



Club Rugby Council meeting (2009/3)

Date: *Wednesday, 1 July 2009*
Location: *MRU Referees' Room, FMG Stadium*
Time: *7pm*

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendance: Kevin Tod (CRC chair / Old Boys Marist), Dave Faulkner (CRC deputy chair / Massey University), Peter Askey (MRU board), John Knowles (MRU CEO), Martin Brady (MRU club liaison officer), Terry Cooney (Halcombe), Roger Heatley (Ashhurst Pohangina), Troy Homes (Linton Army), Trent Te Koro (Kia Toa), Colin Gates (Te Kawau), Brendan Clare (Feilding), Malcolm Burr (Old Boys Marist), Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg), Lyn Bevan (Bunnythorpe), Steve Kinane (Bunnythorpe), Kim Durham (College Old Boys), Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club).

Apologies: Tony Murphy (MRU board chair), Hugh Blair (MRU board), Steve Morris (MRU president), Chris Ricketts (MRU community rugby manager), Nick Reid (Manawatu Sec Schools), Barry Mitchell (Dannevirke Sports), Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau), Murray Mitchell (Te Kawau), Russell Walker (Kia Toa).

Confirmed by Brendan Clare / Roger Heatley

2. Confirmation of minutes from 24 March 2009

Confirmed by Kim Durham / Trent Te Koro

3. Matters arising

No matters arising

4. MRU CEO Update – John Knowles

Mr Knowles addressed the meeting and initially talked about the concerns around the lack of coaches in secondary school rugby. He said the Union was looking at ways which would ensure coaches from junior rugby continued their coaching through the higher grades. Initiatives around training and supporting coaches were raised.

The CEO said there had been a reduction in staff numbers at the MRU and was currently a tight-knit group who were working extremely hard at present.

Mr Knowles spoke about the political side of the game and, in particular, the composition of the 2010 domestic rugby structure (Air New Zealand Cup etc). He said the G9 (non franchise unions) had written to the NZRU some months ago regarding competition structures. The NZRU had already done an Air New Zealand Cup review in 2008.

He believed the main issue was not competition structure but the affordability and sustainability of unions entering these competitions and the issue was the player salary cap and the reduction of it.

Following several workshops the NZRU announced a 10 premier team competition for 2010 with the entrance criteria being the same as in previous years. An area of much debate has been what happens to the four Unions which don't make the premier competition, providing a meaningful competition for them would be a challenging prospect for the NZRU.

Mr Knowles said that Manawatu measured up well in all areas of the criteria except for financial and he appealed to clubs to support the MRU and the Turbos in the coming months. If they knew of any sponsor (big or small) who would like to be involved then notify the Union.

Mr Knowles also mentioned that discussions with various gaming trusts has alerted him to the fact that there is a distinct shift away from what trusts have historically funded and a keenness to fund in the future more project orientated items.

The MRU would be running workshops later in the year to assist clubs in securing funding from trusts.

5. Turbos update

Mr Knowles said the Turbos wider training squad had been reduced in size and a further reduction would take place in mid-July, a couple of weeks away from the start of the 09 Air New Zealand Cup.

He said he was generally happy with progress with the Turbos and said that Manawatu had received a greater public profile following the success of the New Zealand Under 20 with 3 players being involved, notably IRB Junior Player of the Year Aaron Cruden and, of course, coach Dave Rennie.

Mr Knowles said he was in discussions with Aaron Cruden about his 2010 contract and that he was also looking at the rest of the squads contracts for 2010.

6. Community Rugby update

Mr Ricketts was an apology for the meeting but he submitted a report and the highlights were:

- Club competition – all competitions going well with Colts A and Premier Colts grades being very competitive. There have been some defaults in lower grades and the MRU doing its best to provide rugby through until the end of the season.
- Semifinals (18 July) – there had been some confusion as to the format of the semifinals in Senior I & II, essentially all teams play in a semifinal – it's explained further in the Club Handbook, page 99. Mr Ricketts said that where practicable clubs will be asked if they would like to play their Senior I semifinals at the earlier time of 1pm to allow more games to be viewed by the public.
- Club Finals (25 July) – As many games as possible will be played at Arena Manawatu with Ongley Park being the secondary venue.
- Grounds – they have generally held up well but if your grounds are getting 'cut up' please advise the Union.
- Turbos players in Club Rugby – the Turbos have three pre-season matches (3, 10, & 17 July). The involvement of the Turbos training squad players in club rugby training and MRU club competition games will be managed on a player-by-player, week-by-week basis. Players will be informed by the Turbos management whether or not they should participate in club trainings and MRU club competition games. For some players this will be determined at the beginning of each week, and for others immediately after each pre-season match. Club coaches should keep in contact with the Turbos coaches (Dave Rennie 021 344 398, Bruce Hemara 021 357 680). Finally, subject to fitness players will be available for Finals Rugby on 25 July as there will be no pre-season match that weekend.

MRU Club liaison officer Martin Brady talked to the meeting about:

- Registrations
- Volunteer ticket offer
- Turbos Season Ticket offer
- Turbos public trainings

Registrations:

Player registration deadline was just over a month away (3 August 09). With still a month to go the Union is only slightly down on the total number last year:

2009:	1417 registered
2008:	1518 registered

Mr Brady said he would be in contact with clubs over the coming weeks regarding their registrations. He also reminded clubs to get their administrators registered as they will be in line for priority tickets offers for test matches next year and RWC2011 tickets.

Ticket offer

The MRU has offered club rugby volunteers an opportunity to watch the two pre-season Turbos games from the Corporate Lounge. Because of numbers the Union has split volunteers into two groups:

- Taranaki (3 July) – Junior Clubs, Junior and Sec School Boards, MRSC, OSC etc
- Wellington (17 July) – Senior clubs: the chairman and nine other volunteers/sponsors

Special Turbos season ticket offer

Mr Brady said the special offer had been extended a week to 10 July 2009. General Admission tickets - \$60 (Adult) \$30 (Child) with \$5 going back to MRU affiliated clubs and schools of your choice. Order your tickets online www.manawaturugby.co.nz

Watch the Manawatu Turbos train

Manawatu rugby fans will have five opportunities to see IRB World Junior Player of the Year Aaron Cruden and the rest of the Turbos train over the coming months. Watch their speed, skills and strength as they are put through their paces in high intensity sessions.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 7 July	11am	PN Square
Monday 13 July	12pm	Feilding Square
Tuesday 28 July	3pm	PN Square
Tuesday 25 August	3pm	PN Square
Wednesday 16 Sept	3pm	PN Square

7. General Business

Barrie Angland told the meeting that the Supporters' Club would not be open for the Turbos' pre season matches but he thanks the clubs for their assistance in getting results in on Saturday for the rugby show on Access radio.

Roger Heatley announced that the Ashhurst Pohangina RFC was celebrating 50 years at the weekend with a number of activities planned. The club will also play host again to the pre-season women's clash between Hawke's Bay and Wellington – 11am on Sunday 2 August at Lincoln Park, Ashhurst.

Brendan Clare said that the Feilding club was hosting the Manawatu Sevens on 26 September this year and wanted clubs to support it – it was likely there would be a secondary school and or colts grade as well.

Kevin Tod mentioned that if clubs had items to be brought up at the MRU AGM (February 2010) then it would need to be discussed at the next CRC meeting later in the year.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm