

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NSW COUNTRY RUGBY UNION LTD
NSWRU OFFICES, MOORE PARK
10.00AM SUNDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2009**

1. PRESENT

Bruce Worboys	NSWCRU (President)
Laurie Maher	NSWCRU (Vice President)
Col Jeffs	NSWCRU
Phil Payne	NSWCRU
Steve Rosa	NSWCRU
Peter Veenstra	NSWCRU
Garry Warfield	NSWCRU
Terry Woodward	NSWCRU (Executive Officer)
Richard Croft	NERU
Tony Crosby	GUEST (Classic Sportswear P/L)
Michael Dodd	NSWCJRU
Bruce Etheridge	CNRU
Des George	CRRA
Tony Heeson	FNCRU
Danny Mahar	IDRU
Bill Rowlands	PATRON
Barry Ruddy	CWRU
Graham Sonter	MNCRU
Larry Thomson	CCRU
Pam Thomson	NSWCWRU
Arthur Watts	IDRU
Greg Whiteley	WPRU
Doug Williams	NHRU

2. APOLOGIES

Matt Evrard	CCRU
John Haddin	NSWCRU (Cockatoo Selector)
Col McCallum	NERU
Wayne Millane	FNCRU
Stuart Ogilvy	NSWCRU (Judiciary)
Terry Orman	LIFE MEMBER
Tony Souter	NSWCWRU (Team Manager)
Luke Stephen	NERU
Peter Woods	CRRA
Chris Zucker	NSWCRU (Solicitor)

Resolved: Apologies were accepted – Moved: Richard Croft & Seconded: Barry Ruddy.

3. ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Written notification of Alternate Delegates had been received from:

- Peter Woods (CRRRA) to Des George

Resolved: Alternate Delegates were accepted – Moved: Doug Williams & Seconded: Arthur Watts.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 November 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record – Moved: Richard Croft & Seconded: Tony Heeson.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Nil

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Bruce Worboys spoke to his report.
- The Country Board had been very effective in the administration of the Union, and had not been afraid to make the hard decisions.
- Acknowledged the work and commitment of the Executive Officer, especially in view of the ever increasing NSW Rugby Union workload.
- The Country Cockatoos had an outstanding season, which had maintained the profile of the Union and in his opinion was one of the best teams Country had fielded over the last twenty years.
- The EOI for Super Rugby had been a positive exercise which would have ongoing benefits for the Union, one being the lines of communication with the ARU.
- Relationships with the NSWRU were strong which was testament to the efforts of Laurie Maher during his time on the NSWRU Board.
- NSWRU were continuing to support NSWCRU by seeking sponsorship opportunities, while the Waratahs would play matches in Lismore and Orange.
- Congratulated the Affiliates and Zones in relation to the management of their respective Union's, which had been reflected in their positive annual reports.

Resolved: President's Report was accepted – Moved: Bruce Worboys & Seconded: Michael Dodd.

7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

- Terry Woodward spoke to his report.
- Acknowledged the relationships which existed with the Zones, and the vastly improved relationships with the Affiliates.
- The restructured Country Championships had been an outstanding success, which had been fully supported by the Zones, and had been a big plus in the promotion of Country Rugby.
- The representative teams, in particular the Cockatoos, had all performed well and continued to showcase the quality of Country players.

- Congratulated and thanked the representative team coaches and selectors for their efforts throughout the season.
- The Kiss the Frog Foundation Day had again reflected the culture and spirit of Country Rugby by the commitment shown by the players and support staff.
- Acknowledged Bruce Worboys and the Board of Directors for their efforts and ongoing support throughout the year.
- Thanked and congratulated Laurie Maher who was stepping down as a NSWRU Director following a long involvement with the Union.
- Advised the Waratahs Match Manager's role had been expanded, which would result in an increased workload during the 2010 season.

Resolved: Executive Officer's Report was accepted – Moved: Terry Woodward & Seconded: Tony Heeson.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Phil Payne spoke to the report.
- The Union had registered a Deficit of \$20,049.00 for the year, which was over the deficit budget set at the beginning of the year.
- The increased deficit was a result of the reduction of income and increased costs associated with the representative teams.
- There had been several fluctuations with the income – Commissions were up, Country Championship Tender was new, Bank Interest was down, Bartercard spend was up, Sponsorship was down and Grants were down.
- Expenditure was down in all accounting areas except Representative Teams, which was due to assembly costs and a late change to the Colts program.
- Grants to the Affiliates had been paid as per the budget, either by cash, Bartercard trades or Classic kit.

Resolved: The Financial Statements as at 30 September 2009 were accepted, – Moved: Phil Payne & Seconded: Richard Croft.

