



Centurions Rugby Football Club (Inc)
PO Box 11-101 Wellington New Zealand
www.centurionsrugby.co.nz

August 2017

Presidents message



Well the 2017 season is flying by with the Lions tour done and dusted, and Hurricanes ending their season on a relatively disappointing note, bowing out at the semi-final stage. Club rugby for the season is over for most teams, and congratulations to OBU for taking out the Jubilee Cup, Oriental-Rongotai the Women's final, and Petone the Colts final, (coached by our committee member Ian Tulloch).

The Wellington Lions began their season on Sunday 20th August, a schedule of games is at the end of this newsletter.

Just a reminder that the Centurions Clubrooms will not be open for these matches. However all financial members are invited to use the WRFU Lounge opposite our Clubrooms. Just produce your current membership card or guest pass and you will be allowed entry to the Lounge. There is covered seating in front of the Lounge to allow you to watch the matches in comfort in the event of inclement weather.

We need to show our support for the Lions in their attempt to regain Division One status, and it will be great if we can see a large number of our members in attendance at the Lions home games.

Andrew Robinson
President

Centurions representative matches.

It is a very busy time of the year for the Centurions Club as two of our teams are participating in competitions over the next few weeks.

Under 18.

The first of these is our Under 18 team, coached by Damian Rapira-Davies and Paul Swift and managed by Andrew Robinson.

One of the main aims of Centurions over the last few years is the promotion of Age Group rugby in the Wellington Region, providing a pathway for College leavers to integrate into the Club rugby system. Our current Centurions committee have seen a gap in the present playing schedule in that Under 18 rugby was not being catered for. Wellington and the NZRFU have been concentrating and promoting the Under 19 and Under 20 age groups on the regional and national stage. This caters for all the top echelon of players, mainly from the larger single sex Colleges.

However we have seen that a number of college leavers in the younger age group, and those late bloomers who have not made the top tier College's first XV's or Wellington Academy teams, are not really catered for.

So again this year we have continued our tradition of entering a team in the Hurricanes Youth Council Under 18 Tournament.

The schedule of games is as follows:

Saturday 2nd September v. East Coast in Tolaga Bay.

Saturday 9th September v. Horowhenua-Kapiti at Playford Park in Levin at 1pm

Saturday 16th September v Wellington Catholic U18 at Jerry Collins Stadium at 12.30pm.

Saturday 23rd September Finals day. Venue and time tbc.

The other teams participating in Pool B are Wellington Samoans, Wairarapa Bush and Manawatu.

We wish our Centurion Under 18 players the best of luck and hope they enjoy their games and the trip up to Tolaga Bay. I am sure their rugby careers will be greatly enhanced by the knowledge passed on to them by our experienced coaching panel.

Wellington Development team

This season the WRFU are placing more importance on their Development team, which will now rank second in order of priority beneath the Wellington Lions. They will be conducting a mini tournament from which the Development team will be selected. Dion Waller will be the coach of the team, and any injuries in the Lions squad will be replaced by players from within the Development team.

Centurions have agreed to coach and manage a team in the mini tournament, and as with the Under 18 team, will be playing in Centurions colours. We feel that this will increase the depth of rugby at this level and hopefully help the Lions regain Division One status.

The Centurions team in this mini tournament is being coached by Matt Lee and Josh Syms and will be managed by Paul Rolton.

The playing schedule is:

Saturday 26th August v Wellington Maori at Porirua Park #2 at 2.30pm

Saturday 2nd September bye

Saturday 9th September v Hawkes Bay Saracens at Napier

Saturday 16th September v Manawatu Development at Palmerston North.

Saturday 23rd September v Wellington Samoan at Porirua Park #2 at 2.30pm.

The Wellington Development team will be selected from players in the Wgtn Samoan, Wgtn Maori and Centurions teams.

College Coaching games

Another Centurions tradition has been to hold coaching games with second tier rugby Colleges in the Wellington region.

These have the double purpose of passing on the knowledge from our experienced players as well as introducing them to Club rugby.

Tracy Smith and his rugby committee have adapted to changing times at the Colleges, and they now involve a Wellington rugby Club, buddied up with a local College.

Last year we played Wainuiomata College hosted by the Wainuiomata RFC.

