

**THE
WOOLLAHRA
COLLEAGUES
RUGBY
UNION
FOOTBALL
CLUB**

COLLEAGUES 1955

PATRON	G. B. Pizzey.
CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB	J. E. Carruthers.
CLUB CAPTAIN	K. McLean.
<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	
HON. SECRETARY	F. Storch.
ASSISTANT HON. SEC.	J. Barraclough.
HON. TREASURER	C. Friezor.
ASSISTANT HON TREAS.	D. Metherell.
Delegate to Rugby Union	R. Butler.
REGISTRAR	D. Heath.
HOUSE COMMITTEE.	J. Herman, A. Collett, J. Sprouster, W. Harvoy, P. Lloyd, J. Economus
CAPTAIN OF KENTWELL	J. Barraclough.
CAPTAIN OF BURKE	F. Storch.
CAPTAIN OF WHILDON	J. Economus.

**ANNUAL REPORT
1955**

REPORT - CLUB CAPTAIN

The Colleagues' magazine makes a welcome re-appearance after a break of several years, and brings with it the report of an interesting 1955 season.

Football successes reached a new height and the combined efforts of committeemen, officials, players and supporters were well rewarded with the presentation to the club of the Bruce Graham Memorial Shield for the Club Championship.

The Kentwell Cup returns to the Colleagues: an achievement made possible by the ability and enthusiasm shown by all players and coaches and by big sacrifices by the Bourke and Whiddon Cup teams.

The years social activities embraced a wide field, and with club's expenses always mounting a special effort was made to ensure happy and successful functions. With the influx of younger members the addition of a barbecue and an informal dance was appreciated and well patronised. Golf and cricket matches were enjoyed with the Mosman Club and the usual golf days and formal dances held.

The work of past and present committees reaped abundance this year with the leasing of Woollahra Oval No. 2 and adjoining club rooms. This greatly increased the pleasure of the season's football, and the benefit and amenities so gained have given a great boost to the club in general.

The Woollahra Council continued its wholehearted assistance throughout the year and has improved and maintained the grounds and premises for the benefit of the club. All members will appreciate a recent decision of the Council to supply and erect a club house large enough for full club activities including shower and toilet accommodation, a kitchen, an office and a spacious club room. This support from the Council has helped realise an ambition held by the Colleagues for many years. The work entailed in this new venture adds greatly to the already overburdened shoulders of the Secretary and his committee, and it is only with the complete and spontaneous assistance of all Colleagues both old and new, that the present high position of the club, both in the community and as member of the Rugby Union, can be maintained.

Ken McLean.

REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY - 1955

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in presenting this report on behalf of the General Committee.

The Colleagues have had a most successful year, this being the first year we have fielded three teams in the last few years. We won the Kentwell Cup and the Club Championship and although neither the Burke nor Whiddon entered the finals of their competitions it is to be remembered that 87 members played in the three teams throughout the Season, and it was because of the high standard of the Burke and Whiddon teams that the Kentwell had adequate reserves when injuries took their toll. The Competitions were very keen this year and it seems they will be even stronger in 1956. Mr. John Barraclough captained the Kentwell Team with fine dash throughout the Season and John Sprouster won the award for the best and fairest player. We are all indebted to Mr. Dudley Cross for his help with the coaching, and realising how difficult it was to select with the complete approval of all Club players, we congratulate the selectors, Mr. Ken McLean, Mr. Barraclough and Mr. Collett on the fine job they did throughout the season. The Burke and Whiddon had some very good matches during the season and were very unlucky not to win more matches than they did. Let us hope that they meet with more success in the coming year. Peter Matthews was best

