

Papakura Mens Squad Weekend at Te Puna

To start a recap on this fantastic weekend I have to say a huge thanks to everyone involved who made this weekend possible. You guys know who you are, so reach round and give yourselves a nice firm pat on the back! A job well done chaps!!

Friday afternoon and traffic southbound was shocking, I was late but the gaffer was later haha...First fine of the weekend! After loading up the vans and jumping in, I managed to find myself behind Coop and Fred (or should I say Evil frickin Kneivel). Poor Dave Heads and company were in the van in front, but to be honest from where I was sitting you couldn't tell where one bus ended and the next began?! Thanx Fred, I got a new tattoo that weekend....It was my seatbelt!!

Jimmy (horse) enjoyed the journey having only been in sunny Aotearoa for a few weeks, was introduced to his first taste of L&P in Paeroa when we stopped for a feed and a wee stop. Poor Jimmy nearly got the bash from the owner of the chippy for claiming "League isn't even a real sport" Legend!

The jokes were flying, stories exchanged and according to Russell, Woolly had eaten a few too many jet planes, demonstrating classic symptoms of A.D.D!?! (Newsflash people....that's normal regardless of sugar). Dave and Grant (Glenn haha) reminisced of the good ole days by playing "Hits of the 50's" and "The best of Rod Stewart" compilation. Good times enjoyed by all..... 2 of them in the front of the bus.

Arriving at the Te Puna holiday park around 8.30'ish we headed straight for the thermal pools. A few late stragglers into the pools had obvious difficulty with the whole concept of steps and entered gracefully... I'm not naming any names (Wobbles) but you looked like bambi on ice. A few "bevies" (policed by the Gaffer) and a lot of laughs had, before a reasonably early night to bed. I'm not sure if someone had music playing or if it was an accumulation of flatulence, snoring or squeaky bedsprings (Don Juan) ringing out from the chalets?!

The boys were all up pretty early and keen as mustard to go for a run on the beach. When they got there it was soon realised they would have to run single file as it was only 3ft wide, but the Domain next to it, provided plenty of space. They returned to the campsite for a well deserved shower and a big brekkie. Everyone was chipping in and helping out which was great to see.

A bit of time to kill and some R&R in Mt Maunganui before the game was a right laugh.....with young Max getting buried in the sand and made to look like a woman "blessed" with all the bumps in the right places. We couldn't find wee Scott anywhere but later found him inside someone's shoe having a nap (burrowers' style)...bless. Sammy didn't seem to like the sun, covering up in a full length tracksuit and applying sunscreen religiously...obviously due to his fair complexion???

Getting to the game a little behind schedule seemed to rattle the boys a bit, and to be honest, the least said about the game the better, with both sides battling hard. "The Fury" (Te Puna FC) side had a slight advantage with two extra players which was frustrating as they weren't even dressed in team strip and chose to wear all black....do the math.

We returned to the campsite for a well deserved dip in the hot pools to sooth any aches or strains and sat down to a superb meal thanks to the culinary skills of Scott.

That night we held a poker tournament which wasn't terribly well policed and a player joined the table apparently knowing very little about the game of poker. Turns out "Rangi" Parker was a seasoned pro on the RotaVegas working mens club scene...battling it out with Morgi as the final two split the winnings.

After the shenanigans of the night before, everyone was again supporting each other by getting up for some training at "stupid O'Clock" in the morning and getting switched on for that afternoon's game. Everybody appreciated the commitment of Chris who went back to Auckland for a friend's 21st after the game on Saturday, only to race back down on Sunday morning to make himself available again for that afternoon. Arriving to the ground it was early with a proper warm up etc. seemed invaluable and the boys played brilliantly, despite an experienced South American contingent within the Fury squad, we pulled off a late winner to beat the local side 2-1. Kura hard! We really looked and felt like a solid squad that day and it was clearly evident, thanks to a spirited and heartfelt Papakura haka (which you might get a chance to see before our first home game against Cambridge March 29th)

Dave has the photos which I'm sure will entertain those who wish to see!!

Times are changing here at Papakura F.C and we really appreciate everybody's support so far! Why not come down on Sunday 15th March when we travel to Manurewa and retrieve our first silverware of the season, the Manu Hudson memorial trophy.

Watch this space!!!!

Stuart Greenaway

1st Team Captain