

**2020, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Ajax Wanderers Club House**

**TRU AGM Minutes**

**Board Members Present:**

Mark Walsh (President), Peter Ratcliffe (Treasurer), John Pryce (High Performance), Michael Kahn (Discipline), Brian Crothers (Director Game), Shelley Ince (Secretary), Malency Wainwright (Director Large) and Don Maillet & Krista Kent (men and women convener)

**Regrets:** None, all board members were present

**League Members Present/Clubs Represented:**

Don Maillet (Cobourg)  
Sean Webb (Bucs)  
Simon Coopes (Bucs)  
Ian Royer (Muddy York)  
Lori Spray (Muddy York)  
Malency Wainwright (Beach)  
St. John O'Connor (Bay St.)  
Stew Dobbs (Ajax, Peterborough proxy as well)  
Patrick Daniels (CRU)  
Graham Walsh (CRU)  
Celeste Corless (CRU)  
Sandy Keay (Peterborough Women)  
Len Day (Barrie)  
Martin Coe (Markham Irish)  
Brian Crothers (Yeomen proxy)  
Alex McCallion (Brampton)  
Krista Kent (YeoLions)  
Lesley Swan (Mississauga)  
Bob Ford-King (North Halton)  
Michael Kahn (GITS proxy)  
John Watkins (Oshawa)  
Stephanie McDonald (Lindsay)  
Greg Buckley (Lindsay)  
John Q (Dragons)  
Aaron Howes (Saracens)  
Ross Pinkerton (Nomads)  
Khalil Ajram (Barbs)  
Olivia Roberge (Scottish womens)  
Shelley Ince (Scottish proxy)

**NOTE: Quorum was reached with more than 85% of members present or proxy given, and all motions, actions & votes were passed. AGM format consists of board member reports, comments and questions from the floor.**

Start - 10:16 am

Meeting was officially opened with a motion to declare a start by Khalil Ajram, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ross Pinkerton

Mark's Opening address & report

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Mark Walsh)**

Welcome members,

2019 was a very busy year for The Toronto Rugby Union (TRU) that was full of challenges. Once again, we started off the year one board member short as we exited the Annual General Meeting (AGM) without a Secretary. This caused some early hurdles in documentation and communication until Shelley Ince stepped up and volunteered to fill this role on an interim basis. Shelley has done an incredible job since taking over the spot vacated by Brian Crothers and I hope you will support her with your vote at the AGM this year. Honestly, I am very excited to potentially have a full board of directors exiting the AGM for the first time in 3 years. We have so much work to do and each member of the team is needed for us to be able to make consistent progress forward. With that said, being a volunteer board member is a bit of a thankless job, so right now I want to take the time to thank each and every one of my fellow board members for their tireless efforts to better our sport.

Last year started with a really big change, the organization of all TRU Junior programs transitioned into Rugby Ontario's (RO) portfolio and out of our control. This change was noted by our membership and we received a number of complaints surrounding it. We circulated a questionnaire to better understand the issues and chose to share the feedback with RO at the end of the season in a consultation. Our priority has always been to make this transition as easy as we can for our players and parents, unfortunately, communication with the former RO board was poor and we were unable to do anything other than field complaints from our membership. With that said, we understand that in the first year of any big transition, there will be some bumps in the road. The good news is, we expect this year to be a very different story as RO has taken onboard feedback from their own experiences from last year along with the feedback from our survey. Following that, RO transitioned into new leadership and we are hopeful that there will be some real opportunities to improve cooperation. I sat down with newly appointed RO CEO Myles Spencer to discuss our initiatives and

struggles. Our initial meetings have shown more opportunities to have open dialogue and greater consultation. We are optimistic about the future.

2019 was also the first year of our initiative to improve our online services. We successfully launched e-transfer payment solutions and saw an adoption rate of almost 70%. This was a big step forward for us as the former practice of calling individual clubs and chasing cheques was time consuming and fraught with errors. We are pleased with the success of our first initiative and have ambitious plans for website development. Partnerships are being pursued in the hopes of improving our communication through numerous social media platforms and expanding our functionality. This brings me to my next topic...

In order to fund the future TRU initiatives we want to run, efforts are being made to develop opportunities not only for members of the TRU to support these initiatives, but corporate partners as well. I mentioned last year that we would be placing greater focus on fundraising and in 2020 we will be launching an internal sponsorship program that will have 3 different sponsorship levels, which we hope to significantly augment through our corporate partnership/s. Presently, we are engaged in partnership discussions with major corporate players in the hopes of finding a mutually beneficial relationship which we can parlay into much needed funding.

One of the programs that continues to be a beacon for the TRU is the Elite Reds program. We are a factory of talent and our players can be seen in each tournament, raising the profile of this union. Our athletes are already transitioning into top universities and some of them into national team and even professional club jerseys, we are so proud! This year was another very successful campaign with both Championship and Finalist medals in a number of different age grades at multiple tournaments on both sides of the border. It is clear we are building the next generation of Canadian Superstars and I want to give them every opportunity I can to succeed. This summer will see another huge opportunity as we move into the 2020 Ontario Summer Games.

