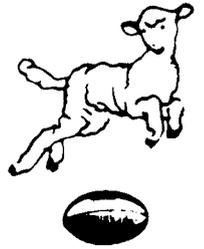


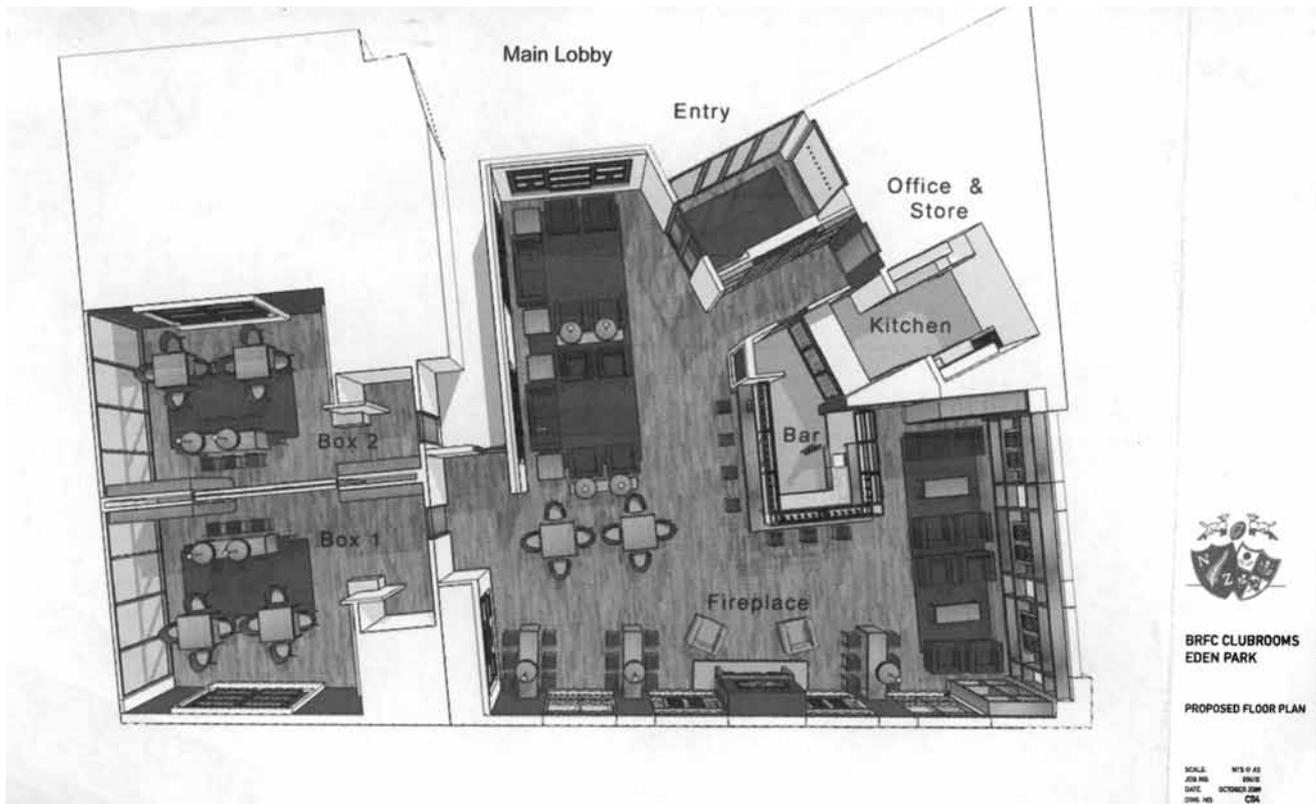


BAA BAA NEWS



The newsletter of The Barbarian Rugby Football Club Inc
Cricket Ave, Auckland New Zealand

October 2009



The Way ahead

Sometime in the next week or two Barbarians members will sit down at two meetings and decide whether the above architect's impression of the Club's new headquarters in the ASB stand at Eden Park will become a fact.

