

CONNYLACROSSE

October 26, 2005 BOARD of DIRECTORS FALL MEETING

The CONNY Board of Directors met on October 26, 2005 in the Boardroom of the Pitt Center, at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. In President Rich Heritage's absence, and a quorum being present, Secretary Jack Couch called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

A. ATTENDANCE

Program/Position	Name	Program	Name
VP-Competition	John Hughes	Greenwich	Tony MacLeod
VP-League Play	Carl Gendron	Guilford	Paul Farren
Treasurer	Rob Campbell	John Jay	Chris Maxim
Secretary	Jack Couch	Madison	Tom Davidson
Amity	Leland Torrance		Paul Alberti
Bethel	Dan Sieban	Milford	Steve Makowski
Branford	John Hughes	Newtown	Paul Kelly
Chappaqua	Curt Snyder	Norwalk	Chris Plumb
	Stuart Grover	Pomperaug	Marc Zaloumis
	Ken French	Redding/Easton	Paul Stauffer
Cheshire	Carl Gendron	Ridgefield	Tom Galione
Darien	Tim West	Stratford	Pat Corcoran
Fairfield-Wakeman	Rich Greenwood	Weston	Bob Peyreigne
	Terry Howard	Westport	Don Kubie
	Brian Smith	Wilton	Rob Campbell
	Mark Errett		

B. MINUTES

May 11, 2005 Minutes—Approval of the minutes of the May 11, 2005 Meeting of the CONNY Board of Directors as distributed was moved, seconded, and carried (msc).

- 1. President's Report**—VP-League Play Carl Gendron delivered President Rich Heritage's report in his absence. President Heritage thanked all who provided assistance during CONNY's very successful 2005 season and welcomed all new attendees. He reported that details on how to update their CONNY Program Contact Information—CONNY Representatives, Schedulers, Program Presidents, & Coaches—will be emailed to each member program shortly. He asked that member programs update their information as soon as possible after that. He also reported that Woody Thompson is now the website coordinator for www.CONNYlacrosse.org. You can contact Woody at newtownlax2005@yahoo.com. Most important, President Heritage emphasized the need to build upon progress to date with CONNY coaching and rules training. He asked for a committee, on which he will sit, to review what's currently in place, investigate new options (e.g., online training with PCA), and report back to the board with recommendations at the December and subsequent meetings. Pat Corcoran and Bob Russell volunteered for the committee; Paul Scheufele, who chaired the committee that developed the current training program, will be asked to participate.
- 2. Executive Committee Report**—Picking up on President Heritage's discussion of future CONNY coaching and rules training, Past President Bob Russell reported that of the eighteen sportsmanship complaints investigated during the 2005 season and found to warrant action, fifteen involved coaches who had not completed CONNY mandated coaches training. Therefore, the Executive Committee has resolved to place even higher emphasis on achieving universal coaching and rules training for CONNY coaches. The president's new committee will bring specific proposals to the Board at the December and January meetings.

Mr. Russell also reported on unethical practices encountered by the select teams administered by CONNY on behalf of the USLacrosse Connecticut Chapter. Certain "pay-to-play" "elite" teams were caught playing overage children at an event at UMass attended by our teams. The teams were caught – almost by accident – and expelled from the event, but Mr. Russell reported that USLacrosse believes that such practices are becoming more common. CONNY should be very cautious about associating with any such teams.

Stepping out of the agenda order in his role as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Russell made yet another plea for volunteers to fill the myriad officer positions needed to implement all of CONNY's initiatives. In order to reduce the burden on the VP-Competition, Mr. Russell proposed separating the CONNY Tournaments from all other post season activities (CONNY E-W All Star

Festival; USLax CT Chapter Select Team administration). However, that requires even more volunteers willing to roll up their sleeves. Contact Mr. Russell directly if you are interested in any of the open positions.

3. **Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Rob Campbell reported that expenses for the 2005 CONNY Tournaments increased \$5,089 over 2004 to \$23,447.40. The event continues to grow, but fee increases from Yale meant that increased revenues from growth did not cover the costs. Total tournament related revenues were \$17,544.74 (tournament venter income was \$6,744.74 plus \$75.00 per entered team [144] from CONNY dues and fees). Thus, the Tournaments “lost” \$5,902.66. Losing money on the CONNY Tournaments is not a problem per se since they are the largest single activity CONNY undertakes in behalf of our players. Nevertheless, a \$6,000 annual shortfall on the event is not sustainable. AVP-Competition Paul Farren will explore possible remedies for the shortfall. The Treasurer’s Report is attached.
4. **Secretary's Report**—Secretary Jack Couch’s report covered three pieces of business:
 - Bylaws:** Mr. Couch recommended three alterations to the bylaws so they will better reflect CONNY’s historical priorities and current practice. The changes were moved, seconded, and carried unanimously. The alterations and their rationales are attached. The resulting current CONNY Bylaws also are attached and will be posted on www.CONNYlacrosse.org.
 - Milford:** Mr. Couch read a letter from the directors of Milford Youth Lacrosse applying for CONNY membership. Acceptance of Milford’s application was msc unanimously.
 - 2006 Rules:** Mr. Couch reminded members that they must submit any suggested changes to the CONNY Rules of Play and CONNY Rules of Bantam Play to him for distribution before any meeting at which they would be considered.
5. **League Play Committee – Carl Gendron.**

Mr. Gendron confirmed that the pre-seeding meeting will be held on June 4 to allocate teams into rough groupings for seeding at the June 6 CONNY Seeding Night.

