



## **Club Rugby Council meeting (2006/2)**

**Date:** *Monday 27 March 2006*  
**Location:** *MRU Referees room, FMG Stadium*  
**Time:** *5.30pm*

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies:**

Manawatu Rugby Union CEO Hadyn Smith welcomed the club delegates and, in particular, the two Union life members in attendance, Merlin Shannon and Mike Cross. Apologies received from Union president Sam Strahan, Life Member – Owen Gleeson and Mike Cross, and Union community rugby manager Chris Ricketts.

#### **2. Role call of delegates:**

Ashhurst - Trevor Deal; Bulls - Tyrone Barker, Doreen (Observer); Bunnythorpe – Steve Kainane, Craig Lyndsay; Bush - Dave Wolland; COB – Kevin Jones, John Nairne; Dannyvirke Sports – Barry Mitchell, Henry Briggthouse; Dannevirke Rugby – Steve Philips, Alan McDonald; Feilding – Kelvin Tantrum; Freyberg - John Anderson; Halcombe – Albie Marshall, Sony Ratama; Kia Toa - Dave Parata; Linton - Troy Homes; Marist - Peter Clark; Massey - John Whitehead; Oroua - Gary Nesdale; HSOB - Kevin Tod, Jim Lyons; Ragatane Sports – David Hape, Rapana Pene; Te Kawa – Murray Mitchell, Mike Dravitski; MRRA – Eugene Skerrett; Junior Rugby – Philip Champions; Tony Murphy (Board Chair) and Hadyn Smith (CEO).

#### **3. Election of Chairman:**

Current chairman John Whitehead is required to stand down as he was subsequently elected to the MRU board following the previous CRC meeting and he unable to stand on both the board and CRC.

- John Anderson (the current deputy chairman) was nominated by John Whitehead seconded Dave Parata for the role as CRC chairman. Mr Anderson was unanimously voted into the position by delegates.

- Dave Wolland was nominated by Kevin Tod Seconded by John Whitehead for the role of CRC deputy chairman. Mr Wolland was unanimously voted into the position by delegates.

#### **4. Minutes from previous meeting – 24 January 2006:**

Delegates confirmed minutes were true and correct.

#### **5. Matters Arising:**

John Nairne and Kevin Jones to be added to those attending. No other matters arising from the previous minutes.

#### **6. Dannevirke Rugby Club's application to enter MRU:**

Dannevirke Rugby Club applied to the MRU to enter the Union. The meeting heard from three clubs from Dannevirke (Dannevirke Sports, Aotea and Rangitane) which were opposed to the move. The three clubs believed it would be detrimental to the town for as it would drain resources (players/administrators/coaches)

Dannevirke Rugby Club also spoke at the meeting and focused on the development of players from the juniors through to the seniors.

MRU clubs were asked to vote on whether Dannevirke should be allowed to enter the Union. A ballot was taken and the result was: 11 in favour of Dannevirke Rugby Club entering the Union; 17 against Dannevirke Rugby Club entering the Union. The matter will now be referred to the MRU Board for a final decision.

#### **7. Board Update:**

Board chairman Tony Murphy briefly outlined the following:

- The Board was focusing on establishing processes to ensure the professional working of the board and Union. Examples include review of coaching; self review of the board.
- Mr Murphy also said he was concerned to hear that there was a notion that volunteers were not required in Manawatu rugby. Mr Murphy stated that as the Union had a team in the Air New Zealand Cup there were requirements to have people employed such as a trainer; a doctor; a physiotherapist etc. It is also necessary to have a Community Rugby Manager and Club Liaison Officer with all positions being funded from outside sources. However, rugby in this region still relies heavily on volunteers.

#### **8. MRU Financial Position Update:**

Although the equity of the union currently stands at \$872,000 and year to date profit is in excess of \$640,000 these figures are distorted by the income from the NZRU and will return to reality shortly.

## **9. Operational Matters:**

- Introduction of new staff member (Martin Brady – Club Liaison Officer): Martin Brady talked about the NZRU-funded position. He said the role had two main focuses: 1. To act as an advocate for clubs, 2. To work alongside clubs in assisting with immediate concerns (funding issues being one topic) and working to towards planning for long term club viability.
- Club competition sponsors branding – The Union has negotiated a sponsorship arrangement with Tony's Tyre Service to sponsor club rugby. Part of the agreement would see clubs' senior I teams wearing the Tony's Tyre Service logo on their jerseys (logos were available for collection at the meeting). If a club had an existing tyre sponsor they did not have to wear the logos but the club would have to write to the Union stating who the sponsor is and when the existence sponsorship ends.
- MRU uniform branding code – Haydn Smith explained the purpose of the code would be to put in place regulations that say if you want to play in the Manawatu competition clubs will not have pornography, obscene words or inappropriate size brands all over uniforms.
- NZRU Big "D" players insurance – Hadyn Smith said the scheme meant that Senior rugby players, coaches and referees can now purchase Medical Expenses and Income Protection insurance online from \$40. All Clubs have been provided with a number of "The Big D" pamphlets in with your player registration forms. If clubs require more for distribution, please contact the MRU Office.
- MRU Club Partnership Agreement – Available for collection at the meeting. The CLO would be meeting with club chairmen over the coming weeks to discuss the agreement.
- MRU Club Competition By-laws – these will be ready for distribution prior to the start of the season on Saturday 8 April.
- Draws/Teams – a draft copy of the draw for lower grades were able for collection at the meeting – a late withdrawal of a Colts teams has meant there will be some altering of that draw.
- Balls for senior club games – MRU has been offered a deal with Powa Products to supply all rugby balls for use in the premier grade and representative games (outside of the senior NPC, men and women) of the MRU. The current price of the top of the line size 5 balls to clubs is around \$80 + GST. The MRU Club (Powa) price of these new size 5 balls will be \$35 + GST. Balls were distributed to senior I clubs, Mr Smith was seeking feedback from clubs on the quality of the ball by Tuesday 4 April.
- Update from Air NZ Cup – Head coach Charlie McAlister was in Wellington so a full report will be presented at the next CRC meeting.

## **10 General Business:**

- Hadyn Smith emphasised the weekly CEO Notices which are sent via email each Friday contain useful club information and it is up to the club gatekeepers (ie. Those receiving the emails) to pass the information onto the correct people within their club. If a delegate is not receiving the CEO Notices then contact Bridget Simpson at the Union office.

- NZRU Public Liability Insurance - This is a new insurance programme funded by the NZRU and provided by Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT Sport). All NZRU affiliated clubs are covered. The Club Liability Insurance program provides clubs with a number of liability insurances under 1 policy. The policy limit is \$5,000,000. To find out more contact JLT on 0800 558 778.

Meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Next meeting will be confirmed in due course.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....