



## **Club Rugby Council meeting (2008/2)**

**Date:** *Wednesday, 26 March 2008*  
**Location:** *McMillan & Lockwood Lounge, FMG Stadium*  
**Time:** *7pm*

### ***Minutes***

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Attendance: Kevin Tod (CRC chair); David Faulkner (CRC deputy chair); Steve Morris (MRU president); John Whitehead (MRU board / Massey); Chris Ricketts (MRU community rugby manager); Martin Brady (MRU club liaison officer); Malcolm Burr (Marist); Kenny Johnson (Kia Toa); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); Colin Parker (Freyberg); Jim Lyons (HSOB); Barry Mitchell (Dannevirke Sports); Roy Todd (COB); Neil Kitchen (Feilding); Roger Heatley (Ashhurst Pohangina); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Graeme Bull (Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association); Matt Pearson (Kia Toa); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg); Dave Wolland (Bush); Vicki Spicer (Bush); Shane Zander (Bulls); Trent Te Koro (Kia Toa); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau).

Apologies: Tony Murphy (MRU board chair); Shane O'Brien (MRU board); Hadyn Smith (MRU CEO); Farah Palmer (WAG); Terry Cooney (Halcombe); Gary Nesdale (Oroua). Apologies confirmed by Roger Heatley / Roy Todd.

A roll call was taken with all clubs present except: Bunnythorpe; Halcombe; Oroua; Feilding Old Boys.

#### **2. Confirmation of minutes from 29 January 2008**

Confirmed by Jim Lyons / Troy Homes.

#### **3. Matters arising**

No matters arising.

#### **4. Code of Ethics**

A draft Code of Ethics document was compiled by MRU operational staff following several requests from clubs. On many occasions clubs have inferred that inducements or incentives have been the catalyst for such transfers.

The MRU board decided at its February meeting that further discussion by clubs at the CRC meeting was required. Those clubs in attendance received a one page summary of feedback to date on the Code of Ethics as well as the draft copy of the ethics documents.

Discussion centred around how would the MRU/clubs police such as a matter and unearth a breach of the code. Board member and Massey president John Whitehead said it should be a matter of clubs self policing. It was suggested by Freyberg to include in the Code of Ethics that MRU coaches/officers/officials would not influence a player's decision to play for any particular club.

Several club representatives mentioned that it came down to the integrity of each club chairperson. If a chairperson signed the Code of Ethics then they were morally locking their club into following the agreement.

Massey's David Faulkner also believed there needed to be consideration given to the investigation process should a club/player allegedly breach the code of ethics by offering inducements. Also should a club/player be found to have breach the code what was the appeal process.

The matter was put to the vote. Of the clubs present all but two clubs were in favour of establishing a Code of Ethics.

#### **5. CRC Operational Support Committee update (Chris Ricketts)**

Mr Ricketts reiterated the MRU board's recent decision on the 2009 format. In a statement dated 28 February 2008 the MRU board stated the 2009 competition would follow the same format as in 2008 (13 teams). This format would continue until future regional team numbers required a review of the competition formula. A review could occur at any time and may see an increase in team numbers at the Senior I level from one season to the next. No change would take place without reasonable consultation with all affected clubs. The MRU board also stated that its original policy document of April 2007 would remain intact with the exception of points 1 and 3 which related to the 16 team two tier competition.

Mr Ricketts gave an overview of the work the OSC had done, in particular, reviewing the Club Bylaws. Changes to the Club Bylaws: Mr Ricketts distributed to the meeting minutes of the OSC meeting and discussed the various changes to the bylaws. Changes includes such as: Transfer deadline removed and replaced by a two week stand down for a player who played for one club in a competition match and then transferred to a new club; Philosophy change to Presidents grade; plus more.

The updated 2008 Club bylaws have been included in the 2008 Club Handbook which is due for distribution next week (Monday, 31 March 2008).

## **6. Club Liaison Update (Martin Brady)**

Club Essentials – The MRU recently held a workshop for club secretaries/administrators. The purpose of the workshop and, in particular, a folder was to ensure that clubs had a hard copy of information that existed on the website.

SportCheck - Is a communication company offering to clubs a text messaging service which would be ideal for last minute change of club trainings etc. The real advantage to a club is that it is simple to set up and there is no charge to the club. The end user (ie the person receiving the text) would be charged 50 cents per message.

The Manawatu Rugby Union will use SportCheck as part of its method of contacting clubs regarding cancellations, ground transfers and defaults. As part of the Club Noticeboard on Friday will be giving you more information on how the Union will use the service. The MRU will contact clubs individually to find out who is the best person and also to get that person's consent to send them texts.

Club Admin section – this section on the MRU website will be updated to include such things as job descriptions for: coaches, managers, treasurers, secretaries etc.

Club Partnership Agreements – the 2008 CPA has been distributed – have had a few returned. Could clubs return them as soon as possible.

Club Handbook – The club handbook for the 2008 season is at the printers and will be ready for distribution early next week. An addition to the book is the inclusion of a Business Directory – essentially all those business who support MRU and the Turbos. We are looking to ensure that all club coaches have a copy as well as administrators.

CRC chair Kevin Tod raised the issue of there being a Club Agreement which had a due date for Clubs to make payments (with penalties involved), but there was no payment limitation on the Union to pay the Club grant. He suggested the Union run a contra account for clubs.

## **7. General business**

Referees – The Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association will be meeting with Senior I coaches following week two matches to discuss referee interpretation of the laws in the first two rounds.

Referee recruitment – The MRRA reminded clubs that refereeing was an option for players who were injured in pre-season and not likely to fulfill other roles in their respective clubs.

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Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club – The MRSC this year will be running Footy at Five on Saturdays on AM 999 at 5pm (Access Manawatu). This programme is all about **Manawatu Rugby Results and any Club Information.**

Club / Union can send in information to; **021 233 3523 by (Text) and to 357 9345 (Fax)** by 4.45pm Saturdays to have the information included for Broadcast.

Likewise if any club wants to talk about what they are doing we would be happy to have them along to attend the broadcast at 5pm or make arrangements earlier in the week for a prerecording by Ringing Barrie Angland 356 8448. Remember the Supporters Club is there to support Clubs, players, and supporters so help us to help you. Membership of the Supporters Club is \$10.00 again this year and \$15.00 double. Gold card holders get a special rate!!!

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CRC chair Kevin Tod thanked the previous CRC chair John Anderson for the work he had done for the Union/clubs in the position during 2006 and 2007.

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CRC deputy chair David Faulkner asked clubs how their respective recruitment had gone and, in particular, were all clubs confident of fielding Senior I and II teams so to avoid defaults. The response from clubs was that all clubs would be able to field the two teams.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm