

CUGA Annual General Meeting – June 4th, 2011

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:50 pm
- 2) Roll Call / Proxies / Quorum - No proxies were provided by the members present, roll call was verified and quorum present. 20 members. Executive members present: Adam Jocksch (President), Veronique Seguin (Vice President), Melanie Johnson (Secretary) and Darryl Brambilla (Chief Referee)
- 3) Previous Minutes - Motion to accept minutes from 2010 was provided by Marie Renee Blanchet, seconded by Kim Grattan – All in favor – unanimous.
- 4) Reports
 - President Report – Adam Jocksch: Electronic report attached (Appendix A).
 - Vice President Report – Veronique Seguin has been working on standardizing operations in CUGA (tournaments in particular), translation and updating of various existing and new documentation within CUGA, and working with teams to represent Canada at international events. She has also been working with Darryl and various clubs regarding standardizing referees at tournaments. In particular, a new format was performed in Montreal that had dedicated refs, better consistency, and players / teams felt this worked very well. CUGA Executive's hope is to eventually use this same type of format for other tournaments and highly recommended for Nationals in future events.
 - Treasurer's report – Margaret Francis: Electronic report attached (Appendix B)
 - Secretary Report – Melanie Johnson has been working with Veronique getting documents translated, sending out updates to the membership, etc. A large part of last year was spent working on problems related to CMAS through the fall regarding the proposed CMAS Games in Colombia 2011 that were subsequently cancelled. Into the new year, communications to the membership were regarding the confirmed international events and CMAS issues with these events.
 - Chief Referee Report – Darryl Brambilla: Electronic Report Attached (Appendix C)
 - Past President Report – John Harland: No report submitted
 - Under Water Hockey Director Report –Position vacant (was vacated part-way through the year by Olivier Miron).

5) Old Business:

- Grassroots effort / Skills registry – No further updates / has been dormant; any CUGA members wanting to work on this issue is asked to contact the CUGA Secretary (Melanie Johnson)
- Sponsorship committee – No update / committee has been dormant; any CUGA members wanting to work on this issue is asked to contact the CUGA Secretary (Melanie Johnson)
- Under Water Hockey Program for schools – No further updates regarding this; Melanie Johnson has some of the documentation from the Calgary group; any CUGA members wanting to work on this issue is asked to contact the CUGA Secretary (Melanie Johnson)
- Trophies – All Nationals trophies have now been located in Calgary (Margaret has them currently). Due to their fragile condition it is no longer feasible to be shipping them around the country. It is recommended that a club that may have permanent trophy display case availability could store and promote them at a location to be determined in the future – please contact CUGA Secretary Melanie Johnson if your club has a place to display these trophies. Replacement of the trophies could be done with plaques or banners. Brittany Haughton from Guelph has a contact regarding banners as they have them made regularly for the Guelph tournament and will look into this and update CUGA.

6) New Business:

- No motions were received for the meeting.
- International tournament in Colombia 2010 (was originally intended to be a World Aquachallenge Association (WAA) event, but subsequently was not a WAA or CMAS event). The event happened and Canada sent a Women's Elite team for participation and placed 3rd at the event. Instead of having participation similar to World Championships, this event had teams from Colombia, Argentina, Canada and USA with some players from New Zealand and Australia participating on 'pick-up' multinational teams. The future of WAA is in question at this time as it appears that CMAS is coming to the forefront again for UWH at the world level and world federations appear to be supporting this. As a result, CUGA will continue to monitor the situation and collaborate with the other world federations at this time along with applying rules from the current CMAS edition.
- New Nationals Format – The executive indicated this is the 2nd year of the implementation of the new Nationals format and asked the membership how it felt about the format and asked for any comments / suggestions / recommendations. A suggestion was mentioned for teams to be named based on their region for Nationals versus non indicated location names or nicknames. It was felt that people generally like the format but would like to make sure the maximum # of games per day be set to a reasonable number (i.e. – 5 or 6) and are reasonably spaced out to allow adequate time for recovery / fatigue / food, etc. These comments/suggestions will be taken into consideration for future hosting of Nationals and will be accommodated where possible.
- 2012 Nationals –CUGA had previously sent out a call for all interested hosts in the east to provide a bid for the 2012 Nationals. A detailed proposal to host Nationals has been provided by Cornwall, Ontario. Cornwall's bid while extensive and well thought-out and had many highlights does not meet the full preferred criteria set out by the Nationals committee. However there were no other host bids sent in within the indicated timeline. Members indicated that past experience in pools not meeting the requirements has generated some negative feedback. Also, there could

