

**THE  
WOOLLAHRA  
COLLEAGUES  
RUGBY  
UNION  
FOOTBALL  
CLUB**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
1958**

COLLEAGUES 1958

PATRON	The Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman W.T.F. Harvey
VICE-PRESIDENTS	H.H. Barraclough Esq. V. Herman Esq. D. McCathie Esq. D. Z. Matthews Esq.
CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB	J. E. Carruthers Esq.
CLUB CAPTAIN	J. Barraclough Esq.
HON. SECRETARY	F. Storch Esq.
ASSISTANT HON. SECRETARY	D. Heath Esq.
HON. TREASURER	D. McCathie Esq.
ASSISTANT HON. TREASURER	B. Hudson Esq.
REGISTRAR	B. Schedvin Esq.
DELEGATE TO SUB. DISTRICT RUGBY UNION	F. Storch Esq.
<u>MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE</u>	J. Herman, K. McLean, W. M. Harvey, D. Grose, F. Storch, D. Heath, G. Hughes, W. Seddon, P. Martin, W. Bennett, D. McCathie, B. Hudson, R. Martyr.
CAPTAIN OF KENTWELL	P. Martin Esq.
CAPTAIN OF BURKE	W. Seddon Esq.
CAPTAIN OF WHIDDON 1.	R. Martyr Esq.
CAPTAIN OF WHIDDON 11.	G. Hughes Esq.

#### CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

1958 has been another highly successful year for this Club and one of considerable achievement.

Apart from our successes in the Club Competitions we won the Club Championship for the fourth successive year, which is a splendid Club effort, and we were the first N.S.W. rugby club to bring an inter-state team (Souths of Brisbane) to play in Sydney. The visit of Souths revealed the strong playing strength of this Club and is the forerunner of regular visits between our two Clubs.

The Club House again proved a great success due largely to the excellent roster system and we are most fortunate to have such an excellent "Home", and our sincere thanks to Woollahra Council for giving us the use of this building.

The playing standard of the Club was good, but generally the fitness of many players was not good and it must be remembered that the new rules of rugby have changed the game considerably and it has become one of continual speed and backing up. Players this year must concentrate on becoming, and keeping, very fit. Attendance at training is very important and I ask all players this year to make a special effort to attend training regularly.

Fielding four, and sometimes five teams took a great deal of hard work and my thanks to all coaches, selectors, captains and committee members who made this effort possible and we aim to keep the same Club strength this year.

My personal very best wishes for a very happy and successful 1959 playing season.

John Barraclough.

#### REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY - 1958.

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

The Colleagues have again had a very successful year and I have the honour to announce that we won the Club Championship for the fourth year running and the Burke Cup competition. We were minor premiers in all three grades and we are especially proud of the fact that the Whiddon B. team came fourth in the Competition.

Our congratulations to the excellent Western Suburbs team who beat our Kentwell Team in the Grand Final and to North Cronulla, a new club who won the Whiddon Cup competition. We especially congratulate Manly-Warringah who reached the Grand Finals in both Burke and Whiddon Cup competitions during the first year in which they fielded two teams.

The standard of play in all three competitions was much improved and there was a much larger Kentwell Cup competition this year. New teams seem to be appearing and old clubs seem to be fielding more teams. 1959 should be a strong year for Sub-District Football.

Peter Martin captained the Kentwell Team and Bruce Dalton was awarded the Jackson Trophy for Best and Fairest. His polished play and hard tackling was a joy to see. John Barraclough was Coach and his enthusiasm and conscientious coaching was a major factor in the Team's success. Unfortunately to lose the Grand Final, they won the party afterwards!

We created a N.S.W. Rugby record to field five teams on three consecutive Saturdays and it is hoped to field five teams permanently this year.

The Burke Cup Team had that old stalwart Dudley Grose coaching them and Bill Seddon led them to victory. A young team, they learnt a lot through the season. K. Wilkie-Smith, indefatigable at all times, was the Best and Fairest player.

Trophies were presented to the victorious Burke Cup team at the Annual Dance.

The Whiddon Cup A. team was jointly captained and coached by Dave McCathie and Robert Martyr. They did a grand job and the Whiddon Cup team was a credit to the Colleagues at all times. Charles Vandervord won the Best and Fairest.

The Whiddon B's had an excellent season and although their matches were away from the other three teams they were always well supported by members of the club wishing to be entertained by their particular brand of sparkling football. Younger players were inspired by some of the older members of the club who occasionally made a re-appearance with the Whiddon B's. Don Heath made a fine job of the coaching, Geoff Hughes captained the team and John Rawlings won the Best and Fairest trophy.

Gordon McGrath won the trophy for the most improved player of the year and although there was some talk of not presenting it, the Oldest and Boldest trophy went to that youngster Alex. Orr.

