

# CONNYLACROSSE

## 10 NOVEMBER 2010 FALL MEETING of the CONNY BOARD of DIRECTORS

The CONNY Board of Directors met on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 in the Board Room of the Pitt Center at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. A quorum being present, President Bob Russell called the meeting to order at 7:37 P.M.

### A. ATTENDANCE

<b>Program/Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Bob Russell	New Fairfield	Marty Morgan
VP-Communications	Woody Thompson		Ralph Baldelli
VP-Boys League Play	Rich Greenwood	New Milford	Sam Morris
VP-Girls League Play	Lisa Hurst	Newtown	Jeff Tousionant
AVP-Competition	Mac McDermott		Bobby Marusi
Treasurer	Betty Kelley	North Haven	Paul Campanelli
Secretary	Jack Couch	Norwalk	Maria Brancaccio
Amity	Betty Kelley		Mark Breden
Bethel	Dan Sieban	Pomperaug	Kurt Sexauer
	Patrick Mango	Ridgefield	Jim Philbin
Eastchester	Joe Pash	Shelton	Bob Clarke
Eli	Fred Groen	Stamford	Bob Cavaliero
	Chris Brigham		Mike O'Connor
Fairfield-Wakeman	Dave Caruthers	Stratford	Pat Corcoran
	Liz Mosher		Glen Scinto
Greenwich	Pat Coleman	Trumbull	Paul Warjom
Guilford	Paul Farren	Wallingford	Gary Velard
Hamden	Tom Geirin	Watertown	Peter Logue
Larchmont-Mamaroneck	Chris Knowles	Weston	John Thornton
Madison	Dave Newton	Westport	Steve Orban
New Canaan	Marg Cuoco	Wilton	Trish Weber
	Jenkins Marshall		David Koch
	Alexandra DeMarino	WCLOA	Randy Bayles

### B. MINUTES

- 1. Minutes of April 27, 2010 Meeting**  
Approval of these minutes as presented was moved, seconded, and carried (msc) unanimously.
- 2. President's and Executive Committee Report**  
President Bob Russell thanked the officers and all those who worked to make the 2010 season such a success, especially the three weekends of CONNY events at Yale, which included girls for the first time. He called special attention to the contribution of Cody Farren, who functioned as CONNY's site-manager for all three weekends. President Russell had nothing else to report.
- 3. Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Betty Kelly reported that all CONNY members paid their 2010 dues, and presented a thumbnail P&L (see Appendix) showing that CONNY had an available balance of \$93,572.36 on the day of the meeting. For the record, Treasurer Kelly's mailing address for CONNY business is:

CONNYS Lacrosse  
P.O. Box 42  
Bethany, CT 06524

- 4. Secretary's Report**—Secretary Jack Couch expressed concern that to preserve its not-for-profit status CONNY needs to create a structure and procedure to employ the substantial resources it derives from the ComLax relationship ... a CONNY "Grants Committee," if you will. After a brief discussion, President Russell directed that Mac McDermott and Woody Thompson lead a committee to invite, screen, and recommend grant proposals. The meeting agreed that screening criteria should favor only those initiatives or programs that grow or strengthen the sport in CONNY's territory (except, of course, for the annual Winter Board Meeting to be held in Aruba). Mr. Couch had nothing else to report not covered elsewhere in these minutes.

5. **Nominating Committee Report**—The following slate of officers was msc unanimously:

President	Mac McDermott	New Milford
VP-Communications	Woody Thompson	Newtown
VP-Girls League Play	Lisa Hurst	Greenwich
VP-Boys League Play	Rich Greenwood	Fairfield-Wakeman
VP-Competition	Charlie Dear	Guilford
VP-Training	Steve Orban	Westport
AVP-Competition/Tournaments	Paul Farren	Guilford
Treasurer	Betty Kelley	Amity
Secretary	Jack Couch	Norwalk
Past President	Bob Russell	Madison

6. **Vendor Relations Committee Report**—President McDermott announced that ComLax has confirmed its relationship with CONNY for the next two years of the agreement.

