

NZ FALCONS AGM MINUTES - 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

Scheduled 14.00-16:00

Meeting held at Eagle Bar

Attendees: Luke, Remi, Isaiah, Raman, Jonah, Shaun, Chad, Kirsten, Emmett, Jayden, Ricardo, Isaiah, John, Dan, Michael, Jobis, Eath, Eru, Ronan, Cam, Devin.

Apologies: Sidney

Meeting Commenced: 14:15



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WELCOME	- Luke opened the meeting with a karakia. - Remi took the meeting through the agenda. - A question was raised regarding whether the meeting was being recorded/streamed via Zoom.
AGM 2025 MINUTES	- The minutes of the 2025 AGM were presented for approval. - Motion: That the minutes of the 2025 AGM be approved. Moved: Remi Seconded: Devin - In favour: Isaiah, Raman, Shaun, Chad, Kirsten, Jayden, Remi, John, Michael, Dan, Eath, Eru, Ronan, Cam. - The motion was carried.
PRESIDENTS REPORT	The President reflected on the past year and thanked members for their contribution to the club. Recruitment and Membership There had been a significant focus on recruitment through social media and other channels. The President expressed satisfaction with the growth in numbers and noted the importance of continuing recruitment efforts into the future. Union The club had historically experienced challenges with the PRC, but this had improved significantly during the year.

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	The club had the opportunity to play at the stadium on numerous occasions, which was highlighted as a positive development. Challenges remained around changing rooms and facilities, with further work required in this area. The club also reviewed its union programme and team structure and had established strong foundations for the future, particularly with Eru taking on the role of Head Coach. The club had previously struggled to secure sufficient coaches, but there was now a positive outlook for the programme going forward. Touch A significant thank you was given to Devin for the time and energy invested in the touch team and for helping ensure that the programme continued. It was acknowledged that the club had focused heavily on union during the term and that greater focus should be placed on touch going forward. The club was considered to have strong foundations in both areas, with Eru as union coach and continued engagement with the touch community. Bingham Cup Bingham Cup was identified as a major achievement for the club, with this being the second time the club had attended as a squad. The club attended to play rugby while representing the Falcons and Aotearoa. Thanks were given to: • Shaun and Jonah for the substantial amount of work undertaken to organise the campaign. • Michael for arranging accommodation. • Luke for leading the haka and teaching members about the cultural elements surrounding it. • Gus for taking on the manager role and his significant work at Bingham. • Eru for leading the team at Bingham. • All players for attending training and contributing to the club community. Fundraising and Events A significant amount of work had been undertaken throughout the year to raise funds, including: • URGE events and the locker room. • Coat checks. • Quiz nights. • Sausage sizzles.

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	- Other fundraising and community events. Acknowledgement was given to Alby, Jacqui Sack and performers involved with the locker room events for helping generate substantial funds. The fundraising programme had helped keep the club financially sustainable without requiring members to make significant individual financial contributions. Club Operations Work had also been undertaken behind the scenes to improve the way the club operates. Initiatives included: - Pre-Christmas planning. - Implementation of Airtable. - Establishment of a WhatsApp community. - Development of a single point of document and information storage. President's Reflections The President reflected that the year had involved significant challenges, difficult decisions and frustrations, but expressed pride in what had been achieved. Particular achievements included the Bingham campaign, fundraising and the overall growth of the club. It was emphasised that maintaining the club's position and culture was the responsibility of all members, not solely the committee. The committee was described as custodians of the club and the jersey on behalf of those who had come before. The President expressed gratitude for the privilege of serving as President and specifically thanked Cam and Devin for their support. AGM President Speech As I come to the end of my term as President, I thought it would be fitting to take a moment to look back at what we've achieved together over the past couple of years. So, let me take you back to the start of our term... Growing the Club We started our term with a successful summer touch season at Victoria Park. It was a great opportunity to get people back together after the season, bring some new faces into the club, and start building the momentum for the year ahead. One of the things we identified early on was that we wanted to grow the club — not just on the field, but as a community. And I think we can safely say that player recruitment has been a real triumph. We've brought a huge number of new people into the club, and what is particularly exciting is that this momentum is continuing, with new faces already coming along to touch trainings. A massive thank you to Dan for his strategic work on social media and the recruitment campaign,

