



BAABAA NEWS

The newsletter of The Barbarian Rugby Football Club Inc. Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. www.barbarianrugby.co.nz



Barbarian member and Auckland coach Paul Feeney does his stuff at the March Barbarians coaching clinic at Cornwall Park.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

My wife Lesley and I have recently returned from Melbourne after a 10-day trip.

I was invited to be guest of honour and guest speaker at the Moorabbin Rugby Club's 50th jubilee. What a joyous occasion it was. Old mates coming back together after not having seen each other for many years. Great camaraderie and enjoyment. There were so many ex-Kiwis in their membership, a number of whom travelled across from NZ for the occasion. A hangi was held after club rugby on Saturday and a big dinner on the Sunday night. Of course, we see those special occasions celebrated throughout New Zealand as well.

Paul Gascoigne, brother of Willie and Basil, was the President/Chairman of the club. Older members will no doubt remember Willie and Basil, who starred for Te Papapa (the Yellow Peril) and for Auckland back in the 1970s. Basil and Paul also played for Ponsonby.

Paul Gascoigne, and his mate Ian Ray, played over 400 and 300 first-grade games, respectively, for their Moorabbin club, played for Victoria for many years and are now working hard as President/Chairman and Secretary of their club. Paul still turns out regularly for the grade teams at the age of 57.

The reason I mention this is to acknowledge the contributions made to the game at grassroots level, not only by them, but by so many others in clubs throughout New Zealand. That level of commitment and dedication is played out every week in clubs throughout the land. The amateur ethos has so much to commend it. It really does help to engender club and team spirit and loyalty. Setting the example is a powerful tool in teaching our young people the true values required to create good clubs, communities and societies.

We also had the great pleasure of attending the AFL game between Collingwood and Essendon at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Anzac Day. What an occasion it was. Almost 90,000 people were present. It was particularly moving to experience the Anzac Day ceremonies,

Reveille and the last post and the singing of both Australian and NZ national anthems. Old diggers were driven around the ground in a motorcade. The spectator experience at the MCG is special. Ease of movement around the stadium. Easy access to food, bars and toilets and friendly service. Collingwood came out on top in a fast-moving game. I was impressed by the players' fitness and skills. I asked the people we sat beside what engendered that sort of loyalty for their team. They said they had grown up with it. The history and heritage was celebrated. The MCG was a sporting shrine where their clubs were welcomed and made to feel special. Aussie Rules was their game and was accorded a special place at the ground as was cricket.

Earlier in the week, we had a tour of the MCG and the sports museum there. It is great to see how they cherish and honour their sporting greats and the history and heritage. Statues, photos and memorabilia adorned the ground everywhere. We could learn a great deal from them.

So why can we not get the crowds to rugby anymore? I suggest we can learn so much from the Melbourne folk. Passion and commitment and loyalty for the common good. Value the spectators and give them a special experience when they come to football. Honour the history and heritage of the game and the people who have created the history. Give the true blue supporters who turn up every time some status and sense of belonging. By osmosis, the players will learn it from a young age and aspire to achieve and be part of the history. Some lessons for people closer to home, methinks.

Till next time, cheers.

Bryan Williams
President
Barbarians RFC





Deaths Of Members

Alf Dalton (1934-2015)

Alf Dalton was a fine, attacking centre who scored 16 tries for Auckland in 33 games from 1954-58.

After coming through the Parnell junior rugby ranks, he won Auckland 1A titles in 1950-51 with the Auckland Grammar First XV before joining the Grammar club. In 1953 he won a Gallaher Shield with the club and then cracked the Auckland side the following season. One of his finest games came against Fiji in 1954 where the part-Rarotongan Dalton ran with purpose and shut down the dangerous Fijians. He also appeared in two first-class games for the Barbarians in 1955, scoring two tries.

A loyal Grammar clubman and a decent bloke to boot, he served on the committee for many years and helped organise reunions before joining the Pakuranga club later in life, having moved to Howick.

Dalton was a hatmaker and worked for Fred Allen for a time. He is survived by two sons.

Sherman Corser (1924-2015)

The club was only recently informed of the death, in January, of Sherman Corser, in Orewa, north of Auckland.