#### Mr. J.E. Carruthers

It is with sorrow that I have to report the death of Mr. "Jimmy" Carruthers, Chairman of the Club, during the year. "Jimmy" Carruthers was one of the first Colleagues and a popular figure at our functions and meetings. He will be remembered by all Colleagues with affection.

#### Social Activities

The year's social activities were many and varied and Buck' Night, Informal Dances and Smokes were held throughout the year.

The Formal Dance at White City at the end of the season was a great success and may I advise Members that the Lawn Tennis Association have asked us to come back again next year.

The Club House ran very smoothly during the season and the roster system was successful. No-one shirked duties and the Club House was kept clean.

The evenings at the Club House after our Home Matches, win or lose, were always noteworthy.

The response from Members at social functions during the year has been poor and Members must realise that although the Club demands very little from the average Member it does ask that functions be strongly supported. The Colleagues' Club has always been run for the benefit of Members and the success of our social functions, our raffles and our Club depend on their firm support. In the coming year, Colleagues will be going all over New South Wales and also to Queensland for the long weekend in June. Expenses will be big and Members must support and help any raffle or function we have.

#### Jerseys

At long last our teams are playing in Club jerseys and it is hoped that this will mean that our teams will be neater in the coming season. It is possible that some of our more colorful players may discard string for laces and even clean their boots!

#### Patron and Vice Presidents

We thank Alderman W.J.F. Harvey for being our Patron this year. Messrs H.H. Barraclough, V. Herman, D.Z. Matthews and K. McCathie accepted the position of Vice Presidents for the year and we thank them for the interest and help they have shown.

#### Club House

We again thank Woollahra Council for the excellent facilities they have granted us and we feel that this in no small way has contributed to the success of the Club. We thank especially the Town Clerk and Town Engineer for the many courtesies they have extended to us during the year.

#### Injured Players Fund

This year we were lucky as we had few injuries. The Injured Players Fund assisted players where possible. 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.

#### Non Playing Members

The gradual disappearance of some of our older staunch Colleagues during the past twelve months has caused the Committee concern. Our older Members, playing Colleagues in past years have always been most welcome at the Club, and their vociferous encouragement at our matches and their constructive criticism and ready advice regarding our teams has always been one of the most enjoyable pleasures of the season. With a view to encourage their appearance at the Club and their support of the teams, a motion has been proposed that non-playing Members' subscriptions be reduced to £1/-/- per year. We hope that the re-appearance of our older Members at the Club during the coming seasons will be a constant inspiration and reminder to our newer Members of the traditions of the Colleagues--and of course we want to see them again!

In conclusion, we again had a great year and the Colleagues' spirit was maintained. John Barraclough was Club Captain and on behalf of the Committee and myself I should like to thank him for his continual enthusiasm and never slackening efforts on behalf of the Club during the year.

The Committee had a lot of work to do this year and shouldered their duties un-complainingly. David McCathie was an excellent, hardworking and efficient Treasurer, and I am especially aware that his constant critical advice throughout the year has been an inspiration to me.

Finally, after five years this is my last year as Secretary and I would merely like to say that I have enjoyed it. It's been a pleasure and I hope the next Secretary has as much fun as I have.

THANK YOU.

F. Storch.

#### KENTWELL CUP REPORT

It was not surprising that the Colleagues had such a successful season. Any Club would have been pleased at the large roll-up for the first practice and the only worry, selectors and coach had, was in selecting the teams from the good material available.

Our coach and club captain John Barraclough was a great inspiration and moulded the team into fine shape early in the season. Being club captain and coaching the leading team is a big responsibility and John deserves high praise for the work he has done.

With conscientious training the team suffered very few losses due to injuries. Unfortunately Bruce Hudson, our Vice Captain broke his finger early in the competition, putting him out of the side for the rest of the season.

From the start of the competition we realised that Wests and University of Technology were to be our hardest games. In the first and second rounds, games with both these sides were hard and close and the standard of play was high. In the semi-finals we beat Wests 18-14 after obtaining an early lead in the first half due to good rucking by the forwards and the speedy play of the backs. It was natural after this win that the Colleagues were very confident for the grand final and definitely had the psychological advantage over Wests playing at Woollahra No. 1, yet on the day of the final from the start one would have thought Wests had had the advantage. Wests soon got to an early lead in the first half but our team fought back gamely in the second half to be down 14-15 with ten minutes of play to go. These last few minutes were certainly exciting with the Colleagues attacking Wests line all the time but we couldn't break through. The team was very disappointed especially as we were undefeated in the competition games prior to the grand final, but we had some consolation in remembering the year before when Wests were in a similar position to us and we turned the tables on them in the grand final.

