



Centurions Rugby Football Club (Inc)
PO Box 11-101 Wellington New Zealand
www.centurionsrugby.co.nz

Newsletter November 2019

As the 2019 rugby season has drawn to a close, with the Wellington Lions reaching the finals, and the All Blacks winning the bronze medal in the Rugby World Cup, Centurions can also reflect on another very successful season.

Centurions coached, managed and supported four teams this season.

U18 Women



It was thrilling to be able to see, for the first time, a women's team wearing Centurions colours.

A new U18 programme was established, and in conjunction with the Wellington Rugby Union, Centurions were able to field a team with our Centurions Nigel Solomon and Moana Mackey coaching, together with Mason Stoney and Jude Perez, and with grateful support from our manager Lisa Crawford.

The women played against the U18 Samoan

and U18 Community team, with players switching teams as necessary for skill and player development.

This all culminated in a Wellington Representative team being picked to play in the Hurricanes' U18 Tournament in Hawkes Bay.

The Centurions U18 team completed their programme by playing the U18 Tasman Women.

That there is now a pathway in place for women's and girls' representative rugby from schoolgirls through to Black Ferns is exciting, and we at Centurions are very proud to be a part of this.

Development team

We again entered a Development team in the Festival Cup competition. This season the WRFU changed the way this competition operated.

Previously the competition was held earlier and the WRFU Development team was selected at the completion of the competition.

This year the WRFU Development team was selected prior to the competition being held, and this along with the WRFU U19 team players being unavailable, meant there was not the same pool of players for Centurions, Wellington Samoan and Wellington Maori to select from.

However it is the ethos of Centurions to provide additional rugby for these club players and a team was entered.

Thanks to the magnificent work done by our Coaches: Greg Sharland, Lincoln Rawles and Reggie Goodes, together with Centurion Managers: Paul Rolton and

Tracy Smith the team performed extremely well and were a credit to themselves and Centurions.

They played 5 games, won 3 and lost 2, with the highlight being a two point win against Hawkes Bay B at McLean Park, Napier.

U18 Boys

We also entered an U18 team in the Hurricanes Youth Tournament for the Trustbank Secondary Schools Shield, which we had won in 2018.

A squad of 34 was chosen from 16 different schools and Clubs in the Wellington Region.

The team was coached by Damian Rapira-Davies and Paul Swift and was managed by Andrew Robinson and Rory McNicholas.

They played six games, and won all six, culminating in retaining the Trustbank Shield against Whanganui at Cooks Gardens, Whanganui.

This was an extremely good team, well coached and well managed. Two of the players reached higher honours at season end, Prop Blake Rogers of Scots made the N.Z. Maori Under 18 team and hooker Harry Press of HIBS, was selected for the N.Z. Schools Barbarians team.

Centurions would like to thank all the coaches and managers of these two teams for all the hard work they put in under trying circumstances to make the season such a resounding success.

We are sure all the players have enjoyed the opportunity to extend their rugby season and test themselves against different opposition.(and the trips away!!

U85kg.

Centurions selected a squad to play four games, the first being a pre-season game against our Centurion U18 team which was won by the U18 team 25—5.

However the other three games had to be cancelled due to a variety of reasons.

The game against Tasman was cancelled because Nelson College had progressed to the final stages of the NZ Secondary Schools competition which meant that Tasman were unable to field a team and a suitable alternative could not be secured.

Both Auckland and Waikato withdrew based on their own funding constraints.

This was not a very satisfactory position for Centurions but hopefully we will be able to reinstate these matches next season.

The following players were selected for the 2019 season:

Avalon RFC.-Arthur Flux, Brett Hodgetts, Graham Cherry, Matthew Edmonds, Robert Daly, Paddy Crombie Jason Harris, Damien Austin-Adams.

Upper Hutt RFC.-Thomas Hunter, Jackson Ryan, Peter O'Reilly, James Mainwaring.

Wellington RFC-Tom Belworthy, Todd Abler, Jeremy Hargreaves, Ratu Karamaena, Jonnie Haddon,

MSP RFC-Jackson Martin

Johnsonville-RFC Shane Mathie, Tony Natoli.