I cannot thank Mike Kahn enough as our Discipline Director and TDRRS Liaison. He has been instrumental in the development and successful management of our digital recordkeeping system for the TRU. His work is vital in ensuring that all players have the opportunity to appeal decisions and all hearings follow proper protocol. I want our membership to know that we are doing everything we can to discourage senseless violence and identify repeat offenders as there is no place for this type of behaviour in our Union. By now, I am assuming you are all aware

of the notice that was circulated by Rugby Ontario concerning the change to pay structure for Referees across all unions for 2020. We were included in the discussion prior to RO releasing their Memo. We believe the reasons RO brought forth to be fair and a responsible way to ensure we are enticing new referees as well as creating opportunities for our match officials to develop and grow.

As always, we are striving for greater interbranch communication and co-operation with our partner unions under Rugby Ontario. There is no question that it is vital to have open lines of communication and frank discussion about how we can work together to better serve our memberships and support the growth and development of our sport across the province.

Yours in Rugby,  
Mark Walsh  
TRU President

Mark states he would like to stand for president again for the TRU, wants to give back and work with corporate partnerships to continue to see the union grow.

#### **Questions from the members:**

When is the next referee recruiting for TRU?

Mike Kahn said to place a call to your president/ look on the TDDRS website or reach out to Dave Bushell at OR who is responsible for refs. They don't always post so be pro-active to make sure you don't miss the clinics.

Ross P (Nomads): What are we doing as clubs/TRU doing to get more refs? If every club committed to 2 new refs wanting to be certified it would help with filling the pool of refs.

Brian Crothers answered: The TRU is not responsible for refs structured and more of them. That is the biggest problem. Ref clinics go up 2 weeks before they happen and no one knows about it. Believes that Ross P (Nomads) idea is doable and solid. TRU could help fund that idea, get a dome and run a clinic. If each club got a ¼ of the refs it would be helpful. TRU had requested/mandated that each club have a ref on board. TRU needs to get better at getting the clinic info out.

Mike Kahn will get the newest schedule for clinics through Shelley Ince.

Shelley Ince to check when the next clinics are coming up and supply info to Mike Kahn.

Alex M (Brampton): If the TRU can look at sponsoring some funds towards getting some players certified that can't afford to pay for it, there might be more interest.

Any club can merge with other clubs as long as they have 8 people, they can ask for a clinic at a location together. Alex stated he would be more than willing to offer a field at Brampton to have a clinic.

Ross P (Nomads): maybe some of the bigger clubs can make a commitment to getting at least 2 players getting certified. Ross would like it to be an Action item by the TRU.

Pat D (Oakville) would be willing to host a clinic for any club or group of 8 who want to have one. Women's and men's 2nd are the ones that have trouble getting the refs.

Brian Crothers clarified Ross P (Nomads) wants a motion to have club refs. Brian Crothers clarified all clubs are expected to have one club ref on their membership.

Mike Kahn stated if elected he is willing to get this going for this preseason. See what clinics are scheduled and try to make it work with the clubs.

Khalil A(Aurora) stated he believes all TRU members would like to have the juniors taken back from the ORU. Is the TRU going to take them back?

Brian met with Joe Schizler and Mark Killington to talk about this issue. ORU stated their reasons for keeping the junior: 1. Fulltime staff: Better suited to communicate with parents inquiring about kid wanting to play rugby. Mainly because they are a paid staff not a volunteer. ORU can do a better job than TRU. ORU said that they have the mandated decision to run the league as they feel fit. The president said they are keeping the juniors.

2. The other issue was coordination with the growing organizations.

3. Blues coordinator is right there in the office who coordinates all the leagues and clubs. They are setting it up to fulfill their Blues programs.

Stew D (Ajax) asked where do the grievances go because the parents don't see the ORU as the problem, they see the club as screwing with the schedule and such. Stew's question is who do the clubs go to with grievances regarding this?

Brian Crothers: answered the ORU will run the juniors. Brian suggested all clubs taking a grievance to the ORU regarding the issues of the juniors.

Chris M (Oshawa): has personally spoken with Joe and Mark regarding what happened last year. He believes they have worked very hard at trying to fix the problems from last year.

Ross P (Nomads) feels we should be pushing them to get better as we are their customer.

Donnie M: ORU's answer is throw money at everything.

Ian R (Muddy York): suggests that the TRU put together a letter stating what we want for the juniors and it's a proactive approach and then come back to them at the end of the season if they did not do what they should have done.

Khalil A (Aurora) stated he believes that the TRU should take back the juniors. Volunteers run it better than the paid employees at the ORU.

## **DIRECTOR OF GAME REPORT (Brian Crothers)**

It's been a thoroughly enjoyable year as I conclude my first year as Director of Game. I approached this with the goal to strengthen the men's & women's leagues to ensure they are considered competitive proving grounds to produce high level representative rugby players.

I want to thank the conveners for the Women's and Junior 7s leagues, Krista Kent, and Donnie Maillet who both did a fantastic job with their roles.

This past season we released schedules as early as possible and also did our best to ensure clubs were heard and their input was duly considered in the creation of the leagues. We also ensured a playoff structure, with a clear path to promotion & relegation between the Russell, Keenan and Marshal, was in place early for the sake of clubs & members being able to plan out their rugby season.

We also revamped the 'default fine' process to ensure timely notice and stricter payment guidelines. To my knowledge all default fines were paid in full, and on time.