have been other hosts interested if they would have known that the bid did not meet the requirements. CUGA Executive recognized that procedures for bids need to be modified: information on the bids needs to be circulated prior to the AGM in order for the discussion to take place prior to the meeting and the decision to be taken at the meeting. As a result, to be fair to all it was determined that a short extension and notice would be put out again to all clubs. CUGA will make a final decision after the new deadline and sent out notice to the membership (this email to the membership via the uwhcanada mailing list was sent June 8th with a final deadline of June 23 for any additional bids).

7) Elections:

- President – Adam Jocksch was re-nominated by Brittany Haughton and accepted the nomination – no further nominations –acclaimed to the position.
- Treasurer – Margaret Francis was re-nominated by Darryl Brambilla and had previously indicated she would accept renomination – no other nominations – acclaimed to the position.
- Under Water Hockey Director – Joseph Ravoghany was nominated by Darryl Brambilla –no further nominations – acclaimed to the position. This position will be for a 1-year term as it is continuing the term for this position that was left vacant by Olivier Miron part-way through his 2-year term as noted above.
- Under Water Rugby Director – Gord Lemon was nominated by Tom Elliot via email and had indicated he accepted the nomination – no further nominations – acclaimed to the position. This position had not been filled for many years, but there has been a resurgence of interest in Under Water Rugby with a group of players being interested in participating in international CMAS underwater rugby events.

8) Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Appendix A:

CUGA President's report - Nationals 2011

The last year has been a year of growth here in Canada, unfortunately it has also been a year that has seen a lot of uncertainty internationally.

The executive has made considerable progress this year in increasing the number of CUGA-sanctioned tournaments outside of nationals and ACCs/PCCs. Vero has been instrumental in formalizing CUGA's requirements for a sanctioned tournament, both locally and abroad, and if all goes well next year the CAMO invitational tournament should be a CUGA-sanctioned event. As part of this program CUGA is also looking to return much of the money raised through player levees at these tournaments to the organizers in order to help cover tournament infrastructure such as goals, scoring and timing equipment, or referee supplies. We hope that we can reach more such arrangements with other tournament organizers in the future.

Also, this year has been a year of remarkable growth outside of the boundaries of underwater hockey. There are now two regular underwater rugby clubs in operation - one in Brantford, ON and the other in Montreal, QC. The sport has grown so much in fact that there was very nearly a team sent to the world championships this summer in Finland. Unfortunately the necessary numbers were not reached in time, but we hope that with more time available to organize that a Canadian team will indeed attend a world championship in UWR soon.

Things have been considerably less optimistic on the international stage. The CMAS games in Columbia proved to be unorganized and were cancelled after many federations, CUGA included, refused to send any teams to such a poorly-planned event. A backup tournament in Portugal for elite UWH teams has been confirmed but unfortunately by this time there was insufficient momentum for us to send a full contingent of teams. Our hearts go with the women who will be representing Canada at this tournament - I know they will make us proud.

It is unclear whether the international community will once again return to CMAS after this latest debacle. Regardless of international events we need to continue to foster the growth of both UWH and UWR here at home and be ready to compete when the time comes.

Appendix B:

2011 CUGA TREASURER REPORT

2010 saw an increase in membership fees so that we actually fully paid for our insurance on time and had a balance to cover last years liability. We did not pay a membership to CMAS as their was no benefit to belonging to an organization that did not have a world championship in 2010.

In 2011 our insurance payments will still remain the same at 3975.00 and are due the end of May. We have paid for our 2011 CMAS membership and with the revenue from 2011 Nationals should be able to cover our insurance for this year. Calgary did not host a tournament in 2011, but should be back in 2012. This will see some decrease in revenue for 2011, however with progress being made on sanctioning other tournaments, will not affect our bottom line too much.

