

EDITOR'S COMMENTS 2.1.07

This is the first article in 2007 and the Technical Journal wishes all its readers a Happy New Year. If you do not yet have a new year's resolution, try to resolve to communicate with the Journal with a letter or an article.

David Beck's article on December 19th (It is in the Archive section if you missed it) drew a heartfelt response from Colin Clark. More of you may feel strongly on some/all of the points raised in the piece, so do e-mail your feelings and they can follow up those of Colin.

"How right he is! Talk about committees with ambition – most are misdirected and cannot see what is under their nose. With the advent of league rugby, clubs have ring fenced teams (squads) within their clubs simply to get results. This has encouraged a widening gap in the skill levels and commitments of the players, as there is no longer the old promotion/demotion through the teams in a club. This has resulted in a lack of motivation and commitment from those who are not in the first squad. By all means let's bring in a southern hemisphere guy – but the starting point has to be that he must be good!

Coaches are no longer given free rein as the club sponsor only wants to see winning rugby. Forget the performance. They are happy with mediocrity and believe their money is being well spent if a win is achieved. Ignore the second, third and fourth teams (if the club is now lucky enough to run them).

We hear of all these new players coming to the game since we won the World Cup. Where are they? I do not see them in adult rugby at local club level.

Youth and mini rugby continues to develop at a fantastic rate and all credit to those who do a wonderful job. But look out for the Old Farts running the game at grassroots level; they are all suffering the same ills all of their own making and could easily infect these booming areas of the game.

Let the national division clubs pay their players. We should know our place in the structure and should develop clubs and players for our own benefit, not import it or expect payment at all grades. If we genuinely believe in development, we should be developing players for the overall good of the club and ultimately the game. How many well qualified coaches leave the game, forced out by the committee (and ultimately the sponsor) not understanding (and not wanting to understand) how to help develop the club and its people?"