

Carolinas Geographic Union

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, September 11th 2016
204 North restaurant, Charlotte, NC

Welcome, Bob Davis, President

Current CGU Officers

President – Bob Davis

Vice President – Bill Bell

Treasurer – Mike Myers

Secretary – Lou Andre

Executive Director – Referees – John Meyers (SERRS) (absent)

USA Rugby Union Congress Members: The Union no longer has its own Congress representative.

The South is currently represented by Martin Gardener (Florida) and Gerry Gallion (True South)

Non-Officer Board Positions

Men's Group Executive Director – vacant

Women's Group Executive Director – Simone Bontly

Collegiate Executive Director - vacant

Non-Board Positions

Competition Committee Chair – Simone Bontly

Men's D2 – vacant

Women's D2 - Simone Bontly

Men's D3 –Aaron Bontly, Jim Wiseman (absent), vacant (one for each conference)

Collegiate Women's – vacant

Men's D4 – Ted Hardy

Roll call of Clubs, Lou Andre, Secretary

Present

| Club | Division | Representative | Title |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Asheville | Men Division III | Tyler Vanston | President |
| Bragg Rugby | Men Division III | Shawn Blaydes | President |
| Bragg Women | Women Division II | Lee Kelley | Secretary |
| Camp Lejuene | Men Division III | Alex Ewald | President |
| Chapel Hill Warriors | Men Division III | Trevor Catterson | VP |
| Charleston Hurricanes | Women Division II | Megan Goettsches | President |
| Charleston Outlaws | Men Division III | Bill Bell | President |
| Charlotte | Men Division II | Rian Geldenhuys | President |
| Charlotte Barbarians | Men Division III | Scott Adams | Board Member |
| Citadel | Womens Collegiate DIII | Alexandra Goldhorn | Captain |
| Clayton Bootleggers | Men Division III | Ted Hardy | President |
| Columbia Bombshells | Women Division II | Amanda Dinkins | President |
| Columbia Old Grey | Men Division III | Aaron Bontly | President |
| Eno River | Women Division II | Lauren Sheridan | President |
| Gaston County | Men Division IV | Allen LeCroy | President |
| Greenville Griffins | Men Division III | Michael Honeycutt | Match Secretary |
| Southern Pines | Men Division III | Kevin Phillipson | President |
| Triad | Men Division III | David Morris | Match Secretary / VP |

Proxy

| Club | Division | Proxy |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Asheville | Women Division II | Asheville Men |
| Cherry Point | Men Division IV | Camp Lejeune |
| Charleston Blockade | Men Division IV | Charleston Hurricanes |
| College of Charleston | Womens Collegiate DII | Charleston Outlaws |
| Charlotte | Women Division II | Charlotte Men |
| UNC Charlotte | Womens Collegiate DII | Clayton Bootleggers |
| Univ of South Carolina | Womens Collegiate DII | Columbia Bombshells |

Absent

| Club | Division |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Appalachian State Univ | Womens Collegiate DII |
| Augusta | Women Division II |
| Cape Fear | Men Division III |
| Charlotte Royals | Men Division IV |
| Clinch River | Men Division III |
| Coastal Carolina | Womens Collegiate DIII |
| Duke Grads | Men Division IV |
| Elon Women | Womens Collegiate DIII |
| Guilford Women | Womens Collegiate DIII |
| Hilton Head Island | Men Division III |
| Johnson City | Men Division III |
| New Bern | Men Division IV |
| SERRS | n/a |
| UNC Greensboro | Womens Collegiate DIII |
| UNC Wilmington | Womens Collegiate DII |
| Wake Forest | Womens Collegiate DIII |
| Western Carolina | Womens Collegiate DIII |

25 clubs present – quorum obtained

Treasurers Report, Mike Myers, Treasurer Budget

| Carolinas Geographic Union Budget | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|
| DUES income \$17 per player @ 1300 players | | \$22,100.00 |
| General Administration | | |
| Officers | \$600.00 | |
| Meeting Space | \$700.00 | |
| Congress Member | \$2,000.00 | |
| Website | \$500.00 | |
| USAR Fee to collect dues | \$1,000.00 | |
| USAR credit card fee | \$980.00 | |
| | | \$5,780.00 |
| **GU Administrator | \$5,000.00 | |
| | | \$5,000.00 |
| GU Competitions | | |
| Cash for teams in USAR 16's | \$4,000.00 | |
| Event expenses | \$500.00 | |
| Event referees | \$650.00 | |
| | | \$5,150.00 |
| Programs | | |
| Mens Sevens | \$2,000.00 | |
| Womens Sevens | \$2,000.00 | |
| | | \$4,000.00 |
| Player Development Clinics | \$4,000.00 | |
| | | \$4,000.00 |
| Required Set Aside at 10% | \$2,300.00 | |
| | | \$2,300.00 |
| Total Expenses | | \$26,230.00 |
| Surplus / Defecit | | -\$4,130.00 |
| <p>Green are amounts that are required to do business Blue is for the administrator position that is to be filled by 11/1/2013 Red are amounts that we would like to use other programs</p> | | |

