

# BAABAA NEWS

The newsletter of The Barbarian Rugby Football Club Inc. Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz)



The Barbarians enjoyed their festival match against Bombay in March.  
Photo: Terry Horne

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

*Super Rugby is well underway and credit should go to Sir John Kirwan and his team for the on-field transformation of the Blues.*

*I am sure a lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes to change players' attitudes and disciplines. Travelling to South Africa will be a real test. We will see if the Blues can take one of the top two spots in the New Zealand conference.*

### **Bombay RFC 125th anniversary**

*Club captain Mark Moore did a great job organising a Baabaas team of mainly past players to take on the Bombay boys for their 125th club celebrations. Slade McFarland, Pita Alatini, Glen and Tony Marsh and Kere Maihi were some of the Baabaas stars which took the win 42-15. Great work Mark, and good support from Roger Moore on the day.*

### **North Shore RFC 140th celebrations**

*North Shore Rugby Club is celebrating its 140th jubilee on Sunday June 2, Queen's Birthday weekend. The Barbarians will be fielding two teams: a middleweight side selected from Auckland and North Harbour, and a Barbarian past players side with some of our past stars blessing the field. Please get down to the North Shore club and join in the festivities.*

### **Fun Day**

*Ron Williams has been working hard putting together this year's Fun Day on Sunday (May 26). This is a great chance to get together with the other members and have a yarn. I hope a lot of members have put their hands up to help. Please contact Ron if you are keen to participate and haven't heard from anyone. His mobile number is 021-908-610.*

### **New member nominations/subscriptions**

*We have had a large intake of new member nominations and the committee looks forward to naming the new members in the next few weeks. Thank you to those members who have made the effort to send in applications.*

*Membership to the NZ Barbarians is a token \$50 per annum. We still have a regular group of members (excluding the over-70s) who just don't pay the subscription. If you have an issue with being a member, please just send an email to John Cresswell at the club on [sec@brfc.co.nz](mailto:sec@brfc.co.nz) and we will remove you from the membership.*

*We have a lot of great things happening in the club in the coming years, so I am sure you will treasure your membership and pay your subscription.*

*Kind regards,*

**Mike Mills**  
President, Barbarians RFC

# Deaths Of Members

## **Bryce Rope (1923-2013)**

Bryce Rope coached the All Blacks in 1983-84 but had already been a long-time selector/coach for the New Zealand Universities, rising up the ranks to be a North Island and All Blacks selector and national sevens coach. In his playing days as a loose forward in the 1940s and '50, Rope appeared for Auckland (13 games) and the NZU. That was after he had served in the Air Force during the Second World War.

A life member of the Auckland University RFC, Rope was president of the club from 1965-67 and also coached the seniors. As All Blacks coach, he promoted the likes of John Kirwan, Jock Hobbs and Warwick Taylor.

His son Derek, also a Barbarian, is the general manager of the College Rifles Rugby and Sports Club. A poignant memorial evening for Bryce and also the late Murray Menzies was held at the club last month.

## **Les Deas (1923-2013)**

An Auckland Rugby Union and Teachers and Teachers-Eastern RFC life member, Les Deas put in a power of work for the game over many years.

As a swift centre, he played for Auckland and Otago in the 1940s before his rugby involvement morphed into coaching Teachers and Training College teams. Teaching was Deas' vocation and he became a schools inspector. He served as the ARU delegate for the Teachers and then Teachers-Eastern clubs for no less than 30 years (1956-86). In 1987 he was one of the go-to men in Auckland's organisation of the inaugural Rugby World Cup. Deas' brother Ken was a New Zealand cricket selector and served on the old Eden Park board of control. Les Deas loved a good debate and was a fine rugby character.

## **Bill Freeman (1922-2013)**

Regarded by many as unlucky not to succeed Fred Allen as All Blacks coach in 1969, Bill Freeman was one of the more astute rugby thinkers and coaches in New Zealand.