I've done my best to ensure clear and timely communication between myself and our Union's respective clubs.

I was extremely pleased with the Toronto Rugby Cup final day which saw six rugby clubs compete for the Cup, Bowl and Plate finals. They were all entertaining matches, and I was proud to present the respective winners their trophy plaques post-match.

The Keenan division league ends the 2019 season with the Vaughan Yeomen being promoted the Marshal league. Lindsay RFC will be coming down to play in

the Keenan. Balmy Beach Academy has dropped out of the league and Brock RFC earned promotion to the Keenan by winning the Russell league championship.

I want to also thank those clubs who did their best to field a third men's team in the Toronto Rugby Russell division. Bay Street RFC and the Oakville Crusaders RFC did their best to field a 3<sup>rd</sup> side with plans to be able to play independently from their men's 1 & 2's. I also want to thank Balmy Beach RFC for also doing their best (and their considerable run) of fielding essentially a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> team in the Toronto Rugby Keenan division for a number of years. Although this season did result in a number of defaults, it cannot be lost that these clubs made considerable efforts to field these additional 'full time' teams on top of their core men's sides.

Nevertheless, out of 30 Russell division scheduled matches, we had 7 defaults. For many obvious reasons, this is a detriment to the sport of rugby and cannot happen again. Default games inhibits growth, and even shrinks membership as players who've paid dues aren't playing rugby, and lose interest in the sport. The Russell division is supposed to be a league for single team men's clubs to enjoy a competitive rugby league, grow their club, and possibly advancing to a higher level. When clubs field junior programs as well (which is massively important for our sport to grow) their men's side is often the 'showcase' game on big club days, etc., so it's vitally important to have a reliable and viable Russell league.

Going forward, I have spoken with representatives from the Beach, Cru and Bay Street, and, all clubs will not be fielding a 'full time' men's team in the Russell division. As Balmy Beach Academy were scheduled to be playing the Russell division for 2020, this leaves the Russell division 3 clubs short, leaving three clubs; North Halton, Belleville and Cobourg.

Going forward, to ensure a strong & competitive men's rugby the following changes will be made going into the 2020 season:

- The elimination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> team requirement to compete in the Keenan division 1 league.
- The elimination of the traditional 'Russell' league, and, instead, renaming the Keenan division 2 league the '**Russell division**'.
- That Brock & Cobourg (neck and neck throughout their season and equally strong clubs) will compete in the Keenan Division 1 league.

- That North Halton & Belleville will compete in the Russell Division 2 league, along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> teams from Keenan clubs.
- The Pinguet club will remain 'an exhibition league' to provide games to those clubs seeking games on that basis.
- Promotion/relegation between Russell and Keenan will be possible with the 1<sup>st</sup> place 'single side club' (whoever finishes higher between North Halton & Belleville) will take on the last place Keenan division 1 club.

By the time you've read this report at our January AGM a full Keenan and Russell league will be in place.

I am also proposing a 'club championship' similar to the Marshal league, where a total points of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams of a club at the season end is recognized as a 'Toronto Rugby Club Champion'.

I'm pleased to report that Krista Kent, our women's convener, has already assembled 3 possible women's structures as well, which will be discussed at the AGM and voted on.

I've been very happy with the feedback, and what I feel is an open line of communication between myself and our union's clubs. I think those I've chatted with can see I'm receptive to ideas, suggestions and criticisms, and keep an open mind about any ideas to help our sport of rugby and the administration of our leagues. I promise to continue to do so in the future and look forward to another great season as your Director of Game.

Cheers  
Brian Crothers

Brian's add on's: Brian will be back for one more year in his position. Would like to save questions about the fixtures until that meeting preceding the AGM.

Member questions:

Lesley S (Mississauga): thank Krista for having the schedule early this year. Highlights from the women's league are missing from the year and would like to see that in Brian's report.

Ross P (Nomads) asking if a club has to fold a team because they only need 5 more players can we have some kind of communication to avoid this from happening.



Membership: Can you play for 2 clubs in the same season? NO unless released by a form and your team is not playing that day.

Brian C: Loves the idea to connect some clubs who don't have enough players, may not be sanctioned. He will continue to connect and combine and communicate to get as many games as possible.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT (Peter Ratcliffe)**

2019 was a productive year where we had to overcome a few obstacles. With the loss of our Junior programs we had to modify the budget to reflect that and we had to retool our spending so that we could remain as close to cash neutral or positive as possible. We saw major changes from a liabilities side where we stopped the pilot project of having an administrative assistant as well as significantly changing the pay structure of the conveners.

Dues collection continues to have its ups and downs. The main problems arose from TRU members who only play in the Marshall divisions. There confusion as to who they remit dues to. I've had several conversations with a number of those clubs to explain the structure of rugby in Ontario where all clubs must be part of their local branch union which is where the majority of the accounts receivable arises from.

We're working hard to develop more programs in order to show more value to our club membership that may not see value from the Union since they only participate in the Marshall divisions. One program that we are developing is to create a support fund for clubs that are going to the Canadian Club Championship. This past season we saw the Saracens Women's team go and asked for sponsorship dollars to help the team go. This is something that we couldn't do before but moving forward we will be able to. The other program that we want to develop is a fund to help support players in need at both the club level and the representative level. This has been done in the past on an ad hoc basis, but we would like to implement a formal program.