I think this year the Kentwell had one of its finest packs of forwards for a long time, who for most of the season came up against heavier packs and the advantage lost in weight was compensated by their speed and heady play. Boris Schedvin (lock), Ken Turner and Bruce Dalton (breakaways) played very well through-out the season and it wasn't surprising when Bruce won the award for the "best and fairest" player this year for he was good in defence and outstanding in attack starting off many try-scoring movements. Dave Whitehead and Paul Isherwood played consistently throughout the year, as did Andy Warden and Gordon McGrath who, at front row, were a great help to John Corlis who proved himself one of the best hookers in the competition. Of these players special mention must be made of John and Gordon. John managed to pile up 99 points in the season with some brilliant kicking, and it was bad luck for both John and the Kentwell team that he should have his off day in the grand final and fail to reach his century. Gordon who was elected Vice-captain, justified his selection by playing hard football throughout the year, keeping the pack as a well knit unit from the start to the finish and well deserved the award for the "most improved player" of the year.

There were many changes of players and positions in the backline this year, and though individually there was plenty of talent, yet combination seemed to be lacking. New players to the side, John Blackadder, Bill Maher, and Peter McWilliam should benefit from their experiences this year, and be assets for the coming season. Praise is due to Nick Sabine who played Burke Cup up to the semi-finals when he then took his place as Half-back for the Kentwell team and played the football we saw him play in the side in 1957. Nev. Gentle, Wilkie Smith, Harold Baker, Norm Corkhill, Bill Bennett and Gus Seaton all played good constructive football, although with better condition, we could have seen a more sustained effort from a few. Fullback Bill Sheehan was, as usual, a mainstay of the team, and all that played with him had the utmost confidence in his protection of our line. He was great in both defence and attack and a continual worry to every team that we played against. In fact, in the Queensland Rugby Union magazine, there was special mention made of Bill's brilliant play in the match against the visiting South's team from Brisbane. There it said that "the best player on the field was the Colleagues full-back Bill Sheehan, who would make the Queensland State side quite easily".

Our best football of the season was played in the two matches against Souths team when they visited us, and the evenness of the teams was seen from the fact that in two matches, both teams scored exactly 23 points, a perfect result to an excellent week-end of football. Such visits as these will enhance the keenness of the players in the club, and we look forward eagerly to reciprocating the Souths visit in the coming season.

I think the year was a most successful one even though the cup was not retained. The standard is definitely improving each year, and with so many players vying for selection, we should have an even better year to come, and I feel confident we will win the cup in 1959.

Peter Martin.  
(Captain).

#### BURKE CUP REPORT

The 1958 season was once again a highly successful one for the Burke Cup team as they were able to retain their position as Premiers of their grade. Their effort was highly commendable as again they were facing clubs playing their first team as their Burke Cup side.

The character of the game changed considerably during the past season--particularly in the forwards--owing to changes in the rules governing bringing the ball into play following a fair tackle. The early tendency was for the forwards to hang back and wait for the ball to come to them with the result that possession was lost continually, and, when it was won, loose forwards hampered the efforts of the backs. I feel that while the new rule has a desirable effect in speeding up the game and encouraging the team that backs

up continually, the tight ruck and quick heel is still a very vital part of the game. This method has the effect of drawing the opposing forwards into the tight play and leaving the backs an even chance of penetrating the opposing back line. This chance is greatly enhanced if the heel is sufficiently speedy to catch the opposing backs out of position. Any opposing pack which will not join in the tight rucks will soon find their fullback in the unenviable position of trying to stop, single handed, three or four forwards with the ball on the toe.

A great part of the credit for the team's success must go to the coach, Dudley Grose. His ability to rectify weaknesses in the team's play and to spot weaknesses to exploit in the opposing team contributed largely towards the victories enjoyed. Also, his unflagging enthusiasm and encouragement both on training nights and on the sideline inspired the players to give of their best.

As is always the case in the second side of any club the Burke Cup team of 1958 consisted of many players. Some played more regularly than others but every player each Saturday gave of his best and tried to play good football as a team.

The team which represented the Club in the Grand Final consisted of George Osborne, Ross Adair, Bruce Ward, Peter Matthews, Eddie Radford, Henry Bennett, Charles Vandervord and Bill Seddon in the forwards and Steve Ollerenshaw, Norman Corkhill, Mike Irving, Tich Archer, Peter Hand, Peter McWilliam and Jim Bibby in the back division. Every player proved his worth in this game with possibly the most outstanding being Henry Bennett for his lineout work and cover defence and Steve Ollerenshaw for his accurate and speedy service under pressure. We were also fortunate to find an extremely reliable goalkicker in Tich Archer for the final games. Other players who turned out regularly were Alex Orr and Mike Crevelli in the forwards and Bill Bennett, Kirkby Wilkie-Smith, David Devereaux and Nick Sabine in the backs. Congratulations to Kirkby Wilkie-Smith for his selection as Best and Fairest Player for 1958. To the players I have named and all the others who played even one game with the Burke Cup team go the thanks of the Club and the selectors for their efforts.