His senior rugby career started at Wellington's Petone club and he played seven games for Wellington from 1942-44, but it was as coach of the province that Freeman truly made his mark from 1964-70, taking the prized scalps of the Springboks in 1965 and the touring Lions the following year. An NZRFU councillor from 1973-86, he became the national coaching director. A life member of the Wellington union, he was awarded a QSM in 1990 for services to the community. Some of his coaching phrases have passed into the rugby lexicon, such as 'A coach must innovate to motivate' and 'Kick to land, not to hand.'

## **Lyn Russell (1933-2013)**

Until the advent of the prolific Terry Wright in the 1980s, the Auckland try-scoring record was held by Lyn Russell. His mark of 66 tries in close to 100 games from 1952-61 stood for over quarter of a century. A talented athlete and softballer, Russell made his first-class debut at just 17 and appeared several times for the Barbarians. A three-time All Blacks trialist, he was perhaps unlucky to miss out on the 1953-54 All Blacks tour of Britain and France. Far from idle after his playing days, Russell, who established a steel and wire manufacturing business, wrote and broadcast on rugby and was the North Harbour union's first director of coaching in 1985.

## MIDDLEWEIGHT TOURNEY

The Bryan Craies U85kg Cup played at Kumeu Rugby Club was a huge success, says tournament controller and Barbarian Deano Allnutt.

The prize was to decide the King of the Middleweights crown in the Blues franchise and was played over two Friday nights in March.

Twilight rugby was rewarded with some great weather and all the supporters were happy with what they saw and the fast free-flowing 20/20 rugby a first for club rugby in both regions.

The top two Auckland and North Harbour U85kg teams were College Rifles Raiders, Auckland U85kg club champions two years running, runners-up College Rifles Bombers, the current U85kg 7s champs; North Shore, North Harbour U85kg club champions the last three years, and Kumeu, runners-up in the last two years.

Results: College Rifles Raiders 6-3 Kumeu, College Rifles Bombers 14-10 North Shore;

College Rifles Bombers 14-10 Kumeu, College Rifles Raiders 21-8 North Shore.

Both College Rifles teams ended up on equal points. From there the number of tries scored meant the Rifles Bombers with four during the tournament were crowned the champs.

Sponsors were Harbour Rugby, Monty's Promotions, Husqvarna NZ, Kumeu Rugby Club, Glenn Wheeler and Chrissie Van Hoff.



*Scott Thomson, NZ Barbarians middleweight rep and captain of the winning College Rifles Bombers, receiving the Bryan Craies Cup from the man himself.*

## BAABAAS v BOMBAY

Sunday March 31 was the date, Bombay Rugby Club was the venue.

The Barbarians were in action to help the venerable Counties Manukau club blow out 125 candles on their birthday cake. Bombay stalwart and Baabaas club captain Mark Moore did a sterling job putting together a very competitive side. Mark was a tad stressed due to some late withdrawals and defections, but his team did him and the club proud. Eschewing kicking to such an extent that boot was put to ball just three times, the Barbarians defeated a Bombay President's XV 42-15 over the four-quarter match. The altitude was only a factor late in the

clash! There was a compelling mix of young and middle-aged, with young men and rep players from the wider Auckland region such as Sean Reidy, Waka Setitaia and Josh York gelling nicely with Manurewa's finest, the Marsh brothers and Kere Maihi, joining with Slade McFarland and Pita Alatini. The latter duo coach East Coast Bays and Pakuranga respectively.

On hand were Barbarians, inter alia, Rodney Doidge, Jim Coe, Terry Horne and Campbell Burnes lending moral support for Mark and Roger Moore (no relation).



Fulltime at Bombay with the Baabaas on top 42-15.

## MEMBER PROFILE MICK BREMNER



Mick Bremner, All Black, Barbarian, Centurion, Cantabrian, wool exporter, et cetera, has packed a lot into his 82 years.

Still living in the capital and as lively as ever on the phone, Selwyn George 'Mick' Bremner is not idle, and still puts in the hours at his old family business. He also finds time to get to Westpac Stadium to keep a close eye on the fortunes of the Hurricanes and Wellington Lions.

