



Thursday June 25, 2020

Annual General Meeting 2020

Meeting is called to order at 7:04 pm with a quorum of 33 members in good standing.

READING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

 **Cam McCulloch makes a motion to confirm the 2019 AGM minutes. Katie Siemens 2nds.**

Majority in favor

Motion carried.

discussion: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The BCRU is currently working on our return to play plan, but we have no information yet on how that will look and when it will start. We continue to prepare for a September start but we will keep you all posted with any information we receive about rugby starting back up.

I have been President for the last three years, so I'm going to be stepping down now. However, I will still perform duties like attending field meetings with the municipalities, overseeing our new criminal record check program, and filing our annual reports. So I encourage all of you to take the initiative and run for an executive position. Monthly meetings have never been more convenient with the new Zoom app.

I've continued to represent United in regards to field allocation meetings with both the City of New Westminster and Coquitlam. Although there are not any more suitable fields available for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Mundy 4 park is now available on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday evenings. However, given the loss of the clubhouse revenue and some other variables, the executive decided to stick with the same fields and times as we had this last season.

This year I initiated a criminal record check program for all of our Coaches and Volunteers who work with our child and youth club members. Criminal Record checks for people working with

children have become common, if not mandatory in most sports organizations. Initiating this program at United is part of upholding our duty of care to our young players.

We also have a duty of care to our visible minority members. When I originally joined United, I took particular pride in our being one of the most racially diverse clubs. But hearing about Kareem's experience has soured my perception. While it was a minority of members that made racial comments, there were enough of us present who through ignorance, fear, or apathy didn't speak up when we should have, or generally didn't help this member feel welcome. That makes this a club issue, not just a personality conflict between individuals. We have received a sponsor for the "Respect in Sport Activity Leader Program" for our executive, coaches, and captains, and are considering opening registration to senior players, depending on cost. This three hour online course is already mandatory for Coaches at many other sports organizations.

We were fearful, so let's find the courage to speak out. We were ignorant, so let's recognize what is right. We were apathetic, so let's motivate ourselves to change. We were prejudiced, and that can't be tolerated. Let's live up to our motto. United We Stand.

Karol (Karl) W. Wince

President

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This was a rugby year outside any of our experience. In the height of our season, we had to completely cut off operations. I would like to thank our coaches who were extremely responsive and considerate of the safety of their players. As well I would like to thank all of the membership for being patient with the club as we navigate our way through the pandemic.

Part of my role is supporting the clubhouse – and when we had one, some upgrades were made. We installed dart boards, a trophy case and organized the storage bin. In the beginning of January, we were notified by our landlord that we would need to vacate the clubhouse by the end of the season. The members of the executive worked to organize storage space for our equipment and find a new home for our clubhouse when the season recommences. Thank you to the clubhouse committee who found these solutions and who continue to work on long term solutions for our club. Thank you also to Wheels for your generous donation of storage space and Doug Yelland for storing our bin! I also want to recognize the Steel family for moving a significant portion of our equipment to the new storage space. And a big thank you and farewell to our former landlord and supporter Al – thanks for the memories, United Rugby appreciates everything you've done for us! In terms of a new clubhouse space, the clubhouse committee has found us a temporary home at Dewolf Lodge Hall in Port Coquitlam. We are excited to build a new home here and a new relationship with this group.

Last year, I advised you all that there were arrears with respect to our rental suite. I can advise you that to date the past tenant has paid off a significant portion of their debt to the club and the past tenant has made arrangements to pay off the remainder of that debt.

During the pandemic, I have represented our club at a variety of BCRU and regional meetings. These meetings have discussed a variety of return to play options, depending on how British Columbia and Rugby

Canada respond in the coming weeks. The BCRU is collaborating with all provincial teams and following the Return to Sport Guidelines as provided by viaSport. Pre-pandemic, the BCRU was also planning a review of the women's program and I have urged them not to wait until the pandemic is over to continue that discussion.

I hope to continue on in this role next year and support our executive as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic, brainstorm how to support our membership and plan our return to play.