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	and to Cam for taking that strategy and making it happen at trainings — recording content, getting people involved, and relentlessly begging us to be in his videos! But the success of recruitment isn't just about numbers. It's about people finding the Falcons, finding their place within the club, and becoming part of our community. And I think that's one of the things I'm most proud of from our term. Building Our Rugby Community On the Union side, we've continued to strengthen our relationship with Ponsonby Rugby Club. This year, we had more stadium games than the previous two seasons combined — giving our players the opportunity to play in a proper rugby environment, on a field where All Blacks and Black Ferns have stepped foot and honoured their jerseys, just as we have. We've also spent time looking at the future of our Union programme — particularly around coaching, player development and strengthening the structure around the team. There is still more work to do here, but we've started putting the foundations in place for a stronger Union programme going forward. On the Touch side, I want to give a particular thank you to Devin for all the hard work you've put into developing and running the Touch team. Touch has become an increasingly important part of our club, particularly as a way of bringing new people into the Falcons and keeping our community connected outside of the Union season. At the same time, we recognise that there is more we can do in the Touch space. During the Union season in particular, we haven't given Touch the level of attention and structure that it deserves, and I think that's been a shortfall for us this year. There is a real opportunity for the club to build on what we've already established, give Touch a stronger presence throughout the year, and make it an even bigger part of the Falcons community. So while there is still work to do on both sides of the club, I think we've made some important progress — strengthening our Union programme, continuing to develop Touch, and building a club that gives people more opportunities to get involved and stay connected. All of these things are part of the same bigger picture: building a club that has a strong rugby offering, but also a strong community around it. Bingham Cup But, of course, if there is one thing that stands out from this term, it has to be Bingham Cup. For the second time in our history, we sent a full squad. And we didn't just go there to play rugby. We went there representing the Falcons, representing Auckland, and representing the queer rugby community here in Aotearoa. And I think everyone who was there can be incredibly proud of how we did that. There are so many people who made that possible, and I want to take the opportunity to recognise them. A huge thank you to Shaun and Jonah for stepping up once again and delivering so much for this club and for making our participation in Bingham possible, with the help of so many others. A special thank you to Michael for all your help with accommodation — which, judging by the feedback, everyone was extremely impressed with! Thank you to Luke for teaching us how to perform our Haka and giving us another way to represent where we come from and who we are. Thank you to Gus, our manager, and to everyone else who put in the work while we were there. And to Eru, our coach — thank you for leading the team. Your first year with the club and you've already become a true Falcons legend. But most importantly, thank you to all of the players. Thank you for turning up. Thank you for putting in the work. And thank you for being unapologetically yourselves. Because ultimately, you are what makes this club so special.

