



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

26th September 2018

#237

And Then There Were Two

By David Kemeys

Former Sunday Star-Times Editor, Former Editor-in-Chief Suburban Newspapers, Long Suffering Warriors Fan



THE MELBOURNE Storm and the Roosters, the sides that finished one and two this year, will contest the grand final.

I am conflicted.

My grandson is a Roosters fan, and nearly swallowed his ears when Joseph Manu gave him his boots after the win over the Bunnies.

There was talk of the grandparents nipping over to go to the final to share the experience with him but that's not going to happen.

On the one hand I hate the Roosters. On the other, I hate the Storm too.

This causes no end of annoyance to various people at the Storm, who actually read my rants, but truth be known the hatred is purely jealousy.

They are the club we all aspire to be, brilliant, consistent, great to watch and in Cameron Smith and Billy Slater they have the two best players of a generation.

Until Cooper Cronk buggered off to the Roosters they had three.

And now we find Slater's participation in the grand final has been confirmed.

Conflicted I said, hell yes. I'm glad he will get to go out on a high and sign off on a wonderful career in the biggest game of all.

On the other hand, he should not have got away with it.

No surprise there is now hell on.

The Judiciary chairman asked panel members to consider only whether there was forceful contact with the shoulder or upper arm?

If no then it was not guilty. If yes, further questions were raised.

We know they went for the former, and given none of us were in the room, we just have to live with it.

But there must be enormous confusion among the many, many experts who argued he was a gone-burger.

Hard to argue with the jaundiced opinion of all of those who argue there has long been one set of rules for the Storm, and one for everyone else.

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It's not like it the first time we have ever seen a staggering decision out of the judiciary but I will tell you this for nothing, if I ever get in bother I might get Billy's lawyer to represent me.

Girls Fall Short

No grand final for our Warriors after they lost 32-10 to the Broncos.

After they led 16-10 at half-time, the Broncos ran in three unanswered tries in the second half.

"It was disappointing, especially seeing how well we were doing in the first half, the momentum the team had built up," coach Luisa Avaiki said.

Captain Laura Mariu said a lack of structure proved decisive. "At times we went away from the game plan."

Top Of The Table

You would have to be happy if you were rated dead last and in a season turned that round to be rated number one.

And that is exactly what the Vodafone Warriors have done.

The NRL does a fan survey every year and last season we were in at No 16...which is to say last, in terms of fan satisfaction.

The same numbers have just come out for 2018 and we are No 1...which is to say top.

The survey has us top of overall membership satisfaction, cost, the likelihood of members re-signing but second for game-day experience.

That's pretty impressive because 2017 was a hugely disappointing year, so to have turned it all round in a year is some feat.

Don't forget the club has already announced it wants to sell Mt Smart out for the entire 2019 season by Christmas, and is discounting season tickets to help it get there, the cost of being a member halved.

All reserved seat memberships for next season have been reduced to \$199, down from \$400.

We were heaps better on-field this year so you would have to believe it's achievable.

Two For The Knights?

Newcastle have their eyes on Mason Lino, who has been granted a release to chase a career with an Aussie club.

Aussie papers have reported Mason has been offered a two-year deal at Newcastle.

The Samoan international made eight appearances filling in for Shaun Johnson or Blake Green this year and was good value in all of them.

With Green and Johnson established, Lino was always going to struggle for games but with him gone we will be light in back-up playmakers.

We are still waiting to hear if Issac Luke will stay at Mt Smart or go to the Knights too. Luke has been offered a reduced one-year deal and Newcastle have been talking to him, offering a one-year deal too, but with an option on another year.

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The Knights are said to be a bit concerned that Luke will have shoulder surgery on Thursday.

Apparently we should know early this week whether he will re-sign but interesting to note Newshub's Sam Ackerman thinks moving to Newcastle is a bad idea, writing that moving to the Knights is a career killer, naming Siuatonga Likiliki, Carlos Tuimavave, Evarn Tuimavave, Jacob Lillyman, Toko Likiliki, David Bhana and Constanine Mika.

Hard to argue.

Four In Tonga Line-up

Four of our Warriors players are in Tonga's preliminary squad for October 20's test against Australia at Mt Smart.

Agnatius Paasi, Leivaha Pulu, David Fusitu'a and Solomone Kata have all been named.

Also in the side is Scott Sorenson, who is at the Sharks, and more importantly, is the nephew of Kiwi greats Dane and Kurt Sorensen

It's a decent squad that is for sure. Andrew Fifita, Addin Fonua-Blake, Mahe Fonua, Moeaki Fotuaika, Fusitu'a, Siliva Havilli, Ata Hingano, Will Hopoate, Konileti Hurrell, Michael Jennings, Robert Jennings, Kata, Sione Katoa, Samisoni Langi, Tuimoala Lolohea, Sika Manu, Sam Moa, Ben Murdoch-Masila, Joe Ofahengaue, Tevita Pangai Junior, Paasi, Pulu, Sorensen, Ukuma Ta'ai, Jason Taumalolo, Tevita Tatola, Sio Siua Taukeiaho, Peni Terepo, Daniel Tupou.

Dally M Awards Loom

My old mate the Mad Butcher is off to Aussie for the Dally M Awards and he should have plenty of Warriors company, which has to be another measure of how far we have come.

We are actually nominated for 10 awards, though the one everyone has been talking about is captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, who is nominated for Dally M player, captain and fullback of the year.

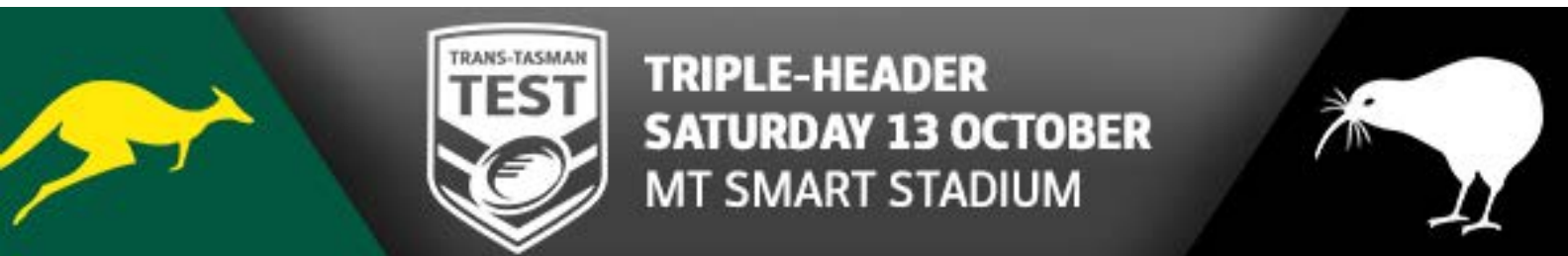
Stephen Kearney is on the shortlist for coach, David Fusitu'a is in for the top try scorer and winger, with Tohu Harris up for second-rower, Issac Luke for hooker and Jazz Tevaga – who is said to be close to inking a new deal that will keep him at Mt Smart - for interchange player of the year, while a nomination for team of the year is in there too, and dummy-half Krystal Rota is nominated for women's player of the year.

