



Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

June 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members

Welcome to another exciting year of Rugby. Our Chiefs Franchise are performing exceptionally well and the fans are turning out to watch them, which is reflected in the turnout in our club rooms prior and after the home games. Waikato ITM is just around the corner and their preseason games with Ranfurly Shield challenges vs. Horowhenua - Kapiti July 17th at Morrinsville (Harlequins and friends are invited to the Kereone clubrooms before and after) and East Coast at Ruatoria on 30th July will be exciting watching.

Our Under 17 program starts with our annual camp at St Paul's Collegiate 23rd to 25th July and our first game is the New Zealand Area Schools 23rd August at Waikato Stadium as a Curtain Raiser to the Otago Ranfurly Shield Challenge. We have two major fund raisers organized this year these being our Auction Breakfast on Friday 2nd August and our annual sports dinner at Sky City on Thursday 5th of September. We urge all Harlequin members to support our Under 17 program and our fund raising events.

Regards

NZ Harlequin's President- Graham Jefferis

UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2013

Round 20 Chiefs v Hurricanes

Waikato Stadium, Hamilton, Friday 28th June, 7:35pm

2 Aug Annual NZ Harlequin breakfast

5 Sept Annual NZ Harlequin Test dinner

7 Sept All Blacks v Argentina

14 Sept Waikato v Auckland 75th Jubilee Luncheon,

More details inside



NZ HARLEQUINS UNDER 17 2013

23-25 July Training Camp & trials

23 Aug Harlequins v NZ Area Schools Waikato Stadium, Curtain Raiser

CONFIRMED NORTHERN REGION U18 DRAW 2013

Date	Home Team	Away Team
31-Aug	North Harbour B Thames Valley King Country	Vikings Auckland Div Harlequins
7-Sep	North Harbour B Thames Valley Aucklnd Div	King Country Vikings Harlequins
14-Sep	Harlequins Vikings King Country	North Harbour B Auckland Div Thames Valley
21-Sep	North Harbour B Vikings King Country	Thames Valley Harlequins Auckland Div
28-Sep	Vikings Auckland Div Harlequins	King Country North Harbour B Thames Valley

2013 NZ Harlequins Under 17 team will be coached by Dean Gage and Eru Brodie.

Both Dean and Eru have coached the NZ Harlequins Under 17 team previously.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NZ HARLEQUINS ARGENTINIAN TEST DINNER 2013



NZ Harlequins Test Dinner 2013, will be held on Thursday 5th Sept, Sky city, 6pm for a 6.30 start. \$110 a ticket. The speaker is the Argentinian Ambassador to NZ, Fernando Escalona.

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



NZ HARLEQUINS 75th JUBILEE LUNCHEON

To celebrate our 75th jubilee, join us at the NZ Harlequins clubrooms on **14 September, before the Waikato v Auckland match, kickoff 2.35. More details to be announced.**

Please contact: Club Captain: Lance Fletcher -
Mob: 027 222 2185 Email: fletchl@xtra.co.nz
or one of the committee if interested.

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.

WAIKATO ITM CLASH WITH AUCKLAND

Saturday, September 14, 2.35pm. at the Waikato Stadium, will see the ITM clash between Waikato and Auckland.

Hopefully Waikato will then still be the Ranfurly Shield holder having beaten off the earlier challengers from Horowhenua-Kapiti, East Coast, Northland and Otago

The Stan Thomas Memorial Trophy will also be up for grabs. The Thomas Trophy was presented to the Waikato and Auckland Rugby Unions by the Thomas family in 1975 for competition between the senior representative teams of their unions. Created by the gifted craftsman and former NZ Maori representative, Fred Graham, the logos of the competing unions are depicted in a clever design that also incorporates the international symbols of the world-wide Harlequins and Barbarians clubs. Auckland is the current holder.

Stan Thomas, based in Morrinsville, was a key figure in forming the NZ Harlequin Club in Waikato in 1938, the year after the NZ Barbarian Club was founded in Auckland. Stan was the inaugural Harlequin club captain, was president in 1947-48 and again in 1959.

The official minutes of the management committee of April 27, 1959, noted the motion by J R ('Red') Fitzgerald / W J (Bill) Bourke

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Three Waikato personalities - Redmond Fitzgerald, Bill Bourke and Stan Thomas - enjoy the NZ Harlequin club 25th Jubilee.

recommended that Stan and A St C ('Slip') Belcher both be made life members at the 1959 AGM.

The vote was unanimous at the meeting and both received standing ovations. He had been elected a member of the NZ Barbarians in 1953. A fullback of outstanding ability, Stan Thomas represented Waikato from 1925 to 1931, played for North Island Minor Unions in 1928, and was an All Black trialist in 1927 and 1930.

BLAST FROM THE PAST 1985

Hugo Porta in action. One of the greats of world rugby, will be in New Zealand when the Argentinians play in Hamilton this year, pictured here playing for the World 15 against our very own NZ Harlequin team, 1985.



Champion five-eighths, Hugo Porta (Argentina, left) and Grant Fox (New Zealand) after they had opposed each other in the Harlequins v President's XV match at Rugby Park, Hamilton, in 1985.

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, 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.

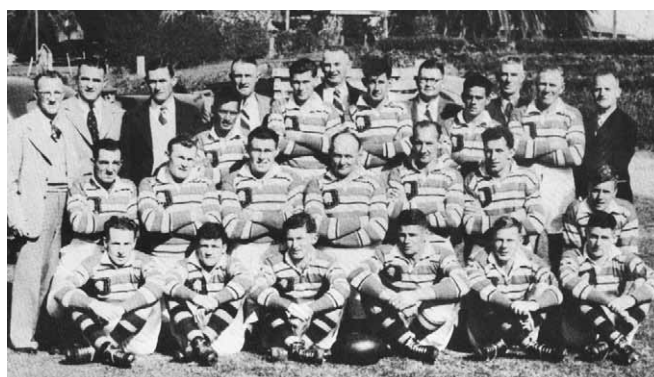
In the earlier days the special squad trainings got the youngsters excited and the battle for places in the playing side was intense. "Every team featured players from smaller country schools and they grabbed their opportunities with relish. It's the same today."

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. **Immediate Past President:** Dave Finlay

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NZ HARLEQUINS CLUBROOMS ON LEVEL 3 AT THE WAIKATO STADIUM