



THE RED MACHINE

Newsletter of the Marist St Pats Rugby Football Club Inc

PO Box 3472, Wellington

www.msprugby.co.nz

No 1. March 2009



THE PREMIER SQUAD that played some great rugby in winning the Spillane Cup in Wanganui on 14 and 15 March. Fifty premier and colts players went to the 78th Spillane as part of the pre-season build-up.

Spillane Cup success

Brilliant autumn weather in Wanganui was matched by excellent rugby as MSP notched up two big wins to secure the Spillane Cup.

After accounting for Hastings Marist 69-3 on Saturday, the team backed up with a 56-17 win over North Harbour Marist in the final on Sunday.

MSP's colts were in good form too - *more inside.*

'Interest in MSP is on a high'

by John Holden
MSP chairman

Welcome to Marist St Pats and to this, the first *Red Machine* for 2009. And welcome also to the many returning and new coaches, managers, players and MSP supporters.

I welcome new Management Committee members, and thank everyone on this committee for volunteering their time, energy and expertise to help make enjoyable rugby available to men, women and children - the committee's contribution to Marist St Pats is enormous and appreciated.

I note, particularly, that Bryce Tietjens is continuing as MSP club captain (and premier team manager). Bryce will be supported as club captain by David Wanden who has stepped into the assistant's role.

I am also delighted to confirm the continuity of the successful 2008 senior coaching team: Murray

Tocker and Kevin Horan (premier), John Duignan and Dave McGuinness (senior 1), Gus Slade and Tony Meachen (senior 2) and Sione Savaiinaea and Sio Mapu (senior 3).

A full list of team coaches and managers is at www.msprugby.co.nz/contact. Check it out and bookmark MSP's website as your internet homepage.

Already, MSP's outstanding House sub-committee is planning social events for 2009 (with Old Timers' Day set for 2 May). These occasions promote camaraderie among players and supporters at the clubrooms. Particular events are planned during 2009, and we will continue to welcome opposition teams and visitors to share MSP's hospitality.

Managing a top rugby club means not cutting corners or compromising on quality. MSP wants to continue providing players and supporters the best possible facilities. However, the cost of being among

the best means that MSP is looking to its supporters, more than ever, to help bridge the gap in 2009.

Additional donations will help the club support its commitment to providing quality facilities and to support those volunteers who willingly give of their time.

So consider this first *Red Machine* as a rallying call - without extra donations MSP simply will not be able to provide the resources to succeed.

Interest in MSP is on a high. We have a solid base to start 2009. However, if you would like to make a contribution, in whatever way you are able, plan to do so. It is for the greater good of communities and especially for promotion of New Zealand's beautiful game.

With the premier and senior teams kicking off on Saturday 28 March, plan on meeting with old friends and making new ones on the rugby sidelines and at the Hataitai clubrooms. Welcome to Marist St Pats rugby!

Cautious assessment of premiers' prospects

Most of last year's premier squad will be back at MSP in 2009, but coach Murray Tocker is guarded about the team's prospects.

Although some new arrivals should add to the club's playing depth, particularly in the backs, Murray remains mindful of last year's first-up loss to OBU, the team they will again face on 28 March in the competition opener.

Despite that early setback last year, the premiers went on to go undefeated for the next 19 games and share the Jubilee Cup. Murray says the aim this year is to take one game at a time.

"I know it's a cliché, but we will simply concentrate on building a platform, week by week."

Player departures have included prop Jonathan Hopgood, who is playing in England; lock Bernie Upton who has a contract to play in Connaught, Ireland; and no. 8 Victor Vito who is playing for the

Hurricanes.

On the plus side, hooker Ged Robinson is expected to be available for most of the first round, although he will miss the first game after going to South Africa with the Hurricanes.

A number of premier backs from past seasons will be back in MSP colours. They include Apoua Stewart, who has been playing in Bay of Plenty and England, and Anthony Bradshaw and Joe Wright, who have been in Hawkes Bay.

Lock Nick Passi, who missed most of last season apart from the final few games, is back and has been named premier captain.

Newcomers to MSP include outside back David Johnston, a former NZ Secondary Schools, Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty rep; Michael Kingsbeer from HOB Marist; Jono Rowe, a back from the Te Kawau club in the Manawatu; and French back Yoann Dessenne.

