

Weekly News

3 June 2011



With the season now past halfway, it is probably a good time to review the health of the Club. While our Premiers are destined for the Hardham Cup, results on the field probably disguise the excellent progress this relatively new and inexperienced team has made. At one stage in Saturday's excellent win over Petone, the front row consisted of players who qualify for Colts, which bodes well for the future. Once they learn to consistently win the close games, they're going to be a real threat and will be creating a good platform to make 2012 a season to remember.

This season the Club has tried to return to many of their old traditions and it is very pleasing to note the way the Premiers carry themselves on match day, both on and off the field.

The Senior 1st team are working very hard to maintain their grade status. Even though they are languishing near the bottom of the table, they have been involved in a lot of very close games. At times their forward pack has been decimated through loaning players to the Premiers due to injuries, and it is a credit to the team the way they have supported our top side. The real work is about to commence in the next round and with the team back to full strength, they should account for themselves very well.

I haven't had a chance to see the Senior 3rd team play but it is great for the Club to have three senior sides. Even though there have been a few teething problems, this team has the potential to serve the Club well in the future. Everyone needs to support these guys to ensure we maintain the team next year.

Unlucky not to be in the top grade this year, the Colts team is excelling in the 2nd Division. They are currently placed second behind Poneke, who narrowly beat them 21-18. The Colts are only 5 points adrift of Poneke and with the right results, could take out this grade. I watched the team play two weeks ago and I was impressed by the quality of their all-round play and the fact they had 30 players turn up for the game. Like the Premiers, they have a very good management team that has embraced many of the Club's old traditions.

The U85kg team (the Titans) has probably been the most consistently performing team in the Club over the last decade. They are currently third on a very congested points table in the top division, and so far undefeated. If any team has the ability to win close games, it has to be this one. These guys are largely self-managed and seem to play a hell of a lot of away games. It is always good to see them in the clubrooms as they epitomise a lot of what this Club is about – camaraderie and teamship. It's also great to see this team contributing to this newsletter (always an entertaining read).

What can you say about the Pressies? There is no points table but they know where they are placed in the competition. Who else is the first to be cancelled, often has to referee their own game and almost never complains? This is the team that links the past with the present and while having a dedicated table in the clubrooms, it is very much about shared company.

Overall, I think the Club is the healthiest it has been for some time, and when you consider the facilities we have (gym, greenroom and probably the second best club ground in Wellington) the future looks bright.



