

20 YEARS
VODAFONE



WARRIORS

Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

3rd August 2015

#84

This Saturday the Vodafone Warriors take on the Dragons in Wellington



Vodafone Warriors Take On The Dragons This Weekend!

RUGBY LEAGUE action returns to Westpac Stadium this weekend as the Vodafone Warriors take on the St George Illawarra Dragons! Both sides are desperate for victory as they fight for a spot in the NRL finals. To win this epic match the Vodafone Warriors will have to overcome Kiwi winger Jason Nightingale and former Kiwi captain Benji Marshall. With a family-friendly kick off time of 5pm and kids tickets starting from just \$10*, this is a game not to be missed!

Game Details

Box Office: 11.30am

Gates Open: 12.15pm

Wellington Rugby League Grand Final: Tearoha Eels V Wainuiomata Lions - Kick Off 12.35pm

NYC: Vodafone Warriors V St George Dragons - Kick Off 2.40pm

NRL Vodafone Warriors V St George Dragons Kick-off: 5pm

The Vodafone Warriors Are Doing Two Public Events In Wellington

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WARRIORS

This Thursday 6th August 12.30 – 1.15pm Wendy's Paraparaumu Store

This Thursday 6th August 7.30 – 8.30pm Vodafone Warriors Members/Fan Function at The Residence Bar, 120 Courtenay Place, Te Aro

Present at both of these events will be Ben Henry, Thomas Leuluai, Tof Siple, Jerome Ropati and Ruben Wiki.



WE KNOW there are going to be at least 82 people at Westpac Stadium when my Vodafone Warriors take on St George next weekend, so will you be joining them?

We know because Wellington's own Charlie Gubb says his Dad will be the first man in the ground, and his fellow Wellingtonian Ben Matulino says he's organised 80 tickets just for his family and friends. When they all join me, that's 82.

We might have lost on Saturday night but we at least went down fighting and it was a 1000% improvement on the last couple of weeks. So I'm excited to be heading to Wellington.

I'm Wellington born and bred and love going home. I'm so excited I'm actually down on Wednesday so I can catch up with old friends before I head to Westpac Stadium, named for my favourite bank!

And what a stadium it is, easy to get to, great location, good facilities. We could do with one of those in Auckland, but don't get me started.

I'll also get in some rest and recreation, including a bit of a spin on Wellington harbour with Charlie's father, who has a terrific charter service based in the harbour. He's a good bloke and he will be champing at the bit to see his boy play his first NRL game at home.

A big crowd will show the powers that be that the capital is serious about all this talk of having an NRL team of their own. A poor one, and kiss those chances goodbye. So it's up to the fans to pack Westpac, or better still, sell the place out.

And if you see me about the place, say hello. Don't be shy because if there is one thing the Mad Butcher loves, it's having a bit of a chat.

It's a big day for Charlie, Ben and for captain Simon Mannering, who played his club league in the capital. It's always special to play in front of friends and family, so we caught up with them to see what they were thinking. - **Sir Peter Leitch**

Captain Mannering Needs You

Of course it's also something of a homecoming for captain Simon Mannering, who played his club league in the capital, and he is sure some of his family will be making the journey across the Cook Strait to show, like me, that they haven't given up on our hopes of playing finals footy.

Simon was in the Mad Butcher Lounge after we went down on Saturday night to Cronulla, and he appealed for the fans in the capital to get out and support the team.

"The boys were busting their arses out there but we just couldn't get it done.

"All I can say is that we are disappointed, but the effort was there, it was certainly better than the last two weeks when we let the fans down.

"Wellington is a special night for us and we will be determined to put on a good show and do everything we can to get back on the winning horse, because we want to be there in September."

He said losing Shaun Johnson was obviously a blow but there were no excuses. "We went straight into training knowing what we were facing and we worked a lot on combinations. We'll be better for the outing and I know Tuimoala Lolohea and Chad Townsend will be doing everything they can to be better.

"it's a great challenge for them, and for all of us, and I know Wellington is a great place to play and all the boys will be all-in to give their best."



Simon Mannering

Continued on next page...

And there is no mistaking Simon understands just how crucial it is. “We have three away games ahead of us and only the Cowboys to come at Mt Smart. We have to tidy up a few things, especially on defence because we have to be in the mix for September. The over-riding thing the boys want is to be a team the fans can be proud of.” - **David Kemeys Editor in Chief**

Homecoming For Big Ben Matulino

Barnstorming prop Ben Matulino, who played in the second row for the injured Bodene Thompson on Saturday, can't wait to get home to the capital.

He'll be one of the most interested men there when the curtain-raiser is played, because it is the Wellington Rugby League's grand final between his old club, Te Aroha Eels and Wainuiomata.

