



Club Rugby Council meeting (2006/4)

Date: *Monday 30 October 2006*
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: Dave Parata (Kia Toa); Kelvin Tantrum (Feilding); Tania Wilson (FOB); Peter Clark (Marist). Moved by Kevin Tod. Seconded by Mike Dravitski.

2. Role call of delegates:

Sam Strahan (Union President & Oroua); Tony Murphy (Board Chairman); Hadyn Smith (Union CEO); Chris Ricketts (Union community rugby manager); Martin Brady (Union club liaison officer); John Anderson (CRC chairman & Freyberg); Mike Dravitski (Te Kawau); Murray Mitchell (Te Kawau); Roger Heatley (Ashhurst-Pohangina); Trevor Teal (Ashhurst-Pohangina); Kevin Tod (HSOB); Malcolm Burr (Marist); Kevin Jones (COB); Alby Marshall (Halcombe); Stephen Scott (Feilding); Kenny Johnson (Kia Toa); Martin Chesterfield (COB); Gary Nesdale (Oroua); Ian Strahan (Oroua); Colin Parker (Freyberg); Tyrone Barker (Bulls); Graeme Bulls (MRRA); Barrie Angland (Manawatu Rugby Supporters' Club); John Whitehead (Varsity); Vicki Spicer (Bush); Dave Wolland (Bush); Doug Brew (FOB).

3. Minutes from previous meeting – 20 June 2006 Malcolm Burr / Roger Heatley

4. Matters Arising:

No matters arising.

5. Board Report (Tony Murphy):

Mr Murphy reiterated what he said at the first CRC meeting at the start of the year. The board was looking to establish the appropriate structures to ensure that the union achieves respect from the local community and respect from the wider national rugby community.

Despite the Turbos not having won a game Mr Murphy said there was 'a buzz' around Manawatu and they had gone some way to achieving the above goals.

He also said the board has been reviewing the union's strategic plan and believed it now has the framework to move the union forward.

6. MRU Financial Report (CEO Hadyn Smith):

Mr Smith said that the finances of the union were tight. He said it was not going to be one of the union's best financial years but it wasn't going to be the worst. (See attached)

a. MRU Strategic Plan

Mr Smith said the updated strategic plan will be posted on the MRU website and he urged clubs to read it and make comment if they wished. (See attached)

b. MRU Operational Plan

Mr Smith said the operational plan was developed from the strategic plan and will be circulated to clubs following the board's next meeting on 21 November. (See attached)

c. Operational Structure of the Union

Mr Smith said there had been a structural change to the union and there was now clear delineation between reporting positions. He said there were four positions that reported to him – Community Rugby Manager, Financial Controller, Commercial Marketing Manager and Director of Rugby (John Knowles).

The major change has been the establishment of the Director of Rugby position which oversees all things associated with the Air New Zealand Cup team.

The commercial marketing manager's position is in the process of being filled, while the Financial Controller's position is being look at to what are the options.

d. Club Grants

Mr Smith said the Union won't know until its next meeting (21 November) what its current financial position is and what club grant percentage would be returned to the clubs.

e. Constitutional Change

Mr Smith presented to those present a discussion document on two suggestions to change the MRU constitution. (See attached).

1. A change to how board members are elected. Currently five members of the board go through an interview process and are assessed as to whether their skills meet the requirements of the board skills matrix (ie. the skills people bring to the board). However, the two representatives from the clubs are elected from the floor and thus don't go through an interview process. The change would see all prospective board members going through the process.

2. A committee be formed that would support club rugby in Manawatu – called *Operations Support Committee*. Its role would be to, among other things, act as a sounding board or communication tool between staff and clubs; to seek clarification and input into issues of note at club level.

The committee would consist of six elected representatives from the clubs with a minimum of four of the six coming from Senior I clubs.

These matters will be voted on at the MRU's AGM in February 2007.

