

## INTRODUCTION

For those of you who may not know me I am the current elected Chairman of KCU for 2010 and it is a privilege to represent this club in it's celebration of 50 years of football on the Kapiti Coast.

I am delighted to see so many past & present member's in attendance.

Before we start the formal part of the evening I will run through tonight's agenda & advise on the remainder of the weekend.

## AGENDA FOR THIS EVENING

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Football under the name of Hearts came into being when a group of ex-patriots from both the UK and other parts of Europe decided to form a social club, initially in Wesley knight park in 1959. One of the former members a Scotsman with an allegiance to Hearts of Midlothian coined the name Hearts in June of 1959, the local Authority Hutt County, designated Matthews Park in Menin Road to be their home ground.

In May 1961 a handful of parents from the district decided the time was right for a boys soccer club to be officially formed in the district.

1962 saw the junior boys club amalgamate with the senior Hearts team, the foundation of the club was laid. Who would have thought 50 years on.... that football would continue to have a significant presence on the Kapiti Coast.

Hearts seniors were initially entered in Division 6 but upgraded to Division 5 shortly before the season commenced. The season of 1964, 65 and 66 saw Hearts win the 5,4 and 3 divisions and knock out cups INCLUDING being undefeated for a total of 51 matches.

During the formative years Hearts growth was quite dramatic with a vast increase in juniors and by 1966 had three senior teams

With our Juniors the inclusion of two girls in a boys under 12 team side in 1966 sent the Wellington Football Association executives reaching for the rule books and demanding the presence of this heretic coach to appear before them. This indeed was bringing the game into disrepute. As the coach concerned was unrepentant and as there was no rule to disallow this, Hearts continued to play the young girl. This of course opened the floodgates and all clubs followed suit.

With Sport growing on the coast more venues were required and it was the decision of the newly formed Kapiti Borough Council in 1974 to transfer Hearts to a new venue at Weka Park. It took many years to get this park to today's standard and the Kapiti Borough Council twice resurfaced this ground and in 1993 the ground was fully reticulated. During this period Hearts made some hard and far-reaching decisions. The Kapiti Borough Council put out tenders for toilets and changing rooms at the park, Hearts won the tender and designed these changing rooms with a concrete roof. Which one day they hoped to build clubrooms on; - today it is called strategic planning, then it was let's do it!

The Soccer scene was changing, 1967 saw the Central League form and 1971 a National League. Soccer was really growing. In 1975 Hearts won Wellington division 1 and the Venus shield, the oldest and most prestigious trophy in existence. This was their entry into the Central League, division 3 south and in 1981 in a home away series they defeated Massey University of Palmerston North to enter the Central league Division 2

By 1981 juniors were in excess of 400, 4 senior men's teams and one women's team.

In 1974 Hearts changed their name to Raumati Hearts Association football and sports club (inc) the aims and objectives of this was to incorporate a summer sport.

Many successes were achieved at Junior and Senior levels in the 70's & 80's not only with league championship successes but also with a strong presence of emerging players who went on to play for many representative teams including their country.

The 90's produced notable runs for Raumati Hearts in the Chatham Cup in 93 they reached the last 16 and in 94 it is recorded as the 6<sup>TH</sup> round (close to last 16 if you ask me).

In March of 1991 Paraparaumu United were formed with a 170 junior and senior players registered. This was split into seven junior teams, three senior teams and one social. Their emphasis was mainly on families getting together and having fun. Any thought that having fun was just social were soon made clear, during Paraparaumu United existence the club enjoyed a successful period in both the Horowhenua and Wellington Leagues.

In its first year in the Horowhenua league the club won both the cup and double at the first attempt. This was followed by further success in the Wellington Leagues at Senior men and Womens level.

Paraparaumu United also reached the last 16 in the Chatham Cup in 1999

It also had strong representation in the junior leagues in the Horowhenua and Wellington region.

Paraparaumu United like Raumati Hearts quickly developed a reputation from Central region teams that they were no push overs.

A remarkable achievement for Paraparaumu United (in its short history) and Raumati Hearts to have both clubs represented in the Central Premier League in 1999. In today's structure this league is now known as the Central League, our Premier team currently play one level below.

It must also be mentioned that the parochial support when visiting the coast to play both sides was not one enjoyed from opposing teams.

This community spirit and loyalty is something players and supporters alike should never lose.

While the Kapiti teams proved that they could field strong teams in the Wellington and Central Divisions changes were afoot

During the mid nineties Raumati Hearts, Paraparaumu United and Waikanae had meetings to discuss amalgamating all the teams on the Kapiti coast including a name change to Kapiti Hearts in 2000 After initial strong meetings Waikanae decided to continue on their own

As an independent club whilst United and Hearts committees both believed that now was the time for the clubs to merge and offer players the opportunity to play at the highest standard.

Since the merger the Club now has had a few changes and in 2002 it changed its name KCU (Kapiti Coast United Sports Club inc). KCU has over 600 members and the club still provides football for all ages, from the very young, to senior men, women's and social teams.

