

**Underwater Rugby Australia**

65 Tallow Wood Pl, Mt Gravatt East, QLD 4122

PO Box ###, Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia

t. +61 416 561 677 | e. info@uwra.org.au

w. www.uwra.org.au | A.B.N ## ### ### ###

MINUTES**UNDERWATER RUGBY AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Time:	Meeting opened 7:30pm
Date:	17 th September 2016
Venue:	Club Ringwood (Victoria)
Attendees:	Wayne Freeman (<i>Chairman</i>) Sophie Lamande (<i>Secretary</i>) Sebastien Robin (<i>Tas Convicts Club Rep/ Acting Treasurer</i>) Angus Lamin (<i>Victoria Seadragons Club Rep</i>) Carlos Ledezma (<i>Chief Referee/ UNSW Whales Club Rep</i>) Katelyn Ten Bensel (<i>Perth Raiders Club Rep</i>) Bobby Chen (<i>Canberra Underdogs Rep</i>) Charlotte Jordans (<i>Adelaide White Pointers Club Rep</i>)
Absent:	

WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN

Introduction of Rudiger Huls CMAS UW-Rugby President to UWRA executive. Excited to build relationship in the future and help the growth in the region.

Welcome Carlos as new Chief Referee, Sophie and Secretary and Angus as new Victoria rep.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Last meeting held in Sydney 12th August 2016 - Still waiting for final draft of minutes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Sebastien: currently we have \$1605 in the UWRA bank account. To date \$300 received from AUF subscriptions – not sufficient considering the number of players who joined the AUF for the national tournament.

Break down of the joining fee: \$80 – receive \$30 back - \$15 goes to UWRA & \$15 to the club

To date Victoria Seadragons has not received any funds from the AUF despite many players joining.

Action: All club reps to check with AUF that their bank details are correct and ensure funds are transferred accordingly.

INCORPORATION OF UWRA UPDATE

Wayne: We have address for mail now (PO Box in Brisbane). Two further things required:

1. By-laws – *Action: comments from Bobby & Seb*

2. Need a treasurer – *Action: Wayne to ask member of Unidive Gauls*

Once we have commitment for treasurer, we need 2 documents - Model Rules & By Laws, then we can apply for incorporation *Action: Wayne & Sophie to ensure documentation is in order and apply for incorporation*

REFEREE TRAINING CAMP FEEDBACK

Carlos: Ref training camp went fairly well - not sure if there's a noticeable difference with the quality of the referees at this tournament; however, those who undertook the training have a better overall understanding. Now the most important thing is getting experience. It is important that priority is given to people that did the course to do the refereeing so they can gain experience.

There were 15 people at the course. 6 QLD, 1 SA 1, TAS, 5 NSW, 2 VIC.

AUF gave us \$3000 to subsidise peoples flights

New level 1 course hopefully early next year and there is a Level 2 course in the making (It is a lot of work to put together Level 2). The idea is we want to make the AUS training equivalent to European.

Encourage online course be completed by anyone in AUS interested in refereeing.

Future plans to be primarily responsible for training the refs in the region - NZ, China, Singapore etc.

CHAMPIONS CUP UPDATE

UNSW Whales will definitely be attending - most players have tickets.

Request for monetary assistance from the UWRA – at the moment the UWRA is not in the financial position to help; however, we can encourage our players to assist on the Go Fund Me page. Mostly family and friends have donated but there have been some anonymous donations as well. *Action: all club reps to encourage teammates to contribute and share funding campaign*

UNSW has a couple of sponsors - ice cream company offered \$500 to add their logo to the uniform.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CMAS

Rudiger

Came to the area to see how UWR is going in Aus - hear our opinions, see how they can support us. Participation in World Championships was a good thing to grow the sport in AUS. Rudiger wanted to come to PPC, but due to schedule conflicts, decided on the Nationals. Stopping at Singapore on the way back to Europe; next year, planning on going to the USA - Looking to spread UWR around the world. The Championships in Cali was the first with 4 continents - next time, maybe all 5 continents with the Singapore team.

One point of advice on how we can give the new refs more practice - Today it was easy to see which people had done the course. We need more practice. Don't have many tournaments where they can get experience. Good idea to have refs in normal club trainings - in order to train the refs and also the team (free throws, penalty throws, etc.)

