



# Ohio Rugby Union

2004 ORU Winter AGM Agenda

## 1. Call to Order

**Roll Call** - L.M. Harvey

The following individuals and their respective clubs were present:

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cincinnati Wolfhounds              | Bill Griffes        |
| Cincy Kelts Men                    | Tom Schenke         |
| Cincy Kelts Women                  | Misti Schenke       |
| Cleveland Women                    | Kim Danczak         |
| Cleveland Women                    | Sara Balgenorth     |
| Dayton Area Rugby                  | Benjamin Longfellow |
| Denison Men                        | Mike Craig          |
| Denison Men                        | Paul Pegher         |
| Denison Women                      | Joanne Vaughn       |
| Findlay HS                         | Dale Pitney         |
| Kent State Men                     | Kritter Ryan        |
| Kent State Women                   | Heather Peairs      |
| Lexington Blackstones              | Bob Brown           |
| Lexington Blackstones              | Jason Bouche        |
| Lexington Blackstones              | Keith Huehls        |
| Louisville Women                   | Adrienne Cortes     |
| Louisville Women                   | Susan Ganrt         |
| Marion Men                         | Mike Campbell       |
| Marion Men                         | Rick VanBuskirk     |
| Marshall Men                       | James Wallace       |
| Marshall Women                     | Nicki Shaffer       |
| Miami Univ. Women                  | Julie Aubergue      |
| Miami Univ. Women                  | Kate Shifley        |
| Miami Univ. Women                  | Lisa Bockoff        |
| Oberlin Women                      | Rebecca Jones       |
| Ohio Northern Men                  | Matt Dineen         |
| Ohio Northern Women                | Abby Kusnerik       |
| Ohio Wesleyan Women                | Brenda Johnson      |
| Ohio Wesleyan Women                | Valerie Solomon     |
| ORRS Chairman                      | Doug Kendall        |
| ORU Collegiate Coordinator         | James Kaminsky      |
| ORU Collegiate Women               | Jen Smithhart       |
| ORU Men D2 Coordinator, Queen City | John Klosinski      |
| ORU President                      | L.M. Harvey         |
| ORU Secretary, Cincy-Dayton Women  | Lola Akinmade       |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| ORU VP, Akron RFC                         | Scott Whitney     |
| ORU Women Coordinator, Cincy-Dayton Women | Kristen Johnson   |
| ORU Youth Coordinator                     | Kenneth Ford      |
| OSU Men, Scioto Valley                    | Tom Rooney        |
| OSU Women                                 | Steve Weaver      |
| OSU Women                                 | Steve Weaver      |
| OU Men                                    | David Fraser      |
| OU Women                                  | Kyra Eversmann    |
| UC Men                                    | Dennis McCafferty |
| UD Men                                    | Danny Rush        |
| UD Women                                  | Kathleen Kress    |
| UK Women                                  | Adrienne Bouche   |
| Walnut Hills HS                           | Willie Griffies   |
| Wittenburg Men                            | Sean Dooley       |
| Wittenburg Women                          | Jessica Klima     |
| Xavier Men                                | Michael Mayer     |
| Xavier Men                                | Peter Kahler      |
| Xavier Women                              | Julie Kazminski   |

**2. Opening Comments - L.M. Harvey**

L. M. Harvey mentioned that today’s meeting would be rather short and that the most important agenda item is the referee shortage crisis within the ORU. This issue needs immediate attention.

**3. Previous Meeting Minutes – L. Akinmade**

**i. 2003 ORU Fall AGM**

- The last ORU Fall AGM meeting minutes were not compiled because the ORU secretary, L. Akinmade was out of town and could not find the time to summarize them
- An apology was given.
- All previous and subsequent meeting minutes are available for download on the website under ORU Office.

**4. Officer Reports**

**a. President - L.M. Harvey**

Congratulations on another successful year of Ohio Rugby!

This report is partial in the sense that the current president is only able to report on the fall of 2003. The previous president was in office during the spring and summer seasons.

**2003 ORU Fall AGM**

Ten upstart clubs were discussed. Several were approved for ORU membership.

Youth Coordinator Kenneth Ford was appointed. The former coordinator had decided to retire from his position.

A special committee was formed to assist the ORRS in building their pool. Bob Caudy was appointed to head that committee.

The budget was shown for membership review. There were no objections to the state of the budget.

The ORU Secretary implemented a paperless policy effective at the Fall AGM. All ORU materials will be disbursed via the ORU website. This is projected to be a great cost savings.

The new ORU website was unveiled. The goal of the new site is to provide more functionality. It is hoped that the ORU membership will use this site for information gathering and communication between clubs and departments.

