

Carolinas Geographic Rugby Union  
Monthly Board of Directors Conference Call  
Wednesday January 16th, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attending: T. Hardy, D. Morris, A. Cox, A. George, K. Ting, E. Perkins, P. Dennehy, Turtle  
Apologies: R. Bortins



Welcome

(Hardy) Thanks for being on the call. Let's get to business.

## Ongoing Business

Board Insurance

1. (Hardy) Rob has looked into a couple of carriers for board insurance. Both cost around \$600/year for coverage. Should be finalizing soon.

Coaching Development

1. (Hardy) Crusaders International High Performance Unit camps went very well. Great feedback from attendees. Turnout from coaches was excellent. At least 25 coaches in attendance over the two nights. Player participation was good. Around 15 men's players that were "no shows". Strong turnout from women's players. Players and coaches came from as far away as Savannah for the camps.

Select Side Programs

Men

1. (Morris) Camp turnout has been strong. One more camp this weekend before LVI selections. Weather isn't looking good for this weekend.

Women

1. (George) Last camp this weekend in Columbia. Working on getting more players involved. Some players have not participated due to past select side experiences. Some confusion over whether Charlotte players can participate. Need to reinforce to players that the camps are for player development.

2. (Hardy) Charlotte women are still members of the CGRU even though they do not play in a CGRU competition. They are eligible to play for the selects and participate in camps.
3. (Ting) Weather not looking great for the weekend. Will look into whether the fields in Columbia are available next weekend.
4. (George) Women have jerseys, but need some more kit. T. Hardy to send over contact info for WRS rep.

#### Premiership Scholarship

1. (Hardy) Scholarship winners should be announced by the end of the month. Winners have been contacted already, but are not allowed to share until the official announcement is made.

#### World Rugby Shop Proposal

1. (Hardy) Proposal was sent over with itinerary. Thoughts?
2. (Perkins) Think we can do better. Seems as if we're giving away more than we should with first rights of refusal and exclusive advertising.
3. (Group) General discussion on the various points in the proposal. The start up kits for new clubs is a good idea, but the number of new clubs joining the CGRU in any year is low. So, not much actual return there. Online store has potential if clubs purchase their equipment and such through the CGRU link. CGRU merchandise not expected to provide much of a return. The annual ball package is a solid offering. Training balls can be used for the development camps.
4. (Morris) Should be contacting all big suppliers... Canterbury, BLK, etc.
5. (Hardy) Union is relatively small. To approach one of those suppliers we'd likely have to guarantee that all clubs purchase from them. All of our clubs have their own preferences and relationships. The WRS proposal allows clubs to continue to have their choice of suppliers.
6. (Perkins) Going to follow up with WRS to discuss further. Perhaps get the start up kit for every club, not just new ones.

#### Financial Review

1. (Turtle) Not much to add. Accounts have been moved. We now have a debit card to use instead of just cutting checks for everything. Need to get USAR direct deposit moved over to new account.

2. (Hardy) USAR restructure left a new person in charge of Club Rugby, James Wilber. Got to meet him at the NDS. I will follow up to start the process of moving our deposits from USAR to the new account.
3. (Hardy) Want to continue to send representatives from the CGRU to events. Need to look into a rewards based credit card.
4. (Turtle) Will look at other options. Looked at the one at our bank and not impressed by it.
5. (Perkins) check out "The Points Guy". Website that provides information on rewards cards.
6. (Hardy) We need to look at placing money into a CD. Set aside our annual working budget, plus a little extra and then put the rest into a CD to get a return on.
7. (Turtle) We should wait until we have all of our funds in one place. Ted to follow up with USAR to get direct deposit accounts switched.

## **Competitions Review**

### Collegiate Women

1. (George) Things not looking good right now. Teams not taking it seriously. Need to work with the clubs to make improvements.

### Men's D2

1. (Perkins) Nothing to report.

### Men's D3

1. (Dennehy) Nothing to report.

### Men's D4

1. (Hardy) Only one match unplayed from the 1st half of the season. Gaston County looking to join D4 next season.

### Women's D2

1. (Ting) Lots of good conversations taking place about the structure for the women's competition. Rumbblings of Women's D1 in the South. Waiting for clubs to commit. Then will make proposal to create a South Women's D1 competition. Need 4-5 clubs.
2. (Hardy) South Women's D1 will ultimately have to go through the South CR. I have sent and email to Martin Gardner about

### Club 7s

1. (Morris) South 7s Qualifiers. One in Florida, one in the Carolinas. The date for the Carolinas qualifier is July 20th. Teams also have to play in two "roster" tournaments to qualify. Cape Fear wants to be one of those tournaments.
2. (Hardy) We need to open up the bid process. I will work on getting a form built so that we can get it out in the next week or so.
3. (Morris) Does the CGRU pay for anything on the qualifiers?
4. (Hardy) No. Whomever hosts the tournament is responsible for running the event and covering all of the expenses involved. In the future, we could potentially look at hosting the qualifier as a CGRU event which would require us to completely run and fund the event.

