

BAABAA NEWS

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



PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2013 rugby season.

It's under way again and seems to get earlier every year. A special welcome to our new committee member Grant McCurrach. Grant has taken over as treasurer from 'Barney' (John) Jessup. Barney has retired after working tirelessly for the club for many years. A special thank you to Barney.

I must acknowledge the passing of life member Murray Menzies in the early New Year. Murray was a hard worker over many years in the old clubhouse. The great thing about Murray was that he called a spade a spade and didn't mince his words.

New member nominations

At the AGM in November, it was moved to change new membership to the February/March period so that new members can enjoy the club facilities for the whole season.

Please get your nominations in immediately because nominations will close on March 15.

Committee support

We have had our first committee meeting for the year and it looks like another busy year for the club. We do have a lot of sub-committees to make things happen so would appreciate any support from members keen to help out.

The clubrooms

After a very busy year in 2012 we did get a lot more members coming to the club on a regular basis. Please make an effort to drop in for a beer before and after games and on Friday nights. Dean Paddy runs a great bar. Come and catch up with some of the old faces you played with or against and bring your wives or partners.

Super Rugby

After my successful tipping of Counties Manukau as the dark horse for the ITM Cup, no doubt you are waiting for my Super Rugby selection. I think the Sharks will take the title this year. The Chiefs and Crusaders will be close, but John Plumtree has a lot of depth in top players and will be hard to beat.

Thank you to all our sponsors, including Barfoot and Thompson, Glengarrys, the Four Winds Trust, and the North and South Trust.

Look forward to catching up at the club.

Mike Mills
President, Barbarians RFC



Bryan Craies receives the cup for middleweight rugby competition named after him from club president Mike Mills at the 2012 AGM.

WHAT'S ON IN 2013



Friday March 1
Blues v Crusaders, 7.30pm



Friday March 8
King of the Middleweights tourney
Kumeu Rugby Club, 6.45pm & 7.30pm



Sunday March 10
Blues v Bulls, 4.05pm



Friday March 15
King of the Middleweights tourney
Kumeu Rugby Club, 6.45pm and 7.30pm



Saturday March 16
NRL: Warriors v Roosters, 7.30pm



Friday March 22-Tuesday March 26
Test cricket: New Zealand v England, from 10.30am



Sunday March 31
NZ Barbarians v Bombay President's XV
Bombay Rugby Club, 2.30pm



Friday April 5
Blues v Highlanders, 7.35pm



Saturday April 13
Blues v Hurricanes, 7.35pm



Saturday May 11
Blues v Rebels, 7.35pm

Deaths Of Members

Bob Scott (1921-2012)

The bare stats of Bob Scott's All Blacks career do not convey his greatness as one of the top three or four best fullbacks in New Zealand rugby history.

His 17 tests stretched from 1946-54 and came on the back of his brilliant play for the famous 1945-46 Kiwis Army side. A superb allround player who could kick with either foot, slot goals and break the line, Scott was an All Black out of the Ponsonby club, though he finished his career with Wellington's Petone.

At the time of his death, he had been the oldest living All Black. And even up until last year, he thought nothing of driving from his Whangamata home to Auckland and back again to partake in some social occasion or appear on TV. He brought the house down at the clubrooms in February 2011 when the Barbarians toasted his 90th birthday. On some gentle prodding, he removed his right shoe and sock to show all the famous foot that could land goals, barefooted, from halfway.

In the introduction to his 1956 biography with Terry McLean, Scott wrote: "I should like to say how much I have admired the work of such organisations as the Barbarians club... Their adventurous approach to the playing of the game provides a stimulus that it always needs."

Murray Menzies (1926-2013)

Murray Menzies loved his rugby, racing, bowls and beer, and was always ready with a forthright argument.

After being head boy at Seddon Tech, Menzies, as a versatile footballer out of the Ponsonby club, played 27 official matches for Auckland from 1949-56. Mainly a loose forward, he could also play midfield or fullback, not to mention kick goals. As a player, he won two Gallaher Shields with Ponies, in 1948 and '54, before taking up coaching the club. After serving on the committee there, he was made a life member.

One of the drivers for 'The House that Jack Built' on Cricket Avenue, Menzies was a highly respected Barbarian who served as club president from 1992-93.

He and his wife Avis had a large family. His grandson Ray junior, a flanker, played over 100 premier games for East Coast Bays and was, at one, point, even player-coach.

Geoff Burton (1923-2013)

Geoff Burton was a likeable, astute rugby man who was a life member of the Auckland Rugby Referees' Association.

His refereeing days spanned 1950-95, so he was into his 70s when he hung up the whistle. Regarded as the first of the 'players' referees', Burton's rep career as a whistler was from 1959-68. He served as the president of the Auckland Rugby Referees' Association in 1967-68 and was, in 1973, president of the national referees association. Burton kept himself fit by jogging in the Auckland Domain every lunch hour.

