



THE RED MACHINE

Newsletter of the Marist St Pats Rugby Football Club Inc

PO Box 3472, Wellington

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Senior 1's clean sweep in first round

MSP's senior 1 side took out the first round with 11 wins from 11 games, finishing a clear 13 competition points ahead of second-placed Petone.

The Liam Halpin-coached team was awarded the Harper Lock Shield for its efforts and is playing the second round in the Hardham Cup competition against a mix of premier and senior one sides.

The team is pictured here at Maidstone Park after their 53-10 win over Upper Hutt in the final game of the round (more photos back page).



All not as it seems on club scene

By John Spillane
MSP chairman

In preparing these contributions to the *Red Machine* I am mindful that the handful of readers are very rugby savvy. Many have an in-depth knowledge of the club's operations and closely follow the results. So what do I burst into print about?

Maybe the efforts of the Shamrock Club organisers and their fundraising functions around the Lions tour, or the young premier coaching team of Reidy and Bell?

Do I focus on the efforts of the new colts' coaches (Higgs, McGuinness and Smith), or departing junior convenor Dan Tait-Jamieson (see back page), or maybe the new under-19s and their progress?

However, I will take this opportunity to express a personal view about where I see amateur club rugby heading.

I am not at all comfortable that the club scene has a healthy future. The various initiatives of

rugby officialdom are having a very negative impact on the club environment, I believe.

The expansion of the NPC is a blow to club rugby, as the additional players required will come out of the club scene. Their contracts will distract them from careers outside rugby but not deliver incomes to sustain them long-term.

Proposed changes to the local club competition will see 900+ players involved in the top three tiers of Wellington rugby.

I don't see this as improving the competition or developing player depth, but as a means of establishing a new low average across the majority of clubs.

The Super 14 will impact by cutting further into the club scene and crowding out media coverage of local sport.

I worry about club support and the standard of rugby in the future. The game will be diluted down to a spectacle so unattractive that support will be impossible to muster.

We are heading towards a system that sees players earmarked for academies and development squads at a very early age rather than enjoying a club season or two and developing at their own pace.

School competitions will mark the end of organised amateur rugby, and we will end up with an American Football model of participation by just a few professionals.

Initiatives that appear to support our game may in fact be having the opposite impact.

Astute NZRFU marketing will keep the masses who love club rugby from seeing the impacts until it is too late - "the game" as just a business and players robbed of the opportunity to enjoy amateur competition week in week out at all levels.

The tragedy is that all those dedicated volunteers, whose efforts enable clubs like ours to function, so often feel that the professional game is pulling in the opposite direction.

MSP stars shine on Idol night

Another highly successful MSP Idol night early in May showed that the club's stars can shine on and off the field.

Organiser Kalolo Afuie and MC Mike 'Soody' Sood ran the show as a representative from each team performed in front of a packed clubrooms.

The judges awarded the much coveted 'MSP Idol' to colts player Conor Lewis, the second year running the colts have snared the much-coveted trophy.



THE JUDGES: Premiers' manager Rob Evans, MSP secretary Colleen Upton, and All Black Jerry Collins.



MSP IDOL 2005: Colts halfback Conor Lewis.



RYO YOSHIKAWA from the senior 2s was right at home singing 'Sukiyaki'.



FREDDY FENDER? No, Apollo Perellini, on behalf of the presidents.



EMMA PAHL, on behalf of wives and girlfriends, provided the glamour.



WILLIAM HOPGOOD from the under-19s upheld the Hoppy family's vocal traditions.



WHITE SOUL: Righteous Brothers Mike Renouf and Aaron Davies from the senior ones.



JON PAUL TOCKER from the premiers donned an outfit based on the movie 'Top Gun' and belted out 'You've Lost That Loving Feeling'.



Around the traps

Perry get-together

Four Perry brothers who played for MSP in the 1970s and '80s were spotted having a reunion ale at the clubrooms early in May.

While Mark still holds the fort in Wellington, Brian now lives in Canada, Brendan in Auckland, and John in Melbourne. They were all back in town for their mother's birthday.

Senior 2 boys famous

Players from the Senior 2s will soon be famous in Wales following an interview by a television crew from BBC Wales.

The players were sitting on the back of manager Ray Scotson's truck at Cobham Park, about to be ferried back to the Evans Bay changing rooms after their 5-5 draw with Wests.

With the television cameras running, the journalists quizzed the boys about the Lions tour, and the senior 2s confidently predicted either a whitewash or a 2-1 series win to the All Blacks.

The senior 2s, who often play other clubs' first or second teams, came fourth from 12 sides in the first round.

They began the second round with a 15-10 win over Petone, and coach Glenn Stewart says he's proud of a core of players who are working hard to achieve some good results.

Captain Chris Egan, who leads a small but very competitive pack that often dominates bigger opponents, won the player-of-the-day award in the Petone match and first-five Mike Duncan kicked five penalties.