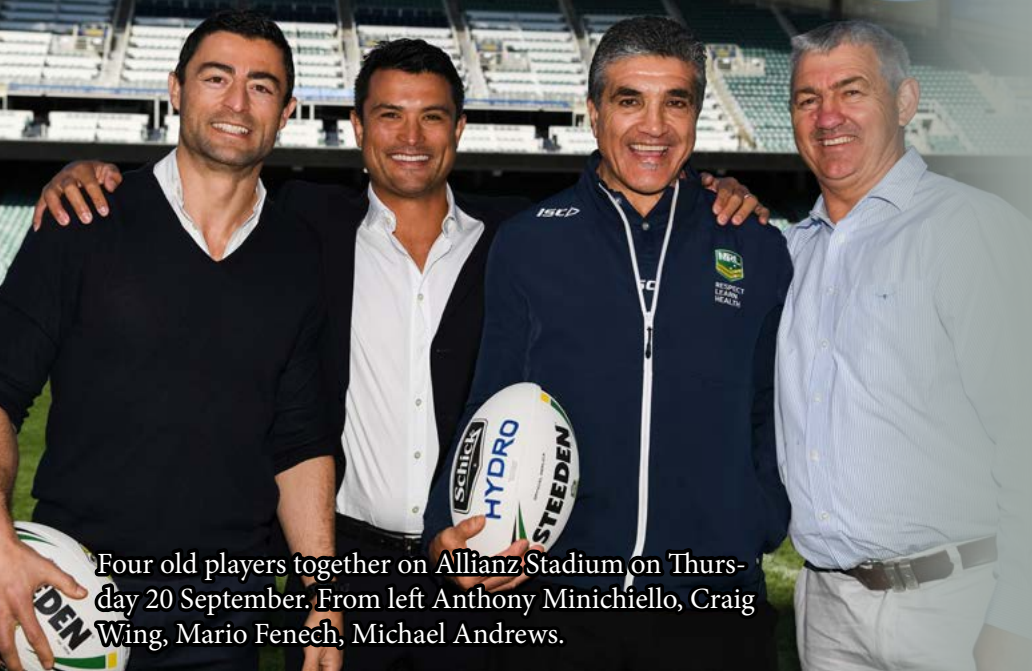
Good Move

Plenty of mail going around that we are to add former Kiwis captain Nathan Cayless to our coaching staff. Cayless, 40, is head coach of the Wentworthville Magpies - the Eels' feeder side - and of course was an assistant to Kiwis coach Michael Maguire at the Denver test.

If you want to get better learn from the best, and not many were better than Cayless.

Footy manager Brian Smith, who I argue has been very quiet but absolutely instrumental in our turnaround, says Cayless would join Stacey Jones and Todd Payten, who has come in to replace Andrew McFadden, who has gone home to Canberra.





By Barry Ross
Australian Correspondent

History

Four old players together on Allianz Stadium on Thursday 20 September. From left Anthony Minichiello, Craig Wing, Mario Fenech, Michael Andrews.

THE GRAND Final teams are known and the scene is set for a great day this Sunday.. On the surface, both the Storm and the Roosters deserve to be there after mostly good and consistent performances throughout the season. The Storm was the better side in Melbourne against the Sharks in Melbourne on Friday night. But would they have won so easily if referee, Gerald Sutton, had sent Billy Slater to the sin bin after a shoulder charge on Sharks left winger, Sosaia Feki in the 13th minute with Melbourne leading by just 2-0? Many fans, except for the Storm faithful, both at the ground and on TV, felt that Slater should have gone to the bin. Just three weeks previously at the same ground, the same referee, Gerald Sutton, sent Penrith winger, Josh Mansour, to the bin for a similar offence to Slater's on Friday night. In this game the Panthers beat the Storm 22-16, but in the 17th minute, Mansour went to the bin, for what referee Sutton, described at the time was a professional foul. Slater stopped Feki from scoring a try on Friday so why wasn't this also deemed a professional foul? Sutton was at it again on Saturday 15 September at ANZ Stadium in Sydney during the Souths-Dragons week two finals game. At a crucial stage of the game, with Souths clinging to an 11-10 lead and the Dragons coming home strongly, Sutton penalised Dragons dummy half, Cameron McInnes, for deliberately throwing his pass into a Souths player. This was given with eight minutes to play and despite the fact that the Souths man was lying in the direction of McInnes' pass to his playmaker. Also the Souths player had made no attempt to move and the other referee had allegedly said, play on. It is well known and widely publicised that the NRL referees boss is Bernard Sutton, brother of Gerald. Throughout the game, Gerald Sutton is generally not regarded as among the top two referees this season. Slater was charged after the Cronulla game and as a result could miss the Grand Final. The Melbourne club will leave no stone unturned to have their fullback on the field. There is no question that Slater has been an ornament to Rugby League throughout his illustrious career and that is why many fans want him to play. But on the other hand, rules are rules and there are plenty of players, including some big names, who have missed Grand Finals because of suspension. These include Arthur Beetson (1969), Greg Pierce (1978), Steve Bowden (1981), Steve Roach (1988), John Lomax (1994), Jim Serdaris (1997), Luke Ricketson (2004), Cameron Smith (2008) and Issac Luke (2014).

The Roosters too have their problems leading into the Grand Final. Cooper Cronk is doubtful because of his injured shoulder. Roosters hooker, Jake Friend, was charged for a lifting tackle on Saturday in the 12th minute on Souths captain, Greg Inglis but an early guilty plea will see him play in the Grand Final. There will have been plenty written about both the Storm and the Roosters and their worries, when our readers have access to this newsletter.

The Roosters-Souths clash at Allianz Stadium was the last Rugby League match to be played at the venue and it was fitting that a ground record crowd for any sport of 44,380 was in attendance. Work will soon begin to demolish it so a new stadium can be built on the site. The first Rugby League game to be played there was on Friday night, 4 March 1988, when 19,295 turned up to see St. George defeat the Roosters 24-14. Immortal, Arthur Beetson was coaching the Roosters and the very first NSW State of Origin coach, Ted Glossop, was in charge of the Dragons. St. George second rower, Graeme Wynn, was the star of the match, scoring two of his team's four tries.

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The sin bin was just five minutes in 1988 and two players from each team spent time in the bin. They were Seamus O'Connell and Graeme Wynn from St. George, plus Trevor Gillmeister and Jason Williams from the Roosters. In those days, it was named the Sydney Football stadium and Saturday's game was the 672nd club Rugby League match at the venue. As well as the club games, there have also been 126 final series matches, 11 Grand Finals, 14 State of Origins and 14 Test matches played at Allianz, while the crowds at these fixtures totalled more than 12 million. As well as Rugby League, there have also been Rugby Union Test matches and Super Rugby games, while on 14 July 1988, soccer legend, Maradona, played with Argentina, who were beaten 4-1 by Australia. Artists such as U2, Bon Jovi, Robbie Williams and Barbra Streisand have also performed at Allianz, as have the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2005 and 2010. In May 1988, a production of the opera Aida, was staged with real elephants. Anthony Mundine and Danny Green got it on in a boxing ring on the playing arena before around 30,000, in 2006.

