

**THE
WOOLLAHRA
COLLEAGUES
RUGBY
UNION
FOOTBALL
CLUB**



**ANNUAL REPORT
1983**

**WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES RUGBY UNION
FOOTBALL CLUB**

P.O. Box 197, DOUBLE BAY, 2028.

Phone 371 5356

1983 OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON: Her Worship the Mayor of Woollahra,
Alderman Judith May

PRESIDENT: Michael Caspers.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: L. J. F. Barraclough, Esq. G. Moray, Esq.
G. Berry, Esq. A. Murchison, Esq.
J. Bunce, Esq. M. Norburn, Esq.
J. Corlis, Esq. G. Osborne, Esq.
C. Diggle, Esq. E. Radford, Esq.
R. Harriden, Esq. F. Storch, Esq.
H. Lamens, Esq. C. Vandervord, Esq.
C. Messenger, Esq. J. Noice, Esq.
B. Caldwell, Esq.

CLUB CAPTAIN: Tim Booth

SECRETARY: Paddy Lord

TREASURER: Michael Clifford

**CLUB HOUSE
MANAGER:** John Hitchen

COMMITTEE: Messrs. Anderson, Chubb, Collins, Rice,
Diggle, Kirkwood, Mathews, Radford.

**HONORARY
LIFE MEMBERS:** Messrs. L. J. F. Barraclough, J. Corlis,
C. Diggle, R. Harriden, J. Herman,
D. Higgins, G. Hughes, K. McLean,
C. Messenger, G. Osborne,
E. Radford, F. Storch, C. Vandervord,
J. Noice, B. Caldwell, G. Robbins.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Jim North

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again Colleagues were the Club to topple in 1983. Having three sides reach the Grand Final was in itself indicative of the continuing strength of the Colleagues. We retained the Bruce Graham Shield and won the Burke Cup for the third successive year; a feat never before accomplished.

I would like to thank all members of the club for their dedication this year, special thanks to coaches and managers and special congratulations to John Noice.

1983 saw the Club prosper, with main fund raising attributable to successful managing of the bar and a top effort by the 50th Anniversary committee. Here Bob Caldwell and Ron Harriden should be congratulated. My person thanks to John Hitchen; all would agree was more than a worthy recipient of the Honour Cap.

My thanks also to the committee who worked well together this year and special thanks to those older members who once again graced us with their support.

Congratulations to all trophy winners and it is especially heartening to see so many younger players among their ranks this year—it bodes well for the future of the Colleagues.

On a sadder note it is with regret that I am retiring as President, and I can only look back over the past 13 years with pride and happiness as having been associated with such a fine club.

All the best to members and their families for a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

MIKE CASPERS, Club President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1983—an enjoyable year. Winning the Club Championship in our 50th year is a magnificent achievement and I congratulate all players for their efforts during 1983. My congratulations also to John Noice and his victorious Burke team and I am sure that the Kentwell team will remedy the Bondi situation in 1984.

The 50th year could have had a storybook ending, however that was not to be, but let us try for it in 1984.

The 83' committee was committed to improving the financial and administration functions of the Club, and I am sure that you will all agree that this improvement has been achieved. Despite this, there is always room for continued improvement, and the 1984 committee should also resolve itself towards making the Club as financially secure as possible.

Of the 11 committee meetings held up till October the attendance was as follows:—

M. Caspers 9, T. Booth 11, P. Lord 8, M. Clifford 10, J. Hitchen 10, J. Anderson 11, N. Rice 8, B. Diggle 10, E. Radford 8, R. Collins 10, D. Kirkwood 9, C. Mathews 8, A. Chubb 6, D. Hill 5.

My thanks to Des Hill for standing in for me whilst I served some time in the Phillipines and my thanks to MORGANITE who graciously financially supported my secretary and typists during their brief employment with Colleagues. I would have been eager to do the job again in 1984, however I have decided to return to the U.K.

After 12 years of association with Colleagues it will be difficult to be at "Home" with another club and I wish you all the success in 1984. It maybe that I will be able to help organise some of the playing and/or social activities during the 1985 Golden Oldies tournament. (Mike Caspers, I promise that BEDWAS will not be included!)

Finally, an apology, due to my leaving earlier than anticipated some names/addresses may not be included in the membership in the back, however, all forms are with the new Secretary, and everyone who did complete a membership form received notification of the A.G.M.

Best Wishes, PADDY LORD, Hon. Secretary.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

1983 for the Colleagues could only be described as a "Cham-pagne Year".

It seemed most appropriate for the Club in its 50th Anniversary Year to again be successful in capturing the Club Championship. It should always be remembered that the Club's ultimate goal is the Club Championship. It is the award that signifies that one club has dominated the competition throughout the season, not just one game.

The Colleagues, in fifty years of competition, has won the Bruce Graham Shield nineteen times, a record we can all be proud of.

Many people contributed towards 1983 being such a successful year both on and off the paddock. I would like to thank the Club's Committee for their effort during the season with special mention to John Hitchen and Paddy Lord. Paddy showed us the benefits of an efficient approach to the Club's paperwork problems while John was singularly responsible for the regaining of the Club's financial legs.

Our President of three years, Michael Caspers, is standing down and his leadership will be sorely missed. Michael has been a powerful leader of the Colleagues and the Club's present strong position is the product of his hard work in the late 1970's.

For those considering positions of responsibility in the Club in 1984 be prepared to work hard, the Club needs more workers.

On the paddock, My thanks go to the five coaches and their managers. Coaching is a time consuming task, often thankless and always subject to criticism. Each of the five grades fielded in 1983 were unbeatable on "their day" and it was because of this that the Club Championship was won with three rounds to spare.

The "fighting five's" two successes over Hunters Hill was an achievement no other grade could boast of in 1983.

The Judd Cup performances led them to being narrowly beaten for fourth position on the competition ladder.

The Whiddon Cup emerged as a final contender at the end of the season, only to be defeated in the Grand Final after leading at half time.

The complete dominance of the Burke Cup throughout the season culminated in the thrashing of Hunters Hill in the Final and the "traderman" like win in the Grand Final over Lindfield.

