**COOK ISLANDS RUGBY UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date and**  **Time:** | 27 May 2020  5pm |
| **Location:** | CISNOC Office, Nikao, Rarotonga |
| **Attendees:**  **(21)** | Simiona Teiotu (Acting President, Referees ), Anthony Turua (Treasurer, Avatiu), Charlie Hosking (Vice President, Ngatangiia), William Taripo (Exec, Avatiu), Ben Koteka (RDM), Maureen Hilyard (Minutes), Tua Manea (Referees), Ashleigh Willis (Arorangi Vice Pres), Tukaka Ama (Ngatangiia), Nikki Pulley, Arama Wichman (Arorangi Pres), Jessie Sword (RR7s Committee), Pomare Pittman (RDO), Pozo Ngaroi (TKV), Moari Allsworth, Margaret Apaipo, Owen Lewis (Sec Gen, CISNOC), Pita Francis, George George, John Paul Wilson (Tupapa Pres), Stephen Willis. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda#** | **Decision item** | **Movers** | **Decision** |
| 2 | Minutes from CIRU AGM held 4/04/19. | William, Simiona | Approved |
| 3.2 | 2019 Presidents Report – Simiona Teiotu | Francis, Tua | Approved |
| 4.3 | 2019 Treasurer’s Report – Anthony Turua | Charlie, Arama | Approved |
| 5.2  5.4  5.6 | Election of Office Bearers for 2020-2021 term  President: Simiona Teiotu  Secretary: William Taripo  Assistant Treasurer: Ashleigh Willis | Anthony, Charlie  Simi, Anthony  Simi, William | Duly Elected |
| 6.1.4 | Season’s Plans – Ben’s proposals re quik rip | Ben, Charlie | Approved |
| 6.1.6 | Create a local 7s competition - instead of international 7s – targeting secondary students and tourists on the island | Jessie, Simi | Approved |
| 6.2.2 | CIRU Constitution | Maureen, Ngatangiia Club | Unanimously Approved |
| 6.2.5 | Strategic Plan 2020-2023 | Maureen, Ngatangiia Club | Unanimously Approved |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Correspondence Items:** | **Receipt date:** | **Response Actions:** |
| William Taripo | 8 May 2020 | Nomination for Secretary |
| Simiona Teitu | 20 May 2020 | Nomination for President |

**AGENDA**:

1)      Opening Prayer.

2)      Approval of the Minutes from CIRU AGM held 4/04/19.

3)      2019 Presidents Report.

4)      2019 Financial Report.

5)      Election of Office Bearers for 2020 – 2021 term:

1. President
2. Secretary
3. Assistant Treasurer

6)      Other Matters

a)      2020 Season plans – community & international.

b)      CIRU Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 / (Revised) CIRU Constitution

7)      Closing prayer.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. **Opening Prayer** – Simiona Teiotu
2. **Approval of the Minutes from CIRU AGM held 4/04/19.**

#4 – query regarding financial report – this is explained in the 2019 Treasurer’s report

**Moved William second Simiona – minutes approved by the meeting**

1. **2019 Presidents Report.**

3.1 Simiona Teiotu - Presented his report – departure of the former President halfway through the year; declining interest of youth players in the 15s – need to move more towards the 7s; covid-19 has put everything on hold; Pacific Games in Samoa – performance was not startling – no report yet received; reporting is an issue from clubs as well as competition teams; International 7s – hard work by Jessie and her team – Eric Rush a great boost; Oceania competition – again not successful; social media – 2019 rugby activities not promoted as well as it could have been; Volunteers – we need hands on deck to help out for competitions; Covid-19 – aim is to start rugby on first weekend of July – Health is still reviewing this ; Rippa rugby has started in schools - 700 primary school students playing rippa; lastly thank the Executive committee for their work.

**3.2 Francis moved that Simi’s report be adopted, seconded Tua – the meeting approved the report**

3.3 Last week Simi and Ants had a zoom meeting with WR and Oceania – asked about the status of covid and the start of our rugby; 7s may have to be our focus, more cost-effective under circumstances; under 18 womens rugby Sept next year; Development sides – should focus on our youngsters - encourage inter-island competition for under 18&19

3.4 Jessie – to add to the report on the International 7s in 2019 - last year’s event was able to get off the ground due to the support and the high profile of Eric Rush; the stats of the survey from teams overseas and Eric Rush indicate that we have to innovate and change the way we do things ; for 2020 we are going to combine the ages – there was great support from secondary students last year and we need to get the support of tourists etc; Change the timing from Sept to October; overseas interest is there ; borders could possibly be open by October – need to keep it as a local tournament; we must maintain interest or risk losing players to the other codes; 7s will still be on in October or Nov but run it as a local comp – Tourism is keen on that direction. Push the womens 7s. (attach Jessie’s report to these minutes); Need a dedicated social media person; need an apparel shop because there is a lot of interest in Cook Islands sports gear; we had a good team – George G, Charlie, everyone came on board and worked hard – made a bit of money which has gone back to rugby; Possible sponsors - Air Raro, Edgewater, Vodafone, Cook Islands Tourism – name the games after the key sponsor; If we can’t get sponsors – need to reduce prizes or gate – we need to focus the games on locals, and just encourage them to bring their teams – if borders open and NZ teams enter, this will be a bonus – but we won’t offer money prizes if we don’t have the funds.