Bank Statement

| First Citizens Bank | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Central Bank Operations - DAC02 P.O. Box 27131 Raleigh, NC 27611-7131 | IM EST 342 |
| 10735 CAROLINAS GEOGRAPHIC RUGBY UNION | Your Account(s) At A Glance |
| | Checking Balance 55,118.01+ |
| Statement Period: August 1, 2016 Thru August 31, 2016 | Account Number: [REDACTED] |

Discussion on 2 grant requests (Bragg Men and Bombshells) about denials and reasons around the decision making.

Clayton used a grant to put on a players development camp – success, good for the Union.

Charleston Hurricanes– would like to see a list of uses for grant & decision making criteria published by Union

Charlotte Men – question on administrator budget line item. Florida budgets 5x Carolina’s budget. Is there a need for an administrator? Need more consensus from the Members on what we want the person to do and what we will budget. Request from CLT to ask more about how Florida operates.

Question from non-member attendant (Robert Peterlin) about NCYR on hiring & partnering with them.

Competitions Report, Simone Bontly, Competitions Committee Chair

First comments from Bob – addressing issues about current division structure & teams taking poundings from CLT. Clarification from Bill Bell about Atlanta teams being the primary issue – distance & their player pool size

Division II, Simone Bontly

Few comments – CLT, 3 ATL teams. 2017 competition w/ True South (Bob provided details to CLT).

Division III, Simone Bontly & Aaron Bontly

15 teams – need to talk about playoff structure (it was a big issue last year), to be discussed in new business.

Women, Simone Bontly

7 teams, hoping for 10 next year. Charleston & Savannah are dropped from competition this year to rebuild, expect to be back next year.

Q from Charlotte W – any discussion about starting a D3 for new / social levels for these teams? Place to host B side for larger clubs. Should be considered for next year. There is no W D3 anywhere else. SB – if we get 12 teams, then think about splitting. 10 is possible if everyone is on board. CLT agreed with 12 before discussing.

Q from a member about CMS – what punishments are there for teams who do not enter information timely? No rules around this yet.

Q from Charlotte about D2 – it will be discussed in New Business. Some comments about where the competition will happen.

Collegiate Women, Bob Davis

League season will remain in the spring so it is successful. This year D2 and D3. Megan has resigned, there is a nomination in the elections

Division IV, Ted Hardy

Mostly social, still need to work out some kinks. Discussion about making this the entry point for the Union. All new members would need to start here. Several B sides, a few other social clubs.

Gaston County – forfeit with Cherry Point. Encouragement to schedule another game, but there aren't the same issues since there aren't any playoff implications. Is there going to be a deadline? Depends on what they do in the fall this season.

Lejeune – not sure why CP and New Bern haven't merged into one club. They aren't getting numbers. NB trying to create a more stable club, but it resulted in two destabilized clubs.

Sevens, Bob Davis

M and W teams participate in the South Championships. CLT (A&B) for men, CLT W. Charlotte W advanced, but declined to go to Nationals because of \$.

Lou – National Championships – M – Atlanta Old White finished 11 and New Orleans finished 15 (South 1 and 2 seeds for next year). W – Orlando finished 11 and Phoenix finished 12 (South 1 and 2 seeds for next year).

Charlotte Men – starting their 7 program year round, including director to handle fundraising. Want more qualifiers. Want more planning on tournaments. Bob – need a competition director to be in place to handle this. Need facilities.

Bill Bell – should discuss 7s qualifier process in New Business. Wants playoffs and 7s issues addressed in new business.

[Union Website/Facebook page, Ted Hardy](#)

Looking for feedback / content for the page

[Disciplinary Committee, Bob Davis](#)

Only 2 red cards all season, both for referee abuse.

New Business

Division II structure 2017

Charlotte wants something formal from the Union regarding structure. There is an agreement in place with USAR that the Union needs to provide to Charlotte regarding plan for 2016 / 2017.

