

**THE
WOOLLAHRA
COLLEAGUES
RUGBY
UNION
FOOTBALL
CLUB**

**ANNUAL REPORT
1956**

COLLEAGUES 1956

PATRON	G.B.Pizzey, Esq.
VICE-PRESIDENTS	H.H.Barraclough, Esq. W.F.A. Harvey, Esq. V.Herman, Esq.
CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB	J.E.Carruthers, Esq.
CLUB CAPTAIN	J.Herman, Esq.
HON. SECRETARY	F.Storch, Esq.
ASSISTANT HON. SECRETARY.	D.Heath, Esq.
HON. TREASURER	J.Sprouster, Esq.
ASSISTANT HON. TREASURER	W.Harvey, Esq.
REGISTRAR	J.Economus, Esq.
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE	J.Herman; K.McLean; R.Solomon; J.Hattrick; F.Storch; D.Heath; J.Economus; J.Sprouster; W.Harvey; H.Lamens.
CAPTAIN OF KENTWELL	J.Barraclough, Esq.
CAPTAIN OF BURKE	D.Grose, Esq.
CAPTAIN OF WHIDDON	F.Storch, Esq. W.Harvey, Esq.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Club has had another very successful season.

For the second year in succession we retained the Club Championship, achieved only through the efforts of all three teams and special mention should be made to the Whiddon Cup team for their splendid displays towards the end of the season.

Our general standard of play was not particularly consistent, but it was most pleasing to see the excellent team spirit that existed on and off the field.

The Colleagues club spirit is something that is most valued and honoured and it is this spirit that has held the Club together so securely for 33 years.

I am sure at no time in the history of the Club has there been such a transition period as that of the last three years due mainly to the retirement from active participation of old members and the sudden large influx of new members. With such a preponderance of new members we cannot expect overnight to have in the Club that true Colleagues spirit, but I feel sure that by meeting and fraternising more with the older Colleagues, this can be easily overcome.

The new Club house is now nearly erected and should be ready for occupation early in the coming season, and we must again thank the Woollahra Council for their support and co-operation through the past year.

Socially, we had a most enjoyable year, several dances, a barbecue and a golf day were held, all being well organized but not particularly well patronised.

The membership of the Club has reached a record high and all will agree that the Colleagues have done much towards furthering Rugby Union in the district not only by their play on the field but their conduct off the field.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all officers of the Club for the time and energy they have expended in making 1956 another successful year.

John Herman.

REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY - 1956

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

The Colleagues have had a successful year, this being the third year we have fielded three teams in the last few years and we are proud to announce that we won the Club Championship. The Standard of play in all the Competitions was high this year and it seems that Sub-District will be even stronger in 1957. Western Suburbs are to be congratulated on winning the Kentwell Cup as are Petersham and St. James for winning the Bourke Cup and Whiddon Cup respectively.

John Barraclough captained the Kentwell Team and Tony Collett was awarded the Jackson Trophy for the Best and Fairest Player. John has retired from Kentwell Cup Football this year and I think it would be most proper to mention that in the three years that John has captained and coached the Kentwell Cup team we have reached the Semi-Finals and in 1955 we won the Competition. He has by his own effort improved the standard of play throughout the club and his experience in 1st Grade football has been most valuable to the members of his team and the Club.

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Dudley Grose both captained and coached the Burke Cup team and Stephen Ollerenshaw won the award for Best and Fairest. Burke Cup started the season well but due mainly to injuries failed to keep up the effort. We wish them better success this year. Whiddon Cup after a ragged start ended the season strongly and under the expert and energetic coaching of Ian Gordon managed to win third place in the Competition. Brian Hardy was best and fairest for the Whiddon.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The year started off with a very enjoyable evening at Sherbrooke Lounge, Double Bay. There was good attendance and everybody had an excellent time. It was decided to hold a Smoko on the 25th May. All Colleagues, thirty years and over, to be guests of the Younger Members. We had an excellent attendance of our older members who proceeded to enjoy themselves in no uncertain manner, as did the younger members present. On the 28th July an informal dance was held at the Masonic Hall, Double Bay. This was a successful evening and although the attendance was not as great as had been hoped, the music was good and we all enjoyed ourselves. On August 10 we had a flop. The annual Dance which was held at Dunbar House, Watsons Bay was very poorly attended. Not more than 106 people being present including visitors. The Barbecue on Shark Island, now a regular feature of the Colleagues Social Programme was also poorly attended, although members who did attend considered it a very fine show, there being ample food, adequate refreshment and a charming swimming demonstration by J. Barraclough. Members must realise that the considerable amount of effort put into these functions by Committee and Organisers deserve their support. As a result of the poor attendance at both these functions the Club did not do as well financially as we had hoped. Quite a large number of informal matches were played during the year and on those Saturdays when no competition matches were organized there were matches arranged right through the season. The friendly Sunday games against Eastern Suburbs, St. Paul's, Wesley and other teams were invariably hard fought but most enjoyable. The Sub-District Rugby Union Association arranged a combined match against the Combined Mid-Week Association and we were represented by John Barraclough, (who captained the side), B. Young, T. Collett, D. Lynn, M. Burford, M. Irving, and H. Leslie and W. La Forest.

