



# 'OLD PIRATES' NEWSLETTER

## - July 2019



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Minutes of Old Pirate's Meeting held at the clubrooms on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

**Present:** Big Buccaneer (BB) and crew - Heather, Gypo, Rick, Rex, Becs, Fairy, Witty, Doddsy and Ash as and observer.

**Apologies:** Nil

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Read and accepted.

**Matters Arising:**

Fairy moved the following Motion. "That Doddsy' presence at the Meeting be noted in the following manner – *"the Old Pirates Crew congratulates Doddsy for his first appearance at a meeting since February and that his absence has been appreciated because the standard of red wine is much better without his \$7.99 Corbans mixed red blend contribution."* In being put to the vote the Motion was passed almost unanimously with 9 for and 1 against.

**Financials:** Heather detailed Old Pirates financial situation. She said the current Bank balance sits at \$5849.33. She noted that \$2000.00 had been allocated to injured players this season. This assistance is normally in the form of petrol or grocery vouchers to assist players to get over the initial period of expenses and or inability to work.

Additionally, \$1500.00 has been paid to Dobsons for a new kitchen Zip water heater. Plans are underway to re-paint the Pirate head on the road-front wall of the clubrooms.

Membership of Old Pirates stands at 107.

**Correspondence Inward:**

1. A letter from veterinarian Steve Woolly with a *Certificate of Examination* enclosed. The Certificate declared that Scott Tamihana's dog had undergone a thorough inspection for disease and pestilence. The Certificate noted that said subject, being a common or garden dog or **species Canis lupus familiaris** was thoroughly examined and found to be infestation free. Veterinarian Woolly explained in his letter that often fleas form a long-term familiarity with a human host. He said that the flea in question was likely to be **species Ctenocephalides canis** and had most probably migrated from a club member in close range to Mrs. Basham and not necessarily from Scott Tamihana's dog. He said that he will bring a small tub of Malathion to the club next Saturday and anyone with an unusual discomfort may avail themselves of this remedy

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which should be liberally applied to the inhabited region. He said that whilst not wishing to be specific, personal hygiene was of consideration. Footnote from Becs stating that she noted that JC was the closest to Marge on the said evening.

2. A letter received from Marge Basham saying that her ankle that she thought had been bitten by a flea from Scott Tamihana's dog had turned out to be hives. She said that she had gone to the Te Puke Medical Centre and while waiting for the doctor she remembered that she had been preserving quinces during the week. Her letter stated that when she was a girl she was allergic to quince skins and used to suffer bad hive out-breaks. She stated that she was sorry to implicate the dog however hives and flea bites can be similar. She said that she would like to apologise to Scott and his dog.

3. A letter received from Stu at Dobson's in response to Jeff Carter's idea that Old Pirates adopt a secret hand-shake in the style of a secret fraternity. He said that he had recently been to North Korea on holiday and noticed that their custom of greeting each other by rubbing ones left-ear-against another person's right knee was both unique and interesting. His letter asked if such an unusual greeting style might be of interest to Old Pirates members?

4. A letter received from Gobake addressed to the Crew of Old Pirates

Dear Crew,

I am writing in respect of the delusional ravings of BB in the extraordinary Old Pirates Newsletter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May. BB is clearly living in an Alice in Wonderland-like hallucinatory bubble. A quote from Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" clearly demonstrates this.....

'If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't. And contrary wise, what is, wouldn't be and what wouldn't be, would.

BB's claim that I played against Cadets in 1978 is a total figment of his imagination - I retired from playing rugby in 1977. ("Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't.")

As further evidence of BB's demented state of mind, all rugby players and followers of the game know that forcing the ball over one's own goal line can only have two outcomes:

1. A 5 metre scrum to the opposition if the ball has been carried back or,
2. A 22m dropout.



There is no such thing as an "own goal" in rugby. I suspect BB has corrupted his senses by watching too much English football on telly! Claiming that I scored an "own try" for Cadets clearly shows BB is living in the fantasy world of an Alice in Wonderland bubble.