1. **2019 Financial Report – Anthony Turua**

4.1 Some documentation was missing last year, reconciled our development programme with our availability of funds; Hong Kong games resulted in about $60k worth of debt – generation of sponsors did not meet expenditure; govt provided $60k. In 2019 we were still getting bills from Hong Kong that were not settled in 2018. PSP funds have been helping us with our development programme and it has been channelled into rippa rugby and health education. Spending for 2019 regional/ international games was about 53% and 30% on domestic game; CIRU had to borrow $18k to CISNOC to fund a team to go to Fiji; need to relook at our finances as per our strategy; League is benefiting from our developmental work with our juniors; we need money to upgrade our domestic game; sponsors aren’t coming forward because we aren’t playing rugby because of covid. We are going to have to review our budget and stick to it.

4.2 Accounts – Trips to Samoa and Hong Kong – we had a deficit; In our discussions with Oceania – stressed that the focus for CIRU needs to be on 7s – it is both relevant and allows for the capacity of our population – decision about contact sports is out of our hands – to start too soon before borders open is a risk if there are any injuries in rugby – if an accident occurs there are no flights out.

**4.3 Charlie moved and Arama seconded that the Treasurers report be approved – motion was passed**

**5)      Election of Office Bearers for 2020 – 2021 term:**

* 1. **President**

**Simi** - next office bearers will take on the new constitution and strategic plan-

**George** – need people who have vision – the strategic plan aims to get us out of this coma – but need people who are going mobilise everyone into action. Good luck to those who are going to put their hands up.

5.2 One applicant – Simiona Teiotu – won by acclamation (written application received)

**5.3 Secretary**

* 1. One applicant – William Taripo – won by acclamation (written application received)

**5.5 Assistant Treasurer**

5.6 One applicant – Ashley Willis - won by acclamation (Simi, William)

* 1. **Other Matters**
  2. **2020 Season plans – community & international.**

**6.1.1. William** – because of covid – start age group rippa rugby – encourage girls and boys . Under 18 rugby competition next year – will require preseason start. Currently no netball – no league. Don’t wait until soccer starts.

**6.1.2. Anthony** - 2 options – noncontact (touch/rippa), contact (only if health gives the go)

**6.1.3. Ben** – game plan will be on a monthly basis – at moment 700 primary students are actively engaged - when Tereora starts it will hit 1000 - the plan is to start with quick rip – touch will finish in mid-June; we need buy-in from clubs for this plan and encouraging their players to get out and have a run – we have buy-in from schools – need to meet with clubs to discuss covid plan.

**6.1.4. Ben proposed (seconded Charlie) - all agreed on quik-rip for all, as a weekly tournament**

6.1.5. Jesse – Rather than focus on International 7s – leave it till October or November – don’t want to stop interest in a 7s competition just because of border restrictions – neither do we want to dilute the flavour of the momentum of the 7s competition - lets just have a local competition but if borders can be open to NZ – that will be a bonus**.**

**6.1.6. Simi seconded Jesse’s proposal and all agreed to create a local 7s competition this year, targeting secondary students and tourists**.

**6.1.7. Owen – announced that there is going to be a Cook Islands Games in October**. Noone was aware of this event. But rugby will work around it.

* 1. **CIRU Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 / (Revised) CIRU Constitution**
     1. **Maureen explained the changes in the CIRU Constitution. There was full consensus of agreement for the guidance given in the Constitution and the changes that have had to be made to adjust the rulings to suit the Cook Islands situation.**
     2. **The new Constitution was very much supported. All were in favour. It was announced that although the new Constitution would take immediate effect, the elections as announced in the Constitution would be implemented at the next AGM in January.**
     3. Maureen also explained the purposes of the 4 key strategic areas. Specific mention was the need for greater monitoring of the budget. Once the budget is in place it is important to stick to it or we will end up in the same problem we have had over the past two years because we were talked into taking part in a competition, unprepared, and having to spend more than we could afford. CIRU will be very mindful of this in future. Tom Wills the former Treasurer was very strict on this ruling and was not liked because of it. But at least we didn’t ever end the year without money in the bank.
     4. There was general discussion about the need for more attention to be given to the other three areas of the new Strategic Plan – focusing on stakeholders and donors, player and community involvement. The clubs were asked to use the same planning objectives in their strategic plans each year, and to set goals that will help CIRU achieve their goals as well.
     5. **The Strategic plan was moved by Maureen and was given full approval of the meeting.**

**7) Closure**

7.1. Simi ended the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and for their support for rugby in 2019 and moving forward into 2020**. He thanked Nicky for her work on the accounts this past year. He also gave special mention to Arama for his generous support** of uniforms for the referee’s association which always make them stand out and adds to the professional way in which they control the games.

* 1. Closing prayer – Simiona.