The decision to accept or decline the facilities shown above (based on the room the Club has been using recently) must be made by a special general meeting of the Club.

To save time, Barbarians committee members are pressing to have the annual general meeting -- usually in November --- held immediately after the special meeting.

At the time this Newsletter was being prepared the timing of the meetings was still being arranged. Once that decision is made the usual notice of meeting will be sent to members, so this article may be either a useful early-warning system, and hopefully not second in the race.

The above design contains several changes from the present premises. At the left the lounge will have a new door, giving entry to the two boxes that the Barbarians will have for on-field viewing.

At the right the bar has been moved inward, forming an island, with a kitchen attached.

The plan lists a "fireplace" in the foreground, but apparently fire-safety regulations will not allow this.

Neil Cotton, of the ASC Architects business, said the new plan had been designed to offer as much space as possible for the memorabilia that was in the now-demolished clubhouse. The stained glass windows, a feature of the old house, will be among the memorabilia incorporated in the new design.

For Your Diary

October 16: New Members night, Clubrooms, 6.30 pm. Please inform John Cresswell Ph 3030606 email johnc@seculo.co.nz mobile 021-703-604.

November 12: John Drake Memorial Golf day, Hauraki course, shot-gun start, 10 am. Please inform John Cresswell Ph 3030606 mobile 021-703-604 email johnc@seculo.co.nz.



New Members



Kevin Ramsey-- CEO McCann Eriksen- Asia Pacific: 70 games Auckland, 12 years Grammar Old Boys.

Chris Key-- Marketing manager, Panasonic: Bombay, Manurewa clubs, Counties 1981-95.

Campbell Burnes-- Journalist: Sacred Heart College, NZ under 17 1991. Manu Samoa 1995. Played in Scotland, Wales, France, Thames Valley. Rugby and cricket for Auckland University

Cliff Lyon-- Lawyer: Grammar Old Boys. Coached University under-19, under 21 (3 championships), Auckland under 85kg, 80-80 tournament Thailand. Refereed at Counties.

Rob Hargrave-- Chartered accountant: Auckland University, . coached University teams (with Cliff Lyons), Auckland under 85kg. Life member, Auckland University.

Mark Birtwistle-- Transport manager: Auckland Colts, Auckland, Counties representative. Western Samoa World Cup, Suburbs and Pukekohe clubs.

Michael Johnson-- Builder: NZ under 19, Hawkes Bay centurion, Hurricanes 2008, captain Hawkes Bay, NZ divisional team.

Peter Russell-- Hawkes Bay selector, coached Marist -St Pats (3 titles), Wairarapa-Bush (Heartlands champions), Hawkes Bay (semi-finalists 2008)

Dave Stevenson-- Rugby manager: Hawkes Bay RU, club and representative Hawkes Bay player, many years club committee and coach, rugby manager Southland 1997-2000, Hawkes Bay and Magpies 2000-2008.

Todd Male--: Owner Route 66 Fashion House: Captain St Kentigern 1st XV, played for Grammar, captain Auckland under 21, played Wasps London, SNUC Nantes 3 years, committee member Grammar-Carlton club.

Mark Robinson--Chief executive Taranaki union, played Canterbury 1999-2003, Taranaki 1997-98, Wellington 1954-1995, NZ University 1994-96, Crusaders 2000-2002, All Blacks 2000-2002, Post graduate student, Cambridge University.

Ian Eliason-- Dairy farmer: Ambassador, Taranaki union, Taranaki (222 games), North Island 1970-72, NZ Trials, 1966-77, NZ Juniors 1966-68, All Blacks, 1972-73, coached Kaponga club.

Gordon Slater -- Dairy farmer: coach New Plymouth Old Boys, Taranaki 1991-2005 (174 games), NZ trials 1993-98, Hurricanes 1997-2005, NZ A 1988-99, coach New Plymouth Old Boys.