Only have 2 tournaments in AUS – possibility to create an Australia Cup - 3 or 4 tournaments where winners get 20 points. Results of best of the 3 would be added - team with the most points at the end of the year gets the cup. Therefore teams don't have to participate in all tournaments, but could still win. Team names with different players - better initially to have liberal rules? Very important to have a lot of experience in tournaments.

CMAS have a Log-book - "passport" for people that are playing as a representative level which includes info about the players - medical, ref level etc.

For NoDex, NSW used an electronic system for player registration which could be used for UWR database. Bobby raised concern that we would need someone with coding abilities to run the database (Carlos at this stage, but there's no redundancy)

Another option is to use AUF database system - can't access easily, but Graham has been clear he is happy to make information available upon request.

Action - discuss using the AUF database with Graham.

Rudiger's thoughts on a World Championship in Australia? Deadline for application before April (31st March) 2017, with final decision will be made June/July next year. Rudiger will send the Application Form. To date there have been only 2 federations to express interest in hosting the 2019 World Championships (including Australia), both outside of Europe.

Is it realistic? Is Aus too far - many countries did not go to Colombia for example. World Championships won't be always in Europe. If there is sufficient notice, Rudiger predicts it would be possible to have 25 teams.

Hopefully there will be an invitation to the European Championships in Nov, latest Dec.

WEBSITE, MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

Motion to create more official UWRA page on facebook or to repurpose an existing page – Facebook is not the appropriate platform for official UWRA communications. Website is the best platform for sharing the information. *Action: Bobby - trial run for 3 months.*

Add position on committee for website maintenance (Website/Communications Officer)?

Committee information and discussion - having better platform Discuss how we can improve of transparency and communications. *Action: Carlos to set up Slack account*

UWRA CLUB FEES

Charlotte raised concerns that a set club fees to UWRA is unfair to new teams with small member base, and asked if it would be possible that it could be dependent on numbers? Another option is to reduce fee for all clubs. A third option is to instead increase the AUF fee for UWR players with the additional fee going straight to the UWRA.

There were a number of players that were not registered with the AUF (according to list provided by AUF President, no-one on the Canberra team & various players from every other team did not have AUF memberships). Signing these members up would result in some income for UWRA as well as the individual clubs.

Sophie pointed out that if we go with the AUF membership option, we already have most of our players signed up for this year, so there would be no benefit from this until membership renewal in July 2017. Bobby pointed out that there is nothing pressing that UWRA needs the money for.

Motion to increase AUF membership fee with additional money going to UWRA

Vote: 6 for; 1 against *Motion passed*

Action: Seb to contact Graham and see if we can organise a higher AUF fee for UWR players and a larger cut for UWRA

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Ideally we want to hold the national tournament 8 months before Champions Cup in Europe (held in Nov each year). As such, we want to aim for holding the Nationals in March/April each year, with a second tournament around August/September. This leaves room for international tournament in July (European Championships 2017) & Champions Cup in Nov.

Nationals options for various states:

Perth – potential pool freely available in winter (May)

Tas – has small pool (12 m long – JUST within the allowed dimensions), still may be suitable for tournament

Canberra - may have facilities in March.

Adelaide - ?

Proposed schedule for nationals (TBC).

2017 - Perth (May)

2018 - Tasmania

2019 - Canberra

2020 – Adelaide

If these states forfeit, then goes back to Sydney.

Action: Club reps from Perth, Tas, Canberra & Adelaide to confirm availability to hold nationals in the coming years

Second UWRA event to be the PPC – the future plan is that it eventually becomes a regional tournament – with competitions held in NZ and Signapore. (August/September). We should have more dialogue with these teams moving forward regarding the growth of the sport in the Australasian region.

OTHER MATTERS

Concerns raised by previous Chief Ref (Ricardo Iriarte) that the application process for electing the new Chief Ref was postponed & that a late application was allowed. He felt that there were transparency issues; however, executive committee agrees that the process was clear and fair.

Communication issues with NZ teams entering – some teams were unaware of the inclusion of the NZ teams. Plans have been made to update communications platform to Slack which will reduce these issues moving forward.

CLOSURE

Meeting Closed 10pm

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting planned for the Training Camp in Brisbane 29th October 2016. Club reps that are unable to attend can send a proxy representative in their place.