

BAABAA NEWS

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



Bryan Craies receives the Albert Storey Memorial Trophy at the 2014 AGM from his old mate, President Bryan Williams.

Photo: Terry Horne

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

I hope you have all had a wonderful festive season and are enjoying the golden summer.

The sun continues to shine and plenty of beach and BBQs are the order of the day. Time, though, to start thinking about our beloved game again.

It's incredible to think that we are in RWC year already. It is over three years since that fateful night at Eden Park, October 23, 2011. Who will ever forget the drama, the agony, the relief, the pride, the ecstasy of the game that night? The repercussions of the one point victory as a result were far-reaching. The country went into celebration mode. Coach Graham Henry was knighted. The All Blacks were voted top coach, top player and team of the year in the IRB Awards and supreme award winners at the Halberg Awards. New sponsorships were negotiated which provided much needed cash to run the New Zealand game. NZ rugby's premier place in the world of rugby was confirmed.

Contrast that with the fallout after the 1991, 1999, 2003 and 2007 Rugby World Cups. In all of those tournaments, the All Blacks suffered ignominious defeats to crash out of the tournaments during the knockout stages. Rugby suffered as a result. Coaches lost their jobs. Reputations were tarnished. The game lost popularity.

RWC 2015 presents the All Blacks and NZ rugby with a golden opportunity to make history. No country has ever won back to back World Cups. The All Blacks have never won a World Cup away from New Zealand.

So what are the chances? New Zealand are ranked No 1 team in the world. They have the world's best coach, Steve Hansen, and the best player, Brodie Retallick, as judged in the IRB Awards. They have two other players who have been multiple winners of the IRB player of the

year awards, Richie McCaw and Dan Carter. They have added Wayne Smith to the coaching ranks and he is widely regarded as one of our best coaches ever. They have a team that is a great blend of youth and experience. They have a number of players who have played over 100 tests (McCaw, Carter, Woodcock, Mealamu) plus the likes of Ma'a Nonu, Conrad Smith, Kieran Read and Jerome Kaino, and in these high pressure situations you cannot buy experience. But they also have young rising stars who bring both talent and flair to the team (Savea, Retallick, Cruden, Whitelock, Barrett, Coles, Aaron Smith, Ben Smith) and then you have the SBW factor. The team is backed up by a very experienced support crew who are among the very best in their field and a CEO and board (together with the sponsors) who provide the scenario and resources to enable the team to perform to its optimum. These factors, though, won't be enough by themselves. What sets this side apart is the team culture they have developed. Their record is second to none but they have also learnt how to win when they probably did not deserve to. They know how to dig deep and maintain focus when things are going against them. They play as a team and for each other. They keep their feet on the ground. They will need some luck but great teams make their own luck.

The expectations have been great in the past and they are now too, probably more so. They know they have a chance to make history and, for all those reasons, I believe they will.

Cheers,

**Bryan
Williams
President
Barbarians
RFC**





Deaths Of Members

Henry Pryor (1934-2014)

Henry Pryor died earlier in 2014 but his death was only recently brought to the attention of the club.

Younger brother of the late, great and colourful Albie Pryor, Henry Pryor was a well-known rugby identity in the eastern Bay of Plenty. A stalwart of the Matata club, whom he served in a variety of roles, including chairman, Pryor was also a member of the Wasps club.

Known as 'Babes', being the youngest of the Pryor boys, Pryor was mostly a flanker, but ended his career as a prop. Though he came close to making the Bay of Plenty side, he had to content himself with fierce on-field battles with his brothers, who often played for other clubs. Upon retirement, he coached at both senior and junior level at Matata and also at the Taneatua club. He was a butcher by trade, like Albie, but worked as farmer, as a lands and survey officer, and ran a Maori language radio station in Auckland for a time. Pryor gave long service to Maori rugby, both in Bay of Plenty and in New Zealand, serving on the board. In later years, he was the kaumatua for the Maori Sports Awards, for which Albie was a driver.