Last Thursday, 20 September, four former players from Souths and the Roosters remembered some of their games from the past at Allianz. These four players were Michael Andrews, now 56, who is a former South Sydney captain and played 181 first grade games for Souths between 1984 and 1993, Mario Fenech, 55, who played two State of Origins for NSW and 274 NRL matches between 1981 and 1995 with Souths, North Sydney and the South Queensland Crushers, Craig Wing, 38, who played 16 Tests for Australia, 12 State of Origins with NSW, 256 NRL games with Souths then Easts, and also played in the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup for Japan and Anthony Minichiello, 38, who played 18 Tests for Australia, 11 State of Origins with NSW, 302 NRL games for the Roosters, between 2000 and 2014, in which he scored 139 tries. A Michael Buble concert will be held at Allianz on 5 October but soon after that, work will begin on the new project. In 1988, the cost was around \$68 million, but this time around it will be more than \$729 million. There will be up to 45,000 seats and a roof will cover all patrons. If all goes well, the plan is to have the new stadium finished in early 2022.

The NRL would be happy with the crowds at both games on the weekend. The two stadiums used were much smaller than the Melbourne Cricket Ground used by the Aussie Rules people. Both Rugby League games were played in front of full houses. A crowd of 26,621 was in Melbourne, while a record attendance saw the Roosters beat arch rivals, South Sydney at Allianz Stadium. That is a total of 71,001 for both games. The Aussie Rules games saw 94,959 in Melbourne on Friday night to see Collingwood defeat Richmond and on Saturday in Perth, a crowd of 59,608 turned up to see the West Coast Eagles beat Melbourne. That is a total of 154,567. At half time on Saturday, when Perth appeared likely to play Collingwood in Saturday's Aussie Rules Grand Final, the airlines were bombarded with bookings from Perth to Melbourne. It would be a costly business for the Western Australians as on Sunday morning Qantas had return flights selling online for \$996 and this does not include accommodation and other expenses.

Congratulations to the Canterbury Bulldogs who beat the Newtown Jets 18-12 in the NSW Intrust Super Premiership Grand Final on Sunday, while on the same day, in Brisbane, the Queensland Intrust Super Cup Grand Final was won by the Redcliffe Dolphins, who were minor premiers, 36-22 over the Easts Tigers.

Read the team lists for the Grand Final! Click here:
<https://www.nrl.com/news/2018/09/25/nrl-team-lists-grand-finals>



By John Coffey

Bromwich Eyes Third Premiership Ring



Jesse Bromwich during the Storm v Cowboys NRL rugby league Grand Final at ANZ Stadium, 1st October 2017.
Photo www.photosport.nz

MELBOURNE FRONT-ROWER Jesse Bromwich has the chance to become the first New Zealander to earn three NRL premiership rings when the Storm defend their title against the Sydney Roosters at ANZ Stadium on Sunday. Even by running onto the field Bromwich will equal the record for most Grand Final appearances by a Kiwi.

Fellow prop Brent Todd played for Canberra Raiders in 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1991; Manly Sea Eagles centre Steve Matai was a grand finalist in 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2013; loose forward Jeremy Smith was in the Melbourne teams of 2006, 2007 and 2008 and with the St George Illawarra Dragons in 2010. All had two wins and two losses.

Other Kiwis to enjoy two laps of honour on Grand Final Day have been Tonie Carroll (Brisbane Broncos in 2000 and 2006), Joe Galuvao (Penrith Panthers 2003 and Manly 2011), Paul Whataura (Penrith 2003 and Wests Tigers 2005), Jeff Lima (Melbourne 2007 and 2009) and Sonny Bill Williams (Canterbury Bulldogs 2004 and Roosters 2013). So far Bromwich has won with the Storm in 2012 and 2017 and lost in 2016.

Bromwich will also share with Todd the distinction of being the only Kiwis to appear in three consecutive grand finals. At least nine New Zealanders should be on the field on Sunday. Jesse Bromwich will be joined by his brother Kenny, plus Nelson Asofa-Solomona and Brandon Smith in the Melbourne squad, while Jahrome Hughes was 18th man for the 22-6 preliminary final victory over Cronulla last weekend.

Meanwhile, centre Joseph Manu did a great job of nullifying South Sydney's Greg Inglis in the Roosters' 12-4 success in the second preliminary final. The Roosters pack included New Zealanders Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Sio Siua Taukeiaho, Issac Luke and Zane Tetevano. Both Manu and Tetevano have found their way to rugby league's biggest occasion from the Pacific Sharks club in the timber town of Tokoroa.

The Warriors were the beaten grand finalists against the Roosters in 2002 and the Sea Eagles in 2011. But Sunday's showdown features the most New Zealanders for two Australian clubs since 2013, when Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Waerea-Hargreaves, Sam Moa, Williams and Frank-Paul Nuuausala were in the triumphant Roosters team against the Manly trio of Matai, Kieran Foran and Justin Horo.

Kiwis have been highly influential in grand finals, whether for the Winfield Cup or the NRL premiership. But none has been awarded the Clive Churchill Medal as Man of the Match since its introduction in 1986 because the Australian selectors choose the winner. Auckland-born Kangaroos forward Willie Mason (2004) does not count, so the single overseas winner has been Englishman Sam Burgess for Souths in 2014.

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Nor has a New Zealand captain been presented with a premiership trophy on Grand Final Day. Nathan Cayless led the Parramatta Eels beaten by the Newcastle Knights in 2001 and the Storm in 2009. Stacey Jones was the Warriors captain in 2002 and Simon Mannering was the 2011 skipper. Nor has a New Zealander coached a team on Grand Final day, though there have been precious few contenders for that honour.

The original Sydney competitions from 1908 included a top-four playoff but from 1912 to 1925 they were decided on a round-robin system. New Zealand centre Bill Kelly captained and coached Balmain to win in 1915 before being wounded in the First World War. Kelly later fashioned an outstanding record as a club coach and guided the Tigers to another premiership in 1939 when there was no Grand Final

Playoffs had been reintroduced in 1926 but a Grand Final was only required if the winner of the knock-out final was not also the minor premier. In those instances the minor premier had the right to challenge the winner of the final in a "grand final". The first did not occur until 1930 and they were held at irregular intervals over the next 23 years. Mandatory grand finals were adopted from 1954 to climax the now familiar playoffs.

Canterbury (NZ) prop Bill Noonan was the first to feature in a Grand Final, when Canterbury (Sydney) lost to Eastern Suburbs 19-4 in 1974. A year later fellow Kiwis front-rower Henry Tatana was in the St George line-up whitewashed 38-0 by Easts. The breakthrough came in 1987, when centre Darrell Williams shared in Manly's 18-8 defeat of Todd's Canberra team in the last Grand Final at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The full list of New Zealand winners is:

Winfield Cup: 1987 Darrell Williams (Manly); 1989 Brent Todd (Canberra); 1990 Brent Todd (Canberra); 1994 Quentin Pongia, Ruben Wiki (Canberra); 1995 Jason Williams, John Timu, Daryl Halligan (Canterbury-Bankstown); 1996 Matthew Ridge, Craig Innes (Manly).