9. REPORTS

- **Juniors** – Michael Dodd spoke to the report.
 - Acknowledged the full payment of the \$20K Grant by the NSWCRU.
 - The season had been a rebuilding exercise especially in the areas of administration and finance.
 - A new look Executive Committee had been elected for 2010, and they would be focusing on revamping the representative programs.
 - Thanked Bruce Worboys, Peter Veenstra and Terry Woodward for their support during his first year as the Junior President.
- **Referees** – Des George spoke to the report:
 - The new Country Championship format had enabled the association to maximize their coaching and mentoring resources.
 - The UNE Chancellor's Cup also provided an opportunity for the younger referees to gain exposure at the representative level.
 - Congratulated former Country Referee Nathan Pearce on recent international appointments.

- Acknowledged the financial support provided by Country Seniors and Juniors, together with the support provided by both the Unions.
 - The association was actively looking at sponsorship opportunities to assist with their finances.
 - Congratulated Austin Rummery (President) and Tony Rudd (Chairman C&D) on their first year in the roles, and also acknowledged Mike Lyons.
- **Schools** – No Delegate in attendance.
- **Women** – Pam Thomson spoke to the report.
 - It had been a rebuilding year, with eight new players selected for the first time.
 - Match results were down on previous years, with the team finishing 5th at the National Championships.
 - The highlights of the year were Kylie Pennell and Rebecca Trethowan gaining selection in the Wallaroos, and Rebecca Trethowan being named the NSWRU Womens Player of the Year.
 - Thanked Tony Souter who was standing down as Team Manager.
 - Acknowledged the support provided by the Board and Terry Woodward, together with the financial support provided by BWS with their sponsorship.
- **Central Coast** – Larry Thomson spoke to the report:
 - The season had run smoothly with no major problems on and off the field.
 - Avoca Beach had won their fifth consecutive first grade premiership.
 - Bay Sports Club had increased their sponsorship and had committed for 2010.
 - The Zone's AGM had been held with a full Board elected.
 - Administration Officer Bruce Fergusson had retired and would be replaced by Matt Evrard.
- **Central North** – Bruce Etheridge spoke to the report:
 - The competition had been very even with the semi-final teams not determined until the last round of matches.
 - Tamworth Pirates had won the first grade premiership, with a record crowd in attendance on grand final day.
 - Participation had been down especially in the juniors, and there had been problems with the junior committee which hopefully had been resolved.
 - The new Development Officer (Adam Crane) had settled in and had focused on the schools and junior Rugby.
 - The Zone's AGM had been held with no major changes, with the focus for 2010 being Referee Retention and Recruitment.
- **Central West** – Barry Ruddy spoke to the report:
 - It had been a successful year, with increased participation of clubs and players.
 - All competitions had been evenly contested, with the standout in first grade being Narromine who won the premiership after being admitted six years ago.
 - Australian National Field Days had sponsored the President's Cup, which included a scholarship for a player in the competition.
 - A new club out of Orange and two from Southern Inland (Condobolin & Grenfell) would join the President's Cup in 2010.

- The Zone's AGM would be held on Sunday, 6 December 2009.
 - The Orange City Council was sponsoring the Waratahs v Fiji Warriors Trial Match in Orange on 30 January 2010.
 - Acknowledged Peter Veenstra and advised he was stepping down as Zone President, as he had been transferred with his job to the North Coast.
- **Far North Coast** – Tony Heeson spoke to the report:
 - It had finished as a positive year following a few hiccups sorting out the team nominations for the various grades.
 - Lennox Head had won back to back first grade premierships.
 - The Zone was financial, had strong Referee numbers, while the Juniors continued to grow and had achieved high Country representation.
 - The only disappointment was the senior representative teams which hadn't been supported by the club.
 - The Zone's AGM had been held with a new Board elected, with one of their aims being a new drive with representative Rugby in 2010.
 - An application had been received from Murwillumbah to join the Village Competition in 2010.
 - Lismore City Council was sponsoring the Waratahs v Reds Trial Match in Lismore on 23 January 2010.
- **Illawarra** – Arthur Watts spoke to the report:
 - Had been a season of consolidation by the Board in their second year.
 - Tech Waratahs had won the first grade premiership, in an evenly contested competition.
 - The AGM would be held on 30 November 2009, with only John Hayne not standing for re-election to the Board.
 - Would be financing a Junior Recruitment Program in an attempt to combat the inroads AFL was making in the Zone and surrounding areas.
 - Bowral had indicated they would contest first grade, while Engadine Heathcote would field three grades and there was the possibility of a club rejoining the zone.
- **Mid North Coast** – Graham Sonter spoke to the report:
 - Northern and Southern Competitions had been conducted, with Coffs Breakers and Old Bar Beach winning the respective first grade premierships.
 - Northern competition had been revamped to only include firsts and colts, while the southern competition had expanded with the inclusion of Harrington.
 - Referee numbers were strong, while the Zone had continued to be sponsored by the AbiGroup.
 - New Development Manager (Bruce Frame) had been very active and was working with the Zone in relation developing the junior age competitions.
 - Acknowledged the Board and Executive Officer Des Hoy.
 - Hallidays Point RLFC was seeking entry into the Southern Competition.
 - The Zone's AGM had been held with a full Board elected for 2010.
- **New England** – Richard Croft spoke to the report:
 - St Alberts College had taken out the first grade premiership.

