



NOVEMBER 2020

BAABAA NEWS

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



The two teams after the NZ Barbarians Under 18 camp match.

Photo: Bernie Allen

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

We've been through a very busy, and very enjoyable, time for the club during the last 6-7 weeks.

There was the Test match at Eden Park, of course, but we also saw the scarlet jersey in action at the NZ Barbarians Under 18 camp, the NZ Barbarians Under 85kg National Club Cup, a team played the ex-All Blacks on the Match Fit TV programme, and our Barbarians women's team is in the midst of a series against the Black Ferns. So there's been some great exposure for the club around the rugby fields of this country.

Our club captain Kevin Senio has been very busy working behind the scenes to make some of these teams and matches come to pass. I note that our junior VP Craig Glendinning took the field too.

The schools camps culminated in a match between the Whetton XV and the Haden XV. It's important to note that the Whetton XV overcame the Haden XV. There was no NZ Barbarians Schools match, though a paper team was named. They will be back in action, hopefully, in 2021. The boys and their attitude were high calibre, and this is a key team on their pathway.

Great to see some TV coverage of the Under 85kg tournament. The club has supported this grade for over a decade now. Sir Graham Henry and I were privileged to present the trophy at the final, which was a cracking game at Eden Park. There's a huge opportunity for this grade to grow and I know there will be a fully national focus on it next year. It's not just about elite First XV or academy players. It's a time for these competitive guys to shine. We hosted both teams after the final, and we were at close to capacity. They appreciated the opportunity and were very grateful and respectful towards the club. I can't speak highly enough of them and the competition.

The Barbarians women's team has plenty to play for, less than 10 months out from Rugby World Cup here. Monalisa Urquhart, a former

Black Fern and a club committee member, is all over this and doing a great job representing the club at these matches.

Sad to hear of the passing of several members in the last few months. Jim Blair, in particular, was a good friend and a pioneer of rugby fitness in the 1980s with Auckland. We all owe a lot to Jim.

Don't forget the AGM on November 25 and the Xmas party on December 4. The club has become my second home, and I've just about had to bring my mattress and sleeping bag along. I've loved my Presidency, which is drawing to a close. Incoming President Bernie Allen will continue to lead the good work of the committee. He is passionate about the culture of the club and, even though he 'played for Waitemata,' he will be excellent in the role!

Alan Whetton
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Jim Blair (1935-2020)

Jim Blair was the man who revolutionised rugby fitness in the 1980s.

The Glaswegian, who emigrated to New Zealand in the 1960s, came from a soccer background, but he soon realised that props should not be doing the same training as the wings in the oval ball code.

After helping Alex Wyllie with NPC champion Canterbury in 1983, John Hart brought him into the Auckland fold, where his famous skill grids helped turn the blue and whites into a great handling team that was never bettered for fitness. Blair went on to help train the 1987 All Blacks and he was still involved with the Blues at the dawn of Super Rugby. In latter years, he lived on the Gold Coast and was suffering from dementia at his death.

Bevin Allen (1943-2020)

"We're all going to miss Bevy... always optimistic, interested in what you were doing, and one of the all-time good guys."

That quote from his eulogy sums up Bevin Allen, a top bloke and a rugby man. He was a fine, tigerish halfback for Waitemata for many years in the 1960s. Before he turned 30, he was into coaching, taking the championship-winning 1972 Waitemata third grade. In the early 1980s he coached Massey from third division to first in just three years.

One of his proudest moments came when he was inducted into the Barbarians club, nominated by his great Waitemata mate Adrian Clarke and seconded by Colin Meads.

Allen was a councillor for Waitemata from 1977-80, being chairman of works. He was also a founding member of the Waitemata Lions club, being president in 1979. He later worked in real estate.

His funeral was muted due to level 3 lockdown in Auckland, but he was farewelled at a Melbourne Cup event at Ellerslie racecourse, fitting for a man who had much to do with the racing industry and loved his nags as much as his rugby.

Phil Kingsley Jones (1948-2020)

Phil Kingsley Jones is best known as Jonah Lomu's first manager at the height of the late, great wing's fame.

But Kingsley Jones, born in Wales, was a rugby man to his core. He emigrated to New Zealand in the early 1980s, where he was a much in demand comic, speaker and raconteur. He was a front-rower for the Mt Wellington club before moving into coaching – taking Tonga to the Rugby World Cup – and then working for the Counties Manukau union over nearly 30 years. He was later ambassador for that union. His son Kingsley played for Wales and now coaches the Maple Leafs of Canada.

Kingsley Jones was only a Barbarian for a few years, but he was a proud member of the club. His great mate 'Beegee' Williams put together a 'Tutira Mai' musical tribute to him from members.

Barry Main (1934-2020)

Barry Main had lived in Australia since 1977, but he was secretary of the club from 1964-76 and treasurer from 1965-70.

Out of Sacred Heart College, he played on the wing for Auckland Marist through the 1950s and '60s while working for AMP Insurance. Main was also a very good cricketer, who played in the City and Suburban league at the Auckland Domain. His father Arthur Main was manager of Fred Allen's 1959 Auckland team.

Eddie Tonks (1934-2020)

Eddie Tonks was chairman of New Zealand Rugby from 1990-95 and was made a life member of the union in 2004.

Barbarians club President Alan Whetton called him "a great ambassador for the game and one who bled rugby."