2010 saw only a women's team attending an International tournament in Columbia. Final accounting for this has been finished, the last accounts receivable have been received in May 2011, and final refund checks are going out now. I will have the final accounting of the team accounts, once all cheques have cleared, estimate the end of June. Going forward we have to make sure that we have cheques going out and coming in for each item. It's too hard to move expenses and income around within the account itself. We need to have clear statements and records of who spent what and who is being paid. The accounts can only do this, with copies of cheques and invoices. For 2011 Worlds, there is only a women's team attending and there is been activity in the Team account during 2011 for expenses.

This has been a very difficult year for me and would like to thank the CUGA executive, especially Melanie for handling the bulk of the CUGA organization. I did attend the tournament in Columbia and attending some meetings on organization of an Americas Zone and tournament planning, which I think will benefit our community. I would like to still run for treasurer for the next term, however need to take the summer off to assist my ailing parents. I still would like to contribute and manage the CUGA office. My main goal for the fall will to be finish upgrading the CUGA website. I will need input however, on what people would like to see on the site. I would like to congratulate the women's team and wish them luck in Portugal and hope that we can build a stronger UWH community in North America over the next few years. I am sorry I cannot attend Nationals this year, however my parents are both ill and I need to be here in Calgary for them. I wish everyone the best and have a great tournament

Yours in Underwater Sports - Margaret Francis

Appendix C:

Chief Referee's Report – Darryl Brambilla

Refereeing / tournaments have been very busy for me in the past year. I had the opportunity to travel to the following tournaments to further promote refereeing:

Worlds 2010 – Colombia - August

PCC's - October

Montreal – November

Denver Tournament - January

Montreal 4 x 4 - March

Quebec City – March

Calgary Clinic - April

Victoria – Canadian Nationals – June

Los Angeles – US Nationals – June

At Worlds 2010 in Colombia I was asked to host a small rules / referee / player clinic for about 45 minutes. The small clinic turned out to be one of the highlight events where more than 100 people from around the world were in attendance to learn tips and tricks for refereeing and to learn the rules of the game. I had assistance from a few of the other international referees in attendance and this clinic turned into about 1.5 hours in total with people still wanting more information afterwards. As a result, I spent most of the week speaking with players, coaches, and other referees to help them better understand the game from either a player or referee perspective. It was very nice to be asked to host this clinic and also for Canada to be recognized and looked up to as a leader in quality refereeing. I only hope to continue to pass along these skills to our many other certified referees and build a better future for fairness in our sport.

I also had the opportunity to certify 5 new referees from Sherbrooke and Quebec City during the QC tournament in March. Additionally there was no Calgary tournament this year however I did travel to Calgary for vacation and while there put on a player refresher / rules course for 8 of their club members.

I was also recently asked to attend the US Nationals in Los Angeles this year and be their Chief Water Referee for the tournament and will be heading down June 24 – 26th. It was an honor again for Canada to be recognized for our reffing and USA and Canada have had close ties for many years on this front. The US have adopted the referee course I created a couple of years ago and are now using it to teach all of their newly certified level 1 referees. We will continue to work together to bring the standards of refereeing up in North America together and hopefully be able to continue to promote this on a world level moving forward.

On the world level it appears that things are beginning to sort itself out and the world federations for the time being are leaning towards CMAS again and supporting them. As a result, a recent edition of the rules have been published and adopted by other federations and so CUGA will follow this lead for the time being.

Main Rule Changes / Clarifications for the 2010 CMAS Edition of rules (Version 10.05 – November 2010):

- U19 division has been changed again for players that are 18 years old as of January 1st of the Worlds year. Previously the division had been changed to U18 but they have now reverted back to U19. Age limits in this category are typically 14 to 18 years of age
- U23 division has now been created and players must be 19 to 22 years of age on January 1st of the Worlds year. A minimum of 3 federation teams must be present to form an official division. All junior divisions must have a minimum of 3 teams for an official division to be formed.

- Inclusive of scheduled training days, CMAS World Cup tournament events shall be no longer than 10 days.
- Teams will play no more than 3 matches per day
- Should there be sufficient teams to have more than one seeding within a division, seeding will be based on final placing at the immediately previous Championship. Section B will consist of the remaining previously participating teams plus new and/or non participating teams seeded by draw.
- Free Subbing – only after a goal has been scored, or after a penalty shot has been defended / scored

Thanks,
Darryl Brambilla
Chief Referee - CUGA