If elected for another term, I would like to see both of those programs rolled out so that clubs can get the support they need from their local branch union.

**Yours truly, Peter Ratcliffe**

Peter R: Action item: what new structure can be done without changing the revenue for next year. No change to the current budget that has been brought forward to the membership.

Was brought as a motion to accept the proposed budget by the TRU by Brian Corthers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Kahn and carried by all members supporting the motion. Budget 2020 has been carried forward.

Questions from members:

Khalil A (Aurora): have you ever explored giving a reduced fee to the clubs that pay that are in the divisions that are under the ORU? Ie: clubs in Marshall, especially reduce the fees for Marshall

Peter R: if we reduce the fees the funds will need to come off from somewhere else.

Johnny W (Oshawa): what about give a membership fee to outside TRU clubs and then charge a dues to the actually TRU clubs? Can we look in to separating the Marshall from actual dues and change it to fee vs a due.

Michael K: have talked about changing the fee cost to Marshall clubs.

Current structure of the fees that clubs pay based on where they play in the leagues.

Brian C: have an action by members to restructure the club's dues structure.

Greg B (Lindsay): Support the little club's vs the big ones that send teams to Canada. That's what needs to happen by way of dues.

Johnny W (Oshawa): not to take away funds but restructure the way the fees are done across all clubs based on where they play (league).

Clear the board needs to restructure the funds allocation, as all membership was asking.

Khalil A (Aurora): wants this to change for this season moving forward.

Michael, suggested that Peter R throw out a revised budget that can be given out to the membership prior to upcoming season.

Chris Mc (Oshawa): asked are we only giving money out to TRU clubs that are possibly going to Canada?

Answer: yes, it will only be given to TRU clubs.

Mark, stated TRU will have the player or team put forward an application for the funds. It must come from the club to advocate for the player/team.

These funds will be generated by raising funds by advertising on the TRU website. This is a new process for TRU.

Canadian Tire right to play. Should be advertised on the website and club websites.

## **DISCIPLINE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Michael Kahn)**

This is the third year of Sportlomo implementation and there were a lot less headaches on the reporting side of sanctions. Improvements should still be made by referees in entering sanctions in a timely manner. I was able to, for the first time, access the full referees' reports including narrative sections which aided greatly in understanding the nature of the sanction and expediting the process, including answering any club representative's questions regarding the matter. In a couple of cases, conversations with referees have helped to refine the sanction. Referees still have the occasional issue with entering reports in Sportlomo but I believe this is more of an issue in educating referees rather than Sportlomo problems but will continue to monitor and seek improvements where possible.

Two years after 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 estimate less than a quarter of sanctions were reported to me directly by club representatives). I would encourage clubs to appoint someone within the club on game day to be responsible in this regard as it makes the system much more efficient and less prone to error. In particular, referees typically identify a sanctioned player by jersey number (even though I always encourage them to ask the player or captain for the name) which is then selected from the Sportlomo game sheet. When a player wears a different jersey number than indicated in Sportlomo (not unusual) this often results in the misidentification of the sanctioned player. When clubs report directly to me, this can often be avoided.

In terms of the number of sanctions there were 19 red cards in 2019 vs. 21 in 2018. This continues a downward trend in the number of red cards, a situation I wholly applaud. Congratulations to the clubs, coaches, referees, unions and players! As player safety continues to be the number one priority for rugby, I look forward to fewer and fewer sanctions. As a reminder, under the regulations, prior sanctions are considered in perpetuity when evaluating whether an offender is a repeat offender.

In my role as Director of Discipline, I also sat on several appeal committees for other regions and other panels related to Discipline or rugby -related incidents in Ontario, such as for referee abuse. There were 2 incidents for dissent [law 9.28]

this year with neither rising to the level of abuse. I also attended 2 hearings for coaching abuse which were dealt with, which I found troubling.

This year we had 2 occasions where clubs filed Incident Reports based on offenses that occurred during a match and which were sanctioned by the referee. Admittedly I had not seen this before and consulted with Allen Piggott who remains the main appeal officer for Ontario. After some digging by Allen we were able to determine that no further hearings could be held on the incidents in question based on World Rugby regulation 17.11.1 which stipulates that incidents may not be cited for acts of Foul Play committed during the Match provided that such act(s) have not been detected by the Match Officials. I hope this provides clarification to clubs going forward. Incident Reports can only be filed in the case where the referee did not see the incident. If a penalty, yellow or red card is issued, the incident will be considered to be “seen by the Match Official”.

A couple of incidents during the year related to sanctions occurring during sevens tournaments. The learnings from these incidents will be reflected in the Rugby Ontario Operating Manual for 2020 and should help to clarify the related sanction process.

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

Regards,  
Michael Kahn

Michael: Clubs need to get better at getting a hold of Michael with Red cards. The ref needs to motion the card within 48 hours and the club needs to in 48 hours.

Delinquency by the ref has been 3 to 4 times in the season. Peter is asking all to push through the need to give notice of a Red card within 48 hours later.

Issuing of red cards was down this past season.