He also reminded members that they are required to report scores on CONNylacrosse.org in a timely manner. This becomes even more important as the seeding meeting approaches. He also urgently asked that members *NOT* post Bantam scores, which shouldn’t be kept anyway under the CONNY Bantam Rules of Play.
6. **Nominating Committee**—See above under Executive Committee Report.
7. **Competition Committee**
 - 2005 CONNY Tournaments:** VP-League Play Carl Gendron reported that sixty-eight Senior teams and seventy-four Junior and Super Seven teams played in the 2005 CONNY Tournaments. The event’s 144 games spread across ten fields at Yale and four more at Hopkins School. The event was a great success. Two innovations in 2005 worked out especially well.
 - The addition of a pre-seeding meeting to pre-sort teams before the actual seeding meeting worked well. Because of it, the seeding meeting went much more smoothly than in recent years.
 - Playing all the Senior games on Saturday June 11 and all Junior and Super Seven games on Sunday June 12 was well received. The only problem occurred for member programs with middle school graduations on Saturday or Sunday. In the past, the tournament organizers could schedule a very early game for the affected teams, but with both semifinals and finals/consolation finals on the same day, this was no longer possible.
 - 2006 CONNY Tournaments:** Despite increasing costs, the Board still strongly prefers to keep this event at Yale and Hopkins School. Paul Farren will begin negotiations for the 2006 event. The Board authorized Steve Makowski to obtain additional scoreboards as necessary.
 - 2005 CONNY East-West All-Star Festival:** VP-Competition John Hughes reported that the 2005 Festival on June 19 at Pomperaug HS was a great success. Members were enthusiastic about the experience offered the players who participated. On an administrative note, the VP-Competition often has been swamped by the simultaneous paperwork demands of this festival, the CONNY

Tournaments, and CONNY's administration of the US Lacrosse CT Chapter boys select teams. Mr. Hughes suggested that the host member community, under the supervision of the VP-Competition, handle the selection, notification, and registration of players. The Board agreed to add these functions to the responsibilities of the host community.

2006 CONNY East-West All-Star Festival: Pomperaug applied to host the 2006 Festival, including the requirements added above. Acceptance of their application was enthusiastically msc, unanimously.

2005 Connecticut Chapter Select Teams: The boys select teams CONNY administers on behalf of the US Lacrosse CT Chapter played in the 2005 US Lacrosse National Youth Festivals (U-15 on June 24-26 at the University of Massachusetts and U-13 on June 17-19 in Binghamton, NY) and at an additional event at UMass in July. The teams performed exceptionally well at all events. The players and parents were enthusiastic about the experience, the coaching staffs, and the opportunity for the teams to stay together for additional events after the US Lacrosse festivals. In addition, the teams were fully self funded in 2005, unlike previous years in which they had to be subsidized by CONNY.

2006 Connecticut Chapter Select Teams: If the Connecticut Chapter again asks CONNY to administer its boys teams, the coaches and participants from 2005 have several suggestions. They asked that tryouts be scheduled at least a week earlier in May because of the high volume of paperwork that must be submitted to US Lacrosse. They also hoped that all events at which the teams are projected to play be decided and announced before the tryouts so players and coaches will know the extent of their opportunity and obligation. Finally, for the sake of continuity, they suggested that at least one coach for each team be able to commit for all events in which the team will participate. (This last comment did not express of dissatisfaction with the coaches in 2005; rather, it is a suggestion on how to improve on an already great experience.)

8. US Lacrosse Connecticut Chapter Convention and Clinics

Mr. Russell reported that a Chapter Convention will be held in 2006, probably the third weekend of January at Wesleyan University or Connecticut College. The Board agreed that CONNY must actively support the convention, and might explore including some of its coaches training sessions among the event's clinics.

9. Air Force-Dartmouth

Dartmouth College (featuring President Heritage's son, Brad) will play the Air Force Academy at Ridgefield High School on March 18, 2006. Ridgefield High and CONNY alum Justin Kuchta is among the leading scorers on the Air Force squad.

C. NEXT MEETING

The Fall Meeting of the CONNY Board of Directors, as provided for in the Bylaws, will be held December 7, 2005, in the Board Room of the Pitt Center at Sacred Heart University.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Jack Couch