



Club Rugby Council meeting (2008/4)

Date: *Wednesday, 22 October 2008*
Location: *Referees' Room, FMG Stadium*
Time: *7pm*

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendance – John Whitehead (MRU Board / Massey); Mark Buxton (MRU Board); Hugh Blair (MRU Board); Hadyn Smith (MRU CEO); Chris Ricketts (MRU community rugby manager); Martin Brady (MRU club liaison officer); Kevin Tod (CRC Chairman); David Faulkner (CRC Deputy Chairman); Neil Kitchen (Feilding); Jim Lyons (HSOB); Roy Todd (COB); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg); Roger Heatley (Ashhurst Pohangina); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Barry Mitchell (Dannevirke Sports); Malcolm Burr (Marist); Trent Te Kooro (Kia Toa); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); Colin Parker (Freyberg); Colin Gates (Te Kawau); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau).

Apologies – Tony Murphy (MRU Board chairman), Steve Morris (MRU President), Peter Askey (MRU Board), Phil Gibbons (MRU Board), Dave Parata (Kia Toa), Kenny Johnson (Kia Toa), Terry Cooney (Halcombe), Dave Wolland (Bush). Accepted by Roy Todd / Mike Dravitski.

2. Confirmation of minutes from 24 June 2008

Confirmed by Jim Lyons / John Whitehead.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. CRC nomination to the MRU Appointments Committee

Malcolm Burr nominated Kevin Tod, seconded David Faulkner for the CRC representative on the MRU Appointments Committee. Jim Lyons nominated Malcolm Burr, seconded David Faulkner. Mr Burr withdrew his nomination and Mr Tod was duly elected to the position.

5. MRU Board Update (John Whitehead)

Mr Whitehead summarised the Board's activities since the June meeting:

- Air New Zealand Cup Review – Mr Whitehead said the review had been completed and that the result was 'an interesting outcome' with the NZRU initially cutting the competition to 12 teams before relenting and keeping it at 14 teams (which was a number that MRU had suggested in its submission). Mr Whitehead said the MRU Board believed the NZRU had not addressed the issue of sustainability.
- From the review Manawatu was rated 10th out of the 14 unions which the MRU Board was happy with.
- The MRU Board's focus for the next year was twofold; on-field performance and sustainability. Mr Whitehead said the Union was looking for hardened players to compliment local talent and was already working on the 2009 budget.
- Strategic Plan – Work has begun to develop a replacement plan with clubs having an opportunity to have their say on the future direction of the sport in the region early next month.
- New CEO – the Board was searching for a replacement CEO. Short listing of applications would occur shortly.

6. MRU Financials (Hadyn Smith)

Mr Smith said the Union was facing a significant loss with two contributing factors (1) a reduction in the Hurricanes dividend from over \$100,000 last year to \$15,000 this year; (2) reduced gate takings at home games due to the poor weather.

Given that the MRU was facing such a loss Mr Smith advised clubs that the annual club rebate was unlikely to be paid out although the MRU Board had not made a final decision on the matter.

7. Club Liaison Officer update (Martin Brady)

Mr Brady spoke to a written handout which covered the following points:

Club Administrator Project Update:

In April 2007 the MRU Board released a document relating to the composition of future Senior I competition. One of the points of the document was the establishment of Club Administrators into the Senior I clubs. The April 07 document states the MRU would contribute to the funding of the position and there was an expectation that clubs would do the same.

The MRU is seeking funding via Eastern and Central Community Trust (ECCT), New Zealand Rugby Union (NZRU) and Endeavour Community Trust.

Autonomy remains with the clubs with the MRU focus being on reporting around the three strategic outcomes and four operational outcomes.

To date club chairmen would have a broad background of the scheme as well as draft job description and reporting template. In addition to this information chairmen would have received a letter the MRU needs signed to forward onto ECCT. The letter states that your club supports the scheme and understands your club can not seek funding from ECCT in the next 12 months.

Survey:

It was clear from the survey that clubs would like more training opportunities and so in February next year this will be several training workshops. Topics will be: Funding; Sponsorship; Roles on the Committee; Planning; Website development

Other areas to improve and focus on in 2009: more expedient results and tables for all grades (reliant on clubs submitting scores); Website; Up-to-date results; Post Best and Fairest on website; Development areas needs to be better; Develop kids section.

Strategic Planning Workshops – SWOT Analysis

Clubs, representatives from the Manawatu Junior Rugby Board, the Manawatu Secondary Schools' Rugby Board, Manawatu Maori, Women's Action Group, Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club, Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association are invited to be a part of the SWOT Analysis of rugby in the region. The three meeting options are:

Monday	10 November 2008	Refs Room (FMG Stadium)	7pm-8.30pm
Tuesday	11 November 2008	Refs Room (FMG Stadium)	7pm-8.30pm
Wednesday	12 November 2008	Refs Room (FMG Stadium)	7pm-8.30pm

Club Profiles:

The MRU is putting together the annual Club Guide which will be sent to all school leavers in Manawatu. The aim of the guide is to give school leavers an overview of all clubs in the various Manawatu competitions. Deadline for this is this Friday so far seven clubs have replied.

Code of Ethics:

The MRU has distributed the Code of Ethics document for club chairmen to sign or otherwise. To date we have had only a handful signed agreements so far five clubs have replied.

8. Community Rugby (Chris Ricketts)

Mr Ricketts focused on the process around setting formats for the 2009 club competitions, saying that like last year the Operations Support Committee (OSC) would lead the formation of the formats in consultation with the clubs.

Mr Ricketts said the MRU was yet to hear from NZRU on what the confirmed club window for next season would be but told clubs the provisional starts date for next year's competitions would be 28 March 2009.

With regard to the Senior I competition in 2009 Mr Ricketts said it would comprise 11 teams. He said the OSC and clubs should give serious consideration as to a 10 team competition in 2010 and beyond.

9. General Business

Barrie Angland from the Supporters' Club spoke to the meeting and said the following:

- Thanked the clubs for assisting the Supporters' Club and his radio show by getting results into him each Saturday.
- Thanked Marist and Kia Toa for hosting the Supporters' Club during the season.
- Club delegates are welcome to attend any of the Supporters' Club monthly meetings.
- The Supporters' Club AGM will be on 27 January 2009.
- Asked clubs to donate club jerseys to the Supporters' Club so they can be hung up around the clubrooms.
- Believed the Supporters' Club could assist in having a better scoreboard on FMG Stadium for club rugby.

Mr Smith also announced Chris Ricketts would be Acting CEO until the new CEO being appointed.

Mr Tod thanked Mr Smith on behalf of the CRC for his commitment to MRU during his time as CEO. Mr Tod said Mr Smith had spent many hours assisting to lift Manawatu out of second division and cement its place at the top level.

The meeting concluded at 8.07pm.