



## Club Rugby Council meeting (2007/4)

**Date:** *Wednesday, 18 July 2007*  
**Location:** *Referees' Room, FMG Stadium*  
**Time:** *7pm*

### **Minutes**

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

Attendance – Steve Morris (MRU president); Tony Murphy (MRU board chairman); Hadyn Smith (MRU CEO); Dave Rennie (Turbos coach); Martin Brady (MRU club liaison officer); John Anderson (CRC chairman); Dave Wolland (CRC deputy chairman); Barry Mitchell (Dannevirke Sports); Jim McDonald (Dannevirke Sports); Colin Parker (Freyberg); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau); Martin Chesterfield (COB); Jim Lyons (HSOB); Roger Heatley (Ashhurst); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); Kim Durham (Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association); Trent Te Kooro (Kia Toa); Malcolm Burr (Marist); Vicki Spicer (Bush); Peter Clark (MRU board); Peter Marshall (HSOB); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Graeme Bull (MRRA); Dave Parata (Kia Toa); John Whitehead (Varsity); Kenny Johnson (Kia Toa); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg).

Apologies – Murray Edgecombe (HSOB); Gary Nesdale (Oroua); Stephen Scott (Feilding); Kevin Shing (FOB); Kevin Jones (COB). Confirmed by Mike Dravitski. Seconded by Jim Lyons.

#### **2. Confirmation of minutes from 16 April 2007.** Confirmed by Martin Chesterfield. Seconded by Trent Te Kooro.

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

No matters arising.

#### **4. Air New Zealand Cup update (Dave Rennie)**

Mr Rennie briefed the meeting on the pre-season to date saying the players were bigger, stronger and faster than before. He said he was very appreciative of the clubs releasing players for the season to train with the Turbos.

While the pre-season had seen some encouraging signs Mr Rennie said the biggest concern was the quality of the tackling. Despite the tackling the injection

of new players to the region had added to the Turbos squad. Those players included: James Goode, Aaron James, Grant Polson and Ray Allen.

## **5. Application from Dannevirke Sports Inc to become affiliated to MRU**

Mr Smith said the MRU had received a letter from Dannevirke Sports Club Inc. seeking affiliation to the Union. Its request was proposed by the Marist Rugby Football Club and supported by the Massey University Rugby Football Club.

Dannevirke Sports chairman Barry Mitchell spoke on behalf of his club and focused on his club having played in Manawatu since 2001 and saw its future in this province.

Peter Marshall (HSOB) queried whether any affiliation would need the support of Hawke's Bay RFU and the NZRU. Mr Smith confirmed that was the case and both would not stand in the way of Dannevirke affiliating.

Discussion then centred around whether Dannevirke's affiliation would make them eligible for promotion to Senior A next year. Mr Smith confirmed this would be the case. Those present at the meeting were adamant that the two issues with separate.

A voted was taken as to whether the clubs supported Dannevirke's request for affiliation and the clubs all voted in favour of the motion.

Doug Brew (FOB) moved, seconded by Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg), the following: "that if Dannevirke are eligible to be considered to be a Senior A team then in the interim year (2008) there be a 13 team competition."

The meeting voted in favour of the motion (7-6) with CRC chairman John Anderson having the casting and deliberative vote. Some clubs chose to abstain.

Mr Smith said the CRC's support would be passed onto the MRU Board and it would ratify Dannevirke's affiliation at its next meeting.

## **6. Board Report (Tony Murphy)**

Mr Murphy commented on the 'giant strides' the MRU had made in the past 12 months as this time last year the Turbos were heading into the unknown.

Other issues which Mr Murphy raised were:

- The MRU continues to have dialogue with neighbouring unions
- Finances is still a big issue for the unions

## **7. Update on the MRU Financial position (Hadyn Smith)**

Mr Smith said the finances at the union continued to be an area of concern. He said it was important from a union perspective that there is a good turnout for the

five Turbos home games and said that the union was putting greater emphasis on pre-game sales.

