



Charles Stichbury

Elected in 1914

Charles Stichbury, who was elected 1914, had been prominent for a number of years, both at club and also provincial level. Stichbury arrived at Ponsonby as a 20-year-old in 1891 after playing for Grafton and eventually played 40 matches for the Seniors until his 1896 retirement. He was one of only three Ponsonby Senior players who remained available for the team when the club system was abandoned midway through his first season, and the District Scheme instituted in its place. He became club secretary in 1896, served for many years on the club committee and was frequently one of the club's delegates to the Auckland RFU. A well-organised man, he was often voted to the chair of one of the meetings he was involved with and often sat on the Union's judicial panel, where his judgements were firm but fair, and laced with common sense. His contribution to the club was a significant one for almost 30 years, and after that he became another of the 'Elder statesmen on the side'. Some of his memorabilia is still on display in the club lounge. He died in 1949, aged 77.

Stichbury was one of six early Life Members whose election was not noted on the Honours Board when it was commissioned in the mid-1960s. All six had long been away from the club; five had died many years earlier and the sixth (Joe O'Leary) had lived in Masterton for nearly 50 years before his death in 1963. Modern internet access and the Papers Past website led to early records being more accessible (remember, too, that the two fires in the 1920s had destroyed all paper records), and these early elections came to light. Stichbury's election was notified and recognized at the 2019 AGM.