NRL Premiership: 1999 Stephen Kearney, Matt Rua, Tawera Nikau, Richard Swain (Melbourne); 2000 Tonie Carroll (Brisbane); 2002 Jason Cayless (Roosters); 2003 Paul Whatuira, Joe Galuvao, Tony Puletua (Penrith); 2004 Matt Utai, Roy Asotasi, Sonny Bill Williams (Bulldogs); 2005 Paul Whatuira, Benji Marshall, Dene Halatau (Wests Tigers); 2006 Tonie Carroll (Brisbane); 2007 Jeremy Smith, Jeff Lima (Melbourne); 2008 Steve Matai (Manly); 2009 Adam Blair, Jeff Lima (Melbourne); 2010 Jason Nightingale, Jeremy Smith, Nathan Fien (St George Illawarra); 2011 Steve Matai, Kieran Foran, Joe Galuvao (Manly); 2012 Jesse Bromwich, Kevin Proctor, Sika Manu (Melbourne); 2013 Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Sam Moa, Sonny Bill Williams, Frank-Paul Nuuausala (Roosters); 2015 Antonio Winterstein, Jason Taumalolo (North Queensland Cowboys), 2016 Sosaia Feki, Gerard Beale, Sam Tangataese (Cronulla), 2017 Jesse Bromwich, Kenny Bromwich, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Slade Griffin (Melbourne).

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By Miles Davis

Billy Slater

Billy Slater in space during the Holden State of Origin, Game 2. Photo www.photosport.nz

OLD BILLY Slater eh. By the time you read this the decision will already have been made on whether he will play in the Grand Final or not but I would like to indulge myself and give my thoughts on the matter here.

There is a school of thought, with a fair amount of support, that because of his legendary status in the game and the fact that the Grand Final will be his last hurrah for the Storm and in rugby league, he should be allowed to play. I can understand people feeling that way. He has had a stellar career and in the mind of many is deserving of a fitting finale for a champion player.

A look at his record underlines why so many are of that opinion. In a career spanning 16 years, Slater has been consistently one of the best performers in rugby league. He has played in an amazing 7 Grand Finals, winning 4 of them. He was a key player for Queensland during their decade of superiority over New South Wales. In his final State of Origin series, at the age of 35 and handed the captaincy of his State for the first time, he was awarded player of the series. He played in 3 World Cup finals and managed to score at least one try in 10 of his 13 World Cup games. To highlight the resilience of Slater you just have to look at his recent record. In 2015 he injured his shoulder and missed the last 2/3rds of the season. In 2016 he suffered a recurrence of that injury that kept him out for the rest of the season, although he nearly made a miraculous return in time for the Storm's Grand Final appearance against the Cronulla Sharks but caution prevailed and he was not selected. In 2017 he did return and won a Grand Final, a State of Origin Series and a World Cup. Surely he has earned the right to have one final Grand Final appearance to say goodbye say many. I am not one of those.

Whilst I respect Slater's achievements and contributions to rugby league we should not allow sentiment to intrude when enforcing the laws of the game. In my view Slater's shoulder charge was a deliberate foul act to prevent the scoring of a try in a crucial game. I was astounded that he wasn't given 10 minutes in the bin on the day and that a penalty-try wasn't awarded. There is no doubt in my mind that he fully deserves a suspension and that the game he will miss is a Grand Final should not be a factor involved in making that decision.

The Storm will undoubtedly argue that it was not intentional and that he was just trying to brace himself for impact but frankly that is a load of bollocks. He was hurtling himself into the collision with full intent on the impact being as powerful as possible to prevent a certain try being scored.

As I said at the beginning by the time you read this the decision has been made. It would not surprise me in the least if sentimentality rules the day and Slater plays in the final. For those of you that feel this would be the right decision I will put this to you – If it had been Isaac Luke who made that tackle and was due to play in a final (and Luke supports the idea of Slater playing in the final) do you have any doubt he would be suspended? Of course not. In fact as a Kiwi Luke would have been suspended by the NRL judiciary for even thinking about making that tackle.

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Even though I am not a Slater fan per se I respect his immense talent and rugby league achievements but to let him off would be wrong and set a poor precedent. The Grand Final will still be a magnificent game without him although in a fair and righteous world it would be between the Vodafone Warriors and the St George Dragons.

Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:



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By Shane Hurndell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Hawke's Bay Semifinals Decided

KEY FORWARD Versatile Tamatea forward Te Rira Rowlands, pictured during an earlier game against Dannevirke Tigers, will be a key figure in this weekend's semifinals. PHOTO HAWKE'S BAY T

AND THEN there were four ... yes the semifinal matchups in all three Hawke's Bay club rugby league competitions have been decided.

In premier battles at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park on Saturday top qualifiers Bridge Pa will take on fourth seeds Maraenui and second seeds Tamatea will meet third qualifiers Dannevirke Tigers. While last year's runners-up Bridge Pa should prove too strong for Maraenui the Tigers-Tamatea clash has the potential to be a cracker.

If the Tigers are at full strength with the likes of the Petera brothers, Waka and Tama, in the backline and backrower Jacob Stephenson back from Hawke's Bay under-19 rugby team duty they will push Tamatea all the way.

Tamatea will rely heavily on key forwards Te Rira Rowlands and cousin Hamiora Rowlands and clever inside backs Mataeus Marsh and his cousin Ash Robinson. Hamiora Rowlands is a son of former Hawke's Bay Unicorns forward Des Rowlands and Te Rira is a son of former Unicorns winger Adrian Rowlands.

Last weekend Tamatea beat Maraenui 26-10 and Tigers defaulted to Bridge Pa. Expect the Tigers to have refreshed with a week off and they will want to make the 90 minute bus ride from Dannevirke worthwhile.

In reserve grade semifinals top qualifiers Bay Bulldogs will meet fourth seeds Flaxmere and defending champions and second seeds Bridge Pa will take on third qualifiers Omahu Huia. All four teams produced entertaining rehearsals last weekend with Bridge Pa beating an improved Flaxmere outfit 48-32 and Bay Bulldogs pipping Omahu Huia 34-28.

Women's grade semifinals will see unbeaten defending champions Bridge Pa play fourth qualifiers YMP and second seeds Tamatea take on Hastings Rugby and Sports. Last weekend Bridge Pa beat Tamatea 32-14 and YMP recorded their first win of the season with a 22-18 upset of Hastings Rugby and Sport in Waikare.

It is understood several of the Hastings players got lost on their way to the northern Hawke's Bay venue so they were unable to start the match with 13 players and by the time they got to Waikare it was too late to stage a winning comeback much to the delight of the YMP players.

Former Kiwi Fern and Bridge Pa player Chanel Huddleston was outstanding for the Hawke's Bay Tuis women's rugby team when they upset North Harbour 52-10 in a televised Farah Palmer Cup clash at Napier's McLean Park on Saturday. Huddleston played openside flanker.

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With their win the Tuis secured a semifinal berth in the Championship and if they win their remaining round robin games against Tasman and Manawatu they should earn a home semifinal. The Hawke's Bay Magpies weren't as fortunate in their Mitre 10 Cup crossover match against North Harbour at the same venue.

North Harbour won 51-34 with former league player Matt Duffie among their tryscorers.

The Magpies need to beat Northland at McLean Park tonight to keep their Championship semifinal hopes alive.

The other major attraction in Hawke's Bay last weekend was the Windsor Park Plate, the marquee race of the second leg of the Bostock New Zealand Spring Racing Carnival. It was won by Melody Belle with jockey Shafiq Rusof in the saddle.

