

Carolinas Geographic Rugby Union
Annual General Meeting
August 25, 2018
Hilton Garden Inn
Charlotte, NC
12:00pm

Role Call

James Landreth - Southern Pines Men, Proxy: Clemson
Anna Brown - Southern Pines Women
Kelly Ting - Columbia Bombshells
Greenville, Proxy: Charleston Outlaws
Simone Bontly - Olde Grey, Proxy: Hilton Head
Ted Hardy - Clayton
Camp Lejeune
Amanda Cox - SERRS
Georgia Turtle - Bragg Women
Asheville Men, Women
Bragg Men
Nate Nemec - Cape Fear
Alison Berk - Charleston Hurricanes, Proxy: Charleston Blockade
Sara Davis - Greenville Women
Phil Munn - Charlotte Barbarians
Brad Richard - Charlotte Men
Lauren Sheridan - Eno River
Kevin Lamp - Gaston
Drew Zabor - Tobacco Road
Zoe Greene - UNC-W Women
Morgan Hall - Western Carolina Women
Mary Harrison - Cape Fear Women
Anna Orlowski - Augusta Furies

Non - Voting
Raleigh D3

Itinerary

1. Review of 2017/2018 season
 - a. Women's Competitions (S.Bontly)
 - i. Charlotte Women won D2 National Title, moving to D1
 - ii. Moving to single division format this coming season
 - iii. L. Sheridan (Eno) - Request for list of club status, more communication and collaboration on deciding competitions
 - iv. New contact information needed from the clubs
 - v. Possibly 6 new women's teams coming online within the next year - huge growth
 1. Camp Lejeune
 2. Cape Fear
 3. Charlotte Valkyries
 4. Clayton

5. Triad
 6. Greenville
- b. Men's Competitions (T. Hardy)
- i. Men's D2
 1. Southern Pines finished 2nd in South D2, CH made the playoffs
 2. New alignment, promotion/relegation policy, CGRU appreciated that the clubs that were promoted took on the challenge. Expect it to yield more benefits as we give the new policy time to get it's legs under it.
 3. S. Bontly apologized for D2 Schedule delay. Explained the situation with the South CR and USAR dictating our competitions.
 4. James Landreth - Concerns about playoffs for upcoming season. D2 South Division has four teams total with two of the teams opting out of the playoffs, so the other two clubs basically get automatic bye into CGRU playoffs.
 - a. T. Hardy - Completely understand, but the only other alternative was placing all of the teams in a single division. Increasing travel significantly. Our goal was (and is) to have a Carolinas-only D2 competition, but South CR stepped in and kept the Georgia teams in our competitions. We will continue to fight this decision until we have a Carolinas-only D2 competition or the South CR comes up with a better solution for the South D2.
 - ii. Men's D3 (T. Hardy)
 1. Promotions led to more parity throughout D3. Previous season saw 20+ matches settled by more than 40-50 points. This past season there were only three matches with a 40+ point margin of victory.
 2. CMS compliance is a major issue. Only about 60% compliance between Men's D2 and D3. Improvement needed or teams will start to be sanctioned. Rosters are expected to be submitted before the matches and all match data (scoring, subs, etc.) is to be entered no later than the Tuesday after the match.
 - iii. Men's D4 (T. Hardy)
 1. D4 Division returning this coming season.
 2. Redhawks U23 coming to D4 this season
 - iv. Discussion regarding men's growth and possible return of D1 rugby. More clubs needed. Men's clubs are growing at a slower pace than women's clubs. We've only added a couple sustaining men's clubs in the last five years. Need to improve the focus on helping our D4 and social clubs get to a place where they are strong enough to enter competitions. Clubs like Gaston, New Bern, and Duke Grads are all good candidates for D4, but only New Bern is entering D4 this season. Need to help build up other clubs. Number of areas in the Carolinas that could support clubs, but starting clubs is difficult. Rocky Mount, Greenville (NC), and Goldsboro all had clubs trying to start in recent years only to fall apart.
- c. Women's Collegiate (S.Bontly)
- i. No report from Any
 - ii. Clubs completing their own schedule
- d. Women's 7s Selects (B. Richard)
- i. Brad Richard - CGRU Selects
 1. Four training assemblies - Free to players in the Carolinas
 - a. About 50 athletes attended
 2. Selected 13 players to go to LVI - Players paid for flights only
 - a. Went 3-2 overall, won the Plate in Women's Open

