



THE RED MACHINE

Newsletter of the Marist St Pats Rugby Football Club Inc

PO Box 3472, Wellington

www.msprugby.co.nz

No 2. June 2007



NEW SURFACE A WINNER: Several club members and supporters donated time and materials to help install the superb new artificial surface in MSP's gym at Evans Bay.

Neil Murphy gave generously of his time and equipment, and Marty Ramsbottom supplied equipment and materials. Senior 2 manager John Poutawera prepared the underlying area around the scrum machine, and Hirepool donated a loader.

The poligrass surface is made of a polyethylene yarn brushed up to a height of 10 cm, filled in with fine sand and ground-up rubber. It was first used by the colts at training on 21 May.

Many stories were told of the old sawdust gym, and some old timers were keen to have a minute's silence in honour of its passing. But players from the club and St Pats College can't wait to train indoors once the winter weather sets in.

A sad note among the positives

by John Spillane
MSP chairman

This *Red Machine* contribution is scribed with mixed emotions.

Part of me is ecstatic about the recent upgrade to our gym facilities, particularly the installation of state-of-the-art synthetic turf. I'm also happy with the premiers' form as they build steadily towards the Jubilee Cup round.

On the positive side we have 10 senior teams competing in the Wellington competition with very good results, and clubrooms' attendance has improved over last year's efforts.

The positives continue through into our junior grades, with Pat

Dunn and his small team of helpers fielding 19 teams, full of future prospects for the premier team.

It is also great to see Kevin Horan back at training, the puffs of smoke above the senior forward packs a welcome sight for all who know the magic this man is capable of. Brian Coulter is assisting Gus Slade with the senior 2nd team - we are privileged to have this level of experience working with our young coaches and players.

Then there is the 'new' under-21s coaching line-up of Edwin Meachen and Daniel McHardy (is this the club's future?)

So, what could overshadow this extensive list of positives?

Our club coaching coordinator,

Ian "Snooky" Snook, is leaving us!

Ian has accepted a position with Taranaki Rugby as Director of Rugby Development. It is with sadness that we farewell this unique personality who has helped to guide the club for the past 15 months.

Ian's departure is not only a loss for MSP but for all of Wellington rugby. I commend Taranaki for their foresight in successfully luring home one of their favourite sons. Expect big things from this union in the near future!

I am sure that the total club membership joins with me to wish Ian all the best in this new and exciting role, and we offer our total support to Brendan Reidy as he 'steers the ship' through the second round.

Big test weekend coming up

Another big Test weekend is coming up with the Shamrock Club dinner on Friday 8 June, followed by the before and after Test match functions at the Rowers and Boatshed on the waterfront on 9 June.

The Shamrock Club celebrity dinner will feature guest speakers Ian Borthwick, a New Zealander who is the rugby writer for the top French sports newspaper *L'Equipe*, and Tim Castle, a sports lawyer and soon-to-be-published rugby author.

The following day, club games kick off early with the main game being the premiers' match against HOB Marist at the Hutt Rec starting at 2.15pm.

The Hataitai clubrooms will not

be open, but the action swings to the waterfront.

Club members and supporters are invited to the Rowers function room opposite the lagoon which will open at 4pm.

There is also a pre-Test function next door at the Boatshed - the \$65 tickets are available from Alan Woods (0274 439 176), or Paul Stephen (0212 424 452).

The test against France kicks off at the stadium at 7.35pm and, after the game, it's back to the Boatshed for live music and entertainment.

A great weekend to hear some entertaining speakers, watch some top rugby, and catch up with old friends!



Victor in action against Ories, supported by Ryan Kuggeleign (left), Teofilo Paulo, and Alex Tulou.

Congratulations on NZ selection

Congratulations to premier No 8 Victor Vito who has been selected for the New Zealand under-21 colts side. The colts are scheduled to play Canada in Rotorua on Thursday 21

June. Victor, along with MSP premiers Ged Robinson, Arden David, and Miah Nikora, played in a Wellington XV that had a big win over Wairarapa on 22 May.



The RED MACHINE is compiled by Pat Martin. Printing by Milne Printers. Photos John Holden and Kevin Stent.

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Player profile

Jamie Parkinson

Position:

Prop

Premier debut:

1999, against Old Boys Uni

Secondary school:

Te Aute College

Earliest rugby

memory:

In the 1st XV and playing St Stephens at home and winning

Favourite ground:

Telstra Stadium

Most memorable rugby moment:

Playing for Samoa against Aussie

Most admired rugby player:

Olo Brown

Other sports and interests:

Water polo, gymnastics, claybird shooting

Favourite movie:

Anchorman

Favourite food: cornbeef.