This carnival will end with the final leg in Hastings on October 6 which will feature the group 1 \$250,000 Livamol Classic race. This is the same day as Rugby League Hawke's Bay's grand finals which will be staged within a 10 minute drive of the races.

An ideal end-of-season treat for league fans who also like a bit of racing. An ideal way to warm up for the Mount Smart international rugby league triple header the following weekend.

The Junior Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and Kiwis taking on their Aussie counterparts at the same venue on the same day Saturday, October 13. BRING IT ON!



Great catching up with Jazz Tevaga & David Fusitua at the airport this morning as we all head to Sydney for the #DallyMAwards tonight in Sydney



Look who else I bumped into at the Koru Lounge at Auckland Airport



A Referee's Journey From Tetraplegia To His Physical Peak

By Lachlan Waugh

20-YEAR-OLD BRENDON Woledge was doing what he loved most when his life changed for the worst. Playing rugby league, Mr Woledge was experiencing headaches three quarters of the way through his team's season.

He went to a doctor, who noticed blurry visions and sent him to an optometrist, who then sent him to the hospital, where a CT scan revealed a cyst on his brain which he was born with.

He was booked in for an operation that morning, and from then on he was in hospital for six months, three weeks of which he was induced in a coma.

His spinal cord shot up into the space where the cyst was taken out, which gave Mr Woledge incomplete tetraplegia from the neck down.

He was given an 80 per cent chance of dying, and a 20 per cent chance of being permanently blind. While in a coma, the doctors said he will never walk again.

Now 46, Mr Woledge is a New Zealand Rugby League [NZRL] referee and in the best shape of his life.

But the road to recovery was not so simple.

He says that the news felt surreal when he found out, and it took him a while to comprehend what was going on.

"People call me blasé. When the guy said 80 per cent chance [of dying], I said yeah but how long will be in hospital for and he's like 3 weeks, and I was like aw yeah sweet do the operation," he added.

As a result of the operation, Brendon lives with a 50 cent coin-sized hole in the back of his skull, in case anything goes wrong in the future and doctors need to operate.

Although he began running the water for his teammates Brendon slowly felt more left out, and went through stages of self-pity which led to struggles with depression.

He says he started doing his own rehab in the ward.

"So for some reason I rolled out of bed, hit the floor, and I got my legs and started pulling myself around the floor. The nurses saw me doing that, so they put me back up in the wheel chair and wheeled me down to physio and said spend all your free time down there, do what you want to do.

"[From then] Even if it was only little things, like twiddling my fingers as much as I could," he added.

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The death of Mr Woledge's best friend three years ago, whose life was dedicated to rugby league, inspired him to begin giving back to the game himself.

He took up refereeing, which became a second instinct as he had played in the past. He says the transition was smooth.

Refereeing with NZRL or at home in Wellington, Mr Woledge says the teamwork of referees and supporters on the sidelines is pleasing to watch.

He added it is great to be able to show youngsters that despite injuries, they can still involve themselves in what they love.

"Good to show youngsters even though you have injuries, you can still get back out and enjoy the game you love."

Because of the operations, Mr Woledge's fertility was greatly affected, forcing him and his wife to use IVF for his two children. Amongst his difficulties, his positive outlook on life has not changed.

"Make the most of your life,"

Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:



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Silver Ferns close out Quad Series with spirited outing



SILVER FERNS

Photo Michael Bradley Photography

SHOWING THEY'RE well in range of their top rivals, the Silver Ferns produced a spirited 60-55 loss in their Netball Quad Series match against world #1 ranked Australian Diamonds in Melbourne on Sunday.

The result handed the Quad Series trophy to the Diamonds but the Silver Ferns made them work hard for the silverware.

After trailing by five at the first quarter, the Silver Ferns impressed with their resilience and spirited attitude for the remainder of the match to deny the home side making any further inroads.

With just two weeks together, the new-look Silver Ferns under the guidance of new coach Noeline Taurua, can feel confident they are heading in the right direction ahead of next month's Constellation Cup.

In her 59th successive test against Australia, captain Laura Langman slotted in at centre, Te Paea Selby-Rickit got the nod at goal shoot while exciting youngster Michaela Sokolich-Beatson was the starting wing defence for the Silver Ferns.

There was plenty of early enterprise from both sides, the Silver Ferns matching the Diamonds across all facets as the teams' level-pegged for much of the opening stanza.

The tall Australian shooting combination of Caitlin Bassett and Gretel Tippet provided an effective foundation as their greater accuracy pushed the home team out to a 16-11 lead at the first break.

With Sokolich-Beatson featuring prominently and shooters Maria Folau and Selby-Rickit responding under the hoop, the Silver Ferns made the best of replies on the resumption when scoring the first three goals.

The Silver Ferns continued to keep the Diamonds in check through a competitive and evenly contested second stanza. Selby-Rickit converted a number of telling blows from range in the shooting circle while defenders Jane Watson and Katrina Grant ensured the Diamonds had to work hard for their reward.

After a drawn second quarter, it was the Australians who maintained their five-goal buffer when leading 30-25 at the main break.

The Silver Ferns remained unchanged while the Diamonds introduced rookie wing attack Kelsey Browne for an equally-tight third quarter. Influential goalkeeper Courtney Bruce defused a spirited Silver Ferns fightback as they closed to within three before the Diamonds threatened to pull away.

The Silver Ferns certainly had their moments, showing some classy movement in their transitional play through the hard-working exploits of Langman and Gina Crampton but failed to make the most of all their opportunities.

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Showing their ability to keep Australia within arms-reach, the Silver Ferns could not prevent the Diamonds from finishing with a flourish as the home side took a healthy 45-38 lead into the last break.

The Silver Ferns showed they were far from done, twice surging back from eight and nine-goal deficits to remain well in the contest as they pushed Australia all the way in the run home.

Coming on for the last quarter, in just her second test appearance, teenaged shooter Aliyah Dunn gave a glimpse of her growing presence with a perfect 10 from 10 return under the hoop while Folau was a steady influence with 30 from 34 for the match.

The Silver Ferns will take the court again against the Australian Diamonds in the Constellation Cup. The Test match series will start on 7 October 2018 with the final match in Wellington on 18 October 2018. Catch all the games LIVE on SKY Sport!



Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs: Final Determination

By NRL

THE NRL today confirmed the \$250,000 fine imposed on the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs for their post-season celebrations, but has suspended \$125,000 following submissions from the club.

A spokesman said the Bulldogs had:

- Acknowledged the seriousness of the breach;
- Apologised to the game for the damage caused, and;
- Committed to put measures in place to ensure there is no repeat of the behaviour.

“Under those circumstances, the NRL will suspend half the original fine,” the spokesman said.

“However the suspended part of the fine will be reimposed if there is any material breach of the Code of Conduct during the next two years.

“This incident should act as a reminder to all clubs and club officials that it is imperative to take extra precautions when organising club-sanctioned events.”

Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:



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Lino granted release by Vodafone Warriors to take up contract with the Newcastle Knights

by Vodafone Warriors

THE VODAFONE Warriors have today confirmed halfback Mason Lino has been granted a release to continue his NRL career in Australia.

