



## Club Rugby Council meeting (2007/1)

**Date:** *Monday 29 January 2007*  
**Location:** *MRU Referees' Room, FMG Stadium*  
**Time:** *7pm*

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies:

Chairman John Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: Kevin Shing (FOB), Doug Brew (FOB), Gary Nesdale (Oroua), Stephen Kinane (Bunnythorpe), Kenny Johnson (Kia Toa), Dave Rennie (Turbos coach), Terry Cooney (Halcombe). Moved by Dave Parata. Seconded by Jim Lyons.

#### 2. Attendance:

Sam Strahan (Union President & Oroua); Tony Murphy (Board Chairman); Hadyn Smith (Union CEO); Chris Ricketts (Union community rugby manager); Mark Dinsdale (Union rugby services); Martin Brady (Union club liaison officer); Paul Martin (Union academy manager); John Knowles (Union director of rugby); John Anderson (CRC chairman & Freyberg); Dave Wolland (CRC deputy chairman & Bush); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau); Farah Palmer (Women's Action Group); Kevin Tod (Board & HSOB); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Kevin Jones (COB); Roger Heatley (Ashhurst-Pohangina); Jim Lyons (HSOB); John Whitehead (Varsity); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); Ian Cruden (Union long service member); Trent Te Kooro (Kia Toa); Dave Parata (Kia Toa); Vicki Spicer (Bush); Stephen Scott (Feilding); Murray Edgecombe (HSOB); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg); Colin Parker (Freyberg); Craig Lindsay (Bunnythorpe); Peter Clark (Board & Marist); Malcolm Burr (Marist).

#### 3. Minutes from previous meeting – 30 October 2006    Kevin Tod / Jim Lyons

#### 4. Matters Arising:

MRU CEO Hadyn Smith sought clarification from the meeting as to the actual role of the CRC. He said he had received comments indicating that the CRC was not as effective as the Council of Clubs. Mr Smith stressed that the CRC was established for the clubs and it was up to the clubs to decide which course the CRC should take and not the MRU.

When asked whether the CRC was worthwhile three clubs verbally voiced their support of the CRC with the remaining clubs indicating their support.

MRU community rugby manager Chris Ricketts said the Women's Action Group and the Manawatu Maori Rugby Board were not represented at the CRC. Mr Ricketts said it was up to the CRC representatives to decide whether they should have representation at the CRC and whether they had speaking right and/or voting rights. It was also pointed out the Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club probably fell into this category.

After some discussion it was moved by John Anderson (Freyberg) and seconded by Kevin Jones (COB) that the above three groups should be granted speaking right and that the groups can approach the CRC individually for voting rights. Motion passed.

### **5. Confirmation of Delegates:**

The following are confirmed as delegates from the clubs: Roger Heatley (Ashhurst-Pohangina); Sam Moke (Bulls); Craig Lindsay (Bunnythorpe); Dave Wolland (Bush); Kevin Jones (COB); Kevin Shing (FOB); Stephen Scott (Feilding); Neil Aitcheson (Freyberg); Terry Cooney (Halcombe); Dave Parata (Kia Toa); Troy Homes (Linton Army); Malcolm Burr (Marist); John Whitehead (Massey); Gary Nesdale (Oroua); Murray Edgecombe (HSOB); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau); Graeme Bull (Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); Damon Durie (Manawatu Secondary Schools' Rugby Board); Grant Smith (Manawatu Junior Rugby Board); Farah Palmer (Women's Action Group).

### **6. Election of Officers:**

Election of CRC Chairman – Two nominations received: Dave Wolland (Bush) and John Anderson (Freyberg). Mr Wolland withdrew his nomination and Mr Anderson was duly elected as Chairman for the 2007 season.

Election of CRC Deputy Chairman – One nomination received: Dave Wolland (Bush) was duly elected as Deputy Chairman for the 2007 season.

Election of CRC Representative to Appointments Committee: Through the authority of CRC Chairman, Dave Wolland acted as the CRC representative on the Appointments Committee. The reason for this was the position should have been filled at the last CRC meeting as the Appointments Committee has already met.

Election of Club Delegates to the MRU Board – Two nominations received: Peter Clark (Marist) & Kevin Tod (HSOB). Two positions were required to be filled and both Mr Clark and Mr Tod were duly elected to the Board.

### **7. Notification of Nomination for Manawatu President**

Mr Anderson told the meeting that the Union had received one nomination for the 2007 MRU President's position – Steve Morris from Varsity. John Whitehead (Varsity) spoke to the meeting regarding Mr Morris' background which included many years as an

administrator and coach at Massey University as well as strong involvement with New Zealand Universities Rugby.

#### **8. Board Report (Tony Murphy):**

Mr Murphy welcomed the nomination of Steve Morris as president. He acknowledged the work of outgoing president Sam Strahan. Mr Strahan had filled the position for four years and Mr Murphy said he was the “catalyst for a number of changes for the Manawatu Rugby Union” and he did this with “enthusiasm and dignity”.

Mr Murphy also congratulated those members who had been elected to office of the CRC.

