#### 2019, January 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Whitby Abilities Centre

#### **TRU AGM Minutes**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Mark Walsh (President), Peter Ratcliffe (Treasurer), John Pryce (High Performance), Michael Kahn (Discipline), Brian Crothers (Secretary) & John Watkins (Competitions convener) **Regrets:** Don Maillet (Director Game)

#### League Members Present/Clubs Represented:

Rick Honeyford (Beach) Mike McMahon (Cobourg) Sean Webb (Bucs) Neil Littlejohns (Muddy York) Jeremy Baiteau (Muddy York) Malency Wainwright (Beach) Josh Weaver (Bay St.) Taylor Zak (Bay St.) Stew Dobbs (Ajax) Patrick Daniels (CRU) Len Day (Barrie) Martin Coe (Markham Irish) Everest Bezati (Yeomen) Alex McCallion (Brampton) Krista Kent (YeoLions) Alison McKenna (YeoLions) Michael Khan (GITS) John Watkins (Oshawa)

NOTE: Due to less than 51% of clubs being present, quorum is not reached, and motions & votes cannot pass. AGM format consists of board member reports, comments and questions from the floor.

A conference meeting will be scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2019, 8 pm, to vote in new board members, and pass motions.

Start - 10:25 am

Mark's Opening address & report

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Mark Walsh)

#### Welcome members,

2018 was a year full of challenges for the Toronto Rugby Union (TRU), but through the hard work and dedication of our board members, we were able to overcome many of the obstacles we faced. I want to start this address by thanking each of them for their commitment and dedication to the betterment of our union. Gentlemen, thank you.

The AGM last February was less than successful. The outgoing Treasurer had moved away and did not attend the meeting, the budget reporting he submitted for the AGM Report brought a number of unanswered questions from representatives from many of the clubs at the meeting. This uncertainty prevented us from having a budget ratified by the membership during the AGM. It would be an arduous task to pull together the bits of information we had and cobble together a budget but that responsibility fell on the shoulders of our newly elected Treasurer, Peter Radcliffe. Peter now had to try and give us the clearest possible picture of our financial standing, under a pressure cooker timeline! Providing Peter with the tools to do the budget required quite a bit of work. as we needed to contact a number of people in multiple bank branches. We had to coordinate the addition of the new board members and to arrange appointments to have them sign the appropriate documentation, but we also had to relocate the home branch to an area that was accessible by the new board members with signing authority. We were eventually able to present the 2019 budget to the membership some four weeks later, when it was approved.

This year we welcomed a number of new board members to our ranks at the AGM. Unfortunately, one of those new board members was lost just three weeks after his election. After being voted in as Secretary, Christopher Burt made the decision to move his family back to Newfoundland, leaving the position open and our board without one of its most vital members. Without an acting Secretary until just before the start of the season, the board welcomed Brian Crothers, who stepped forward to volunteer as interim Secretary, and an emergency approval hearing resulted in a unanimous vote to accept his offer. The TRU has benefitted greatly from this addition and I want to thank him for his hard work and dedication.

Setbacks in the boardroom were unfortunately matched by lower than expected registration numbers across the TRU this year. This affected a number of clubs in

our union causing a number of fines for defaults, but also creating the unfortunate situation where Brampton RFC were not able to register the required 30 players to maintain their position in the Keenan Division and were placed in the Russell Division. The TRU Board knew that this was a difficult decision to make and would not be welcome news to any club. A special hearing was called to allow for Brampton RFC to address the members of the board and the decision was put to a ratification vote. There was no winner in this situation and ultimately Brampton RFC was placed in the Russell Division as they could not meet the registration requirement. We know we will not always make every club happy with all of our decisions, but I am pleased to see a functioning union where the board is willing to call an emergency hearing; for not just the vote, but for the hearing and ratification vote as well. This ensures that member clubs have the forum to discuss different points of view, to present those views and to put them to a vote.

The TRU may have had some obstacles off the field, but on the field was a completely different story. Our high-performance program had an exceptional haul of hardware in 2018, representing us well in every tournament they attended, as well as having a successful Ontario Summer Games campaign. The Elite Reds program has been very successful and we must continue our work in giving these amazing young athletes every opportunity to push themselves to the next level and we look forward to continuing to celebrate their achievements.