Andrew Slater-- Dairy farmer: Coach Taranaki under 20's, Taranaki 1989-2001 (180 games), NZ Trial 1993, Hurricanes 2001.

Peter Rowe-- Farmer: Ruapehu club, various grade reps in Rangitikei, Wanganui captain, 50+-games, many times captain, Heartland touring team captain, club administrator.

Tony Aston-- Company director: MAGS 1st XV, Auckland University senior, club team manager, committee, president, Auckland Colts, NZU 1961-62, NZ junior mile champion and record holder, NZ mile champion, NZU athletic blue.

Ken Parry-- Property manager: Northcote, Ardmore clubs, Auckland Colts 1977-78, Bordeaux University club, Auckland 1979-81, Counties 1983-89, All Black trial 1987.



Hamilton High



The Hamilton Boys High School 1st XV completed an outstanding season by winning the Novotel-Barbarians Top Four national title with a 17-0 win over St Bedes College in the final at Rotorua

St Bedes had won the South Island title for the Press Cup earlier in the season, and Hamilton beat the Auckland champions, Mt Albert Grammar in the semifinal. St Bedes had beaten Napier Boys High in the other semifinal.

This win gave Hamilton a second year-grip on the famed Moascar Cup, the challenge trophy which they won in 2008, and have survived 10 challenge since.

Feilding High School beat Aorere College, 31-9, in the final of the Co-Ed schools competition for the Barbarians Shield.

Phil Lindesay, the Barbarians president who headed the Club group at the tournament, said the whole weekend had been most satisfactory. This was the second year in succession at Rotorua and the national schools organization were considering making it the permanent venue for the Top Four event.

"Everyone seemed pleased with the second event, Rotorua is reasonably central, and has very good playing and accommodation facilities for such a tournament."

The tournament details were:--

SEPTEMBER 5

Barbarians and Novotel 1st XV and Co-ed Semifinals

10 am (Co-ed): Feilding HS 29, Gore HS, 10.

11.30 am (1st XV): St Bedes College 26, Napier Boys High, 9

1 pm (Co-ed): Aorere College 22, Opotiki College, 17.

2.30 pm (1st XV): Hamilton Boys High 20, Mt Albert Grammar 8.

SEPTEMBER 7

Play-offs.-- 10 am (Co-ed 3 v 4): Opotiki College 46, Gore High School 28.

11.30 am: Final, NZ Barbarian Co-ed: Feilding High School 31, Aorere College 9

12.30 pm (1st XV 3 v 4): Mt Albert Grammar 48, Napier Boys High 17.

1.30 pm: Final, Novotel 1ST XV: Hamilton Boys High 17, St Bedes, 0.

NZ SCHOOLS TEAM

Michael Allerdice, Antonio Kirikiri (Palmerston North), Gareth Anscombe (Rosmini), Carl Axtens, Sam Cane (Tauranga), Chauncey Edwardson (Hamilton), Hanipale Galo, Norman Goodes, Solomona Sakalia, Lima Sapoaga (Wellington), Steven Luatua, Albert Nikora (Mt Albert), Tino Nemani (Sacred Heart), Otenili Moala (Auckland Grammar), Michael Stewart (St Bedes), Ole Palesuma (St Patricks Silverstream), Thomas Perana (Mana), Charles Piutau (Wesley), Francis Saili (St Peters College), Ben Tameifuna (Hastings), Codie Taylor (Feilding), Joseph Tupe (De La Salle) Ofa Tuungafasi (Mangere), Papa Wharewera (Rotorua).

Stand-by players: Fraser Armstrong, Sefo Setephano, Nick Ross, Nathan George (Hamilton High), Heiden Bedwell-Curtis (New Plymouth), George Doig, Andrew Tuise (Tauranga), Jayson Potroz (Francis Douglas).

Footnote: New Zealand Schools won their 'test' against Australia 28-24 at Ballymore.