Mr Murphy said he believed the Union had made tremendous progress in the past 12 months saying it now had a sound office structure and personnel; a settled Air New Zealand Cup management structure; and strong levels of corporate support.

#### **9. MRU Financial Report (CEO Hadyn Smith):**

Mr Smith said it had been a difficult year for the Union from a financial standpoint. However, they now knew the true cost of professional rugby. He said the MRU had made a surplus for the year of \$12,000.

Mr Smith said the club rebate would be decided at the board’s next meeting (early February) and distributed to clubs following that.

#### **10. MRU Air New Zealand Cup Team Report (John Knowles):**

Mr Knowles presented his report to the meeting and it said the following:

1. The majority of the Turbos programme had been completed. See below for the draw.
2. Pre-season matches to be played on:
  - a. Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June Vs Wairapapa Bush (Masterton 2.30pm)
  - b. Camp from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July with a game played against Bay of Plenty on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July (3pm Whakatane)
  - c. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July Vs Northland (Home 1pm)
  - d. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July Vs Taranaki (Home 5pm)
3. Trainings for Wairarapa Bush match will not be held on Tuesdays or Thursdays.
4. Extended Squad of 32 players will be training full time (during the day) from the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Apart from the camp week, those players not taking the field for matches will be released for Thursday night club training.

5. During Camp week, players who get little game time could potentially be available for club rugby on Saturday. We travel back from Rotorua early Saturday morning.
6. It is important for club coaches to be advised of coaching clinic opportunities.
7. Concerned that not all information sent to clubs through circulars is passed on to coaches and others who need to have that information. – example – applications for Rep. Coaches.
8. Recent Signings:
  - a. Grant Polson - Prop
  - b. James Sua – No. 8
  - c. Aaron James – Centre / Winger

### **TURBOS DRAW**

<b>Match</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Vs Waikato	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> July	7.05pm	Home
Vs Tasman	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug.	7.05pm	Blenheim
Vs Wellington	Sat. 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	2.35pm	Wellington
Vs BOP	Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	2.35pm	Home
Vs Canterbury	Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	2.35pm	Christchurch
Vs Nth Harbour	Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.	2.35pm	Albany (RS)
Vs Otago	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	2.35pm	Home
Vs Counties Manakau	Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2.35pm	Home
Vs Southland	Sat. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.	2.35pm	Invercargill
Vs Hawke's Bay	Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	5.30pm	Home

### **11. Club Rugby Report (Chris Ricketts):**

Mr Ricketts said the MRU had met with eight of the 16 clubs regarding the 2008 Club Competition Format and to date there had been positive, open discussion. He also said that there had been some clubs which had been well prepared and others that hadn't. He urged those clubs that are still yet to be met with to ensure they are prepared for the meetings.

Mr Smith also spoke to the meeting about paying players to play. He said as the game at club level was still amateur there could be no direct payment to players or money inducements to switch clubs.

### **12. Club Liaison Officer's Report (Martin Brady):**

Mr Brady gave a brief rundown on work he had been doing since the previous CRC meeting and it included:

- meeting with clubs on sourcing funding
- preparation of accounts for auditing

- acting as chair of one club during the summer months
- working with the Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association on developing a radio and newspaper campaign as well as establish a website for the association.

In 2007, the MRU in conjunction with Sport Manawatu are holding a number of workshops for administrators (information on the website). One rugby-specific workshop scheduled is for secretaries on Tuesday 20 February. Details on the workshop will be posted on the MRU website.

An area of concern in Manawatu, and in fact around New Zealand, is the drop off in playing numbers from school to club. A focus of his work this year will be to investigate ways to rectify this issue by working along side clubs and schools.

**13. Academy Report (Paul Martin):**

Mr Martin talked about the initiative of developing younger players in the region. There will be four distinct groups (Manawatu Academy – 40 players; Pre-academy; Junior Academy – under 14, 15 and 16; and a Leadership Group for 10-13 year olds). The emphasis is placed on developing players so they progress with ease into each academy.

Overall it had been a good year for the Academy with three players going on to Air New Zealand Cup. Since the beginning of the Academy 14 players have gone on to play for Manawatu.

Mr Martin said there were four games coming up for the Academy team and they were:

7 February	v	IRANZ at Massey University at 4pm
18 February	v	Taranaki at New Plymouth at 2.30pm
23 February	v	Wellington at Wellington at 5.15pm (curtainraiser to the Hurricanes)
3 March	v	Wellington at Palmerston North at 4.45pm (curtainraiser to the Hurricanes)

**14. General Business:**

- Mr Angland said the Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club AGM is on Tuesday 30 January at Club Palmerston at 7pm.
- Mr Smith said there is to be a fundraising luncheon for IRANZ scholarships on 9 February.
- Mr Murphy mentioned that the MRU AGM is on Monday 19 February at the Freyberg Rugby Football Club at 7pm.
- Mr Murphy mentioned that the Hurricanes play the Stormers in Super 14 rugby at FMG Stadium on Saturday 3 March at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 14 March 2007 in the Referees' Room at FMG Stadium, Palmerston North at 7pm.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....