

## **Missouri Rugby Football Union Board Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

***January 6, 2009***

### ***Present:***

Bob Foley, Jan Stokes, Stacy Pfeiffer, Amy Gallop, Joe Rothermich, Jim Crouch, Bryce Krug, Andy Wenger, Chris Bunting, Chris Wroughton, Dan Ward, John Wolfe, Mike Breitenstein

### **Discussions**

- I. Introduction of new associate board members
  - a. Chris Bunting with the Rowdies Rugby Club, Bryce Krug with the Hornets Rugby Club and Chris Wroughton with the Bombers Rugby Club
- II. Voting for full board membership
  - a. Andy Wenger was nominated and elected for full board membership
  - b. Jim Crouch was nominated and elected for full board membership
- III. Filling to vacant associate board positions
  - a. Brian Corrigan was nominated and elected as an associate board member
  - b. Joe Rothermich was nominated and elected as an associate board member
- IV. Forest Park Status
  - a. Jim Crouch needs volunteers to assist with moving equipment from Creve Coeur back to Forest Park and to set up fields for play beginning in the Spring
  - b. Jim Dwyer has been trying to get ahold of Mike Woodling to discuss grading contract and has received no response. Gary Bess indicated that we are free to work with any reputable grading contractor. Jim will start by contacting Sellenrick directly.
  - c. Jim is going to work with Roger Berry of the parks department to line out two fields at Central Playing fields for the Spring season
  - d. Jim is going to find out if other organizations will be allowed to permit this area or just the MRFU
  - e. The rule remains in effect that no MRFU team may practice on the Forest Park pitches
- V. Non-MRFU Fields
  - a. Board members of the MRFU will review and inspect pitches owned or used by individual MRFU teams for regulation and safety
  - b. Andy Wenger will lead this effort
- VI. 2009 Budget
  - a. Stacy Pfeiffer presented a draft of the 2009 budget
  - b. Total revenue is projected at \$30,200 with expenses matching that amount for \$0 net revenue
  - c. Comments lead to the discretionary fund amount being reduced as well as the secretarial line item with any benefit of that being moved to the field renovation fund
  - d. The draft budget was approved by the board
- VII. Dues Status
  - a. Many teams owe dues for this competitive cycle based on the number of CIPP enrolled vs. the number of players dues collected by the MRFU.

- Stacy provided the list to Andy Wenger who will be following up with all of the clubs
- b. Missouri S&T is not compliant with MRFU dues at all
- VIII. League and Master Schedule
- a. A draft master schedule has been completed using the information submitted by each team. The schedule can be viewed on the web from morugby.org or directly at [http://spreadsheets.google.com/cc?key=pFDYV4x1M\\_PNJlf47bjnEfg](http://spreadsheets.google.com/cc?key=pFDYV4x1M_PNJlf47bjnEfg)
  - b. Field availability should not be a problem but anticipated referee issues will occur on weekends with many matches scheduled. Saturdays that might present an issue include:
    - i. 2/28/2009
    - ii. 3/7/2009
    - iii. 4/18/2009
  - c. The west has indicated that there will be no change to the Div II men's format but there will be a change in Div III to include a playoff weekend on April 18
    - i. Missouri 1 v. Texas 2 at Missouri
    - ii. Missouri 2 v. Texas 1 at Texas (if elect to play)
  - d. USA now has a 16 team format so that open an extra spot for the West
- IX. Referees
- a. The referees have requested that information be updated on the website with new contacts, Jim will provide to Jan
  - b. There will be a referee training class in February; date time location TBD
  - c. Joe Rothermich will be making ref assignments
  - d. Joe Rothermich requested fees for referees for Ruggerfest as well as a food allowance or reduction at the tournament food tent. Jim agreed to the Ruggerfest line item for referees estimated at \$800
  - e. The Missouri Referees are owed several referee transfers and will use them for Ruggerfest
- X. High Schools/Youth Rugby
- a. Brian Corrigan will be the liaison for high school rugby for this competitive season
- XI. Bylaws
- a. Amy Gallop will be reviewing the bylaws to establish an order for their revision.
  - b. The bylaw changes will be discussed at each meeting in the 2009 calendar year
- XII. SLU Status
- a. Dan Ward will follow up with the University to ensure the club as fulfilled all of its obligations during their probationary period
  - b. Paul Spica of the SLU team indicated that they are eligible to begin functioning again on January 12, 2009
- XIII. Ruggerfest
- a. Need 1 team to fill the men's open brackets; there are 7 women's teams, 8 girls high school and a full high school boys bracket
  - b. More than half of the teams have already paid entry fee
  - c. Maryland Heights will provide coupons for the teams for area attractions and restaurants
  - d. Hotel might provide shuttle to park instead of to casinos
  - e. Park is providing 4 portable toilets; total will be 14

- f. Possibility that we will need to rent an extra field from bud sports to accommodate all 60 teams. This will depend on the number of referees available

#### XIV. NEW BUSINESS

##### a. Advertising

- i. Jim Crouch has been researching advertising and has pricing on Billboards, Radio and web.
  - 1. stltoday.com
  - 2. 101.1 espn website
  - 3. billboard companies (x2)
  - 4. 105.7 the point
  - 5. kshe 95
- ii. Board discussed possibility of radio remote broadcast from Ruggerfest and radio spots leading up to the event. Radio spots would be geared towards promoting the SPORT of rugby, not just the event itself.
- iii. Several price proposals were presented
- iv. The board approved a \$3,000 budget line item to pursue rugby advertising
- v. All board members will be reviewing rugby websites to determine how we can redesign the Missouri site to attract more players and provide information. Ideas will be submitted to Jan Stokes and Jim Crouch
- vi. Banner advertising on the new ESPN site was discussed as a good opportunity with little investment (\$125/month)
- vii. If we go with a radio ad and on-site broadcasting the MRFU teams would be given the opportunity to share in the cost and receive some of the radio ad time

#### XV. Policies and Procedures

- a. Andy Wenger had a conversation with Marsha Birkby following her resignation
- b. Andy suggested that the board create an online calendar that would help board members stay compliant with bylaws, incorporation timeline, etc.