2019 brings with it, the conclusion of the pilot project for the TRU Administrator position. We, as a board, will take some time to analyze the contributions made through this role and its necessity or metamorphosis going forward. It is our opinion that the board is in need of someone that can handle some administrative tasks but we do not believe the primary focus should be administrative. As we look to improve our digital platforms for registration, fixture information, referee reporting and player engagement, we need to look at whether a more skilled content producer or engagement consultant would be a better fit. We are also interested in investigating the possibility of partnering with local colleges to try and find an opportunity to engage co-op or even high school students with the right skill set and passion to continue to move us in the right direction.

As we close out 2018 and evaluate our financial status, one of the things that has become abundantly clear is that in order to continue to operate all the programs and initiatives we run, we will need to up our sponsorship and fundraising activities. In order to facilitate this, I have contacted some members of the rugby community and asked them to sit on a special advisory committee to help us with our sponsorship efforts. We will be setting a lofty goal for fundraising in 2019 and the work will begin early. Should any of you be interested in joining this committee and helping us, I encourage you to reach out to me directly.

Lastly, 2019 will usher in an entirely new era for rugby here in Canada, as Major League Rugby launches their first Canadian franchise here in Toronto with The Arrows. For the first time, young players will see an opportunity here rather than overseas to play in a professional league. What was a dream for players of my generation, who had to leave this country to follow that ambition, is now a reality right here at home. This will translate into more rugby talent as children will be exposed to our game at a much younger age through media and press coverage. The TRU has always been a hotbed of rugby, continuously producing some of this country's highest caliber rugby talent. I know that with the hard work of our coaches and volunteers coupled with the dedication and ambition of our players, we will continue to be a major feeder to provincial, national and professional leagues, for years to come.

#### Yours in Rugby,

#### Mark Walsh President Toronto Rugby

Mark states this is the conclusion of the pilot project of a paid league administrator, and that Alastair's job has now finished.

Rick H (Beach) – have we thought of a co-op student as a league administrator

(taking over for Alastair's pilot project as paid admin)?

Mark responds that league is open to that , and that player & digital engagement is important. Refers to ideas such as try of the week & tackle of the week from club teams.

# DIRECTOR OF GAME REPORT (Don Maillet)

It was another disappointing year as there were many senior clubs that were not able to produce junior sides at various levels. Many clubs and teams were scrambling to get last minute numbers, which caused the schedule to have delays and last minute alterations.

We must get better at this for the game to grow, if all other sports can have people signed up several weeks before the start of the season so can we.

Referee appointments seemed much improved over last year, without as many games having to proceed without an assigned ref.

I would like to propose that we encourage development in lower divisions in Senior and Junior levels. This way, teams with numbers as low as 15 can compete in 10 or 12 a side game. As such, we will not be turning away potential players for the sake of trying to get 15 a side on the pitch every week. Which will in turn encourage development of our sport. For the upper divisions the teams that have no problem supporting the 20 player mandate for numbers will carry on competing as before. I believe this would help keep juniors playing the game and cause less forfeits on the senior sides with second, third or fourth teams as well.

*I will not be seeking re-election for this position, but wish the person who takes on this role, the best of luck.* 

#### Best regards, Don Maillet

BC reads Don's report. Comments that the Bucs are holding an early 'pizza registration day' (March 3) for their junior program and encourages other clubs to do something similar to get strong junior numbers early in the season to commit to a proper schedule.

No comments or questions.

# TREASURER'S REPORT (Peter Ratcliffe)

With the end of this rugby year we have come a long way and I believe have been very successful so far. From a financial standpoint there were several key issues that I wanted to accomplish:

- 1. Online banking & acceptance of e-transfers
- 2. Payments email account
- 3. Develop safety measures for tracking & spending

By implementing online banking over the past year we've been able to make it much quicker to pay our debts and keep our vendors happy but also make it easier for clubs to remit their dues and any payments for tournaments or fines. This paired with the new <u>Payments@torontorugby.ca</u> email account it has not only never been easier to accept or send out payments but it's also allowed us to track our transaction history with less room for human error. Many clubs don't have the capabilities yet but for those that do we have only heard of positive feedback.

At the start of the year there was concern over the single signing authority system that allows us to have electronic banking. In order to quell those concerns we implemented a system to make sure there wasn't any misuse of funds. Throughout the year, during our executive meetings, it was my responsibility to circulate a financial snapshot to that date. This would include a history of transactions from our banking statement as well as a breakdown of what the transaction was for and a current balance sheet. By doing so there were never any questions and if there were it was easy to find the answer.

There have been and still are some issues financially. This revolves around the collection of dues and fines from clubs. There are still several clubs with outstanding amounts which will lose voting rights for this year's AGM if those go unpaid. Moving forward into next year I want the Union to be more proactive in paying any outstanding amount or at minimum keeping a contact channel open so that we can work together instead of chasing down money.