Ref abuse down this season but had a bad experience this year at a junior game. If an incident report is filed by a club, and if the ref see's what happens that has one process. You cannot file an incident report because you don't like the outcome. If the ref doesn't see it then it's another process

Michael stated an action to look in to the ref situation and getting clubs together to run a clinic.

## **TECHNICAL & HIGH-PERFORMANCE REPORT (John Pryce)**

The TRU High Performance Academy continues to improve delivering top new technical and tactical systems with their strong alliance with Rugby Canada's National programs & Head Coaches.

In 2019 45 x U14 to U17 women and 33 x U15 to U17 men worked under the TRU Reds Pathway to Canada. 10 Reds just home from California playing the USA got their first Canada jersey including the men's Captain and 7 starters. In the last 3 years over 40 players from the Reds program have gone on to play Canada. That would rank us 3<sup>rd</sup> Nationally within provinces. Our technical & tactical content comes with direct help from Rugby Canada.

The Reds had another busy year sending from 2 to 4 teams to each of these tournaments. North 7s, Q-Meta, NYC 7s, TIRF, WHITU & Tropical 7s. The Reds work directly with Rugby Canada's 15s and 7s program to ensure our content for technical & tactical delivery mirrors the most recent systems. Both John Tait & Sandro Fiorino work directly with our coaching staff. All our data testing and metrics feeds directly into RC.

Many Reds got scholarships to prestigious universities and played roles at Queens, Ottawa U, Guelph, MAC, U Victoria & Dartmouth. Ottawa U hosted the Reds for a weekend of training and tours in 2019.

Reds added a U14/U15 program to align with Ontario Summer Games 2020 a major part of the RC pathway. The U15 women went on to capture Gold in all their tournaments. TIRF, Q-Meta and WHITU.

2020 will see the roll out of a NEW “Pathway Club Partnership” program to align clubs better with the Reds and ensure their top players gain exposure and access to high performance via RC based systems. This will include club coaches.

High Performance drives growth of all sports. As Countries become successful on international stages growth of these sports in schools jumps dramatically. We again saw Rugby as the fastest growing sport in Ontario High School & junior High. This was also the same in the USA.

2019 we started to see Reds players working into the senior women’s team in Langford BC with Asia Hogan and Olivia Apps.

RC Toronto PAN/AM program run by Sandro Fiorino has over 50% Reds players training under the National Programs 4 days a week.

2020 will be exciting with the Ontario Summer Games and 7 other top high performances tournaments.

Thank you,  
John Pryce

John: Why invest in Reds? Interest internationally in grass roots rugby but also in high performance. High performance does promote growth in rugby and interest in rugby. A problem we are having is having the support from clubs. Try to support through the Reds with your players and we will come to you to try and work with your athletes. John also mention that many players are getting scholarships through the connections with the Reds.

Questions: Chris Mc (Oshawa): Is there now a balance with girls and boys.

John: Yes, both boys and girls share the budget evenly. Going forward the boys are on equal footing. Working with Sandros at RC has helped getting exposure at the national level. Our database is the same is what RC has, it flows from Reds to the RC. We need to have it the same for boys.

Donnie: we now have 40 players, represented in NYC and will be in Florida.

Alex M (Brampton): some clubs do not have any juniors in the Reds, we need to have some of our athletes to get in the Reds and then they come back to the club as men’s player.

Donnie said that your club would be perfect for matching with the Reds.

Lesley S(Mississauga): Needs more communication from the Reds to make her players aware. Would love to see the Reds come out to Brampton to do something in order to engage their juniors with the Reds.

Mark brought up that communication will be better because the board has just brought on a new web master.

Question: would there a possibility to have 15's for the juniors? Suggest that it be cost effective as OR Blues is not.

John said the frame work is there but would need a doubled budget.

Brian: Reds is one of our largest action items

Mark: look at email blast to all members with juniors to be updated.

Stephanie Mc (Lindsay): not in favour of supporting Reds as they then lose players to run their own 7's team.

John wants to work more with clubs to know their goals and have players be with both their club and Reds. Donnie and John will work better at this over this year's program.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT (Shelley Ince)**

I interviewed for the vacant volunteer position at the beginning of June and can say it has been an exciting and fulfilling role.

My duties were to facilitate communication between the clubs & league, and ensure timely communication, when the information was provided. I could not have done this without the assistance of Brian Crothers. Another 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 to executive members).

I aimed to improve my knowledge of the league and all it entails so that I could better assist its board members and membership. I believe it's important that clubs feel valued, respected and I am committed to the growth of the TRU union.

As TRU Secretary, my specific portfolio of responsibility in the league was solely administrative/communication duties however, I found the TRU board receptive to any ideas and suggestions I brought forward regarding the TRU league.

I not only have a passion for rugby but a true love for the sport, and desire to see the Toronto Rugby Union as a competitive and well-organized rugby league

which all its members can be proud of. It has been a pleasure to serve as Secretary from June 2019 to present.

The position of Secretary was not voted on by the membership and will need to be during the AGM. I am willing to stand for this position.

**Sincerely,  
Shelley Ince**

**TORONTO RUGBY**  
**‘RUSSELL’ DIVISION 2 MEN’S RUGBY**  
**2020 Schedule**

**RUSSELL DIVISIONS** (West, Central, East)

The TR Russell Division 2 format shall be three divisions that are divided into three regions based on the Keenan schedule format. The league consists of Keenan club 2<sup>nd</sup> division teams, as well as North Halton (in place of Brock 2, and Belleville in place of Cobourg 2). While North Halton is clearly a ‘west’ team, for the purpose of scheduling, they are placed in Brock’s spot in the ‘east’ division.