His brother Jack played two games for Auckland (in 1948) and also represented Auckland and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) at cricket. Geoff was also a stalwart of the Auckland University Cricket Club and one of the drivers in getting the great offspinner Jim Laker to come to Varsity in 1951.

MIDDLEWEIGHT TOURNEY

Riverhead Domain is the venue for the King of the Middleweights tournament.

Held over two Friday nights, March 8 and 15, this short competition features four sides battling it out for the Bryan Craies U85kg Cup, named after our esteemed committee member and one of the drivers of this restricted weight grade.

The top Auckland U85 sides, College Rifles Bombers and Raiders, will do battle with North Harbour's best, North Shore and Kumeu. The tournament will be sponsored by the North Harbour Rugby Union, Monty's Promotions (Barbarian Deano Allnutt) and Husqvarna. Kickoffs for the round-robin, 20-minutes each way matches, are at 6.45pm and 7.30pm. From that, a team will be chosen to play for the Barbarians at the North Shore club's 140th jubilee celebrations later in the season.

Allnutt has extended an invitation to all Barbarians members to come along for a look at some top middleweight footy and enjoy a convivial beer at the Kumeu Rugby Club, home of the Western Pioneers.

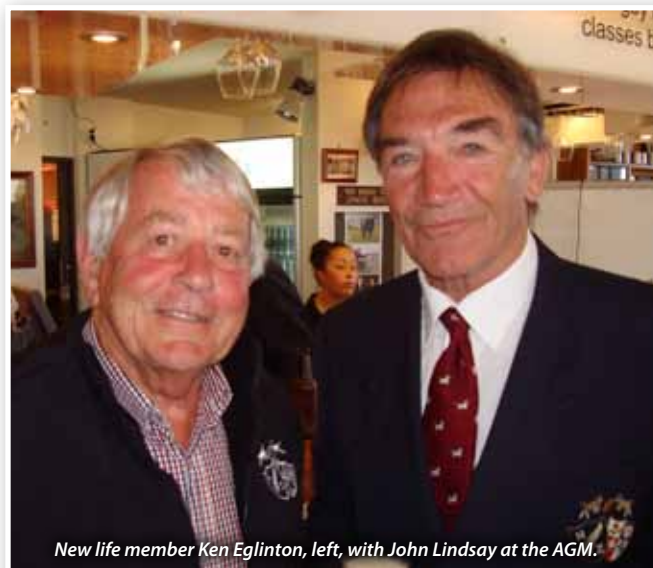
KEN EGLINTON

Ken Eglinton is the club's newest life member, having been elected at November's AGM.

In his playing days, Ken was a fine, tenacious wing who represented Otago University, Otago and New Zealand Universities, while he was also an All Blacks trialist. Often during Otago v Auckland clashes, he would mark fellow Barbarians Don McKay or John Sibun. After he headed north, he joined the Takapuna club, and his work as a coach and administrator led to life membership of that successful North Harbour club.

Ken served as Barbarians secretary from 1997-99 and president from 2002-03. He went to England with the Barbarians tourists of 2003, a tour which yielded a financial windfall for the club, and was active and indefatigable in his work on behalf of the club.

After the sad passing of life members Jack Bourke and Murray Menzies, Ken's promotion to life membership leaves six living Barbarians life members: our patron Bob Sorenson, Allen Rogers, Murray Reid, Don Dormer, Don McKay and now Ken Eglinton.



New life member Ken Eglinton, left, with John Lindsay at the AGM.

BAABAAS v BOMBAY

Your next chance to see the Barbarians in action will come on Easter Sunday (March 31) when the club puts out a side in a festival game to mark 125 years of the Bombay Rugby Club in Counties Manukau.

Barbarians club captain Mark Moore is organising the match, though he may be taking the field, if a touch-inflicted knee injury heals in time, for his old Bombay club. Rumour has it that another former Bombay man, Andy Dalton, may also suit up, if only for a few minutes. John Mills' status is unclear!

The Barbarians team will be made up of a mix of young, perhaps some from that superb 2012 NZ Barbarians Schools team, and some seasoned professionals, though none from Super Rugby. The opposition will be known as the Bombay President's XV.

Kickoff is at 2.30pm and the club will love to see a good turnout of Barbarians to watch the famous scarlet jersey on show again.

MEMBER PROFILE NICK SHEPPARD



Nick Sheppard was inducted into the Barbarians club in late 2011, and describes his membership as "a huge honour."

The 45-year-old lives in North Harbour these days but is a born-and-bred Puke boy, having gone through Pukekohe High School and played his early rugby at the Pukekohe club.



Training as a PE teacher, Nick played senior footy at the College Rifles club in Auckland, and taught at St Kentigern College from 1992-99. He coached the First XV from 1995-98, taking that side to two Auckland 1A grand finals, its first ever trips to the deciders. That was possibly the start of St Kent's time as a successful rugby school.