Overall, from a financial standpoint, it has run very smoothly, and I would be happy to continue as the treasurer for the Toronto Rugby Union.

#### Yours truly, Peter Ratcliffe

Alex (Brampton RFC) offers his two Brampton fields for rental.

Rick (Beach) suggests there should be an online lists for fixtures contacts.

BC suggests an online link on the website for clubs who can offer field rentals.

Martin mentions that the TRU 7s tourney is critical to player and league development. Well worth it for junior programs.

Everest (Yeomen) – asks when does 7s registration start? 2018 August.

Alison M (YeoLions) – mentions that we need to drive kids to TRU website.

John Pryce suggests the TRU should look at empowering itself for the health of our own league.

Stewart Dobbs (the ORU plans to run the junior programs for 2019) – what is the TRU league going to do about junior programs? John mentions that we should have a real concern about the costs of doing this. There is a real concern about ORU pulling talent from the clubs.

BC states he will confirm with ORU junior program for 2019 and confirm with TRU members. BC states that the only two correspondence he has received from the league is confirmation that junior leagues are staying as age grade odd numbers, and, that there is a black out weekend June 15 (no matches that Sat or Sun).

Pat Daniels (CRU) – does TRU represent the league at ORU meetings. We should have a seat on the ORU Board.

Alex inquires if costs are going up. Sort insurance costs – individual team fees \$250/\$125.

Sean Webb (Bucs): League convener costs? Peter explains costs breakdown on budget.

Peter (as per Pat's question); we have about \$36,000 in bank with \$8-9k in outstanding fees still to be collected.

# DISCIPLINE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Michael Kahn)

This last year was relatively easier in regards to the processing of match sanctions as no new systems were introduced. Referees had some issues with Sportlomo but the system is getting better and referees are getting more comfortable in reporting scores and sanctions through it. There are still some issues outstanding but Rugby Ontario ("RO") is continually working on improving the system. The introduction of the new Laws book and its corresponding revised numbering system added a challenge when reporting to Sportlomo. RO hopes to have the new numbering systems for the Laws implemented on Sportlomo prior to the 2019 season.

Despite having successfully modified RO policy to have a club's requirement to notify the relevant Discipline Director within 48 hours of the end of a match (Ontario Rugby Policy Manual 7.4.7), most clubs remain non-compliant. I would encourage clubs to appoint someone within the club to be responsible in this regard on game day as it makes the system much more efficient and less prone to error.

At the beginning of the year RO compiled a spreadsheet of the last 5 years of sanctions, which is easily searchable, facilitating the identification of repeat offenders. It is my expectation that we will continually add and modify this database annually. All regional Discipline Directors have access to this database, which includes all sanctions awarded in Ontario.

In terms of the number of sanctions there were 21 send off reports (red cards) in 2017 vs. 32 in 2017. We had one individual who was identified as repeat offender and this person was dealt with severely. As a reminder, under the regulations, prior sanctions are considered <u>in perpetuity</u> when evaluating whether an offender is a repeat offender.

In my role I also sat on several appeal committees for other regions and other hearings, such as for referee abuse. We had 3 instances of referee abuse that were adjudicated, which I find particularly troubling. There is no room in the game for such behavior. Refereeing is a difficult role and we need to encourage the recruitment and retention of them especially at a time where there is a dearth of qualified referees. I find my years of experience and current activity as a referee valuable in adjudicating issues of discipline and especially referee abuse.

I thank you for the opportunity to represent our clubs in this important portfolio.

## Regards, Michael Kahn

Sean W asks about referee abuse – sanctions that are kept track, players and coaches.

Mike K confirms (via Everest question): that red cards are kept forever.

Mike K mentions that overall red cards are being reduced, discipline being improved.

# TECHNICAL & HIGH PERFORMANCE REPORT (John Pryce)

Toronto Elite Reds 2018 worked in 3 Phases over 11 months competing in Ontario Summer Games, Tropical 7s, WHITU, TIRF, Q-Meta and NYC 7s with 48 athletes and 8 coaches all contributing to 30+ high level development sessions.

Coaches included World Cup Silver medalist Cindy Nelles, National Player Petra Woods, Canada's Head Coach Sandro Fiorino, John Moonlight and Kelly Russell contributed to over sessions directly. Don Malliet, Dallas Price, Nico Pinaar and John Pryce rounded out the day to day coaching staff.