Though he was made a Barbarian in 1966, aged just 35, his playing days with the club stretched back to 1951. He had several first-class games for the Barbarians, and recalls them all with fondness.

"They were wonderful with me in my early days. They had the Kiwis Army team influence with their open style of play and they were special people, as far as I'm concerned," says Bremner.

Indeed, he believes he first forced his way into the All Blacks,



Photo: Simon Woolf/Photography By Woolf

in 1952, thanks to a hat-trick of tries for the Barbarians against Auckland among a star-studded backline that included Percy Tetzlaff, Johnny Smith, Eric Boggs and Bob Scott. He speaks highly of the influence too of men such as the late Sir Fred Allen and Johnny Simpson and their influence on his rugby thinking as a five-eighth. He recently sent a photo to the club of the 1954 Barbarians who played a Bay of Plenty XV in Tauranga.

Bremner played in a lot of fine championship-winning sides through his career at four different provinces: Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Manawatu, not forgetting his distinguished career for New Zealand Universities.

His All Blacks career of 18 matches, including two tests, spawned the nickname 'The Olympic All Black,' as he played only in 1952 (Helsinki), 1956 (Melbourne) and 1960 (Rome). On the 1960 tour of South Africa he was vice-captain to Wilson Whineray.

He has visited the current Eden Park clubrooms once, after Sir Fred Allen's funeral, and was suitably impressed: "It was beautiful. It was like going into Savile Row!"

Do not just think Bremner is a rugby man only. A life member of the Halberg Trust, he was a Brabin Cup rep cricketer, a tennis player of note and a swimmer and rower. His rugby service has included stints as president of the Victoria University club (and life membership), the Centurions (currently patron), president of the Wellington union in 1995, while he coached Victoria University and Onslow in the 1960s and '70s.

Bremner believes he is possibly a distant relative of fellow Barbarian Robbie Bremner, while he was a cousin of the late Baabaa Doug Bremner.

## BAABAAS BRIEFS



*This Sunday, as Mike Mills has alluded, is the 24th annual Barbarians Fun Day, always a popular fixture on the calendar. We'd love to see a big turnout of club members at the naval grounds of Ngataranga Bay. This won't be the only Fun Day we are hosting. On Wednesday June 26, we are holding a Bay of Plenty Fun Day near Maketu, details of which are being finalised. Contact John Cresswell if you are keen to help.*

*Blues v Les Bleus tickets: the Blues franchise will face France at North Harbour Stadium on Tuesday June 11 in between the first and second tests. Members wishing to attend for a discount should contact Lian Tetley at Eden Park directly on 09-815-4815.*

*Congratulations to Alan Dawson for his life membership honour bestowed by the Counties Manukau union. 'AD' as he is known by most, is a true legend of Counties, holding both the union appearance (201) and try-scoring (59) records. One would think his tally of games will stand for all time.*

*Congratulations are also in order for Gordon Tietjens, who has guided his New Zealand Sevens side to an 11th IRB World Sevens Series title, an extraordinary feat given the series has only been running for 14 seasons and he has the perennial problem of high player turnover. 'Titch' well merits his place in the IRB Hall of Fame.*

*Plenty of Barbarians-related news derived from last month's AGM of the New Zealand Rugby Union:*

*Firstly, our vice-president Bryan Williams stepped down after a very busy and successful two-year tenure as president of the NZRU. Well done, Beegee. He says he will now have more time to actively devote to Barbarians duties. Former All Blacks centre and former Taranaki RFU chief executive Mark Robinson was elected to the NZRU board as the Central Zone*

rep, replacing another Barbarian, Graham Mourie. Last but certainly not least, Sir Brian Lochore was elected as the patron and a life member of the NZRU, honours richly deserved.

Thanks to some tireless work by Dean Paddy, the club has an agreement with Glengarry Wines, which will provide all financial Barbarians with special benefits and discounts throughout their New Zealand retail and online operations.

