



Confraternity of Brothers Clubs Inc.

COMMUNIQUE



Confraternity Conference No 64
Brothers Leagues Club Capricornia
5th, 6th and 7th March 2010

Brothers Clubs from all over Queensland and the Northern Territory recently met for their twice-yearly conference hosted this year by Rockhampton Brothers. This was the 64th such conference, the first being held in 1975 with a membership of 18 clubs. The Confraternity of Brothers Clubs has grown into a closely-knit organization of forty three junior and senior Rugby League Football Clubs located in all of the state's major cities and towns from Mt Isa in the West to Cairns in the North to Beenleigh in the South as well as Darwin in the Northern Territory. There are eight clubs in the Brisbane, Logan, and Ipswich area and seven licensed leagues clubs.

Over 90 conference delegates were brought up to date on a varied range of topics and will be well armed when they return to their clubs to implement a range of improvements and to share the knowledge gained at these conferences.

North Queensland Cowboys



The big announcement from the weekend was the signing of a three year agreement (with a 2 year option) between Brothers Confraternity and the NRL Club North Queensland Cowboys. This will build on the Brothers Development Program and give not only pathways for our young players but development opportunities for our coaches and support staff. The Cowboys will be working with all our clubs and is great news for us all as we continue our development program. This again demonstrates how the Brothers Confraternity assists Brothers Clubs stay ahead of the rest.

The conference began at 1pm on Friday with sessions focussed on licensed club issues hosted by Chairman of the Licensed Clubs Sub Committee Mark Hennelly

Jeremy Norton, State Gaming Sales Manager. Maxgaming QLD on monitoring of gaming machines and their SIMPLAY and Doorman systems. Jeremy also showed how Brothers Clubs are operating better than most clubs in Queensland.

We were fortunate to have Ms Kirsten Livermore MP the Federal Member for Capricornia update the delegates on Federal Government sports funding and what clubs can Clubs apply for through the www.grantslink.gov.au website. The member explained that they were currently reviewing the Crawford report on sport which has a number of recommendations including a need for a Government sports policy.



Ms Kirsten Livermore MP

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Following on was a presentation on grant opportunities by Steve Dendle from the Queensland Government Department for Sport and Recreation. Steve outlined the range of grants available. These included;

- **Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Program** for projects up to \$400 000 with the state government contributing up to 75%. There are also Category 2 grants for project costing up to 1.2 million and over
- **Sport and Recreation Inclusion Program.** Funding is available for \$50 000 to increase access to sport and recreation for individuals and groups facing barriers to participation.
- **Local Sport and Recreation Jobs Plan** a cluster of local organisations employ a local sport and recreation Coordinator assistance of up to \$52 000 is available
- **Children in care** -up to \$300 for registration fees or event participation fees.

For details visit the website at www.sportrec.qld.au/funding.aspx



Sophia Czarkowski

Sophia Czarkowski from the Rockhampton Regional Council provided delegates with details of their Community Grants Scheme and Sponsorship Funding.

Delegates were then some inside tips in actually applying for and gaining grants by Matthew Fitzpatrick the Managing Director, Momentum. Momentum have been assisting a number of Brothers Clubs apply for grants for such things as ground lighting.

Byron Cannon, Director, Front Row Sports Management followed up on his interesting presentation at the last conference with an update on player management considerations covering such things as not compromising the player, financial planning, knowing the players and being honest and managing their expectations. Importantly players should be prepared for life outside rugby league. At the conclusion of Byron's presentation Members were made aware that Byron is now acting as Legal Counsel for the Confraternity along with Stan Smith of Grant Simpson Lawyers. Bryon's law firm Ferguson Cannon Lawyers offices are on the Sunshine Coast. With Stan's firm in Rockhampton, it now makes it easier for Clubs to access Legal counsel should the need arise. We thank Bryon for this free service.

The Clubs Queensland update by Ray Phillips featured a video presentation on customer service by Clubs Queensland CEO Doug Flockhart and a couple of personal examples of interaction with staff as a customer. Ray also canvasses arrange of current issues such as money laundering in clubs, promotion through their "clubhaus promotions" and the "doorman" program. Community Image Campaign \$300 000 will be spend letting people know what clubs contribute to the community and the great work they do in supporting young sportspeople develop their skills.

Simon Pollard from one of our sponsors Australian Liquor Marketers (ALM) spoke on their support for the confraternity and explained that sponsorship is based on sales and money will come back to confraternity to assist with conferences, guest speakers etc. This was followed by an update from another sponsor Lion Nathan on their current products including XXXX Summer and their Origin Corp for this year's State of Origin.

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The Retail Sales Manager for Aon Insurance Peter Forno gave delegates some useful information on insurance for our clubs. With ten branches throughout Queensland they are well placed to provide insurance cover for Brothers Clubs and currently look after a number of Brothers Clubs.

On Saturday the Conference was officially opened by the Mayor of Rockhampton Regional Council, Mr Bradley Carter how spoke of the important role Sport and in particular Brothers Rugby league Clubs and the affiliated Brothers Clubs play in the community and also of councils support of the Central Queensland NRL bid team and their objective.