Finally, the defeat of the Kentwell Cup in what could only be described as a heart stopping Grand Final. For the team whose dedication and commitment inspired the Club towards the Club Championship is was a bitter blow. With their defeat came the realisation to us all that the Kentwell Cup was a much closer competition than we all thought!

Socially the Club had a hectic year. The usual activities including the golf day, discos, annual ball, Grand Final Night, Trophy Night and the Grafton Tour were supplemented by the 50th Year Weekend. And what a weekend it was!

The cocktail party, dinner and the invitation games were all celebrated in a manner befitting a 50th Year celebration. Many of the older Colleagues were overheard saying "nothing has changed at the Rugby Club, it's a great producer of hangovers, divorces or both."

Thanks must go to Bob Caldwell and Ron Harriden for a fantastic organisational effort.

Lastly, thanks to the whole Club for making my last year as Club Captain one to remember. I am proud to have been associated with you all. I feel sure that the incoming Committee will endeavour to make 1984 another big year for the Club as I have endeavoured to do in previous years.

TIMOTHY H. BOOTH, Club Captain

CLUB HOUSE MANAGERS REPORT

After being appointed as club house manager at the 1982 Annual General Meeting, I found two squatters were in residence in the club house in the visitors change rooms. They were removed that night. During the next two weeks there were at least five break ins. After wiring some windows shut, changing locks, repairing the wire cage doors, and upgrading the refreshment area security, the number of break-ins over the rest of the year was reduced to about three. The use of the external club house lights, I believe was a deterrent to break-ins and regular car stripping sessions in the parking area.

My aim in running the refreshment sales area was to provide refreshments at a reasonable cost to members and at a profit to the Club. This was done by improving the stock control for recording receipts and reconciling stock used with monies received. Banking was done after each trading session. No money (including inside the red phone) was left on the premises. Stock inventories were reduced to the real needs of the majority of members and "one off" items were not stocked. The number of suppliers of goods was reduced. Access to stock holding areas was limited to "on duty" members only. "Self Serve" practices were severely curtailed. Cleaning was done on a progressive basis as no one would come down on the next day. The refreshment sales area closed at the appointed time in spite of vocal objections on some occasions. A financial statement was provided for each committee meeting.

Trading was severely curtailed for several weeks due to inaccurate and distorted reporting by the media on the activities of several of the Club's red eyed members during the previous season. This lost trading could have been equal to 10% of the year's turnover!

With the Club's current strength there are approximately 85 regular players. Take away 15 committee members and that leaves 70 members to be on duty with a committee man. With adequate manning for all necessary tasks, a member should expect to do two Saturdays and four Thursday duties per season. Most members worked well, however, the usual few gave the same lame reasons for their failure to do their share e.g. "I have got my suit on"; "I have to go to a dinner party"; "I am unable to read my name on the duty roster list, but I can read my name on the team selections list" etc.

Please do your bit for YOUR CLUB.

Jon and Glen Davies did a great job with the food this year. Moose will support my statement.

Thanks to the team negotiating the new leases from Woollahra Council for their efforts.

I congratulate the 50th Year Committee, especially Bob Caldwell and Ron Harriden for the excellent functions and magnificent fund raising effort.

The expenditure for refreshment stocks and cleaning and maintenance items for the club house was in the order of \$18,000. By the use of a firm control system and with the help from my assistant Doug Kirkwood, the refreshment sales are one of the main sources of funds for the Club and all members must realise the importance of running "a tight ship".

I would like to thank the Club members for their support this year, and request that they support my successor. I am not available for the new committee.

JOHN HITCHEN, House Manager

KENTWELL CUP 1983

MINOR PREMIERS. PLAYED 20, LOST 2, DRAW 1.
423 FOR 156 AGAINST
GRAND FINAL DEFEATED BY BONDI 12-13

Once again the Kentwell Cup has a very successful season. Twenty one games were played, two were lost, one drawn, and for and against of 423 and 156 against maintained the standard of the Kentwell Cup teams of previous years. To be minor premiers for the fourth year in succession proved an outstanding effort by all players concerned.

Obviously, everyone is disappointed at the Grand Final loss when the game seemed to be won. However, this game should be placed in perspective with the whole season's effort, and on this basis the Kentwell Cup was the most successful team in the competition. It was certainly the team against which other clubs measured themselves, and we were always the team to beat. This places enormous pressures on a team as there is always more incentive to beat something against which you can measure. Congratulations and thank you to all those players for the effort that was put into making the 1983 season the success that it was.

Retrospectively, the season as a whole seemed more difficult than in previous years. The weather and the poor start to the season in terms of postponed games and interruptions due to free weekends made it difficult to start and get into the competition. However once we were underway the season consolidated itself and progressed smoothly.