### **Fall Competition**

Most ORU competitions were uneventful. This is due in large part to the dedication of the coordinators. The actual results of the fall competitions can be obtained from the coordinators' reports, which are present and available at this meeting.

The ORRS was severely understaffed during the fall season. We are fortunate to have some very talented referees in the ORU, however this fact draws many of them into the Midwest pool. It is hoped that during this meeting the ORU is able to implement a policy that will assist the referees in building their membership.

There were several disciplinary issues. I believe that most of them were addressed swiftly and effectively. It is a great concern of this president that we have any disciplinary issues at all. This is a time when rugby is struggling to take its next step toward becoming a widely recognized sport in the United States. It is fair to say that the press prefers negative rugby stories over positive. Remember this simple rule: Cricket is a **Gentleman's** sport played by **Gentlemen**

Soccer is a **Hooligan's** sport played by **Hooligans**

Rugby is a **Hooligan's** sport played by **Gentlemen**.

It is okay to exercise a spirit of tough competition. It is however unacceptable to allow emotion to overtake you and cast a negative image on the game. We are all ambassadors of our up-and-coming sport. Furthermore, I expect clubs to take their own actions regarding repeat-offending players. A consistently negative player reflects poorly on your club.

### **Midwest Winter AGM**

It was decided that youth teams are not official members of the Midwest Union. Youth teams will pay dues to the Midwest only as tournament fees for teams attempting to qualify for national competition. The championship dates are: Boys Midwest Championship – **May 1-2**

Girls Midwest Championship – **May 8-9**

Boys and Girls All-Star Competition – **June**

### **12-13.**

The referee fees and facility usage fees will be paid for with tournament entry fees. No money for youth will be obtained through the Midwest budget.

Collegiate pool play was declared a success. There is only one challenge in place, which will be resolved according to Midwest Collegiate policy. Only minor changes were made to the 2004 season.

Senior competitions were successful and uneventful. There were a few minor issues that were believed to be preventable in the future.

Several by-law changes were proposed. Although discussed, all proposed changes were sent to committee.

The report from our Midwest representatives to USA Rugby was enlightening. The BOD is currently working toward keeping the office accountable to the membership. The office had a history of spending money at will, regardless of the approved budget. It was also mentioned that Jack Clark has no more “official” ties to USA Rugby, our name, or our logo. Regarding the USA Rugby logo, expect a new one to be unveiled soon.

The Midwest referees reported to be understaffed and underpaid.

The LAU championship was considered successful. The only revision to 2004 is that if space is available, Ohio will be allowed two teams, consisting of one in Tier 1 and one in Tier 2 (The Tier 2 team will be eligible for the Tier 2 Championship, but unable to advance to Tier 1.)

### **Off-Season Happenings**

Scott Whitney was named as the new Disciplinary Chair. Chris Schreel decided to step down because of his commitments as both ORU and MW Treasurer. It is this president’s opinion that Mr. Schreel has performed beyond the call-of-duty in all three offices. It is also my opinion that Mr. Whitney is the right person for the job of Disciplinarian.

Several (6-8 U-19 and 4 U-15) youth clubs have started up over the fall and winter months. This is a sign of the tremendous interest in building our sport.

### **President’s Goals for 2004**

We should make every effort to make sure that all select sides are sent to their respective competitions this year and in the years to come. The ORU is currently looking for staff in EVERY select side. If you are interested or know of someone qualified to assist the select sides, please contact the ORU President immediately.

The ORU is proud of its strong youth contingent. This effort alone has the strength to catapult the ORU to the center of the USA Rugby stage. It is, however, difficult to build from the top down. I suggest that if anyone is considering starting a new youth team, please make it a U-11. There are already two U-11 teams in Worthington and one, potentially, in Westerville. It is possible for a coach to stay with a U-11 program for four years, leave it to their assistant coach and start a U-15 program, stay with that four years, found a U-19, and then a Collegiate, and eventually a senior side. Don't forget the Old Boys! Although I believe this model has the most potential for success, I am happy to see growth at any level.

Above all else, my goal is to be the most reachable and involved president possible. It is my passion to develop the game efficiently at all levels and in all aspects. Please feel free to contact me at any time for any reason.

Lynn M. Harvey

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**b. Treasurer - C. Schreel**  
**i. Year-to-date Financial Report**

ORU Treasurer, **C. Schreel** was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the financial report for 2003 and the 2004 budget through the secretary. The estimated \$4,000 surplus will be going back into the select side program funds. The last few years, ORU's select side programs have a poor showing/representation at the LAUs, hence the surplus funds left over.