HOBM RFC-Ben Nicolson, Caleb Owczarek

OBU RFC-Keaton William

Kapiti RFC-Brady Murland, Mohi Te One

Centurions luncheon

Another very successful Luncheon was held on 26th July, which raised funds for the NZ Rugby Foundation and Centurions.

Thanks to all those who attended (634) we raised almost \$20k from table donations and auction proceeds, for the NZ Rugby Foundation to assist with

providing care for seriously injured rugby players. The Foundation do a marvellous job in reintegrating severely injured players back into the community.

The funds raised also allow Centurions to provide additional rugby opportunities for players through our teams as shown above.

The main organiser of the Luncheon, Paul Rolton and our President Erin Rush had many hurdles to overcome this year.

The Stadium besides increasing the price of the meal, also placed a large corkage fee on our alcohol and also imposed other charges which had not been in place in previous years.

This resulted in Centurions having to increase our ticket price.

Despite all this the Luncheon was a success and we would like to thank all those who attended.

Following on from this Paul was not satisfied with the service provided by the Stadium and the increased charges which necessitated the higher ticket prices so he surveyed the table holders for their opinions.

The main theme was that it was not value for money and that the ticket price was too high.

This matter has been discussed by the Centurions management committee and it has been decided that we will explore the possibility of an alternative venue for next year's Luncheon.

There will be two international Test matches next year, one against Wales and the other against Australia.

The thinking at this stage is to hold a pre Test Luncheon on the Friday before both Tests. It is envisaged that these will be smaller than in the past, approx. 400/450 at each event and we are already on the lookout for suitable venues and speakers. It is intended that both Luncheons will be back to the basics of good company, good food and plenty of humour.

We will keep you informed of details as they are finalised.

Centurions Charity Golf Tournament

The annual Centurions Golf Tournament will be held on ***Friday 14th February 2020*** at the Shandon Golf Club.

Please keep this afternoon free.

In 2018 with 20 teams participating we raised \$2,800 to support the N.Z. Rugby Foundation and Centurions Rugby. In 2019 we again raised over \$2,000 but our aim this year is to raise even more.

To do so we need more entries particularly from WRFU clubs.

We had great support again with products from Kapura, DB, Pernod-Ricard and Porters Winery, and support from ANZ Bank, Hutt City Council, Apex Print, Gibson Sheat, and WRFU who all entered teams in 2019.

Not everyone plays golf but all our members have contacts in business or Clubs so please email this newsletter to them and suggest that they enter a team or donate a prize.

With the Ambrose format we cater for those who are golfers and those who just want to give it a go.

We promise a great day in support of two very worthy causes.

The entry fee for a team of four is a reasonable \$300, including green fees, a light BBQ to start, on course drinks, post round food platter and prizes.

The entry form will be on our website soon.

The 2019 winner of the Centurions Cup for golf supremacy amongst our Rugby Clubs was the Tawa RFC, team of: Ian Rudd, Paul de Bernardo, Kevin Carmichael and Paul Green. Well done Tawa, another first time winner following Johnsonville's success in 2018 and Poneke, OBU and WRFU in previous years. Come on you Hutt Valley Clubs we know you have golfers in your ranks.
If anyone has any questions please contact Nigel Stirling 021 874 632.

Centurions Christmas function



Our Christmas function will be held at the Shepherds Arms on Tinakori Road, on Friday 6th December at 12 noon.

Please put this in your diary so you don't forget.

This is a chance to come and meet fellow club members and discuss all matters rugby, as well as having a meal on Centurions.

You may even want to take the rest of the afternoon off work so you can really enjoy yourself.

We look forward to seeing you there.

We will need to know numbers nearer the date for catering purposes. Could you please email gr_brooking@xtra.co.nz or text 021 1112287 before 30th November if you are intending to attend the Christmas function.



Contact details

Have your contact details changed recently? If so we would like to keep our database right up to scratch and would appreciate your updated details.

Centurion members change of contact details.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone details.....

Email Address.....

Please post to The Secretary, P O Box 11 101, Wellington, or email to gr_brooking@xtra.co.nz