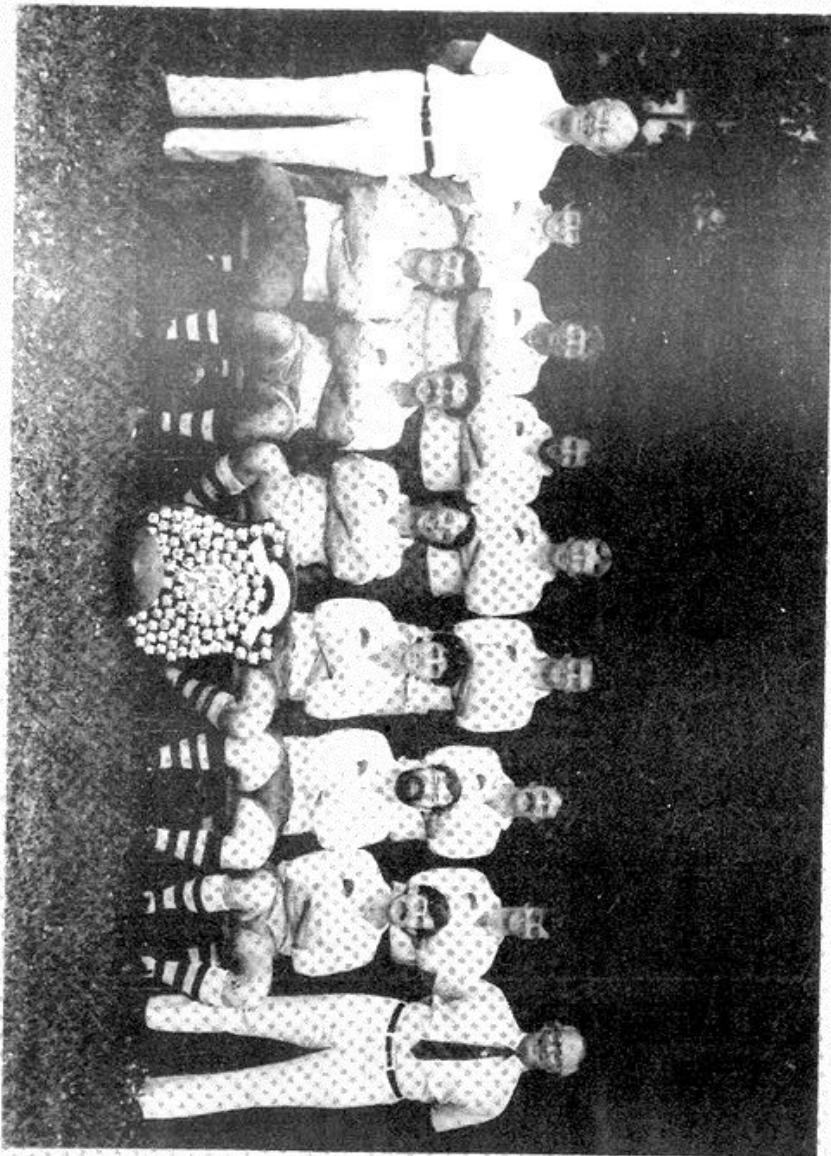
The forward pack remained much as was from the 1982 season with the inclusion of a new player to the club. Michael Gazal into the back row. He filled the position very successfully but I feel, he has stronger inclinations towards the second row.

The backs as a group were the challenge of the season. The continual change in players in the back line through injury and or disappearance for business reasons resulted in the back line effectively being reorganised each week. Whilst it is easy to coach a back line unit in terms of ten man football concept it is much more difficult to attempt attacking sophisticated play but I believe that this is where the challenge lies and wherein the most enjoyment is gained.

In the front row Morgan Chubb had an outstanding season. His inclusion in the combined sub-districts side (should have been years ago) is without question, and his power in the scrum is legendary.

It was unfortunate Andrew was injured halfway through the season in C.B.O.B.S. game and was not able to play for the rest of the season. However, nothing was lost in his replacement by Ross Collins who I felt played his best and especially in the Grand Final.

Dave Porter was the linch pin in the front row combination and showed great courage and determination throughout the season to play at his best. If it was not his legs it was his nose and the team appreciates very much the effort that he made in this his final(?) season of rugby as a player.



The second row changed little during the season with John Anderson and Nick Rice filling the positions capably. The back row was the greatest pressure with the combination of Peter Clark, Michael Gazal and Mal Sinclair. The return of Brian Weir created more problems which were to some extent relieved by Mal Sinclair's injury in the mid season. At the finish the combination of Mal Sinclair, Brian Weir and Peter Clark was a formidable back row and has a great future ahead of it.

Our greatest concern as a club was our lack of half backs, and we were relieved Will Curry was able to rise to the occasion and to have such an outstanding season. His attitude at training and to the game was above reproach and I believe this was responsible for the improvement in his play.

The inside backs was always a lotto draw. Many combinations were tried with Kevin Lane, Steve Weir, Dane Hudson, Doug Ambrose and Hugh McKidd. All players tried to their best in terms of the players individual skills. The find of the season was Dane Hudson who kept his hamstrings in shape and shows great promise for the future. Our wingers again varied through Nick Derera, Steve Cripps, Craig Phelps and Hugh McKidd. For the majority of the season Nick and Hugh filled the wingers spaces and were solid both in defence and attack.

Our fullback position varied with Stewart Hudson, Steve Weir and Doug Ambrose, who all filled the positions capably.

There seemed to be the spirit during the season that there was only one game that could be really worth while playing and that was the Grand Final. Hence nothing really stands out. However, on reflection one or two are worthy of mention. The first being the first round clash with Lindfield where in we had 95% of the possession and we could only score one try. Next came the contest against Hunters Hill at Hunters Hill where in again we had 70% of the possession and lost the game. A more fun game to remember was the game against C.B.O.B.S. on the Monday following the Chatswood clash wherein the team got their act together and put together 50 points. A fantastic game from an entertainment point of view, and I am sure thoroughly enjoyed by all the players on the day.

Probably the highlight for the season was in reality the Hunters Hill clash in round 2. To come back from 6 points down in the first 10 minutes of the game to win 25-6 certainly has removed any thoughts of Hunters Hill superiority over Colleagues Club. In particular this game would be remembered by two players namely Doug Kirkwood and Steve Roberts. A great effort from both of these players on this day despite the horror of the Coach observing the scrum going backwards for the first time in the season. Somehow we got the act together and there were some outstanding individual performances from Mal Sinclair, John Anderson and Doug Ambrose.

Possibly the game least likely to be remembered but most wanting to be won was that of the Grand Final. We probably over estimated our strength and under estimated the determination and desire to win by the opposition. The line outs were a non-event as neither side could gain supremacy. Whilst we had the superiority in the scrums we over did holding the ball which increased the defensive pressure against us. This made attack difficult. It was a courageous and determined effort by the team which never gave up to retake the lead 8 minutes from the end. If nothing else is remembered of the game certainly the last 5 minutes should be wherein Bondi regained the lead with a penalty kick. With 4 minutes to go there was constant attacking pressure by the Colleagues on the Bondi try line with desperate defence from Bondi. This was it and the game was won! Unfortunately we missed the kick as history records. Still not giving in we continued to attack after the full time whistle and attempted a field goal which only just missed. A stunning defeat to the end of the season which somehow clouds the overall real success that the season was.

