

New York Rugby Conference

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: Saturday November 13, 2010 at 12:00 pm

Type of Meeting

☐ Regular

☐ Telephone Conference

☒ Other

Annual General Meeting

Those present/participating:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director:	J.C. Whipple
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President:	Mike Hodgins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary:	Bill Pulos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer:	Tom Rienzo
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President at Large:	Greg Fehrman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice President College Men:	Andy McDonnell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice President College Women:	Kristen Huber
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice President Men:	Sean Borromei
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President Referees (NYSRRS):	John McTigue
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President Youth:	Randall Johnson

Minutes read from last meeting: ☐ yes ☒ no

Business of meeting:

- President Mike Hodgins opened the meeting at noon and introduced the directors and officers of the NYRC.

Mike Hodgins gave the President's report (copy attached). Essentially stated, Mike reported most ever clubs in NYRC, a competitive league, an updated profile, a players camp and coaches development program. The President noted that high school rugby is the fastest growing component of the rugby sport.

Mike reviewed the national level development and noted that the NYRC is likely to become part of some other unit with hopeful organization and class benefits to come, losing a bit of local control.

The President reviewed that again, NYRC is "financially challenged", but fiscally responsible.

- Referee's Report. The President gave the Referee Report (a summary of which is attached to these minutes). The President thanked the Referee society and its officers/directors and noted that for the second year in a row there has been 100% referee coverage during the league season; that the referees and the referee society deserve kudos.

The President also recognized Tom Rienzo for his service of 20 years on the board, the last 10 as Treasurer for NYRC stating “Tom has done a great job and he doesn’t owe NYRC anything. Thanks Tom”.

- Senior Men Report from Sean Borromei, VP. Sean reports that he continues in a process of reaching out to “fringe teams” and asks for everyone’s help to “bring back clubs”. He noted that men’s clubs are historically the best source for new referees and offered congratulations to all clubs and the respective division champions.
- College Women Report from Kristen Huber, VP. Kristen recognized the college women’s clubs and the great strides that are being made on the state and national levels. She discussed the U-19 program with Greg Fehrman being in charge and the U-23 program which is being invigorated.
- College Men Report from Andy McDonnell, VP. Andy recognized the teams from Buffalo, Cortland and Ithaca as having done outstanding jobs in winning their respective division championships. Andy noted that he is working with Kristen Huber and that the scheduling should be out earlier than ever and again asked everyone to please review the proposed schedules ASAP to facilitate logistical coordination. Andy talked about the championships and the various divisions and the usage of mid-week games by noting better rugby is being played across the board. He and Kristen Huber will work on schedule coordination, at being more efficient regarding multiple sides on the same day at the same place all in an effort to make things run more smoothly.

Andy touched on the Upstate tournament details for 2011 and the NYRC hopes to host the Upstate tourney.

Andy talked about a policy of automatic promotion of division winners to the next higher bracket and the automatic relegation of the lowest division team to a lower division. A question was raised by Clarence Picard regarding the 16 division I conferences. It was reported that this concept is still in its infancy. Mike noted there was a four team minimum to construct a conference and a six game minimum. Fewer DI teams and more games going forward will be discussed.

Back to scheduling, Andy hoped to have schedules out beginning of December with a “six week window”. Please make all requests for scheduling by January 2011, look at the fall 2011 calendar in January of 2011.

- Executive Director Report by J.C. Whipple, Executive Director. J.C. began by talking about the Upstate tournament, the bids, the specifications, everything is online. NYRC is looking for a host for the USA Coaching Development Program (CDP). He talked about the purpose of the Upstate tourney. The Treasurer explained the NYRC covered the cost of the tournament and the host team keeps the profits from concessions, t-shirts and many other income opportunities. The Upstate tourney does not have to be held on campus and the biggest challenge is finding four acceptable fields in close proximity with services.
- Youth Report was given by President since the VP for Youth has moved out of state. Mike reported on the Youth High School League, division realignment, championship tourney and State championship for boys and girls. All of this is planned again for the upcoming year with Youth Rugby New York the SVRO.

