



Club Rugby Council meeting (2009/4)

Date: *Monday, 19 October 2009*
Location: *MRU Referees' Room, FMG Stadium*
Time: *7pm*

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendance: Kevin Tod (CRC chair); David Faulkner (CRC deputy chair); Peter Askey (MRU board); John Knowles (MRU CEO); Martin Brady (MRU club liaison officer); Malcolm Burr (Old Boys Marist); Kim Durham (College Old Boys), Colin Gates (Te Kawau); Barry Mitchell (Dannevirke Sports); Garry Watts (Dannevirke Sports); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau); Colin Parker (Freyberg); Brendan Clare (Feilding); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Peter Hogan (Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); Trent Te Kooro (Kia Toa).

Apologies: Tony Murphy (MRU board chair); Steve Morris (MRU president); Hugh Blair (MRU board); Terry Cooney (Halcombe); Chris Ricketts (MRU community rugby manager). Confirmed by Kim Durham / Brendan Clare.

2. Confirmation of minutes from 1 July 09

Confirmed by Malcolm Burr / David Faulkner.

3. Matters arising

The Ashhurst Pohangina RFC's 50th celebrations in early July were a great success according to Ashhurst president Roger Heatley.

4. MRU CEO Update – John Knowles

Mr Knowles spoke to the meeting on a variety of matters and said the following:

Turbos End of Year Dinner is on Thursday 29 October at the Awapuni Function Centre. Guest speaker is Keith Quinn. If clubs are interested in buying tickets then contact the MRU office.

Rugby World Cup – Just a reminder that all people registered on the NZRU database will receive a priority ticket offer for the 2011 event.

Turbos – Mr Knowles said the MRU was “in the silly season” at present with Unions looking to contract players for next year but it was difficult in the current uncertain times.

Coach Development – Mr Knowles said that the Union was looking to move away from the traditional Rugby Development Officer focus and concentrate more on coach development where the new role would be one of facilitation rather than delivery. He said there would be a group of people (Turbos coaching staff) which would be used in cluster based training opportunities. More details to follow.

Massey University – Due to development which is happening at Massey University the Turbos have moved out of the gym at Massey and Mr Knowles is confident that within a week a contract will be signed to see the Turbos set up home in offices by the MUCE running track Hokowhitu campus.

Save The Turbos – Mr Knowles gave an update on the Save The Turbos campaign and said the community support has been immense.

5. Community Rugby update

a. Club surveys

In the absence of Mr Ricketts, Mr Brady gave a quick summary of the survey results with many clubs happy with how the various grades were run. He said the next step would be to provide clubs with a comprehensive report and any alterations would be discussed at the Operational Support Committee level before going before the CRC.

b. Club Liaison Officer update

Registrations

The 2009 registration figures have been finalised by NZRU and Manawatu recorded a slight increase in the number of players participating in the game. Mr Brady talked about the importance for Clubs to make sure they register every player so the MRU get maximum funding from NZRU.

A break down of clubs is below:

| Club | 2008 | 2009 | Difference |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Ashhurst Pohangina RFC | 27 | 33 | 6 |
| Bulls RFC | 37 | 58 | 21 |
| Bunnythorpe RFC | 28 | 39 | 11 |
| Bush Sports Club | 67 | 81 | 14 |
| College Old Boys | 113 | 149 | 36 |
| Dannevirke Sports | 65 | 58 | -7 |
| Feilding RFC | 160 | 137 | -23 |
| Feilding Old Boys Oroua RFC | 159 | 91 | -68 |
| Freyberg Old Boys RFC | 104 | 128 | 24 |
| Halcombe RFC | 36 | 31 | -5 |
| Kia Toa RFC | 118 | 142 | 24 |
| Linton Army RFC | 108 | 151 | 43 |
| Massey University RFC | 178 | 179 | 1 |
| Old Boys Marist | 197 | 145 | -52 |
| Te Kawanu RFC | 114 | 114 | 0 |
| Total | 1511 | 1536 | 25 |

Note: Combined FOB and Oroua 2008 numbers & HSOB and Marist 2008 numbers

The following outlines the respective registrations for coaches, referees and administrators as well as the overall player registration figure:

| | 2008 | 2009 | Difference |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Total Players (Senior & Junior) | 4272 | 4296 | 24 |
| Total Coaches | 399 | 382 | -17 |
| Total Referees | 83 | 78 | -5 |
| Total Volunteers | 171 | 217 | 46 |

Organisational Development Tool

All clubs would have recently received a letter regarding the latest assessment tool from SPARC, which Manawatu Rugby has adopted.

The comprehensive assessment takes between three to four hours. Some clubs may wish become involved in the process and others may believe they it is not for them. FOB Oroua and COB have been assessed.

If interested contact Martin Brady martin.brady@manawaturugby.co.nz

c. Operations Support Report

In the absence of Mr Ricketts, Mr Brady tabled the following written report:

The Operational Support Committee (OSC) is a group elected by the Club Rugby Council (CRC) to:

- Act as a sounding board or communication tool between staff and clubs;

- To assist on operational committees as their experience and expertise allows;
- Seek clarification and input into issues of note at club level;
- Assist the Community Rugby Manager with change management issues;
- Provide support and expertise to the MRU where able;
- Act as a communication tool on behalf of the membership; and
- Provide reports on significant issue to the CRC and/or board.

The OSC members for the 2009 season were:

- Trent Te Kooro (Kia Toa)
- Dan Lewis (FOB Oroua)
- Malcolm Burr (Old Boys Marist)
- Neil Kitchen (Feilding)
- Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg)
- Murray Mitchell (Te Kawau)

In December 2008 the OSC made a recommendation to the CRC regarding competition formats in all grades for 2009. The recommendations were accepted with the exception that quarter-finals were not included in the Senior 1 and Senior 2 formats.

In January 2009 the OSC reviewed the Club Competition By-Laws. Two amendments were made with regards to: 1) a more flexible approach to the application of penalties; 2) a more stringent application of the player classification criteria. Both changes were of benefit during the season.

Over the course of the 2009 season the members of the OSC were of valuable assistance in providing feedback to the MRU Operational Staff on a range of Club Rugby related issues.

6. General Business

- Barrie Angland (Supporters' Club) thanked the club for their support throughout the year and also mentioned the Save The Turbos campaign and urged club people to sign the petition. Mr Angland reminded clubs that there was a RSA Olympics happening this Thursday (22 Oct) in support of the Turbos.
- Kevin Tod thanks Barrie and the Supporters' Club for all the work that they do in support of club rugby.
- Kevin Tod mentioned that there is likely to be a CRC meeting before the end of the year and he asked clubs to be aware of constitutional matters which relate to the Union AGM in February next year.

Meeting closed at 8.26pm.