

EMPIRE RFU GU
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
July 15, 2018

Empire GU met for its Annual General Meeting via conference call on Sunday, July 15, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL - ATTENDANCE

Voting Members: Brooklyn, Brooklyn Women, Buffalo, Fairfield, Fairfield Women, Genesee, Gotham, Greenwich, Ithaca Women, Ken-Ton, Long Island, Long Island Women, Monmouth, Monmouth Women, Montclair, Morris, Morris Women, New Haven, New Haven Women, North Jersey, NYAC, NYRC, NYRC Women, Old Blue, Old Maroon, Princeton, Rochester Women, Rochester Aardvarks, Rockaway, Saratoga, South Buffalo, Southtowns, Suffolk, Suffolk Women, Syracuse, Union, Union Women, Village Lions, Village Lions Women, White Plains

A quorum is in place with 39 clubs present.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape thanked everyone for joining the call and noted this is the highest attendance total for an EGU AGM. Ken noted that the EGU is regarded as the strongest GU in the country and is being used as a model for others across the country.

Ken said this year EGU had 2609 total registered athletes, including 397 new members. This is a 5.81% decrease over the previous year. This was somewhat due to a decline in our women's membership. Jennifer Jones (Women's ED) and others have been working to establish both player and coaching training this summer and through the next year. EGU is working to help all clubs with matters like these as member benefits.

A survey was created to gather feedback from the membership and identify areas of need from the membership. The full survey and responses will be posted on the EGU website under the Info tab. There was significant valuable feedback included in the responses and this has helped guide the Board in its running of EGU. One point Ken made is that all EGU members are welcome to join every Board meeting through the year- they are helped the second Monday of each month (9pm).

Ken said there was a failure this year with no Men's Select Side program. This was due to the Rugby World Cup and other factors.

Seasonality is something that is upcoming for EGU. Based on the schedules you have seen for 18-19, all competition will be completed by December. Spring will be for friendlies or fundraising opportunities. Summer will be for 7s. In 19-20, playoffs would be completed in the fall, allowing for development and 7s in the spring / summer.

There will be a new VP Communications for the coming Board cycle. That person will be looking to establish working groups - Randalls Island, Performance, etc. Ken stressed that the more people involved the better.

Ken is working on a fund for education to raise the level of coaches, players and referees. The plan will be announced at the next Board meeting. Ken said the point of this is to help raise the quality across the board. Players and coaches are spending 20+ hours a week in preparation for matches, while referees are typically getting one match per week - this will help everyone in rugby.

Ken took a moment to thank Pat Moroney and Michael Crafton for all the hard work and effort they have provided the Board and EGU and wish them the best in the future.

Ken noted that at the last Board meeting, the Board voted to reallocate line-time funds of \$3000 to help offset the hosting of USA Rugby 7s Nationals. These funds would typically go to EGU clubs qualifying for

Nationals and will go toward saving the clubs upwards of \$30K.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jennifer Salomon noted that the CIPP funding was in line with previous years and the budget is in good shape. Accounting has been trending toward underspending in Men's and Women's. Tracking will continue through the remainder of the summer 7s seasons. Jennifer thanked Brad Kleiner for his work and help with the referees throughout the year. The 18-19 budget will be formulated over the next month or so.

PROPOSED / PENDING EGU POLICIES / DISCUSSION ITEMS

There are no current proposed or pending changes to EGU Bylaws or Policy.

ELECTIONS

President - Ken Pape

VP Operations - Rich Gallina

VP Governance - Gary Heavner

VP Finance - Jennifer Salomon

VP Communications - Melanie Pastuck

ED Men - Lex Maccubbin

ED Women - Jennifer Jones

ED Sevens - Rosalie MacGowan

ED Referees (appointed position)

** Upon adoption of bylaw change designating the term of office for officers as two (2) years, the terms of office will become effective at the scheduled Annual General Meeting for Summer 2018, for the following: President, VP Communication, ED Men, ED Women; Terms of office will remain at one (1) year for the following: VP Operations, VP Finance, VP Governance, ED Sevens; until the following Annual General Meeting, set for Summer 2019, upon which election, all terms of office shall be for a period of two (2) years.*

Proposal for the slate: Ken Pape (Monmouth), seconded by Quin Works (Village Lions). Jim Tobin (Rochester) cast a vote for the slate. The slate is elected to the Board for 2018-19.

REVIEW / VOTE ON APPLICATION OF NEW CLUBS

There are no clubs to review / vote upon.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Pape noted there is a working group evaluating the replacement turf at Randall's Island. The group will be formulating a report and presenting to NYC Parks / Randall's Island.

A forum was opened for club / group discussion.

Being no other business, Ken Pape proposed the close of the meeting; seconded by Jim Tobin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator