. Ms. Birkby reported that the Missouri Union refuses to pay these arrears. The rugby team responsible, from UM-Rolla, also refused to pay the arrears. A break in the meeting was called. The Western Executive Committee decided the following: “ The arrears must be paid in full by 15 February or all collegiate clubs within the Missouri RFU will be ineligible to advance to Western collegiate playoffs.”
3. The next meeting of the Western Board will be held in Denver, CO on the weekend of 3 and 4 August.

## **Reports**

1. President’s Report – Bill Sexton. The West is very well represented at the USA Rugby level. He thanked Dave Jenkins and Paul Mabry for their excellent work in hosting the test match in Houston on 1 December. The web site will continue to be improved with additional up time and increases in documentation on Western procedures.
2. USA Rugby Report – Bob Latham. Echoed the praise for the Houston venue. Bob briefly reviewed the new regional leagues for Division I Men’s Clubs and complimented the work done by Alan Sharpley. Continuing problems with the National Office and the resignation of Mark Rudolph were discussed in confidence.
3. USA Rugby Report – Paul Mabry. Commented on the test match in Houston, the National Office, Board of Director issues, the increases in CIPP registration and the various open positions in USA Rugby particularly the coaches of various teams. There were several question raised and addressed concerning the U-19 squad, the cycle and process of USA appointments, and the status of efforts at re-organization.
4. Western Competition – Bill Haffner. Received as Attachment J.
5. Western Referee Appointments – Steve Glentzer. Received as Attachment K. Mr. Glentzer commented on the continuing problem of making Western appointments while waiting for USA Rugby to make their schedules known.
6. Western High School and Youth Development – Rich Hartke. Expressed concern that the LAUs were not working with or did not even know their YDOs from USA Rugby. Briefly described the materials available through the YDOs. Proposed faxing a letter to about 1500

school districts to ascertain their interest in receiving introductory materials on starting rugby programs. Thought the cost of the fax effort would about \$700 to \$800. No action was taken. It was mentioned that the US Rugby Foundation has a program to provide Size Four Rugby balls for non-contact programs. Approximately 200 balls are available.

### **Western All Star Squad Reports**

1. **Senior Men's Squad** – John Wolf. No written report was presented. The camp in Norman was poorly attended, but the camps in Denver and St. Louis were well attended. In St. Louis, the squad split matches against the Midwest. For the ITTs in Tampa, we selected 27 players but only brought 21 to the event which we won over the Midwest by a penalty goal. The West has two players – Tarpoff and Whifley playing professionally in Europe. The squad needs more depth and would like a budget for a developmental squad, which would have a separate manager and coach.
2. **Women's Squad** – Julie McCoy. Received as Attachment L. The Senior squad assembled for a camp in Kansas City and split two matches with the Midwest. At the ITTs the team took 7<sup>th</sup> place. The senior squad needs more time together and has proposed to assemble in regional camps in the fall, and participation in the Pumpkin Fest in October in Philadelphia. Karl Barth of ER will coach the Women's U-23 squad. That squad did well in the initial ITTs taking second place. The women's sevens squad took a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the ITTs, but the coach, Tracy Moens, has stepped down. Julie will take over the coaching of this team in the interim. Dr. McCoy asked for additional funding for the various women's squads, referenced the web site that they have established ([www.westselect.org](http://www.westselect.org)), the selling of merchandise on the web site, and the desire to take the squad on a tour to England. McCoy noted there were no Western players on the short list announced for the USA Rugby Women's RWC squad.
3. **Men's Collegiate Squad** – Rich Cortez. Report received as Attachment M. The squad needs additional funding to remain successful.
4. **Men's All Star Sevens** – Dave McPhail. Report received as Attachment N. The undermanned team won the national championship. Congratulations were offered.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM for dinner. The meeting re-opened at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday 27 January 2002. All previous attendees were present except for Mabry. Jenkins held the Mabry proxy.

### **New Business**

1. **Operations Officer** – a general discussion of Bill Haffner assuming additional duties occurred with a favorable outcome. Mr. Latham agreed to create a job description for the position for the next meeting.  
A motion was made and seconded to add to the duties of the "Operations Officer" such duties as recording minutes, archiving history, etc. as defined by the job description. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Secretary – Two men were nominated – Dave Jenkins and Jared Hollinger. After discussion and vote Mr. Jenkins was elected.
3. Appointment to USA Rugby Youth/High School Committee – Mr. Sexton mentioned that he had been asked to appoint a person or persons to this committee. No action was taken at this time.
4. Sanctions for LAUs for Failure to Monitor Eligibility Matters – general discussion. No action taken. General agreement that LAUs need to do a much better job on ensuring all eligibility issues are addressed.
5. Western Event Venue Selection – general discussion. No action taken. The web site contains current venue selection policies and procedures. Parties interested in hosting a Western event or events are asked to send an email to the office expressing their interest and ability to meet the specified requirements for hosting. The Western Executive Committee will make event placement decisions.
6. Player Transfers – general discussion of the issue. It was moved and approved that the West will not assess additional dues to players who transfer into the West or from club to club within the West. This assumes that such players have already paid TU dues to the West or another TU.
7. Dues for “Old Boys” – Upon motion by Birkby and second by Hollinger, it was agreed the West will not collect Western dues from “Old Boys” who play occasionally or not at all. This membership category is consistent with that of “Affiliated Members” as defined by USA Rugby.
8. West Men’s U-19 Squad – general discussion of whether the West should field such a team. Five of the seven Western LAUs have such teams – TX, OZ, GP, HOA, and ER. No decision was reached, but a sample budget for such a squad was needed for further discussions.
9. Concern Regarding Carrying of more than Two Proxies – Mac MacLaughlin – via his proxy holder Kurt Torkelson – raised his concern regarding the situation whereby a single Board member may be assigned to carry more than two proxy votes in addition to their own vote. As this is a by law issue and MacLaughlin was not present to discuss further, discussion was terminated. Members were reminded that by law changes must be submitted 30 days in advance of any Western meeting.
10. Regional Collegiate Leagues - Haffner raised this issue again. It was requested that the background, concerns, and rationale for establishing these leagues be presented prior to the August Board meeting.

### **Presentation by Anne Barry – President of USA Rugby**

Ms. Barry presented a very wide range of topics in a general review of the state of USA Rugby. Topics addressed were: the loss of the ED and the replacement plan and schedule; the appointment of Pat Costello to continue work on the Roles and Responsibilities of the TUs and LAUs; the selection process for finding new national team coaches and the role of Jack Clark in that process for the Men’s National teams; the appointment of Jamie Jordan as the Program Manager of the Women’s Senior Squad; the work of the Sharpley committee on restructuring the Men’s Division I regional competition; problems with USA Rugby championship series event

management and the possible retention of professional services to run all USA rugby championship events; the Conference on the Game schedule for August 2002, the possibility of a national league for women's clubs, and the continuation of the XV ITTs but not in Tampa, and the assumption of the payment of referee fees for national events by USA Rugby.

Ms. Barry presented Dave Jenkins and the Texas RFU with an award for their outstanding efforts with the Springboks test match. A similar award was given to Paul Mabry for his efforts on the match.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Bill Haffner submits these minutes from his notes as well as those of Wendy Cook and Bill Sexton.

25 July 2002