Peter Henderson (1926-2014)

Peter 'Sammy' Henderson was one of the fastest men to ever lace an All Black boot, being the national sprint champion for 1949.

An All Black out of Wanganui and the Kaierau club, Henderson played 19 games, including seven tests for the All Blacks in 1949-50, scoring eight tries.

His try in the 1950 fourth test against the Lions at Eden Park has gone down in rugby lore, largely due to the spectacular photo of an airborne Henderson diving for the tryline. But he also pulled off a crucial trysaving tackle on Bleddyn Williams in that clash.

In later years, Henderson lived in Tauranga, and even drove to Wanganui for that union's 125th jubilee in 2012.

The following is a true story relating to Henderson, supplied by one of our members:

'About 10-12 years ago, a middle-aged group of six former rugby players were having a golf weekend at a country club in the Waikato area. Late in the night, at the bar, the six started upon a sports quiz. The arguments and questions carried on incessantly, resulting in the other bar patrons, bored stiff, retiring to bed. The six continued the quiz with the golf club barman meeting their quenching demands.

'Someone then put up the question: 'Name the All Blacks backline in the fourth test v the Lions in 1950.' The arguments mounted over the various suggestions and assertions. Then the group turned to the barman and asked: 'Well, do you know who made up that backline?' As quick as a flash came the response: 'Vince Bevan, Laurie Haig, John Tanner, Roy Roper, Bill Meates on one wing, Bob Scott at fullback... and me!' At that point it was understood, and Peter Henderson, the barman, told them to bugger off to bed.'

Bill Symonds is a great believer in the inherent goodness of rugby people, so consequently he feels right at home as one of four King Country members of the Barbarians club.

"The rugby fraternity was very good to me. Rugby people stick together pretty well," said the 70-year-old, down the blower from his Te Kuiti farm.

Along with the Meads brothers and Ivan Haines, Symonds hails from the real rugby heartland and hinterland that is King Country. His father William played for the province and Hawke's Bay back in the 1920s and Bill followed in his footsteps as a lock or loose forward in 62 games for the union between 1966 and '72 out of the famous Waitete club. An All Blacks trialist, Symonds has fond memories of his clashes with Auckland, including one memorable 16-6 victory at Eden Park in 1970. He also appeared for King Country against France in 1968 and a combined Wanganui-King Country unit against the 1971 Lions tourists.



Symonds wasn't always destined for a first-class career, though. He didn't make the MAGS First XV in Auckland, size and height coming later in life. He has served his time in various roles for Waitete after retiring following the club's 1975 tour of South Africa, and also helped out at the Pio Pio club.

In 1995-96 he was manager of the King Country Rams as they walked with the giants in the first division of the NPC. Famously that year they beat Auckland in Taumarunui (Coronation Shield) and Canterbury in Te Kuiti (NPC).

"They punched above their weight for a few years there," he says, with fond recall.

Symonds has been a member of the Barbarians for more than 40 years.

"I played a few games for them and then was invited to join around the time 'The House that Jack Built' was going up (1973). Being down here, I haven't visited the clubrooms a lot, but I've always paid my sub and followed and supported their activities. I'm very impressed with the new clubrooms, which I have visited once."

In 1985 he recalls he was in charge, at the behest of the late Peter Murdoch, of a group of supporters who toured Australia following the NZ Barbarians on their three-match, unbeaten tour. The likes of Sean Fitzpatrick and John Kirwan graced that fine team, only four of whom did not ultimately play for the All Blacks.

Symonds has sold farms in the King Country for the last quarter of a century, joking that although he still lives on a farm, he gets others to do all the hard yakka. He still keeps an eye on the local footy scene, but enjoys getting up to Hamilton, where he has a couple of season tickets, to watch the Chiefs play.



Two of the club's more venerable members: Terry Dunleavy (left) and patron Bob Sorenson.

AGM REVIEW



The club's 78th annual AGM saw 42 members hear about another very busy year for the club and its associated activities.