Middleweights A-Go



Buoyed by the success of their inaugural four-team Middleweight tournament at College Rifles, the Barbarians involved with the under 85kg grade are making more expansive plans for next winter.

"The first tournament at College Rifles involving Auckland, North Harbour, Harlequins and Thames Valley 2nd XV was a great success," said Bryan Craies, who has led the Barbarian backing for the Middleweights." Very likely we will hold another similar tournament next season.

"However, at the moment we are planning to have return visits from two Sydney clubs, Beecroft and Dee Why --- our opponents when the Barbarians fielded a middleweight side on tour to Sydney earlier this year.

We hope to have them on tour in March, and "we are making plans for a special Middleweights match against Thames Valley. Back in 1937 Hugh McLean and Ron Bush led a team against Thames in a special fund-raising match for the sub-union, and this was really the birth of our Barbarians club."

Craies hopes the Club members will rally round and support the match at Thames -- " what you might call a sentimental journey following the trail started by that side 77 years before."

Results:--

September 5: Auckland 16 (S Thomson, try; N Williams, con, 3 pens), North Harbour, 6 (M Marwick, J Clark, pens). Harlequins, 22 (Q Cotterell, A Bailey, R Dolton, tries; A Steels, 2 cons, pen) Thames Valley B, 6 (J White, 2 pens). Harlequins, 13 (T Casey, try; A Steele, con, 2 pens), Auckland, 10 (J Logan, try; C Smith, con, N Williams, pen). North Harbour 27 (M McDonald, D Hendry, R Sinn, D Engelbrecht, tries; D Richards, pen, con, J Clarke, con), Thames Valley, 7 (E Viese, try; J White, con).

September 6: Auckland, 21 (K Bunker, K Eddy, K Logan, S Kitchener, R Lee, tries; C Smith 3 con), Thames Valley B, 0. North Harbour 3 (D Richards, pen), Harlequins, 0. Third-fourth play-off: Harlequins, 28 (T Parkes, A Pooley, A Bailey, R Dolton, tries; Steele 2 con, T Casey 2 con), Thames Valley B, 13 (A Roskam, S Hill, tries; D Watson, pen).

Final: Auckland 6 (N Williams 2 pen), North Harbour, 3 (D Richards pen).



Wallaby Wallop



Australian rugby fans got a nasty shock with the Wallabies' wide loss to the All Blacks in the test at the Caketin, last month, and suffered another body blow a few days afterward.

Preparing for the Tokyo test against the All Blacks, and then a full-on European tour, the Australian Rugby Union decided a trial would be a good way of sifting the wheat from the chaff. It might also be a good little earner and also give the Australian public a glimpse at some of the players who were over the hill, and the new ones coming up the other side.

In the worst traditions of sports trade unionism the senior Wallabies said they would play a trial, but only if they had \$A2500 pressed into their hot little hands. This would be on top of the generous contracts many of the Wallabies have arranged with the ARU, which is further bolstered by an \$A11,000 bonus for each test they play.

Evidently, the senior Wallabies have not been completely happy with their financial lot, but the ARU and the general public were shaken by the fact the players wanted to be paid to play a trial. Also, Robbie Deans and the Wallaby management were concerned that established and hopeful Wallabies would not have much serious rugby before the tour, and a trial would give a realistic work-out before the tour selection. Also any promising youngsters might have a chance to get a bolter's reward by starring in the trial. And some of the older sweats might, judging on their Wellington form, might have their

shortcomings demonstrated.

The fact that the Wallabies' pay demands would have added \$110,000 to the ARU expenses was also a significant element.

So the ARU scrubbed the trial.



The Old Mates



The odds are that somewhere in New Zealand some sort of a rugby reunion is taking place every weekend but not too many with the feeling that goes when a bunch of former Thames Valley lads get together.

These are the survivors of the Thames Valley side which beat the touring Australians 16-14, the first and only Valley victory over a full-blown international side.