**Sponsorships, Partnerships, and Web-based Initiatives**—CONN Y frequently receives proposals for sponsorships, partnerships, and web-based opportunities beyond the ComLax relationship. It was the sense of the meeting that the Vendor Relations Committee must screen all such proposals before they come to the Board. President McDermott and Woody Thompson will lead this effort. Further, it was agreed that to be considered, proposals must benefit CONNY programs and players, not simply gain revenue for CONNY as an organization.

As part of this task, the committee will explore web-based initiatives that seek to utilize the potential of CONNYlacrosse.org. In addition to advertising on the website, the committee will recommend how CONNY should restrict access to our member lists. In the past, CONNY has denied any access to player information—and the Board agreed that should not change, but has allowed inquiring businesses, camps, etc., to have access to member program administrator lists. Administrators then could decide what, if anything, to pass on to their member players and/or parents. The subcommittee will recommend to the Board whether to restrict access to CONNY administrators; what the criteria for access might be; what kind of fees, if any, might be charged; and how the whole system might operate.

7. **Competition Committee Report**—Paul Farren reported that despite personnel changes at Yale, the CONNY-Yale relationship is sound and Yale should be able to accommodate CONNY’s needs over three weekends again in 2011. Barring bad weather, CONNY should be able to conduct all events at Yale, even on our busiest day. Nevertheless, we will reserve space at Hamden Hall and elsewhere on a contingency basis.

The 2010 schedule of events worked well, both for CONNY and for ComLax:

First Weekend:	Saturday, U11 Lightning Festival
	Sunday, U13 Junior Boys Tournaments
Second Weekend:	Saturday, Senior & Junior Girls Tournaments
	Sunday, U15 Senior Boys Tournaments
Third Weekend:	Makeup days to complete preceding events curtailed by weather
	Saturday, Super Juniors Boys and Girls high school all-star games
	Sunday, CONNY East-West All Star Classic

One factor that might force a change to the schedule would be the hoped for significant increase in participation by girls’ teams. Fifty-four girls teams participated in 2010 (37 Senior teams; 17 Junior teams), even though the committee did not decide to invite Junior Girls until mid-season. With sixteen fields, Yale can accommodate twenty-four four-team brackets (96 teams). If it appears that girls’ participation will exceed that number, the committee has two options. First, it could give some brackets one game off premises at Hamden Hall, as has been done in the past with boys. Second, it can move some brackets to a less busy day (in 2010, U-15 Senior Boys had 20 brackets; U-13 Junior Boys had 23 brackets; and U-11 Lightning Boys had 13 brackets) or one of the make.

**Tournaments Departure Penalty**—When weather delays forced rescheduling some games at the 2010 CONNY Tournaments, several teams elected to leave without notifying either their upcoming opponents or the CONNY headquarters tent. As a result, some teams waited several hours for their second games, only to discover that their opponent was a no-show. Such

behavior, and lack of consideration for other CONNY members, is simply unacceptable. Therefore, the CONNY Executive Committee recommended to the Board that the CONNY member program sponsoring any team that departs the CONNY Tournaments/Festival without written permission from the senior CONNY officer on-site will either pay a \$1,000.00 fine, per offending team, or have all its teams excluded from all CONNY postseason events the following year. *Further discussion of this additional CONNY Tournaments requirement was tabled to the next Board meeting. (as corrected at December 14, 2010 meeting)*

8. **CONNY Girls Report**—VP-Girls League Play Lisa Hurst reported that the first year for CONNY Girls was extremely successful, especially given early skepticism among many girls' lax administrators in CONNY-member youth lax programs. As noted above, first-year participation in the CONNY Tournaments was outstanding, and reports back from those who participated, or merely observed, were universally positive.

Mrs. Hurst also distributed copies of the *2011 CONNY/US Lacrosse Girls Youth Rules*, which will govern games between CONNY-member teams, and hopefully, games with non-CONNY teams. Finally, Mrs. Hurst and Trish Weber described coaches and officials training programs, and announced that there will be a CONNY Girls Rules Test, similar to the boys' test, which all coaches and officials must pass.

9. **Training Committee Report**—Steve Orban and Trish Weber reported on the CONNY Level 1 CEP workshop and upcoming CONNY/USLacrosse CEP Level 2 Clinic scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2010. They will announce details at the next meeting.