The success of the season would not have been possible without the help and support of many players and the club members. In particular my sincere thanks to Ken Griffin as team manager extraordinaire. His total support at both training and during the game was a great help and asset to the team. Eddie Radford should not go without mention. It was great to see his interest in the team again this year and his assistance was much appreciated. To Kevin Lane, Vice Captain of the team, again thanks for a very difficult job well done. Somehow he didn't have the time and space in which to move this season but played with great skill and determination. His inclusion in the Sub Districts team well deserved but long overdue.

On behalf of Doug Ambrose and the backs thanks again to Rick Bell-Booth for his assistance and efforts. How frustrating that lack of quality possession prevented the back line unit from functioning to its optimum.

To our Captain John Anderson thanks for your leadership and organisation and help during the season. It was disappointing that you as Captain for the 9th year in succession were not able to take out the Grand Final. This was certainly not from lack of effort but more or less as a result of the bounce of the ball. My sincere congratulations on 9 years of outstanding effort. The opportunity lies for someone in the future to take over your position and try and achieve the same sort of result.

My sincere congratulations to John Noice in winning the Burke Cup for the third year in a row and for his team's premiership win. This is an outstanding effort and merits more reward than it gets. The spirit of the Burke Cup provides a basis for future club successes and has only come through hard work, dedication and determination.

Again, congratulations to John Bunce in taking his Whiddon Cup team to the Grand Final. A thoroughly gutsy effort in the game and only a narrow defeat. There was nothing in it and the ball could have bounced the other way.

Thanks also to Chris Cusak who helped out with the video. This is certainly an asset in trying to coach a team to its maximum potential and your efforts are appreciated.

Last, but not least, Thank You very much to my Wife and Family who supported me once again through another Rugby season. Their encouragement and support made it possible for me again to devote my energies to Rugby coaching.

The disappointment of the 1983 season is over. The 1984 season lies ahead of us all with the challenge to play better Rugby and therefore win that final prize. Good luck to Colleagues in 1984.

IAIN G. EDWARDS.

BURKE CUP

MINOR PREMIERS AND PREMIERS 1983

"TOO BIG TOO POWERFUL AND TOO FAST". These were the words often mumbled from weary opposition teams as they left the field after being demolished by the mighty Colleagues Burke Cup team.

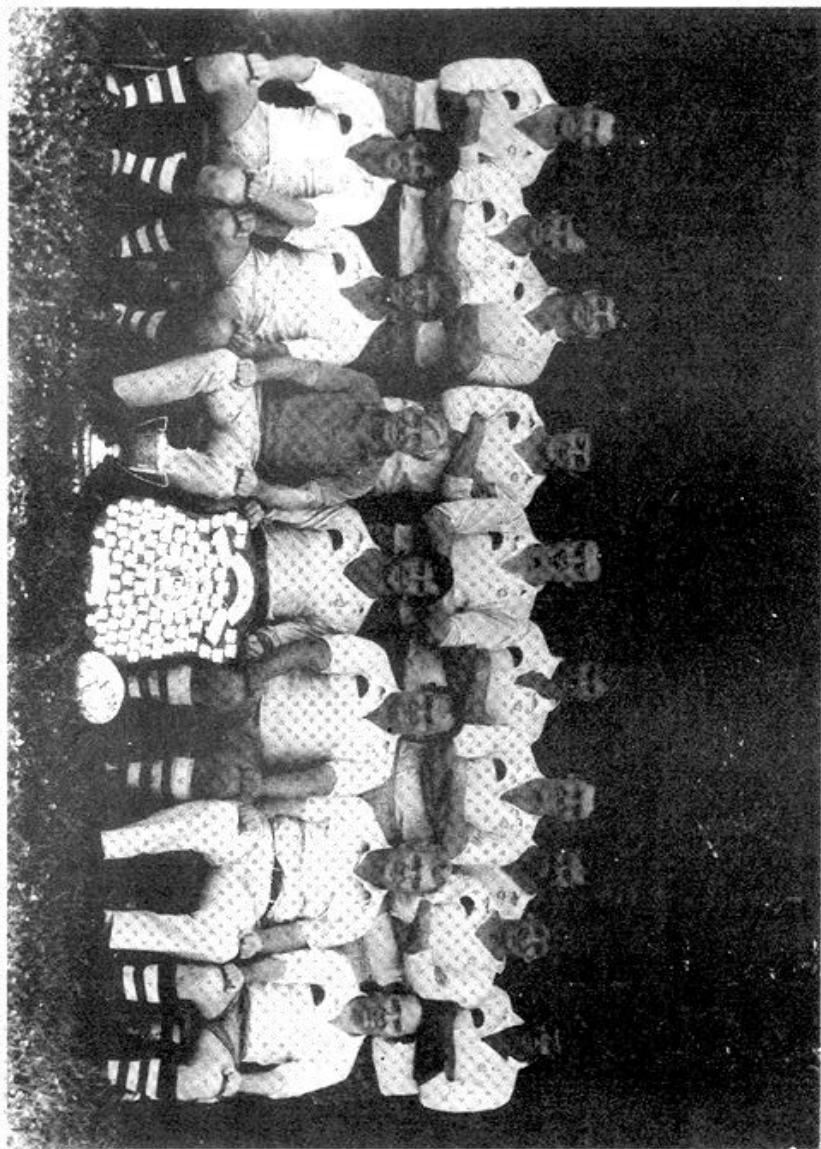
Congratulations to all those players for their fine effort in retaining the Burke Cup Premiership for the third year in succession, and more so in the 50th anniversary of our Club.

The team was made up of very intelligent Rugby players with the desire to win. They worked hard at their fitness which was evident by their keen attitude at training periods.

We played our games during the season in 3 or 4 sections and the general strategy early in the game was to always keep the ball near our power house pack of forwards. This was achieved through our inside backs and inevitably put extreme pressure on the opposition forwards from the outset. As Captain and 5/8 Mark Smith read the game very well and always had the team going forward early. As the game progressed the backs were brought into action using various moves which often resulted in some fine tries.

The front row of Tim Booth, Steve Roberts and Doug Kirkwood gave plenty and always commanded the due respect from the opposition with their experience. As Vice Captain Steve led in a very positive fashion. Doug, as always, gave a polished display as hooker and seldom lost our "put in" and in fact took many from the opposition. Tim Booth scored some big bursting tries around the front of the lineouts. When he moved in top gear there was no stopping him.