So what makes the Thames Valley get-together so special. Well, for one thing, there has not been a regular lot of re-unions every ten or 20 years or so. This last one just happened to be on September 18 2009, precisely 47 years since the great match. Nothing notable about 47 years, but the Valley men simply decided to get together, have a cleansing ale or several, and polish up some of the old yarns that are woven into Valley's rugby history.

This time the Valley men called in some outside help -- inviting John Thornett, the captain of the 1962 Australians to come and have a chat, or at least drop the lads a line.

Thornett replied by email to Kevin Barry, the Valley captain of the time...

"As I recall (and you may correct me if I am wrong) our team stayed at Te Aroha, the match venue, and Matamata, I did not play but watched from the stand.

"With about 15 minutesto go thereferee was clearly losing it. About then we were on our 25-yard line, there was a skirmish, and the ref blew his whistle."One of you smart Alecs -- it may have been you -- said: " it was one of those two players, sir," pointing to two of our players, one of whom was Geoff Chapman, a doctor. The ref made them shake hands and awarded you a penalty which you kicked and won the game.

"When we got back to the dressing room the ref was near collapse and Geoff Chapman was asked to attend to him. Some win!!!"

That raised a chuckle among the gathering last month, and inevitably brought tales of another refereeing incident -- this time when Valley were playing Auckland at Rhodes Park in Thames (they reckoned the ground was so low that at high tide you could catch flounder in the in-goal area) and a famed Valley character Doug Brown, who didn't mind a scrap, was hoeing into Alby Pryor, the celebrated Auckland forward who had whacked a few in his time.

Just as Alby hit Doug with a clean and hefty punch the referee saw the action and hurried toward the scrappers. Nearby Bob Graham, the Auckland skipper, said to himself that Alby was going to cop an ordering off this time. Alby got the same kind of message, but being a quick-thinking lad he buckled at the knees, gave a loud groan and collapsed, as if pole-axed to the ground. The ref, getting ready for the long single blast that would remove Alby, was so convinced by Alby's acting he gave three peeps on the whistle, calling for the Zambuk to tend to the groaning Pryor and restore him with amazing speed to full health.

Among the gathering were Neville McMillan the coach and one of nature's gentlemen, and Terry Shaw, a crackerjack fullback or five-eighths for Thames Valley, and opening batsman for Northern Districts.

The Valley team that great September 1962 day was: Terry Shaw, Ray Wells, Trevor Kilpin, Jim Mita, Alan Wilkinson, Billy Walsh, Ron Kerby, Maru Rangī, G Higgins, Kevin Barry, Jim Darrah, Doug Mold, Rex Holden, Andrew Townsend, Jim Maxwell.

The Valley win was all the more meritorious as they lost Mita in the eighth minute and played the rest of the game with 14 men.



Percy Tetzlaff (1920-2009)

It is fascinating, if futile, to wonder whether the 1949 All Blacks who were penalty-kicked to an 0-4 test result in South Africa would have been more successful had Percy Tetzlaff, who died a few weeks ago, been the halfback.

By 1947 the rugged little Tetzlaff (1.6m 68kg) had risen quickly to be the best in the land, playing both tests with the All Blacks in Australia. He came back in 1948 to complete his 46 games for Auckland, and to lead the Ponsonby seniors to a Gallaher Shield triumph in a season which saw Ponsonby score 505 points in 18 matches.

As the All Black selectors made their long-distance choice of players for the 1949 tour (many of them were either selected or ear-marked in 1948 and told to be super-fit by the time the 1949 tour started) Percy the pocket-battleship must have been high on their list.

Not as far as Tetzlaff was concerned. No-one was closer to Tetzlaff than the big young No 8 Murray Menzies on the field and they became firm allies.

The other day Murray spoke fondly of the sterling little halfback and mentioned, almost in passing, that the All Black selectors wanted Tetzlaff at halfback in South Africa.

