



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

March 2015

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the 76th Annual General Meeting of the Centurions Rugby Football Club Inc. will be held in the **Arabica Café, 1 Grey Street, Wellington** at 6.00.pm on Monday 23rd March 2015.

Our usual venue at the Clubrooms Westpac Stadium is unavailable because of the Cricket World Cup.

AGENDA

1. Presidents Welcome
2. Apologies.
3. Obituaries.
 Paul Neal
 Murray Gifford
 Richard Newsome
4. Confirmation of Minutes of 75th AGM.
5. Matters Arising
6. Presidents Report
7. Financial Report
8. Election of Officers.
9. Confirmation of new members
10. General Business.
11. Meeting close
12. Refreshments

We are looking for a good turnout. Please come along and play your part in the smooth and effective running of our Club.

If you are unable to attend, apologies may be sent to me, gr_brooking@extra.co.nz.

G.R. Brooking
Secretary

President's message



A big thank you to all of our members who supported our 75th anniversary celebrations in 2014. We have received some very positive feedback on our events, and we are pleased that so many members took the opportunity to attend our end of year Christmas drinks at the offices of New Zealand Rugby. It was fascinating to take a tour inside HQ and to gain some understanding of the resources and teams of people needed to deliver rugby excellence in what is increasingly a complex rugby and commercial environment. We have recorded our utmost appreciation to Steve Tew and especially to Neil Sorensen for their contributions in making us so welcome and for ensuring that our visit was informative and enjoyable.

As we near the end of a fantastic summer and as we begin to look forward to an enticing year of rugby in 2015, I am mighty pleased to see foul weather at the top of the Super Rugby ladder – the Hurricanes and the Stormers! Can we dare to dream that this will be our year in Super Rugby?...closely followed by the Lions having a cracking year and resuming their rightful place in the Premier Division!.... and of course our All Blacks going back to back by picking up a not insignificant trophy later in the year in the UK! With the Black Caps in scintillating form, the NZ Breakers securing their championship and the Phoenix challenging for the A-League, perhaps the NZ sporting stars are aligning! Maybe we should defer that re-assessment of options for our flag until we have hoisted this one even higher!

There are changes at Wellington Rugby. We hope that the recent restructuring processes deliver the benefits intended and that all of our fellow WRFU clubs can be re-engaged and re-unified with the WRFU in propelling Wellington Rugby back to the top. We also have a new premier club rugby competition format and a WRFU report on how we can improve the linkages between schools and clubs to get improved rugby and player retention outcomes for schools and clubs. We remain very supportive of Wellington Rugby and we will continue to work with them to provide some terrific rugby opportunities for schools, youth and middleweight teams.

Amongst all the changes we continue to plan our own activities for the year ahead and we do hope to entice you to continue to support our rugby and social programme in 2015. In particular we want to provide more options to bring us together to watch some Hurricanes and Lions matches at Westpac Stadium. More details about that soon and in the meantime I look forward to catching up with members at our AGM later this month.

Nigel Stirling
President

Hurricanes off to a promising start

As a loyal fan of the Canes, I am pleased with the fantastic start made by winning three games in South Africa and Perth.

To recap, Beauden Barrett kicked five penalties as the Hurricanes, despite limited possession and territory, got off to a flyer beating the Lions 22-8 in Johannesburg. That was followed by the Bulls win to secure two victories in South Africa for the first time since 2006, the year of that infamous fog final at Jade Stadium. Winning in Pretoria is no mean feat as the Bulls in the past have won two titles at their beloved Loftus Versfeld. To grind out a win there takes guts and determination and so far the Hurricanes have it in spades.

Last week the hapless Force were mauled 42-13 in Perth. Normally the Perth stopover is a severe speed bump for New Zealand teams but the Hurricanes negotiated it with ease. In that Force game, Julian Savea showed why he is going to be the most dangerous wing in the competition. En-route to his try he bumped off three defenders.

Although Savea put the icing on the cake with his try, Nehe Milner-Skudder should be one to watch in the remainder of the 2015 season. With blistering pace and an eye for the gap, Milner-Skudder sliced through the Force defence before setting up a try passing the ball to 'King Julian' and Savea sauntered in. And that was his cameo off the bench. Although the Manawatu fullback's cameo was brief, he has impressed in pre-season training and deserves a few starts. Nehe reminds me of a 2012 Andre Taylor with the way he runs and steps.

I could ramble on about how magnificent the backs have been but as the old cliché goes, it all starts up front.

Reggie Goodes, Dane Coles and Ben Franks have stood up in the front row. Lock James Broadhurst has carried on his strong NPC form with Taranaki, Mark Abbott from Hawkes Bay has impressed since starting in place of the injured Jeremy Thrush. The loose forward trio has changed in recent weeks with Brad Shields, Victor Vito, Blade Thomson, Ardie Savea and Callum Gibbins all rotating positions meaning there is genuine competition in the forwards with two having to warm the bench each week.