It was almost identical to the amazing success from 2017 with 14 Reds playing U18 Canada. Another 14 players in 2018 wear Canada jerseys more than most provinces. 75% of the Reds made the provincial programs. 10 of our womens & 4 men side have been asked to train with the Canada Academy at PAN/AM coached by Sandro & Kelly (after spending 3 months training the elite womens team their twice a week, including myself shadow coaching). We had players all over the world playing high level including World Youth Olympics.

We had TERA certified 2 coaches in IRB World 7s and most attended the Queens coaches courses weekend.

2019 will be an exciting time and as always a new cycle of players and the rebuilding of U15/U16 side which has already begun. Coaching development should be a focus for 2019/2020.

The framework that is in place has proven to help produce high level players and will only continue to get better in the next 2 years. This successful framework is a cost effective way to develop high level world class athletes.

*Our dedication to PROCESS OVER OUTCOME resulted in winning some tournaments including; 2 Silver Medals Ontario Summer Games, Gold Cup Winners - Tropical 7s, WHITU, Q-Meta & TIRF all Elite Cup Champions for women HS.* 

Toronto Elite Reds Academy is becoming Ontario premier U15 to U18 Pathway Academy to Rugby Canada, mirroring systems, tactics, skills and training of Rugby Canada. A select 48 train over 1 or 2 years for 3 phases while attending North America's Top Elite 7's Events. In 2017 7s men and 9 women played for Canada and in 2018 14 and counting. 16 of 24 made the provincial women's team. We are developing top players. Taking development to the next level using a costs effective approach to producing our next international stars.

#### Thank you John Pryce

John P emphasizes that Red program mirrors Rugby Canada program. Very good that the program is decentralized at Pan Am Centre here in Ontario (vs just being out in British Columbia).

Alex (Brampton) how do they get juniors into the program? TRU Red's available. Only 7s. Postings are on TRU website offering open tryouts, and, league emails sent out with same information. Program carries 24 boys and 24 girls. Stew would really like to see XV's rep rugby, especially juniors. TRU Red's XV's is ideal. BC comments that one off exhibition match vs Australia side with mostly TRU players was a great showcase for TRU Men's league talent. John P mentions that it's manpower and volunteers that are needed to field a proper XV's team. He states he would have no doubt such a TRU Reds XV's rep team would be very competitive. John P notes that volunteers are hard to come by. He works unpaid, with small re-imbursement for expenses. ORU has well paid managers and coaches.

Everest asks if there is any prohibition on junior teams combining sides to play in a league. BC answers no, and that MRA teams have been successful in allowing kids a chance to play.

# SECRETARY'S REPORT (Brian Crothers)

I volunteered for the vacant position mid-spring and can say it was an interesting start of the 2018 season for the TRU given the up front issues of a club folding and adjusting the leagues afterwards.

My role was to facilitate communication between the clubs & league, and ensure timely communication, when the information was provided. My other role was to facilitate communication between the TRU Executive and take minutes at exec meetings. All minutes were provided to the exec members at the conclusion of each meeting (typed notes were taken during the actual meeting and distributed via email immediately after).

I strove to improve individual club exposure via the TRU webpage & social media. I believe it's important that club events, milestones, and other special achievements be well advertised league wide, and, to any ensure it's exposed to potential new members considering joining the TRU union.

Although as TRU Secretary my specific portfolio of responsibility in the league was solely administrative/communication duties, I found the TRU board receptive to the ideas and suggestions I had regarding other facets of the TRU league.

I have a passion for rugby, and wish to see the Toronto Rugby Union as a strong, competitive and well organized rugby league which all its members can be proud of. It was a pleasure to serve as Secretary for 2018.

*I will not be standing for Secretary for 2019, but will be volunteering for the vacant position of Director of Game.* 

#### Sincerely, Brian Crothers

BC mentions goals if elected Game Director to have organized and well structured leagues, and, have schedule out as early as possible.

Alison M asks how soon a women's schedule could be done. I suggest it should be completed by conference call (within 2 weeks) to present as a motion.

Dave (Barrie) – U19 league was a disaster. League needs to be solidified early. Individual clubs need to have U19 players available for the junior squad. Clubs cannot just hold on to them for 2nds and 3rds side.

Pat – need to know who is running junior programs. BC confirms he will have these answers by conference call.

Alison (YeoLions) – our U19s were limited and the odd age groups really struggle. Asks if the odd age grades are mandated or by choice. BC explains these are mandated by Rugby Canada and will continue to stay the same for 2019.