One young player to watch is last year's Wellington College 1st XV prop Jeff Allen. He played in the NZ Secondary Schools team, and this year is a member of the Wellington Academy.

A looming concern for all clubs is the encroachment of representative teams at the business end of the club season, particularly with Wellington as Ranfurly Shield holders

beginning their rep programme early.

"July will be tough on all clubs with rep players," says Murray. "And it's not just the Wellington NPC side - we're hoping not to lose players loaned out to other unions."



Cup sharing

"That's not your Cup," Geraldine Manu'a could be saying to husband Jay Manu'a.

Geraldine (nee Woods), a long-time MSP supporter, married Jay, a Norths supporter, on 24 January.

The Jubilee Cup, along with plenty of banter about its ownership, was part of the happy occasion.

MSP Committee 2009

MSP's management committee for 2009 is:

President: Mick Robbers

Chairman: John Holden

Deputy chair: Alan Woods

Secretary: Ken Ah Kuoi

Club captain: Bryce Tietjens

Assistant club captain:

Dave Wanden

Treasurer: MaryAnn Spillane

Junior convenors:

Karin Graham,

Andrew McLean

WRFU delegate: Alan Woods

Committee:

Ina Hansen, Neil Murphy,

Richie Renouf,

Andrew Robinson, Michelle

Smyth, Mere Wilson

Chaplain: Fr Geoff Broad.

Coming up at Marist St Pats..

First games

The premiers, senior 1s and 2s open their seasons with games against Old Boys University at Trentham Memorial Park on Saturday 28 March. The premiers kick off at 3.30pm, the senior 1s at 2pm, and the senior 2s at 12.30pm.

Women's rugby also starts on the 28th, with the MSP women due to play their first game in Wainui. All other grades start on 4 April.

Clubrooms open

The Hataitai clubrooms will open for the season after the second round of games on 4 April. The premiers and senior 1s will be playing Poneke at Evans Bay Park.

Old Timers' Day

Put Saturday 2 May in your diary now - that will be Old Timers' Day, with traditional rivals Petone the opposition at Evans Bay.



Spillane success followed by reality check

Some great form by the premiers at the Spillane tournament was rewarded when they won the Cup final with a 56-17 victory over North Harbour Marist.

Anthony Bradshaw scored three tries in the tournament, while Brendan Watt, Sio Tuia, Alex Tulou, JP Tocker, and David Johnston each scored two.

Fa'atonu Fili was adjudged player of the tournament. His over-the-shoulder no-look pass to send full-back Jackson Martin in under the posts from 30 metres out had thrilled the spectators.

Coming after wins over HOB Marist

and Petone in earlier pre-season games, the signs for a big year were promising.

However, a week after the Spillane, the team received a sharp reality check when they lost by six tries to three against Norths in their final pre-season game. That result shows there's still a lot of work to do.

On the plus side, MSP's second team put 80 unanswered points on Norths' seconds, a healthy indication of the club's depth.



CHAMPAGNE FLOWS: The colts crack the champagne after securing the Moran Cup with a 38-8 win over Hamilton Marist.



REACHING HIGH (right): Colts jumper Lucky Tuiatua is hoisted by Jeff Allen, while Chris Moeono and captain Valentine Meachen look on.

Short cuts

Shinless

Premier captain Nick Passi made a couple of aftermatch speeches at the Spillane tournament, and his second effort created quite a bit of mirth.

His first on accepting the Spillane Cup was a standard captain's thanks to host, opposition, and referees, but he was soon called back to the microphone to accept the 'team of the tournament' trophy.

Perhaps thinking of tournament organiser Tony Meachen, Nick's speech was short.

"What do you call a person with no shins?" he asked the crowded clubrooms.

"Tony," was his answer.

Rep appointments

MSP's 2008 success has been recognised with this year's Wellington rep coach and manager appointments.

Wellington B coach Richard Watt will have MSP coaching coordinator

John Duignan as his assistant in 2009, and premier manager Bryce Tietjens as the B's manager.

Congratulations JD and Bryce.

High Marist profiles

Former Southland Stags lock Hoani Macdonald has headed off some stiff competition to be named New Zealand Marist 2008 rugby player of the year.

Affiliated Marist clubs from around New Zealand nominated players for the award, with the nominators including Anthony Boric and Rudi Wulf (North Harbour Marist), Hosea Gear (HOB Marist), Michael Johnson (Napier OB Marist), Isaia Toeava (Auckland Marist), and Scott Waldrom (Tukapa).

