

# CONNYLACROSSE

## 14 DECEMBER 2010 MEETING of the CONNY BOARD of DIRECTORS

The CONNY Board of Directors (BoD) met on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 in the Board Room of the Pitt Center at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. A quorum being present, President Mac McDermott called the meeting to order at 7:38 P.M.

### A. ATTENDANCE

Program/Position	Name	Program	Name
President	Mac McDermott	Norwalk	Jesse Paynter
VP-Boys League Play	Rich Greenwood		Chris Plumb
Secretary	Jack Couch		Mark Mastrianni
Danbury	Mike Gilloti	Pomperaug	Kurt Sexauer
Fairfield-Wakeman	Rich Greenwood		Matt Funk
Guilford	Anthony LoRicca	Redding-Easton	Peter Wasmer
Hamden	Tom Geirin		Jay Starrott
Madison	Scott Sisk	Shelton	Bob Clarke
Monroe	Bill Giugno	Stamford	Mike O'Connor
	Trip Emerson	Stratford	Tom Cotter
New Canaan	Alexandra DeMarino	Trumbull	Paul Watson
New Fairfield	Ralph Baldelli	Wallingford	Gary Velardi
New Milford	Greg LaCava	Watertown	Peter Logue
Newtown	John Bridges	West Haven	Pat Reed
North Branford	Bob Oden	Westport	Steve Orban
North Haven	Paul Campanelli	WCLOA	Lewis Succi
	Chris Recora	Observers	Mike Trosan
			Pete Kohut
			Anthony Rocco
			Steve Lesando

### B. MINUTES

#### 1. Minutes of November 10, 2010 Meeting

Gary Velardi of Wallingford offered a correction to the minutes as presented. Upon discussion, those who had attended the November meeting agreed that the sentence, "This additional CONNY Tournaments requirement was msc." in the Tournament Departure Penalty paragraph under section B.7 should have read, "Further discussion of this additional CONNY Tournaments requirement was tabled to the next BoD meeting." Approval of these minutes as corrected was moved, seconded, and carried (msc) unanimously.

#### 2. President's and Executive Committee Report

President Mac McDermott reported that after the BoD's discussion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sticks for Soldiers Thanksgiving Charity Invitational Lacrosse Tournament at the November 10 meeting, the Executive Committee had voted to donate \$1,000.00 to Sticks for Soldiers, and to challenge other lacrosse organizations in CONNY's territory to match them. He asked that the BoD endorse the Executive Committee action, which it did unanimously. VP-Boys League Play Rich Greenwood announced that partly due to CONNY's initiative, Sticks for Soldiers this year raised almost \$55,000.00 to help Army Specialist Brendan Marrocco, a quadruple amputee who is heroically learning to walk on prostheses and awaiting miraculous whole arm transplants. This substantially exceeds the cumulative \$44,000.00 Sticks for Soldiers had raised since its inception in 2006.

President McDermott then urged members to have their eligible coaches attend upcoming coaches training opportunities ... the US Lacrosse CEP Level 2 Course (see below under Training Committee Report) and the Connecticut Lacrosse Foundation convention at Yale, January 9. Both count as follow-on training to meet CONNY's "every other year" continuing education requirement for veteran coaches.

President McDermott had nothing else to report.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Betty Kelly sent a report (attached as Appendix) that she had paid all 2010 CONNY Postseason event expenses, leaving an operating balance of \$66,492.36

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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**—For members who fear their efforts lack positive results, Secretary Jack Couch presented some data compiled by Bill Giugno of Monroe showing the number of Connecticut high school athletes, from public and private, on the rosters of NCAA Division I men's top-20 teams in selected sports:

Basketball 1 kid (CIAC 178 varsity teams in CT)  
Baseball 4 kids (CIAC 178 varsity teams in CT)  
Soccer 14 kids (CIAC 173 varsity teams in CT)—8 at UConn  
Football 5 kids (CIAC 143 varsity teams in CT)  
Lacrosse 64 kids (CIAC 80 varsity teams in CT)  
Hockey 14 kids (CIAC 60 varsity teams in CT)

Many in the room thought the numbers would be just as dramatic ... or more so ... if someone wanted to track down *all* Division I, II, and III rosters.