and fairest for Burko, as John Rogers was for Whiddon. Our thanks to Ross Solomon and Dick Methereil for coaching the Burke and Whiddon during the year.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The year started off with a very interesting Buck's Night which was held at Rugby Union House. It was a most enjoyable evening although there were repercussions. A dance at Florida House on May 7th was enjoyed by all as was a film evening at John Sprouster's home. Films of the South African Rugby Tour were kindly shown by Dr. Max Elliott. An informal Dance at Double Bay Masonic Hall was a great success although we incurred a small financial loss. A Barbecue on Shark Island was also most enjoyable and proved a financial success. The Annual Dance at Florida House was a memorable evening and 168 people turned up to celebrate the year's successes. A very pleasant evening was held at the Clubhouse and players and friends were presented with a certain amount of liquid refreshment by Mr. Robertshaw and Mr. Matthews, both keen supporters of the Club. Those who were present will not forget the fine club spirit that prevailed that evening. Golf Days were enjoyed throughout the year and a feature of the year's activities were the number of friendly Sunday games which were played throughout the season against University Colleges, The Navy and other Rugby Union Teams. These, although social games, were invariably hard fought. We also beat Mosman at Cricket.

The Sub-District Rugby Union Association decided to have a series of Combined Matches against Hawkesbury Agricultural College during the season and we were represented by John Barraclough (who captained the side), H. Lamons, J. Sprouster, and R. Martyr in the Combined Kentwell. In the combined Burke we were represented by Bruce Hudson and Norman Corkhill who both scored and in the Combined Whiddon we were represented by Mike Stevenson.

INJURED PLAYERS FUND

We suffered a large number of injuries, fortunately not many serious ones, during the year, and I feel the Club members should understand their position as regards the Injured Players' Fund. It is to be clearly understood that every member plays rugby at his own risk and the Committee recommends that every player belongs to a Medical Benefit Fund during the coming year. The Injured Players Committee may award money from the Fund to members who are suffering hardship through injury but purely at their discretion, and it is to be clearly understood that the Committee recognises no liability to do so.

TROPHIES

26 members of the victorious Kentwell Team were presented with silver tankards as a memento of the year's Triumph. Trophies were very kindly presented to the Club by Mr. H. Barraclough and Mr. Vic Herman for Captain and Best and Fairest of Burke Cup. We are greatly indebted to these two gentlemen for their generosity. Members will greatly alleviate the labour of the Hon. Treasurer if they will pay their subscription promptly in the coming year. Some subscriptions were not paid until after the Grand Final last year!

CLUB HOUSE

The Council made available to us a Club House in addition to our Changing Shed and there is no doubt that it was of great advantage during the year. We were able to entertain other clubs after our home-matches and many pleasant evenings were enjoyed during the year after practices "down at the Log-Cabin". We are deeply indebted

to the Woollahra Council for their interest and assistance through the year and the many improvements they made to our facilities. The Council has promised us a new Clubhouse as soon as possible and it is very satisfying to note their interest in the Club.

There will be a great deal of additional work this year and members are asked to do all they can to assist the Committee. The House Committee will be in charge of all activities at the Club-house as well as the preparation of gear and the playing field for Home Matches. It is up to every member to do his share and only by doing so can we make 1956 as enjoyable a year as 1955.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Mr. Ken McLean, on behalf of the Committee and myself for the fine leadership and inspiration he has shown during the year. My thanks are also due to all the members of the Committee who have at all times been eager to work for the Club. We have all worked hard throughout the year and the success of the Colleagues has been our aim as I am sure it will be of the new Committee you are about to elect. Thank you.

Frederick Storch.

KENTWELL REPORT.

FINAL

The final was played at Marrickville Oval on Saturday 20th August against Mosman, our old rivals and having lost to them the week before 9-8, a very even match was expected. The Colleagues were at full strength, the team being Gray, Wachman, Martin, Sprouster, Burford, Corkhill, Collett, Seddon, Leslie, Barraclough, Martyr, Lamens, Heath, May and Lynn. We lost the toss and kicked off into a strong breeze. In the ruck that followed Martyr was injured and leaving the field was replaced by Harvey. This was a blow to the Blues as Bob had been such a strength with his vigorous play and excellent goal-kicking. But the Blues soon settled down and really got "stuck" into it in true Rugby style. Winning a majority of the scrums and line-outs (although Mosman had the advantage in height and weight) enabled us to press Mosman for most of the first half and Sprouster and Wachman missed tries by inches. The Blues were kept out only by the fierce tackling of the Mosman players. The Forwards, Harvey, Lamens, Heath and Leslie, were in the thick of the rucks, but the Mosman defence held and Leslie missed two difficult shots at goal and the first half ended scoreless. The second half opened at a particularly fast pace with both sides cleverly throwing the ball about. Both Collett and Harvey just failed to reach the line and then a brilliant penalty goal by Leslie from just on half way put the Colleagues in front 3 nil. Mosman fought back furiously (at one stage the whole Mosman pack were warned by the referee for "indiscretions") but excellent defence by our backs and grand saves by Gray and Corkhill held them out and the game ended with the score unchanged. The Colleagues were now in the grand final on the following Saturday week.

GRAND FINAL

The two weeks before the grand final was spent in hard training and a daylight run on the "off" Saturday proved a great success to establish that team work which wins matches.

Saturday the 3rd September was an ideal Rugby day, cool and sunny with a medium breeze and some mid-week rain had softened the ground. Once again our opponents were our old rivals, Mosman, who had defeated Vikings the week before in the

final 12 - 3. Having two wins and one loss against Mosman during the season, the Blues were confident of victory although we had only scored 14 points to their 9 in three games. We again lost the toss ("oh, for a double-header!") and lined up for the kick-off at full strength. The team was Gray, Wachman, Martin, Burford, Sprouster, Corkhill, Collett, Harvey, Leslie, Barraclough, Lamens, Hudson, Heath, May and Lynn with reserves Seddon, Matthews, Baker and Lloyd. The opening play was very hard with vigorous tackling and it was obvious that the winners of the game would be the team in the best condition. The Blues usually slow starters began at full pace and soon they were pressing the Mosman line. From a ruck on their 25 the ball whipped along the back line and Sprouster was stopped inches from the line. The Blues kept up the pressure and play was mostly in the Mosman half. The forward play was especially torrid and the Referee warned several players for their "hot-headedness". Then Mosman attacked and only grand tackling by Burford, Gray and Collett kept the "wolves from our door". The Mosman forwards in particular were giving away many penalties and a very foolish late tackle of Corkhill gave Leslie his chance and we opened our score with his grand goal. Mosman attacked from the kick-off and were foiled and then Leslie landed another good goal. 6 - 0. The Blues were now on top and most determined to stay there and for ten minutes before half time Mosman received a very torrid time, the forwards were playing splendidly outrucking the heavier Mosman pack and the backs were solid in defence making every effort to open up the very tight game. Just on half time Mosman landed a good penalty goal and we went to lemons with the scores 6 - 3. Still anybody's game! From the kickoff the Blues were forced back on their 25 and then came a brilliant try which virtually sealed Mosman's fate. From a scrum on our 25 Mosman won the ball and were dashing towards our line when Sprouster made a brilliant interception between the Mosman inside and outside centre and set sail for the Mosman try line 75 yards away. The Mosman 5/8 Joyce chased him for 50 yards, but John drew away and dived over in the corner for a really grand try. Leslie then converted, and the Blues were ahead 11 - 3 with fifteen minutes to go. And what a hectic fifteen minutes! And what marvellous encouragement the Colleagues' supporters gave us as victory was in sight. But Mosman was not finished yet and they gave the game all they had and it was on! Mosman attacked again and again and brilliant tackling by Martin, Corkhill, Collett, Burford, Leslie and Harvey kept them out. A lucky bounce near the posts enabled Mosman to score and although only minutes remained, the result was not yet certain. Mosman missed an easy conversion and we now led 14-6. The Blues attacked again and Collett and Gray made a great run of over 50 yards passing one to the other and just missed a try. With only a minute to go, Mosman made a final bid, the Blues kept them out with solid tackling and the ball went with the scores unchanged and Colleagues were Kentwell Premiers for 1955.