Alexandra Allen

Vice President, United Rugby Club

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Senior Men	47
Senior Women	20
Junior	105
Mini	75

TREASURER'S REPORT – Statement of accounts circulated separately

You can see the planned Budget for the 2020-2021 season. This budget was designed as if we are going back to rugby as usual in September. Obviously, something we all hope for, but it may not be realistic. Without knowing that is going to happen this fall, I found making the budget very difficult as I would have to make about 3-5 budgets to reflect the most likely scenarios. A couple things to note:

1. The Summary really isn't that beneficial to look at, it is required to summarize our results. You would be better served looking at one of the 4 other budgets (Men, Women, Junior or Mini)
2. The revenue numbers are based on the returning numbers being about the same and the cost to play remaining the same.

I have also included the Financials for the 2019-2020 season. There are a couple of things to note about this:

1. The clubhouse would have likely lost money this year because of the lack of support from the active adult members.
2. Coaching costs are below budget because the coaches were paid at 75% of contract.
3. Overall it appears we made \$10000, we do have some expenses to come out of that and we did have some expenses from last year that were paid out of this year's revenue.

Finally, on June 1 st , 2019 we had \$6232.48 in our bank account, plus \$7000 in our Emergency Fund. On June 1 st , 2020 we have \$9750.56 in our accounts, plus \$7,000 in our Emergency Fund

and \$4000 back in our Alumni Fund. The Emergency Fund is supposed to be 25% of budget, so we should be aiming for a \$13,000 fund.

With respect to the dues for next year. We would like to keep the dues the same (assuming we return in September). However, if we don't return to regular rugby the Executive will reduce the dues to reflect this fact.

Dues (club portion only, BCRU and Canada Rugby portion to be added on at registration):

Senior Player \$350

Senior Player (Student) \$300

*Senior Players who register before the Early Bird deadline will receive \$50 credit with United.

Junior Player \$85

*Junior Players who register before Early Bird deadline will receive merchandise from United

Mini Player \$75 or \$85 (depending upon age)

Social \$100

Kevin Startin

Treasurer

Motion to approve the 2020 budget: Sean Dingly

2nd: Peter H

32 in favor

0 against

0 abstain

CLUBHOUSE DIRECTOR

ABSENT:

MADE SURE CLUB WAS PREPPED FOR PARTIES AND BANQUET AND SMOKER WERE PREPPED

MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP DIRECTOR

Absent.

Did position for a portion of the year but not all the way through. Thank you for your work.

PROMOTIONS AND PR DIRECTOR -

United is currently on two social media platforms - Facebook and Instagram. Our activity has increased compared to previous years, but it is not as strong as I would like it to be. We tried to post team lineups prior to games but struggled to get the information before Friday evenings to post. Resulted in inconsistently posting lineups. Something we are looking to do once we return to play is posting more frequently - game photos, results, line ups, social activities. Need more communication from men's and women's directors to make this possible.

Womens DIRECTOR & CLUB CAPTAIN

The 2020 season for the women started off strong with only one recorded loss, an exhibition game vs. UBC Thunderbirds, in the fall season. During the first half we chose to play in the Tier B league alongside eight other teams across the lower mainland. Numbers were extremely problematic for this division resulting in many ten and twelve aside games. The BCRU tried to run "jamboree" style weekends to maximise play time for clubs. With the successful introduction of U-19 players coming up into the women's program and dedication from the team, including the coaching staff, we were able to pull solid numbers out for Saturdays and have a successful first half. The highlight of the second half came early in my eyes, with a win against Brit Lions at home. Along with the win this was the debut of Williw Beyea as a women's player. She was given recognition as the first player to come through United as a mini, youth, and now a women's player. There was a great showing of support from the rugby community and it was a great way to show off women in this ever-growing sport.

The second half was more challenging as the competition stepped up. We were only able to record four matches before the season was abruptly cut short with the outbreak of COVID-19. The cancellation of the season cut the four remaining matches, including a bus trip to the interior, which is always a bonding experience for the team. We have been able to stay somewhat connected through zoom trivia nights and even hosting our year end bonding "kangaroo court" over zoom. It is my hope that restrictions will soon be lifted in BC allowing us to return to some form of rugby, whether that be touch or even sevens. The coaching staff of Jim Steel and Mike Beyea are eager to get us back on the pitch and prepare us for whatever the 2020/2021 season may look like.

MEN'S DIRECTOR & CLUB CAPTAIN

The 2019-2020 season will go down as one of the more challenging seasons for our club, and for rugby in B.C. This past season United fielded two senior men's teams, one at 1 st division and one at 2 nd division. Both teams struggled with numbers, with players frequently playing in both games to fill out our rosters. While having enough players for games was certainly an issue, it did give many players an excellent opportunity to show their ability to play 1 st division rugby. Though our hard work did not always show in the standings, we delivered some incredible wins throughout the season.