Mr. Couch then introduced Anthony Loricco of Guilford who described a facility he has in New Haven that could host CONNY events and produce game film and/or documentaries of CONNY Tournaments or other activities. He invited members to check out the facility at [www.upcrown.com](http://www.upcrown.com).

Mr. Couch read a Wallingford petition for a 9<sup>th</sup> grader to play in their program, but the BoD determined that he was not eligible for consideration because he had a viable opportunity to play for his high school club team.

The Secretary had nothing else to report, not covered elsewhere in these minutes.

5. **Vendor Relations Committee Report**—This committee had nothing new to report.
6. **Competition Committee Report**—President McDermott and VP-Boys League Play Rich Greenwood reported that Yale has confirmed CONNY for three weekends: June 4-5, June 11-12, and June 18-19. With sixteen fields, no competition from the Hopkins School Tri-centennial, and two weather make-up days, we should be able to stage all events entirely at Yale this year. The probable schedule of events is:

Saturday, June 4	U11 Lightning Festival
Sunday, June 5	U13 Junior Boys Tournaments
Saturday, June 11	Senior & Junior Girls Tournaments
Sunday, June 12	U15 Senior Boys Tournaments
Saturday, June 18	High School Super Juniors Games...boys and girls, CONNY co-hosts. Makeup day to complete preceding events curtailed by weather.
Sunday, June 19	CONNYS East-West All Star Classic...boys and girls this year. Makeup day to complete preceding events curtailed by weather.

A significant increase in participation by girls' teams might force modest changes to the schedule. 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 only 13 brackets).

**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

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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, at the November 10 BoD meeting, the CONNY Executive Committee recommended 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. While there was general agreement that offending programs must suffer a significant penalty, beyond forfeiting their officials payment, there was no agreement on the proposed penalty structure. Further discussion of this additional CONNY Tournaments requirement was tabled to this December 14, 2010 meeting, at which discussion was again instructive, but a decision on the penalty structure was again put off to the January 11, 2011 meeting.

7. **CONNYS Girls Report**—VP-Girls League Play Lisa Hurst not being present, there was no report from this committee.
8. **Training Committee Report**—Steve Orban and Trish Weber reported on the upcoming CONNY/USLacrosse CEP Level 2 Clinic scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2010, at the United Athletic Center in Stratford. Registration begins at 9:00 AM. CONNY will reimburse \$35.00 of the \$85.00 registration fee upon completion of the course (at sign-out). Programs were strongly urged to have all their eligible coaches attend. This can include eligible local high school coaches, who also are eligible for the CONNY refund if endorsed by their local CONNY-member program.
9. **Scheduling & Systems Committee**—Following is the schedule of 2011 CONNY-required submissions:

January 4	Team profiles/competitive tier estimates and scheduler contacts due to the Secretary (laxdad@aol.com) for boys teams and to VP-Girls League Play Lisa Hurst for girls teams (lisahurst77@gmail.com). Spreadsheets with all submitted information will be published by the January 11 BoD meeting.
January 11- February 8	Informal scheduling forums and one-on-one scheduling
February 8	CONNYS 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. Members urged to submit Rosters, Actual Team Profiles, and Revised Competitive Tier Estimates 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 mandatory point-of-contact information, go to appropriate gender division VP, VP Competition, and VP Communication (connywebster@yahoo.com). Also due on May 10— <i>No postseason participation without these submissions:</i> <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 and Grade Profiles and Competitive Tier Estimates.</li><li>▪ To the Treasurer: Payment for Tournaments/Festivals Officials (\$130.00 per team, checks made payable to CONNY Lacrosse). * Cancellations and no shows forfeit the officials' payments.</li></ul>
May TBD	CONNYS Tournaments pre-seeding meeting—Site TBD
May 31	Boys U11 Lightning and U13 Junior CONNY Tournaments Seeding Night
June 6	All Girls and U15 Senior Boys Seeding Night—all at Horseshoe, Southport.

\* CONNY will accept late declarations for one week following the May 10 declaration date, but a \$70.00 penalty per late team is added to the fee that covers the cost of officials (from \$130.00 per team—actual cost—to \$200.00). After May 18, CONNY will accept no additional team declarations.