The Olds and Bolds.

INJURED PLAYERS FUND: We were fortunate that we did not suffer any serious injuries this year. I feel that Club members should understand their position regarding the I.P.F. It is to be clearly understood that every player plays Rugby at his own risk and the Committee recommends that every player belongs to a Medical Benefit Fund during the coming year. The I.P.F. 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.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Messrs. H.H. Barraclough, W.F.A. Harvey, and V. Herman, accepted the position of Vice President for the year and we thank them for the interest and help they have shown us.

CLUB HOUSE.

The Woollahra Council again leased us the Log Cabin and Changing Shed and there is no doubt the opportunity to get together after matches and hold our various

social activities had helped the club grow. We are deeply indebted to the Council for their interest and help in the Club.

The New Club House has been progressing satisfactorily and the Council informs us that it will be available for the coming season.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Mr. John Herman the Club Captain on behalf of the Committee and myself for the fine leadership and inspiration he has shown during the year, as Club Captain. 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.

F. Storoh, Hon. Secretary.

KENTWELL CUP XV

Another season has ended and although we were unable to hold our position as Premiers, I think you will agree that we had another very good season, and proved that again we were a strong force in the Kentwell Cup Competition. Our old opponents Wests and Mosman proved too strong for us in the final games and our congratulations go to both these teams for their excellent premiership football. The Kentwell team for 1956 was a very good side and lost only two games during the competition; to Wests (19-12) the first round and Mosman (9-3) in the second round, which I think you will agree is a good record. We were unfortunate (like all rugby clubs) to suffer injuries to a large number of players and these injuries particularly affected us in the final games of the season and we were fortunate to have such good replacements from the Burke and even Whiddon teams and we all remember the gallant play by Whiddon five-eighth, Bill Bennett who played full-back for us against Wests in the final.

It is most encouraging to know that we again won the Club Championship and we should remember that each Kentwell win means so much in points in winning this competition.

The general standard of play was very good but our real weakness this year was poor goal-kicking as we could have won lost games if reasonably easy kicks could have been converted and it is a pity that more players don't concentrate on this most important part of rugby and let us hope that in 1957 this weakness will be overcome, especially when we realize that a simple conversion equals in points a hard-earned try.

Our best victories this year were against Mosman (14-3) at Home in the first round and against Wests (17-12) at Home on a lake-mud-heap in the second round, but we must not forget that two of the best games the Kentwell side played were Sunday social matches. The game against Easts reserves when we drew 5-3 (we scored a try to a penalty kick) and in this match we played a heavier and tougher side and more than held our own in all aspects of play and especially when we consider that Easts won the 1956 Reserve Grade Competition. If we could have only produced this form in the Semi's !! The second match against St. Pauls when we were held to a thrilling draw (20-20) by a tough University College side.

The team endeavoured to play bright attractive football at all times and we do hope we gave our supporters enjoyable games of rugby. Before I end this report

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I feel credit should go to stalwarts such as our gallant vice-captain Tony Collett who despite serious injuries this year was a demon player in every game and we were fortunate again to have such a fine player who would be a welcomed acquisition to any first-grade side, to Hans Lamens for his excellent forward play, to Peter Martin who played in nearly every back-line position, to Paul Flynn, an honest never-to-be-seen front-rower, to Martin Burford, an excellent strong running and hard tackling centre, to wingers Bill La Forrest and Mike Irvine whose play was limited by injuries, to the grand old man of Kentwell, Bob Abigail who despite a split skull and cut eyes was always a trier and never missed a game, to Tony McGrath Buck Young and John Wiggs, always hard-working forwards and to Bill Seddon and Don Heath who although played in Burke one week and Kentwell the other, always turned in a good display. Finally a word of thanks to Kentwell selectors, John Herman and Tony Collett for their untiring efforts to select the best team, and my personal thanks to all members of the team for their co-operation to me and it was indeed a great pleasure and honour to Captain-Coach the team.

Thus ends 1956 and let us enter 1957 with the determination to win the Competition this year. Good Luck !!

John Barraclough.