In conclusion, I would like to pay a tribute to everyone of the 38 players who played in the Kentwell team. Everyone of them helped us to victory, whether he played in one or fourteen games. It was a very happy season and despite the grimness of many of our games we really had a great deal of fun in the games and training. In fourteen Competition matches the Colleagues scored 212 points to only 64 against and it should be noticed that we beat our old rivals Mosman in 3 games out of four, although the margins were always very close.

A special word of thanks to Dudley Grose who came from Rhodes every Thursday and assisted our training (also training Burke and Whiddon) and to Tony Collett for his very capable and inspiring vice-captaincy. Finally, a special thanks to our supporters who followed us Saturday after Saturday, wherever we played and their shouts of "Come on Blues" gave us great encouragement, and so ended a

season which I am sure we will all look back on with much pleasure. I know that all Colleagues are conscious of the fact that it is not in the winning but the playing the game which really counts and this Rugby game of ours is second to none.

John Barraclough.

BURKE CUP

The Burke Cup Competition for 1955 was an especially hard and keenly fought one and although the Colleagues did not get into the semi-finals the season was most enjoyable.

Fifty seven players played in the Burke and of these twenty three played in Kentwell, reflecting the high standard of play throughout the grades. The Burke won five matches and lost nine; however the last match we won against Mosman won the Colleagues the Club Competition. Ross Solomon was coach and Peter Matthews won the award of Best and Fairest player for the Year.

F. Storch.

WHIDDON CUP

The Whiddon Cup this year had a very good season of most enjoyable football although we did not qualify for any of the semi-finals. The important fact is that there were always fifteen players appearing on Saturday afternoon for a game.

The team this year was coached by Dick Metherell and captained by John Economus. The best and fairest player was John Rogers. Out of the twelve competitive games played, three were won and two were drawn. The team scored 60 points while 95 points were scored against them.

Some players, Bruce Hudson, Peter Hand, John Diamond and John Rogers had all played some games in either Bourke or Kentwell teams, which shows some of the team and club spirit that the "Whiddon" has among its members. Lets hope we see the same faces next season and have the same spirit!!

J. Economus.

RUGGER IN THE ANTIPODES

We circle slowly round the airfield and sweep into the runway touching down gently on the tarmac. Soon through Customs and then all set to enjoy the pleasures of Australia's outdoor life. Surfing, sailing, riding are just a few. But one minute, here's someone to meet you, he's waving a sheet of paper above his head, a parking summons - surely not yet; an invitation to appear on television, also not yet. What ----, is the only struggle for freedom you can make before you are swept away in the torrent of the gentle art of football. Sign here, practice on Thursday, get some nick, first game Saturday Week! You crawl exhausted into the waiting car, resigned to join in the fun, get some pleasant exercise! You

wait to hear about the other players more fortunate than yourself for they've been playing already.

"You'll like J---", says your guide, "grandest uppercut in the club, mind you he lost five teeth in the last trial, hard luck but he asked for it. Anyway J---, he plays lock, broke the fellow's arm that did it. M--- is an absolute scream, you should have seen the time he knelt on that V--- player's face, did it on the other side of the scrum, ref. never saw it. Of course you won't meet C---, B---, K---, or F---, hospital, from that last friendly game we played. You'll like the blokes, great crowd!"

Join in the fun, get some pleasant exercise; you have difficulty getting out of the car. You sleep badly waiting for Thursday, and then it comes and off to meet the boys, you visualise what they'll look like. Stubbled chins, bull necks, the hair on their chests curling over their collars, tree trunk legs all making grunting noises and ramming brick walls to loosen up.

You reach the ground, look around, normal people, impossible but they look normal, wrong field, must be the net ball team; No: there's the friend that met you strange! After practice, that is if you remain conscious of the passing of time after the first five minutes you stagger home -

Then your great day, your first game. You're to play on the wing. Your opponent seems quite friendly, you nod, he smiles as he grinds you into the ground, you perhaps crack a joke, he laughs, life's not too bad - suddenly the Captain approaches, you think to congratulate you on your great play. "Cut it out", he says "no more jokes - treat that man as your enemy!" How could you forget what you heard in the car- your opposite wing still has two arms and two legs, you haven't even broken his nose.