Kevin Pulley

Club Profile

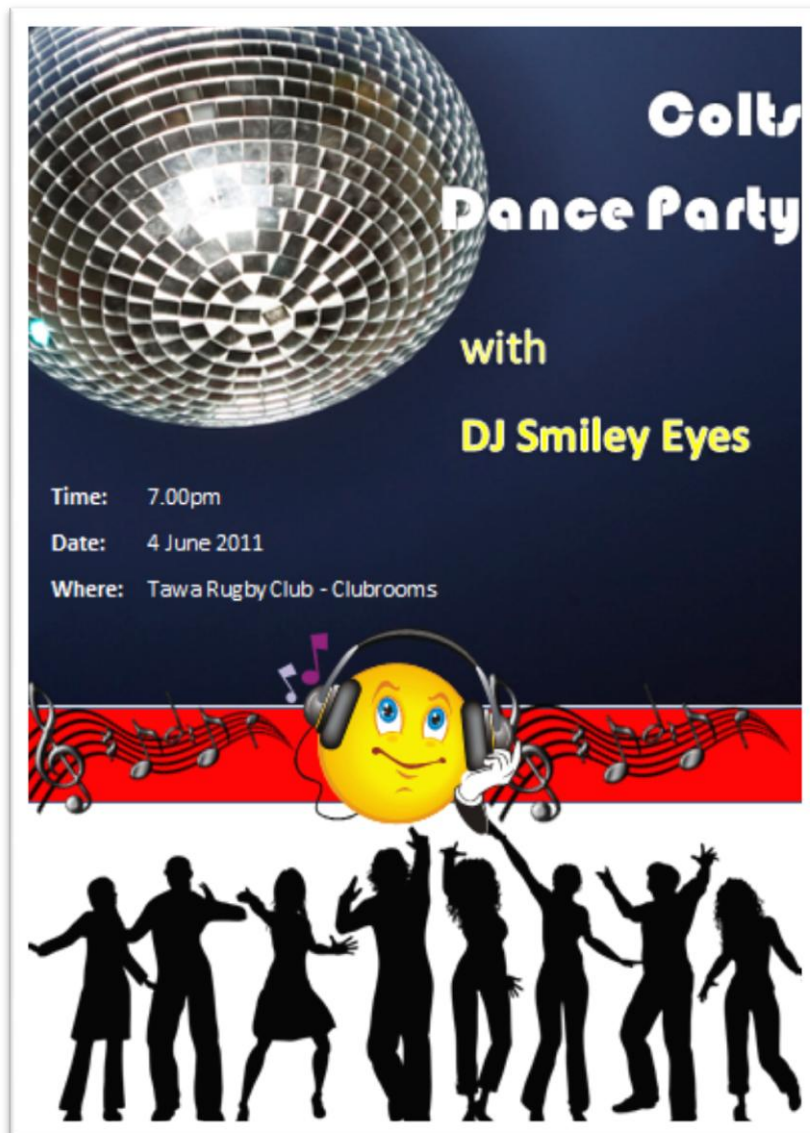


First Name:	Michael
Last Name:	Teofilo
Nickname:	Mikey
How long I have coached for Tawa:	1 year
Playing position(s):	Halfback
Secondary School attended:	St Patricks College
Most memorable rugby moment:	Winning Colts for Norths Premier 1 & 2
The person I admire the most:	My father
My pre-game rituals:	Pray before I play, I rub dirt into my hands, been doing it since I was 8 years old
My favourite home cooked meal:	Sweet & Sour Meatballs
If I was a car, I would be:	Impala
Best advice someone game me:	Shoot for the moon, if you miss you'll land among the stars. Best person to promote yourself is you

Upcoming Games – Saturday 4 June

	Opponent	Location	Time
Premiers	Avalon	Lyndhurst Park	2.15pm
Senior 1st	Stokes Valley	Lyndhurst Park	12.30pm
Senior 3rd	HOBM	Redwood Park	2.15pm
Colts	Johnsonville	Helston Park	2.15pm
85s	Stokes Valley	Delaney Park	2.15pm
Presidents – SUNDAY 5th JUNE	Norths	Lyndhurst	12.30pm
U6 Tawa United Video	Para'umuBoas	TeAtiawa 1	9.30am
U6 Tawa Absolutely Maintenance	Norths Little Taniwhas	Lyndhurst Park	9.30am
U6 Tawa All Roofing Solutions	P-Plim Piranhas	Ngati Toa Domain 9	9.30am
U7 TawaVaughanos Diesel Services	Para'umu Cobras	Lyndhurst Park	9.30am
U7 TawaNorth City Motors	Norths Puppies	Lyndhurst Park	9.30am
U8 TawaHawkings Plumbing	Para'umuTaipans	TeAtiawa 3	9.30am
U9 Tawai-4 Clothing	P-Plim Dolphins	Ngati Toa Domain 2	9.30am
U9 Tawa North City Hiab Hire	Waikanae Highlanders	Kowhai Park	9.30am
U10 TawaHarcourts	Para'umu Rattlers	Kowhai Park	9.30am
U11 TawaTotalflow	Norths Red Hot Chilli Peppers	Redwood Park	9.30am
U11 TawaSkinforme	P-PlimMakos	Redwood Park	10.30am
U12 Tawa Barbarians	P-Plim Eels	Ngati Toa Domain 2	10.30am
U13 P2 Tawa Rough Terrain	Petone	Petone 3	9.20am

Notices:



- **Welcome back** to Nigel Hunt who is back in NZ for a few weeks from France – great to see you down at the game and in the clubrooms
- **Good luck** to Chris Boyd with the New Zealand under 20s
- **Invite:** The Tawa Rotary Club have invited Graham Henry to speak at their weekly meeting on Tuesday 14 June. The Rotary Club have extended an invitation to members of the Tawa Rugby Club to attend.

The format is as follows

5.45pm	Assemble at Tawa Bowling Club, Davies St
5.45	Bar available
6.15pm	Dinner
7.00pm	Address from Graham followed by question time.