Each team will play a home and away game against their division opponents, and one cross over game (3 away & 3 home) against the other division. There will be 10 league matches total. With an odd number of teams in the division, clubs will have ‘bye’ weekends.

In order to minimize Keenan clubs having their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> side teams playing away from each other on the same day, ‘away’ games to North Halton or Belleville may be scheduled on the Keenan club’s ‘bye’ week.



Please note that in creating this schedule, importance is placed on 2 division clubs with one team (North Halton & Belleville) to host their own home games (as opposed to playing at the home pitches at Brock or Cobourg). Hosting your own home games is important for club development, fundraising at the home club's pub/bar for post-game festivities, and developing the club's relationships and reputation within the rugby community.

While Brock and Cobourg will not have official '2<sup>nd</sup> team' entries into the Russell division, if either club has enough players to field a 2<sup>nd</sup> team when they are hosting a Keenan club, they are free to arrange a second fixture with the Keenan club they are hosting, which shall be considered a 'Pinguet' Division 3 match. Brock and Cobourg will be required to supply a club ref for such a fixture, and, the Keenan club playing away is of course entitled to decline the offer of the additional fixture.

On the occasion when a Keenan club is required to have their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams play away from each other on the same day **there will not be a minimum front row requirement for the Keenan 2<sup>nd</sup> team side.** This rule variation for the Russell division is with the understanding that front row are becoming the scarcest of players in rugby, and, is in the interest of player safety, as well as ensuring a full complement of subs are available for the Keenan Division 1 match. While the hope is that the Keenan club with their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team will have the numbers available to field two full sides, **if the Keenan 2<sup>nd</sup> team travelling away must play the game with uncontested scrums, it will not be considered a forfeit.**

This was a difficult schedule to assemble. Juggling team's bye weekends and working around the Keenan schedule I have tried my best to limit weekends where a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team from the same club would have to play away from each other on the same day. Due to Belleville's location relative to the rest of the league scheduling a game other than on a Saturday could not be done. Out of

the ten away games which North Halton and Belleville host combined, there are *three* matches where 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team clubs play the same day;

1. **June 27 Lindsay 2 @ Belleville**
2. **July 11 Bay Street 2 @ Belleville**
3. **July 25 Dragons 2 @ Belleville**

Each Keenan club 1<sup>st</sup> team plays Cobourg at 3 pm, so the Keenan 2<sup>nd</sup> team side will have the **option for a 12 pm (as opposed to 1:30 pm) kick-off in Belleville so that the 2<sup>nd</sup> team players can sub for their first team, if needed.**

#### **KEENAN WEST**

1. Mississauga Blues RFC
2. Toronto Dragons RFC
3. Brampton Beavers RFC

#### **KEENAN CENTRAL**

1. Bay Street Pigs RFC
2. Toronto Buccaneers RFC
3. Toronto Saracens RFC

#### **KEENAN EAST**

1. Lindsay RFC
2. Belleville RFC
3. North Halton RFC

#### **2020 TR Division 2 Schedule**

*1:30 Kick-off unless otherwise noted*

*(Division 1 - 3 pm Kick-off)*

May 9            Blues 2 @ Lindsay 2  
                  Belleville @ Brampton 2  
                  Bucs 2 @ Saracens 2  
                  (BYE – Dragons 2, Bay 2, North Halton)

May 23 (Lindsay away)

Lindsay 2 at Dragons 2  
North Halton at Belleville  
Blues 2 at Saracens 2  
Bay 2 at Brampton 2  
(BYE – Bucs 2)

May 30 (Lindsay away)

Belleville at Sarries 2  
Bucs 2 at Bay 2  
Dragons 2 at Blues 2 (Friday May 29 @ 7:30 pm)  
Lindsay 2 at North Halton  
(BYE – Brampton 2)

June 6 (Lindsay home) (Dragons away)

Saracens 2 at Lindsay 2  
Blues 2 at Bay 2  
Dragons 2 at Brampton 2  
Bucs 2 at Belleville  
(BYE – North Halton)

June 13 North Halton at Bucs 2

Belleville at Lindsay 2  
Blues 2 at Brampton 2  
Dragons 2 at Sarries 2  
(BYE – Bay 2)

June 20 Belleville at North Halton

Sarries 2 at Bucs 2  
Lindsay 2 at Bay 2

Brampton 2 at Dragons 2  
(BYE – Blues 2)

June 27      Bucs 2 at Blues 2 (Friday June 26 @ 7:30 pm)  
Saracens 2 at Bay 2  
North Halton at Dragons 2  
Lindsay 2 at Belleville (12 or 1:30 pm – Lindsay choice)  
(BYE – Brampton 2)

July 2      (Thursday)  
Saracens 2 at North Halton (7 pm)

July 11 (Lindsay home)  
North Halton at Lindsay 2  
Bay 2 at Belleville (12 or 1:30 pm – Bay St. choice)  
Blues 2 at Dragons 2  
Brampton 2 at Bucs 2  
(BYE – Sarries 2)