- Disciplinary Report given by Andy McDonnell. It was a quiet year. 2 cases involving 4 players, one incident of “foul play”. Andy noted that the clubs are playing better and playing a cleaner game of rugby.

It was noted that 38 states have state based organizations for high school rugby outside the LAU organization. A general discussion ensued about the USA re-organization and the impact it might have on the NYRC regarding concerns about autonomy, control, more money and the like. The President discussed that more information will be available. These changes will impact NYRC.

It was noted Rochester would like to host the NRU Women’s Championship and that the NRU AGM will be held in January 2011.

- Referee education – There will be 2 referee courses set for February 2011, the AGM for referees is in January of 2011. It was noted that the SBRO gain \$1-\$2 per CIPP to help fund the organization.

There was a question and discussion session about referee development comprising 2 components: 1) Assessment piece, 2) Referee coaching

- Treasurer’s Report given by Tom Rienzo. It was noted that the Potsdam women, Grand Island boys and School Without Walls boys dues are unpaid. That historically 6% of the dues go uncollected every calendar year.

Tom distributed the detailed Treasurer’s Report.

Tom announced that the NYRC Board voted for a dues increase, the first increase in 12 years by noting that gas has gone up 100% and bread has gone up 200% during the same time period. The dues increase amounts to 18.2%: Colleges and seniors \$150.00, Youth clubs \$50.00.

Tom noted that we began the year with about \$1500.00 in beginning cash, that we used to have a \$10,000.00 cash reserve but it has been whittled down over the years. The NYRC makes about \$1,000.00 on the Upstate tournament and we could save some money by hosting NYRC meetings on campus instead of at hotels.

Michael Callan from SUNY Binghamton Women reported he is working on company sponsorship.

It was confirmed that full dues are paid by the first team on the club and then if there is a DIII - \$300.00.

The President explained the procedure for approving or modifying the minutes. Dan Sanderson from Syracuse made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Clarence Picard seconded.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was called and taken: 34 in favor – 2 opposed.

- Election of Officers. The President then called for the annual election of officers and the Secretary again recited the policy established by the NYRC Board to eliminate the use of proxies. There was a little vocal dissatisfaction with the elimination of proxies, but it was noted that to change the by-laws and to allow for proxies in the by-laws, a 2/3 vote of the entire membership would be required. At this meeting, 2/3 would be about 59 clubs; 36 clubs were present.

Nominated to retain their seats were the following people in the following positions:

President: Mike Hodgins, Secretary: Bill Pulos, VP Men: Sean Borromei, VP Women: Kristen Huber, VP at Large: Greg Fehrman

In all of those instances the officers were nominated to serve with no other nominations from the floor.

There were no nominations for the office of Treasurer. Tom indicated he would stay on as long as he could or at least until the end of the year to close out the books.

The VP College Men Andy McDonnell was nominated to serve another term, Clarence Picard nominated Tim Burdick from the floor. Mr. Burdick's nomination was seconded by Matt Thomas.

Dan Sanderson made a motion to close the nomination seconded by Megan Brill of Geneseo. This was approved. The gentlemen left the room and a roll call vote was taken by the Secretary, the Executive Director and the President. Andy McDonnell was re-elected.

Youth VP – Clarence Picard was nominated to succeed Randall Johnson by Fred Bressette, seconded by Joe Kirsch. There were no other nominations from the floor. There was no vote for Referee VP – that is handled by the Referee Society at their January AGM meeting.

As to President, Secretary, VP Men, VP Women, VP at Large and VP Youth, the President made a motion and it was seconded from the floor to instruct the Secretary to cast one ballot for the slate of officers as stated.

- Close out of the meeting. The President thanked the entire membership for their attendance and issued a plea for more participation. The Executive Director reported there were 88 clubs that were qualified (at least prior to the AGM) to have a representative present and vote. Under those circumstances a quorum would be 29. There were 36 clubs present at the AGM, so the issue of quorums to conduct the business of the NYRC remains an issue.

Hearing no further business, a motion was made and seconded to close the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLIAM W. PULOS
NYRC Secretary