The cost is \$25.00 per head and the 1st 30 to respond will be accepted.

This will be a good opportunity to hear the AB boss and for you to ask those tricky questions you have wanted to ask.

Please let me know if you want to attend. Ring me 2325281 or reply to above email address.

Regards Paul McEnaney

Premiers

Manager's Report: A day I won't forget!

Twenty three years ago to the day I was lucky enough to be part of a Tawa Premier team that beat Petone Premiers on Lyndhurst Park for the first time. It was a day I will never forget. For those who knew my father, a Petone stalwart through and through, he would not talk to me for a week, it hurt that much. I loved it, relished it and you could not wipe the smile off my face.

To the present Tawa V Petone, Lyndhurst Park 2011.

With a few of the players injured this week, we had a very young developing team which was preparing to take the field, but you wouldn't have thought it if you were there watching these guys go through the warm-up process. Our wider squad has shown good strength and our impact players have made significant gains and when called upon to take the field, they have excelled, so the step up to start was not a big step. The walk out of the changing rooms was a sombre one; the players knew it was a time to lead rather than follow. It was a time to step up.

As we were walking to the far side of the field to be with the team, I walked past the Petone stalwarts, and yes, I knew them. One of my father's old mates and my old U21 coach, Ross Plunket, turned and said to me, "I hope you brought your hanky! You'll need it at the end the game," and they all laughed. I nodded in acknowledgement and said, "Sure, Ross, I hope you brought yours as well because I think I'll be using mine for a different reason than you." Then I invited him in to the Club for a beer after the game. He smiled and said he would come.

On a fantastic sun-shining winter's day, both teams had a solid start. Tawa had a slight breeze behind them and made the most of it. Staying on attack and camping in Petone's, we scored points on offer but threw away a certain try. A brilliant break, good phase ball, two players in the clear, try line five meters away, an in pass and a dropped ball. Then a missed kick that was pretty close to the posts happened. Our players, God bless them, took it in their stride and carried on.

As for me, I was having a heart attack and found myself reaching for my blood pressure pills. It was almost too much to take. We had most of the play but found ourselves 10 points a miss at half-time. We were up but were playing into a slight head wind. A call was made: "You can either tuff it out or bow your heads to Petone!"

A challenge from the coaches and players responded positively. Attack after attack Petone challenged right up to the last seven minutes of the game. Petone went ahead. You could hear the Petone crowd erupt with pleasure as the pressure went off and thinking was that the game was in the bag. With only minutes to go Tawa challenged the Petone half, they didn't panic, they didn't waver. Tawa was determined to set up an opportunity which would win them the game.

Standing on the sideline with some of the team management, we could hear the young touch judge call the Petone back line off-side on Petone's ten metre line right in front, but the ref did not respond. Not a good moment, it was an opportunity gone begging. Needless to say, the touch judge got an earfull. He refused to contact the ref again. Three phases later we got the penalty, but not in the best position you could hope for - on the right-hand side of the field heading south about ten metres in from the touch line and about forty metres to the posts. The ref turned around and said, "It's full time! What do you want to do?" Slowly but surely Randle took the challenge, grabbed the ball, placed it on the kicking tee and kicked the bloody thing through the goal posts to win the game. The ref blew full time and the smile hasn't left my face. Good work Tawa - a well deserved win! A start of many more this season.



Senior 1st

Right from kick-off, the boys weren't in the game - four tries in a matter of minutes. Not sure if it was a change of grounds at short notice or minds being on something else.

It was a game that we can just write off and look forward to the second round.

It's time to put our hands up and be accountable, ask ourselves if we want to play Senior 1st. We have one more game to get things right, check our attitudes and our ability.

To both coaching staff and players: We have a good bond and culture and we all know we can play better than this.

Good luck to the boys this weekend against Stokes. Coach Jayhol will be in the Gold Coast winner sponsorship.



Jason Holtham
Coach

85s

Due to all 8080s games being cancelled this past week, the Titans turned to what they know best: touch.

Some scintillating tries from Horo, Tye, Denyer and Co. kept the Bulging Badgers guessing. But with Popeye Geno coming in and helping the Badgers, they were able to pull back four quick tries.

Unfortunately, grandfather clock was not on the Badgers' side (although Butters was) and the speedy Sharks were able to pull away with a win.

