



Hot Gossip

January 2011 edition

<http://www.wrra.org.nz/>

Please contact John Ballingall with any news stories, anecdotes, questions, random abuse and photos of David Walsh in compromising positions. Possibly with goats or mangoes.

Email me at john.ballingall@nzier.org.nz or phone 470 1804 or 021 606 477

Aye oop! Just when you thought it was safe to enter the paddock...

Everyone's 2nd favourite Pommie referee (after Mr Wayne Kerr Barnes) is back on the reffing scene after a year away digging wells in Sudan to help deprived one-legged blind orphans. Or maybe sitting on the couch. I can't remember. Whatever. But anyway I'll be blowing the whistle again this season and writing *Hot Gossip* again, so I look forward to hearing from you.

Pre Season training

As it stands at the moment, we have not received the funding that is necessary to allow us to continue with this programme. Therefore the training with Conor will not recommence. If the funding situation changes and we are able to resume, you will be kept informed.

Conor is planning to run sessions for those who wish to pay a small fee for each session. Contact him on 021 646 892 or conor@sts.co.nz for more info. The results of the training programme to date have been very impressive, so it will be a good investment and have you hitting the season in great shape.

NZI 7s tickets

A reminder to all that if you haven't collected the NZI 7s tickets that you have paid for, then please contact Pam Dilnott on treasurer@wrra.org.nz to arrange a suitable time/place to collect these.



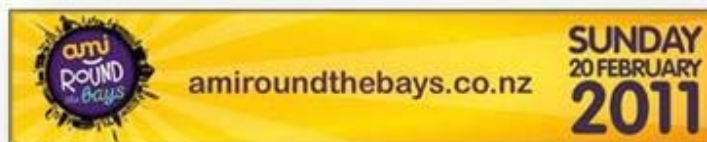
Sevens tournaments

There are several early season sevens tournaments which will require referees:

- Friday 28th and Saturday 29th January – Ulalei Pacific Sevens
- Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February – Marist Sevens
- Saturday 12th February – Greytown Sevens (Wairarapa-Bush usually ask for assistance with this event)
- Saturday 19th February – Ambassador's Trophy WRFU Club Sevens

Please let Benji Crossley know your availability for these tournaments: benji.crossley@wrfu.co.nz or 021 390 463.

Round the Bays – Sunday 20th February (morning)



Many of you will be aware that our major sponsor, AMI, is also the principal sponsor of the upcoming Wellington Round the Bays event. David Walsh has had discussions with AMI regarding the possibility of leveraging off their involvement in this event and using the opportunity in some manner to advertise "referee recruitment". AMI's initial reaction has been positive.

Given Pre season training is no longer taking place, participating in the Round the Bays could kill three birds with one stone¹ – promote refereeing and referee recruitment, a spot of preseason training, and a social opportunity before the season kicks off. There's something for everyone – 7km walk or run, or the half marathon for those that are a bit nuts.

¹ Please note no actual birds will be harmed in the completion of this event. Unless I collapse on some poor unsuspecting seagulls at the finish line.



Nineteen WRRRA members have indicated their willingness to run the AMI Round the Bays and four more have offered assistance to help promote our recruitment cause in some way, shape or form. The general theory is that we would like to provide a printed t-shirt to those that have volunteered to participate. There would be suitable acknowledgement of AMI and a recruitment slogan most likely directing people to ring the 0800 REFEREE number.

At the end of the event at Kilbirnie Park, AMI will have a tent which they have indicated we are welcome to share for any promotional work we intend to do. This is where we envisage our non-runner helpers would be most useful while those that are running the event are making their way around the bays to join them.

Please contact David Walsh on 021 898 098 or 0800 DWARF REF if you are able to help out in any way.

WRRRA T/20 Cricket match – Sunday 20th February (afternoon)



Brad Hudson and Nick Hogan have organised via Facebook (see <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=101270539949612>) a WRRRA T/20 match open to all current or new WRRRA members.

Brad says that while numbers are shaping up pretty well they are still looking for players. Up for grabs is a trophy for the winning team. And don't worry – you'll have plenty of time to run the Round the Bays in the morning and show off your cricketing skills (or lack of) in the afternoon.



Details of the game are:

- Sunday 20th February from 4.00pm (with a reserve day Sunday 27th February)
- Played @ Karori Park No.2 Ground
- 20 over match (maximum 8 Ball overs)
- Batting gear will be provided, but people can bring their own.