The second row consisted of Andrew Lomax, Mark Campbell, Mark Martin and Jeremy Ingall. All four are very hardy footballers. As Coach, losing Mark Martin through suspension, and Jeremy through illness was a bitter blow. However, Andy Lomax who was the established second row all through the season was joined late in the season by Mark Campbell and the two combined so very well, both scoring great tries in the Semi Final.



As usual the back row was the keenly contested position, Hugh Warden No. 8, Andrew Addinall, Mike Gazal, Stuart Orr and Greg Tarplett filled this position. As Coach it was found difficult but a delight to have such talent to choose from. Hugh had one of his best seasons, together with his lineout jumping and his general around the field play and in particular his great cover defence, he certainly consolidated his number 8 position. Mike Gazal in his first year in the Club had many games in Kentwell and I am sure, with his ability and keen attitude, he will play Kentwell for a long time. Andrew Addinall and Stuart Orr are fine flankers and both had strong games during the year, particularly the Grand Final.

With the ever presence of injuries the backline combinations varied, players such as Rick Smith, Mark Smith, Stuart Hudson, Geoff Bush, John North, Graham Rush, Adam Wilson, Steve Cripps, Steve Negrine, Dan Storch and Seamus Dalton were used most of the year. Rick and Mark Smith as half and 5/8 despite nagging shoulder injuries, combined very well and were very instrumental in the game plan. Geoff Bush, John North and Graham Rush were strong centres who provided good deliveries to the wings and their defence was always a strong point. Graham's goal kicking provided us with some narrow wins during the middle of the season in the heavy going. Wings Steve Cripps, Steve Negrine, Adam Wilson and Daniel Storch all had plenty of pace and finished off many moves with superb tries.

Stuart Hudson, who played fullback most of the season between Burke and Kentwell, finished up in the finals as usual at 5/8, which was his third successive premiership in Bourke Cup.

Switching Stuart and Mark Smith's positions gave us the right balance at that time of season.

The 1983 Burke Cup team must go down as one of the finest I personally have seen in my years at Colleagues, not only for the talent and strength in all positions, but also for the strong comradeship they showed. Every time they went out they did it together, playing for their mates in having that strong desire to win for each other.

My congratulations to Hugh Warden in winning the Best and Fairest and to Steve Negrine as leading try scorer in the Club. For the third year in a row thanks to John Corlis for getting the team organised before the games, which certainly gives the Coach time to think about things. Congratulations also to my fellow coaches on providing a strong 50th Anniversary Year for the Club, winning the Club Championship by such a large margin certainly stamps Colleagues once again as the strongest Club in the Sydney Sub-District Competition.

JOHN NOICE, Coach.

BURKE CUP RECORD 1983

Games played: 20 Won 18 Lost 2

Tries scored: 40 — 9 against

Points scored: 307 — 100 against

Major Semi-Final: Colleagues 33 Hunters Hill 3

Grand Final: Colleagues 13 Lindfield 3

WHIDDON CUP 1983

Pipped at the post again!

We struggled all season with a small pack that worked on more heart than weight, and an excellent back line who were never given the amount of possession they deserved.

Despite these problems, we were able to work to a pattern that so nearly obtained our grand final goal.

I tried hard to combine experienced players with as many young and new members as possible. As in 1982, this worked well not only on the field, but also socially.

It was a frustrating season through injury and illness, with as many as eight changes from one week to the next. I thank the players from all grades who filled in during the season, and didn't complain when asked to play out of position.

Congratulations to Adam Tilley, Whiddon Cups' best and fairest player of the year. Other great efforts were put in by players such as Steve Biggs, Mick Colett, Tim Brosnan, Steve Negrine, John Lee, Andrew Draper and Richard Dunlop.

Sandy Ross, Ian McGregor and Jock Sutherland held us together during the tough times; they are great examples of the Colleagues strength.

To David Taylor our Captain, thank you for your assistance in getting the back line to perform so well, and having your team play in the right spirit.

Thanks to Chris Cusack from the players and me, for your efficient managers' role; to Andrew Chubb who assisted in our scrummaging practice, to Andrew Williams, who assisted in our back play tactics, to Mark Bowker and Ron Harriden for their endless supply of fit, willing replacements, to the committee and fellow coaches for their thankless hard work, to the reserves who stood by in all conditions, and to Jenny my Wife, for the encouragement she gave me throughout the long season.

Congratulations to John Noice and his Burke Cup team for winning their third consecutive Grand Final, an unbelievable record, and one for John and the Club to be proud.

Commiserations to Ian Edwards and the Kentwell team; unfortunately, I know how you feel! I am sure next year, will prove to be a more pleasing result for you.

1983, our 50th Anniversary, saw Colleagues prove once again, we are the Club to beat. I hope in 1984 we can add the Kentwell, Whiddon and Judd Cups to our Trophy Cabinet.

To all players who ran on the field with the Whiddon Cup team in 1983, thank you for your support, and consider the Club Championship Shield as reward for your efforts. Look towards 1984 for the elusive Whiddon Cup.

JOHN BUNCE.

JUDD CUP 1983

Judd Cup 1983 was the one that definitely got away. Even with a late charge for the semi-finals and the defeat of all but one of the four semi-finalists in the last round we were just 2 points off reaching a chance at the premiership.

Close losses in the first round to teams we should, (according to the backbenchers) have beaten easily, combined with an above average injury count caused the Juddies to be in an embarrassing fifth position with the final six games to come, but in true Colleagues fighting spirit we won five of the last six only to be just off the pace.

Many players were passed through the ranks this season, some to go on to higher grades and some to languish in the fighting fifths.. Captain for most of the season Tony (Rags) Kent lent a lot of support to me as did my co-coach, legal adviser Charles Vandervord. Congratulations to Shaun Deverall who won the team best and fairest by 20 lengths and took out the quinella in winning the club overall best and fairest, a lot more will be seen of Shaun in years to come at Colleagues as this fine player fills out and grows to full stature.

