

# USA Rugby Club Strategic Committee (CSC) Meeting Minutes, 20 Nov. 2017

## Alan Sharpley, chair

### 1.0 Opening of the meeting and roll call - 7:45pm **Becky Rodrigues-Metlen, Secretary**

Alan Sharpley	Ben Parker	Erik Geib
Gary Lobaugh	Margy Thomas	Luke Gross
Jerry Gallion	Martin Gardner	Naima Reddick
Tam Breckenridge	KJ Able Ruch	Geno Mazza

Not present: Mike Crafton, Adrian Gannon, Jeff Sperling, Jaime Burke

### 2.0 National Office update, **Erik Geib, Club Director**

- **Erik** - I continue to serve two USA Rugby roles, Acting COO and Club Director.

Upcoming Club Rugby website Just began working again yesterday; new filters are being moved to a different platform. Testing group should have received an email asking for a signed NDA.

- WPL Finals went well; second most-watched community event on The Rugby Channel this year; Club 7s was the most watched.

- World Rugby Regulation 22 (artificial turf requirements) and transgender athlete issues continue to surface; both are being addressed at the levels of the Rugby Committee (RC) and the Board of Directors.

- Expansion of website continues; still seeking committee minutes from chairs, as noted previously, direction has been given to access the CDN.

- Budgets for 2018 are not complete but will be soon; Board sent back suggestions on proposals. Community rugby spending expected to go back to more normalized levels

- Site selections for Spring Club playoffs are still a work in progress; Glendale has finals; Texas still confident target but Round Rock is off the table; Chicago a possibility but also looking at options in Ohio and North Carolina. Bids are encouraged

- Competition issues still unresolved; NCC call desperately needed.

Clarification requested on policy: teams playing outside competitions and counting the matches

### 3.0 Eligibility Sub-committee, **Tam Breckenridge, chair**

- **Tam**: Nothing really new, November and December are typically quiet in Senior Club Rugby.

- Got through the fall with the typical in-season player transfers

- Some questions going back and forth about colleges -requesting revisions to help with their competition.

- Luke: Please provide some details on WPL requests.

- Tam: Waiting for the WPL to come back with possible issues with eligibility regulations and what they want to revise.

### 4.0 Compétitions Sub-committee (NCC), **Margaret Thomas, chair**

- **Alan**: Margy Thomas was approved by the CSC membership with 16 members approving and one member not voting. Adrian has done an admirable job in his four years as NCC chair. Adrian and I have spoken about his role on the CSC and agreed that we will be better served with him in a different, but more comprehensive CSC role going forward. I am considering Adrian to assume a new role as vice-chair of the CSC, i.e., as a special advisor to me and to take the role as Interim chair in the event of my absence. Adrian's knowledge base and long history with the CSC, and the Competitions Committee before that, make him a valuable asset for the CSC. We will discuss my proposal in our next meeting. Tonight is Margy's first opportunity to interact with the CSC as the NCC Chair.

- **Margy**: I recognize that I've got some big shoes to fill. Adrian has set the bar high, and I hope to do as good a job as he has. I would like to start by scheduling regular conference calls to discuss upcoming issues and waivers. We will receive a for Mystic River playing into the Atlantic North seed, as this impacts both the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic Competitive Regions (CRs) for the men's Div.1 competition. The Terms of

Reference (ToR) and request for the Women's Gold Cup to be recognized with Elite status are also on the table as items for discussion

- **Margy:** I wanted to wait until the formal announcement of me assuming the role of NCC as chair. Probably within the next week, like to have it sometime soon.

- **Alan:** Thanks, but I would prefer a specific regular date for the NCC meetings. I will also make a general announcement of your appointment as chair.

- **Martin:** This is the first I have heard about Adrian stepping down from the NCC. I thought we elected our chair. Are we following our ToR?

- **Alan:** Adrian is not stepping down, my proposal would be a step up. We may be revising the ToR to reflect the reality of our procedures. But, before inviting Margy I conferred with USA Rugby CEO, Dan Payne, with Erik, and with a number of other CSC members.

- **Erik:** Existing ToR for the CSC has no other reference to the NCC Chair. Just to clarify that we are following the right path. All the others are elected, but it says nothing about the NCC, appointed by USA rugby through the CSC.

- **Martin:** My question is simply asking for clarification, it is not a complaint: Sometimes we don't follow our own procedures. I'm wanting to make sure we have everything covered.

- **Alan:** I realize that, Martin, and I concur. We need to revise the ToR for all of our sub-committees to ensure they are appropriate for what we actually do. If you feel we need a vote on Margy, we will do it. I want every CSC member to send an email to Becky, who will compile the votes for approval of Margy as NCC chair and then distribute the results. I want the members to take the responsibility to get your vote to Becky before Thanksgiving.