### **Director of Rugby Operations**

1. (Morris) Great feedback from the development camps. They have been well attended. Have received some questions from players about the playing season. Asking why we don't play more matrix matches in the fall window. Playing in January/February tough on some clubs.
2. (Dennehy) Many unions in the north play the majority of their season in the fall.
3. (Hardy) We have some clubs that have a tough time playing in the fall due to field availability. The clubs based in college football towns in particular. Talk to the clubs and see what they think. Schedule can be massaged to adjust without much effort.
4. (Morris) James Walker from Atlanta MLR wants to get on a future conference call to discuss ways for them to get involved in the Carolinas. They plan to run combines in the Carolinas. Want the CGRU to be involved.
5. (Hardy) How about we arrange a meeting specifically for them? That way we can commit time to the discussion instead of wedging it into one of our conference calls. Meeting in person would be even better. Let's look at some dates. Avoid the LVI and Savannah weekends.
6. (Morris) New tournament director at Cape Fear 7s. Wants to get the CGRU more involved at the tournament. We need to have a booth/tent out there to promote our union and meet clubs/players.
7. (George) Cape Fear needs to work on more medical staff at the tournament site.
8. (Morris) They're looking for teams to bring post pads so that all of the fields have proper pads.
9. (Hardy) Suggest that they offer a discount to clubs that bring post pads. Even if it is just \$50.

### **Referees**

1. (Cox) SERRS AGM was last weekend. Four new referees have joined the society. All with prior experience. Some good educational sessions at the AGM. Presentations included the scrum, playing advantage, and managing the releasing ball carrier and tackler. Nigel Platt from SERRS won the Male Community Referee of the Year at the NDS.

### **Admin/Coaching/Player Development**

1. (Hardy) Crusaders camp went extremely well. More of it needed. NDS went well. Excellent networking opportunity. Had the chance to speak with multiple GU leaders. GU meeting on Sunday a starting place for what is going to be a long look at how GUs are structured. USAR looking at bringing GU and SRO Presidents to Denver in July. NDS is a great experience. We need to continue to send 2-3 board members per year and encourage sending club representatives and coaches. I spoke with a GU that helps fund scholarships to go to the NDS. They have an essay contest and pick a handful. They cover the NDS registration and hotel rooms. We should look at it for next year.
2. (George) Lots of great information at the NDS. We should look at a development camp in August for collegiate women.
3. (Turtle) We should be encouraging clubs to budget to send coaches and admins to the NDS.
4. (Hardy) Something on a smaller scale of the NDS would be great for the Carolinas. No one enjoys the AGM. Our members approved online voting for the board last year. Why not scrap our traditional AGM for a CGRU Conference/Summit? Give our members something that will help them instead of 4-5 hours of an AGM that no one wants to be at.
5. (Cox) I have experience organizing these types of events. Can work on putting something together for August.
6. (Dennehy) Mentioned in a previous email about providing value to our members. This would be something of value. We need to work on the overall mission for the CGRU.
7. (Hardy) Agreed. We need to get all of us in one location sometime after the season to discuss in detail. Need to set a course for our union. Ideally I'd like to present a 3-5 year plan for the CGRU at the August AGM/Conference/Summit.

### **New Business**

#### **D1 Women Standings on CGRU website**

1. (Hardy) Charlotte requested that we add the Women's D1 schedule/standings to the CGRU website. We had held off putting them on there since it wasn't a CGRU specific competition. I checked with other GU's and some have them posted to their sites. Ok if we add it?

2. (Group) All in favor. They will be added to the website this week.

#### Grant for Eno River player to take an Injury Resilience Education Course

1. (Group) General discussion on the need for the course and whether clubs outside of Eno River will benefit.
2. (Hardy) We could have her present the information at the CGRU Conference/Summit.
3. (Group) Would like to see a full breakdown of the course, who is delivering the course, etc. T. Hardy to contact Eno and get the details.

#### R. McLean request for L300 coaching course grant

1. (Hardy) Each member club of the CGRU gets one L200/300 coaching course reimbursement per year. Unfortunately Savannah is not a member of the CGRU. They are a GRU member. They tried to become a member this past year, but as we understand it they did not get approved by the South CR Committee.
2. (Group) General discussion on whether to approve or not. Approve half of it and have them contact the GRU for the other half.
3. (Turtle) Want to make sure that we don't open the door for similar requests from other clubs that aren't members of the CGRU.
4. (Morris) See if she's willing to help with the Women's Development Program and Selects.

#### ARPTC sponsorship packet

1. (Christina Swift) Special guest on the conference call to discuss the American Rugby Pro Training Center Player Sponsorship Program. They're looking for people to sponsor players that can't afford their residency program.
2. (Hardy) Any players from the Carolinas that have applied for the sponsorship? What the sponsorship covers for the players is in the packet, but not what we get for being a sponsor? Promotion, advertising, etc.
3. (Swift) We're still working out that part.
4. (Cox) There is a coaching immersion offered by the ARPTC. Something that we should look into. Something that we could build into the sponsorship.
5. (Hardy) Christina to put together further details on the program, what the sponsors receive, and the coaching immersion program. Follow up before our next conference call.

#### Other new business?

1. None

Meeting adjourned