



Club Rugby Council meeting (2009/1)

Date: *Monday, 26 January 2009*
Location: *MRU Referees' Room, FMG Stadium*
Time: *7pm*

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendance: Tony Murphy (MRU Board chair); John Whitehead (MRU Board); John Whitehead (MRU Board); Peter Askey (MRU Board); Kevin Tod (CRC chair - HSOB); David Faulkner (CRC deputy chair - Massey); John Knowles (MRU CEO); Chris Ricketts (MRU community rugby manager); Martin Brady (MRU club liaison officer); Doug Brew (Feilding Old Boys); Colin Gates (Te Kawau); Peter Clark (Marist); Andrew Scully (Bush); Jim Lyons (HSOB); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Trent Te Kooro (Kia Toa); Malcolm Burr (Marist); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); Nick Reid (Manawatu Secondary Schools Rugby Board); Gary Nesdale (Oroua); Roger Heatley (Ashhurst Pohangina); Neil Kitchen (Feilding); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg); Barry Mitchell (Dannevirke Sports); Kim Durham (College Old Boys); Colin Parker (Freyberg); Charlie Rudd (Freyberg).

Apologies: Steve Morris (MRU president); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau); Dave Parata (Kia Toa), Sam Strahan (Oroua), Lyn Bevan (Bunnythorpe), Hugh Blair (MRU Board), Murray Mitchell (Te Kawau), Phil Gibbons (MRU Board), Terry Cooney (Halcombe), Shane Zander (Bulls); Hugh Blair (MRU Board).

Confirmed by Nesdale / Brew.

2. Confirmation of CRC delegates

The following people were confirmed as delegates for 2009: Roger Heatley (Ashhurst Pohangina); Shane Zander (Bulls); Lyn Bevan (Bunnythorpe); Andrew Scully (Bush); Kim Durham (COB); Barry Mitchell (Dannevirke Sports); Doug Brew (FOB); Neil Kitchen (Feilding); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg); Terry Cooney (Halcombe); Trent Te Kooro (Kia Toa); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Gary Nesdale (Oroua); Peter Clark (Marist); David Faulkner (Massey); Kevin Tod (HSOB); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau); Graeme Bull (MRRA); Doug Bettridge (MJRB); Nick Reid (MSSRB). Non voting members: Barrie Angland (MRSC); Mike Haddon (Manawatu Maori); Farah Palmer (Women's Action Group).

3. Confirmation of minutes from 22 October 2008

Confirmed by Nesdale / Aitcheson

4. Matters arising

No matters arising

5. Applications for MRU affiliation by Feilding Old Boys Oroua RFC & Palmerston North Marist High School Old Boys Rugby Club (Known as Old Boys Marist)

Two applications for affiliation to the MRU were tabled at the meeting and members were asked to support and accept Feilding Old Boys Oroua RFC's and Palmerston North Marist High School Old Boys Rugby Club's affiliation to the Union. Moved by Gary Nesdale, seconded by Peter Clark. The meeting voted unanimously to accept the two merged clubs as affiliated clubs. The applications would be forwarded to the MRU Board for approval.

Neil Aitcheson raised concerns that he was not aware prior to vote that the existing clubs would continue to operate. Kevin Tod said that the vote was solely about whether to accept the two merged clubs as affiliated MRU clubs.

He said that the existing clubs would remain affiliated as there were still junior teams playing for those clubs but it was likely they would look to resign as affiliated members once the clubs were put into recess.

6. Nomination of MRU president for 2009

The Massey University club nominated Steve Morris as president for 2009 with Peter Clark seconding the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the delegates.

7. Address from incoming MRU CEO – John Knowles

Mr Knowles said that he was very happy to be back in Manawatu and said there were some challenging times ahead. He commented that the NZRU saw Manawatu in a very strategic position.

Mr Knowles believed that it was important to remember what achievements had occurred in the past three years and it was most important to retain our players. This retention must occur and be achieved by ensuring there was a positive environment created within the rugby and wider communities. He said he was particularly looking forward to working with those people at club level.