Funding for each select side program has also been increased for the year 2004.

**Discussions**

**Tom Rooney** asked about clinics and funding for clinics. **L.M. Harvey** mentioned that if we decide in the meeting to fund this, the clubs can vote as ORU members to have a portion of the funds go into clinics. L.M. Harvey also mentioned that a match played out of status is an

automatic forfeit. James Kaminsky added that if you [a club] haven't paid, you will not get a referee.

## **ii. CIPP Compliance**

**L.M. Harvey** read out the list of clubs that owed the Midwest some money. These fees have been added to their invoices by **Chris Schreel**, who is also the Midwest treasurer.

## **iii. Hand out invoices**

Invoices were handed out to clubs that were present at the meeting

### **1. Secretary - L. Akinmade**

#### **i. ORU Phone List**

In an effort to reduce costs and go paperless, L. Akinmade mentioned that all forms and documents will be made available online at <http://www.ohiorugbyunion.org>

#### **ii. ORU Club Checklist**

Copies of the club checklist were handed out to newer clubs who needed refreshers on what needs to be done each season. The checklist is also available online under 'Forms Online'

#### **iii. ORU Website - <http://www.ohiorugbyunion.org>**

#### **iv. CIPP Forms (Print out)**

USA Rugby will no more send out CIPP forms. All CIPP forms should be downloaded from the USA Rugby site at <http://www.usarugby.org>

### **5. Coordinator & Director Reports**

#### **a. Youth - K. Ford**

K. Ford mentioned that the youth league coordinators had meeting during the off season. There were no contacts from women's coaches. He also noted that there were changes in the national championship dates and that there will be a qualifying event for the Midwest.

K Ford mentioned that if you [a high school club] want to qualify, you need to have funds to go to the Championship and funds to go to the Nationals. There will be stricter discipline on no-shows.

There is also a big push to grow U-15 & U-11 programs. There are 2 new U-15 teams in Columbus. Dayton is trying to start a U-19 program. Tapping into senior clubs in terms of coaching, mentoring and assistance will greatly aid these efforts.

There also is a big drive to get it into the physical education program of high schools in the form of 'touch rugby'.

### **Important Dates**

- Easter weekend at OSU will be the Midwest qualifier.
- Memorial weekend (Ohio State Championship) at OSU
- National Championship in June.
- Ohio Classic in late April. Exhibit games planned in the U15, U11 brackets.
- March 6 & 7 Camp planned in Columbus. Hoping to get Chris Spielman(?) to come talk to the kids

**L.M. Harvey** suggested that collegiate teams adopt some of the U11, U15 teams and help mentor.

There are currently two areas of reach: Northeast, and Southwest regions

There are six (6) new U19 programs in Ohio, a lot from the Cincinnati/Lexington area. The biggest challenge right now is the lack of coaches

A new team may start in Middletown. We were contacted from someone from the high school.

Scheduling for high school teams is done by their league. There are currently 3 leagues here in Columbus.

### **b. Collegiate**

#### **i. Women D1 & D2 – J. Smithhart**

#### **Women's Collegiate Report 2003**

OSU, UD and OU all participated in Midwest League Play. Ohio State won their pool and advanced to the Midwest Div 1 Playoffs, where they won. They will be going to the Sweet 16 round of Nationals this spring. University of Dayton won their pool games and advanced to the Midwest Div 1 playoffs, where they lost to Marquette University. Ohio University had to withdraw from a Midwest League game due to injuries and was disqualified from the pool.

Division 2 teams participated in pool play this fall for the first time. Ohio University won the Pool Play and title of Ohio Champions. However, they were ineligible to advance to the Midwest Qualifier, because of the previous disqualification. University of Kentucky obtained the 1<sup>st</sup> bid and advanced through the Midwest D-2 Qualifier and lost at the Midwest Finals. The second team to receive a bid was Kent State, who lost in the Midwest Qualifiers. However, it speaks a lot for their commitment to the ORU to accept the bid after Wright State and Miami University both turned it down. If the bid was not accepted, the ORU would lose the bid to another union and would not likely have the second bid for next year.

The final standings for D-2 Pool Play:

- 1- Ohio University
- 2- University of Kentucky
- 3- Wright State University
- 4- Miami University
- 5- Kent State University

Division 3 teams also participated in pool play for the first time. The teams were divided into North and South pools. The top two teams from each pool advanced to a play off against their respective seed from the other pool. The North Pool top teams were Ohio Wesleyan and Denison University. The South Pool top teams were Wittenberg University and Marshall University. Ohio Wesleyan played Wittenberg and Wittenberg won the match 24-8. Denison University played Marshall University. However, a certified Ref was not present at the Denison/Marshall game and the game will have to be replayed. The winner of the playoff matches will meet this spring for the Ohio D-3 Championships.

