



Newfoundland Rugby Football Union - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday, February 25th 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.
Swilers Rugby Club, St. John's, Newfoundland**

CALL TO ORDER @ 2:05 p.m.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

<u>Present (Name)</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Club</u>
1. John Cowan	President	Vandals RFC
2. Geoff Warden	Vice-President	Swilers RFC
3. Colin Sullivan	Treasurer	Vandals
4. Roxanne Butler	Secretary	Swilers RFC
5. Graham Cooke	Communications	Swilers RFC
6. Lesley Cowan	Director of Women	Vandals RFC
7. Basil Crosbie	Director of Men	Baymen RFC
8. Sean Clancy	Referee Director	Referees Society
9. Frank Walsh	Club Representative	Vandals RFC
10. Mike Duff	Club Representative	Dogs RFC
Apologies:		
1. Greg Noble	Past-President	Dogs RFC
2. Simon Blanks	Coaching Director	Dogs RFC

Minutes of 2016 NRU-AGM

MOTION – It was moved to approve the minutes and reports from the NRU – AGM 2017

**Moved Sean Clancy
Seconded Geoff Warden
Motion Passed Unanimously**

Directors Reports:

President's report: Presented in detail by John Cowan. Report attached.

- Regarding the Rugby Canada proposed \$15/member registration fee increase to cover Rugby Canada expenses, the committee did not agree to the increase and further discussion followed:
 - It was discussed that Rugby Canada should look at other opportunities for funding.
 - Need to ensure what Rugby Canada does is not to the detriment of local players.
 - Not performing in office or on the field then don't come back to the provinces.
 - Can get the same results right now taking a good club team to represent.
 - Are the opportunities for administrative efficiencies?
 - Past fee increase, including such things as the magazine never come back to the provinces.

All agreed that the membership would not support the extra membership fee. If the fee is implemented it was felt the provinces should have some say over its use.

MOTION – It was moved that the President's report be accepted

Moved Basil Crosbie
Seconded Colin Sullivan
Motion Passed Unanimously

Treasurers Report: Colin Sullivan provided the Financial Statements – see attached.

- It was noted the Easterns made money that was given out to participating NL teams.
- Colin, as Treasurer, queried the NRU supporting a number of men's and women's teams and each running as its own entity.
- Treasurer to draft an MOU that outlines the responsibilities of teams / programs in running programs.
- Fidelity bond – explore through RC.

MOTION – It was moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted

Moved Sean Clancy
Seconded Graham Cook
Motion Passed Unanimously

Referee's Report: Sean Clancy provided a detailed report – see attached.

- Biggest concern is recruitment - average age of referees is 47.
- Clinic in April / May.
- Actively seeking Referees.
- Training and management side, no Trainer Referees.

MOTION – It was moved that the Referee's report be accepted

Moved Colin Sullivan
Seconded Geoff Warden
Motion Passed Unanimously

Women's Report: Presented in detail by Lesley Cowan. Report attached.

- Very good year for the Rock women taking Silver at U18 Easterns, Bronze at Malone women's U18 tournament in Ireland and the senior women took the Bowl in Ireland.
- Discussion regarding lack of adequate time in PowerPlex for women, and specifically no time provided other than Benvon's and Riley's rooms for 4-consecutive weeks prior to sending our Provincial U18 7s team to the National Tournament.
- Suggestion there may be opportunities for other rugby programs who are not using all the space.

MOTION – It was moved that the Women's report be accepted

Moved Sean Clancy
Seconded Colin Sullivan
Motion Passed Unanimously

Men's Report: Presented in detail by Basil Crosbie. See attached report.

Discussion, concerns and comments followed:

- Issues raised of how some clubs do not play when key personnel are missing.
- Vandals struggled for numbers in 2017. Discussion of opportunities to support Vandals.
- Important to have games when they are scheduled. Discouraging to those registered when games do not happen as per the schedule.
- Discussion on how the NRU can help clubs find players. Zoning may help – specific schools need to go to a set school. Set a 5-game rule in the general league in order to qualify in the finals.
- Suggestion for Junior High, it was noted this has been tried with numerous schools with the Flag Rugby with little success. Checks are much higher and rigid at this age regarding references for coaching staff and others.
- Once teams agree to a schedule, there should be a penalty for not playing.
- Discussion on playing games with 10 or 12 aside.
- Need another meeting to bring clubs in and discuss what we can do to generate/recruit more players.

MOTION – It was moved that the Men's report be accepted

Moved Sean Clancy
Seconded Graham Cook
Motion Passed Unanimously

Coaching Report: Simon absent but report sent in and was circulated. Report Attached.

Comments:

- Atlantic Rock needs to get back to being the team young players want to play for.
- No Coaching clinic run in past two years. Attempts have been made, but it is something that needs to be done even if only a few willing to take the course.

Action item – Follow up with Simon for next Coaching Clinic.

MOTION – It was moved that the Men's report be accepted

Moved Geoff Warden
Seconded Lesley Cowan
Motion Passed Unanimously

Communications Report: Graham Cook presented in detail. See attached report.

Comments:

- Discussion on how to identify clubs to interested players.
- Communications able to support clubs looking to organize a fundraiser.
- Vandals may have an individual who can help with design work.

MOTION – It was moved that the Communications report be accepted

Moved Lesley Cowan
Seconded Colin Sullivan
Motion Passed Unanimously

BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on the World Rugby move to increase by 1/3 the female representation on the World Rugby Board and proposed we increase the NRU female representation. Discussion followed:
 - a. By Laws: Minimum – maximum (possible 9). Roxanne to look for By-Laws.
 - b. Can add ex-officio as non-voting member of Board.
 - c. **Move to bring on two in ex-officio (recruitment and club rep)**
2. Question on what the NRU mandate is regarding meetings, club teams, the Rock, and the NRU involvement in club rugby. Do programs run themselves? NRU does not have that much of a roll in the day-to-day operations. Should the NRU step in for things such as no missed games, what the regulations are, should we meet with coaches?
 - a. Suggestion to increase role.
 - b. The number of games and players is greater now and the need now is greater for the NRU to have a more of a hands-on role and proposed meetings should be three per year April/May, October/November and the AGM.
3. Lottery: NL Sport is proposing a new on line sport lottery called “Sport Chase”. PDF circulated previously and attached here. Board agreed to support / promote.

Elections of Directors:

Board of Directors:

MOTION – by Basil Crosbie to forego elections if all Board members were interested in retaining their positions and others in attendance agreeable.

By acclamation existing officers move forward and remain in their positons for 2017.

Moved Basil Crosbie
Seconded Roxanne Butler
Motion Passed Unanimously

New Business:

1. NRU Registration Fee - The Board voted to maintain the level set in 2017.

Moved **Colin Sullivan**
Seconded **Geoff Warden**
Motion Passed Unanimously

2. Concerns about the \$15.00 and the way Rugby Canada will list it on the online system. If stated as a fee to pay-off their debt/money problems, the players and parents will have a problem with this. Ideally, we do not want to be charged it, however it goes through then bury it within the overall Rugby Canada fee.

Motion to adjourn:

Moved **Graham Cook**
Seconded **Basil Crosbie**
Motion Passed Unanimously

The meeting terminated @ 4:46 p.m.

Roxanne Butler

NRU – Secretary

John Cowan

NRU – President