Of the regular members of the team Jock Sutherland, Chris (beak) Mathews, Bruce (I will retire next year) Donald, John (I'll be at training) Laws, Wayne Leaman, Michael (chook) France, Andy Draper, Andrew (I'll get fitter) Dunlop, Tim (am I dropped) Cullon, Chris Sewell, John (I'll do better) O'Lee and Andrew (nipper) Williams, Bruce (I'll take 5 tight heads) Diggle I thank all of you for a good season and thank you for your efforts.

Congratulations to Burke Cup for their third consecutive premiership under Noice's coaching and commiserations to Kentwell and Whiddon Cups. Congratulations to the club for holding on to the Club Championship.

My thanks to Andrew (Turkey) France for his team management and occasional appearances and to Ron Harridon for his continual help in selections from the Fighting Fifths.

Good luck for the 1984 season to all players new and old.

MARK BOWKER, Coach.

Gentlemen,

The 1983 Season for our FIFTHS looked very promising at the beginning of the year, for we had been placed into the Robertson Cup along with the fifths and Sixths of many 1st and 2nd Division Sydney Rugby Union teams as well as Hunters Hill Fifths and the "Regent All Stars". And on reflection, that we didn't finish a lot higher up the competition ladder, is disappointing considering the talent of the players available and the standard of the majority of our opposition teams:

However any disappointments are quickly overcome when one realises that we did complete the season with having to only forfeit (2) Competition Games a record that some of the more senior Sydney Rugby Union teams cannot claim and in fact our final game resulted in a meritorious 7-4 Victory over Drummoyne who had inflicted a 36-3 hiding to us in the first round.

It is often said in these reports that to mention every player who participated in a particular team would be difficult, as well in the case of the 1983 Robertson Cup it would be impossible as some 70 players appeared for us during the season and this does not include the U.N.S.W. chaps who came to our assistance when desperately short one Saturday.

However, I must pay special thanks to a number of people including Dave Hill our team manager, physiotherapist, barman and in fact a regular mother hen, without David's assistance the job of coaching a Colleagues Fifth grade side would be a burden and not a lot of fun as was the case again in 1983.

To Tony Glynn and John Keene our Captain and Vice Captain respectively my thanks for your help both on and off the field, and to our regular fifth grade players Bruce Diggle, Gary Connery, Michael Doolan, John Beckett, W. Carpenter, M. Clifford, Tim Cullen, John Lindsay, Pip Lyne, Ian MacGregor, Boyd Marina, D. Oliver, Chris Rowston, Michael Webster, thanks fellows we had a good year.

Congratulations to the Clubs' higher grades for retaining the Bruce Graham Memorial Shield (Club Championship) and I am sure that the winning of this most important trophy was in a big way made easier with the input of players into the higher grades from the Fifths. Ti John Noice and the Burke Cup well done, on retaining the Burke Cup for the 3rd successive year and to the Kentwell and Whiddon Cups congratulations on reaching the Grand Finals of your respective competitions.

The 1983 year was our FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY year and I am proud to have been coach of the Robertson Cup team in such an important season.

Yours in Rugby,

RONALD A. HARRIDEN, Roberson Cup Coach 1983

The Colleagues Club, in their 50th year, was dominant this season, achieving the Kentwell and Burke Cups minor premier-ships and comfortably winning the Bruce Graham Shield for the Club Championship. However, the evenness of the Competition as a whole was exemplified by all ten clubs participating in the semi-finals of the four cups, with Hunters Hill being the only Club to compete in all. The coveted Kentwell Cup was won by Bondi-Bronte in an excellent Grand Final against Colleagues—they had previously won it (as Bondi Lifesavers) in 1971. Colleagues and Hunters Hill shared the other three Cup trophies.

In their first year of First Division, Blue Mountains performed creditably, though found the competition noticeably stronger in the top grade. The C.B.O.B.S. Club after enjoying a good season in Judd Cup, will be the one to be relegated to Second Division in 1984.

FINAL RESULTS

Minor Semi-Finals

Kentwell Cup, Chatwood 6 vs Hunters Hill 6.
Burke Cup, Lindfield 9 vs Briars 6.
Whiddon Cup, Colleagues 12 vs Blue Mountains 3.
Judd Cup, Hunters Hill 17 vs C.B.O.B.S. 6.

Major Semi-Finals

Kentwell Cup, Colleagues 11 vs Bondi-Bronte 6.
Burke Cup, Colleagues 33 vs Hunters Hill 3.
Whiddon Cup, Hunters Hill 9 vs Old Waverlians 0.
Judd Cup, Old Waverlians 18 vs St. Patricks OB 3.

Finals

Kentwell Cup, Bondi-Bronte 18 vs Chatswood 9.
Burke Cup, Lindfield 18 vs Hunters Hill 6.
Whiddon Cup, Colleagues 16 vs Old Waverlians 6.
Judd Cup, Hunters Hill 18 vs St. Patricks OB 3.

Grand Finals

Kentwell Cup, Bondi-Bronte 13 vs Colleagues 12.
Burke Cup, Colleagues 13 vs Lindfield 3.
Whiddon Cup, Hunters Hill 10 vs Colleagues 4.
Judd Cup, Hunters Hill 20 vs Old Waverlians 12.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (BRUCE GRAHAM SHIELD)

Colleagues 912, Hunters Hill 790, Briars 620, Lindfield 580, St. Patricks OB 578, Chaswood 554, Bondi-Bronte 524, Old Waverlians 488, Blue Mountains 432, C.B.O.B.S. 282.