Although supported by it's 42 year history KCU are beginning to make their own mark in it's short 8 year history of Football on the Kapiti Coast. This includes numerous successes with their Junior and Senior Teams. Notable success with the Senior 1<sup>st</sup> team winning promotion into the Premier Division in 2008. The presence of three senior teams pulling out of the Wellington social divisions and creating a competitive Kapiti/Horowhenua Division from 9 teams in 2002 to 20 teams this year.

We continue to run one of the best Junior tournaments in the Wellington region that has been running since its inclusion in 1977 as the Coastlands Cup.

Our Women's team continue to progress and grow in numbers with the possibility of a second Womens team in the near future.

KCU while envied by other clubs as the team to beat by other Kapiti and Horowhenua teams never the less they know that KCU are a Club that without them would cripple football in the region.

Our Teams continue to compete at various levels in the Horowhenua and Wellington leagues. The clubs aims have not changed, and that is to provide players of all standards the chance to play the game they love.

The occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been the catalyst to acknowledge and recognise the following members who have been associated with our club history, some as founder's, chairman, committee members, player's, club member's, volunteer's and supporters

The names are in no particular order and many surnames relate to more than one family member's involvement over the years

Stamper, Brinck, Hicks, Kidby, Rogers, Howell, Beldham, Trask, Garbett, Batty, Dewar, Simonoff, Delahunty, Christian, Amner, Ockey, Mcpherson, Gerrard, Croft, Boorer, Neal, Orchard, Moore, Jones, Colgate, Fletcher, Mcleod, Monk, Henderson, Bourgois, Shaw, Herries, Cotter and many many more

Whilst every effort was made to capture the notable events of the first 50 years, it is simply not possible in a “potted history” such as this, to mention every single chapter of our Football history, nor every person who helped create that history.

Your presence tonight will be tomorrow’s history and I doubt in the club’s centenary year we will all be acknowledged then.

However to every one of us who have been part of this club’s history over 50 years you have had a positive effect in ensuring the continuation of football continues on the Kapiti Coast.

Yes there has been mistakes, disputes conflict of interest, poor match displays and conduct – that we have come through 50 years shows strength and character to continue to play and be part of the beautiful game in our club!

To those past players, committee’s, member’s, supporters, sponsor’s, all of their partner’s and families we sincerely thank you

Lastly I ask that during the course of the evening’s events that all present make an effort to acknowledge any face in attendance tonight. In some way they are associated with our history so make yourself known and introduce yourself.

Thank you for your patience we will now take a break for food & refreshment

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Life Member Presentation

**All life members to be called onto stage with speaker**

You can imagine that while we have 50 years of history, memorabilia, trophies, team photo’s etc we simply cannot fairly display these items on a regular basis.

While efforts are being made with the photo’s being displayed via computer technology and plans for a trophy display, our clubrooms need to remain attractive to other codes or private functions that generate much needed funds.

As KCU moves forward we felt it was important to recognise in a collective capacity those life member’s selected from past clubs. These past member’s or their representatives who stand before you had been chosen for their contribution to their club.

For me it is like being recognised by your team mates for player’s player of the year, meaning to achieve a life members award has been gained by being respected and nominated by many member’s within your club and not one or two individuals.

The introduction of our new Life Member's board will proudly be displayed within our clubrooms and with it the first senior mens team to take the field as Hearts.

As a token and show of our appreciation please accept these gifts from our member's & please everyone a round of applause for our life member's.

**The Furthest travelled to be presented with a Replica kit**

**A Replica strip to be presented to the Stamper family**

Without being in a partnership with the Village Inn, Stirling Sports & City fitness our role within the community would be harder to achieve. We really appreciate your Business being involved with our club!

From a playing perspective I am sure our Premier team will wear the replica strip with respect and the outcome will be favourable – in this regard time for bed boy's

All our teams this weekend will want to succeed in making this weekend a memorable one, thank you all have a great evening

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Some Snippets of our progress

**1960's** – From its infancy the biggest challenge was trying to find out who would pay for team socks!

Feb 1968 For fundraising the club organised a bottle drive with every member was asked to collect 30 doz bottle's each to meet the target of approx \$100

Club Equipment Inventory – 3 senior strips, 6 junior strips, 6 senior footballs, 4 junior footballs, 1 plastic football, 1 goal keeper jersey – note the footballs to be ordered from Hong Kong

Teams regularly travelled to Wairoa, Wanganui & Gisborne

**1970's** – Senior Ball was returned from repair after going to repair shop 2 weeks prior.

Senior Playing subs were \$18

Mrs Westin is knitting a goal keepers jersey, we may receive an account for the wool

30 May 1972- Tin shed moved to Weka by the hutt city council for the juniors at a cost of \$2 per week

The committee fell foul of the government for importing soccer balls by not following proper procedure. \$500 fine or 6 months imprisonment could have been the penalty incurred by the committee. – (No record of the outcome)

Pre ACC the club was paying insurance for their players

11 Feb 1975 tender successfully accepted to build changing rooms and toilet facilities cost \$23375.00 they were completed by 30 Sept 1975 – loan was taken out to construct the clubrooms. The club is now valued at approx \$300k