

# Centurions Rugby Football Club

## President's Annual Report 2013

I am happy to report 2013 was a successful year for the Centurions.

Our U18 side won the Hurricanes U18 B tournament convincingly. We are hoping to also be involved in the Hurricanes U18 programme this year, and if possible in the A competition. We worked closely with the WRFU, cooperating in selecting our respective U18 sides, and training together at the same venue.

The middleweights again competed in the Barbarians Tournament in Auckland. Unfortunately they didn't claim the silverware, but were highly competitive. A couple of losses in the round robin put them out of contention, but they denied North Harbour the championship by beating them in their final game.

This year we played three coaching games against HIBs, St Bernards and Rongatai 1<sup>st</sup> XV's. The coaching games continue to offer great value to young players, as witnessed every time by the dramatic improvement after our players give a bit of coaching and general encouragement. We frequently receive positive feedback from the schools involved, and we see a lot of value in keeping this programme going. In recent times it has become more and more difficult to source players and fixtures. To boost the profile and assist with the availability of Centurions players, we are trialling a Friday night match this week.

The pre-test luncheon was a tremendous success and we welcomed the attendance of the Prime minister, who added to the prestige. We had a great choice of guest speaker in Nick Farr Jones. All in all it made for a great occasion, and we were able to donate a significant sum to the NZ Rugby Foundation. The Luncheon in some ways defines the Centurions and I am glad to report the event is in great shape.

The annual golf day was an improvement on 2012, but we would still like to see a few more teams entered. The atmosphere on the day was fantastic, and hopefully word will spread that this is a thoroughly enjoyable day. The introduction of the inter rugby club trophy looks like a smart move, and should attract the representation of a few more clubs this year.

Financially we remain in a strong position and produced a net surplus of \$12 k. A big contributor was the luncheon, where we have seen the profitability restored somewhat after a few lean years due to the recession. Also we have carefully managed our spending to allow us to run two representative teams without exceeding our allotted budget. We have extended our fund raising capabilities by ensuring we have a better ability to apply for grants from charitable trusts. This will allow us to extend our rugby programme in the future if we wish to.

A big feature of the Executive's effort this year was completing a Strategy Review to ensure our club's continued success in the coming years. Our strategic goals are focussed around: maintaining a vibrant membership experience, best focussing of efforts to support grassroots rugby, raising the profile of the Centurions and boosting our membership, planning our finances accordingly, and ensuring our governance structures are appropriate for our needs.

This AGM marks our 75<sup>th</sup> year, and we hope to recognise this accordingly with a high profile match and a special function. This ties in nicely with our Strategy Review and we will use this milestone to further boost the profile of the Centurions.

Finally I wish to say a big thanks to all of those who have helped to make the year a success, especially our Executive of Denys Latham, Nigel Stirling, Graeme Brooking, Murray Usmar, Hamish Vance, Nigel Hughes, Mike Russell, Paul Rolton, Tracy Smith and Ian Tulloch. I also like to make a special mention of our Patron, Mick Bremner for his constant encouragement and support for the Executive. Some additional people deserve a mention: The managers and coaches for our Rep programme: Paul Swift and Dave Loveridge for the U18s and Greg Halford and Barry Luke for the U85s. Also a big thanks to Graham Stephen for publishing the newsletter, and Mike Copeland for his MC duties at the luncheon.

It's been a wonderful honour and a very enjoyable experience being your President in 2013. I wish President Elect Nigel Stirling all the very best and I'm very much looking forward to a successful 2014 and our 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations with Nigel at the helm.

Matt Anderson