This week the Titans take their unbeaten record to Stokes Valley. The game is at 2:15pm at Delaney Park. Be there at 1.00pm!

Remember to add David Tye as your Facebook friend for any rugby updates. This is essential for all rookies. Well done to Aiden for being first in.

Joseph "Cullen" Denyer

Colts



The Colts played Wests in the cage at Ian Galloway Park under, yet again, perfect conditions for rugby.

With a tough game looming, we started out well with a try to prop Max Tuimalo after a patient build up. Wests retaliated immediately with a penalty and an against-the-run-of-play try which was converted. Then not happy with that and on a roll, Wests scored again but thankfully with an unsuccessful conversion. With half-time showing on the clock, we were awarded a penalty which Peter Goldsmith slotted, bringing the score line to 15-8 at the break.

With a positive team talk, the boys were ready for a strong start in the second half only to let in a try straight from the kick-off and it now looked like we were going to be in catch-up mode for the rest of the game. But Captain Fantastic Lotu Nuku had other plans and soon after, scored a great try with Peter Goldsmith adding the extras.

Wests scored again now taking them out to a 27-15 lead which they looked pretty happy with. Fortunately for us, Lotu was not so happy and he was again successful in scoring which Peter converted, making it an exciting final 10 minutes.

And we were not wrong! With the forwards and backs working together, we were rewarded with a Cody Akanoa try to the right of the post which evened out the score line. Up steps a cool headed Peter Goldsmith who with a successful conversion gave us the lead 29-27. Had we done enough? Unfortunately not. From the kick-off, Wests immediately put us under pressure to give away a kickable penalty with time elapsed on the clock. But it was not to be and the final score remained at 29-27. The boys were ecstatic and the coaches relieved! Who would want to be a coach?

Player of the Day for this game was Luke Tomlinson. His usual consistent hard work was rewarded.

This week we wore our new team polos which went down a treat as the boys worked many hours fundraising to pay for these and their subs. We would like to thank Chris and Heather Burgess from All Roof Solutions for their sponsorship and Martin Kilpatrick from the Handprint Factory for a superb job in printing the polos.

Don't forget our Colts Dance Party this Saturday night at the Club. Play your game, shower up, watch the Hurricanes at 5.30pm, then cruise into Colt mode and party the night away with DJ Smiley Eyes. See you there!



Tony Tomlinson
Colts Manager

Juniors

U55 Tawa College

Tawa College U55 v HIBS College

We had a strong first half with the forwards doing the hard yards and R. Howe being rewarded with a great front rower's try from 5m out driving over the line. At half time the score was close and we were behind 5-12. In the second half we didn't manage to keep the pressure on and HIBS scored a couple of run-away tries out wide. The boys never gave up and showed good character with the final score ending up 5-33. We're looking forward to next week as we learnt a lot from this game - our first in Division one.

DesBloomfield
Coach

U6 Tawa United Video

Vs U6 Poneke Turbos

Time: 11.30am

Date: Sunday 29th May, 2011.

KowhaiPark, Linden.

Fulltime score: Tawa 8, Poneke Turbos – 8

Many would say that last weekend we had two gorgeous fine days, yet our WesternBay's U6 – U9's grade games were cancelled at 9.30pm on Friday night.

As a parent & coach it was hard to explain the reasons why our U6 game was cancelled to my two sons, who gazed outside the window on the Saturday morning with the Sun shining brightly and no, they didn't find their 'happy place' after all my explaining. I believe I wouldn't have been the only parent explaining to their rugby mad kids of the morning games being cancelled.

This is Rugby- our National Sport and when four junior grades games in our Zone are cancelled like last Saturday, you seem to ask the question 'Okay, so why don't we just cotton wool them inside, if they can't play Rugby on the fields outside- what's a bit mud gonna do? And who's really missing out here?'



Lucky for me, big smiles were back on my boys faces, when I said we're going to the Tawa Prems game against Petone at 3.00pm, which we won too- Good on ya Randall!

The afternoon got even better for my U6 Tawa UV team, a quick contingency plan was put in place for a Sunday game at Kowhai Park and a big thank you to Teena (Poneke JRFC Convener) and Joe (Poneke Coach) who gladly accepted a game with our U6 Team.