As for his fanciful claims to some genetic links to Sir Winston Churchill, I find that quite offensive towards Sir Winston. Given BB's irrational and dictatorial demeanour there is only one world leader of Churchill's era that I could believe he has any genetic links to - that's the dictator Joseph Stalin.

It is patently obvious that the committee needs to make every endeavour to drag BB back into the real world and I wish you the best of luck with that!

Best wishes

Gobake

### Correspondence Outward

1. A letter sent to Veterinarian Steve Woolly thanking him for the Certificate of Examination with a comment that if there was any cost involved, the recipient of the invoice would be as follows:

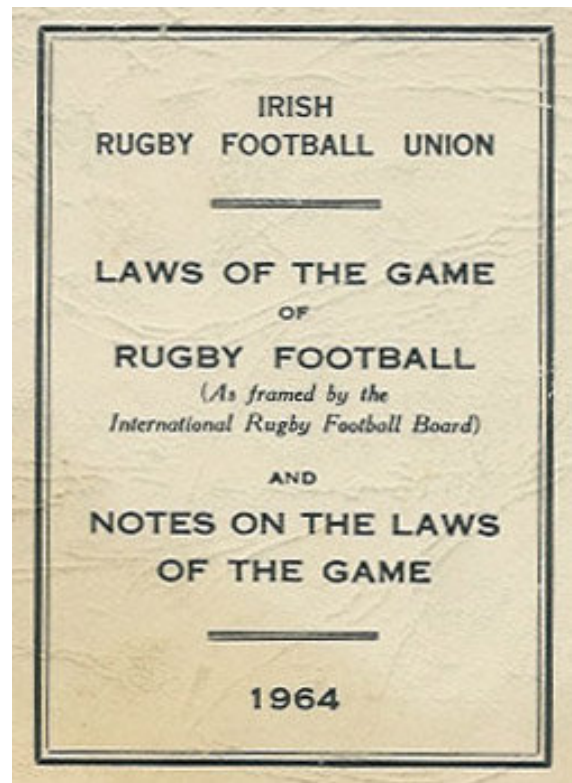
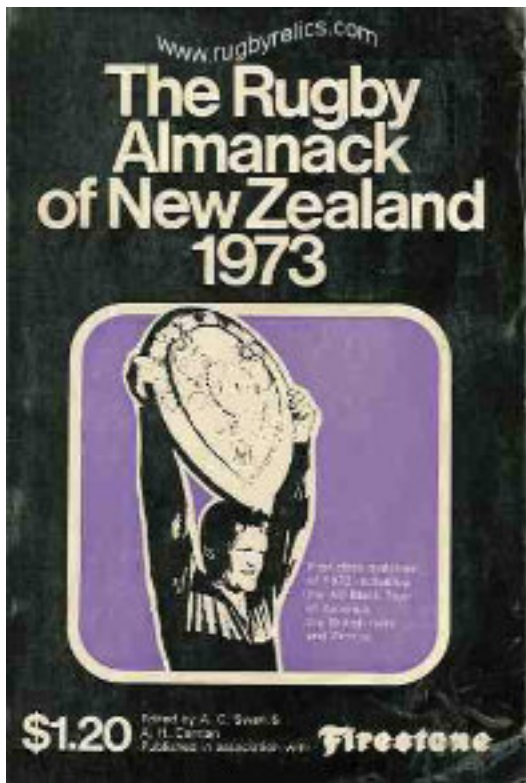
Strathmore Farms, RD6 , Te Puke - Attention JC.

2. A letter sent to Stu at Dobsons saying that his Korean ear-rubbing suggestion was interesting but was likely to need some refinement as it could prove physically challenging to some Old-Pirate members of advancing age. The letter thanked Stu for his suggestion.