BURKE CUP XV

The main requirement of the second Team of any Rugby Union Football Club is that it should be able to produce a sufficient number of reserves of better than the required standard for the Senior Team. Most second teams contain or should contain young players having the necessary potential and ability, which when polished and trained and the players having gained the necessary physical stature and experience, will then enable them to take their places in the Senior Team and help to uphold in every way the traditions and prestige of their Club.

With these thoughts in mind, from the beginning of the Season throughout the trial games and in every competition match, the Burke Cup Team endeavoured to play top class football, the ball being moved from man to man at top speed with fast rucking, heeling and backing up. The first round of the Burke Cup competition, including the trials, brought a large measure of success as far as results were concerned and it is no fluke that the success was due to the type of Ruggor played. However, towards the end of the Season the Kentwell Cup Team's astonishing and inexplicable toll of injuries and absences put such a strain on the number of players required to move up that the Burke team was left with so few of its original players that the standard of the football fell and defeats resulted.

Throughout the Season, Steve Ollerenshaw at half back, who won the award for the best and fairest player, was a tower of strength. Nevertheless, his pass needs to be lengthened by at least two yards and he must cultivate a reverse pass. Norman Corkhill, after a slow start at full back, settled down as a very sound player at five eighth and it was mainly due to his ability and experience that the three-quarter line functioned so smoothly and often, giving our wingers, in particular Graham Knott, a chance to score tries and, when hemmed in, use that most dangerous of all attacking moves, the cross kick. Of the forwards, Don Heath as hooker, and Paul Flynn and John Wiggs as props all applied themselves to such good effect that they became, deservedly, the Kentwell Cup front row. Needless Mathews, who, with the acquisition of another helping of "avoirdupois" will be able to hold his own in

any Senior Team, was always a grand team man willing to play in either the back or second row. This is an outlook that might well be emulated by many other players. John Diamond, who was troubled by illness during the first half of the Season, proved himself to be potentially the best line-out forward the Club possesses but a little more experience and thought are required before he will reach the standard which is within his grasp.

Many other players filled in at times; some come up from the Whiddon Cup Team and finally were found either not quite ready and dropped, or made their mark and reached the Kentwell Cup Team. They are too numerous to mention. To those who went down again I say do not be disheartened, provided the ability is there and you are fit, your time will come and the 1957 Season may be the time. As long as you keep trying to improve and are never satisfied with the improvement you have made you cannot fail to make the grade.

Finally, I would like to say to all of you who have had the doubtful privilege of having me as your Skipper for even one match, thanks a lot for putting up with me, getting stuck-in so well and playing till your dropped. And most of all, for giving to the Team the spirit that goes to make that most important of all things in Rugby Union - "Team-work". Good Luck in 1957.

Dudley Grose.

WHIDDON CUP REPORT

The 1956 Season was a most successful season for the Whiddon Cup Team. After a mediocre start the team settled down and played intelligent football with fiery forwards and snappy backs. The team's wins against strong opposition during the season and especially their final game were football "gems" for this grade.

It was very pleasing that several members of the team graduated to the Burke and Kentwell Teams and covered themselves with glory. It was also pleasing to note that even with loss of players through promotion, injuries and work there were sufficient replacements of sufficiently high standard to enable the team to continue improving right throughout the season up to and including its final match.

Credit must also be given to several players who were possessors of a magnificent club spirit in that they filled gaps at the last moment and continued to train even though they were not permanent members of the side.

Brian Hardy is to be congratulated for gaining the award for Best and Fairest and also for being the highest points scorer in the Club.

It is quite certain that the 1957 season will be an even better one for Whiddon Cup and we are confident this year of reaching the highest point in the competition.

Ian Gordon.

RESULTS FOR COMPETITIONS - 1956

<u>CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP</u>	<u>KENTWELL</u>	<u>BURKE</u>	<u>WHIDDON</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1st. COLLEAGUES	36	13	9½	58½
2nd Mosman	37½	14	6	57½
3rd Western Suburbs.	28½	18	5	51½

RESULTS FOR COMPETITIONS - 1956.....Continued

<u>KENTWELL CUP</u>		
1st Mosman	25	points
2nd COLLEAGUES	24	points
3rd Wests	19	points

There were 14 games played of which twelve were won and two were lost. Points scored by the team were 252 and points against 104.

<u>BURKE CUP</u>		
1st Bank of N.S.W.	22	points
2nd Western Suburbs	20	points
3rd Uni. of Tech.	17	points
4th. Mosman	16	points
5th COLLEAGUES	15	points

There were 13 games played of which six were won, six lost and one drawn. Points scored by the team were 151 and points against 97.

<u>WHIDDON CUP</u>		
1st St. James	23	points
2nd Uni. of Tech.	21	points
3rd COLLEAGUES	19	points

There were 14 games played of which nine were won, four lost and one drawn. Points scored by the team were 132 and points against 84.