Tonks also served as chairman of the IRB during a time of great flux for rugby. He had his exporting company and was prominent on the Wellington rugby scene, becoming a life member of the old Onslow club. He was on the NZR board during the lead-in to the first Rugby World Cup.



Bevin Allen seeking to evade the clutches of your secretary Ken Baguley in a 1960s Waitemata-Varsity clash.



Judging by the smiles from the boys, it looks like either AJ Whetton or Tom Coventry have cracked a good joke at the Under 18s match in Hamilton.

AGENDA FOR AGM



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 6.00pm

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of minutes of the 83rd AGM held on November 27, 2019
3. Obituaries
4. New members
5. President's report
6. Club captain's report
7. Treasurer's report and adoption of annual accounts
8. Confirmation of life members
9. Election of officers
10. Management committee – five to be appointed
11. Protected fund guardians
12. Vote of thanks to retiring committee members

General business

- 13.1 Subscriptions for 2020-21 to be retained at \$75 per annum
- 13.2 Update from Eden Park
14. Other

NZ BARBARIANS WOMEN

Great to see our NZ Barbarians women's team, first formed in 2019, in the midst of an international series against the Black Ferns as part of the build-up to Women's Rugby World Cup 2021 on these very shores.

Coached by Rodney Gibbs and captained by Alana Bremner of Canterbury, the Barbarians are fringe Black Ferns and some will filter through to the top side. Keep an eye on this televised series. It's always heart-warming to see the famous scarlet jersey up in lights. It was a shame the jersey presentation, set for November 13, was canned due to the Covid-19 scare in Auckland. We'll have a full report on the series in our February newsletter.

UNDER 18 SCHOOLS CAMP

In lieu of the usual annual trans-Tasman schools test series featuring the NZ Barbarians Schools, the club did sponsor a national Under 18 First XV camp last month in Hamilton.

It culminated in a match between the Alan Whetton XV and the Andy Haden XV (in the scarlet jerseys), the latter aptly named after the late Barbarians member and great All Blacks lock. The Whetton XV triumphed 57-20, highlighted by four tries to wing Blake Makiri (out of St Peter's, Cambridge, and previously Sacred Heart) in a contest in which the score did not reflect the quality across the board. Halfback Adam Lennox, son of Wanganui Barbarian Guy Lennox, made an impact off the pine for the Whetton XV, and he was duly named in the paper NZ Barbarians Schools squad after the match.

Barbarians Tom Coventry, Tana Umaga and Gus Leger were among the coaches who guided the boys.

UNDER 85 NATIONAL CLUB CUP

The club has held Under 85kg middleweight rugby to its heart for the last decade and was thus very proud to back a pseudo-national club competition which ran through October-November.

There are plans afoot for a much larger national comp in 2021, Covid permitting, which can only be a good thing. The final took place as the curtainraiser to the Auckland-Northland Mitre 10 Cup game at Eden Park on November 7. The Eden Lizards edged the Auckland University Squids 27-24, much to the delight of several Baabaas onlookers, namely Tom O'Hanlon and Mark Bateman. President AJ Whetton and Sir Graham Henry presented the trophy to rapturous applause from the Eden faithful.



Sir Graham Henry, left and Mike Hester of NZR, at the launch of the U85kg National Club Cup last month in the clubrooms.

'MATCH FIT' FIXTURE

Two weeks earlier saw a unique fixture at Eden Park.

A team of former All Blacks, some of whom had been through eight weeks of heavy fitness training to help change their lifestyle and tighten their midriiffs, all as part of TV3's Match Fit programme, took on a Barbarians selection, featuring some recent players and some of a more mature vintage, shall we say?

There was plenty of tries and laughter in a competitive atmosphere.

The former All Blacks included Pita Alatini, Frank Bunce, Kees Meeuws, Craig Dowd and Eroni Clarke, while the Baabaas fielded Gus Leger, club captain Kevin Senio, Tino 'JP' Poluleuligaga and Rocky Khan, among others.

The match was tight, decided by a late Brendon Leonard try. The after-match in the clubrooms showcased the best of rugby's camaraderie.



Tom Johnson, sporting his beloved Magpies scarf, at the test last month, with Keith Nelson and Sir Bryan Williams.

BAABAAS BRIEFS



*The newsletter editor is also the editor of iconic monthly magazine Rugby News.

There's plenty of provincial, grassroots and women's coverage in there to sink your teeth into, as well as All Blacks' content. The November issue is out now, and December 14 for the next one. Rugby News is available at all good magazine retailers and supermarkets or you can subscribe by calling 0800-77-77-10 or visit www.rugbynews.co.nz

*The 2020 subs notices were sent out months ago. Please pay your subs, if applicable, at your earliest convenience, as this is a **requirement** of membership.

EMAIL ADDRESSES



The club uses email and the website for most 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 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

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WHAT'S ON IN 2020-21

Saturday November 21
NZ Barbarians v Black Ferns
Trafalgar Park, Nelson, 4.35pm



Saturday November 21
Mitre 10 Cup semifinal
Auckland v Waikato,
2.05pm



Wednesday November 25
Club AGM, 6pm



Friday November 27
T20 international cricket:
Black Caps v West Indies, 7pm



Friday December 4
Club Xmas party, 6pm



Friday December 18
T20 international cricket:
Black Caps v Pakistan, 7pm



Sunday March 14
Super Rugby Aotearoa
Blues v Highlanders, 3.35pm



Your President, right, next to his twin, after another Auckland victory in 1988. Strangely, the drink is orange fizzy, not rummancoke.



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