The final standing for the North Pool:

- 1- Ohio Wesleyan
- 2- Denison
- 3- Oberlin
- 4- Kenyon
- 5- Ashland

The final standing for the South Pool:

- 1- Wittenberg
- 2- Marshall
- 3- Xavier
- 4- Eastern Kentucky

This year was a new experience for the D-2 and D-3 Teams who participated in pool play. Though we are still working out the fine details, I believe it was a success for the ORU Teams that participated in the pool play. Thank you to James Kaminsky for arranging the pool schedules for both divisions.

Reminder to the Women's Collegiate Team: Please update your contact information on the ORU Website and report your match scores to the ORU website.

If you have any questions, problems, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Cheers

Jen Smithhart

ORU Women's Collegiate Coordinator

ORU Women's U-23 Coach

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[Smithhart@hotmail.com](mailto:Smithhart@hotmail.com)

## **Discussions**

James Kaminsky did the scheduling for D2,D3 men & women because a lot of the collegiate teams want to play on the same day their men or women's teams are playing to help minimize cost and also for camaraderie.

Denision wants to challenge up to D2 from D3. There are currently 9 Collegiate DIII women's teams.

Tom Rooney asked if it was possible to challenge another unions D3 champion, and L.M. Harvey mentioned that it was.

L. M. Harvey also clarified that J. Smithhart was the women's collegiate coordinator but that James Kaminsky did the scheduling for both men and women for the reasons mentioned above.

## **Select Side Collegiate Camp**

J. Smithhart is the current U-23 Coach, in addition to Adrienne Bouche, Jason Bouche, and Bob Richthammer

Feb 27/28 at UK – 1<sup>st</sup> Camp will be held in Kentucky

Feb 15 is the deadline to get the list of nominated players from each club.

March 13 (tent.) – CARFU match for the U23 team.

**L.M. Harvey** asked if there was space to accommodate the men as well, but **J. Smithhart** said no.

**J. Smithhart** also mentioned that there was no limit to the number of players that can be sent from club.

### **ii. Men D1 (OSU) – T. Rooney**

OSU Men and Women (UK, UD) are the only ones in pool play. Ohio sent 4 teams to the playoffs. Unfortunately no teams were advanced up. Miami took 3<sup>rd</sup> place and will be challenging Allegheny.

### **iii. Men D2 & D3 – J. Kaminsky**

D2 Men played league format because of Midwest pool play. A few games were not played

The final ranking was Miami (1<sup>st</sup>), OU (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kent (3<sup>rd</sup>), UC (4<sup>th</sup>), and Marshall (5<sup>th</sup>). Univ. of Dayton (UD) was suspended but will be back in the fall

2004 Fall schedules are complete for D2, D3 Men & Women but the dates have not been assigned yet.

James Kaminsky also mentioned that forfeiting matches is not acceptable.

### **Important Dates**

- April 17<sup>th</sup> – D3 Men and Womens Finals
  
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – Fall season schedule will be posted on the ORU website. Teams moving up a division need to contact James Kaminsky by this date. If team is not CIPP complaint before March 15<sup>th</sup>, you [the team] will be dropped from the schedule.

**Kristen Johnson** mentioned that most teams don't start playing by then, and that the March 15<sup>th</sup> date may be a little tough.

The ORU plans on sending a collegiate men's select side team to the Midwest this year. A camp will be held in March at the Whetstone Park of Roses in Columbus on [**the weekend the least number of collegiate teams will be on spring break**]. Either Mar 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>.

- April 17<sup>th</sup> – ORU Collegiate All-Star Team. **Tom Rooney** mentioned that no OSU players will be participating.

Kristen Johnson asked who will be coaching and James Kaminsky mentioned that Shane Stachurski might be involved.

