



Auckland Rugby Referees
Association
"Play it, Ref it, Love it".
February 2008



From the Chairman

Happy New Year to everyone!

I trust that everyone is well refreshed and looking forward to Season 2008 - the 113th year of ARRA. With the world cup a distant memory and while you all ponder the introduction of the new laws being introduced into the professional game, pre-season training is well and truly underway. This season sees the restructuring of the senior club competition and the 125th Anniversary of the ARFU. During the off season the Board, Michael Elliott and his team have been working very hard in putting together the right structures and policies along with the right people. The Board wishes to thank all those volunteers who have put themselves forward to coach, select or perform other tasks that ensure a smooth year ahead.

The game of rugby is truly democratic. It accommodates all sizes and abilities - male and female - and every player can find their own level. The same applies to refereeing: regardless of your ambitions, the game will offer you a place in which you can enjoy yourself whilst significantly enhancing the enjoyment of players. But at what ever level you operate you must never lose sight of the fundamental objective of the referee: to manage an environment in which two sides can play and enjoy a game of rugby within the Laws of the game.

The Board looks forward to seeing everyone old and new again this season and wishes everyone an enjoyable and successful season in 2008.

John Kennelly
Chairman ARRA

From the President

Welcome to all for the 2008 season. I hope you all had a good Christmas break and are back training for another great season of rugby. Paul has had some of us training every Wednesday now for the past month and fitness is starting to improve. We have had the services of Simon Kent from the Auckland Rugby Union putting us through our paces and I have to admit it has been hard going. Our Monday meetings start next month so I will either see you at training or at the meeting. Enjoy your season.

John Jacka
President ARRA

First Meeting for 2008

The first meeting for 2008 will take place on Monday 3rd of March at 7.00pm in the West Lounge. Our principal sponsor AMI will be present as will Physio Rehab Group. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Registration Forms & Subs

A reminder that your completed registration form and \$30.00 subscription is now due. Please complete the registration form and return it with your subscription via mail in the post paid envelope provided or at the first meeting on the 3rd of March. Your assistance with this is appreciated.

Availability

Pre season games have now kicked off and the number of games will grow in the forthcoming weeks. As this is the case we need to know about every referee's availability. As of this week we will assume that every active referee is available for pre season games unless you notify us otherwise.

If you are not available at this stage please email Kylie on kylie.andrew@aucklandrugby.co.nz to advise what date you are available from.

Law Exam Classes

Law classes are taking place each Monday night from 6.00pm till 7.00pm in the West Stand. They are a good opportunity for anyone who wants to enhance their knowledge of the Laws of the game. All referees are encouraged to attend.

Communication

Kylie Andrew will be on leave as from Thursday 21st of February until Wednesday 5th of March. Kylie is getting married and we wish her all the best for her big day. During this period please contact either Paul Van Etten or Mike Elliott with any queries (their contact details are below).

RugbySmart

Once again the RugbySmart course is compulsory for all referees to attend. This year we will be holding the course at one of our training nights in March.

Blues Tickets

We hope everyone that attended the Blues V Chiefs game enjoyed the spectacle. Just a reminder that from now on you will need to write your name down on the list posted at each meeting for EACH individual Blues game. Tickets will be distributed as per the earlier communicated protocol which can be found on our website under the News section. Tickets will be available for collection at the Monday night meeting before the game.

Hong Kong Interchange

Pete Willis has been selected by our Selection Panel to represent the ARRA this year at the Hong Kong 10s. Pete will also be involved in the IRB 7's in Hong Kong as a Touch Judge. We congratulate him on his selection and wish him well for the trip.

Congratulations

For those of us who watched the IRB 7's tournaments either live or on television in Wellington and San Diego you will have seen our very own Ben Skeen officiating at these tournaments. From all accounts Ben performed admirably. Also congratulations to Sheldon Eden-Whaitiri who officiated as part of the touch judge group for the IRB 7's in Wellington. It is great to see our top referees performing on centre stage and as an Association we are extremely proud of their achievements. We look forward to their reports on both events in due course.

Volunteer Structure

The volunteer management structure for 2008 is as follows:

Selectors	Bruce Rennie (Head Selector); Mike Trevenen; John Gillies
Head Coach	Roger Drew
Head Panel Coaches	Ken Worthington (Premis); Don Crawford (B); Steve Gill (C); Bill Hollins (JRC/SS); Steve Salton (1 st Years)
Talent ID Selectors (TID)	Peter McSkimming; Bill Sinclair; Paul Phillips.
Academy	Paul Van Etten; Roger Drew; John Gillies
Delegates	Smudge McNeilage (COD); Jim Murphy (JRC); Alison Hall (ASSRFU); Greg Carr (Disciplinary)

Key Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 3 rd March	7.00pm	Monday Meetings Commence	West Stand
Wed 5 th March	6.00pm	Beep test	ASB Concourse, ASB Stand
Sat 8 th & Sun 9 th March	TBC	Spillane Tournament	Liston Park
Sat 15 th March	1.00pm	Waka Nathan Comp Starts	Pakuranga RFC
Sat 15 th March	5.35pm	Blues v Western Force	Albany Stadium
Sat 22 nd March	5.30pm	Blues v Stormers	Eden Park
Sat 29 th March	7.35pm	Blues v Bulls	Eden Park



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