Irish influence

Colts flanker Shane Young won the player-of-the-day award after the colts came out on top in a 35-34 thriller against Johnsonville to secure second spot in the first round.

In a great game of running rugby, the colts scored five tries after being down 17-3 after 20 minutes.

Shane, who is from Ireland, has noted several differences between club rugby here and back home in County Galway.

Players tend to be bigger here and are given more scope by coaches to play their own game, he says. Firmer grounds also encourage a more running game than he is used to back home.

PLAYER PROFILE



Anthony Bradshaw

Nickname:

Ants, flea

Age: 22

Family: Mum, three sisters, one brother

Hometown: Newlands

Secondary school:

St Pat's Town

Workplace: Builder

Playing position:

Halfback

Rugby history:

MSP premiers, Wellington U-19, Wellington Colts

Other sports:

Touch, cricket, surfing.

FAVOURITES

food: Mum's roast

drink: Heineken

movie: Friday

author: Hugh Hefner

singer/group:

Pearl Jam

ground: Rugby League Park

rugby player:

Christian Cullen

rugby memory (best):

MSP Colts winning grade and going through grade unbeaten

rugby memory (worst):

Being knocked out five times

Top points' scorers

With the season half way through, the club's top points scorers up to and including 18 June are:

		Tries		
Julian Tupai	under-19	12		
Marc Le	under-19/senior 1	10		
Steve Gibson	80/80 A	10		
Ioane Alefosio	under-19	9		
Tim Sterne	80/80 Red	8		
Pio Savali	senior 1/premier 2	7		
		Kicking points	Total points	
Sam Rasch	premier 1	106	106	
Dustin Archer	colts	88	88	
Mike Duncan	senior 1/premier 2	74	79	
Aso Lavi	senior 3 white	71	76	
Tom Cook	80/80 A	68	73	
Mark Houghton	80/80 blue	53	63	
Neil Bridgeland	80/80 red	44	54	

(Thanks to Barrie Smith for the stats)

Well done, Jamie

When premier prop Jamie Parkinson ran on to the field after halftime in the Samoa v Australia test on 11 June, it meant one-third of the Samoan team were either current or former Marist St Pats players.

Jamie joined Apoua Stewart, Lome Fa'atau, Brian Lima, and Semo Sititi as players who have represented the club before going on to win test honours with Manu Samoa.

A truck driver and proud father of one, Jamie is a long-serving MSP club member who was part of the MSP under-23 development team that toured Australia in 1998.

Departing junior convenor thanked

MSP junior convenor Dan Tait-Jamieson is heading overseas at the end of the June with the club's best wishes and gratitude for his efforts in organising the junior club for the past three years.

Dan and wife Anna and children Jimmy, Will, and Maddie will be spending a year or more in France. The children have all played for MSP's juniors in recent years.

A St Pat's Silverstream old boy, Dan holds a degree in French.

MSP president Pat Dunn paid tribute to Dan's work in organising the

28 junior teams that the club fields every Saturday.

"He's done a great job in promoting junior rugby throughout Wellington schools, Catholic as well as non-Catholic.

"A very positive person, Dan has always placed a lot of emphasis on teamwork and making sure the junior club's an inclusive environment that everyone from kids, parents and coaches can feel a part of."

From registrations in February to prizegiving in September plus the

New junior convenor

Pat Dunn will be looking after the junior club in the months ahead.

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off-season organising, the role is a year-round commitment, and Dan continued on the excellent work of former convenor John Holden.

Harper Lock Shield winners



VICTORY SPEECH:
Senior 1s captain and prop Kene La'afoga accepts the Harper Lock Shield from WRFU president Ian McCarrison.

The team scored 324 points while conceding just 84.

Lock Mark Simeon about to secure another lineout.



Everyone invited to Boatshed/Rowers on Test weekend

A full social calendar is planned around the All Blacks versus Lions test in Wellington on 2 July.

Festivities kick off on Thursday 30 June with a clubrooms dinner, mainly for visiting Lions' supporters

and featuring All Black legend Colin Meads and commentator Keith Quinn as guest speakers.

Friday night's pre-Test Shamrock Club dinner is already sold out with Welsh rugby writer Stephen Jones

and former All Black John Gallagher proving popular drawcards.

On Saturday, attention switches to the waterfront where the club will operate out of both the Wellington Rowers Club and the Boatshed.

Wellington Rowers Club, 2pm onwards:

Full bar facilities and bar snack food available all night. TV screens to watch test match

The Boatshed, 2pm - 6pm

Pre-match meal available @ \$30 per person with cash.

Bar meal tickets to be purchased in advance. Limited to 250 for meal.

6.30 pm onwards Open to all club members and guests. Two large screens to watch test match. Live post-match entertainment.

Club members wishing to purchase tickets or with queries please email Brian McGuinness: brian@mcguinness.co.nz

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