- The high number of Country representative players had been a positive for the competition, as they had helped to lift the playing standard.
 - The new facility at the UNE ground had provided the Union with a first class facility to play competition matches and to host fixtures.
 - Junior participation had increased, which was a direct result of the work put in by the Development Manager and Officer (Adam Crane & Stephen O'Brien).
 - UNE Chancellors Cup was also providing additional playing opportunities for the junior teams and players.
 - Sponsorship was strong, while the system of each club being required to nominate two Referees had been very successful.
 - Acknowledge Executive Officer Col McCallum and the support provide to the Zone by NSWCRU.
 - The Zone's AGM had been held with Luke Stephen elected as President.
 - Bruce Worboys acknowledged and thanked Richard Croft for the service and commitment he had given to the NERU over a very long period of time.
- **Newcastle Hunter** – Doug Williams spoke to the report:
 - Zone had successfully hosted the Waratahs v Fiji Warriors Trial Match.
 - Newcastle Wanderers had won the first grade premiership in a competition which had been contested professionally by all clubs.
 - Participation numbers were up which would result in the introduction of an additional grade in 2010.
 - The Zone had made a clean sweep of the three Country Championships.
 - Approval had been granted for the re-development of the No 2 Sports Ground which would provide a permanent home ground and facility for the Zone.
 - The Greater Building Society had been secured as the Zone's Major Sponsor for the next two years.
 - Southern Beaches had won the tender to host the Country Weekend in 2010.
 - The Zone's AGM would be held on 7 December 2009.
 - **Western Plains** – Greg Whiteley spoke to the report:
 - Coonamble had won the first grade premiership by defeating Bourke who played in their 13th consecutive grand final.
 - Club administration continued to be a problem, with Brewarrina experiencing extreme difficulties.
 - Participation was on par with the previous season, while the social aspect had been the best on record with strong attendances during the entire year.
 - There were concerns in relation to clubs looking to transfer to eastern zones, and the zone would request NSWCRU to monitor this in the future.
 - Acknowledged Col Jeff's involvement with the representative teams and the support provided by NSWCRU.

Resolved: The Written Report, together with the Affiliate and Zone Reports were accepted – Moved: Arthur Watts & Seconded: Michael Dodd.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Appointments of Scrutinisers

- Arthur Watts and Terry Woodward were appointed as scrutinisers for the election. **Moved: Danny Mahar & Seconded: Garry Warfield**

Position of Patron(s)

- The Constitution was silent on the number of patrons the Union could have at any one period of time.

Resolved: Harry Ivimey O.A.M. and Bill Rowlands O.A.M. were appointed as the Patrons of the Union – Moved: Richard Croft & Seconded: Larry Thomson.

Election of President

- As there was only one nomination for the position, Bruce Worboys was elected President of NSW Country Rugby Union for two years.

Election of Directors (2)

- The following nominations had been received for the two positions:
 - Col Jeffs
 - Col McCallum
 - Phil Payne
 - James Quinn
 - Barry Ruddy
- Col Jeffs withdrew his nomination for the position of Director.
- Following a secret ballot, Phil Payne and Barry Ruddy were elected as Directors of NSW Country Rugby Union Ltd for two years.

Election of Delegate to NSWRU

- The following nominations had been received for the position:
 - Steve Rosa
 - Bruce Worboys
- Steve Rosa withdrew his nomination for the position of Delegate to NSWRU.
- As there was only one nomination for the position, Bruce Worboys was elected Delegate to NSW Rugby Union for two years.

Election of Voting Members to NSWRU (5)

- As there were only five nominations for the positions, the following nominees were elected as Voting Members to NSW Rugby Union for one year:
 - Phil Payne
 - Steve Rosa
 - Tony Souter
 - Peter Veenstra
 - Bruce Worboys

Election of NSWCRU Judiciary Committee (5)

- The following nominees were elected to the NSWCRU Judiciary Committee:
 - Richard Croft
 - Stuart Ogilvy
 - Bob Thompson
 - Garry Warfield
 - Doug Williams

Resolved: Bob Thompson was appointed as the Chairperson of the NSWCRU Judiciary Committee – Moved: Tony Heeson & Seconded: Barry Ruddy.

Election of Appeals Committee (3)

- The following nominees were elected to the NSWCRU Appeals Committee:
 - Peter Pardy
 - Tony Souter
 - Chris Zucker

Resolved: Chris Zucker was appointed as the Chairperson of the NSWCRU Appeals Committee – Moved: Doug Williams & Seconded: Richard Croft.

9. FIXING OF HONORARIA

Resolved: Fix Honoraria at Nil for 2010 – Moved: Danny Mahar & Seconded: Barry Ruddy.

Meeting Closed: 11.55pm