Earlier in the season it was Petone RFC. and Hutt International Boys School.

This time it was Norths RFC and the local Porirua Colleges.

Jacob Ellison for Norths arranged a selection of rugby players from the local Colleges, and Tracy and his committee with the help from players like Nick Risdon arranged a team of players from local rugby Clubs. Most of the Centurions team players have played well over 100 games each for their Clubs.

The coaching game was held at Porirua Park and played in 10 to 15 minute blocks, with five minute one on one coaching for the College players, in between.

After the game, Centurions sponsored a meal and refreshments for the players and their parents, at the Norths clubrooms.

We have found this method to be highly successful, the young College players benefit from the one on one coaching from our experienced players, and then they have the opportunity to meet the coaches and management from the local Club. Hopefully this will encourage them to continue their rugby careers once they leave College.

If anyone knows of a College or Club who would like to participate in this next season, could they please contact Tracy at tracy.tsc@xtra.co.nz or Hamish Vance at vancevivian@xtra.co.nz

Finally Centurions would like to thank all those players who willingly gave of their time to make these games so successful.

Centurions annual luncheon

What a fantastic event this was again, held on the eve of the second Lions Test against the All Blacks and attended by over 900 rugby lovers.

The speakers were excellent, the food was great and the service under very trying circumstances was very good.

The Club wishes to thank Paul Rolton for all the time and energy he puts in to make this function such a great success. It is our main source of fundraising, which enables us to carry out our representative playing programme.

This year we have two teams and expensive travel commitments, which will use up all the profits from this function.

The Luncheon also allows us to assist our favourite charity, the NZ Rugby Foundation who do such a marvellous job in assisting seriously injured rugby players, to integrate back into society. Thanks very much to all those attendees who donated to the Foundation through the envelopes on the table.

Although we have not been advised of an official figure, Paul received a text from Lisa as she boarded the plane back to Auckland, saying that she had over \$17,000 in her purse. Hopefully she arrived home safely with it.

We also raised over \$5,000 for the NZRF from items auctioned on the day.

Paul is already planning next year's Luncheon, which will be held on the Friday in the second week of June, the eve of the All Blacks v France test match.

Centurions annual golf day, Friday 9TH February 2018.

Our annual golf tournament is coming up on 9 February at Shandon Golf Club in Petone.

Half the proceeds from the day go to support our rugby programme, and the other half go to the N Z Rugby Foundation for the support of very injured players.

We invite all of our members, players and officials from Wellington clubs to be part of this day.

The cost is \$200 for a team of four, and for those who don't have a team, they can enter as individuals and we will make them up into a team.

We really want to boost the numbers this year- so we want at least one team entry from every rugby Club in Wellington, including WRFU, NZRFU, Wellington referees and any other kindred clubs.

Sponsorships and donations of prizes are always welcome.

Entry forms will be available soon on our website.

For further information please contact Nigel Stirling 4969992 or 021 874632.

Message from our Patron.

Our own living rugby legend, Patron Mick Bremner, has paid a tribute on the sad passing of Sir Colin Meads.

Colin wore an All Black Jersey from 1957 to 1971.

15 years. That alone at such a level is UNIQUE.

A staggering achievement, and a reminder of how strong and durable he was.

Only a farmer could have done that.

In the side that toured South Africa in 1960, even at this early point of his All Black career, Colin had already earned the respect and affection of his teammates, whilst playing an important role in the Test matches.

In rugby Lore what else can one say.

“With Colin the Team always came first”

Wellington Lions home matches 2017.

Sat 26th August v Taranaki 2.30pm Westpac Stadium Wellington Old Timers Day

Wed. 6th September v. Hawkes Bay 7.35 Westpac Stadium

Sun. 17th September v. Canterbury 4.35 pm Westpac Stadium

Sun. 1st October v. Otago 2.35pm Westpac Stadium

Thurs. 12th October v Northland 7.35pm Westpac Stadium.

Semi-finals and finals to be advised.

Contact details

Have your contact details changed recently? If so we would like to keep our database right up to scratch and would appreciate your updated details.

Centurion members change of contact details.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone details.....

Email Address.....

Please post to The Secretary, P O Box 11 101, Wellington, or email to gr_brooking@xtra.co.nz