

Georgia Rugby Union
2004 Annual General Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2004

Meeting Called to Order at 12:30pm

Roll Call

Absent: Atlanta Heat WRFC, Auburn U RFC, High Country RFC, Hilton Head RFC, Jacksonville State U RFC, Life RFC, Savannah RFC, U of Alabama RFC

Not in Good Standing: Auburn U RFC, Clemson U RFC, Emory U RFC, Hilton Head RFC, Jacksonville State U RFC

Motion by Greenville RFC to allow voting privileges to those members not in good standing who were in attendance (only Clemson U RFC at the time, Emory entered at 1:29pm), was seconded by Macon RFC.

Previous Minutes Accepted as read by Secretary, Carly Harrington – Motion by SERRS, seconded by Renegades RFC.

President's Report – Gary Kent (12:40pm)

Thanks to those who have been helpful to the GRU during his terms as President: Pat Beaird who has moved to Arkansas, Carly Harrington, Danita Knox, Graeme Payne, Nigel Platt, Todd Morolla & Jay Boyd (Men's All-Stars) and Gene Higgins.

Remarks regarding the state of the Union and its need for growth and support from member clubs.

USA Rugby changes including background checks for youth and collegiate coaches, separate CIPP including a code of conduct for coaches.

\$75 South dues increase to be absorbed into the budget without an increase in dues to clubs.

Montgomery RFC arrives at 12:48pm

Youth Report – Jason Weeks (1:10pm)

Appeal for club support – current needs are personnel, not financial

5 out of 22 Cobb County schools have been reached since announcement last year.

Requested hosting and meals for UK touring side arriving in April. They will be training at Life and traveling to Knoxville and Charlotte to play.

Emory U RFC arrives at 1:29pm

Jason Weeks departs at 1:33pm

Treasurer's Report – Gary Kent (1:33pm)

Discussion of Hilton Head's current situation.

Body recommends the forgiveness of Jacksonville State U RFC past dues if they comply and pay timely in the future. [I think Gary suggested that the body allows the EC to determine how to handle based on Jax States compliance](#)

Dan McGee offers to contact Director of Athletic Programs at Jacksonville State U to inquire about university support of the club.

Current Dues Structure – Collegiate (\$800), Associate (\$400), Club (\$200 + \$25/player). Clubs to be invoiced after the meeting.

GRU pays dues to South in three equal installments due in March, June and October.

Clemson RFC questioned the usage of the \$500 budget item approved by the membership last year for Women's Development. Danita Knox responded that it was used to fund a GRU U-23 team which participated in a South U-23 tournament in November in Stockbridge, GA.

Clemson RFC questioned why Men's All-Star funds were cut. Gary Kent responded that it was due to the South restructuring and lack of interest from GRU Senior Clubs. Those funds were also used to subsidize the South dues increase and funneled back into collegiate spending.

Senior 7s tournament for 2004 will be fully funded by the GRU.

Old White RFC suggested adding a line item for funding teams who travel for National competitions. Gary Kent responded that the money could be requested and approved by the Executive Committee when needed, but he did not recommend taking it from another program in the budget.

Motion to accept by Greenville, seconded by Macon.

UGA WRFC arrives at 1:34pm

Discipline Report – Gary Kent (2:06pm)

January – Renegades RFC Player vs. Georgia Tech RFC – Max Immelman – 2 game suspension

February – Georgia Southern U RFC Player – Steve Wirth – [Gary please fill in]
[Gary please fill in] – Georgia Southern U RFC Player vs. Auburn U RFC – Andrew Richards – 3 game suspension

Thanks to clubs for policing their own and to the referees for controlling the games.

Collegiate / U19 Report – Vince Atkinson (2:09pm)

U-19s – 1st year to play 2 matches, hosted by Macon

Strong showing at camps, with players from Clemson U RFC, Georgia Tech RFC, UGA RFC, Georgia Southern U RFC

Collegiate – 6 of 8 men’s teams participated and 3 of 3 women’s teams participated.

Clemson U RFC and Clemson U WRFC were winners.

2004 GRU Seeding based on 2003 outcome:

Men

1. Clemson U RFC
2. Georgia Southern U RFC
3. UGA RFC
4. Georgia Tech RFC
5. Auburn U RFC
6. U of Alabama RFC
7. Jacksonville State U RFC
8. Emory U RFC

Women

1. Clemson U WRFC
2. Georgia Southern U WRFC
3. UGA WRFC

This year the South will have 2 seeds in the DI Collegiate Championships.

All-Stars numbers increased in camps with more opportunities to attend camps.

2004 Dates:

March 13/14 – U-19 NashBash to include teams from Nashville, Knoxville and Charlotte

September 11/12 – GRU Tournament, Location TBD, with bid submitted by Georgia Southern U RFC

October 30 – GRU All-Star Training Camp, Athens

November 13 – LAU Tournament, TBD

Emory questioned the early start to the GRU tournament, citing safety concerns since the players would just be back in school without much time to train. Vince Atkinson will have Nigel Platt follow up with reasoning.

Dan McGee volunteered to talk to Athletic Directors at other Universities to expand the presence of rugby in Georgia.

Gary Kent notified the body that the NCAA has formally requested that USA Rugby curtail its use of the terms Sweet 16, Elite 8 and Final 4. In addition, USA Rugby will be developing and releasing a new logo this year.

Macon RFC departs at 2:29pm

Referee’s Report – Graeme Payne (2:39)

SERRS covers GRU, Palmetto, and NC unions. They have 30 active and several part-time refs. Georgia has 23 teams, and 17 refs, while NC has 43 teams and 4 refs. He solicits the body’s help in recruiting refs for NC.

The following teams have not submitted 2004 schedules: U of Alabama RFC, Auburn U RFC, Columbus RFC, Jacksonville State U RFC, Macon RFC, UGA WRFC.

Reiterated that referees will not start matches with out goalpost padding, properly marked fields and spectator ropes on both sides of field.

Ref game fees range from \$45 for C3 to \$75 for B1.

Dan McGee suggested an annual postcard to the membership to remind them of upcoming ref courses to help grow the available pool.

New Members (2:55pm)

The Atlanta Bucks RFC, represented by Eddie Towson, President, were nominated by the Atlanta Harlequins WRFC for Associate membership.

Old White RFC moves to accept the nomination, seconded by the Renegades RFC.

At 3:04pm, the Atlanta Bucks were admitted to the GRU by unanimous decision of the board.

2004 Budget Discussion – Gary Kent

Thank you to Georgia Tech and Dan MacDougald for providing the meeting room, freeing up the \$250 meeting expense line item.

Old White RFC again raised the question of adding a line item to fund National competition travel.

Dan McGee requested a copy of the South budget to itemize the expenditure of the \$10,750.00 dues paid to them for 2004.

Motion to accept 2004 budget by Georgia Tech RFC, seconded by Clemson U RFC, unanimous decision by the body to pass the 2004 Budget.

Elections (3:29pm)

President – Danita Knox

Nomination by Harlequins, Seconded by Columbus, Accepted by Acclimation

Vice-President – Vince Atkinson

Nomination by Clemson U RFC, Seconded by SERRS, Accepted by Acclimation

Secretary – Carly Harrington

Carly Harrington, Nomination by Georgia Tech RFC, Seconded by SERRS

Pete Embs, Nomination by Greenville RFC, Seconded by Georgia Tech RFC

Treasurer – Gary Kent

Nomination by Harlequins WRFC, Seconded by Old White RFC, Accepted by Acclimation

At-Large Executive Committee Member – Pete Embs

Dan McGee, Nomination by Georgia Tech RFC, Seconded by Georgia Southern RFC

Aidan Dias, Nomination by Greenville RFC, Seconded by UGA RFC

Pete Embs, Nomination by Old White RFC, Seconded by Atlanta Bucks RFC

Split Session was skipped due to attendance and lateness in the day.

Old Business (4:09pm)

Clemson RFC questioned outcome of New Business from last meeting regarding targeting rugby community retirees for help. Gary Kent responded that there had been no change, due to lack of response from the membership.

New Business (4:13pm)

Clemson RFC recommended the use of the GRU website to keep the membership updated on the status of projects such as sponsorship, etc.

Gary Kent announced that a new name and logo for the union had been presented by Jim Gaine (Clemson RFC), Generals.

Discussion of Youth Rugby mandate requested by Jason Weeks. Clemson has several students with Community Service Scholarships, through the state of South Carolina which can be used to facilitate youth development. The body was unsure how to mandate participation by clubs, and what the repercussions of failure to comply might be.

Jim Gaine, Clemson RFC, suggested a Marketing Committee to expand the membership and volunteered to chair it.

UGA WRFC suggested hosting a summer clinic for High School students and youth using college students because of their availability.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:33pm.