Sunday's game was all about our kids- getting out there, getting muddy, throw a few passes to their mates, running hard, brag about the tries scored and just playing a different club like Poneke. Both sets of Club parents all happy, to see their boys and girls showing great skills- on a Sunday afternoon!

I also would like to thank the Tawa Players- Anthony Hunt, Ethan Johnson and Mathew Cuff for filling in for Poneke to even up the numbers for both sides. Sorry for the hard training run I gave you boys in particular on Wednesday afternoon but when I said- 'don't score too many tries for Poneke', I actually meant it and the final score ended up 8-all.

As a fun game- Try scorers went something like Ethan, Anthony, Mathew, Cliffy, Dallas, Ollie- all dotting down a lot but the Top try scorer for Tawa was Tomas Parkin who was on the field and then stood on the tryline with a spare ball in his hand, he must have dotted that ball down a hundred times on that tryline and even sat on it at one stage- Good on yah Tomas!

Player of the Day:

Ollie Cuff – Who showed great determination on attack & defence and topped it off by scoring a few tries too.

Cliff Hunt
Coach

U10 Tawa Harcourts

We played Norths Labradors as an away game for Tawa at Kowhai Park on a fantastic, sunny, dry Saturday morning. They were short three players, so Jamie and Sean stepped into the Norths team and we played 9 aside rugby. The dry conditions, large field and one less man provided an open, flowing game of rugby with punch and counter punch providing a tight game to the end.

Losing the burglar, aka Jamie, and his front row buddy, Sean, provided a challenge for Sam, Dan and Cam to get forward dominance against two of our best. It would be fair to say that a little hesitation getting into the thick of the contested ball areas hurt us with a number of their early tries created from breaking away from rucks and mauls. Where was the cover defence? I hear you say, “Yip backs, where was the cover defence?”

Jamie and Sean played their typical strong games with Jamie regularly stealing our ball, and bugging it all, he was even seen to pass on multiple occasions! Luckily his off load to a strong running Shaun was thwarted by a great tackle.

Second half saw a couple of tactical changes with Josef in to sort out the contest area and with Sam and Daniel both getting nailed when not committed in running the ball up from free kicks. These guys got fired up – a huge difference with rucks and mauls being driven instead of leaned on. This coupled with changes in the backs with Eziel debuting at 1/5 working well with Estavaan at half back. Kahana, Max and Connor made good use of back line ball with great long range breaks.

Unfortunately we couldn't link with support players, who were actually in support! Jo's try saving tackle where he ripped the ball free while riding the guy into the ground was roundly endorsed by Cam's run off the back of the next ruck and by expertly positioning his body at the point of contact to absolutely own the tackler. This was late in the game and the whole sequence of play was a fine example of how well these kids are playing and applying the knowledge they're given.

Fantastic Man of Match performance from Cameron who made a huge impact around the

field with his commitment and positional play as both a back and a forward.

Vs. Norths Labradors
Lost 6 tries to 4

Rob

U11 Tawa Totalflow

Tawa Totalflow played the Para-Plim Makos on Saturday, 28th May at Ngaitoa Domain, a team they lost to by two points three weeks ago. This time it was a different story and they came away with a scorching 67-5 win. The boys came out firing straight from the starting whistle and never let up. In the first half, the team scored seven tries to which the Makos had no answer. The forwards dominated the whole game winning clean ball and snuffing the Makos' attack before they even got their feet moving. The backs swung wide with devastating counter attacks. The second half was much of the same, with four tries going over the line and only allowing a concession try in the waning moments. A total team effort on the day!

1st Half: 35-0

Tries:

Bailey TAYLOR-BURNS 2

D'angeloLeavai 2

Ethan Webster 2

AlisteinTavila 1

Second Half 67-5

Tries:

Bailey Taylor Burns 1

Ethan Webster 1

AlisteinTavila 1

Marcus Webster 1

Conversions: Bailey Taylor Burns (6)

Players of the Day

Backs: Bailey Taylor Burns: 3 tries and 6 conversions for a total of 33 points

Forwards: Caleb Dawson for some great work in the rucks and mauls.