The 24-year-old was recently given permission to test the market after making just 17 NRL appearances since his debut late in the 2015 season.

“It’s not an easy decision to let Mason go because he is the epitome of a true club man and we all love having him around,” said Vodafone Warriors general manager football Brian Smith.

“He has been totally dedicated to the Vodafone Warriors but we didn’t want to stand in the way of him having a look at options with other clubs.

“His opportunities for NRL football have been limited here and he has more than earned the right to look at the chance of more regular exposure.

“While we’re sorry to see Mason go we’re also excited for him and wish him all the best.”

Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney said Lino had demonstrated the values the club stood for.

“Mason has always provided a wonderful example to everyone at the club,” he said.

“He has been totally loyal and supportive in all he does. When we needed him he came into the side and did a really good job for us every time.

“He certainly goes with our blessing and leaves a tremendous legacy.”

Coming through the Vodafone Warriors’ development system, Lino debuted for the club’s National Youth Competition side in 2012.

“It’s tough leaving the club because it has been my home and I’m so thankful for all the opportunities I’ve had here but I’m also excited about what’s ahead for me,” he said.

Lino finished his NYC career with more than 500 points in 62 games from 2012-2014 and added another 65 matches and more than 400 points for the Intrust Super Premiership side since his debut in the grade in 2014.

He scored three tries in eight games at NRL level this year as an injury replacement for Shaun Johnson and Blake Green.





COACHING VACANCIES 2019

The Northern Bulldogs Rugby League Club
Premier & Premier Reserves Coaching Positions
are now open for applications for the 2019 season

Please apply with a letter of interest outlining your
qualifications to:

northernbulldogsrugbyleague@gmail.com

Or post to PO Box 132, Kaiapoi
Attention: Kirsten Reuben, Secretary

Applications close Friday 5th October 2018



Underdogs Have Their Day

By Carey Clements

SINCE ITS first beginning 110 years ago in 1908, Otago representative rugby league teams have never gained the profile nor the respect that perhaps some should have.

Last Saturday at the Petone Recreation Ground in Wellington, that step may have just begun to change when the Otago Whalers netted another big mammal by beating the Wellington Orcas 38-36 in a thrilling match that was decided literally seconds after fulltime was sounded.

Even before the match began, there was some history about it as it was the first time in 53 years an Otago representative side has played Wellington on their home turf. On that occasion in 1965, Wellington was a very experienced side which included a couple of Kiwis in its fullback-captain Billy Harrison and the highly respected hooker Colin O'Neil. Unsurprisingly the result in favour of Wellington with a 51-2 thrashing, although one compensation for Otago a short time later when its stand-off and captain John Walshe was selected for the end of year tour of Great Britain and in doing so became just the second post World War Two Kiwi, following the late great Jimmy Haig.

53 years later, a member of that 1965 Wellington side Ron Farrell (who earned 81 caps for Wellington over the year) along with an Otago opponent Neville Baker met up during the 2018 game, and in doing soon shared memories from that time.

Unlike that game, the 2018 fixture was a close affair with the lead changing hands several times. Otago led 18-12 at halftime, but just as the visitors had any thoughts they would continue the momentum, the bite of the Orcas set them back and cut down or even lost them the margin.

The turning point of the game came inside the last five minutes when the solidly built Otago stand-off Louis Tili sent a bomb kick up on the last tackle, only to see Wellington fumble the ball and with the quick thinking Whaler's second row Josh McKenzie, making a beautiful offload, the ball was spun wide, resulting in the right wing Willie Time going over for his second try and to tie the scores up at 36-all.

Tili then stepped up to make the vital conversion but with a cross wind, saw his kick miss and the score remain the same.

The next few minutes saw both sides show some desperate league in order to score once more and with seconds left on the clock, a Time run down the sideline, resulted in him being halted by three players, while at the same time having the ball snatched out of his hands.

Referee Simon Taylor had little option but to rule a penalty for a two man strip in the tackle before the full-time hooter was then sounded. Under the laws of the game, a penalty must still be played out and all that was left was for Tili to redeem his earlier miss and go for the kick, from even wider, from where he was only a few minutes earlier.

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This time the kick was bang on, resulting in Tili yelling out to his opponents, 'see ya boys' and for the Otago side to swoop in knowing it was the first time in 80 years, they had beaten Wellington in Wellington. It was also the first time the South Island national champions had captured back to back wins over the Orcas after beating them the previous year in Dunedin. For Baker watching from the side line, it also went a long way to eradicate the ghosts of 1965.

The result has now set things up beautifully for the Otago Whalers, to possibly take out the national championship when they take on the other unbeaten side, the Northern Swords in Dunedin this Saturday.

The last time a Northland side played Otago was 24 years ago in 1994 and on that occasion travel fatigue to Kaikohe, resulted in the home side winning comfortably. This time the northerners travel south, and whoever wins it, will then be promoted in the first division in 2019; An area Northland sides have been before, but never for the brave and stalwart league players from the Otago province.

Score: Otago Whalers 38 (Willie Time 2, Mikal Tuai 2, Finn Langdale, Benjamin Hanara, Jong Lee tries; Louis Tili 3 goals, 2 penalties), Wellington Orcas 36 (FGreig Dean 3, Lui Afamasaga 2, Dane Cooper, Joy Oti, Aki Tuangalu tries; Aaron Whitikia 2 goals). Halftime: Otago 18-12. Crowd: 700.

Former International Greats Reunion Day

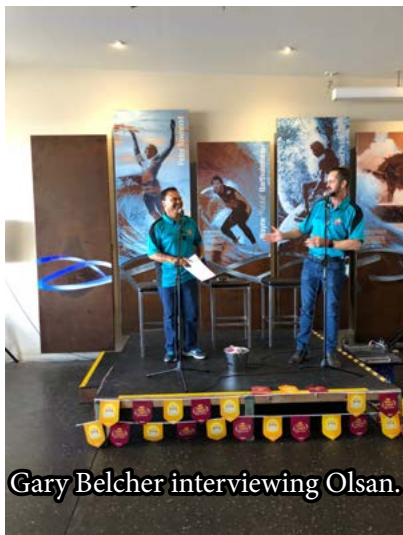
FORMER INTERNATIONAL Greats held their second reunion at the Kirra Beach Hotel on Friday the 21st September. We had another great day, with many former international players attending, as well as a large number from the public sector. We had a guest speaker from the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Mr David Hughes, and were able to hand over our first donation to the foundation. The Former International Greats have aligned themselves with two charities, Dementia and Prostate Cancer. The day was a great success with many tall stories told and catching up with past players that haven't seen each other for a number of years. The organisation is growing at a great rate and in the future we hope to involve both New Zealand and England to a greater degree.



Gathering of some of the greats, including Billy Smith, Ron Turner, Steve Martin, Eddie Heatley, John Lang, Bob Irvine, John Elford, Keith Campbell, Merv Hicks, Dennis Manteit, Paul Charlton, Rowdy Shearer, Tom Bishop and Bob McCarthy.

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Gary Belcher interviewing Olsan.



Olsan Filapana laughing away.



Olsan Filapana.



The South Brisbane Connection with Bob McCarthy, Mick Viewers and Gary Belcher.



Tippy Talyor and Denis Ward.