Percy, on the other hand, may have enjoyed the tour of Australia, but, according to Murray, that was enough touring for Percy -- "he did not want to leave New Zealand again."

So Percy stayed at home, little Larry Savage and the not-so-little Bill Conrad were chosen as halfbacks and, apparently never really adjusted their play to the hard and fast grounds and the powerful assaults by the Springbok forwards. So much so that after Savage and Conrad had shared the first two tests the young first five-eighths Neville Black was halfback for the third test, and Savage returned for the fourth.

The pity was that Murray Menzies rated Percy as the best captain, the best reader of tactics, the man who knew instinctively what was promising and what was not, he had ever seen. In other words, the perfect on-field planner.

"When he captained Ponsonby he was a great leader, he knew exactly what was going on, he had complete control of his team. He could be grumpy, but he never singled out anyone for blame, just a quiet private word was all that was needed, said Menzies.

So Percy stayed at the home he loved, filled numerous high offices with Ponsonby, and as an engineer he played a big part in the club's re-building business but never sent in a bill for his expert advice.

At other times he grew grapefruit, and had a ceaseless love of the game of bowls -- even in his late 80's and on a couple of half-useful legs he would be rolling them up at the Barbarians' bowls day, and later content with a beer in his hand, a smile on his face, and the companionship of men whose game he adorned and adored..



Barrington James Herring 1936-2009

It is safe, now, to give him his full handle. He much preferred to be called "Barrie" in his earlier days, he thought Barrington tried to make him out to be something of a toff-- and Mr Herring had no wish to join the upper classes.

But he later cherished the nickname he deserved -- plain, ordinary, no-nonsense "Tank."

No-one is quite sure where the 'Tank' came from. It might well have come from the First World War when the tanks arrived -- squat, powerful, not given to high speeds but very effective in their parish. And as Barrie seemed to be tailor-made for the war-like grunt-and-groan life of the front row the new nickname fitted perfectly.

"Tank" was not one to react kindly to some mischief from the opposing front row, or some perceived errors by the referee. So the odds were that if there was a skirmish at the lineout or scrum "Tank" may well have taken a leading role.

So Tank won a few battles and lost a few -- one tale having him discovered navigating on foot his journey home along the north-western motorway.

But he played, full-bore, for the Waitemata seniors for 11 years or so, in the winning Gallaher Shield winning sides of 1958 and 1962 --- the latter a favourite part of Waitemata's history because they won all their games that year.

Tank was a more relaxed lad by then -- Barry Hutchinson's erudite coaching talks probably rubbing off the last of the harsh edges.

So Tank moved into coaching, with Waitemata and East Coast Bays and Takapuna -- and took special pride from the performances of the under-21 lads he trained.

But he could still bristle when he felt offended, or put upon. Terry Sheehan, the wacky lad from North Shore, was staging benefit games for his Evergreens Sunday teams, and Tank was among the East Coast Bays side that played the Evergreens.

Kevin Barry was in Sheehan's side and persuaded Pat Bosley, a top referee at the time, that it would be a bit of a lark if Tank was ordered off.

So after some imagined offence Herring was ordered off -- fuming. Realising the joke had gone long enough, Barry genially asked Tank to return to the game.

"Not bloody likely (perhaps a little more basic than that)," said Tank. "I am off, and you, Barry, should stick to your beer-brewing (Kevin worked for DB at the time).

But out Waitemata way they know how to turn a basic wine into the finest vintage, and over later years Tank flourished in family life, business and with his wholesale support of the Waitemata club. He was a highly-valued member and worker in the Barbarians Club. He became an NZRFU resource coach and then formed with one of his many great mates, Kevin Gimblett, one of the best liaison outfits the All Blacks have ever had when playing at, or leaving from, Auckland.

Some of his family were with him when cancer finished him off. Tank had a smile on his face, but he was worrying at the end how his adored Labrador Carter would handle his master's absence.