“When we go away to play you can see plenty of hotels, but Wellington is really special because I get to go home and stay with Mum,” Ben said.

“I've got my ticket order in because I've got 80 friends and family coming to watch, so I have to be right on top of my game because I don't want to let anyone down.

“It's really important that Wellington gets behind us. We are going to need massive public support and the crowd to get into it, to really participate, because believe me you know when the crowd is vocal and right behind you, and when it isn't.”

Ben is like me and believes the game gives Wellington the chance to prove it can draw the crowds, something that would give more credence to the calls for an NRL team in the capital. “Wellington is a great city.. It's my home obviously, but it's also a terrific stadium and a wonderful place to play. And all places are great to play in when the crowd is behind you, so we need the fans there.” - **David Kemeys Editor in Chief**



Ben Matulino

Charlie Gubb's On Fire

He is one of the nicest players I know that young Charlie Gubb, and he has had a few problems with injury this year. But he looked really good on Saturday in a beaten side and he is fast becoming a favourite with the Auckland crowd at Mt Smart.

Now Wellington can get behind their own at Westpac Stadium, and Charlie is looking forward to showing what the boy who played his club league for University Hunters can do on home soil.

And, to be fair, he knows his Dad, his biggest fan, will be there cheering him on.

“Going home to play my first NRL game in Wellington is going to be something a bit special for me. Dad says he will be the first man there, and who wouldn't want to put in a good showing in front of their father?”

“We will obviously have a few things to work on from the Cronulla game, and we'll be looking at the video and analysing where we need to sharpen up.

But even though we got beat, we did put in a much better effort and I know the boys are raring to go again in the capital because we haven't given up on the prize of playing finals footy.

“We have to win this one, it's as simple as that, and having a crowd behind us would be a big plus.”

- **David Kemeys Editor in Chief**



Charlie Gubb

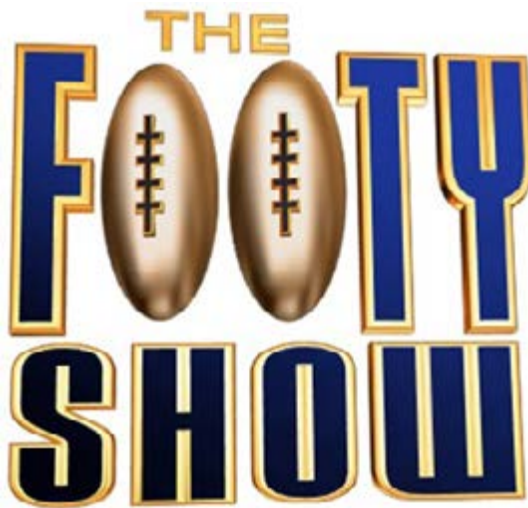
Special Offer For Those Lucky Enough To Receive This Newsletter

THE AIR New Zealand Grabaseat team are working on a great flight deal for our Christchurch-based fans to be able to see the mighty Vodafone Warriors take on the Dragons this weekend in Wellington. Check out the Greenlight deals section of www.grabaseat.co.nz at 0900 on Tuesday 04 August and grab yourself a flight deal. To fly up to Wellington on the morning of Saturday 08 August and fly home to Christchurch again on the morning of Sunday 09 August. The deal will include tickets to the match at Westpac Stadium, so once you've made your booking just email grabaseat@airnz.co.nz with your flight booking reference, contact phone number and address and Grabaseat will work out how to get the match ticket to you. Seats are limited and will likely sell out quickly on Tuesday morning so make sure you are first in!



Make Sure you Watch the NRL Footy Show

The NRL Footy Shows Screens On SKY Sport 2 This Thursday Night



Bea Ryan, Jonothan Coleman and Sir Peter in Wellington.

Beau Knows Wellington featuring a special appearance from Koni. It's a big Voice special with the Madden brothers and Delta Goodrem on the panel and the Highway of Happiness wraps up. Talk soon my friend!! -
Glenny

It's Gonna Be Good

WELL WHAT a game of rugby league is coming up in Wellington this Saturday the Vodafone warriors verse the Dragons with the warriors needing a WIN TO GET THERE FINALS HOPES BACK ON TRACK AND THE DRAGONS COMING OF A FANTASTIC 46 -24 win over the Knights and breaking a losing run of 8 games THE DRAGONS WILL BE FIRED UP AND PLAYERS LIKE BENJI MARSHALL GOING ALL OUT TO IMPRESS THE KIWI SELECTORS WITH A 3 test kiwis tour coming up later this year .and I know how much BENJI loves playing for the kiwis its a must win game for both .