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	Fundraising & Events Another huge success this term has been fundraising. We've had an outstanding amount of fundraising activity, with so many people volunteering their time and energy to help the club. One particular highlight was the Locker Room fundraiser. A massive thank you to Urge Events, Alby Yap, Miss Jacqui Sack, and all of our fabulous in-house performers for putting on such an incredible event. It takes a huge amount of work to put something like that together, and the result was an event that was not only hugely successful for the club, but also captured exactly what the Falcons are about — community, entertainment, inclusivity and having a bloody good time together. And again, thank you to everyone across the club who volunteered, helped organise events, sold tickets, promoted them, turned up, performed, or simply supported them. Those contributions add up. Strengthening the Club Behind the Scenes There has also been a tremendous amount of work happening behind the scenes that isn't necessarily as visible, but has made a huge difference to how the club operates. We've spent a lot of time streamlining our processes and making things easier for the committee to manage day to day. We've implemented Airtable for expressions of interest and registrations. We've moved to a WhatsApp community. We've established a single point of storage through our discounted storage unit. On paper, those things probably don't sound particularly exciting. But they took a tremendous amount of work to put in place, and they've made a huge difference. And I think that's an important thing to recognise about running a club. Not everything you achieve is something you can see on the field. Sometimes it's the boring administrative stuff that means the people running the club can spend less time fighting spreadsheets, chasing information and trying to work out where things are, and more time actually building the club. Looking Back So when I look back at our term, there are obviously things we could have done differently. There have been challenges, difficult decisions, and plenty of moments where running a rugby club felt like a second job. But when I step back and look at the bigger picture, I'm incredibly proud. I'm proud of the growth in our playing numbers. I'm proud of the community we've built. I'm proud of the relationship we've developed with Ponsonby. I'm proud of what we achieved at Bingham. I'm proud of the fundraising and the people who have put their hands up to help. And I'm proud of the work that's happened behind the scenes to leave the club in a stronger position. But most of all, I'm proud of the people. Because a President doesn't make a rugby club successful. The players do. The coaches do. The volunteers do. The committee does. The supporters do. The sponsors do. And all the people who turn up, contribute, organise, encourage and occasionally put up with each other do. Passing the Baton As I come to the end of my term, that's probably the biggest thing I've learned. We don't own this club. We're custodians of it. We're given the opportunity to look after it for a period of time, hopefully make it a little bit better, and then hand it over to the next group of people. And that's what I hope we've done. So, to everyone who has been part of this term — thank you. Thank you to the committee for everything you've contributed. Thank you to the coaches and managers. Thank you to our players. Thank you to our volunteers. Thank you to our sponsors.

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	Thank you to everyone who has supported the Falcons in one way or another. And finally, thank you to everyone who trusted me with the responsibility of being President. It's been an absolute privilege. I'm stepping down from the role, but I'm certainly not stepping away from the club. I'll still be around, I'll still be supporting the Falcons, and I'm sure I'll still have plenty of opinions — whether anyone asks for them or not. So here's to the next chapter of the New Zealand Falcons. Thank you, everyone.
TREASURER'S REPORT	Devin presented the financial report. It was noted that the financial reporting period submitted to the Companies Office/Societies records covered periods involving both the previous and current committee. Devin reported specifically on the period for which he was responsible. The club had retained at least \$25,000 for the incoming committee, with the actual amount being higher than this. Questions were raised regarding several financial items, including: • Whether ASB had committed sponsorship funding – this was not confirmed. • Reimbursement relating to sold Bingham registrations. • General sponsorship, which included smaller contributions from companies. • The nature of the "Purchases – Other Income" line, with Devin to follow up with Jonah. • Interest income generated through the club's savings account. • Bingham miscellaneous expenses and operating costs. • Pride Festival expenditure, including the parade and BGO. Chad suggested that future financial reports should include separate sub-line items for individual tournaments. It was noted that the previous six months had been presented at the previous AGM and that the next touch tournament had been accounted for. The contribution of Chad, Kirsten and Michael to the touch programme was acknowledged.
BREAK	- Meeting adjourned at 14:50 - Meeting reconvened at 15:00
BINGHAM CUP REPORT	Shaun and Jonah presented a report on the Bingham Cup campaign. The campaign was described as a valuable opportunity for the club to come together as a community. Tournament

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	The Falcons entered the Cup tier. The team initially entered the second tier but was subsequently moved up. It was noted that, in hindsight, remaining in the second tier may have been preferable, although the opportunity provided valuable exposure to a high level of rugby. Financial Results The overall Bingham campaign generated approximately: • Total income: \$57,000 • Total expenditure: \$50,000 • Surplus: \$6,183 The final expenditure was slightly above the original budget. Fundraising Fundraising contributed approximately \$12,800, including: • \$5,000 from the URGE locker room. • \$4,000 from Ports of Auckland. • \$1,500 from coat checks. • \$2,200 from quiz nights. • Additional funds from sausage sizzles. The campaign was described as one of the most financially accessible tournaments the club had attended, with players primarily needing to fund their flights. Accommodation and Registration The main expenditure was accommodation and registration. • Approximately \$26,000 was spent on accommodation. • Unused accommodation was reimbursed where possible. • Michael was thanked for managing the accommodation arrangements. • Approximately \$10,000 was spent on registrations. Players initially contributed \$150 each, but these contributions were subsequently refunded as they were not required. Team Kits A significant expenditure was the team kit:

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	• Approximately \$2,000 for bags and associated items. • Approximately \$6,000 for shorts, jerseys and singlets. Rory was thanked for designing the jersey. Approximately \$2,000 remained from the campaign and was returned to the Falcons savings account. 8. Future Bingham Cup The possibility of attending the 2028 Bingham Cup in Leeds was discussed. It was considered achievable given the effort and fundraising capability demonstrated during the most recent campaign. Lessons Learned Several learnings were identified: • Expressions of interest should be sought earlier in the year. • Although some people subsequently withdrew, early expressions of interest provided useful numbers for planning. • Physiotherapy support should be investigated much earlier. • A physiotherapist had been included in the budget, but the club was unable to secure one. • Bringing a physiotherapist from elsewhere would have cost approximately \$6,000. • Brisbane-based physiotherapists who had initially been considered ultimately withdrew. Chad noted that injuries were not a new issue and suggested that the IGR should consider making physiotherapy support the responsibility of the host team. Workload and Subcommittee Structure A question was raised regarding the workload experienced by Shaun and Jonah. It was explained that responsibilities had been distributed where possible and that having a dedicated Bingham subcommittee was important. Separating the Bingham work from the main committee allowed the main committee to continue focusing on the regular season. It was noted that significant decisions still needed to be communicated through and approved by the main committee. Travel and Partnerships It was confirmed that players arranged and purchased their own flights.

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	Ronan noted that he had a friend who worked for HOT and suggested that the club investigate whether a partnership or travel deal could be established. Planning for 2028 It was suggested that planning for the 2028 campaign should begin early and include a two-year budget, including projected purchases and other major expenditure. It was noted that at the IGR AGM, a roster of future Bingham locations had been established, including the UK, United States and other international locations. Player Contributions Emmett asked whether a per-player contribution had been established when planning began and what members could contribute through either money or volunteer hours. It was explained that the campaign had been approached as representing the NZ Falcons, rather than solely Ponsonby Falcons, and that Christchurch players had been brought into the campaign. Members participated in fundraising to contribute to the campaign. It was acknowledged that future campaigns could communicate expectations around member contributions earlier. The initial expected player contribution was approximately 250–300 per player, but this reduced as fundraising progressed. It was suggested that the next committee establish a clear contribution structure, including expectations around what players are expected to contribute and which costs the club will cover.
COMMUNITY AWARD	The Community Award was presented in recognition of the significant contribution made by members throughout the year. Winner: Mark Shields Mark was recognised for his dedicated contribution to the club, willingness to assist wherever required, and longstanding involvement with the club, including being involved from the early stages of its development.
NOMINATIONS FOR 2026/7 COMMITTEE	The following nominations were received: President: Jonah Treasurer: John Secretary: Cam General Committee: • Kirsten • Luke • Shaun • Jobis • Dan

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	• Sidney It was noted that the previous year had resulted in a committee of 12 members, while nine members had been nominated for the current committee. Discussion took place regarding whether there was a minimum or maximum number of committee members. It was confirmed that the constitution did not currently specify a maximum. Members discussed whether the constitution should be reviewed to consider introducing a maximum committee size, as a larger committee can become difficult to manage. It was also suggested that each General Committee member should have a specific portfolio or role to provide greater clarity and accountability throughout the year.
ELECTION OF 2026/7 COMMITTEE	A vote was held on the nominated committee. All nominees were elected. The vote was scrutinised by Ricardo. Motion: That the nominated committee for 2025/2026 be elected as presented. Moved: Remi Seconded: Chad The motion was carried.
Close	The meeting concluded following completion of the AGM business.