10. **Boys Officials Committee Report**—Chairman Woody Thompson being absent, the committee did not make a formal report. However, Lou Socci of Western Connecticut Lacrosse Officials Association (WCLOA) did say that they had made progress resolving administrative problems with the WCLOA’s plan to switch from the CONNYlacrosse.org website to ArbiterSports for assigning youth officials in their area of coverage. At the November 10 BoD meeting, WCLOA-served member-programs had expressed dismay at the cost and substantially increased administrative burden the change to Arbiter threatened to entail. Mr. Socci promised that the WCLOA-served CONNY programs would experience no increased administrative burden or cost due to the WCLOA switch to Arbiter. He said further, that WCLOA-served programs could continue to post and update their schedules on CONNYlacrosse.org through LeagueAthletics, and that all participants’ schedules and websites (and officials assignments in WCLOA areas) will still update automatically. He did not elaborate on how that would be accomplished.

CONNYS long term objective is to standardize game scheduling and assignment of officials across all of CONNY. A group of officials is exploring providing the service for member programs not served by WCLOA. 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 will have to pursue another path.

11. **Boys Rules Committee Report**—Mr. Couch reported that he had received only one rule change suggestion for 2011. Numerous officials and members had commented that U11 Lightning games are running too long, often longer than U13 Junior or U15 Senior games. U11 Lightning games currently have 15-minute running time quarters ... potentially 94 minutes regulation if both teams utilize all their timeouts, and longer if there are injury timeouts. Three alternative solutions were proposed: don’t stop clock for timeouts, except in last two minutes of a period; change to 12-minute running time quarters; or change to 8-minute stopping time quarters. The BoD will vote at its next meeting on what change to make, if any, in this rule.
12. **Sportsmanship & Safety Committee**—In Chairman Bob Russell’s absence, there was no report from this committee.
13. **Bantam Play**—Jesse Paynter of Norwalk made a brief presentation and, along with Bill Giugno of Monroe, led a discussion on why and how CONNY should take a more direct role in managing U9 Bantam boys play. Increasingly, Bantams are the foundation of growth for our sport nationally and in CONNY, with special concern for the recent development of “pre-Bantam” organized play at the 5 to 7-year-old/kindergarten & first grade level. Everybody acknowledged that Bantam and pre-Bantam activities require specially tailored programs. Members have complained that standards and conditions of Bantam play are unpredictable and that many members ignore the CONNY Rules of Bantam Play, opting instead for levels of intensity and competition appropriate only at older levels. The BoD agreed that CONNY must more actively promote and enforce uniform best practices in Bantam play. In the past, CONNY has only recommended use of its Bantam rules, and penalized programs for egregious violations of the spirit and letter of those rules (e.g. posting Bantam scores on CONNYlacrosse.org), but has not actually governed Bantam play. The BoD agreed that must change in 2011, and President McDermott instructed Messers. Paynter and Giugno to form a committee to research Bantam and pre-Bantam best practices, to introduce these to Bantam, and if necessary, bring proposals for standardization and enforcement throughout CONNY to the BoD.

**C. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Tuesdays: January 11, 2011; February 8 (Annual Meeting); March 8; April 5; May 10. In addition, the Competition Committee will announce the venue and date for the pre-seeding meeting at the appropriate time.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Couch, Secretary

**Appendix**

<b>CONNYS 2010 JAN-NOV SUMMARY</b>	
<b>INCOME:</b>	\$178,604.64
<b>EXPENSE:</b>	\$112,112.28
<b>BALANCE ~ DECEMBER 14, 2010</b>	<b>\$66,492.36</b>

**INCOME**

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**

TOURNAMENTS OFFICIATING	\$34,532.66	
TOURNAMENTS TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEER STAFF	\$18,593.00	
TOURNAMENTS EXPENSES - MISC	\$16,012.63	
FIELD RENTAL	\$33,350.00	
LEGAL COUNSEL	\$3,093.75	
BUSINESS SUPPLIES	\$2,760.24	
RECURRING BUSINESS EXPENSES	\$1,770.00	
DONATIONS	\$2,000.00	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$112,112.28</b>