John W – problem was we had 8 teams volunteered, but only 3 confirmed with solid numbers. Scheduling was very difficult. Dave states no blame to league, just need to get word out to clubs to have commitment to U19/junior teams.

Everest and Alex confirmed they would like to take advantage of combined U19 teams.

BC mentioned that Bucs saw big benefit from U19 teams for their younger players who may not have played as much if just playing for senior men's, but instead got plenty of game time playing U19 matches mid week.

# TORONTO RUGBY UNION RUSSELL & KEENAN 2019 DRAFT SCHEDULE

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> –** Minimum Player Registration Numbers Due (**Keenan Division 30 players & Russell Division 20 players**). A Keenan Division club who does not meet 30 registered players by April 27<sup>th</sup> shall be removed from the Keenan schedule and replaced with a Russell Division club who does have 30 registered players. If more than one Russell Division club has 30 registered players, then the spot will be offered to the club in order of league regular season finish from the previous season (2018 #1: Keenan 8<sup>th</sup> place, #2: Keenan 9<sup>th</sup> place, #3 : Russell 1<sup>st</sup> place, #4 : Russell 2<sup>nd</sup> place, etc.).

May 11 – Leagues Start

August 10<sup>th</sup> – Playoffs Start

August 24<sup>th</sup> - TRU CUP Day

#### **RUSSELL DIVISION**

Six clubs fielding a single team in one division playing each other home and away, for a total of 10 matches.

#### **RUSSELL DIVISION**

- 1. Brock RFC
- 2. Toronto Dragons RFC
- 3. Cobourg Saxons RFC
- 4. North Halton Highlanders RFC
- 5. Bay Street Pigs (3rds) RFC
- 6. Oakville Crusaders (3rds) RFC

#### TRU 2019 Russell Schedule

- May 11 Bay St. at Brock Cobourg at North Halton Dragons at Crusaders
- May 25 Cobourg at Brock Bay St. at North Halton Crusaders at Dragons
- June 1 Dragons at North Halton Brock at Crusaders Bay St. at Cobourg
- June 8 North Halton at Bay (12 pm) Brock at Dragons Crusaders at Cobourg

#### June 15 – Ontario Rugby black out weekend. Need to reschedule

Crusaders at Bay St. (12 pm) North Halton at Cobourg Dragons at Brock June 22 Brock at Bay St. (12 pm)\**Request by Brock to have home game* 

#### that weekend

Cobourg at Dragons Crusaders at North Halton

- July 6 Brock at Cobourg Dragons at Bay (12 pm) North Halton at Crusaders
- July 13 Bay St. at Crusaders Dragons at Cobourg North Halton at Brock
- July 20 Cobourg at Crusaders Brock at North Halton Bay St. at Dragons
- July 27 Cobourg at Bay (12 pm) North Halton at Dragons Crusaders at Brock

## KEENAN DIVISIONS (East & West)

Eight clubs, each fielding at least 2 teams, and playing other clubs with their 2<sup>nd</sup> XV playing first, and the 1<sup>st</sup> XV playing last, in back to back fashion. Teams are divided into their regions based on proximity to each other's home field pitch for the purpose of reducing travel. Each team will play a home and away game against their division opponents, and one cross over game (2 away & 2 home) against the other division. There will be 10 league matches total.

#### **KEENAN WEST**

1. Vaughn Yeomen RFC

- 2. Mississauga Blues RFC
- 3. Toronto Saracens RFC
- 4. Brampton Beavers RFC

#### **KEENAN EAST**

- 1. Balmy Beach (Academy) RFC
- 2. Bay Street Pigs RFC
- 3. Toronto Buccaneers RFC
- 4. Belleville Bulldogs RFC

# TRU 2019 Keenan A 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Teams Schedule

- May 11 Bucs at Brampton Beach at Belleville Bay at Sarries Blues at Yeomen
- May 25 Bay at Beach Blues at Sarries Belleville at Brampton Yeomen at Bucs
- June 1 Sarries at Belleville Brampton at Yeomen Beach at Bucs Bay at Blues (Friday May 31)
- June 8 Brampton at Bay Bucs at Sarries Blues at Belleville Beach at Yeomen
- June 15 Sarries at Brampton

