



## **2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

### **Roll Call (J. Sperling)**

- 47/83, quorum received

### **Approval of 2016 Minutes (Members)**

- Motion, Hartford, 2nd Amoskeag
- All in favor

### **President's Welcome**

- Background and role; advocacy for members
- Feedback about USA Rugby; no control over how they operate
- Referees- issues brought forward; not an easy task
  - Contract with NERRS
  - Goal should be to get more active referees

### **Treasurer's Report (L. Staples standing in for S. Wallace)**

- Budget runs lean; had a surplus that is being reduced
- Goals: past initiatives- permanent fields
- Current expenses- clubs onto Nationals, select sides, coaching course reimbursements, NERFU Cup, Northeast Academy, NSCRO dues for college clubs (pay twice; USA Rugby dues + NSCRO)
  - Question re: no line items on actuals- have not incurred those expenses or revenue has not come in yet
  - Question re: the difference between the predicted dues and the actuals
  - Question re: perceived deficit, but not 100% sure of what the deficit will be; post updated numbers?- yes-
  - Question re: Empire contribution- under income; competitive region playoffs (joint playoffs)

### **Executive Director-Clubs (M. Martin)**

- Disciplinary Committee process review
- NERFU Cup, 5/13-5/14

### **Executive Director- Colleges (J. Madison)**

- Recognition; ECSU, 4th in the nation, Salem State- national championship, Babson- 7's national championships
  - Champion Cup:U-Maine Orono in Northeast playoffs, Tufts won in crossover. Tufts is our National Championship rep
  - Challenge Cup- Trinity, rep to National Championship
  - Development- UMass C side
  - Women- seeking additional teams to join the union
- Thank you to schools that hosted playoffs
- Select-side; on hold for now but still on the horizon; NSCRO is all for it, hoping to make it work

### **Executive Director-Sevens (J. McGeachy)**

- NERFU Women's series- Beantown
- NERFU Men's series- BIW; third different winner in 3 years
- Nationals: women crossover with EU; Boston (placed 14th) and Old Blue; Men- Northeast Championship circuit- Mystic placed 8th
- Partnered with MYRO to encourage HS competition
  - 3 series event, and BIW won
- Tournament applications- due by end of Feb, schedule out by mid-March
  - Identify backup dates; teams with consistent events will be considered, but no guarantees
- Northeast Academy: large budget item (matched by Empire Union)
  - Players on both men and women national teams
  - 10 total caps (7's and 15's)
  - Mindful of strain on players (working out a calendar to keep players healthy)
  - Recap of tournaments; NY, Barbados, Costa Rica and Vegas (some with men and women)
  - Women's program last year, now adding high school program (30 boys and 20 girls); teams selected and competed in NY 7's
  - Clarifying what the Academy is: develop players for the next level- not poaching; increased focus on coaches- shadow program started and will continue; coach educator on staff (level 200 and 300 courses); camps- keep it in Union rather than bringing in international programs
    - Question re: development of a website for Northeast Academy
    - Question re: location of Northeast Academy- Canton and Mystic, go where fields are available

### **NERFU Marketing/Media Specialist (J. Hammond)**

- Role overview
- Revamping website
- Soliciting input and feedback from the union (admin@nerfu.org); putting rugby information out to the public/union- use our social media channels and outlets

- Request for photos
- New website soon; more mobile friendly

### **Bylaw Revision Proposal (L. Staples)**

- President's summary
- Motion- BIW, 2nd- Lyndon State
- All in favor

### **Proposed Handbook edits (L. Staples)**

- Home club to provide AT
  - Discussion- difficult for some colleges/clubs due to lack of support from the school
    - Burlington- contract with local PT agency
    - Beantown- contract with private AT agency
    - Take steps as a clubs to become trained and educated on concussions, first aid, etc.
    - 'Strongly recommended' will be the new language
- DC: NERRS- 'any player that receives a red card is ineligible until report is submitted to NERFU DC'; no change, just language to assist in expediting the process
- Transgender athlete policy- IOC policy will be used by NERFU
- Motions- all passed

### **Awards, Courtesy of Ruggers, Inc. (Division Directors)**

### **Election of New Board Members**

#### **Old Business**

- B-side language in the Handbook; not able to be enforced at the CR level
- DC- unable to address incidents that are not witnessed by ref or video

#### **New Business**

- MIAA High School varsity, coaches and additional opportunities for coaches/officials
- USA Rugby Level 200 course on 2/26 at Lasell College in Newton, MA
- GoPlay Tours; in the lobby and stopping into divisional meetings

### **General Session Adjourned**