Bryan Williams reported on his second year as club president, whilst there was one change to the committee, with **Ken Baguley** replacing **John Cresswell**, who stepped down as honorary secretary.

Cresswell became a Barbarian in 1999, and the following year took on the secretarial duties, which he has undertaken quietly and efficiently for 15 years and through eight presidential terms. As a midfield back, he represented Otago, Bay of Plenty and Waikato in the 1960s, winning the Ranfurly Shield with the latter. The club members at the AGM had no hesitation in endorsing his nomination to life membership of the Barbarians. There was also a rare posthumous life membership granted to **Kevin Barry**, who also gave sterling service to the Barbarians. Life member **Don Dormer** spoke on behalf of Barry.

Bryan Craies, not long retired from the committee, was a popular choice as the recipient of the Albert Storey Memorial Trophy. Affectionately known as Craiesy, the club has been a central part of his life for many years. He was a key driver of middleweight rugby and has done time helping out behind the bar with **Dean Paddy** and his team.

Baguley should be well-known to most members. A Barbarian since 1979, his is a lifetime of rugby, having achieved the rare feat of winning three Gallaher Shields with Auckland University as a player and one as a coach, not to mention being a selector, coach and manager of the New Zealand Universities. Now a life member of both the University club and the Auckland Rugby Union, Baguley was chairman of the ARU from 2001-10 and is currently the ARU appointee to the Eden Park Trust Board.



The club's newest life member, John Cresswell.

MARCH 1 COACHING DAY

The Barbarians club will host a coaching clinic on March 1 at Orakei Domain, the home of the Grammar TEC club.

Confirmed thus far for the day are ITM Cup coaches Paul Feeney (a club member) of Auckland, Steve Jackson (North Harbour) and Derren Witcombe (Northland), along with Scott Pierce, recently made a Barbarian, who is jetting in from Japan.

The idea of the day is to give coaches at school and club level in the northern region the chance to upskill under the guidance of top coaches within the area, to pick brains and gain knowledge.

All Barbarians in the greater Auckland region, and even further afield, are encouraged to invite their local club's premier and reserve grade coaches, plus First XV coaches, to attend.

For further information, contact Terry Horne at 0274-820-037 or terence.m.horne@gmail.com.

WHAT'S ON IN 2015



Sunday March 1

NZ Barbarians coaching clinic, Orakei Domain, 9am

Friday April 10

Blues v Brumbies, 7.35pm



Saturday May 2

Blues v Force, 5.35pm



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



ALL BLACKS®

Saturday August 15

All Blacks v

Australia, 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.

Super Rugby kicks off on February 13, but due to the ICC Cricket World Cup, the first match at Eden Park will not be until April 10. The ITM Cup draw should be made public by early March.

BAABAAS BRIEFS



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

**Congratulations to Barbarians president Bryan Williams and new secretary Ken Baguley, both of whom were made life members of the Auckland Rugby Union at the December AGM. Congratulations also to Anna Richards and Farah Palmer, two of the first female members in the club, who were deservedly inducted into the IRB (now World Rugby) Hall of Fame.*



Four of the hard-working, and thirsty, members of the Barbarians committee: from left, Roger Moore, Ron Williams, Mike Mills, and Mark Moore.

**Barbarians were front and centre at December's Steinlager Rugby Awards night. Club members Brent Anderson, Andy Leslie and Graham Mourie were among the judges. Well done to Steve Hansen, who claimed his third consecutive coach of the year gong, while Bay of Plenty's Dick Littlejohn richly merited his Steinlager Salver honour.*

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

FACEBOOK



The club is keen to explore how it can make use of social media, and in particular Facebook. If any of the (younger and/or tech-savvy) members can assist with the setting up of a Barbarians club Facebook page, please contact either the secretary or newsletter editor Campbell Burnes. The latter can be reached at cmburnes@hotmail.com or 021-717-150.

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 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 khb@ryh.co.nz

Home number: 09-520-1638