3. A letter sent to Gobake referring him to the 1964 referee's handbook, Section 6c clause 14 b which clearly states that "if a player deliberately and willfully indicates an intention to score for the opposition, such try can be allowed if in the opinion of the referee the player has honorably demonstrated an intention to score against his own team". The same rule is clearly stated in the renown Irish Referees Handbook. The letter to Gobake further noted that in the 1973 edition of the Carman and Swan Rugby Almanac, it was reported that in a game between Motutawa and Swindlehurst, a Motutawa player named Albert Smithers scored for Swindlehurst in the dying minutes of the Whakatete district club final thus allowing Swindlehurst their first ever championship win.

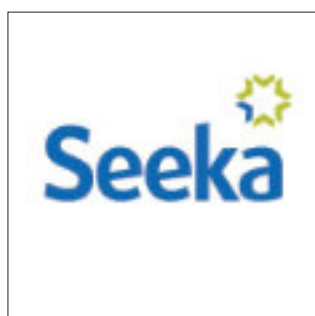


In explanation, Smithers said that Motutawa had held the championship cup for the previous three seasons and that he had clearly signaled to the referee that he intended under Section 6c clause 14 b to attempt to score for the opposition. Therefore, as Smithers had complied with the required rule, the referee was obliged to award the try. Apparently, in a decidedly unsportsmanlike gesture, Motutawa players refused to turn up to the after-match function and the Whakatete-District Premier Champions Cup was reported missing for several years.



### General business

Heather said that she had recently been on a crusade to support the enhancement of refereeing standards. She said that she thought her idea was a really, really good one and continued by saying that she was greatly inspired by the standard of refereeing at the Rangataua game a few Saturdays ago. She noted for those that didn't attend the game that the lady referee from Auckland was really, really good. Heather said she was so immensely motivated by the refereeing at this game that she was considering becoming a referee herself. She noted that her interpretation of the laws of the game were of the highest standard asked BB and the crew for their opinions. BB responded by saying that he thought Heather had all the correct attributes to become a first-class referee.





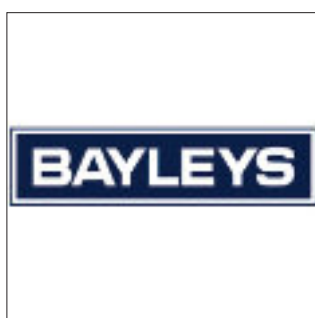
Other opinions tabled were somewhat mixed. Rick suggested that Heather might be better to consider a career as a commentator whilst Fairy, Witty and Gypo raised for consideration the potential for Heather to establish a Pirates-cheer-leader group. Rex said that he is very "middle of the road" when it comes to sexism but he thought that Heathers blonde hair and comely figure could fit well in a Cheer-Leaders role. Rex noted that as a cheer-leader Heather could still be able to have a whistle. Heather responded saying that she appreciated Rex's comments and it's a pity that other men couldn't express their feelings like Rex. She said that when she lived up in the Territory near Wagamooloola Station she had been part of the local marching group. She said her schoolteacher Ernie Stubbs was the coach and the marching group was quite famous up there. She said *"that when we were out practicing in the bush one day Ernie got bit on the toe by one of them bloody inland-Taipans"* She described the snake attack as being really, really horrible and Ernie died instantly which she said was unfortunate because Ernie did a lot for marching girls.



Wagamooloola Station Marching girls club circa 1963. Heather 3rd from right. Photo courtesy of the Mooney Mooney Bush Telegraph

BB suggested that the Crew consider Heathers comments. He said that as usual, Heather had brought a focussed, sensible, well considered topic to the meeting which he described as *'praiseworthy'*.

Doddsy said he had a delicate matter to raise which involved an unpleasant incident during the Rangataua game. He said that he had casually raised the matter of the great progress that he personally had made in raising funds for the new grandstand. He said that he had mentioned that the proposed position for the new grandstand structure did not allow for the scoreboard to remain in its current position *"as it will not be visible from within the grandstand"*. He said that as a consequence of his casual and sensible comment he was set-upon with a nasty verbal barrage from one of the scoreboard management team who totally lost his cool. Doddsy said he had no intention of mentioning any specific name but Macca (Steve Mc Manaway - photograph on following page) more



Witty moved the following Motion: That Old Pirates authorise expenditure on one bottle of Disaronno Originale Amaretto 700ml. The Motion was passed unanimously.



