

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 13, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, February 13, 2017, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Sharon Berger (VP Operations), Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Angela Corpus (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Gary Heavner (DC Chair)

Absent: None

Clubs: Ciara Lehane (Village Lions)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said there will be reports on Congress, Coach Education weekend. There are more things to report on, but he will include throughout the call.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney said the weekend Coach Ed weekend went well. Global Rugby Group presented and did a nice job. A number of high-profile coaches took part, including strength & conditioning coaches. Content was excellent - the best part is they are presenting the content at a level that is appropriate and realistic applications. Course content is available year-round and online - leaders would also be available via Skype call.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said there is not much new to report. Two weeks remain in the spring for league games and playoff seedings will be sorted out.

A question came up regarding Saratoga's proposed move to Empire GU. Ken Pape asked Sean Horan to work with his contacts to facilitate.

Lex asked Angela Corpus where the crossover matches will be held. Angela said Albany or Saratoga are under consideration. Ken Pape said he would like to propose that crossover hosting return to an alternating model (EGU one year, NERFU the next). A discussing took place on the merits of such a proposal.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Angela Corpus said there is not much to report. Long Island Women approached Angela regarding membership application to EGU - she will be working with them to facilitate. Angela said there are a

SEVENS REPORT

Sean Horan reported the Summer 7s schedule is finalized - five downstate and three upstate. Saratoga is one of the three upstate hosts, as long as they move to EGU. If not, there are alternatives. Each club will be required to put down a \$1000 bond - there are logistics to work through and meet for each club. If they meet those requirements, the bond will be returned in full.

Discussion took place regarding various tournaments including structure, competing dates, etc.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner provided a brief update. Two Level 1 courses have been held in the past month - one for women only (16 attendees) and one for men/women (20) attendees. Another course will be held in Batavia at the end of February. Brad said typically about 20% of attendees actually take the field as a ref. The society will be working to secure a larger percentage.

Ken Pape reported that downstate has 40 referees (6 are female); Upstate has 32 referees (2 are female) - those numbers are in line with the rest of the country. Ken said the effort needs to be put forth to gain more women referees. A discussion took place on Try On Rugby, a mentoring program, etc.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan reported on the formation of the entity of EGU. Northeast Rugby Union (NRU) was created in New York State in the 70s. Whether it is still formed in the eyes of the IRS is unclear. Rosalie needs to request documentation from IRS. Jorge Quintana is assisting Rosalie form a plan of action.

NCR3 REPORT

Angela Corpus said the D1 Men top two are Mystic and NYAC. She said she will send a report on the playoffs next week. A CR Meeting will be held in the coming days.

Ken Pape asked if Gary Heavner is being invited to the CR meetings, since he took Pat Moroney's place on the committee.

DISCIPLINE REPORT

Gary Heavner said there have been no cards since the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ciara Lehane

Ciara made a presentation regarding growing the women's game and feels there is a need for a conference to gather women's coaches, players and referees. She is proposing meeting in a neutral location and ask questions of attendees to help solve challenges and issues within the women's game. The proposed dates would be between end of 15s season and start of 7s. Ken Pape said the EGU supports this effort and will assist however possible. Ken tasked Ciara to work with Rosalie MacGowan to create a budget.

High Performance

Ken Pape presented an overview of a proposal for the High Performance program. The Women would be all-encompassing for EGU - funding at \$10K. The Men would be broken into four regions (NJ, NYC, CT and Upstate) - each region would be funded at \$5K. Ken has had discussions with Paladin regarding sponsorship.

Ken said Go Play (travel organization) will be invited to the next meeting - the agreement is finalized. EGU would receive a percentage of any travel or tours booked through Go Play. In addition, Go Play will be providing a monetary donation. Pat Moroney said Go Play is a subsidiary of ACIS, large educational travel group. Based in Boston and fully bonded. Pat said his experience with them is exceptional.

Ken Pape made a motion to amend the High Performance program to what has been previously stated. Angela Corpus seconded. A discussion took place regarding HP and budgeting. The motion passes 7-0 (1 abstention).

Congress Meeting Summary

Ken Pape reported on the Congress meeting in Austin, held this past weekend. Michael Crafton attended as the Alternate Rep.

The dues increase proposal has been suspended until USA Rugby can present supporting reasoning for the increase. The Women's program was under-funded, the budget will be increased by 25% overall. Gender-equity and equality was the biggest takeaway. USA Rugby does not currently have a position on gender equity/equality - a committee has been formed and a position will be added in the next eight weeks.

USA Rugby overspent by \$1.8M - was able to be absorbed by alternative revenue streams. Checks have been put in place to prevent this in the future, including powers to the Audit Committee to suspend spending in areas that are trending out-of-budget.

USA Rugby is working on being a more transparent organization. Ken said this was the most productive Congress he has been a part of. Ken will provide the Board a copy of the meeting minutes when available.

Ken said he is in discussions with The Rugby Channel for a special offer where every member CIPPed with Empire GU would receive access to The Rugby Channel (premium content) at no charge.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator