



To all our Spanish fans,

We live in exceedingly difficult times. The world has been in turmoil since the Covid-19 pandemic appeared a little over a year ago. This has affected us all having lost friends or family along the way. Here in New Zealand, the founder of the Classic All Blacks, Andy Haden, who was with you in Madrid for the launch of the Classic All Blacks Match in December 2019 passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in friends in July 2020.

As a sporting nation these tragedies unite us all. Andy had a dream of filling the Wanda Metropolitan Stadium. Before the pandemic hit us, we were well on the way to doing that with over half the stadium already full. Our goal is to fulfil Andy's dream of not only filling the stadium but also celebrate in the spirit of rugby that we have finally overcome this global pandemic.

Here in New Zealand after the initial shock, the approach to tackling Covid-19 has been for zero tolerance which has allowed us to go about our lives. However, this approach has also cut off our ability to physically travel and interact with the rest of the world. This policy will continue to be in place until towards the end of 2021 at which time we hope the effects of the vaccine being rolled out globally have reduced the risks to global travel sufficiently and allow New Zealand to open its borders.

In this light we apologise for the Classic All Blacks not being able to travel to Madrid and play the match in May 2021. At the same time, we are committed to holding this match in May 2022. Trust me we will be there with all our rugby greats and look forward to opening our hearts in sharing our emotions with you in remembrance, celebration, and hope for the future.

Bill Osborne
President
New Zealand Rugby

Chris Haden
Classic All Blacks