From the club archives we note that this week was the anniversary of a serious incident that occurred in 1970. The incident involved the then club custodian Colin Logan (Logie). Apparently Logie was heading home down Station Road late on a Saturday night after a pretty heavy session at the clubrooms. Unfortunately he hit Brambles Bridge and rolled down the steep bank and ended up on the rail-tracks. Logie suffered facial lacerations and a broken arm.

**At the time of the accident Logie was walking home from the clubrooms.**

Local Police constable and Prens lock forward Ron Burgess attended the accident. His report noted that it was an unfortunate incident likely caused by vertigo.

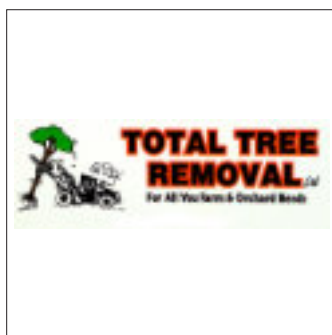
We welcome two new sponsors to the club both have contributed substantially to the grandstand project, they are..

**Grosafe Chemicals** a direct to farm and orchard chemical distributor based at Mount Maunganui and **First Mortgage Trust** New Zealand's largest non-bank first mortgage lender based in Tauranga. we will be detailing these two sponsors in upcoming newsletters and in our general newsletter.

We bring your attention to an upcoming club event. Old Pirates will stage the evening extravaganza to be hosted by no other than Big Buccaneer (BB) the evening will include a guest speaker, memorabilia auction, general knowledge quiz, best dressed Pirate, latest grandstand video release and many other forms of entertainment. Date to be advised.

As this newsletter goes to print, the Prens have just been defeated by Tauranga Sports and the Development team is heading into a final. From all Old Pirates we wish the Development team every success and urge all club-members to attend the final.

As for the Prens we can only say that all members have immensely enjoyed the season, the great games and the wonderful rugby that we have watched. The crowds that have attended the games have been consistently large – and we all say thanks to Mattie, Dannay and the entire squad. You are our heroes and we have greatly appreciated the way you have represented our club.



commonly known as Vladimir became most hostile – even threatening his resignation if the scoreboard was **“to be moved one bloody inch”**.



Doddsy continued by saying that “once again this renegade group of rabble-rousers is threatening the well-being of the club and it must surely be time to reign-in this immoral behaviour.

Gypo, a member of the Grandstand sub-committee said that he though Vladimir did have a good point and that perhaps the grand-stand plans should be revisited with a view to having the number 1 and 2 fields reversed or alternatively the fields could be repositioned to run south-north.

The discussion then turned decidedly personal with a number of unpleasantries being exchanged along with threats of physical violence.

BB requested calm and asked Gypo to leave the meeting. However, other Crew members intervened stating that Gypo’s wine contribution was always excellent and as his bottle was un-opened at this point of the meeting it would be unfair on all Crew members if Gypo was to leave with his bottle untouched. BB said that once again, the Crew was far more concerned with plonk and he doubted if standards could get much lower. He said that he was prepared, in the interests of progress and stability to allow Gypo to stay – but on the proviso that he withdraw his radical comments regarding any geographic shift to the fields and apologise.

Gypo said that he would apologise and that his remarks were a consequence of a light-headed moment caused by Doddsy’s dreadful Corbans mixed red blend.

Witty said that he was prepared to negotiate with the scoreboard management to reach a compromise. He said that with this particular bunch of misfits the best approach would be a peace offering, most likely in the form of one of the quirky liqueurs that seem to be consumed by the scoreboard oddballs.



Thank you to some more of our club sponsors