L. M. Harvey mentioned that we [the ORU] are accepting suggestions and are looking for help in terms of coaching.

#### **a. Women**

- K. Johnson

#### **General Status of the ORU Clubs:**

#### **ORU Clubs Active in League Play:**

- Cincinnati-Dayton
- Eastern Suburbs
- Louisville
- Scioto Valley

#### **Recent Entrants to ORU:**

- Akron
- Cleveland Women
- Lexington

### **Midwest Division II Play:**

#### **General Status:**

- 12 DII teams last fall, 4 members out of ORU
- Lexington and Cleveland looking to join this Fall
- Toledo (Michigan Rugby Union) looking to join in another year, will help bolster DII rugby
- Akron – unsure of status but will likely not join this fall

#### **Midwest Final Four**

- Cincy-Dayton won Central Conference – 3<sup>rd</sup> year in row (¾ of ORU teams in central conference)
- Midwest playoffs May 1 @ Detroit
- Seeding
  1. Cincy-Dayton
  2. Detroit
  3. Minneapolis
  4. Indianapolis

#### **Select Side**

- Strong start last year, lots of fundraising done by players
- Took team to Savannah and placed 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Low attendance at camps in May and June
- Not enough interested players at the skill level needed to take a team to LAUs
- 3 Players from Cincy-Dayton did attend LAUs and played with Wisconsin
- 2 invited to Midwest Camp (but no camp ever held so they did not have chance to make Midwest)
- ORU reimbursed the 3 for their travel costs
- Looking for new ideas this year to get players interested
  - Possible Ohio Women's Championship – let coaches see players in match play, help make selections
  - Additional coaching staff still needed

**Kristen Johnson**  
**ourugger@hotmail.com**

L. M. Harvey also mentioned combining both the senior men and woman's select side camps so the women can benefit and use the coaching resources of the men's select side program.

**b. Men**

**c. D1**

- (Midwest, L.M. Harvey)

Scioto is second in the Midwest

**d. D2**

– J. Klosinski

**General**

Men's Division 2 rugby is pretty much the same this year. However, one team did drop down to D3 this year (and did well there). Overall, I believe most teams have enjoyed their year.

**Business**

In general, D2 teams appear to be financially sound. The teams currently boast reasonably sized rosters – with Louisville being the strongest. While there are small sponsorships popping up here and there, teams are still funded primarily through the players themselves. D2 teams contribute a lot of money to the ORU but are very reasonable of their requests from it - general support (admin, website, officers, growth) and Men's Selects (maybe helps a few D2 guys) are where we benefit the most.

**League / Competitive**

Midwest continues to tell all of the teams what to do. They set the majority of the fall schedule and about half of the spring schedule. They will be at their “ideal” 24 D2 teams this fall.

Des Moines chose to drop to D3 for the fall based on an unreasonable future within the Midwest competitive system; there will be no relegation playoffs this coming spring.

There has been an increased representation by D2 members on the Ohio Select Side and the development squad.

**Development**

As noted in the youth report, Cincinnati has started high school rugby this spring with heavy involvement from the Kelts, Queen City and the Wolfhounds. Dayton, Louisville and Lexington have also added teams to the high school level.

Referee development is still languishing. All league games are mandated to be worked by “Midwest” referees – at a cost of \$150 per game. This money is NOT going to the advancement of our referees. There are few rewards in place for wanting to get into this line of work and many players retire from D2 only when they are physically finished. Hopefully, with improved communication and better numbers the referee pool will see some new blood soon.

John Klosinski - ORU Men's D2 Coordinator, President Queen City RFC

e. **D3** - M. Miller

### **Men's Division III Report for Fall of 2003**

#### **General**

2003 saw the addition of the Eastern Suburbs RFC to the league allowing the ORU to play it's own schedule from the Allegheny Union. With Akron, Canton, Cleveland Rovers and ESRFC playing a competitive league schedule while Mortiz Law and Marion continue to play as independents.

#### **League:**

ORU league play currently consists of a round robin format that allows each team to play each other twice to establish seeding for the regional playoff with the Allegheny RFU where the top 3 finishers have an opportunity to advance to the MWFRU sweet 16.

League play ended with a three-way tie for first in the ORU. As the regional playoff with the ARU unfolded it is noteworthy to mention that the ORU dominated. ORU teams ESRFC, Akron and Cleveland Rovers snatched up all the available MWFRU playoff births for the region. (Congrats gents).

Final Standings:

|    |                      |     |
|----|----------------------|-----|
| 1. | Eastern Suburbs RFC  | 7-2 |
| 2. | Akron RFC            | 6-3 |
| 3. | Cleveland Rovers RFC | 6-3 |
| 4. | Canton RFC           | 0-7 |

#### **Development:**

The success that these teams recognized this season can be directly attributed to each teams commitment to development of youth rugby in Northeast Ohio. Each team works with at least one area U-19 or University side in the area.