Yeomen at Blues (Friday June 14) Belleville at Beach Bucs at Bay

- June 22 Bucs at Belleville Beach at Bay Sarries at Blues (Friday June 21) Brampton at Yeomen
- July 6 Sarries at Yeomen Brampton at Blues (Friday July 5) Bucs at Beach Belleville at Bay
- July 13 Bay at Bucs Belleville at Yeomen Sarries at Beach Blues at Brampton
- July 20 Blues at Bucs Brampton at Beach Bay at Belleville Yeomen at Sarries
- July 27 Belleville at Bucs Brampton at Sarries Beach at Blues (Friday July 26) Yeomen at Bay

PLAYOFFS - August 10, 17, 24

- The first & second place of both Russell and Keenan get 'byes' in the first round of play-offs.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place Keenan teams will play the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Russell teams for promotion to the Keenan Division for 2020 during 1<sup>st</sup> round of play-offs. 1<sup>st</sup> place Russell hosts 8<sup>th</sup> place Keenan. 7<sup>th</sup> place Keenan hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> place Russell. The winner of each match will assume a place in the Keenan division for 2020. The loser of each match shall compete in the Russell division for 2020. If a Russell club who is ineligible, or unable, to be promoted to Keenan Division for 2020 finishes 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>, then the immediate Russell club below them in standings will be offered that spot to play for the promotion game. If no club takes the spot than the promotion game will not be played, and the Keenan club will retain it's place in the Keenan for 2020.
- There are 4 trophies to be won on TRU CUP DAY; TRU CUP (the winner of Keenan Playoffs, and earns right to compete for promotion to Marshal Championship). TRU PLATE (bronze medal game between the two Keenan Championship team who were knocked out in the semi-finals). TRU BOWL (Keenan Consolation Championship). TRU SHIELD (Russell Playoff Champion).

## August 10 - Round 1

## **KEENAN-RUSSELL PROMOTION MATCHES**

(winners are promoted to Keenan Division for following season) Russell 1<sup>st</sup> place team hosts Keenan 8<sup>th</sup> place team – winner is eligible to play in Keenan Division.

Keenan 7<sup>th</sup> place team hosts Russell 2<sup>nd</sup> place team – winner is eligible to play in Keenan Division.

## LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

#### **Russell Championship**

3<sup>rd</sup> place hosts 6<sup>th</sup> place 4<sup>th</sup> place hosts 5<sup>th</sup> place

# Keenan Championship

3<sup>rd</sup> place hosts 6<sup>th</sup> place

4<sup>th</sup> place hosts 5<sup>th</sup> place

# August 17<sup>th</sup> – Round 2

## Keenan Championship Semi-Finals

Keenan 1<sup>st</sup> place hosts the lowest seed winner of Round 1 Keenan Playoff games

Keenan 2<sup>nd</sup> place hosts the other winner of Round 1 Keenan Playoff games

## Keenan Consolation Championship Semi-Finals

Highest Seed Keenan Loser of Round 1 hosts the Keenan 8<sup>th</sup> place team The other Keenan loser of Round 1 hosts the 7<sup>th</sup> place team

# **Russell Championship Semi-Finals**

Russell 1<sup>st</sup> place team hosts the lowest seed winner of Russell Round 1 Russell 2<sup>nd</sup> place team hosts the other winner of Russell Round 1 *Russell teams who lost in Round 1 are now eliminated from competition.* 

# August 24<sup>th</sup> – TRU CUP DAY

(to be held at a neutral field which can accommodate all 4 championship games).

- TRU SHIELD (Russell Championship): winners of Russell Championship Semi-Finals
- TRU BOWL (Keenan Consolation Championship): winner of Keenan Consolation Semi-Finals
- TRU PLATE (Keenan Bronze Medal Championship): losers of Keenan Championship Semi-Finals

• TRU CUP (for the right to play for promotion to Marshal Championship): winners of Keenan Championship Semi-Finals. *If the Cup winner is an ineligible club, or a club who declines promotion, the TRU Cup loser will be offered the right to play for promotion. If both clubs in the TRU Cup final are ineligible, or decline, than the winner of the TRU Plate will be offered the eligibility for promotion.* 

No comments or questions on league structure – tabled for conference call.

#### **Other Business**

Neil L mentions that there are technology grants available for not-for-profit organizations. Great opportunity for clubs. Will email BC details. Welcomes clubs to contact him. TECH-SOUP <u>President@Muddyyork.ca</u>

Taylor Z states his time at Guelph U, before playing for Bay st, that rugby members volunteering in the community is a great way for your club to get exposure.

Alex McCallion takes opportunity to introduce himself at the AGM and that Brampton looking to improve overall for coming season. Emphasizes 2 fields being available for rent or events. John P mentions that TRU Reds will run a session there for certain.

#### Meeting concludes 12:05 pm