Colts newsletter

Colts coach Dave Wanden has been putting together *Brother Red*, a monthly newsletter for all the club's under-21 players. You

can view it on the club's website at www.msprugby.co.nz/news.html.

Video analyst wanted

The premiers are looking for someone to video each Saturday's match. If you can help please email msprugby@xtra.co.nz, or call Bryce Tietjens on 021 505 692.

Obituaries

The club extends its condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed away in recent months:

W H (Bill) Dyson
L G. (Leigh) McGuinness
J M (Jill) Strang
T J (Tom) Nunan
Brian Griffin
B J (Barry) Boyle
Rosaleen Desmond
Maureen Paino
Tony Paino
Tino Fidow.

Peter Woods awarded life membership

Peter Woods was elected a life member of Marist St Pats at the club's AGM in November 2008. Peter is profiled here.

Many years of work on behalf of MSP, particularly as a fundraiser, was acknowledged at the club's AGM when Peter Woods' nomination for life membership was unanimously supported with acclamation.

Pete has worn many hats in a long involvement with the club. He has been a driving force behind major MSP fundraising efforts such as the Shamrock Club and \$100 raffles, with his Shamrock Club involvement going back to the club's beginnings 17 years ago.

In speaking to Pete's nomination at the AGM, premier coach Murray Tocker, a former St Pats Silverstream school mate, recalled that Pete's financial flair was evident from an early age. His trips to the Totara Lodge TAB to place bets on behalf of the priests were an early indication of where his talents lie.

Pete was an 80/80 coach when that grade was first established, looking after the grade-winning side in which his son Kevin was a player.

He then went on to build a wealth of team management experience,

beginning as senior 1 manager with Murray Tocker as coach in 1996.

The following two years he managed the Wellington Colts with Kevin Horan as coach, and in 2003 he was manager of the MSP premier side coached by Liam Halpin.

With players such as Jerry Collins, the Wellington colts team he managed was a champion side. On the team's trip to Auckland Pete was charged by coach Horan with ensuring the young players were all early to bed the night before the big game.

That mission accomplished, Pete departed the hotel for a flutter at the Sky City casino. There he remained all night, arriving back at the hotel minutes before 7am. Coach Horan, unaware of Pete's night time activities, put his head around the corner at seven to make sure all was well.

"Yep. I'm just up to have a shower," Pete assured him.

Pete has been MC at many of the club's big social occasions, such as prizegivings and the annual



PETER WOODS

Shamrock Club dinners, and he continues to organise events such as the annual golf tournament advertised below.

Pete gaining life membership reflects a tremendous contribution to Marist St Pats by the Woods family over the years.

His brother Alan is also a life member, his son Kevin has been a player and manager, and his niece Geraldine, a former club secretary, is still an active events organiser. Pete's life membership is an honour richly deserved for himself and for his family.

Shamrock golf tournament on in April

Golfers who take part in the popular MSP Shamrock Club golf tournament at the end of April are unlikely to die of starvation as they munch their way around the Miramar golf course.

The annual event tees off on Thursday 30 April at 12.30, and features a free on-course sausage sizzle, complimentary on-course refreshments and snacks, and finger food served in the clubhouse at the completion of a round.

Open to all MSP players and members, the tournament costs \$40 per player. Shamrock Club members get their first two entries free.

The field is limited to 96 players on a first-in, first-served basis. It's an Ambrose format, which means everybody from Tiger Woods to Harry the Hacker can take part.

To enter, contact either Tony Duffin (tony.duffin@paradise.net.nz) or Peter Woods (woods24@xtra.co.nz), ph 027 246 4345.

Junior grades kick off on 4 April

These MSP juniors (right) have managed a feat achieved by few All Blacks - they've got their hands on the World Cup.

Pictured here with All Black captain Richie McCaw at a Mastercard promotion in February, the juniors' quest for glory in 2009 gets underway with the first games for all grades on 4 April.

The junior club has three new convenors this year, Andrew McLean, Karin Graham, and Martin Paget.

All the information about junior



MSP juniors with All Black captain Richie McCaw.

rugby, including registration and subs, can be found on the club's website - see www.msprugby.co.nz/ juniors for details.

The RED MACHINE is compiled by Pat Martin. Printing by Milne Printers.

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