Matt Miller

f. **Select Sides/Technical** - L. M. Harvey

None provided

g. **Referees** - D. Kendall/J. Lee

No report prepared to due to alleged short time notice provided to the ORRS. Jay Lee is in the process of preparing all the reports and financials

### **Important Dates**

- Feb 15 – Referee Clinic (Level 1) and all 3 levels of Touch Judge Levels
- Feb 15 – Is the deadline for submitting the schedule.
- June 14 – Camp for U19 Girls Camp

#### **h. Financial Report from ORRS - D. Kendall/J. Lee**

None provided

#### **i. Disciplinary - S. Whitney, C. Schreel**

### **2003 Disciplinary Chairman Report**

#### ***Marshall Univ. RFC vs. Univ. Cincinnati RFC – Fall 2002***

Marshall failed to honor a match in lieu of canceling the match with advance notice. A \$100 fine per match was levied for both A & B matches. The fine was paid in full. UC received \$150 reimbursement for the match and another \$50 for a free referee. The matter is now closed.

#### ***Ashland RFC vs. Kent State Univ. RFC – 21Sep02***

#### ***Ashland RFC vs. Kent State Univ. RFC – 26Oct02***

#### ***Ashland RFC vs. Xavier Univ. RFC – 2Nov02***

Ashland failed to honor (3) matches in lieu of canceling the matches with advance notice. A \$100 fine per match was levied for each match. The fine has not been paid.

Further discipline action recommended to suspend ORU membership until disciplinary fines are rectified. Once these fines are settled the following reimbursements will finalize this matter.

Kent State will receive (2) free referee assignments.

Xavier will receive a free referee assignment and \$50 reimbursement for the paid referee.

#### ***Wright State Univ. RFC vs. ? & ? – Fall 02***

Wright State failed to honor (2) matches in lieu of canceling the matches with advance notice. A \$100 fine per match was levied for each match. The fine has not

been paid.

Further discipline action recommended to suspend ORU membership until disciplinary fines are rectified

***Louisville RFC vs. EKU RFC – 22Feb03***

Pat Johnson was red carded for verbal abuse of the referee. No further action was taken.

***Eastside Barbarians RC vs. Westside RC - 17May03***

Ron Demaris II was red carded for foul play – punching during the Cincinnati High School Championship. A mandatory (8) day suspension was required. It was the last match of the year and the player was a senior. No further action was taken.

***Denison Univ. Women's RFC vs. Marshall Univ. Women's RC – 1Nov03***

Allegations were filed with the ORU regarding a serious contusion to the orbital area of a Denison player. Chris Trembley (Marshall) allegedly punched Dawn Walker (Denison) as contact was made in a tackle. An investigation was performed and no discipline action was levied. The matter is now closed.

***Akron RFC vs. Cleveland Westside Rovers RFC – 1Nov03***

Thomas Cleary (Cleveland) was ejected (red) card from the match for repeated verbal abuse of the referee. There are also allegations regarding physical threats of the referee following the match by A. Brewer (Cleveland).

This matter is still pending investigation and disciplinary action.

***Univ. Cincinnati RFC vs. West Virginia Univ. RFC – 1Nov03***

John McCafferty (UC) received a yellow card for repeated offenses followed by a red card for verbal abuse of the referee.

This matter is still pending investigation and disciplinary action.

- **L. Akinmade** mentioned that Ashland Men will be suspended from the ORU.

- **James Kaminsky** suggested that D2, D3 clubs forfeiting matches will be dropped from the league.
  - **John Klonsinski** mentioned that if the senior side club is sponsoring a junior, non-compliant, suspended club, that senior club should be penalized.
  - **Matt Dineen (Ohio Northern)** asked if the clubs will be reimbursed for the loss, and **L. M. Harvey** mentioned that the fines levied on offending teams that collected, are for the hosting team.
- j. Marketing** - [Vacant]

## 6. Break

## 7. Old Business - L.M. Harvey

- **Ongoing Referee Recruiting Proposal** – Bob Caudy

Kristen Johnson represented Bob Caudy in presenting the grant plan below:

### The “Grant Plan” for new referee recruitment

- **All clubs** (high school, collegiate, men & women) would give an initial **one-time** startup fee based on their 2003 CIPP membership. (\$2/person)
  - Example: As of 10/5/03, there were 2118 active CIPP members in the Ohio LAU, this would correspond to \$4236 in the fund if it was \$2/person.
  - Failure to comply with the agreed upon startup requirement from your club means that your club would be labeled “non-compliant” and there is no guarantee of refs for your games. (I.e. You are last in line for acquiring refs, no matter who you are.)
  - This fund is to be used **ONLY** for sponsoring new referees, and will replenish itself via the sponsorship requirement below.
  - This fund will be operated by the ORU.
  - Should the fund be dissolved in the future, the money from the fund will go back to the original contributing teams, and any dissolved teams or consolidated teams will have their funds donated to the general fund.
  - This fund would be required to give financial reports at any LAU general meetings, including identification of referees going through the program.
  - The fund will be retroactive for all clinics in 2004.
- **All clubs** would need to survey their teams for a list of people potentially interested in becoming a referee.
  - The club needs to communicate this list to the person in charge of the fund, thereby generating the “List” of potential referees.
- **All D1/D2 men/women & D1 collegiate clubs** are strongly recommended to do 1 of the following during the 2004 spring season:

- Provide a new assignable referee for the 2004 spring season who would do agree to be a referee for the year, OR
- Sponsor a referee through the grant program.

