

Hi Folks -

I've sent this to a number of folks, but not the entire membership as I am presuming they are not interested (some of you probably are not too interested either...) ;-). If you feel I've forgot anyone, please pass this along to them.

As most of you are aware, I attended this year's PNRFU AGM. Despite Tim's insinuation that it would be a long, boring day with nothing getting accomplished, the meeting was pretty good. And it was all over in 4 hours! Maybe not a trend that will continue, but a pleasant surprise nonetheless. For me, this was a good opportunity to see how things happen at the Union level and to have a great opportunity to represent our interests and a vote in the direction of the Union.

My sole direction for this AGM was to ensure our women's side was represented and entered into the Union, as no one provided me other issues to raise. Many thanks to Amanda Haines, a recent transplant to the area and the women's side, for attending the meeting on behalf of the senior women.

So, a recap of the major items discussed at the meeting (Amanda - feel free to chime in if I missed anything):

- ❑ USAR has awarded Chuckanut RFC the bid to once again host the National 7's Championship. Discussion by all those who attended last year stated that it was an excellent tournament and they highly encourage others to attend, even if it is as spectators. Some real top rugby in the area!
- ❑ Teams MUST be in good standing this year for games to be sanctioned by USAR and PNRFU. This means that teams must have at least 15 players CIPP'd \*AND\* dues must not be in arrears. The Union and the Referee Society will be enforcing that this year. Anything less will result in a forfeit.
- ❑ A PE curriculum has been developed and is available from USAR. If you have an interest in working with the school district to implement a rugby program in the schools, the USAR documents will be some valuable guidance. You can download the documents from USAR's website.
- ❑ The Bend Tournament is gearing up to be the official kick-off for fall 15's. They have gone through some major work to make this a great event; the union encourages all teams that can make it to do so. Normally, the tournament is the weekend after Labor Day.
- ❑ Women Logger's are looking for a coach! If you are interested, please contact Tobin Ropes for more information.
- ❑ The Women Logger's are hosting a clinic and mini-tournament on 3/3/07 in Portland. Any women interested (Sasha, this would be a great event for the ladies) should contact Judy Mahtaban at [mudhenlove@msn.com](mailto:mudhenlove@msn.com). There is

another similar event on 3/17 in Seattle, but I believe there is no round robin after the clinic.

- ☐ Portland RFC is looking to develop a women's side... stay tuned.
- ☐ USAR is undergoing some administrative changes, including the appointment of a new CEO with international rugby experience. Want more, go to USAR's website and read about it. One important thing for the Board to keep in mind - USAR will not recognize a team/club with by-laws that do not agree with theirs. We may want to review each to see if there are any major variances, or possibly stand losing our insurance.
- ☐ USAR is developing a club database. I spoke at the last Board meeting about a club-wide database (RugbyCIO), and it sounds like the one being developed will have similar capabilities. I do not know, yet, if this will be freely distributed to its members, but it's probably worth taking a look at it. I will review what is available and get back the Board with an update.
- ☐ PNRFU's website needs updating. We discussed the difference between going through the current host or talking with an outside vendor. Consensus was to approve \$1,000 toward the update, leaving it to Union administrators to decide who actually does it.
- ☐ DUES! This was probably by far the biggest issue of the day. PNRFU is just getting caught up with back dues from '05, and should be billing out dues for '06 in the next week or so. '06 dues need to be paid by the first weekend in March - NO EXCEPTIONS. Anyone not caught up will be considered "not in good standing" and will have to forfeit any matches until the dues are paid. Once that was painfully clear, we moved on to discussion of the dues structure for 2007. Final motion was for dues to be paid at a flat rate, \$600/team regardless of size or division. We discussed the options for a bit and decided that we could try this for one year and see how it goes. Given that we've paid ~\$500+ each year for the last few years, I felt this was doable and voted in favor of it. Paying a flat rate will take the guesswork out of budgeting (this part anyway), giving us a clear goal to meet each year. So, as budget planning moves forward over the next few months, keep this in mind. U-19's - no change.
- ☐ For DIII teams, CIPP compliance is a must! Speaking with Bend, Seattle, and Peninsula (only DIII teams there), we all agreed to the same format. CIPP registrations must be presented (available) at each league match. I suggest that it be ready for each match, league or friendly, to get in the habit. CIPP registration lists are available for printing at USAR and are updated each night. What does this mean for us? We need to have everyone CIPP'd by THURSDAY PRIOR TO A MATCH. Since Union dues are no longer by person CIPP'd, it will not be a financial penalty to have folks CIPP'd, so please keep on top of this. The penalty - FORFEIT. Since we

agreed to this at the AGM, the Union and Referee's society will be enforcing it.

- And, finally, the Union will be operating in the black once 2006 dues are collected. This will be the first time in a number of years, and we can start developing goals to reach for in 2008 & beyond. I may have the percentages off a bit, but they are pretty close. If you are truly interested, contact the Union Treasurer. The breakdown for costs is as follows:
  - Clinics - 10%
  - Reserve - 20%
  - Team Support (for traveling championship teams) - 20%
  - Rep Side Support (All 4 Teams) - 30%
  - Individual Player Support - 10%
  - Admin - 8%
  - Website - 2%
  
- Who are the newly elected officers of the Union?
  - President - Jason Shelton (Tacoma RFC)
  - Vice President - Craig Parish a.k.a. Wags (Referee Society)
  - Treasurer - Lynn Howard (Referee Society)
  - Secretary - Mike Farris (Seattle Quake RFC)

That is probably WAY more than any of you wanted to know, but I wanted you all to be aware of what is happening on the local rugby scene. If you have any questions, let me know.

Thanks,  
Dan