CCO moves on

MSP's club coaching coordinator (CCO) Ian Snook will leave with the club's best wishes when he departs in mid-June to take up a position as Director of Rugby Development in Taranaki.



IAN SNOOK

Snooky brought 20 years experience as a professional coach when he took up the CCO role at MSP in March last year. Well organised and well respected by both players and administrators, he has put many good systems in place at MSP.

"The club has been very supportive," he says, "and a lot of good things have happened with the committee's support."

Reece celebrates 100th premier game



Halfback Reece Poutawera (centre in photo left) celebrated a rare milestone in today's club scene when he played his 100th premier game against Norths on 12 May.

MSP's first centurion since Norm Broughton, Reece made his premier debut in 1997 as an 18-year-old, the year he made the New Zealand under-19 team.

He lists his four Jubilee Cups – in 1997, 1999, 2001, and 2002 – as the highlights of his decade with Marist St Pats. He's confident too that this year's team will also do well.

"We've got a very good team, although we're still not quite playing to our potential. But a Jubilee Cup semi spot is definitely achievable and then anything can happen."

Short cuts

Winning run

The under-85 Blues team are on a great 14-match unbeaten run, having won their last seven games in 2006 and being undefeated in their first seven outings this year.

The Andrew Robinson-coached side's only blemish was on 19 May when they drew 14-14 against a Ponoke side that has gone undefeated for several seasons.

Events calendar

There's plenty coming up at the clubrooms in the weeks ahead - put these dates in your diary:

Ladies' Night
Saturday 23 June

Quiz Night
Saturday 30 June

Club Mass
11am, Sunday 1 July

MSP Idol
Saturday 7 July

And good luck to our Presidents as they prepare to host Presidents' Day on Sunday 3 June. The team has put a heap of work in for the big day when all the over-30s teams will adjourn to MSP's clubrooms after their games on Kilbirne Park.

Old Timers' Day a great success

A lot of work by life member John Gordon and President Brendan Milne paid off when a highly successful Old Timers' Day was held on 26

May. Around 80 were at the lunch before the premier's match against Tawa, and a big crowd returned to the clubrooms after the game.

From left: Ted Buddicom, former NZ Maori All Black Jim Nicholls, Hineura Taitoko (wife of the late NZ Maori All Black Jim Taitoko), and Pat Myers.



THREE TOP MANAGERS (from left): 'Hospitality manager' Agnes Madden, 'Finance manager' MaryAnn Spillane, and 'Events manager' Geraldine Woods.

MSP JUNIORS



Up through the junior ranks

The first time many MSP premiers pulled on a rugby jersey was as a junior player and, for several in this year's squad, it was with MSP's junior club.

Premier fullback Jackson Martin (right) in his debut season, and premier/senior 1 winger Marc Le both came up through the juniors' ranks.

Jackson says his earliest rugby memory was 'racing against my under-6 touch team to see who was the fastest'.

Second-five Chris Slade recalls tripping up one of his team mates who was on his way to scoring his ninth try - Chris had scored eight tries. Thomas Ati'ilaoa wasn't wearing a club jersey - his earliest memory was 'playing with my cousins in the front yard'.

Many profiles of MSP's premier team members appear on the WRFU's website at www.clubweekly.co.nz.

MSP junior contact

Any queries call junior convenor
Pat Dunn.

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021 846 303

Email: juniors@msprugby.co.nz
You can also check out the club's website:

www.msprugby.co.nz/junior



PHOTOGRAPHER Kevin Stent was at this under-9 match between the MSP Hurricanes and Wests. The team is coached by Andrew McLean (here giving a halftime talk), and managed by Ken Ah Kuoi.



Meinrad Fitiseanu on the burst



A try to Naitoa Ah Kuoi



Finn Meredith makes a break



THREE GENERATIONS of O'Keefes at Old Timers' Day on 26 May - regular supporter Frank (left), Matthew, a flanker in the under-13s, and former player and junior coach John.

THE BOYS ARE SIZZLING: Committee members Ken Ah Kuoi, Henry Fidow, and Pat Dunn are kept busy fundraising and organising the Junior Club - they're pictured here at an early season sausage sizzle at Evans Bay.