Note:

- D1 high schools would be targeted for compliance for the 2005 spring season. (Yes, high schools are the biggest untapped resource we have. Consider all the parental support.)
- Teams COULD be paired by men's women's if possible. (I.e.: Lexington Men & Women could be paired as one for compliance considerations, which includes non-compliance considerations.)

**The Grant Process:**

1. A team would sponsor an individual through the grant program. (This could be one of their own, or someone from the "List" kept by the program administrator.)
2. The Individual and the team President would sign a grant application, which in effect is a contract. The contract would require:
  - a. The individual to become an assignable referee for 1 year.
    - i. The referee society reimburses first year referees if they are a referee for a year. Therefore, the referee society would just sign this check over to the grant program administrator, as the grant program paid these funds to begin with. **(Therefore, a new referee would essentially NOT have to pay a penny to be trained, and if they become an assignable referee for a year, the fund replenishes itself, at NO COST to the new referee, and no additional costs to the clubs. In addition, they will make \$50/game.)**
  - b. Should the individual fail to complete the requirement of becoming an assignable referee for the year such that the referee society would reimburse the funds, then the sponsoring club(s) would be required to
    - i. repay the grant program administrator the cost of the training program, and
    - ii. provide a new person for the process.

**Discussion**

**Kristen Johnson** also mentioned that the fund will be operated by the ORU and if the program dissolves, the money goes back to the clubs.

The grant program will require that each club compile a list of members as possible referees

**Tom Rooney** noted that then, large clubs have to pay more because they require more referees.

**K. Johnson** mentioned that at first, everyone pays into the grant pool and referee pool. After that, D1, D2 Senior Men and Women & D1 Collegiate Men will provide into the pool every year.

**L. M. Harvey** mentioned that based on the size of club, you will require to put in players into the system on a yearly, 2, 3 year basis.

**James Kaminsky** asked why D2 collegiate men weren't involved.

**Tom Rooney** explained that the idea is to find an x number of referees to be funded by the USA rugby CIPP number and when they come out of the program, will be provided to the clubs that need them the most but are not contributing financially.

**Tom Rooney** also expressed that he was a little hesitant about providing players and money into the pool and yet not benefiting from the program.

**John Klosinski** mentioned that the money is there but the problem is that there are no bodies to contribute into the program.

**Doug Kendall** informed the clubs that \$185 is the clinic fee to sponsor referees. He also mentioned that 32 Referees were needed by the ORRS, but there are currently 18 Active Referees.

**Matt Dineen (Ohio Northern)** mentioned that D3 teams can't afford this, but the ORU officers reiterated that D2/D3 Men and Women were going to be exempt from contributing referees into the pool.

### **Vote on Proposal**

Before the vote, **Mike Myer (XU)** mentioned the Mayors Cup. **Kristen Johnson** mentioned that Dayton Rugby will take care of the scheduling and will discuss this with him offline.

**Doug Kendall** suggested that each player be taxed \$1. Clubs who put at least 3 players into the referee pool can get first dibs.

### **Tom Rooney lecture**

**Doug Kendall** informed the clubs that \$185 is required for sponsoring a referee including CIPP registration. Shadow referees as well, required this amount.

**Tom Rooney** estimated that at least 14 additional referees are needed to cover existing games.

$185 \times 14 = \$2590$  – Maximum cost

**Lexington Men** mentioned that in order to recruit, incentive plan is what is needed to get referees into the pool. Money is not the issue. You [the union] can't force people to ref.

**Lexington** suggested having an incentive program. They also indicated that they were willing to pay \$150 to a local referee instead of a Midwest referee.

**Tom Rooney** responded that the problem should be resolved within the collegiate program. The newer, younger bodies fed into this program will help in the long run.

**L.M. Harvey** mentioned that the real incentive is actually the increase of the referee pool and thus, the availability of more referees.

**James Kaminsky** added that the referee is personally responsible for the game especially the D3 level games where more injuries are prone.

