



Issue 4

NEWSLETTER

December 2013

PRESIDENT'S XMAS MESSAGE

Can you believe another year has slipped by. I know for myself some of the goals I set in 2013 haven't been met (The old cliché "Time and Tide Wait for no Man") certainly runs true. Prue and I wish all our members and their families a very Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year.

The New Year kicks off with the Annual Mount Maunganui Harlequins hosting their dinner on Friday 24th January and The Chiefs first home game on Saturday March 1st, let's hope Dave Rennie can make it 3 out of 3.

Please put in your diaries the NZ Harlequins AGM 5.30pm 26th March 2014. Enjoy your holidays and please drive safely.

Graham Jefferis
President
NZ Harlequins Rugby Club



UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2014

24th January	Mount Maunganui Harlequins Dinner contact Ray Reardon 07 5748927 for tickets
26th March	AGM 2014 5.30pm
19 June	Annual NZ Harlequin Test dinner
21 June	All Black Test v England



BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

NZ Harlequins Rugby Club would like to acknowledge our support from all sponsors and friends in 2013. A special mention to:

Harcourts-Brian King and Davindah Singh
Direct Group-Gordon Smith
Phils Panel and Paint-Phil and Sarah Rennie
Colin Ashton- McLeod Sheet Metals
Wally Cairns-IPP, Steve Maclaren- Metallic recycling
Martin Heathcoate of Heathcoate Appliances
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Glenn Buckland- Pennisula Moololoba Apartments

A big thank you to all who supported our Annual Auction, whether is was donating auction items or buying items, this is a big part of or Under 17 campaign.

CHIEFS HOME GAMES FOR 2014

Saturday 1 March Waikato Stadium, Hamilton	Chiefs v Highlanders 19:35
Saturday 8 March	BYE: CHIEFS
Friday 14 March Waikato Stadium, Hamilton	Chiefs v Stormers 19:35
Saturday 12 April Waikato Stadium, Hamilton	Chiefs v Rebels 19:35
Saturday 19 April Waikato Stadium, Hamilton	Chiefs v Crusaders 19:35
Saturday 3 May Waikato Stadium, Hamilton	Chiefs v Lions 19:35
Friday 9 May Venue TBC 19:35	Chiefs v Blues
Friday 4 July Waikato Stadium, Hamilton	Chiefs v Hurricanes 19:35

2013 ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

NZ Harlequins All Black v Argentina Test Dinner.

Thanks to all who came and supported one of the biggest rugby events of the year. Another successful night. What an evening, with rugby as the main focus yet an evening with Latin flair. It was a very cultural evening with guest speaker Mr Fernando Escalona, the Ambassador for Argentina and former rugby player, enlightening us with his humour, followed by guest dancers, the New Zealand Stage Tango Champions John & Felicity Flower. In reply Julia Booth sung a beautiful opera.

Topping this off was wine from Argentina at the tables and another great auction. Big thanks to Brian King for auctioneering and to Ronnie Phillips who was the M.C. of the night. Thank you for all that attended and supported this function. Gracias, una gran noche!



Guest speaker the Argentinian Ambassador to New Zealand Mr Fernando Escalona and his wife Mrs Marcela Ronderos, NZ Harlequins President Graham Jeffris and his wife Prue Jefferis



John and Felicity Flower



The Tango



Julia Booth sings Opera

BLAST FROM THE PAST

NZ Harlequin match versus Babarians in Hamilton July 1st 1951. This photo was discovered just last month in the Winston Hooper collection. This match was played at Rugby Park. NZ Harlequins won 24-18.



All Blacks Hugh McLaren and Has Catley hoist Waikato Referee A.A.Griffiths high after the game.

Thanks Hoops

New Zealand Harlequins will miss longtime life member Winston Hooper, the man we called 'Hoops'.

As the NZ Harlequins and Waikato Rugby Union go through the mountain of memorabilia he has left behind, his attention to detail was remarkable. All clubs have history and we are thankful we had Hoops to record ours.

Winston had an integral part as Secretary and Historian for many years in the running of the N Z Harlequins and his dry sense of humour will be missed.

Cheers Hoops

NZ Harlequins Rugby Football Club



*Two great rugby blokes that passed away this year
Winston Hooper and Farrell Temata*

NZ HARLEQUINS HISTORY

The Harlequin Rugby Football Club (Inc.) Hamilton, New Zealand, was formed in the State Fire Office, Hamilton, Waikato, on June 15, 1938.

The Harlequins first team played in Tauranga in 1939. After the war in 1946, there was a meeting of the club and the club stated it's aims and objects as:

- To renew and maintain old friendships of playing days.
- To engage in football free from competition, for the joy of it.
- To invite promising juniors to play for the club and teach such youngsters the spirit of the game.
- To play friendly games with similar clubs when such can be conveniently arranged.

Many All Blacks have played in the New Zealand Harlequin's jersey over the years and since the inclusion of the under 17 development programme in 1992, it has given a clear development pathway for young up and coming Waikato rugby players.

The annual NZ Harlequins' under 17 programme has been hailed as an outstanding success since its inception in the early 1990s. Nominations for our trials, up to 160 in some early seasons, exceeded all our expectations.

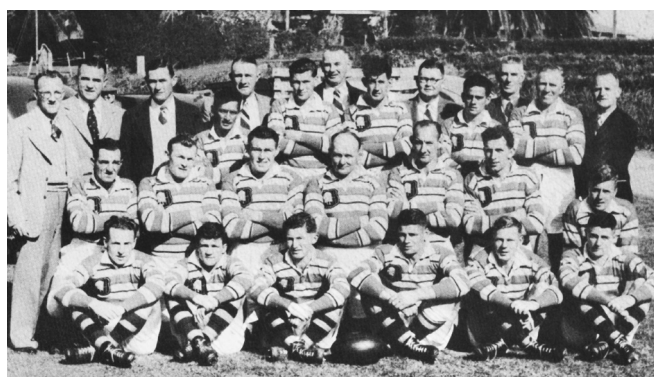
In the earlier days the special squad trainings got the youngsters excited and the battle for places in the playing side was intense. Every team featured players from smaller country schools and they grabbed their opportunities with relish. It's the same today.

The progress of youngsters such as Bruce Reihana, who made the first under 17 team, then Mark van Gisbergen, Isaac Boss and Regan King proved the value of giving these players the opportunity to shine.

Annual matches with NZ Area Schools and the NZ Vikings Club from Northland have become regular features. A NZ Harlequin camp, backed by the NZ Rugby Foundation and supported by the Waikato Rugby Union for approx 40-45 players, is staged at St Paul's Collegiate annually.



NZ Harlequins Rugby Team 1939



NZ Harlequins Rugby Team 1951



NZ Harlequins Rugby Team 1983



NZ Harlequins Rugby U17 Team versus NZ Area schools 2010

The NZ Harlequins Current Committee

President: Graham Jefferis, **Vice President:** Tony Tissingh **Club Captain:** Lance Fletcher, **Secretary:** Paul Street, **Treasurer:** Murray Pratt, **Committee:** Peter Gilbert, Martyn Steffert, Brian Clarke, Paul Martin, Reiner Van Der Nest, Kevin Hart, Dave Hall, Bernard Murphy.

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From the NZ Harlequins Rugby Club, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!