July 18      North Halton at Blues 2  
Bay 2 at Sarries 2  
Bucs 2 at Dragons 2  
Brampton 2 at Lindsay 2  
(BYE – Belleville)

July 25 (Bucs home)  
Bay 2 at Bucs 2  
Sarries 2 at Brampton 2  
Dragons 2 at Belleville (12 or 1:30 pm – Dragons choice)  
(BYE – Blues 2, North Halton, Lindsay 2)

July 30 (Thursday)  
Brampton 2 at Blues 2 (7:30 pm)  
Bay 2 at North Halton (7 pm)

Aug 8 Lindsay 2 at Bucs 2  
Belleville at Blues 2  
Brampton 2 at North Halton  
Dragons 2 at Bay 2  
(BYE – Sarries 2)

August 9<sup>th</sup>

- Top team crowned **Russell Division 2 champion.**
- **TR Club Championship** awarded for most regular season combined points for a club with teams in the Keenan Division 1 and Russell Division 2 leagues.
- **The higher seed between Belleville and North Halton will host a promotion game with the 9<sup>th</sup> place Keenan club.**

### **Promotion/Relegation**

The 9<sup>th</sup> place Keenan club will play a single promotion/relegation game on August 15<sup>th</sup> against the **top place ‘single club’ team from the Russell division.** If the top ‘single team’ Russell club chooses not play, the match will be offered to the next ‘single team’ Russell club. If no Russell club wishes to play for promotion, the 9<sup>th</sup> place Keenan club will have a ‘bye’ this weekend. **The Russell division club will host.**

### **August 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **KEENAN-RUSSELL PROMOTION MATCH**

**Game 1A** - (winner is promoted to Keenan Division for following season)

Russell 1<sup>st</sup> place team ‘single team’ club hosts Keenan 9<sup>th</sup> place team – winner is eligible to play in Keenan Division 1 for 2020.

**TORONTO RUGBY**  
**‘KEENAN’ DIVISION 1 MEN’S RUGBY**  
**2020 Schedule**

**KEENAN DIVISIONS** (West, Central, East)

The TR Keenan Division 1 format shall be 3 divisions that 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 (3 away & 3 home) against the other division. There will be 10 league matches total. With an odd number of teams in the division, clubs will have ‘bye’ weekends.

**KEENAN WEST**

4. Mississauga Blues RFC
5. Toronto Dragons RFC
6. Brampton Beavers RFC

**KEENAN CENTRAL**

4. Bay Street Pigs RFC
5. Toronto Buccaneers RFC

6. Toronto Saracens RFC

**KEENAN EAST**

4. Lindsay RFC
5. Cobourg Saxons RFC
6. Brock RFC

**2020 TR Division 1 Schedule**

May 9            Blues @ Lindsay  
                    Bay @ Brock  
                    Cobourg @ Brampton  
                    Bucs @ Saracens  
                    (BYE – Dragons)

May 23 (Lindsay away)  
                    Lindsay at Dragons  
                    Bucs at Cobourg  
                    Blues at Saracens  
                    Bay at Brampton  
                    (BYE – Brock)

May 30 (Lindsay away)  
                    Cobourg at Sarries  
                    Bucs at Bay  
                    Dragons at Blues (Friday May 29)  
                    Brampton at Brock  
                    (BYE – Lindsay)

June 6 (Lindsay home) (Dragons away)  
                    Saracens at Lindsay  
                    Blues at Bay  
                    Dragons at Brampton

Brock at Cobourg  
(BYE – Bucs)

June 13      Brock at Bucs  
                 Cobourg at Lindsay  
                 Blues at Brampton  
                 Dragons at Sarries  
(BYE – Bay)

June 20 (Brock home)  
                 Cobourg at Brock  
                 Sarries at Bucs  
                 Lindsay at Bay  
                 Brampton at Dragons  
(BYE – Blues)

June 27      Bucs at Blues (Friday June 26)  
                 Saracens at Bay  
                 Brock at Dragons  
                 Lindsay at Cobourg  
(BYE – Brampton)

July 11 (Lindsay home)  
                 Brock at Lindsay  
                 Bay at Cobourg  
                 Blues at Dragons  
                 Brampton at Bucs  
(BYE – Sarries)



July 18      Brock at Blues  
                 Bay at Sarries  
                 Bucs at Dragons  
                 Brampton at Lindsay  
                 (BYE – Cobourg)

July 25      (Bucs home)  
                 Bay at Bucs  
                 Lindsay at Brock  
                 Sarries at Brampton  
                 Dragons at Cobourg  
                 (BYE – Blues)

July 30      (Thursday)  
                 Brampton at Blues

Aug 8        Lindsay at Bucs  
                 Cobourg at Blues  
                 Sarries at Brock  
                 Dragons at Bay  
                 (BYE – Brampton)

August 9<sup>th</sup>    **TR Club Championship** awarded for most combined points for a TR club with teams in the Keenan Division 1 and Russell Division 2 leagues.