Tommy Raudonikis with the panel.



Dave Hughes from the prostate foundation receiving the cheque from Graeme Laurance. Bernie Lowther saying a few words.



The MC Gary Belcher interviewing Bob McCarthy, Bruce Hatcher, Chairman of the QRL and Trevor Gillmiester..

New structure for ARL Premierships in 2019

By ARL

THERE WILL be a new look to the Auckland Rugby League's Premiership structure in 2019, with a revamped format announced today.

What was previously two Premiership competitions will become three, with the introduction of the Fox Championship, to go with the Fox Memorial Premiership and Sharman Cup (info chart attached).

Next year 12 clubs will contest a Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying series, with all 10 of the teams who competed in the 2018 first division remaining in the competition, and 2018 second division winners Bay Roskill, and runners-up Manurewa, joining.

The top eight sides at the end of the 11-week Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying period will go through to contest the Auckland first division competition.

The bottom four clubs at the end of Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying, and the top four clubs from Fox Championship qualifying (made up of all of the Premiership clubs not competing in the Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying), will come together to form the Fox Championship.

The Fox Championship will see eight teams play each other once over a seven-week series, with the top four sides at the end of that period earning a spot in Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying for the following season.

The remaining clubs who don't qualify through for the Fox Memorial Premiership or Fox Championship will contest the Sharman Cup.

Auckland Rugby League general manager Greg Whaiapu said the new format gives clubs more opportunities to secure a place in the Auckland first division.

"The introduction of the Fox Championship provides greater competition across the board, and gives clubs four spots from which they could potentially gain promotion to the first division, as opposed to the old format where only the winner of the Sharman Cup could move up," Whaiapu said.

"This also gives first division teams who have missed out on the Premiership play-offs something meaningful to play for. We see it as a system that is positive for everyone involved."

2019 PREMIERSHIP STRUCTURE SUMMARY

Fox Memorial Premiership

- Made up of the top 8 teams from Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying
- 8 teams play a 7-game season where everyone plays everyone once
- The top 4 teams make the play-offs

Fox Championship

- Made up of the bottom 4 teams from Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying and the top 4 sides from Fox Championship qualifying
- 8 teams play a 7-game series season where everyone plays everyone once
- The top 4 teams at the conclusion of the Fox Championship earn places in the Fox Memorial Premiership qualifying for the following year

Sharman Cup

- Made up of all Premiership teams not contesting the Fox Memorial Premiership or Fox Championship.



NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

**3 TESTS 1 DAY
IT'S TIME**

**SATURDAY
13 OCTOBER**

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KIWI FERNS v JILLAROOS
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We've got an exclusive ticket offer for members of the Mad Butcher's Newsletter.

You can be part of history as the Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and Junior Kiwis take on their Aussie rivals at one blockbuster event.

It's been four years since the Kiwis took on the Kangaroos on home turf, so don't miss the chance to be there alongside Sir Peter Leitch.

To secure tickets to the Stacey Jones lounge and join the Mad Butcher, click on the Ticketek link below:

<http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=KIWISKAN18&eg=MADKIWI&ep=MADKIWI>



Gates open at 2.30pm:

Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos - 3pm

Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos - 5pm

Kiwis v Kangaroos - 7.45pm

It's been four years since the Kiwis took on the Kangaroos on home turf, so don't miss the chance to be there.

Tickets start from \$35 for adults and \$15 for kids. – this is one you simply can't miss.

Want to bring your team to celebrate the end of the season? You can take advantage of the bundle deal that includes 6 children's tickets and one adult ticket for \$96.

3 Tests. 1 Day. It's Time.



North Harbour Women And Capital Men Capture Ford NHL Titles

By Hockey NZ

Capital men win the Challenge Shield at Ford NHL after 1-1, (3-2 SO) win over North Harbour. Photo BW Media

THE NORTH Harbour women took home the K Cup after their 2-0 win over Central this afternoon (Sunday, September 23) at the 2018 Ford NHL, while the Capital men defeated North Harbour in a thrilling shootout (1-1, 3-2 SO) to capture the Challenge Shield at the National Hockey Stadium in Wellington.

Ford NHL Women's Gold Medal Game: North Harbour vs. Central

Central entered this final searching for their first NHL championship since 2009 and only their third in tournament history, while North Harbour were searching for their first title since 2010.

The first quarter saw a wide open game with some great build up play. Both teams had chances in the opposition circle but the goalkeepers were proving up to the task early on in the game.

After an even first quarter, the game remained scoreless with both teams still trying to figure out how to break down their opposition.

In the second quarter, North Harbour looked set to score on a well set up German penalty corner; however, the Central defence scrambled well to stop the shot going in. Central had an amazing opportunity when an overhead was thrown to an unopened player at the top of the circle, but fell short when the North Harbour's goalkeeper Brooke Roberts covered well.

North Harbour then broke down the other end of the field where Courtney Winterbottom touched in a great cross ball to give her team a 1-0 advantage.

The game stayed at 1-0 to North Harbour at the halftime break.

The second half saw a continuation of the arm wrestle from the first half. In the 42nd minute Kirsten Pearce slammed home a ball that had popped up off a Central defender. The second goal saw the Central speed their game up in an attempt to catch up to a strong North Harbour team

North Harbour held their nerve to secure the regions first K Cup since 2010 in a 2-0 win over Central.

Full Time: North Harbour 2, Central 0.

Harbour's Kirsten Pearce and Central's Kaitlin Cotter shared the Just Hockey Top Goal Scorer award, while Central's young Olivia Shannon earned the Ford Most Valuable Player Trophy. Shannon recently helped the Iona College team capture the Aon Secondary Schools Federation Cup title for the first time in school history.

Continued on next page...

Ford NHL Men's Gold Medal Game: North Harbour Vs. Capital

North Harbour headed into this game looking to defend their 2017 title, as well as trying to make it four from four for tournament titles with the women winning the Ford NHL in the previous game and the men's and women's North Harbour teams in the National Senior Tournament winning their respective tournaments too.

Capital started the game in the best possible fashion when Sebastian Buddle deflected a ball past Richard Joyce and into the back of the net in the 3rd minute of play giving Capital a 1-0 advantage.

From that point the game went from end to end where both teams had their chances but neither team were able to break through. The match remained 1-0 at the half.

Capital started the second half trying to play some great possession hockey where their trade mark ball speed around the back was on display. Once North Harbour got their sticks on the ball they looked threatening and at any point this game could open up.

Neither teams were able to take their opportunities in the 3rd quarter despite there being some great chances in front of goal.

With 4 minutes left on the clock North Harbour pulled their goal keeper. The move pulled off for the Harbour men as Kalyan Jeram touched home a ball that was bouncing around the far post to tie the game at 1-1. Noone was able to break the deadlock in the remaining minutes which sent the game into a shootout.

After the first round of shootouts the teams were inseparable, leaving a thrilling sudden death matchup. Benedict Van Woerkom used some silky skills to eliminate the goalie and put Capital into the drivers seat. Kalyan Jeram then stepped up for his shootout as he tried to eliminate the goalie. Kyle Pontifex then tapped the ball away and sealed the win for Capital.

The last time Capital won the Ford NHL was in 2015.