FIRST DIVISION — MINOR PREMIERSHIP

KEWNTWELL CUP

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Colleagues	16	1	1	405	143	33
Bondi-Bronte	12	2	4	276	138	26
Chatswood	12	1	5	204	147	25
Hunters Hill	9	3	6	179	139	21
Briars	10	—	8	179	186	20
Lindfield	8	2	8	188	191	18
St. Patricks	6	1	11	152	274	13
Old Waverlians	4	2	12	149	217	10
C.B.O.B.S.	4	2	12	143	266	10
Blue Mountains	2	—	16	144	318	4

BURKE CUP

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Colleagues	16	—	2	261	94	32
Hunters Hill	12	1	5	193	107	25
Lindfield	12	—	6	207	145	24
Briars	11	2	5	134	141	24
St Patricks	11	1	6	196	101	23
Blue Mountains	10	1	7	229	126	21
Chatswood	6	1	11	141	193	13
Old Waverlians	4	1	13	80	198	9
Bondi-Bronte	2	1	15	102	328	5
C.B.O.B.S.	2	—	16	88	828	4

WHIDDON CUP

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hunters Hill	15	—	3	251	84	30
Old Waverlians	13	1	4	159	95	27
Blue Mountains	10	1	7	167	111	21
Colleagues	10	—	8	190	132	20
Bondi-Bronte	8	1	9	132	164	17
Lindfield	7	2	9	136	125	16
Briars	7	2	9	111	131	16
St Patricks	6	2	10	118	147	14
Chatswood	6	2	10	143	211	14
C.B.O.B.S.	2	1	15	56	262	5

JUDD CUP

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Old Waverlians	13	3	2	112	47	29
St Patricks	13	1	4	171	82	27
Hunters Hill	12	3	3	140	98	27
C.B.O.B.S.	11	1	5	167	99	23
Coleagues	9	1	8	104	93	19
Bondi-Bronte	7	1	10	88	117	15
Blue Mountains	5	2	11	103	137	12
Briars	4	3	11	72	150	11
Chatswood	4	2	12	118	176	10
Lindfield	3	1	14	83	159	7

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

The year 1983 marked the 50th birthday of the "Colleagues". Fifty years ago, Tom Jackson and Ewan Pizzey laid the ground work for the formation of Colleagues as a Sub-District Rugby Club. Many others since 1933 have contributed to what Colleagues is today. On the 8th July, at the New Chevron Hotel, two hundred and twenty Colleagues of the past fifty years gathered to celebrate the Club's fiftieth anniversary. Colleagues of the 1930's present were:— Tom Jackson, Ewan Pizzey, David Higgins, Maurice Ball, "Taxi" Gore, Howard Amos, Alan Rich, Boyce Pizzey, Claude Renshaw, Allan Murchison, Cliff and John Bunce, Doug Murchison —undoubtedly a fine representation of members from the formative years of the Club. Many others from 40's, 50's, 60's 70's and 80's were present, however, space does not allow me to acknowledge them individually.

The dinner was characterised by a discreet number of speeches and their orderly conduct by the Master of Ceremonies, Hans Lamens. Members and guests were welcomed by the Club Captain Tim Booth, who provided some light entertainment by forgetting the "punch line" to the last joke in his repertoire. A toast to "Rugby" was proposed by John Barraclough and replied to by the Captain of the 1983 Kentwell Cup, John Anderson. The toast to the Colleagues Rugby Club was proposed by the 1933 Club Captain, Tom Jackson, and replied to by the President, Michael Caspers.

Official guests at the dinner were a past member of Colleagues, Alderman Jock McCallum, Deputy Mayor of Woollahra Municipal Council and Mr. David Barbour, Administrator of the Sydney Sub-District Rugby Union.

With the formalities dispensed with the Dinner guests then engaged in more informal activities, namely reminiscing over port and coffee. Indiscriminate chug-a-lugging soon broke out, however, some semblance of order was introduced when the drinking participants were separated into a "past" vs. "present" "boat race". Apparently the guile of the "past" team more than compensated for the speed of the "present" team.

The "past" team was saved from a multiplicity of "return matches" when some of the hotel staff were drenched in beer and the head waiter closed off the bar.

The 50th Anniversary Dinner had finished but many of the participants carried on celebrations in various bars and hotels in Kings Cross.

Saturday morning saw many a bleary eye and throbbing head emerge from their beds. Perhaps many of the "oldies" foresaw the condition they would be in on the Saturday and decided to stay at home rather than travel to the SCG and see the U.S.A. soundly beaten by the Australians. The bus, although badly patronised, proved to be the ideal means to travel to and from the SCG.

GRAFTON TOUR 1983

A cocktail party at the Double Bay Bowling Club on the Saturday evening allowed the wives and girl friends of Colleagues to participate and Patron of the Club, Alderman Judith May was in attendance for some time before leaving for another engagement. It was quite apparent that many of the Colleagues were still affected, physically, from the Friday evening and decided to preserve their energies for the football on the following day.

Sunday saw many past and present members engaging in some social and, at times, not so social rugby. The "past" versus the "present" Colleagues game started at a furious pace with many of the "past" players determined to show the "present" players HOW the game should be played. Despite the superior fitness of the "present" players the honours were eventually shared. The highlight of the day was the "Colleagues Selection" versus the "Old Adversaries" game. The "Old Adversaries" included many of the opposition players of yesteryear, such as: Chris Walker, Tony Turnbull, Graeme Oborn, Brian Harris, Terry O'Brien, Dave Leckie, Dick Crooks, John Noice, and Turner Massie.

The "Colleagues Selection" included many past and present members such as: John Noice, John Anderson, John Keene, Gary Connery, Sandy Ross, Roger Monson, Dave Porter and Morgan Chubb. Despite a suspected heart attack and a couple of dislocations most players survived the games with only minor aches & bruises.

The after-game proceedings were characterised by a number of speeches and the unveiling of the C. S. Noice Memorial Board listing all players achieving 100 or more games for the Club.

These formalities marked the finish of the birthday party.

In fifty years, Colleagues has won the Kentwell Cup eleven times, the Burke Cup eleven times, the Whiddon Cup two times, the Judd Cup two times and the Club Championship seventeen times.

It is to be hoped that Colleagues can build on these past successes in the next fifty years.

The desire to follow in the footsteps of past tourists to Grafton was again deep in the hearts of tour organisers this year. The list went up and as usual the organisers were swamped with definite maybe's, and an unwillingness to provide funds.

Being one of the more organised tours to leave the clubhouse, the appropriate bribes had passed to the organisers for the official positions available. Morty's payola was sufficient to earn him team coach, but we understand funds were subsequently exhausted and he could not attend. Doug Ambrose on the other hand was able to provide the organisers with a delicate night out at the Royal Commonwealth Club which well and truly earned him the tour captaincy.