The Butcher

Tickets In Wgtn Available At Ticketek Outlets At The Wellington Railway Station And Wellington Performing Arts Centre. Also Online At Ticketek.co.nz Or Through The Warriors Website



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These and more available at
www.WarriorsStore.co.nz

Also available on gameday at Westpac Stadium

Simon Mannering The Vodafone Warriors & Kiwis Captain

By Barry Ross



A LONG WITH most Australian Rugby League people, I am a big fan of Kiwis and Warriors captain, Simon Mannering. On the field he more than does his job, both as captain and in the tough work in the tight play. Off the field, he is a fine example for New Zealanders of all ages and a proud father. Looking at the official NRL website last Sunday, it showed that in his 18 games in 2015, Simon had made 880 tackles which is the most for any Warriors player this year. The figures for his running metres and hit ups also place him near the top of these lists.

Simon is now in his 11th season of first grade football and in that time has more than held his own with every opponent. His 230 games in the top grade and 53 tries, show just what a major role he has played for the Warriors in these 11 seasons. He has averaged more than 20 matches a season and this durability is priceless in the week to week grind of the NRL competition. His on-field work is very high and just as important, he is respected and liked by the referees. During his 120 or so games as Warriors captain, he has always treated the whistle blowers with dignity, patience and politeness. This ensures Simon and the Warriors are treated in the same manner, although no referee will please all players and fans. His recent contract extension will see him remain with the Warriors until the end of the 2018 season and barring injury, he will be close to the magic 300 first grade game mark with more than half of these as a captain.

What he gives to the Warriors, Simon also brings to the New Zealand side. His 40 Tests (5 tries) have given him 20 wins and 20 defeats, but the winning percentage since he has been captain from 11 October 2013, is 82, or nine victories from 11 matches. This includes New Zealand's last five Test matches, three against Australia and one each with England and Samoa. As captain of his country, Simon's relationship with international referees is just as strong as it is with the NRL men. During his 11 Tests as captain, New Zealand have played at 10 different venues. These are Wellington's Westpac stadium, Dunedin and Whangarei in New Zealand, twice at Suncorp in Brisbane and Allianz stadium in Sydney, plus Wembley, Old Trafford, Leeds and Warrington in England, as well as Avignon in the south of France. Englishman Phil Bentham, now 43, has controlled four of these Tests, while his countryman, Richard Silverwood has handled two of them.. Australian Ben Cummins has refereed two Tests and his countrymen, Gerard Sutton, Henry Perenara and Shane Hayne, the remaining three. As usual when Simon is the captain, there were no problems during these Tests.

During his career, the Napier-born New Zealander has played Test football as a second rower (21 Tests), lock (11 Tests) and centre (7 Tests). He came off the bench in his other Test. This versatility is another positive that Simon brings to his teams.

The Warriors were devastated by Shaun Johnson's season ending ankle injury and everyone is very aware that it will be hard to finish in the top eight. But with Simon leading the way, the right man is in place to get this job done. Simon won't give up and his team-mates will be right behind him. From now until the season's end, every one of the remaining five regular season matches will be vital. Three of these games are across the Tasman, with the last two being at ANZ Stadium in Sydney. Simon will probably celebrate his 29th birthday in Sydney, on Friday 28 August, as the Warriors prepare for the clash with the unpredictable Wests Tigers on Sunday 30 August. Let's hope he celebrates with a win.



The boys will be playing in the Home Jersey this weekend.



**Out of town fans coming to Wellington
make sure you get to the ground early
to see the Wellington Rugby League
Premier Grand Final**

Saturday 8th August - Westpac Stadium



V



WRL Premier Grand Final 12.30pm

Warriors v Dragons NYC Holden Cup 2.40pm

Warriors v Dragons NRL 5pm

This Saturday Gates open 12.15pm This Saturday



VODAFONE WARRIORS V DRAGONS

SAT 8TH AUGUST 2015* / WESTPAC STADIUM

-This-Saturday-

CAPTAIN'S CLUB LOUNGE (LEVEL 2 LOUNGE)

Enjoy match day in style with our premier hospitality option. Located on Level 2, the Captain's Club Lounge provides you with the perfect environment in which to entertain clients and guests. With exceptional catering, player appearances and exclusive post-match entertainment the Captain's Club Lounge offers the best of Vodafone Warriors hospitality.

Package includes:

- Reserved table for 10 with premium match-day seating;
- Hospitality for 1.5 hours pre-match, during the match and 1 hour post-match;
- Four course menu including entrée, buffet main, dessert and cheeseboard;
- A selection of wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages;
- A dedicated Master of Ceremonies and special guest speakers;
- Exclusive post-match function with player appearances and live entertainment;
- Match programmes;
- Host service

Price: \$2,995 +GST per table of 10 (all inclusive) \$295 +GST per person

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The Newsletter Team

Here is the team that help me make the newsletter each week. Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it's a team effort.



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