Highly respected and well liked, Corser, seen as a "quintessential rugby administrator", was a life member of the East Coast Bays Rugby Club, and was in the thick of the formation of that North Harbour club.

East Coast Bays was born in 1946 by returned servicemen, of which Corser was one, having served in the RNZAF during the war as a radio technician in the islands. The club operated from Freyberg Park in Browns Bay from two old army huts. Corser and his wife Ivy dug and poured the foundations for the clubrooms that were built on the site.

He was the senior delegate to the ARU from 1969 until 1977, and then served as a vice-president of the ARU, but resigned when the North Harbour union was formed, as he believed the strategy was flawed. He was responsible for many years for producing the ARU match-day programmes and was press liaison officer during the 1987 Rugby World Cup.

Though Corser never played for the club, he formed and managed Bays' first championship side, the 1967 sixth grade. The players all had to call him 'Mr Corser'. He later served as president of the club.

Corser was also a very successful businessman, as the CEO of Korbond Industries, taking it from a small company in 1969 to a major player in haberdashery supplies.

You might think that, at 42, Slade McFarland hung up the boots many rugby moons ago.

You would be quite wrong.

One of just a handful of Barbarians still actively playing the game, McFarland's senior career stretches back to 1990. He is into an extraordinary 26th season, and has now racked up close to 200 premier games for his beloved East Coast Bays. He has the double ton in his sights, but might struggle to top the 220 of fellow Barbarian Mark Anscombe or the high on 250 of Ian Coley.

Of course, he has already done plenty in his long career, winning a North Harbour premier club title with East Coast Bays in 1991, chalking up more than 100 games for North Harbour, as well as playing Super Rugby for the Chiefs and Crusaders, along with stints in Europe. The hooker was a Maori All Black and not far off the All Blacks radar in the late 1990s.

A dalliance with boxing has helped with his fitness to keep going in the senior rugby ranks.

"I like boxing. You don't have to run 100m," he jokes. "I still have the passion and am keen to teach the front-rowers, now that the laws have changed. A lot of the dark arts have returned from the 1990s. Then it was about how big you were and how far you could smash them backwards!" he says.



He learned plenty from men like Ron Williams, Graham Dowd, Walter Little and Frank Bunce – Barbarians all – when he started off as a raw bundle of power out of Rangitoto College.

These days, when he is not in the heart of the East Coast Bays scrum, you will find McFarland working as the North Harbour union's ITM Cup scrum coach or as one of the RDOs, giving back to the young ones and passing on his vast experience. We hope they are good listeners. It dovetails nicely with how he views the Barbarians.

McFarland was made a Barbarian in 2012 and has fully embraced his involvement, from turning out in games to coaching and helping at the fun days.

"I was very surprised to be inducted into the Barbarians. It's a real privilege. The club is about helping out at the next level and grassroots. That's what I've loved – the ethos about getting involved and sharing the knowledge as much as possible," he says, adding that he loves getting up to the clubrooms and bumping into all sorts of rugby people.

McFarland saw the start of a resurgence in North Harbour rugby in 2014, and would love nothing more than seeing this union, which turns 30 in 2015, again walk tall with the giants of provincial rugby. The same goes for his East Coast Bays club, once the strongest in the union and working hard to emerge from challenging times.

He lives not far from his work with his partner and two children, both of whom are fluent in French from his time playing near Paris.

GLENGARRY

ANNUAL FUN DAY



Our 26th annual primary schools Fun Day is all set for Sunday May 17 at the usual venue of Ngataranga Bay.

Around 800 primary school rugby enthusiasts from across the wider Auckland region are expected for what is one of the highlights of the Barbarians' calendar. The day is about having fun with skills and drills before hooking into the sausage sizzle and a soft drink.

In recent years, the Blues players have often tried to make themselves available to sign autographs and help with the games. The day would not be possible without the ongoing generous sponsorship of Peter Thompson and his team at Barfoot and Thompson.

For those Barbarians who are keen to come along and proudly wear the red club shirt and help but have not already been assigned any duties, please contact organiser Ron Williams on 021-908-610 or email ron@gibbonscontractors.co.nz

The third annual Bay of Plenty Fun Day is also confirmed for Wednesday June 17 at Paengaroa RFC. The club would love to see as many members as possible from the Bay of Plenty and Waikato region to support this increasingly popular event.