Other matters Mr Smith raised were:

Powa Products – He reiterated what he stated in an email sent to clubs earlier in the week and it read:

“I am extremely disappointed that within weeks of reminding clubs that they may only use Powa balls, by union contract during all Senior 1 Club games, we find a picture in the Manawatu Standard on Monday the proves beyond all doubt that non-sponsored balls are still being used by clubs in this union. I think every club in the competition must surely understand the value of club sponsors and I find it unbelievable that clubs would wish to undermine a commercial relationship that actually saves us all money. I wish to point out that if clubs have a shortage of balls for whatever reason then the union will supply Powa balls as required for use in all Senior 1 games. I don't know what else to say except that we will be making spot checks this weekend and taking steps to ensure that clubs who use non-Powa balls will be penalized in some real form for doing so.

Please help us to maintain our relationship with Powa Products. As stated previously, we have plenty of stock. If your Senior 1 club requires more balls for the coming weekend or at any time up to the end of this season, please contact the union and you will be catered for.”

Mr Smith also reminded clubs of the TelstraClear money making scheme for clubs and said there was more information on the MRU website.

## **8. MRU Academy update (Paul Martin)**

Mr Brady read a written statement Mr Martin had prepared. It read:

- The academy now have full time trainer in Paul March
- We have also started a Pre Academy + Jnr Academy. This runs once a month with RDO's + NPC COACHES
- Training in the gym and fitness testing has been going very well.
- We have 8 first year , 4 year 2s, 2 year 3
- Two have been pulled out for now and two replaced.
- Had 6 members in the wider train on squad

With one being named in the Turbos for 2007. That now takes the number to 5 in such a short time so things are looking good for the future. Things will come together but it takes time and we need to be patient.

## **9. Club Rugby update (Martin Brady)**

Mr Brady read a written statement Mr Ricketts had prepared. It read:

Club Competition

- The Tony's Tyre Service Club Competition has progressed very well this season, aided by good weather.
- The new format has worked well with very competitive Top 6 & Bottom 6 rounds.
- The use of a grading round in the Senior Reserve and Colts grades has paid off with the right teams participating in very competitive competition rounds.
- The women's competition has been very disappointing this year due to the number of defaults.
- The use of FMG stadium has been a positive; the negative being that Arena Field 3 has been out all season. Other grounds have held up well.
- There will be a wash-up on the competition when it is finished, where clubs will be asked for feedback on all aspects of the competition with regards to potential changes for 2008.

#### Club Finals

- There will be 10 finals occurring on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July. The intention is to play as many of these as ground conditions permit at Arena Manawatu, with others at Ongley Park. Finals will start early (approximately 11.30) and be staggered throughout the day with the Hankins Shield Final played on it's own on FMG stadium at approximately 3pm.

#### **10. Club Liaison Officer update (Martin Brady)**

Mr Brady said he had not done a great deal of work as Club Liaison Officer over the past few weeks as he had been standing in for John Knowles as manager of the Turbos.

One project he had been working on was looking at creating a site linked to the MRU website where all clubs have a website which they can construct - the initial set up cost is \$250 for a club and that is the only cost for the club. The MRU had been working alongside Te Kawau to develop the template for the club sites.

Mr Brady said he had been endeavoring to get around a number of clubs on Saturdays and he was about to start another round of visits to all clubs in Manawatu. The visits are about keeping up the regular contact with clubs and discussing what clubs' needs are heading into 2008 and beyond.

#### **11. General Business**

Senior A clubs defaulting (Mike Dravitski) – Te Kawau raised the issue of Senior A clubs defaulting, saying it was unacceptable when this occurred. Mr Dravitski was referring to the Linton Army default to Feilding Old Boys at the end of round one. Mr Smith said it was the union which ultimately told Linton Army to default because of injury concerns with inexperience front rowers being able to cope with Senior A rugby on that particular weekend.

Away and Home games (Peter Marshall) – Mr Marshall raised the issue of the second round draw and making it a fairer competition (home and away basis). Mr

Smith said it was a difficult undertaking to get all clubs having a fair deal. Mr Whitehead said the matter need to be discussed at the end-of-season review.

Referee intimidation (Dave Parata) – Mr Parata said he had seen a noticeable increase in referee/touch judge intimidation at club rugby and it was up to CRC representatives to ensure club members were well behaved on the sidelines.

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm.