

**EMPIRE RFU GU**  
**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
February 10, 2013

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, February 10, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

Attendance: Renee Ovrut (President), Kyle Antonian (VP), Mike Crafton (VP), Gary Heavner (USAR Delegate), Steve Molnar (ED Men), John Bradley (Colleges), Nick Anzalone (At-Large), J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Absent: Oscar Prue (VP), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), Sean Horan (ED 7s),

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 p.m.

**RUGBY CONGRESS**

Mike reported that the USAR Congress went very well and was a good meeting. The USAR staff presented themselves well and has a more professional structure. Marketing efforts are moving forward with new staff being hired and efforts executed in compiling TV spots and securing sponsorship (ie AIG).

Jim Snyder moved into role overseeing Men's and Women's clubs and will interact regularly with leaders of respective GUs. One positive result was the affirmation there would be no regression to TU / LAU model – the GUs will remain in place.

Renee said the competition structure will be in the hands of the respective GUs. Ashley has been or will be in touch with USAR regarding the Women's structure.

Mike said the Men's D2 / D3 structure will be more regionalized for the regular season with cross-overs with New England filling in the remainder of the schedule. They are looking to get away from significant travel. Example of this is Albany / Saratoga from last season – not in the same situation as other Upstate clubs. A committee will be formed (with inclusion of a Empire GU rep) with the goal of open communication, making decisions on hosting. This will give a voice to those clubs.

**MEN'S DIVISION 1**

Steve reported that he and Renee spoke with Brett Willis and Mike "D" recently regarding Men's D1 structure. Questions remain on how much leeway there is in building the structure. There is a high number of quality teams in a condensed area – the thought is to attempt to include as many teams as possible and still meet USAR requirements. The thought is to assemble 10-12 teams and play a 14-game schedule (minimum).

Mike Crafton raised the question if the proposal goes against the new structure from USAR and stated he is skeptical eight or nine teams would be permitted, let along 10-12. Steve replied that the alternative, if USAR holds firm, is a Division with three or four teams.

A proposal will be sent from Brett and Mike "D" by the end of the week (Feb. 11). That proposal will be distributed to Empire GU Board for review and further discussion.

**ALL-UNION MEETING**

Renee stated that an All-Union conference call should be scheduled in the near future. It was agreed that the first will be held on March 3. Early topics will include a review of the recent Congress and the Men's competitive structure. Other topics will be solicited via email or Twitter – J.C. will compile and distribute for inclusion. It was noted for the call that participants (other than the Board) and entry / exit tones should be muted.

Mike noted that he would like to hold a separate call on METNY financials in advance of the All-Union call. He will coordinate with J.C. on a date so it can be distributed to the membership.

### **COLLEGES**

John asked if the GU should collect dues for 2013 prior to inclusion on coaching site. It was agreed to include clubs and access could be revoked upon non-payment. John said there are four clubs seeking inclusion in the Fall season – it was determined those clubs can pay in the fall.

Renee stated that the College division needs to start process of finding a new home, and this should be accomplished ASAP. It was noted that John has done a nice job of providing structure for the College division and that structure could be replicated elsewhere. One challenge would be identifying and assembling an Executive Board to provide leadership. It was agreed that efforts would continue to find the College division a new home, in advance of USAR mandating this take place.

### **MEN'S PLAYOFFS**

A question was raised about the assignment of referees for Men's Playoff games this spring. It was stated that the first rounds dates and sights are posted on the website, and dates are available for the Final Four. Per previous discussion, Brad will be reviewing the dates and sites, and making the necessary assignments.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2013.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple  
Administrator