WHAT'S ON IN 2015



Friday May 15
Blues v Bulls, 7.35pm



Sunday May 17
Annual primary schools fun day,
Ngataranga Bay, 8am



Saturday May 23
Blues v Hurricanes, 7.35pm



Saturday June 6
Blues v Crusaders, 7.35pm



Friday June 12
Blues v Highlanders, 7.35pm



Wednesday June 17
Bay of Plenty primary schools fun day
Paengaroa, 8am



Friday August 14
NZ Rugby Foundation luncheon, 12pm



Saturday August 15
All Blacks v
Australia, 7.35pm



Sunday August 23
Auckland v Taranaki, 2.35pm



Saturday August 29
Auckland v Canterbury, 2.35pm



Friday September 4
Top 4 tournament semifinals, Rotorua BHS



Sunday September 6
Top 4 tournament finals, Rotorua BHS



Saturday September 19
NZ Barbarians Schools v NZ Schools,
Palmerston North, TBC



Wednesday September 9
Auckland v Manawatu, 7.35pm



Sunday September 13
Auckland v Otago, 2.35pm



Saturday October 3
Auckland v Northland, 7.35pm



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of 2015 functions/events.



Your hard-working club bar staff, from left: Dean Paddy, Trina Seits, Bryan Craies, Mereana Wynyard and Kevin Way.

COACHING DAY SUCCESS

**The following is an edited version of Campbell Burnes' article, published on www.nzherald.co.nz, on the March 1 Barbarians' coaching clinic:*

The NZ Barbarians club is looking to make an annual event of it after the 'phenomenal success' of its inaugural interactive rugby coaching clinic held on March 1.

More than 200 coaches from as far afield as Bay of Plenty converged on Cornwall Park to soak up some key technical tips and coaching advice from the likes of Sir Graham Henry, All Blacks scrum doctor Mike Cron, and ITM Cup coaches Paul Feeney of Auckland and Steve Jackson of North Harbour.

"The response was phenomenal," said key driver and Barbarians member Terry Horne, himself a former successful St Paul's College First XV coach. "We started out thinking there would be about 60, and more than 200 turned up."

Horne says the clinic, which has a key link to the Barbarians' desire to promote and foster grassroots rugby, should become a fixture on the calendar and may even expand.

Henry looked at defence patterns, and then there was a coach rotation including Scott Pierce, now based in Japan. Areas focused on included tackle, catch and pass, and cleanout techniques, back attack, and set-piece domination, followed by a Q and A, stimulating plenty of rugby thought and debate, which continued into the bar afterwards. Barbarian Melodie Robinson acted as MC.

Many of the coaches came armed with notepads, phones and other recording devices as they soaked up ideas ahead of the fast approaching club and schools seasons.

"We share a lot of ideas in New Zealand rugby, unlike in some other countries. But it's good as a Barbarian to foster rugby too," say Feeney, himself a Barbarian. He and Jackson coach the Blues Development XV together and have a heap of intellectual rugby property.

"It was chocka and ran really smoothly. When you get the current All Blacks scrum coach and the former All Blacks coach there, those are real drawcards," said Feeney. "And for Mike Cron to come up from Christchurch, when he was fully involved and busy with the New Zealand Under 20s, was just fantastic."

Former Manu Samoa first five Tanner Vili has just hung his boots up but still helps out coaching around the Auckland region. Like many others who were on hand, he thoroughly enjoyed the clinic and learned much.

"Some were surprised at how basic some of the stuff was. They expected all these coaching secrets, but it was simple, basic stuff, which is what you want from your team," said Vili.

As a former back, he took close note of some of the forward drills as part of his upskilling.

Members of the Howick and Rosmini First XV's were on hand to help with the drills. Feedback for the clinic has been almost universally positive.

BREAKING NEWS

As this newsletter was going to print, it was confirmed that a New Zealand Barbarians side will face the Māori All Blacks at Eden Park on Saturday, July 18.

This will be the third first-class clash between these two sides since 2002 and will offer fringe All Blacks a prime chance to impress before Rugby World Cup.

We well recall the superb running rugby showcased by both teams in their last encounter, in Whangarei, won 37-31 by the Māori in 2010 as part of their centenary celebrations.

It is also appropriate that Eden Park is the venue, as this is the club's home base. It is many years since the Barbarians and the Māori have played at New Zealand rugby's spiritual home. The clash also meets the aims of the club's strategic plan, which aims to offer more meaningful games for teams wearing the famous scarlet jersey.

Kickoff will be at 7.35pm, meaning there will be plenty of time for members to come from club semifinals in the Auckland region.

BRYAN CRAIES CUP

The Bryan Craies Cup 20/20 rugby tournament held at College Rifles in March was a good introduction into the coming season for the top four teams. The tournament went to the rule book to find a winner but was played in good spirits. College Rifles Bombers and the Takapuna Bombers had done the hard work and weighed in under 86kg. Ponsonby and Waitakere had a few over the weight between them. Waitakere decided to default all games but treat the tournament as a training run and one player cost Ponsonby the title.

The games were low scoring, Takapuna defeated College Rifles 17-14

in the last play of the game, and Ponsonby also defeated College Rifles 17-5.

The other defaulted games were played with no score registered but the standard of rugby was high and good numbers in the crowd.

After the fixtures was the sprint race to find 'quickest of the tournament.' Dane Rua of College Rifles ran the 100 metres in 11.8 seconds with ball in hand. We understand that was back to back victories, as he was last year's champ.

Best try: Ash Robinson (Ponsonby).

Player of the tournament: Tom Kippenberger (College Rifles)

Tournament team, named by Richard Inglis, Auckland U85kg coach:

Kash Ngature, Sam Knowles (Waitakere), Scott Scherer (Takapuna), Jono Gould (College Rifles), Josh van Veen (Takapuna), Nick Thompson (Ponsonby), Tom Kippenberger (College Rifles), Jamie McLagen (Ponsonby), Jared Soar (Takapuna), Damien Taylor (Takapuna), Scott Thomson (College Rifles), Sean Campbell (Takapuna), Dane Rua (College Rifles), Ash Robinson (Ponsonby)

Bryan Craies Cup champions 2015: Takapuna Bombers (King of the Middleweights)

Thanks to Deano Allnutt and his Monty's Promotions, and the College Rifles Rugby Club for hosting this event, plus the Auckland referees.

The hope is to continue the Bryan Craies Cup 2016 with a new format... the winning team in 2015 will go into the 2016 tournament as favourites, with one team per union which includes the Waikato U85kg club champions.

BAABAAS BRIEFS

**Several Barbarians are moving up in rugby administration.*

Maurice Trapp was elected vice-president of the New Zealand Rugby union at last month's AGM. Former test referee Glenn Wahlstrom was appointed as an elected director of New Zealand Rugby, while Rob Fisher, currently serving as the president of the Auckland University Rugby Club, was appointed to the appeals council. Wayne Peters will continue his role as the Maori representative to New Zealand Rugby.

Trapp has stepped down as president of the Auckland Rugby Union, and a new president will be named at the ARU's May board meeting. Wahlstrom's replacement as the ARU chairman is Barbarian Mike Donovan.

**The subs notices were sent out several months ago. Please pay your subs, if applicable, at your earliest convenience, as this is a requirement of membership.*

**The club has a stack of fetching apparel in stock and this is available to members and non-members alike. Check the website for further information and prices, et cetera.*

EMAIL ADDRESSES



The club uses email and the website for much of its communication and dissemination of information these days.

Some of you may not have an email address, but can you please let us know a possible email address for a family member or friend that could expedite our communications to you. This would also help reduce the cost of postage. Please contact secretary Ken Baguley if you wish to take this route. You will then be able to keep up with the club activities on a far more regular basis

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 Ken Baguley 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 new club secretary Ken Baguley, who is often based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

Ken Baguley's details are:

Club office number: 09-846-7241

Cellphone number: 027-246-0615

Email addresses: sec@brfc.co.nz or khh@ryh.co.nz

Home number: 09-520-1638