Final Score: Capital 1, North Harbour 1 (3-2 SO win to Capital)

The Ford Most Valuable Player Trophy was awarded to Capital captain Dane Lett, while the Just Hockey Top Goal Scorer award went to Cory Bennett with a total of 11 during his 2018 Ford NHL campaign.

Ford NHL Women's Bronze Medal Game: Midlands Vs. Auckland

Two teams that were so close to making the gold medal match had to put aside their disappointment of missing out on the final and focus on securing the bronze medal. The last time these teams met in the round robin they couldn't be separated during regulation and ended up going to a shootout which Midlands ended up winning.

The Midlands team started the match strongly earning a penalty corner after 10 seconds in the match but couldn't convert. Auckland's defence was strong and absorbed all the early pressure that was thrown at them.

Eventually Midlands were rewarded for patience and determination up front when they got second phase play in a penalty corner and Viola Scharf swept it into the goal.

Midlands started the second quarter strongly and managed to get a few more shots off. Auckland's defence was up to the challenge and were resolute to not let the lead grow. As the quarter progressed, both teams had opportunities but neither were able to put a goal away. At the half the score remained 1-0 to Midlands.

The third quarter was a relatively even affair where both teams got the ball down into the oppositions defending zone but neither team were able to score a goal. With three minutes to go in regulation time, Auckland pulled their goal keeper to help their chances at evening the game.

Continued from previous page...

Midlands responded well to this move by holding possession and frustrating the Auckland team. Midlands held their ground to keep the 1-0 lead and secure the bronze medal.

Full Time: Midlands 1, Auckland 0.

Ford NHL Men's Bronze Medal Game: Canterbury Vs. Auckland

Two teams with a storied rivalry met in the bronze medal match to add another chapter to what has always been tightly fought games.

Canterbury started the game in the best possible manner when they scored a ripping field goal two minutes into the game. The opening spell then went from end to end with both teams having a number of opportunities in front of goal.

Canterbury put their second goal of the game in when Sam Lane put a drag flick off of the goalies pads and into the goal. Auckland seemed to gain their composure at this point and had some opportunities themselves to get them back into the game; however, Canterbury were reluctant to concede.

Canterbury got their third goal of the half when a cross ball was sent in and Joshua Pollard one timed a shot past the Auckland keeper. Canterbury continued to apply pressure and frustrate the Auckland team with some slick passing and well-timed leads from the strikers.

Just before the half Canterbury put their 4th goal in when Richard Bain found the back of the net to give his team a 4-0 lead.

The second half started as a much more even affair with neither team able to change the score line. At the start of the 4th quarter, Auckland got a penalty corner where they worked a beautiful German penalty corner that was finished off by Jacob Smith. That took Smith's goal total for the tournament to 5.

Canterbury regained their four-goal buffer a few minutes later when Sam Lane put in a powerful drag flick and take his tournament goal total to seven. Lane completed the hat trick with Canterbury's 6th goal in what looked like a clinical performance from South Island men. The match finished with a 6-1 score to Canterbury, earning them the 2018 Ford NHL Men's Bronze Medal.

Full Time: Canterbury 6, Auckland 1.

If you missed out on the action, head over to the Hockey New Zealand Facebook page or the Black Sticks YouTube Channel for a replay of the livestream.

The 2018 Ford National Hockey League is proudly supported by Ford, Educare, Vantage, Trillian Trust, NZCT, Wellington City Council and Wellington Hockey.

**Good luck to the All Blacks playing
Argentina in Buenos Aires this Sunday
at 11.40am NZT**





Patea Warriors Masters Team 2018

Patea Warriors

*By Patea Masters
Management*

On the 30th August 2018 the Patea Masters Rugby League Organisation had there End of year Presentations at The Dining Room Resturant - White hart Hawera Taranaki.

The event was to recognise the efforts of the players throughout the season and to reward key personal for their hard work. This was also for club and volunteer co-ordinators which gave individuals the opportunity to network and share ideas with others in order to prepare for next years 2019 season.

The club had 450 supporters both national and international over the course of the season.

They also had recruited 53 playing members.

A large amount of work to strengthen links with the local communities and playing teams. It was an amazing season playing along a bunch of good guys.

The 2019 season will be tougher as we aim to do better as a club and keep building on the momentum from this season.

Huge congratulations goes out to all players who donned the heliotrope this season, especially the following players who have had a great season and earned the respect of their teammates.

The club is hoping to expand and develop the game at Rugby League masters level in working on recruitment to grow their playing strength during the season.

The club will also start its younger grades that will be participating in the Taranaki Age group competitions in 2019

A big Thank you to Jen Kahu and Sharon Bougen along with all the whanau who sorted out the end of season dinner and thanks to ALL for the special taonga that the Patea Masters Management received, totally unexpected but very much appreciated

Winners :

Forward of the year : Walter Ormsby

Back of the year: Darren Pullen

Pahake (Old timers Award): Flukie Kahu

Overall Player of the year: Jason Broughton



Whanau and supporters enjoying their time at the function.



MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2018
MAUNGAKIEKIE GOLF CLUB

5 Anita Ave, Mount Roskill, Auckland

.....
Arrive: 11.30am – Sign in
Tee Off: 12.30pm Shotgun Format: Ambrose

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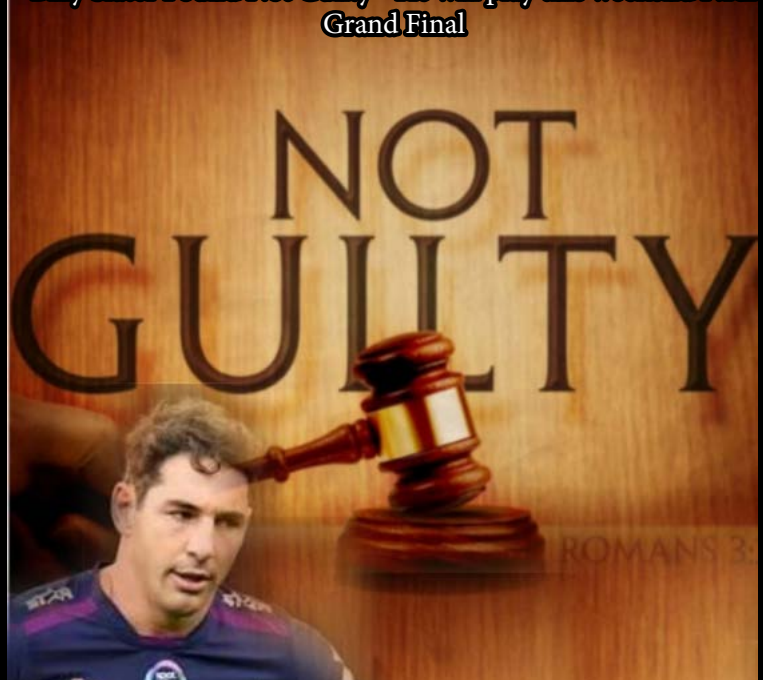
league4life.co.nz

Sky Sports 2 (Ch: 52) - 10:30pm

Billy Slater Found Not Guilty - He will play this weekend NRL Grand Final



Wednesday September 26th 2018



TRIPLE-HEADER
SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER
MT SMART STADIUM



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The Newsletter Team

Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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