The season progresses, you can run up stairs and still talk when you reach the top. You feel your muscles bulging, you sleep well and get up easily. You've lost no more than a bit of skin off your knees. Can this go on, what happened to the C---, B---, K---, and the rest? The names are the same as you heard from the airport but they seem pleasant fellows and you even enjoy yourself, so much so that when at the end of the season your friend asks you how you enjoyed it, you smile, it was great, a lot of fun, I always knew it would be!

Stan Wachman.

PLAYERS - SEASON 1955 - NUMBER OF GAMES PLAYED.

NAME	KENTWELL(14)	BURKE(14)	WHIDDON(12)	SCORES
Adair, R.	1			
Anderson, P.			6	
Bailey, A.		10		
Baker, M.	5	4		3
Barbour, E.			1	
Barraclough, J.	14			21
Black, J.	7	1		
Bloodworth, K.	2	7		
Brigstock, K.		3	1	3
Buckingham, B.			3	
Bucknall, D.		3	3	5
Burford, M.	10	2		
Butler, R.	3	3	1	
Chesterman,			6	
Collett, A.	8			3
Cooper, J.		2		
Corkhill, N.	6	7		
Cunningham, J.		2		
Denham, A.			1	8
Diamond, J.		6	5	6
Economus, J.			10	36
Einfeldt, G.		1		
Elshout, P.		1	2	
Freizer, C.			9	
Gentle, N.	1	3		9
Gibson, G.		1	8	
Gray, A.	11			3
Grose, D.		1		
Guiness, G.		5	4	
Hadley, F.		2	1	
Hand, P.	1	3	7	15
Hannon, R.			1	
Hardie, B.			7	3
Harriman, J.			10	
Harvey, W.	9	2		6
Heath, D.	12			6
Helman, J.		1	11	
Henderson, R.			9	
Herman, J.		1		
Holmwood, M.	3	1		
Hone, G.		3	2	
Hudson, B.	5	4		
Hutcheon, P.			1	
Hyam, R.	3	4	1	
Jones, B.	4		1	6
Kano, Y.		8		
Knott, G.		1	1	
Laforest, W.		1		
Lemons, H.	11	1		8
Larritt, W.		2	6	
Lebrun, A.		2	8	

NAME	KENTWELL(14)	BURKE(14)	WHIDDON(12)	SCORES
Leslie, H.	5			13
Lloyd, P.	8	5		24
Lynne, D.	12	2		19
Martin, P.	8	2		6
Martyr, R.	12			71
Matthews, P.	6	6		
May, R.	5	2		
Metherall, A.			2	
Metherall, R.			(1/2)	
McCallum		1	1	
McCathie, D.		1	6	3
McClay, N.		6		3
McGrath, G.		3	1	
McGrath, V.			1	
Newman, S.		4		
O'Brian, R.		9		13
Payne, B.			2	
Reace, E.		2		
Rogers, A.		7	1	
Rogers, J.		6	7	
Seddon, W.	7	5		6
Sheehan, W.	8	2		3
Sherrard, D.	1	1	1	
Silverton, J.	1			
Solomon, R.		1		
Sprouster, J.	11			24
Stevenson, M.		4	10	
Storch, F.		14		
Tachibana, H.		3		
Turner, K.	1	3		
Walsh, J.	2	11		3
Wachman, G.	3			
Wachman, S.	5	8		3
Wiggs,			1	
Williams, D.		2	7	
Woodhouse, O.			5	

Kentwell Cup

Matches played 14 Won 12 Lost 2
Points for 202 Against 64

Burke Cup

Matches played 14 Won 5 Lost 9
Points for 69 Against 124

Whiddon Cup

Matches played 12 Won 3 Lost 7
Points for 60 Against 95 Drew 2