From the initial consultation with the driver, left handed drinking was the go. With the lack of tourists (eighteen) and the familiar faces present, it was hard to believe that a year had passed. The last to arrive wearing dark glasses was the tour captain. His arrival marked the revelation that drinking port until 8.30 a.m. was not good for your health. Apparently Michael Gazel realised that such activities were not good for his financial health.

The first stop was the Dam Hotel, a stop marked by a rapid protein intake for some 30 minutes. In the case of the captain it was the first of many mistakes.

Negotiations with the driver had proved successful, and we were able to drink on the bus. This enabled our next stop to be at Macksville for traditional Mexican cuisine and the Star Hotel for a beer. After meeting the local Rugby League team, Nick Rice led us through a rendition of the Seven Dwarfs (the English version, unabridged). From there it was back on the road. It was about this time that we realised Bill Curry had developed a penchant for drinking warm beer, the results being obvious.

Each tour has a moment which will linger in the hearts of all tourists. Alan, our host, with his arms open in welcome on the steps of the Sundowners Good Intent Hotel provided such a moment. Thoughts of football gave way to the task at hand when we realised we had to play Grafton Ghosts, the local Rugby League team, at 12.45 p.m. the next day. It was at this early stage, midnight, that the new tourists were exposed to the delights of touring. Our younger members, Tim Cullen and Steve Negrine were required to participate in age old rituals reaching back some three years to The Beak's historic bar-room performance. It was around this time that the cards came out, and it was the benevolent Daniel Storch who donated most to his fellow tourists' tour funds. Thinking back to the previous year, he thought it was wise to limit his spending money.

The breakfast hadn't changed from the year before and neither had the nine o'clock opening time for the bar. Chris Mathews was at home behind the bar and appreciated the additional facilities not available at Colleagues. This was highlighted by the demand for Blue Lagoons and Depth Charges.

GOLDEN OLDIES

Fred Mulhall at this early stage decided that the game was of secondary importance and was befriended by the tour captain. By kick off time he had come unstuck on Blue Lagoons. Ross Collins arrived courtesy of the bush pilot and was at home reading the Herald.

Okay, so we didn't play on the main oval, and the change rooms and toilets weren't open, and these factors may have affected our poor performance. The early indicator was Nick Rice having the misfortune of squeezing too hard in an early practice scrum and then having to change into clean apparel. The half time score was respectable after Hugh Warden scored a try from a line-out whilst the Grafton Ghosts were enquiring as to where the scrum was to be packed down. Nothing will be said about the second half except that it was hot.

On attending the main oval our cultural attache decided the local folk needed real culture and proceeded to become the naked figurehead on the coach. This was a move well orchestrated by Adam Wilson and Chris Mathews.

From there it was back to the hotel where Alan responded to the pressure and provided sustenance to all. The VFL grand final captured our attention, with darts and other games prominent. As time went on, a head count revealed that two tourists had attempted the unthinkable. They had gone to their rooms with the thought of having a rest. These two will learn by their mistakes. Older tourists were aware of the garden hose outside the bedroom window. Craig Phelps was severely drenched trying to hide behind his clothes in the cupboard. Steve Negrine, though not in the cupboard, received the same treatment.

Other tourists sampled the delights of the big town, the high-light being Des Hill travelling down the main street in a shopping trolley. Our younger tourist Campbell stayed at the hotel and provided those present with a rendition of Ned Kelly. This performance was short lived and he was assisted to bed. His appearance in the morning was somewhat different to that of the night before.

The remainder of the evening was spent waiting for the America's Cup and subsequently watching Alan's home movies. It was not until Sunday morning that we could confirm that it was a watch and not a bracelet that the lead actor had misplaced.

It was a touching moment on Sunday morning when Alan announced that he had a trophy to present to the club. The trophy was accepted on behalf of the club by Michael France whom Alan had singled out as showing exceptional qualities during the current stay in the hotel.

Having decided earlier not to play on the Sunday, it was on the road again. The only stop was at Taree to watch the League grand final. It was after the first try in this game that Daniel Storch, showing what a great Rugby League supporter he is, realised that a try was worth four points. Back in the bus for the final leg home, entertainment was at a peak; Steve's rendition of Australiana being most memorable, not to forget the contributions by others. The early arrival back at Colleagues allowed tourists to escape with only a reprimand from their loved ones and to be at work on Monday.

The Tour Organisers.

"I must go down to the field again, though I be half short sighted and lame and further refuse to exercise or train, All I want is another game."

In the spirit of that bit of doggeral and with the firm belief that "tackle" is something you use to fish with Colleagues entered a team in the Sydney Golden Oldies.

This event had a bigger cast than "Quo Vadis" and just to prove that they had lost none of their skills, these over 35's legends managed to knock off about 1½ semi trailer loads of beer in the first morning. The event was sponsored by the Australian College of Orthopaeds and the grand award was won by some guy who on the first kick off missed, hit the ground and broke his ankle. The team played three games and as the emphasis was on participation no results will be published.

Selection was based strictly on ability, the ability to get your wife to let you play.

As you will notice from the photograph they all are at the peak of physical fitness, if anything a shade overtrained and this photo will also reveal the secret of their positional play, bunch up so you are not blamed for missing any tackle. In fact during one stage of play one player somewhat against the spirit of the game was heard yelling "Where is the bloody support" only to be told that he was wearing it.

Most players refreshed memories of their mercurial ability and agility to change a game in a twinkling, often we'd be sitting on a comfortable lead and suddenly after some brilliant individual play would be down two tries. One notable opponent was the former All Black Kel Tremain. Tony Glynn only noticed his presence when on making a break, it suddenly got very dark all around him, something like a total eclipse and afterwards Tony was mumbling about who got the number of the truck! Everybody nicknamed the half back Luke, because he wasn't so hot and the contest was so keen in the forwards that whoever put in the ball won it. After the opposition had fed the scrum five times in a row someone asked the referee how come we never get to put it in and he replied quick as a flash that he just wanted to make us feel at home. The event was a great success and certainly enjoyed by all participants.

MICHAEL FITZGERALD.

