

The Hirsch Shield Story

A book has been prepared by Sam Gunn, the General Secretary of the Hirsch Shield organisation, to mark the Centenary of the Hirsch Shield Meeting. In some two hundred pages of text and photographs the story of the oldest inter-schools event in the Eastern Cape (and quite possibly in the country) is told.

The author traces the evolution of this long running competition where four eras emerge that mark the journey of the event over one hundred years. Thrilling meetings where schools fought for the shield to the last event are remembered as are the great teams that blew the opposition away in awesome displays of dominance. Also remembered are many of the rich characters that gave life to the Hirsch Shield: the pioneers, administrators, coaches and in particular, the athletes who graced the 97 meetings that have taken place since 1917. Some of their achievements were simply breath taking and were the toast of the region for many a year. The book brings the story right up to the present with a detailed description of the Centenary Meeting itself, generously illustrated with some fine photographs. Finally a number of appendices capture in fine detail the “skeleton” around which the story of the Hirsch Shield hangs. Schools that have regularly participated are noted as are the winners of the shields and subsidiary cups. A record of the host school, organiser and venue of each meeting is included. Perhaps most importantly the names of event winners and their performances have been captured as has the evolution of the meeting records.

Anyone with some link to the Hirsch Shield is sure to find that this volume rekindles exciting memories of their time at Hirsch and that it provides a treasure trove of information that gives perspective to this grand old sporting event.

A limited print run of this book is envisaged at R 500 for a hard cover copy and R 170 for a soft cover version.

Should you wish to secure a copy please follow the steps set out below.

1. Giving notice:

Provide the following details to either

- a. the author at samgunn21@gmail.com before the end of October. or
- b. the Book Order Team alongside the Grey High track on the day of the Centenary Meeting on 23 September.

Details: Surname and initials and cell phone number or email address. Please indicate which version of the book you would like to purchase, hard or soft cover. Also give the name of the most convenient Hirsch Shield school to which your copy can be delivered for your collection.

2. Payment: Please make payment to the bank account indicated below in the following manner: Account name – **Selborne College**

Bank – **First National Bank**

Account number – **5213 2616 148**

Branch code – **210 221**

Reference – **Surname, initials/ "Hirsch History"/name of school to which you would like your copy delivered.**

Please note that payment must be made by the end of November 2017.

3. Delivery: Books will be delivered to the school of your choice in February/March 2018 and you will be notified by email/sms so that you can make arrangements to pick up your copy.