



Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

May 2014

PRESIDENT'S XMAS MESSAGE

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

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| 28th May | Matangi Hillcrest Celebration Waikato legends v NZ Harlequins Match |
| 19th June | All Blacks v England Test Annual NZ Harlequins Dinner |
| 21th June | WRU All Blacks v England Test English Breakfast |
| 21 June | All Black Test v England |
| 4 July | Chiefs v Hurricanes Waikato Stadium, Hamilton 19:35 |

NZ HARLEQUINS MEMBERSHIP SUBS NOW DUE

Memberships subs for this season (1/4/13-31/3/14) of \$40 are now due. For members who would like to pay online, put your name as reference.

NZ Harlequins Club bank No. 03 0306 0179170 00.

Members, sign up at www.nzharlequins.co.nz to keep your email and mailing addresses current.



ALL BLACKS V ENGLAND TEST DINNER

NZ Harlequins Test Dinner 2014, will be held on Thursday 19th June, Sky city, 6pm for a 6.30 start. \$120 a ticket. The speaker is the Waikato Centurian, former Waikato and Chiefs coach, now the current All Blacks assistant coach, Ian Foster.

Please contact Lance for more ticket details, get in quick before tickets sell out!

Contact Club Captain: Lance Fletcher - Mob: 027 222 2185
Email: fletchl@xtra.co.nz



Under 17 and Under 19 Teams for 2014

NZ Harlequins will continue their under 17 programme and announce an Under 19 representative team.

The Waikato-based New Zealand Harlequins Rugby Club will field an Under 19 team during the upcoming 2014 representative season.

The new Under 19 side has been created in line with the inaugural National Under 19 Tournament which is to be held in Taupo later this year.

NZ Harlequins will be entered into the Chiefs region qualifying phase of the national tournament with the Waikato, Counties Manukau and Bay of Plenty Under 19 sides.

Selectors will also look to include some Thames Valley and King Country players in the NZ Harlequins squad which will help them push their case for inclusion in the Heartland Selection Under 19

team which has a spot in the national tournament.

NZ Harlequins will not be eligible to qualify but will provide cover for the Waikato Under 19s in the lead up to the national tournament.

NZ Harlequins President Graham Jefferis said "we are delighted to assist with the creation of this team which will help fill a void for club players who have not made the Waikato Under 19s."

Waikato Rugby Union High Performance Manager Leon Holden said "it will be a great chance for fringe players to still be involved in representative rugby and allow us to further build our depth at Under 19 level, plus also provide an opportunity to expose players from the Thames Valley and King Country regions to rugby at a higher level."

NZ HARLEQUINS SUPPORT MATANGI-HILCREST 100 CENTENNARY



NZ HARLEQUIN THAT PLAYED FOR ENGLAND

Mark van Gisbergen (born 30 June 1977 in Hamilton, New Zealand) is a rugby union footballer who plays at fullback for Lyon and England. He is nicknamed 'Giz' or 'Gizzy'.

Van Gisbergen's father is Dutch born whilst his mother is from New Zealand, meaning that the player holds both a New Zealand passport and a Netherlands passport. Van Gisbergen qualified to play for England on 11 September 2005 on residency grounds, having come to England three years previously to begin his playing career at Wasps.

After playing age group representative rugby for Waikato and the NZ Harlequins in 1998, he finally broke into the Waikato top team.

He is a former Waikato fly-half in the National Provincial Championship, although he was unable to cement a regular starting position or secure a more financially rewarding Super 12 contract. He played his club rugby for Hamilton Marist for several seasons, often at fullback.

The fullback made his debut for Wasps in 2002 and scored just under 300 points for his club in the 2003-04 Zurich Premiership and the 2003-04 Heineken Cup. He scored over 300 points in the 2004-05 Zurich Premiership and the 2004-05 Heineken Cup and appeared in all but two Wasps matches. In his time with Wasps he played in three Premiership Finals and a Heineken Cup Final.

He made his Test debut as a brief replacement for Mark Cueto during England's 26–16 defeat of Australia in November 2005. In a friendly before the 2006-07 Guinness Premiership he suffered a broken chin, and was ruled out for six weeks. He was picked in the 2007 Six Nations Championship Squad.

Gizzy has retired from rugby and now lives in Mt Maunganui.



Full name: Mark van Gisbergen
Date of birth: (1977-06-30) 30 June 1977
Place of birth: Hamilton, New Zealand
Height: 1.78 m (5 ft 10 in)
Weight: 88 kg (13 st 12 lb) [1]
School(s) attended St Johns College
1999 NZ Harlequins Invitation selection
1997–2002 Waikato 9
2002–2011 London Wasps
2011 Lyon OU
193 1st class Games (1166 Points)
Representative teams 2005 England 1 (0)



Gizzy taking the ball up in the 2002 Waikato Club final for Marist, the following year he left for a contract with Wasps.

CLUBROOMS HAVING A MAKE OVER

It is time for a change and the New Zealand Harlequins are moving with the times. The New Zealand Harlequins Clubrooms are having a make over this year.

The club committee members have decided it is time to revamp our clubrooms. We will be updating the bar, colour scheme and signage ready for the All Black England Test match on the 21 June. We have a friendly Club environment, however we can always improve to ensure our members, players and coaches of our club are comfortable and proud of our heritage. See you at the club for a beer soon.



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.

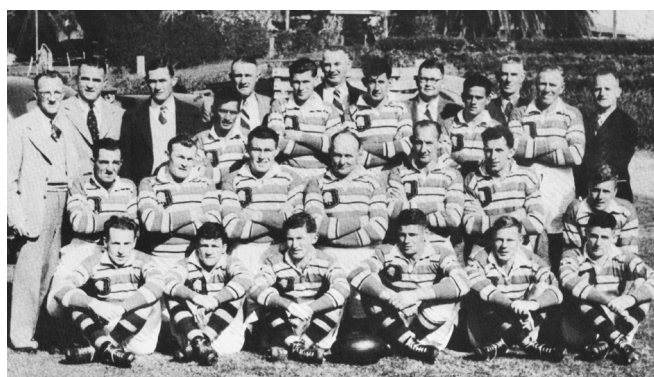
In the earlier days the special squad trainings got the youngsters excited and the battle for places in the playing side was intense. Every team featured players from smaller country schools and they grabbed their opportunities with relish. It's the same today.

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, Hayden Ross. **Acting Past President:** Dave Finlay

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