10. **Scheduling & Systems Committee**—To address the pre-seeding and seeding chaos that late team declarations cause, at its April 27, 2010 meeting the Board approved the following requirements for teams declared for CONNY postseason play:

- As part of the declaration, member programs must submit one point-of-contact person for each declared team, along with necessary phone and email information.
- For late declarations during one week after the final declaration date, a \$70.00 penalty is added to the fee that covers the cost of officials (from \$130.00 per team—actual cost—to \$200.00). After that, no additional late declarations will be accepted.

Thus, this is the tentative schedule of 2011 CONNY events and required submissions:

January 4	Team profiles/competitive tier estimates and scheduler contacts due to the Secretary (laxdad@aol.com). Published by January 11 BoD meeting.
January 11- February 8	Informal scheduling forums and one-on-one scheduling
February 8	CONNY Scheduling Scramble, follows brief CONNY BoD Meeting
April 1	Start of Regular Season – games played before this date will not count. Dues due to the Treasurer. Rosters, Actual Team Profiles, and Revised Competitive Tier Estimates due to the Secretary.
May 10	BoD Meeting. <i>Last day to declare teams entered in CONNY Junior and Senior Tournaments and Lightning Festival.</i> Declarations, with point-of-contact information, go to appropriate gender division VP, VP Competition, and VP Communication (connywebster@yahoo.com Also due on May 10—No postseason participation without these submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ To the Secretary (laxdad@aol.com) for each Declared Team: Actual Team Rosters (minimum info: name, address, date-of-birth, grade, and USLacrosse membership #/expiration date), and Final Actual, Complete Team Birth-year Profiles and Competitive Tier Estimates.</li><li>▪ To the Treasurer: Payment for Tournaments and Festivals Officials (\$130.00 per team declared through May 10, checks made payable to CONNY Lacrosse ... \$200.00 per team May 11-18). Cancellations and no shows forfeit the officials' payments.</li></ul>
May TBD	CONNY Tournaments pre-seeding meeting—Site TBD
TBD	CONNY Tournaments Seeding Night(s)—Horseshoe, Southport

11. **Officials Issues**—The Board discussed three issues relating to officials for CONNY games. Mr. Couch prefaced the discussion by stating that it should be the objective of CONNY to standardize game scheduling and assignment of officials across all of CONNY. Ideally, all Connecticut and New York CONNY members should be able to schedule their games on CONNYlacrosse.org and have officials assigned automatically, as has been the case in the WCLOA-served areas for the last several years. If CONNY cannot accomplish this goal through existing officials organizations, it has the resources to pursue another path. The three topics, all specific to boys, but relating to girls indirectly, are:

**Number of Patched Officials**—There was general agreement that, for the sake of safety and game management, all boys U15 Senior and U13 Junior games need two patched officials. Because many programs have already set their budgets for 2011, the following proposal was msc:

For 2011— Two patched officials required for all U15 Senior boys games.

Two patched officials strongly recommended for all U13 Junior boys games.

For 2012— Two patched officials required for all U15 Senior and U13 Junior boys games.

Member programs must request officials according to these requirements, but as in the current rules, “In the event that certified ... officials are not available, the head coaches of the teams scheduled to play may agree on non-certified officials such as high school coaches in the states of Connecticut or New York or other qualified persons. Each team shall select one official. In the event both teams elect to play without certified officials, the game will be a binding league game. NOTE: If both teams do not agree to play without certified officials, failure to provide a certified official is not grounds for a forfeit; member programs should make every effort to reschedule the game.”

**Officials Assignment Procedure**—Ralph Baldelli of New Fairfield and the Western Connecticut Lacrosse Officials Association (WCLOA) described plans for the WCLOA to require CONNY member programs for which they provide officials to schedule games and officials through the Arbiter system, and not CONNYlacrosse.org. However, most CONNY members’ websites link with CONNYlacrosse.org through LeagueAthletics so that all participants’ schedules and websites (and officials assignments in WCLOA areas) update automatically when changed on the CONNY website. A move to Arbiter by just the WCLOA-served programs could force their already over-stretched volunteer administrators to operate dual scheduling systems—one on Arbiter and the other on CONNYlacrosse.org—risking foul-ups, especially when dealing with last minute adjustments (e.g., weather, changed school/field schedules, etc.). To address these concerns, and before approving a move by WCLOA-served CONNY-member programs to Arbiter, President McDermott created a committee headed by VP Communications and CONNY webmaster Woody Thompson to work with Mr. Baldelli and LeagueAthletics to determine if Arbiter and the CONNYlacrosse.org/member program website complex can be linked to eliminate forced duplication. If so, all of CONNY could adopt the new hybrid scheduling/officials assigning system.