With the tour out the way, the focus now turns to the winless Blues in Palmerston North this week for the first home game.

The Blues may not have won yet but with Sir John Kirwan under pressure to deliver results to the struggling Auckland franchise they will be fired up. At Auckland the Blues are at their best but away from home they are at their worst. In fact on an interesting side note, the Blues have only won two games away from home in the last two seasons. so treat that with caution. There are outstanding individual players in the Blues team, Keven Mealamu, Patrick Tuipulotu, Charles Piutau and Jerome Kaino but they aren't performing with cohesion.

Following this game the Highlanders lie in wait at Dunedin. The season draw is at the end of this newsletter.

The Hurricanes are back at Westpac Stadium on the 27th of March facing the Melbourne Rebels. I urge all Hurricanes fans to get down and support this season at all home games. There will be some 50 and 100 game Hurricanes leaving the club this year to head overseas in Ben Franks, Conrad Smith, Ma'a Nonu and Jeremy Thrush so it really is the end of an experience and a hardnosed forward pack.

Jack Callender

Misplaced Memorabilia

Our last stock-take of memorabilia in the clubrooms identified two lost items:

- (1) Limited Edition No 38 of 1200 Men in Black book,
- (2) A group of five framed reprint photos of All Blacks and various teams.

If anyone know the whereabouts of these items please contact a committee member.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan has now been completed. This document, along with the Strategic Plan Financial Budget is extensive and thorough. Nigel Stirling will complete a summarised version and this document will be available on our website shortly.

Subs are now due!

There are still a number of member's subs which should have been paid by now. If your subs are still outstanding payment as soon as possible would be appreciated please.

Subs are	Membership	\$35.00
	Additional guest pass (No maximum)	\$10.00
	Donation	\$......

Subs may be paid by cheque posted to The Treasurer, P O Box 11,101 Wellington 6142 or by Internet banking to **Westpac account 03 0502 0167978 00**.

Please include your name and details of payment (e.g. "sub and 2 guests") in particulars/reference columns so that your payment can be correctly identified.

We have had some deposits this year with no reference so unfortunately we are unable to send out the membership cards!

If you have not received an invoice it may be that we do not have your up to date contact details and if this is the case we would greatly appreciate being advised of your correct address.

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

Web-site

Have a look at: www.centurionsrugby.co.nz to be kept up-to-date on what is happening at the Club, some great photo's too!

Centurions Secondary School First XV Games

We are currently planning our 2015 school boy First XV programme.

Current Programme

v HIBS	Wed 18 March (date tbc)
v Rongatai College	Wed 01 April
v Wellington College	Wed 15 April

If your school is interested in playing us please contact me ASAP. We have had a good level of enquiry this year. As we all know these games have been extremely beneficial to the schools over the last ten years. Please contact Hamish Vance Ph 0274 402069

Annual luncheon

Our annual luncheon will be held on **Friday 28 August 2015**. As most of you know there is no test match in Wellington this year, however we are pleased to announce that the guest speaker this year is **Sir Graham Henry**. Being World Cup year your committee thought that Sir Graham would be the most appropriate speaker.



The day will be another great event. Please support the luncheon as it is our major fundraiser of the year (over 50% of our income!) as this money directly funds our 2015 rugby programme as well as the New Zealand Rugby Foundation.

If you have not confirmed your table and would like to attend, your best action is to contact Paul Rolton as quickly as possible so that there is no disappointment, ph 027 353 8951 or prolton@xtra.co.nz

Centurions Charity Golf Tournament

(In support of the NZ Rugby Foundation and the Centurions rugby programme).

The annual golf tournament this year will be held at the Shandon Golf Club in Petone (date tbc)



If you would like to enter a team email Nigel Stirling at nigel.stirling@gibsonsheat.com

Remaining Hurricanes fixtures for 2015

Fri 13 Mar, 7:35PM	Hurricanes v Blues	FMG Stadium, Palmerston North
Fri 20 Mar, 7:35PM	Highlanders v Hurricanes	Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
Fri 27 Mar, 7:35PM	Hurricanes v Rebels	Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Fri 3 Apr, 7:35PM	Hurricanes v Stormers	Westpac Stadium, Wellington
BYE		
Sat 18 Apr, 4:30PM	Hurricanes v Waratahs	Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Sun 26 Apr, 6:05PM	Reds v Hurricanes	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Sat 2 May, 7:35PM	Hurricanes v Crusaders	Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Sat 9 May, 7:35PM	Hurricanes v Sharks	Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Sat 16 May, 7:35PM	Hurricanes v Chiefs	Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Sat 23 May, 7:35PM	Blues v Hurricanes	Eden Park, Auckland
Fri 29 May, 7:35PM	Crusaders v Hurricanes	Trafalgar Park, Nelson
Fri 5 Jun, 7:35PM	Hurricanes v Highlanders	Venue to be confirmed
Sat 13 Jun, 7:35PM	Chiefs v Hurricanes	Yarrow Stadium, New Plymouth