The club has a stack of fetching new apparel in stock. Your editor can vouch for the quality of the monogrammed jerseys. Check the website for further information and prices, et cetera.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Recognising the changing rugby environment we live in, the club has undertaken a thorough operating review resulting in a comprehensive Strategic Plan to take us forward for the next 3-5 years.

The Strategic Plan is a living, breathing document that will form the basis of the club's direction. It is available to view via the members' link on the club website at [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz)

## CLUB DRESS CODE

To add to and maintain the high standard set by the design, layout and presentation of the Barbarians' clubrooms, the club expects a high standard of dress on all occasions.

Please ensure the club's dress code is adhered to at all times.

Dress code: Jacket and tie or smart, casual clothing. No cutaway jeans, t-shirts or jandals.

If a member brings a friend or visitor to the club, please ensure they are appropriately dressed, as above.

## OUTSTANDING SUBS

Those of you who have yet to pay your subscriptions for 2013, and there are many of you out there, please do so at your earliest convenience. The money goes toward the running of the club and is a requirement of membership.

## VISITORS TO THE CLUB

Eden Park security will only allow members and/or visitors into the ASB Stand and our clubrooms by showing your membership/visitor cards. If you need more than one visitor card to bring friends or family to the club, especially on 'game days', please contact Dean Paddy or John Cresswell (09-846-7241 or [sec@brfc.co.nz](mailto:sec@brfc.co.nz)) to obtain additional 'visitor' cards. Please ensure any additional 'visitor' cards are returned before leaving the club at the end of the function/event.

## CLUB CONTACT

Your first port of call is our industrious club secretary John Cresswell, who is mostly based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

*John Cresswell's details are:*

*Club office number: 09-846-7241*

*Cellphone number: 021-703-904*

*Email addresses: [sec@brfc.co.nz](mailto:sec@brfc.co.nz) or [jmccresswell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jmccresswell@xtra.co.nz)*

*Home number: 09-630-6425*

## WHAT'S ON IN 2013

**Friday May 24**

Club night: Grammar-Carlton, Teachers-Eastern

**Saturday May 25**

Blues v Brumbies, 7.35pm

**Sunday May 26**

Barbarians Primary Schools Fun Day.

Ngataranga Domain, 8.45am

**Friday May 31**

Club night: Onewhero, Maramarua, Clevedon

**Sunday June 2**

North Shore RFC 140th jubilee matches, 2.30pm

**Saturday June 8**

All Blacks v France, 7.35pm

**Friday June 14**

Club night: Ponsonby

**Friday June 21**

Club night: College Rifles

**Friday June 28**

Club night: North Shore, Northcote

**Friday July 5**

Club night: Bombay, Pukekohe

**Friday July 12**

Club night: Patumahoe, Papakura, Drury, Karaka

**Saturday July 13**

Blues v Chiefs, 7.35pm

**Friday July 19/Saturday July 20**

Super Rugby quarter-finals

**Friday July 26/Saturday July 27**

Super Rugby semifinals

**Friday August 2**

Club night: Waitemata

**Saturday August 3**

Gallagher Shield final, TBC

Super Rugby final, TBC

**Friday August 9**

Club night: Western, Helensville, Silverdale

**Friday August 23**

Club night: Kumeu, Mahurangi, Massey,

East Coast Bays

**Friday August 30**

Club night: Takapuna

\*Further functions/dates will be confirmed in due course. Keep an eye on the website.

## FIXTURES: EDEN PARK



The Rugby Championship  
Saturday September 14  
All Blacks v South Africa, 7.35pm



Sunday August 18  
Auckland v North Harbour, 2.35pm



Saturday August 31  
Auckland v Bay of Plenty, 2.35pm



Wednesday September 4  
Auckland v Counties Manukau, 7.35pm



Thursday September 19  
Auckland v Northland, 7.35pm



Saturday September 28  
Auckland v Canterbury, 7.35pm



NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Campbell Burnes  
NEWSLETTER DESIGNER: Dave Burke