Union All Star Competition

Bob – issues with cost, selection, coaching, scheduling, etc.

Simone – good experience last year with women. This year it didn't happen because of lack of coaching/admin work.

Charlotte Women – their coach is interested in helping

Bragg – what is the proposed timeframe for play? Bob – can't be played in mid fall or late spring because of competition. Stop regular competition prior to Thanksgiving, play games prior to Christmas. After to consider winter 7s & 15s tournaments.

Gaston County – what are the benefits, and what is the endgame? Simone – national selection. Bragg – higher level coaching for some guys to bring back for the club. CLT – same reason they send guys to South Panthers. Higher level competition. Ted – without D1, there isn't a path for recognition for top level players to advance their game (& their club). Gaston – no return for a smaller club. Bragg – maybe isn't time to do All-Stars, but instead promote player development clinics. Charleston Outlaws – difficulty with competition. CLT – could do both. Why does Panthers survive? The players pay & want the advancement. CLT – no elite rugby in the union. Bob – good discussion, but need action. CLT – if we build it they will come. Simone – this could fall under club growth/ competition. It's happening in other areas, we should follow suit. Ted – might not need to be 100% funded by the union. Maybe pull from geographically centralized clubs to pull players. Need all participants to have skin in the game. Bill Bell – need 2 or 3 goals/objectives. Let's put a date for start of competition. Southern Pines – are we looking for more players or stronger players? Do we have a Strategy to develop an elite competition? Need unity from the members. It's important for player retention for the clubs / union. We don't want talented players to leave. Warriors – funding – World Rugby Shop connection who can help finance any elite activities. Charleston W – need both All-Stars and players camps, also need to have growth (need them in tandem). Lou – Savannah tournament. CLT – Ft. Lauderdale ruggerfest. Bill Bell – need some goals.

Motion 1

Southern Pines – motion to initiate a 4 region all star program (2NC 2SC) with a tournament at the end of December.

No second

Southern Pines – amended motion – 2 players camps this fall (men and women eligible at each camp) as a player selection process for a CGU All-star team. A player must attend 1 camp to be eligible.

Triad – seconded

Eno River – Friendly amendment – 1 camp must be in NC and 1 in SC, and the camps cannot be on the same date.

SP – accepted

Bragg – called question to vote

Union to initiate 2 player camps this fall as a player selection process for CGU All-star teams. One camp must be in NC and one in SC; each camp must be open to men and women; camps cannot be on the same date. A player must attend at least one camp to be eligible for selection to the CGU All-star team.

Passed Unanimously

Note from the Chairman - Player development camps are separate from All-Star

Growing the Game

Clayton – player camp was successful 60-70 players attended.

Bob – Coaching educator courses. We have several coach educators in the Union. Could possibly bring international/top level coaches out for a 2 day coaching camp. Preferably over the summer to not interfere with the regular schedule. Need to find out the cost to see if it is feasible.

Southern Pines – would like to host

Bill Bell – looking to host level 200 coaching clinic, need 6-8 coaches + players for a level 300 course.

Bob – CGU will pay for 1 person to get certified level 200 and 1 person to get certified level 300 at each club.

Bragg – application process. Bob – attend, get accreditation, apply. (e.g. no formal process)

Bob – player development - who wants to host – Southern Pines (no date), Columbia (no date), Charlotte (no date), Charleston (no date)

Bob – costs – how should these camps be funded? Minimum numbers to make it work?

Bob – board to appoint a rugby development director & fund the program.

Motion 2

Bragg – separate from the All Star camps, Union shall host and fund 4 player development camps annually in separate geographic locations to enhance player proficiency.

Charleston Hurricanes – second

Lejeune – 6 camps year wide. Should we want to combine any of these?

Lejeune – friendly amendment – make it 2 player development camps so that the union has only 4 camps total.

Accepted

Charleston Hurricanes – friendly amendment – each camp open to men and women & all union divisions

Accepted

Lejeune – call to question

Separate from All Star camps, Union shall host and fund 2 player development camps annually, each camp open to men and women from all union divisions, in separate geographic locations to enhance player proficiency.

Passed unanimously

New Clubs, (Full Member and Sevens Specific)

Bob – need contact info for new clubs. No requirement for clubs CIPing to join the union or send us any information. Raleigh 7s question – issues with 2016 and asking about 7s only registration. Bill Bell – per By Laws a probationary member does not become a full member unless a majority of members vote them in, so no worry about meeting / quorum issues.