In concluding I would like to extend my personal thanks to every member of the Club who was associated with the Burke Cup team for their co-operation and for giving me the honour of captaining the side.

Good luck for 1959.

Bill Seddon,  
(Captain).

#### THE WHIDDON CUP "A" TEAM REPORT

This team enjoyed one of the most successful seasons experienced by a Whiddon Cup side in the Colleagues Football Club. Although we were not victorious in the finals, we played consistent football throughout the season, to finish Minor Premiers of our division. It was only the strength of the other division that deprived us of final victory. Our congratulations go to Cromilla for their win, and I am sure all our boys feel confident of reversing the position this coming season.

Just looking back over the season, we had a very successful first half not losing a game, but when injuries and studies started to interfere during the latter half, we found ourselves very disorganised and not quite so successful. We not only lost players to the Kentwell and Burke, but also had difficulty in fielding 15 fit men. It is without doubt the Whiddon Cup "A" formed the backbone of the club on and off the field.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who were regular members, and those who passed through Whiddon "A" for their efforts and co-operation in making it a most enjoyable season. It would indeed be fitting for this fine body of men to run out final victors of the Whiddon Cup this season, for as yet, the Colleagues have not been successful in doing so.

Robert Martyr,  
(Captain-Coach).

#### WHIDDON "B"

Once again this newly formed team had a successful season which is evidenced by the competition results. Fourteen matches were played of which it won eight, lost five and drew one, and finished up scoring 164 points against 112. The most spectacular victories were in first match against Briars 14-8 and the second game against Wests 14-3.

It is interesting to note that a total of 56 players turned out to represent Whiddon "B" and when it is remembered that not a week passed without players being picked as replacements in the three senior teams it is obvious that the team spirit was paramount.

Thanks are due to Don Heath for his regular and able coaching, to Geoff Hughes for his able leadership and tireless slave driving on the field - no matter how weary the team might be towards the end of a hard slugging match Don and Geoff could always get one more effort of the boys. Congratulations to Brian Hardy, once again being one of the Club's leading point scorers, due largely to his ability to kick goals from all angles.

There is no doubt that the success of Whiddon "B" was due to its ability to play as a team and not as a group of individuals and if this splendid

spirit prevails during the 1959, a very good season can again be anticipated.

H. Barraclough,  
(Selector).

PATTERN, BALANCE AND THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE LAWS OF THE GAME

The 1958 Season was made more noteworthy than usual due to some extremely dramatic changes in the Laws of the Game. Whilst there were a considerable number of changes, what I will term "vital" alterations were made to no fewer than five Laws and seven other Laws were the subject of minor alterations.

It never does any harm to draw people's attention to "The Laws of the Game", particularly players. Thus the following Laws were the subject of alterations:-

Laws 2 and 14	(Knock on)	Vital
Law 8	(Time)	
" 10 (p)	(Advantage)	
" 15	(Scrummage)	Vital
" 16	(Tackle)	Vital
" 20	(Obstruction)	
" 24	(Penalty)	Vital
" 25	(Place Kick after Try)	
" 27	(Touch)	
" 34	(Foul Play & Misconduct)	
" 35	(Repeated Infringement)	

The alteration to Law 25 was long overdue, Law 27 now reverts back to what it was some years ago - in my playing days anyway - and Laws 8, 10(p), 20, 34 and 35 have undergone important if unsensational change. The alterations in connection with (a) knock on (b) scrummage (c) tackle and (d) penalty may change the style of the game to some degree. Here and now it must be said with the last four the whole idea of the amendments is to produce (a) fewer stoppages for unintentional infringements (b) make possession from the set scrum less certain to the team putting the ball in (c) keep the actual play in motion by fewer rucks and (d) retain possession for the team awarded the penalty.

Two or three seasons ago the words "pattern" and "Balance" began to be heard quite regularly in the club, particularly on training nights. The former to explain the type or style of football which we hoped and tried to play. Here and now it should be repeated that quick heeling, quick passing and a minimum of ball-carrying were the results aimed at with the ultimate desire of producing fast open football, in other words the traditional Australian style of play of the 1947 Wallabies in the United Kingdom.

102 have played in the competition rounds this year. 29 have played in Kentwell, 37 in Burke, 57 in Whiddon "A" and 56 in Whiddon "B".

	<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F/A</u>
KENTWELL	12	11	1		204-80
BURKE	14	11	1	2	267-84
WHIDDON "A"	14	12		2	244-79
WHIDDON "B"	14	8	1	5	164-112
	54	42	3	9	879-355