

# HOKKiedroom verwesenlik



Daar's hy amptelik geopen! Van links is die mans klubkaptein, mnr Jacques Theron; me Jackie Wiese, Direkteur van die Sportburo; prof Julian Smith, Viserektor: Bedryf; me Kotie Smuts, President van Maties Hokkie; dr Edwin Hertzog, Voorsitter van die Raad; me Lauretta Maree, Uitvoerende Burgemeester, Stellenbosch; en prof Chris Brink, Rektor. Foto: Marli van Wyngaard, Eikestadnuus

NA jare se beplanning, swoeg en sweet is die Maties-hokkieklub se langverwagte droom uiteindelik op 25 Maart vanjaar verwesenlik.

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch se eerste waterbasis kunstgrashokkiebaan – wat boonop aan internasionale standaarde voldoen – is amptelik deur dr Edwin Hertzog, voorsitter van die US Raad, by die Welgevalle-sportterrein geopen.

Dr Hertzog het verlede jaar die bal aan

die rol gesit om hierdie droombaan te bou toe hy R1 miljoen aan die Maties-hokkieklub geskenk het. Die klub het self ook R1 miljoen bygedra, en die Universiteit se lening van R6 miljoen aan die klub was die deurslaggewende faktor.

Volgens me Jackie Wiese, Direkteur van die Sportburo, is hierdie baan nie net 'n droom wat waar geword het nie, maar die begin van groot dinge vir die klub, die Universiteit, en Stellenbosch.

“Aangesien die klub aan ál die internasionale standaarde voldoen sal die klub voortaan, onder meer internasionale hokkietoetse en -toernooie op Stellenbosch kan aanbied. Internasionale spanne sal ook op Stellenbosch kan kom oefen, veral met die US se ander fasiliteite – soos die sportlaboratorium, swembad, gimnasium – wat binne loopafstand van die hokkiebaan is.”

Marli van Wyngaard

## Maties chosen for IRB trials

Marli van Wyngaard

The International Rugby Board (IRB) recently chose the Maties Rugby Club's hostel league to test new rugby laws in the critical reviewing process of current rugby laws.

The IRB appointed a Laws Project Group under the guidance of Bruce Cook, the IRB's development manager. This group met earlier this year in Stellenbosch to discuss, refine and evaluate certain new versions of the rugby laws for possible implementation after the 2007 Rugby World Cup.

Included in the group are IRB council member Bill Nolan (chairman), Rod MacQueen (former Wallabies coach), Pierre Villepreux (former coach of France), Ian MacIntosh (former Springbok coach), Richie Dixon (former Scottish coach) and Paddy O'Brien (IRB referee manager and former test referee).

Freek Burger, former test referee, and currently a consultant for SA Rugby, as well as MacIntosh, are currently supervising the US hostel's league matches where the new laws are being implemented.

“According to me, there is no better club in the world than the Maties Rugby Club to host such a trial series. Everything needed for this is here – the infrastructure, the players, the management,” Burger said.

According to him, the contribution of Belius Potgieter (rugby manager of Maties) and Frikkie Naudé (president of the Maties Rugby Club) towards this project has been invaluable. “Potgieter and Naudé went out of their way to accommodate this programme of the IRB here at the US.”

According to Burger and MacIntosh most of these new laws are working out quite well in the hostel games. “The game is a lot quicker and the guys have to be fitter than before. On the negative side: it is still too easy for the tackler to kill

the ball, because the ball retention drills are not coming through like it should. This problem has to be addressed, but I have no doubt that we will nurse it through,” MacIntosh said.



Trial games to demonstrate the new rules were held earlier this year at Stellenbosch. Foto: Marli van Wyngaard, Eikestadnuus