Stepping back into the role of head coach this year was Michael Collins. He brought a wealth of experience and contributed innumerable hours to our teams. Michael was assisted by Ed Lefevre and Rich Elliot who continued to build our offense and defense. Feedback on coaching this season was entirely positive, and I thank all three coaches for their support this past season.

The 2020-2021 season will be different than past seasons as we grapple with how to return to rugby in B.C. Regardless, the upcoming season also holds a lot of excitement for our club. The BCRU, in consultation with clubs, has decided to rearrange the Senior Men's leagues to enlarge the 1st division, adding premier reserve teams, and former 2nd division teams. This will be a great chance for United to challenge more clubs and bring home more wins.

Some other things I would like our men's program to work toward next season are:

- Organizing a short trip or attending a tournament (dependant on travel restrictions)
- Continuing to develop commitment among our players, and increase the numbers of players at practices and games
- Work to support coaches and rugby programs in our feeder schools

This summer and fall will continue to be a challenging time for our men's program. I would encourage all players to pay attention to information coming from the club about the return to rugby, and any activities or plans that United releases in the coming months.

I look forward to being back on the field again soon.

Cam McCulloch

URC Men's Director

ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Alumni mailout list has been revised with many new contacts added and no longer in use and not interested contacts removed. Mass mailout was used effectively to notify past members of the Smoker event and Clubhouse closure news.

The Smoker was held in February at the Coquitlam Legion. Thanks to the many Directors and helpers that made it a success.

Thank you for all the help at the smoker.

JUNIOR RUGBY DIRECTOR -

Our numbers improved this year.

Let's start off with PRC's: We had fantastic representation from both coaches and players - the most we have ever had! That led into Western Championships, where we had 6 of our junior players selected in their age groups for Team BC 15's. We had 1 junior (Willow Beyea) play in the Canada West VS USA West game August. In March 2020 we also had 5 of our juniors

selected to the Elite 7's Team BC to play in a few different tournaments. We also have 1 U19 (Jordan Tak) who has made the BC Top 50 Grade 12 Boys list.

Our season started strong for all the teams. 106 Juniors Registered – here is the breakdown:

U14 Girls – 14 registered

U15 Boys – 15 registered

U16 Girls – 14 registered

U17 Boys – 16 registered

U19 Girls – 24 registered

U19 Boys – 23 registered

Over Thanksgiving weekend, we attended the Kamloops 7's Tournament. This year we brought 65 kids and entered 6 teams! We were one of the largest groups representing. Our U16 girls, U19 girls (team 2) and U17 boys all finished in 4th place in their age grades! It was a great experience overall and made our club proud.

U14 Girls – Our club set a wonderful example of our sport in this age group this year. Due to numbers being low all around the lower mainland, we welcomed other U14's from any club that did not have enough players to create full teams to play Jamboree style 7's for the season. This allowed all these young players to develop and play safely with their own age groups. This was a large undertaking for our coaches and manager to take on with the multiple teams and players.

U15 Boys – This was the first year that we have had a U15 team. It was a bit of a tough go, and with numbers a bit low they did pair up with Squamish Rugby Club.

U16 Girls – With the numbers a bit low, we paired up with Maple Ridge Bruins again this year. Overall finished 4th in the province in the finals.

U17 Boys – With the numbers a bit low, we paired up with Burnaby Lake Rugby Club.

U19 Girls – There were two 7's teams for first weeks of league play. For the second half they played 15's and placed 2nd in the lower mainland. Overall numbers were good.

EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR

Season started slowly for us finding a new kit supplier. I think next year will be better and faster

This season will be a challenge for storage and sales but we will figure it out.

Lion heart will be better for us, a lot smoother.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

REALLY GOOD YEAR FOR PARTIES. LOUA, TOGA, HALLOWEEN, AND XMAS ALL GREAT EVENTS AND GOOD ATTENDANCE.

WE HAD A GREAT OUTDOOR FIELD DAY, THE WOMEN DAY AND IT WENT VERY WELL.

LOOKING FOR IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN GET TOGETHER IN THE NEW CLIMATE.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDANCE TO ALL EVENTS.