**PLAYOFFS – August 15, 22, 29**

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Keenan clubs will play a single game on August 15<sup>th</sup> for the right to play in the **Intermediate Cup**. The 1<sup>st</sup> place club will host the 2<sup>nd</sup>**

place club. *The Intermediate Cup will take place August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> vs the last place Marshal club in a 'home & away' series.*

- **The 9<sup>th</sup> place Keenan club will play a single promotion/relegation game on August 15<sup>th</sup> against the top place 'single' club team from the Russell division. The Russell division club will host. If the top 'single team' Russell club chooses not play, the match will be offered to the next top place 'single team' Russell club, and so on. If no Russell club wishes to play for promotion, the 9<sup>th</sup> place Keenan club will have a 'bye' this weekend.**
- Toronto Rugby will host a TRU CUP day on August 29<sup>th</sup> where there are three trophies to be won; TRU CUP (TR Playoff Champion), TRU PLATE (Silver), and TRU BOWL (Bronze)

## **August 15 – Round 1**

### **INTERMEDIATE CUP CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Game 1** – 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 1<sup>st</sup> for right to play in the Intermediate Cup

### **KEENAN-RUSSELL PROMOTION MATCH**

**Game 1A** - (winner is promoted to Keenan Division for following season)

Russell 1<sup>st</sup> place team 'single team' club hosts Keenan 9<sup>th</sup> place team – winner is eligible to play in Keenan Division 1 for 2020.

### **LEAGUE PLAYOFFS**

#### **Keenan Division 1 Playoff Championships**

**Game 2** – 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Game 3** – 7<sup>th</sup> @ 4<sup>th</sup>

**Game 4** – 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5<sup>th</sup>

## **August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Round 2**

### **Keenan Championship Semi-Finals & Consolation Semi-Finals**

**Game 5** – 9<sup>th</sup> place team from game 1A @ highest place loser of games 2, 3, or 4.

**Game 6** – Lowest seed winner of games 2, 3, 4 @ loser of game 1

**Game 7** – Remaining winners of games 2, 3, or 4 (higher seed hosts)

**Game 8** – Remaining losers of games 2, 3, or 4 (higher seed hosts)

### **August 29<sup>th</sup> – Toronto Rugby CUP DAY**

**(Held at Fletchers)**

**TRU CUP** – winner of game 6 vs winner of game 7

**TRU PLATE** – loser of game 6 vs loser of game 7

**TRU BOWL** – winner game 5 vs winner game 8

### **September 12, 19 & 26 – Gee Gage Cup**

**Available to all Keenan Clubs – Details to Follow via Rugby Ontario**

## **ELECTION PROCESS FOR VACANT BOARD POSITIONS**

(President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of High Performance, Director of Discipline, Director at Large)

### **Nomination**

Nominations, including self-nominations, must be submitted to the TRU Board. These nominations can be made orally while attending the AGM or in advance in writing or by electronic mail.

Nominations for a position are accepted until the start of voting for that position. A nomination will only be valid if the candidate declares orally at the meeting, or in writing or by electronic mail prior to the meeting, that the candidate is willing to take office if elected.

A candidate who fails to be elected for a position may be nominated for a subsequent position.

### **Voting**

Any candidate may make a statement to the Board regarding their candidature. The presentation of such a statement shall take no longer than five minutes. The order of candidates' statements shall be determined by the Officer presiding over

the election using a random selection process.

To be elected, a candidate must receive votes marked with his or her name from a majority of the voting membership present at the AGM. Ballots should be cast marked with the name of an announced candidate or with the word "abstain". A candidate can withdraw at any time from subsequent votes. Ballots will be provided at the AGM.

In the instance there are more than two candidates running and none receive a majority of affirmative votes in a vote, the vote is rerun with only the candidates receiving the two highest vote counts eligible. (This may result in more than two candidates being eligible.) The vote is retaken in the case of a tie for first place. A new call for candidates is made and the voting process restarts in the case where there is a single candidate but that candidate does not receive enough affirmative votes.

Peter Ratcliffe stated to stand as Treasurer, no objections therefore elected  
Krista Kent stated to stand as women's Convenor, no objections therefore elected

John Pryce stated to stand as Technical & High-Performance Director, no objections therefore elected

Mark Walsh stated to stand as President, no objections therefore elected

Shelley Ince stated to stand as Secretary, no objections therefore elected

Michael Kahn stated to stand as Discipline Director, no objections therefore elected

Director at large: Ian Royer nominated by self, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Kahn

Donnie Maillet nominated by Stew Dobbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnny  
Watkins

Malency Wainwright willing to stand, no objections

All executive positions, vote position and non-vote positions were accepted and passed by the board and membership

Other business:

Khalil A (Aurora): asked what is the process for why TRU is involved in the club awards?

Action item by Brian C regarding awards and who gets the award?

Especially when it is for award. Also asked if TRU will run a board like the ORU board members.

Answer: No, as they are paid staff to help to do the hard work.

Celest C (Crew): Has there been any thought to expanding the women's league and 7's program?

Krista stated that they did have a 7's program this year. Went really well as there were 18 teams over 2 days.

Question: How can there be improvement with Fletchers and communication

Ian R (Muddy York): has been in partnership with Pride to have a game day during Pride day would like it to be a TRU branded event. It is a touch game day.

John asked if Ian R would write something up regarding the event so that it can be placed on the TRU website.

Motion to end the 2020 AGM meeting brought forward by Brian Crothers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean Webb (Buccaneers). Officially called to end at 12:26 pm.