## 5.0 Governance Sub-committee, Gary Lobaugh, chair

- **Gary:** There has been some discussion about following procedure to make sure the Governance bodies are doing things right. We have compiled a survey, and are now developing an effective and efficient way to deliver this info to the GU's. Everyone on the call should review the survey. Alan will provide a link. If you have suggestions or corrections, send them to me and a revised link will go out to everyone.

The Governance sub-committee hasn't met since last May. Everyone on the sub-committee is a Governance administrator and their plates are fairly full. We will schedule a meeting in December so we can move on to the next phase and the survey tops our list. The survey is a good first step to find out how our GUs are running day to day

- **Erik:** We don't need to vote to approve a survey; don't mind sharing to get feedback.

- **Alan:** I've asked the RC if a sub-committee of the CSC has to request approval of the RC for simply doing their job? They have all said no, though unofficially. The bi-monthly (approx.) CSC reports to the CSC seem to be held to a much higher standard than other major USA Rugby Committees. We have never missed a report. My attendance at RC calls has been not been 100%, but a CSC representative has been on every call if I was unavailable. The GU survey is the Governance sub-committee doing one of their jobs, collecting and reporting information. I will get this issue clarified and get a vote from the RC. I don't mind the CSC setting the bar for reporting and we will continue to do so. However, I don't believe everything the CSC does that is part of our ToR, has to be approved by the RC. I would appreciate it if Erik, the acting COO, could confirm that.

- **Erik:** I don't see that same level of detail in the other reports and concur with Alan.

## 6.0 Best Practices Sub-committee, Martin Gardner, chair

- **Martin:** In our last meeting we set up a conference call with Ken Foremen, Education Director, in the National Office to find out how we can provide support on best practices for club training modules. Ken, Erik and I need to set up a call to find out what we can do and what time frame we are working towards. Then reconvene with the best practices sub-committee and review the content Ken is looking for.

- **Alan:** Best Practices is not a new sub-committee, though it was suspended this past summer when we realized that Ken and the Education Department was conducting the Club Admin training courses.

- **Martin:** We really need to Get with Ken to define the task.

- **Alan:** I believe that is a good way forward.

- **Martin:** Yes, I will come up with a list of tasks and task assign to the Best-practices member and will make a commitment to get that moving.
- **Alan:** I am happy to help but I shouldn't sit on the sub-committee as a regular member.
- **Erik:** Martin if you send a time during the day that works for you, we will find a way to discuss it in a call, perhaps Tuesday - Thursday during the day. Martin will get with Erik and set up a call.

## **7.0 New business**

- **Alan** Any CSC member may introduce new business issues and we will decide where they are assigned, i.e., to a CSC standing sub-committees or to a special project in an ad hoc committee.
- **Martin:** Alan, we wish you all the best of luck in your treatment and hope that everything works out. We will look after the shop while you get things sorted out.
- **Alan:** Thanks, Martin, and related to that, there will be no meeting in December, That that is our least busy month of the year. If anything comes up and you need to talk to me, my cell number is (512-554-2732). I will be in an isolation room but not like the proverbial "bubble boy." I will have my laptop and phone, so don't hesitate to email or call me.
- **Jerry:** Alan, we are praying for you big time.
- **Alan:** My sincere thanks to all of you for those sentiments.

### **7.1 - Meeting Schedules**

- Margy:** Coming back to the CSC conference call. I suggest the second Wednesday of the month.
- Alan:** Let's mull this over for a few days and start an email discussion. Even for those members who didn't attend tonight's call. Let them know what we are considering.
- **Ben:** Pick a night and stick with it. If it conflicts with another regular meeting, we can we find another night.
- **Alan:** Official proposal from me then. The CSC goes with the second Wednesday of the month.
- **Erik:** We should probably get a schedule of Competitive Region committee calls.
- **Alan:** I'm sticking with the second Wednesday for the monthly CSC and our sub-committees sub-sub-committees should work around it..
- **Margy:** Getting feedback from CSC, it will be either second Wednesday or second Monday?
- **Martin:** I would support Wednesday and put it out to the CSC.
- **Alan:** There or four or five Wednesdays in every month. We should pick the 2nd and put our stake in the ground for the CSC call.
- The votes have come in, and the monthly CSC call will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning Jan. 10, 2018.

### **7.2 - Appeal**

- **Erik:** We have a pending appeal before the CSC or the NCC.
- **Alan:** Can you coordinate the appeal?
- **Erik:** Yes, I just want to make sure we are giving appeals due diligence.
- **Margy:** Agreed, and if I have issues finding it, I will get back to you.

## **8.0 Close of the meeting - 8:48pm**

Alan Sharpley, Chair and Rebeccah Rodriquez-Metlen, Secretary.