

# CONNYLACROSSE

## November 6, 2001 BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

The November 6, 2001 Meeting of the CONNY Board of Directors was held at the Pitt Center of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. A quorum being present, President Russell called the meeting to order at 7:37 P.M.

### A. ATTENDANCE

Program/Position	Name	Program	Name
President	Bob Russell	Greenwich (continued)	Pat Coleman
Treasurer	Rob Campbell	Lewisboro	Barry Bocklet
Secretary	Jack Couch	Madison	Charlie Schwarz
Bedford	Paul Sturz		Chris Bushnell
	George Johnson	New Canaan	Jon Sprole
Cheshire	Pat Thibadeau	Newtown	Paul Kelly
	Rich Heritage	Norwalk	Jack Couch
	Alan Schupack	Redding-Easton	John Distler
	Joe Martinecz	Ridgefield	Dave Cowin
Darien	Lang Clarke	Trumbull	Ron Cristiano
Eli	Fred Groen	Weston	Paul Scheufele
Fairfield-Wakeman	Ryan MacAleavy	Westport	Don Kubie
Greenwich	Bryan Tunney	Wilton	Rob Campbell

### B. MINUTES

- May 15, 2001 Minutes**—Approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2001 meeting as distributed was moved, seconded, and carried (msc).
- President's Report**—President Russell deferred his report as it would be included in discussion of the meeting's planned business.
- Secretary's Report**—Secretary Jack Couch deferred his report as it would be included in discussion of the meeting's planned business.
- Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Rob Campbell presented the attached Treasurer's Report. It shows that the balance in the CONNY account (s) as of November 6, 2001 was \$10,236.60. Mr. Campbell reported that as planned the major CONNY events in 2001 were essentially self-funding. The lone exception was the \$2,100.00 spent on a tournament scoreboard, but this piece of equipment will be used for many years to come. Approval of the Treasurer's Report was msc.
- Nominating Committee**—Don Kubie will present the committee's proposed slate of officers at the December meeting for a vote. As is customary, the current major officers will be nominated for a second one-year term.

They are:

President	Bob Russell	Madison
VP—Competition	Kyle Donovan	Westport
VP—League Play	Pat Thibadeau	Cheshire
Treasurer	Rob Campbell	Wilton
Secretary	Jack Couch	Norwalk

CONNYS does need, however, participation in several of the Assistant VP positions to build a line of succession and assure the smooth running of all activities. Anyone interested in serving should contact Don directly.

### 6. Competition Committee

**2001 CONNY Tournaments:** AVP—Tournaments Lang Clarke reported that the 2001 CONNY Tournaments were held June 2-3, 2001 in challenging conditions. Because Yale was not available, the event was hosted at New Canaan High School with spillover games held at Veterans Park, Norwalk, which is ten-to-fifteen minutes from NCHS. Seven fields were used in New Canaan and three fields in Norwalk. 104 teams were seeded into the Tournaments. After completion of every game, a representative of each team reported the score to the event headquarters table at Dunning Field, New Canaan, even if the game was played in Norwalk.

Going in to the event, we knew that games might have to be cancelled in the event of bad weather. We got bad weather. Saturday's games were canceled. The decision was to play the Saturday schedule of games on Sunday and to leave it to the teams to arrange to play Divisional Championship and Consolation Final games at a later date. With some glitches, this worked out and all trophies were eventually awarded. Lang reported that vendors were disappointed but understanding.

Improved score reporting throughout the season helped the seeding of teams for the event go more smoothly than in previous years, despite the increased numbers of participating teams. VP—League Play Pat Thibadeau will bring to the next meeting a sample of the 2002 score reporting form.

**2002 CONNY Tournaments:** A sub-committee of President Russell, Lang Clarke, Fred Groen, John Sprole, and Jack Couch will bring a proposal for the 2002 CONNY Tournaments to the next meeting of the Board. The first choice will be to seek at least eight fields at Yale, but alternative sites will be investigated. (Additional fields to accommodate overflow will probably be available a short distance up the road at an Amity middle school.) In the event that Yale is again unavailable and another single site venue cannot be found, an undesirable but necessary consideration will be dividing the tournaments between two or more venues, either by age or geography. The meeting voted on preferred dates: June 8-9 as first choice due to the already short season, with June 1-2 as the second choice.

**CONNYS East-West All Star Festival:** President Russell reported that the 2001 CONNY East-West All-Star Festival in Madison on June 17<sup>th</sup> was also attacked by bad weather. An attempt was made to move the games to less rain-sensitive fields elsewhere in Madison, and the Junior All Star game was actually begun, albeit a bit late. Lightening, however, caused the game to be canceled after a little more than one period. Later, a shortened Senior game was played in downpour conditions. The Old Timers Game... aka "The Legends of Lacrosse," was canceled.

The Board agreed to try to schedule the Festival at the Madison Surf Club again on June 16, 2002, with June 23 as the back-up date. In the event the Surf Club is not available, Norwalk High School will be investigated as a site.

**CONNYS Select Teams:** President Russell reported on Connecticut's and CONNY's participation in the USLacrosse Youth Festival at UMass June 29 through July 1, 2001. As in recent years, CONNY administered the 2001 USLacrosse Connecticut Chapter Boys Select Teams in behalf of the Chapter. Players from CONNY's New York members were eligible for these teams as were members of non-CONNYS youth programs in Connecticut. The U-15 Select Team Head Coach was former Wilton H.S. coach Guy Whitten, assisted by Brien McMahon Head Coach Mike Epstein. The U-13 Head Coach was Jim "Mac" MacAleavy, a former UMass All American who is a camp director and coach at the high school and college level. Jim was assisted by his brother Ryan, the Notre Dame of Fairfield head coach. Despite a few misunderstandings...the result of imperfect communication at the beginning of the process...all involved agree that selecting coaches who are (1) not parents of prospective players and (2) are professional coaches is the way to go in the future.

7. **Bantam Play**—By popular demand, a committee was formed to develop recommended CONNY rules for Bantam play. The committee, which will make its final report to the Board at the January meeting, is comprised of Rich Heritage (Chair), George Johnson, Joe Martinecz, Pat Coleman, Mark Tsconos, and Paul Scheufele.
8. **2002 Rules of Play**—The Board discussed the problem of youth players trying to use defense sticks that are too long for them to handle. Much anecdotal evidence arose in the meeting to illustrate the problem, especially at the Junior level of play and below. Not only can the use of sticks that are too long be dangerous to opposing players; it can also inhibit the development of the player using the stick. Solutions discussed included allowing no "long crosses" in CONNY play (alternatively, in Bantam and Junior play only)—i.e., all sticks except the goalie's would be "short crosses" of 40"-42". Another option—which was close to the current practice of several coaches in the room—was to implement an easily enforced rule limiting stick length to the distance between the ground and the player's nose/visor or to the player's height. These proposals will be considered again when the 2002 CONNY Rules of Play are voted on at the January meeting.
9. **CONNYS Scholarships**—The Board voted to discontinue the CONNY high school camp scholarship program due to the disinterest of the high school coaches.

#### C. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CONNY Board of Directors will be held in December either at Sacred Heart or at the new The Sports Zone facility in Trumbull.

#### D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Jack Couch