**Louisville Women** mentioned that they can provide the money and fund another person provided by another club

**John Klonsinski** added that the ORU has flown under the radar in terms of litigations, injuries, etc

**Ohio Wesleyan** mentioned that there are virtually no resources in Delaware Ohio to pull from and can't be burdened with providing into the pool.

**Paul Pegher, Denison Univ.** mentioned that D3 teams were having problems getting players to play, talk less of being burdened with providing referees into the pool.

**Adrienne Bouche, UK** added that as an incentive, these referees can pick and choose the dates and types of clubs they will do once they are in the pool.

**Shawn, Wittenburg** asked that if we can get enough referees to ref on Fridays & Sundays, will that free up more referees for Saturday games?

**Tom Rooney** reiterated that the whole idea isn't to have collegiate refs now to ref collegiate games, but it is a long term planning.

**Dave Fraser, OU** added that besides, refereeing B-side games is not very hard

**Steve, OSU** asked if the fund will help pay for the Feb 15 clinic?

### **Motion to accept the proposal**

**Lexington** motioned the following:

- The first 2 bullets are retained including all clubs making a list be dropped
- Strike everything from "all D1 and D2 men & women down" from the proposal and leave the first two items.
- Strike the grant process and make it reimbursements

**L.M. Harvey** motioned to drop the word ‘Mandatory’ from the proposal.

**Steve, OSU** motioned that all players be taxed \$1 annually.

**Louisville Women** motioned that \$2 be charged for the first year, and then \$1 every year after that.

**Kenneth Ford** mentioned that we [the union] either do it properly or not. It is all about economics and we [the union] need to fund it adequately.

**Motion on the floor by Lexington**

*- To Retain at \$1 per person per year, striking everything from “all D1 and D2 men & women down” from the proposal including the grant process.*

**Roll call to vote – L.M. Harvey.**

Yay – 13 Non HS, 2 HS

Nay – 18 Non HS

Most of the women’s collegiate voted for the \$1 a year motion set by Lexington

**Motion on the floor by Kristen Johnson**

*- Accept the proposal in its entirety as written but with the following changes:*

- *Change 2004 spring season -> 2004 season (John Klonsinski)*
- *Change ‘mandatory’ to ‘strongly recommend’.*

*- Charge \$2 per person*

*- Make it retroactive for 2004*

**Roll call to vote – L.M. Harvey.**

Yay – Most of the members voted so it was passed.

**8. New Business** - L.M. Harvey

**a. Select Side Planning** – L. M. Harvey

**i. Current ideas on structure**

**L.M. Harvey** asked for suggestions/ideas on the current structure of the select side programs

## **ii. Management**

In terms of management, an idea was to combine the management for both the men and women's teams to help utilize the few resources and cut costs

## **iii. Coaching**

1. Forwards Coaches
2. Backs Coaches

In terms of coaching, we [the union] are looking for forwards and backs coaches

## **b. Youth Rugby – K. Ford**

L.M. Harvey noted that we [the union] are incredibly understaffed in our select side programs.

## **9. New ORU Memberships**

- Cleveland Women's Rugby Club – Voted in Fall 2003
- Lexington Women – Voted in Fall 2003
- Ohio Northern Women – Plans on joining the D3 league in the fall. Was voted in at the meeting.
- Findlay High School – Will now fall under the ORU jurisdiction.
- Franciscan (Alleghany) – Interested in joining the ORU. They contacted **James Kaminsky**.

## **10. Officer Elections**

- Vice President – **Scott Whitney** was voted in unanimously. Other mentions were **Dave Tinsley** (Louisville) and **Jason Fox** (Rovers) who were not present at the meeting.
- Treasurer – **Chris Schreel** was voted in unanimously.

### **Volunteer Positions**

- Marketing Coordinator – **Tom Rooney** nominated **Steve Weaver (OU)** for the marketing coordinator, which he graciously declined.
- **L. M. Harvey** requested that nominations for this position be submitted to Chris Schreel.

## **11. Other New Business**

- i. **Next ORU General Meeting date** (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September)

**L. Akinmade** will send out the date for the next AGM

**ii. Next ORU Executive Meeting date** (weekend in March)

The ORU officers will decide on a date to meet.

**L.M. Harvey** mentioned approaching Allegheny to possibly combine with the ORU to become one union. He expressed interested in seeing Findlay and Toledo Rugby join ORU league play.

**James Kaminsky** pointed out that Allegheny currently has problems with referees and if we [ORU] combine with them, we will only compound the referee shortage crisis we are currently experiencing.

**12. Closing** – L.M. Harvey

On that note by **Kaminsky**, **L.M. Harvey** adjourned the meeting and thanked the clubs for braving the weather.