8. MRU Financial Position Report

Mr Murphy firstly commented on the appointment of John Knowles as CEO, saying given his knowledge of Manawatu and the rugby communities around the country and within the province, his acceptance of the role was a major positive for the MRU.

He said looking ahead to 2009 the board's main objective was on field performance after the 14th placing last season by the Turbos.

Mr Murphy said that from a financial standpoint the Union had not performed well in 2008 and the final position would be known at the MRU AGM in late February.

9. 2009 Senior I and II Club Competition Format

MRU's Chris Ricketts addressed the meeting and gave a briefing on the work the Operations Support Committee had done in consulting clubs about the format and the feedback received from clubs. He then opened the matter up for discussion through the CRC chair.

Massey's David Faulkner talked to his club's submission to the OSC which favoured a 10 team competition in 2009 with Freyberg not participating in the competition because of their poor on field performance.

Gary Nesdale asked whether the CRC had the power to change a decision of the MRU board which had directed the OSC to formulate a competition structure for an 11 team Senior I competition. Mr Murphy said the CRC had the right to make a recommendation to the MRU board regarding the composition of the competition and the board would consider it.

After much discussion Kevin Tod then asked for an indication from clubs as to whether they favoured a 10 or 11 team competition in 2009 with the majority of clubs stating they preferred an 11 team competition as it was unfair to remove Freyberg only two months out from the competition.

Massey then proposed a motion that there be a 10 team competition for 2010, seconded by Kim Durham. After much discussion Peter Clark mooted that given there were many aspects to having a reduced competition a CRC meeting be scheduled for prior to the season starting so clubs knew what they were playing for. The meeting agreed.

Delegates then discussed and voted on the following aspects of the 2009 Senior I and II competitions:

- Quarter-finals in Senior I – Clubs were against this concept, meaning the playoffs for the Hankins Shield would start with semifinals.
- Additional Senior I trophies – Clubs were in favour that those teams which did not make the Hankins Shield playoffs have the opportunity compete for the Val Holland and Goldfinch & Cousins.

- Points carried forward in Senior I – Clubs were against this concept of points carried forward from round one to round two.
- Expanding Senior II – Because a bye existed in Senior II there was an opportunity for an additional team to be included in the draw and fill the bye. Marist and HSOB believed that the grade could be made open as another means to promote rugby. Mr Ricketts stated that any expansion would make it very difficult to mirror the Senior I and II competitions. Clubs decided in favour of expanding the Senior II competition with a maximum number of 12 participating teams.

10. Election of officers

a. Election of CRC chairman and CRC deputy chairman

Gary Nesdale nominated that Kevin Tod as the 2009 CRC chairman, seconded by Peter Clark. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the motion. Gary Nesdale nominated that David Faulkner as the 2009 CRC deputy chairman, seconded by Peter Clark. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

b. Election of Operations Support Committee

All members of the 2008 OSC indicated they would be happy to stand again this year. Colin Gates nominated the following people by elected as OSC members in 2009, seconded by Gary Nesdale: *Malcolm Burr, Murray Mitchell, Dan Lewis, Trent Te Kooro, Neil Aitcheson, Neil Kitchen. Chairman: Chris Ricketts (MRU community rugby manager).*

11. General business

- Kevin Tod raised the matter of the Code of Ethics and how many clubs had signed. MRU's Martin Brady said he was unsure but would include the figures in the minutes:

Clubs who have signed: Bulls, Halcombe, Te Kawau, Feilding,
Linton Army, Massey, College Old Boys,
Old Boys Marist,

Clubs who have indicated they were not willing to sign: Kia Toa

Clubs yet to do either: Ashhurst Pohangina, Bunnythorpe, Bush,
Dannevirke Sports, Feilding Old Boys Oroua,
Freyberg

- Barrie Angland, from the Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club, asked clubs for their rugby jerseys to put up in the MRSC's clubrooms. Mr Angland also mentioned the MRSC's AGM would be held at Club Palmy on 27 January 2009 at 7.15pm.
- Kevin Tod reminded members that the MRU AGM would be held on Monday, 23 February 2009 in the McMillan and Lockwood Lounge (FMG Stadium) at 7pm.

Meeting concluded at 8.51pm.