**U11 Lightning and U9 Bantam Officials Training**—In addition to establishing uniform procedures for assigning officials to work U15 Senior and U13 Junior games, CONNY must also increase significantly the number of 17- and 18-year-old high school students we train to officiate U11 Lightning and U9 Bantam games. Many in the meeting described excellent experiences with properly trained and equipped high school student officials (especially on the girls side), but even more described horror stories about untrained, unequipped kids allowing unsafe and unsportsmanlike play.

12. **Boys Rules Committee Report**—Mr. Couch reminded members to send him any suggested 2011 rules changes in time for them to be discussed at the December meeting and voted upon at the January meeting. Mr. Couch also announced that he intends to convert the Boys Rules test from True/False to multiple choice so that test takers can be told which questions they missed without being given the answer ... the announcement was greeted with groans.
13. **Sportsmanship & Safety Committee**—Should CONNY adopt an official concussions policy? Should CONNY urge—or require—baseline ImPact testing for all age eligible players? The Board discussed these two related questions, and while no resolution was possible at this meeting, the Board knows that it must soon address this growing concern.

14. **Bantam Play**—Several members urged CONNY to take a more direct role in managing U9 Bantam boys play. While CONNY currently provides suggested Rules of Bantam Play, and penalizes programs for posting Bantam scores on CONNYlacrosse.org in contravention of those rules, it does not actually govern Bantam play. This issue will be addressed at length at the December Board meeting.
15. **Sticks for Soldiers**—VP Boys League Play Rich Greenwood described the very worthy 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sticks for Soldiers Thanksgiving Charity Invitational Lacrosse Tournament at Ludlow High School, November 27. Since 2006, Sticks for Soldiers has raised over \$44,000.00 for charities that support wounded soldiers and their families (e.g., The Wounded Warrior Project). This year, the event will raise funds to help Army Specialist Brendan Marrocco, a quadruple amputee who is heroically learning to walk on prostheses and awaiting miraculous whole arm transplants. (Subsequent to the meeting, the CONNY Executive Committee voted to donate \$1,000.00 to Sticks for Soldiers, and to challenge other lacrosse organizations in CONNY’s territory to match them).

**C. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Tuesdays: December 14, 2010; January 11, 2011; February 8 (Annual Meeting); March 8; April 5; May 10. In addition, venues and dates for the pre-seeding meeting and seeding meetings will be determined at the appropriate time.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Couch, Secretary

**Appendix**

<b>CONNYS 2010 JAN-NOV SUMMARY</b>	
<b>INCOME:</b>	\$178,604.64
<b>EXPENSE:</b>	\$85,077.28
<b>BALANCE ~ NOVEMBER 11, 2010</b>	<b>\$93,527.36</b>

**INCOME**

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2009 WEBSTER BANK BALANCE FORWARD	\$49,535.14
DUES (INCLUDES REFEREE FEES)	\$65,100.00
COMLAX SCHEDULED PAYMENTS PLUS SALES SHARE	\$52,605.00
SHAMROCK CONCESSIONS	\$8,611.00
GIRLS COACHING CLINIC	\$1,575.00
CT LACROSSE FOUNDATION SUPER JR PLUS DONATION	\$1,178.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$178,604.64</b>

**EXPENSE**

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TOURNAMENTS OFFICIATING	\$34,532.66
TOURNAMENTS TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEER STAFF	\$18,593.00
TOURNAMENTS EXPENSES - MISC	\$16,012.63
FIELD RENTAL	\$7,475.00
LEGAL COUNSEL	\$2,983.75
BUSINESS SUPPLIES	\$2,760.24
RECURRING BUSINESS EXPENSES	\$1,770.00
DONATIONS	\$950.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$85,077.28</b>