Once again the high profile the conference has in Rugby League circles was evidenced by the attendance of the Managing Director, Queensland Rugby Football League, Ross Livermore. Ross explained the QRLs stance on the proposed RL Commission and the proposed restructure of rugby league in Australia. He also discussed the competition structures in Qld and ways in which Brothers could possibly compete in them. Ross, as always, answered many and varied questions that members from across the State asked of him. In closing, he stressed the importance of the Confraternity Conference as it is the only conference of its type outside of the QRL Conference but he stated that the Confraternity Conference covers more grass root Clubs than the QRL Conference.

Both Bert Borland and Steve Hamilton from the QRL Central Division spoke about their respective Roles as Chairman and Referees Development Manager.

Shaun Kelly from Win Television gave delegates some tips on improving our media coverage and club image. Suggestions included having Public Relations Officers (perhaps engaging University students looking for experience), establishing contact with the media, feeding information to them regularly and being prepared for bad publicity and how best to handle it if it comes your way.

Mark Hennelly then presented a paper on Directors and Committee person's roles and responsibilities working through a number of key areas such as corporate structures, expectations on committee members, Directors liability, financial reporting and accountability, strategic planning and the possibility of litigation.

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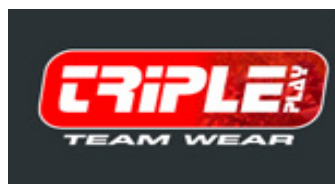
Following this Detective Sergeant Steve Paskins from CIB Rockhampton appraised delegates on how to prevent Fraud / Stealing / Assaults (in your Club and on field). Steve suggested that deterrence using alarms security screens, lighting CCTV and security patrols were the best options. Police liaisons officers can provide clubs with advice on security arrangements. Magistrate Mr John McGrath SM Emerald and Rockhampton then explained the courts sentencing processes and how sentencing is used as a deterrence or for protection of the community.

Delegates were updated on Government Opposition policies in regard to Sport and Gaming by Bundaberg member Jack Dempsey. Mr Dempsey, during his most informative session, explained that clubs need to have policies, procedures and risk management in place. This will not only improve club management but also will improve the clubs chances of getting government funding. Rather than increase imposts on clubs, they are looking at programs such as responsible service of alcohol course for high school students. He suggested governments should keep funds in local communities and look at returning funds through the community clubs rather than through layers of government bureaucracy.

The Confraternity Auditor Barry Dinneen from RWM, Chartered Accountants appraised delegates on taxation issues relating to for profit organisations. It was agreed that information from this presentation will be of great benefit to the Member clubs.



Several of our sponsors provided updates on their products and services. Our sponsors also outlined their support for members and we are all encouraged to support them in return. Members were reminded that Sponsorship is a two-way street.



All the licensed clubs provide updates with all reporting increased profits and are either completing major renovations or currently in the planning stages. Membership in all clubs is well up with Cairns membership now past 30,000 members. Steve Parle the Chairman of Rockhampton Brothers announced their joint venture with the Central Queensland NRL bid team. The Club is now known as the CQ NRL Bid Rugby League Club. The bagman gave his report and it was decided that 50% of the funds were to be reinvested and the other 50% to be put into consolidated funds.

Annual General Meeting Confraternity of Brothers Clubs Inc.

Also on Sunday the Confraternity of Brothers Clubs Inc Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held with Brian Roberts being returned as Chairman (his fifteenth year).

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Bob Mulley, Geoff Rackemann and Michael Wilson were elected as Vice Presidents. Arthur Burkitt was returned as Treasurer and John Bingham as Secretary. The members acknowledged the great work done by retiring Vice President Denis White (Rockhampton) during the many years he served as Vice President representing Central QLD.

Geoff Rackemann from Bundaberg Brothers was honoured with Life Membership as a result of his many years dedicated work for and in support of the Confraternity.

The delegates had ample opportunity between sessions to enjoy the hospitality of our sponsors and Rockhampton Brothers and meet up with old teammates and relive past glories. The Sergeant at Arms caught up with those that partied too much over the weekend and fined them accordingly.

The clubs received advice on the restructure of the Development program with four development areas. Next carnival will be held in Rockhampton. Good news for players is that fees are capped at \$300 for all players no matter which club / Region they come from.

On behalf of the Member Clubs may I again thank Rockhampton Brothers for hosting this Conference and for the manner in which the visiting Delegates were looked after both during the Conference and during our networking sessions.

Thanks to Leagues Club Chairman Steve Parle, Pat, Peter, Denis, Donny of Rockhampton Brothers and Tony and his Staff from the Leagues Club for a top three days .

The next Conference will be held in Cairns 8th 9th 10th October 2010.

For More Information about the Brothers Confraternity, please contact the Chairman Brian Roberts on (07 3208 1168 / mob 0418 380 059)

Brian Roberts
Chairman

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