- b. Great experience
 - c. Plan to do it again
 - d. Offer to play in XV's All Star Comp in December - in discussions
 - 3. Questions on sustainability - discussions ongoing
 - ii. Collegiate Women went to the tournament as well
 - e. Question about whether men will be included in the future
 - i. CGRU happy to fund select sides, but need help with coaches and team managers
 - ii. Men's 7s is more likely to get off of the ground (similar to Women). See how it is received then look at adding XV's in the future.
 - iii. Coaching and managers is the crux
 - f. 7s Rugby (S. Bontly, T. Hardy)
 - i. No idea on qualifiers for next year. The changes from this past year were dropped on us rather late in the game.
 - ii. Carolinas getting one qualifier
 - 1. Cape Fear 7s as an open qualifier? Cape Fear would like to be in the running for next year.
 - iii. D. Zabor (Tobacco Road) - Any thoughts on a formal Summer 7s Series?
 - 1. T. Hardy - Not likely. Summer 7s schedule is crowded. Encourage clubs to work together to support each other's events. Hard to pin down a 7s series schedule with so many tournaments on offer. Makes for a very busy summer for clubs that play 7s.
 - g. (S. Bontly) Southern Pines hosted South Championship - Excellent event. Very well received. Southern Pines and Asheville both came within minutes of winning the D2 and D3 South Championships
2. Financial Review (S. Bontly)
 - a. Balance: \$63,775.23
 - b. Certified 13 new coaches this year - 10 L200, 3 L300
 - c. Grant Discussion
 - i. A. Berk (Charleston Hurricanes) - Voiced concern about a grant request that was submitted over a year ago. They received a request for additional information, but never received a final answer. Club is very upset.
 - 1. T. Hardy thought that final decision had been made, but no further contact was received by the club. CGRU accepts blame for not responding with a final answer. Strive to do better.
 - 2. S. Bontly - Reminded clubs that for the better part of the last year most of the work being done for the CGRU was by two people when we have a board structure that calls for 7-8 directors.
 - ii. J. Landreth (Southern Pines) - Need development grants for administrative development
 - 1. K. Lamp (Gaston) - second that idea
 - 2. D. Zabor (Tobacco Road) - Possible connection with WRS to bring in admin from outside of the area to meet with clubs.
 - iii. T. Hardy - CGRU wants to focus on areas that can help clubs the most. Player development is great, but players rarely take the knowledge back to their clubs. Coaches and Admins have a better opportunity to make change with the knowledge that they receive.
 - iv. K. Lamp (Gaston) - Asked about promoting rugby in general.
 - 1. T. Hardy - CGRU looking at promotion of rugby in the Carolinas as a whole using Facebook promotions that guide people to the club locator map on the

new CGRU website. Looking at investing some funds into promoting rugby, clubs, and events in the CGRU.

3. New Board Structure discussion and vote (see attachment to review the proposal)
 - a. A. Berk (Charleston) - Motion to discuss. Seconded (K. Ting). Approved.
 - i. K. Ting (Columbia) - Prefer the appointed positions to be elected positions
 - ii. A. Berk (Charleston) - Remove the Director of Competitions and replace with the Divisional Directors. Divide up responsibilities of the Director of Competitions to the Divisional Directors. Give them voting rights. Would increase board to nine members.
 - iii. N. Nemeck (Cape Fear) - Motion to adopt the changes to the board structure.
 1. Seconded - J. Landreth (Southern Pines)
 2. All in favor - Unanimous
 3. Amendment to the CGRU bylaws to reflect the new board structure.
4. Voting for Board Members - We have received at least one nomination for every board position.
 - a. A. Berk (Charleston) - Due to the additional positions, requesting additional time to submit nominations for the board. Would like an electronic ballot.
 - i. J. Landreth (Southern Pines) - Motion to discuss. Seconded (K. Lamp). Approved.
 1. Why is it needed?
 - ii. Group discussion.
 - iii. A. Berk (Charleston) motion to allow additional time for voting. Clubs have until September 8th to submit nominations. S. Bontly to then put together a ballot with nominations that will go out to the clubs. Each club gets one vote per board position. Voting closes on September 15th.
 1. K. Ting (Columbia) seconded
 2. Vote - Unanimously in favor.
5. New Business
 - a. N. Nemeck (Cape Fear) Motion to give Board the ability to make emergency board appointments in the event that a board member resigns or a vacancy opens up during the year.
 - i. Seconded by K. Lamp
 - ii. All in favor - Unanimous
 - iii. Amendment to the CGRU bylaws
 - b. A. Berk (Charleston) - Motion to allow for electronic voting on union matters in the future.
 - i. N. Nemeck (Cape Fear) - Seconded
 - ii. Passed unanimously.
6. Meeting adjourned - 1500