Ed Felix

U12 Tawa Barbarians

Tawa Barbarians versus Paraparaumu Cobras

Venue: Ti Atiawa No1

Half Time – Barbarians 10 – Cobras 5

Fulltime – Barbarians 25 – Cobras 10

Barbarian Player of the Day

Magnus McLaughlin. Consistently top performer week in and week out, Magnus is maturing very well in the Fullback position his instincts to be at the right place at the right time is no fluke – I would rank him as one of the best Full backs if not the best in Western Bays.

Cobra Player of the Day

Jacob Sciascia – Top effort by their Captain responsible for two turnovers that resulted in one of their tries. Well Done.

Barbarians Point Scorers

Bosman (No 8 Captain) – 3 Tries

Zikielloane (No 6) – 1 Try

Damon Chandler Harriss – (Wing) – 1 Try

Team report

Set on a beautiful Saturday Kapiti Coast morning, The smell of the freshly cut Ti Atiawa No 1 was well groomed for what was going to be 60 mins of Barbarian whip ass on these beach boys. But wait there's more - for five of our players who commute twice each week to Tawa from Paraparaumu it was like the returning home of the **Prodigal sons** (Bosman, Rikele, Cullen, Sam and Tevaka) to their area of residence – what Pram wouldn't do to have these boys on their roster! (well for starters add the three players they were missing on the day and the prodigal sons and Pram could've fielded 2 Teams in 2011!).

The game itself was a frustrating affair with stoppages due to the constant interchanges by Pram and their big squad. Territory wise we dominated and used the natural elements well like

the sun strike effect and the sloping down hill flow of the field in the 2nd half with high.

It was clear from the outset that they wanted to shut our key players down, and in one of the early exchanges they smashed Bosman causing the ball to be dislodged resulting in what I thought was well taken opportunity – but this was the start of their demise because had Pram just settled with the try then the game could have become a better contest. But when the players and supporters cheered at bringing down one of our playmakers – you know what, you just don't show off and upset one the best No 8's in the region.

The boys rallied when they saw this (especially the other prodigal sons), with some of the biggest hits this season, there were tears, there were ooo's and aarghs – by the end of the game we roasted their forwarded and with the Rikele and Tuteri (tackling show in the backs) their backline resorted to a hot potatoes type touch style of play.

Special mention must go to Edward Wiggy Bloomfield who out hooked his opposition giving us 4 tight heads to 1, his line out throwing was fantastic and his 15m burst resulting in 4 pick and go's and a try to another kid who is just on fire Damon Chandler-Harriss. The other highlight was Bosman's trademark break from a ruck 45 metres from the try line and outsprinting their left winger and full back - most satisfying for him was that he did it on their side of the field so they had full view and 6 seconds to think about 5 points being added to our score!

Highlights

Youtube – tawababas.

Syd Hunt

Club Captain

RUGBY - a winter sport!! Not if it rains! What a fiasco at the weekend when heaps of games were cancelled and the WRU had to transfer games all over Wellington in order to appease the various Councils.

New Zealand as a nation did not get to the top of World Rugby by not playing in the rain or on rain affected fields. The old adage of "mud being the leveller" may well become just that - an old saying that the young ones will not understand. The Councils are concerned about the grounds being cut up - for goodness sake, "Get a life!"

The same Councils have pushed outdoor activities with ratepayers' money which is great - but obviously this does not count if it rains. Sport of all types builds character. These people will all become ratepayers and be involved with sport for a long time, provided we can keep the momentum going. The Council decision-makers need to wake up and smell the roses! Please note, this is my opinion and not necessarily that of our Tawa Committee.

On a positive note: What a wonderful result for our Premiers. I saw the second half and was impressed by the Tawa commitment. A number of our key players were out, but that meant nothing to the guys in the gold, red and blue as they went about their mission. The team is starting to show the results they promised all season. A bit of self belief, dedication and teamwork coupled with a coaching/management team who have never doubted the potential.

The Colts had a real "cliff-hanger" at Ian Galloway Park. They spent a fair amount of time in catch-up mode with an unfriendly cross breeze coming at them in the first half - and dropping somewhat when they turned around. It is a credit to this team that they stuck to the game plan, toughed out the match and had a good win. This game was very competitive right up to the final whistle. Any wonder they were so happy after the whistle blew? Both teams knew they had been in a Battle Royal. What a future for Tawa and Wests with these young men in the Club.



Allan Davidson

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