" THOSE WERE THE DAYS ! "

The Secretary of the Club, has asked me to write a short article on the first days of the club.

As a reminder to work on, I have the Club's first minute book - Seasons 1933-1934-1935 which is written in an old school exercise book. These were seasons of great prosperity for the Club but the progress seemed to be thrust upon us as we were interested in our weekly game of football rather than founding a Club.

I will confine my remarks to the first season, 1933, and perhaps later years can be dealt with on other occasions.

The idea of a club started with Tom Jackson, Harry Kershaw, Jim Wishart, Ewen Pizzezy and Alan Rich who had left school at the end of 1931 and who played a season with Y.M.C.A. They decided to form their own club and called a meeting on 9th March, 1933.

It is hard now to realise how small and unpretentious the Club was. One team was fielded in the Whiddon Cup competition and it was very seldom that we had more than about ten regulars. In those days everyone worked on Saturdays and it was usually midday before the team was filled up with "ring-ins" from the various "offices" around town. But there was never a forfeit and we never went on short.

We won eight matches and lost six and came second in the Eastern Division of the Whiddon Cup for 1933. Tom Jackson was top scorer with 76 points, followed by Alan Rich (24) Ewen Pizzezy (18) Alex Hughes (18) and Harry Kershaw (12). It was a very shaky start but it was the basis from which the club started the next season in 1934, and the new members of 1934 were the beginning of the big expansion which made us the strongest Sub-District Club for the years from 1936 to the war.

It may be of interest to list the players of the first year:-

Tom Jackson- Team Captain and Secretary, Harry Kershaw - Club Captain,

Jim Wishart - Treasurer ; Ewen Pizzezy - Selection Committee ; Alan Rich ; Dave Sutherland; Boyce Pizzezy; Doug Murchison; Keith Martin; Jack Ward; Alex Hughes; Ken Nelson; Barry Cox; Howard Amos; Ewen Hipsley; Bob Vize; David Higgins.

It may also be of interest to recall that, in 1933, the beer consumption of the players would average about half a pint per head after matches - it was only later that the club earned its off-the-field eminence.

David Higgins.

"THE WOMAN'S ANGLE".

Let me begin by explaining that although I quite enjoy watching the noble sport of football, I am not an avid fan. I would not be certain what time the football season commences, but there are signs in our husky or not so husky, male friends, which are unmistakable. Suddenly cigarettes become untouchable and alcohol is taken only in moderation. Diets are watched very closely and squash or long runs are undertaken -- "Must get fit for football!"

After all this preparation comes one Saturday when that indescribably shabby, faded, blue, evil-smelling jersey is taken from its hiding place and gazed at lovingly. Then are brought forth one pair of football pants - the older and dirtier the greater the pride of the owner - one pair of outrageously coloured socks - usually different - one pair of boots with about two sprigs left on them. This uniform is accompanied by enough elastic leg bands, etc. to hold that poor old carcass together against "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" (as our friend Will would say) or more correctly the punches and kicks slung by opponents that our hero may be unfortunate enough to collect.

On most occasions when I have watched the Colleagues at play, it has rained the night before and is still doing so. We poor females are forced to stand in drizzling rain and watch our excited heroes perform like seals in a mud bath. The muddier they get the better they like it. The more fights that occur the better they like it. The more exhausted they get - the better they like it. The quicker its over - the better we like it.

After the match we are gallantly invited to accompany our conquering heroes to the club house for refreshments. It is most embarrassing if your particular conquering hero has a black eye or is minus a tooth. But is he embarrassed? I should say not! These battle scars were hard won and that closed purple eye and gaping smile are worn like medals.

At the clubhouse at last we girls think we shall come into our own -- but no. A glass is thrust into your frozen hand, you are asked if you enjoyed the match and before you can answer (perhaps it is as well) your football fanatic turns to another Colleague and starts a discussion of the match blow-for-blow from commencement. These two are soon joined by the entire team and girls are forgotten.

I once made the mistake of not attending a match - what an error! Approximately one hour later our hero arrived home with, shall we say, a somewhat unsteady gait, and proceeded to demonstrate to me what happened in the match. After crashing heavily to the floor as the result of three flying tackles, I began to realize that it is better to have watched in vain than never to have watched at all".

If you are lucky enough to have your football genius arrive at all to take you

after a match and the inevitable "celebration" (win or lose", you will be accompanied on your outing by groans and moans every time a step is taken and if you get to the films you will be seated beside a lolling-headed complainer continually describing pains and cramped legs and hissing, "Just wait until we play them again, I'll grind that ??? into the ground" or perhaps "I'll have to give up this game I'm not in as good condition as I thought!" You grin and think "Until next time!"

"Loving Wife"