In 1999-2000 Nick coached the Auckland Secondary Schools side to two undefeated seasons before taking the helm at his old Pukekohe club. In 2004 he assisted the seniors to the championship before accepting the post as chief executive of the Counties Manukau union. He oversaw a tricky transition as the Steelers were promoted from the old NPC division two back up with the big boys into what was then known as the Air New Zealand Cup. After a year working for the NZRU in 2008, Nick moved into his current employment as the high performance manager for the Blues in 2009. Maybe now we are seeing the fruits of his work through all three Blues unions, with the likes of Charlie Piutau, Ofa Tu'ungafasi and Steven Luatua winning their spurs.

No one can doubt Nick's rugby pedigree. His younger brother Dean played 71 games as a fullback for Counties Manukau in the 1990s, while his father Eion turned out in 40 games for Counties in the 1960s. His grandfather also played for Franklin in the pre-Counties days, making for three generations of Counties rugby men in the Sheppard family.

Nick and his wife Tanya have two kids: Thomas, 14, and Emma 11. He loves being a Barbarian and has tried to involve himself as much as time permits, getting along to the annual fun days, for instance.

"I've enjoyed every minute of it and I think it's a great way to continue the friendships and camaraderie that rugby creates. The Barbarians are a great vehicle for those traditions.

"The (clubrooms) are a fantastic facility. It's a real legacy building for the future generations of the Barbarians club. To all those who were able to put that in place, they are to be congratulated. That facility will hold the club in good stead for decades," he says.

AGM REVIEW

The 76th AGM last November saw another good turnout of members (39, including three life members) hear about another very busy year for the club and its associated activities.

Mike Mills begins his second year as Barbarians club president, while the management committee remains largely unchanged, save for the election of a new treasurer to replace the popular **John 'Barney' Jessup**, who stood down after several years in the role and even longer in the service of the club. 'Barney' is replaced by another halfback – they always had good heads for numbers – in **Grant McCurrach**.

Grant, 55, played seniors for the Ponsonby club from 1979-86, winning no less than four Gallaher Shields along the way, the last three as skipper. He also played 14 games for Auckland in the early 1980s. He assumed the coaching reins at Ponies immediately upon retirement and took them to three more Gallahers (1988, '90 and '93).

One of the founding directors of All Black Promotions Ltd, which was set up by the then NZRU to assist in the tricky transition from the amateur to the professional code, Grant is a chartered accountant and is now the managing principal of WHK Auckland. He was made a Barbarian in 1999.

John Mills, the immediate past president, was a deserved winner of the Albert Storey Memorial Trophy. John manages the sale of the Barbarians boxes for the year, and has been a tireless worker in several club roles. Always impeccably attired, John was also on the negotiating committee as the club transitioned into its current premises.



Mills and Mills: John Mills, left, receives the Albert Storey Memorial Trophy from President Mike Mills.

BAABAAS BRIEFS

Thanks to some tireless work by Dean Paddy, the club now 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.

Congratulations to Barbarians Rex Davy and Sir Graham Henry, who were both made life members of the Auckland Rugby Union. The duo, great mates, teamed up as manager and coach respectively of the 1992-97 Auckland side, which won four NPC titles on the bounce, and then collaborated in twin Super 12 championship successes with the Blues (1996-97). Rex has done sterling work with the Waitakere club and was also a stalwart of its forerunner Te Atatu.

Well done too to the husband and wife team of Wally and Judy Jelicich. Wally, already a life member of the Waitemata club, was accorded the same honour at the Auckland Rugby Union, while Judy was made a life member of the Huapai Golf Club.

Further congratulations are in order to Barbarians Richie McCaw, Steve Hansen and Peter Rowe. At the annual Steinlager Awards in December, McCaw won the Kelvin R Tremain Memorial Trophy as New Zealand's top rugby player for the fourth time, extending his record, while Hansen, the All Blacks coach, won his first gong as coach of the year. It was great to see Rowe win his second Heartland Championship player of the year honour for his top work as captain and loose forward of Wanganui.

The late great Sir Fred Allen left a large collection of rugby memorabilia. Two or three pieces will be going up in the Barbarians clubrooms, further adding to the rich rugby history that adorns our walls.

The club was saddened to learn of the recent death of Fijian threequarter Senavalati Laulau, who appeared for the New Zealand Barbarians in 1985. In his heyday, Laulau was known as the 'David Campese of Fiji rugby'. He toured Australia with the Barbarians, scoring three tries, including one against the Australian Barbarians, on the opposite wing to John Kirwan.

The club has a stack of quality new apparel in stock. 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

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) 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 or jmccresswell@xtra.co.nz

Home number: 09-630-6425

FIXTURES: EDEN PARK



Steinlager Series
Saturday June 8
All Blacks v France, 7.35pm



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



Saturday May 25
Blues v Brumbies, 7.35pm



Saturday July 13
Blues v Chiefs, 7.35pm

*NB. The Blues also play the Stormers on Friday May 3 at Albany's North Harbour Stadium. The playoffs are down for July 20-August 3.

*At the time of print, the ITM Cup draw had not been finalised, but the competition is again scheduled to run from August to October.

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