There is more information to come, but if you are keen to play please email Brad at bradleyhudson@xtra.co.nz

Annual General Meeting – Monday 28th February

This year's AGM will be held on Monday 28th February at 7.30pm at the Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone.

Also a reminder to everyone to give some thought to the various Sub Committees, Executive Roles, Coaching positions, interchange billeting or any other way that you can assist the WRRRA become even better at what it does in what is going to be a big year.

Desperately seeking a Secretary

No, this isn't me having a mid-life crisis. Much. The WRRRA is seeking nominations for a Secretary to:

- Be part of the Executive team and should attend every Exec meeting which are generally held monthly on a Monday night, 6pm @ PWMC
- Record minutes of meeting & send copy to Exec team for next meeting
- Set broad agenda for next meeting (general template available)
- Generally run voting process at annual AGM

This is a crucial role in the Association and is a great chance to get some experience of how organisations operate at the Board level and make a real difference to how the WRRRA runs. It will look great on anyone's CV. There is plenty of assistance available for the lucky winner. Please contact Ian Dallas on (027) 487 6442 or ian.dallas@crombielockwood.co.nz for more information



Rugby Discovery Day – Sunday 27th February:

2011 will be a huge year! In preparation for Rugby World Cup and as a special feature of the WRFU Rugby Awareness Week, the WRFU have a special Rugby Discovery Day event happening. It's at 10am-2pm @ Rugby League Park, Newtown and will be a high energy, fun-filled day for you and the family, where you can:

- Meet the Hurricanes squad
- Get your photos taken with the world's most famous rugby trophies
- Play Rippa Rugby
- Practice your skills in the skills zone
- Play on four huge rugby inflatables
- Receive heaps of FREE giveaways

Those who come along will get to meet the Hurricanes and tour the private training base used by the Hurricanes and the All Blacks when in town. You'll also get the chance to take part in a game of Rippa Rugby with the players on the Te Whaea artificial sportsfield.

The Rugby World Cup 2011 Zone will celebrate the upcoming tournament and you'll have your chance to take your photo with our Hurricanes and famous rugby trophies, including the Bledisloe Cup and Tri Nations Trophy.

In the Skills Zone, kids get to participate in a range of rugby activities shoulder-to-shoulder with Hurricanes players.

In the Entertainment Zone, Secondary Schools rugby will participate in a high drama 'Kapa Haka battle competition', and the Fun Zone will be filled with inflatables and other activities adding to the fun of the occasion.

Participation in the AMI Round the Bays is intended to be a lead-in activity for the Rugby Discovery Day where WRRRA will once again promote the cause of the WRRRA and our need to recruit many more referees. Further updates will be provided as we confirm all the necessary details.

Anyone who has access to t-shirts or screen printing or promotional printing (flyers, handouts, etc), please get in touch. Your assistance would be appreciated.



Club rugby commences – Saturday 26th March

Please be aware that club rugby will be commencing on 26th March so don't leave your last minute training until it really is too late. Further details about dates and games will be circulated in due course.

Non-rugby related request for assistance

Volunteers are required for Sunday February 27th – 9am to 3pm, 4 persons per "shift" of 2 hours, so about 12 persons required to "man a gate" at a Classic Motorcycle event at Moonshine Park. Please notify Ian Dallas of availability ASAP, and times you would be available. Further detail to be forwarded as appropriate.

Photos of ID in full leathers on his Harley will be published in the next edition of *Hot Gossip*.



Incoming

James McPhail has been a member of the National Referee Squad since 2006 and will be transferring to the WRRRA in late March to start a new job in April. He has already suggested an Under 11s match in the heart of Porirua for his first game whilst others believe a better intro to Wellington club footy would be a Rimutaka vs. Stokes Valley senior match. Please make James feel welcome - despite the fact he's coming from Canterbury.

Referee Profile - James McPhail

Born:	21/11/1985
Province:	Canterbury
Played Rugby:	Yes
Referee Debut Year:	1999
First Class Matches:	28
Test Matches:	0
Super Rugby Matches:	0
Provincial Cup Matches:	7
Heartland Matches:	20
Other Matches:	4
Refereed AB's:	No
L2 Qualification:	Yes