Motion 3

Bragg – **The Union shall follow USAR regulations regarding Sevens club participation in Union competition.**

Southern Pines – seconded

Passed unanimously

Note from the Secretary – this means a club can CIPP into our Union to try and qualify for the South Championships through the Union.

2017 playoffs discussion & structure; promotion / relegation

Simone – 3 divisions, 2 weeks to complete playoffs, how do we choose the structure? CGU tournament weekend for all levels to have a championship. Southern Pines – 2 day tournament to determine championship, with week prior being bye for top 2 teams, rest of teams play for ranking. Charleston Outlaws – another structure (couldn't hear). Bob – need all weather fields because we can't have weather interfere. Bob/Ted – have top ranked D4 team fill out the bracket (will take some massaging).

Motion 4

Columbia Old Grey – Playoff structure comprised of a 6 team playoff over 2 weekends, culminating in a championship weekend (championship weekend a separate weekend). Bottom 4 playoff teams will play for seeding in the tournament, with the winners of these games advancing to a playoff tournament.

Asheville - seconded

Southern Pines – the 6 teams shall be comprised of the top 2 teams of each division.

Accepted

Southern Pines – point of discussion – should we limit this to only Men’s D3? At what point do we put in promotion / relegation? Playoff structure is tied in with pro/rel. Bob – should we get a 16 team competition to normalize the playoff structure?

Bragg – friendly amendment – this is for Men’s D3 playoffs only

Clt Barbarians – where will these games be played? First round, higher seeds hosts (per competitions director)

Men’s Div 3 playoff structure for this season shall be comprised of a 6 team playoff over 2 weekends, culminating in a championship weekend (championship weekend a separate weekend). Bottom 4 playoff teams will play for seeding in the tournament, with the winners of these games advancing to a playoff tournament.

Passed unanimously

Motion 5

Bombshells – table promotion/ relegation discussion until a plan is presented by the competitions committee.

Bragg – seconded

Clayton – asking for a timeframe for presentation to the members. Union – by December 1

Promotion / relegation discussion shall be tabled until a plan is presented by the competitions committee to the Union members. The Union must deliver this plan no later than December 1.

Passed unanimously.

Sevens qualification process

NCR2 qualifier – 3rd weekend in July, subject to USAR schedule.

Simone – why don’t we use existing tournaments as qualifiers?

Bill – Copy Southern (college) schedule – compete in 2 of 3 seeding tournaments with a championship final.

Simone – 7s competition to be created by competition committee and distributed to members by December 1

Women's club D3

CLT – 50 women, so they want a 2nd level

Bragg – worried about travel

Simone – won't change anything for this season, but work with the women's clubs this summer to discuss next season.

Non Member (Robert Peterlin) – discussion between Youth & Club organizations

Public service announcement – NCYR board member. Issue with matriculating students not having a place if they don't go to college. Approx 600 players who quit playing once they are done with HS. Not ready for the adjustment to club rugby. Looking to develop a U-23 competition. Ask – get interest level from clubs / union to launch a U-23 competition. Create a place for players to play – need human capital to make it happen.

Election of officers

Note from the Secretary – there is a discrepancy in the Bylaws that needs to be corrected. There is a separate sentence that says officers are elected to 2 year terms, but the majority of the language states that officers and board members hold positions for 1 year; elections are to occur annually. Elections will be held at next year's AGM.

Motion 6

Southern Pines – **open voting for officer elections instead of secret ballot**

Eno – seconded

Vote – 16 yea, 9 nay, passed

President

Nominations

Bob Davis (I)

Simone Bontly

Floor Nominations

Bill Bell (declined)

Robert Peterlin (Charlotte Men), 2nd by Clayton

Simone Bontly elected

Vice President

Nominations

Bill Bell(I)
Megan Goettsches

Bill Bell elected

Treasurer

Nominations

Mike Myers(I)

Mike Myers elected

Secretary

Nominations

Lou Andre(I)

Renee McLane

Lou Andre elected

Motion 7

Bombshells – **Elect Group Executive Directors instead of Division Directors**

Bragg – seconded

Passed unanimously

Men's Group Executive Director

Nominations

Ted Hardy

Ted Hardy elected

Women's Group Executive Director

Nominations

Simone Bontly – declined due to election as President

Floor Nominations

Megan Goettsches (Southern Pines), 2nd by Old Grey

Megan Goettsches elected

Collegiate Executive Director

Nominations

Amy George

Amy George elected

Meeting Adjourned