MRU Air New Zealand Cup Team Report (CEO Hadyn Smith):

Mr Smith praised the professionalism of Turbos coach Dave Rennie and manager John Knowles and their staff. Mr Smith said he believed the team was well positioned to kick on next year and record their first win. He also mentioned that Rennie has been planning a number of development initiatives at an age group level and upskilling local coaches

Club Rugby Report Chris Ricketts (Community Club Rugby Manager Report):

f. Club Rugby Formats 2007

Mr Ricketts said the 2007 club format had been ratified by the board and is now confirmed for 2007.

He said a decision on the start date (at this stage set down for 31 March 2007) would not be confirmed until December when the 2007 Air New Zealand Cup draw was known.

g. Club Rugby Formats 2008 and beyond

Mr Ricketts presented a paper on his views on the topic:

By now you are probably all aware of Turbos Head Coach Dave Rennie's comments regarding the Club Competition. He has stated that the Club Competition needs to be of a higher quality to ensure future success for the Turbos, and that an 8 team competition structure could achieve this. It is important for us all to acknowledge that these are Dave's observations, and at this point the MRU has had no discussion regarding the number of teams in the Club Competition in the future.

However it is essential that the issue of improving the quality of the Club Competition be discussed. If, as a result of this discussion, significant changes

are recommended for the Club Competition in 2008, these will need to be announced before the 2007 season commences.

The format for this will be as follows:

1. **NOVEMBER:**
A discussion between the MRU and each club, where clubs will be asked to submit and discuss:
 - Ideas to improve the quality of the Club Competition
 - Preference for the number of participating teams

2. **DECEMBER:**
Formulation of the clubs ideas and preferences into a recommendation, sent to all clubs then submitted to the MRU board by MRU operational staff.

3. **JANUARY:**
The MRU board to consider the recommendation.

The meeting decided the following:

- The timeframe was too short and an immediate step was needed where clubs had an opportunity to discuss with each other the recommendations.
- Clubs need more information, particularly from other unions outside the franchise unions, on such matters as: player numbers and senior A competition structures.

Mr Ricketts said he would work on the above points which the clubs raised and get back to the clubs in the near future.

h. Representative Report

Mr Ricketts distributed the list of all Manawatu representative teams' results in 2006.

Mr Smith said he had received criticism from some people that the Union hadn't recognised players for making higher representative selections. He said that criticism was not warranted as the onus was on the team managers to notify the Union of any players making higher selections.

Mr Ricketts said nominations were now being called for coaches, assistant coaches and managers for a number of Manawatu representative sides for next year. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the MRU website.

9. Club Liaison Officer's Report (Martin Brady):

Mr Brady said he was looking to get around all clubs who are having AGMs in the coming months. He would be in contact with clubs in the near future.

The Union was looking at putting club jerseys on the top right hand corner of the MRU website and have them on a rotating basis. In order to do this, the Union requires club jerseys and Mr Brady will be in contact with each clubs.

Mr Brady notified the clubs of the following courses through Sport Manawatu:

- Club Marketing and Promotion – 16th November 2006 6-8pm at Sport Manawatu
- Event Management – 30th November 2006 6-8pm at Sport Manawatu
- Volunteer Management (Events) – 14th December 2006 6-8pm at Sport Manawatu

The courses cost \$5 each with the Union covering the cost for those attending.

10. Academy Report (Chris Ricketts):

Chris Ricketts spoke on behalf of academy manager Paul Martin and said the following:

- The new academy intake had begun with the academy ending up with 20-25 new members to join the existing 10 members. This increase has been due to more players staying in the province. Clubs should be working on attracting these players.
- In December the academy will introduce training for 50 Pre Academy players (still at school or just didn't make academy).
- The academy is formulating plans for the 'Junior Academy' players from rugby four other codes (4 x year) and hold Leadership Courses.
- The academy has 15 2006 academy members in the wider Turbos training squad of 50, three of those played Air New Zealand Cup rugby this year.

11. General Business:

- The MRU AGM is scheduled for the third Monday in February (19 February 2007).

Meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 29 January 2007 in the Referees' Room at FMG Stadium, Palmerston North at 7pm.

Chairman:

Date: