

MINUTES

Georgia Rugby Union Annual General Meeting

August 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Lex Jolley at 12:15 p.m.

In attendance

Athens RFC
Atlanta Bucks
Atlanta Harlequins
Atlanta Old White
Atlanta Renegades
Columbus
Golden Isles
High Country
Montgomery
Savannah
North GA College (Women)
Armstrong Atlantic
Georgia Tech (Men)
GT (Women)
Emory (Men)
Emory (Women)
KSU (Men)
GSU (Men)
GSU (Women)
JSU
Auburn
UGA (Men)
UGA (Women)
Clemson (Women)
SERRS

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from the 2009 GRU AGM and approved.

President

Lex Jolley started off the meeting by highlighting the successes of teams within the union and issues that need to be addressed moving forward. Two successes that Lex pointed out were that membership was up 10% from the previous year, and a disciplinary issue was resolved through the use of video evidence during a Hilton Head game. Issues that needed immediate attention were the shortage of referees and the lack of a Youth program. Lex also brought up that CIPP registration had started up for the 2010-2011 season.

At-Large Member

Danita Knox presented on the newly proposed Geographical Unions by USA Rugby. She also discussed the Rookie Rugby program that USA Rugby was trying to promote. Sports Authority sells rugby gear. Dan Payne, the Life University Rugby Director, is on the USAR College Committee Geographic Union. GU administrator will be a paid USAR employee.

Mens Collegiate Director

Rene Daniel presented on the developments in the men's collegiate game. 100 players attended the GRU camp, and 1 player made it to the South Camp. The SEC/ACC 7s tournaments have a real chance of being televised in the next few years. KSU has become a D1 school, and the school built a \$1 million facility for the rugby club. GT is moving up to D1. Life University has entered a Division 2 team. All teams have a coach except Auburn. Rene proposed that the Union should send high level coaches to teams without coaches. Rene's 7s proposal asked for 22 player rotation for a team of 12. \$1,250 requested for summer travel. \$2,200 requested for uniforms.

Womens Collegiate Director

Tia Doppenberg informed the members that she will be leaving her post as Womens Collegiate Director. The GT womens team won the 2009 GRU Tournament. Every team had at least one representative on the select side. 3 players from the GRU made it onto the USA

U23 team who are scheduled to meet in California for a training camp later this season. 2 new womens teams may be forming. All teams have a coach.

Treasurer Report

Gary Kent detailed the Union's financial status. He reported that the Union is in very good shape moving forward with a budget reserve for new project funding. USARS and GRU have different accounting/fiscal years. It cost the GRU \$2,500 to run the 2009 GRU Collegiate Tournament. \$1,414 of that cost was used to pay referees. \$3,300 of the GRU's money was used to fund the Men's All Stars. \$1,868 of the GRU's money was used to fund the Women's All Stars. SERRS received \$2,150 and USARS received \$13,000 from the Georgia Rugby Union.

Youth Director

Chuck Detling reported that the Atlanta Renegades U20 program had a full schedule. He wants to introduce a collegiate B side competition to lift the level of rugby in the Union. There is also a pool of players who attend community colleges who do not have a team who could be utilized. This coming fall will see the 1st middle school touch rugby program being administered. Chuck wants to introduce a U20 league that can pay for itself. Sell it to U20 programs and find sponsors who can cover referee fees. Chuck also wants clubs to use Google docs for a CIPP database. Teams can use these documents as a recruiting tool.

SERRS

Phil Sheehan informed the members of the GRU that SERRS currently has 32 referees over 3 states. The IRB is currently pushing a program on sideline management called "get behind the rope". If people want to view the discipline report they can touch base with Garrett Hamilton who could not make the meeting because he is in Hilton Head. Referee abuse is still a huge issue on the field. Phil also mentioned that referees need to be paid before games. Rene revealed that numerous college teams pay SERRS via SERRS invoicing.

New Business

By Law Changes

Gary presented By Law changes from the previous year. The GRU is changing their fiscal year. Currently the fiscal year is from September to August. The structure of the executive is also changing with the introduction of a new term system. For 2010 the Vice President and Secretary will be elected for 1 year starting August 2010. The President, Treasurer, and At Large Member will be elected for 2 years starting August 2010. In 2011 and subsequent years the Vice President and Secretary will be elected for a period of 2 years. A motion was presented by Gary to accept By Law changes. Bob Taylor seconded the motion. Vote by acclamation – Unanimous.

Membership Applications

The following teams applied to be members of the Georgia Rugby Union:

North Georgia and Collegiate State University (Collegiate Women) – invoice must be paid by 2010 GRU Tournament
North Atlanta Rugby Club (Senior Men)
Alpharetta Phoenix (High School Men)
Walton Rugby Football Club (High School Men)

All members voted on each team's application, and each team was accepted as a member of the GRU.

Youth Membership

With two high school teams joining the union a new fee structure had to be introduced. It was proposed that Youth Members pay \$450, and in return they will receive one vote. Gary brought up that currently collegiate teams are paying \$900 a year. Of this \$550 goes to USARS and \$75 goes to SERRS. Money will not pass on from the GRU to USARS. There is currently no line item for Youth members.

Prospective Members

Gwinnett and Gainesville are teams who could potentially become members, but they were not ready to apply as of the GRU AGM.

USARS new Budget

Lex presented the new USARS budget. Club based dues are going to increase from \$475-\$600. Jacksonville State feels that the \$900 collegiate teams pay is too much for small school because it is not equitable. A system where smaller schools pay less dues was mentioned. At USARS, the GRU voted for per capita fees based on the size of a collegiate team and it was overwhelmingly rejected by other USARS members.

Referee Development

Gary recounted a problem that has persisted for several years now, shortage of referees. It was brought up that senior clubs need to step up to the plate and become involved in providing potential referees. It is imperative that the union look into preventing referee abuse and policing parent behavior. All members of the GRU were informed about the L1 Referee Course taking place in Birmingham, AL at the end of August.

Elections

Rod Seddon was voted in as GRU President
Mike Ryan was voted in as GRU Vice President
Gary Kent was reelected as GRU Treasurer
Danita Knox was reelected as the GRU At-Large
Nicholas Burgess was voted in as GRU Secretary

Rod wrapped up the AGM by giving his support to a solid 7s program in the GRU and making sure that 7s is well funded.