MINI DIRECTOR

The 2019/2020 season started off very well for the Mini Rugby program, while we have yet to break through the level of 100 players, I am happy to report that we continue to see brand new registrations at all age groups across the program and have maintained an average of 75 players in each of the seasons that I have been the director.

This year we were happy to see a large number of players transition seamlessly into the junior program and continue their journey into what is undoubtedly a bright future for our sport in general and our club in particular.

Although Covid-19 took away the second half of the season we had a very successful 1st half with some key highlights.

A further commitment from our primary sponsor at North Find Management resulted in brand new game jerseys from Lionheart sports. These continue to be the centerpiece of our image as we represent the club as best we can.

Team picture day, as always, led into a very successful day hosting our only Jamboree of the half. 300 players from Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey, Maple Ridge and Delta all joined us at Town Centre and a fantastic day was had by all.

Our program is fuelled by volunteer coaches, managers and countless others who are always ready to step up and contribute when called upon. Without them we would not be as highly regarded in the community as we are; I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped out and gave so freely of their time and effort.

The best measure of how well the program is performing is how many new players come to us

through existing players, this year was particularly good for that and once again I must say thanks for trusting us to deliver a good program.

It is now time to start looking at the next chapter when it comes to the Mini Director role. While I will be returning for another two year term, I think it's important that we give some consideration to who might be willing to replace me. I'd like the opportunity to mentor them for a year so that they can take the reins and grow the program into the best mini rugby program in the lower mainland and then the province. Please reach out to me to find out more about the role and see if you're interested.

Peter Henery

Mini Rugby Director

United Rugby Club

NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

No motions for amendment are made.

ELECTION OF TABLE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President 1 year term

Nominations:

Sean Dingly - accepts

Alex Allen - Declines

Devon Chohan - Declines

Sean Dingly Wins by aclemention

Vice President 1 year term

Nominations:

Alex Allen - accepts

Alex Allen wins by aclemention

Secretary 1 year term

Nominations:

Nicole Brenner-Rae - Accepts

Brenner Wins by aclemention

Treasurer 1 year term

Nominations:

Kevin Startin - accepts

Kevin Startin Wins by aclemention

Clubhouse 2 year term – even years

Nominations:

rajan - accepts

Cam McCulloch - declined

Rajan Wins by aclemention

Sponsorship Director 2 year term – even years

Nominations:

Chris - accepts

Chris Turenne Wins by aclemention

Women's Team Director 2 year term – even years

Nominations:

Katie Siemens - accepts

Katie Siemens Wins by aclemention

Equipment Director 2 year term – even years

Nominations:

Jared Best - Accepts

Jared Wins by aclemention

Mini rugby Director 2 year term – even years

Nominations:

Peter Henery - accepts

Peter Henery Wins by aclemention

ANNOUNCEMENT/NEW BUSINESS

Awards for the season

Farrell Award: Joe Buquasevich

Whip award: Devon chohan

Best forward Mens: Cam McCulloch & Oliver Collet

Best Forward Womens: Alana White

Best Back womens: Lisa O'neil

Best Back mens: Rajan Presaud

Best Back mens: Jared Best

Gert Van kirk Award: Alex Allen

MVP Mens: Licon Gunning

MVP Womens: Alex Allen

Return to rugby plan. The exec is coming up with a plan of our return to rugby plan. We are choosing a person to be the Covid-19 rep who will keep track of who shows up and what not is going on.

There is no doubt that rugby is going to be different, we are working out what we can do to get us back together. We should have more info after our next meeting.

SETTING OF THE ANNUAL DUES

Dues (club portion only, BCRU and Canada Rugby portion to be added on at registration):

Senior Player \$350

Senior Player (Student) \$300

*Senior Players who register before the Early Bird deadline will receive \$50 credit with United.

Junior Player \$85

*Junior Players who register before Early Bird deadline will receive merchandise from United

Mini Player \$75 or \$85 (depending upon age)

Social \$100

If we are NOT able to play games in the Fall, I propose that we set dues at:

Dues (club portion only, BCRU and Canada Rugby portion to be added on at registration):

- Senior Player \$50
- Junior Player \$50
- Mini Player \$25
- Social \$100

Motion to approve dues for 2020: karol Wince

2nd: peter Henery

31 in favor

0 against

0 abstain

 **Kevin Startin makes a motion to adjourn. Sean Dingly 2nd. No discussion.**

Majority in favor.

Motion carried.