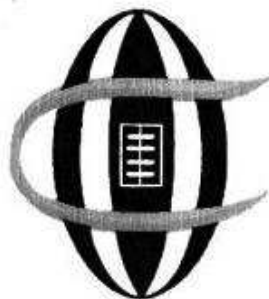


**THE
WOOLLAHRA
COLLEAGUES
RUGBY
UNION
FOOTBALL
CLUB**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2002**

**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES
RUGBY UNION
FOOTBALL CLUB**

(Established 1933)
Headquarters Woollahra No 2
PO Box 197, Double Bay, 2028

2002 OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON: His Worship the Mayor of Woollahra

PRESIDENT: Richard McGrath

VICE PRESIDENTS:

J. Anderson, Esq.	L.J.F. Barraclough, Esq.
T. Booth, Esq.	M. Caspers, Esq.
J. Corlis, Esq.	R. Harriden, Esq.
J. Hitchen, Esq.	D. Kirkwood, Esq.
H. Lamens, Esq.	C. Messenger, Esq.
A. Murchison, Esq.	J. Noice, Esq.
A. Ross, Esq.	E. Radford, Esq.
F. Storch, Esq.	C. Vandervord, Esq.

CLUB CAPTAIN: Will Foster

SECRETARY: Hugh Urquhart

TREASURER: James Dolton and Andrew Moses

COMMITTEE:

Matt Bushby, Dan Petrere, Edward Sanders, Jack Mesley, John Scharrer, Todd Ferguson, Will Foster, Paul Henningham, Lachlan Benson, Jonathon Purbrick, Cameron Ireland, Justin Crawford, Michael O'Sullivan, Jon Irwin
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

J. Anderson, L.J.F. Barraclough, T. Booth, R. Caldwell, M. Caspers, M. Clifford, J. Corlis, B. Diggle, I. Edwards, D. Gooch, R. Harriden, J. Herman, J. Hitchen, D. Kirkwood, H. Lamens, J. Noice, E. Radford, S. Ross, F. Storch, C. Vandervord,

HONORARY AUDITOR: Michael Clifford

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2002 Trophy Winners

Club Captain	; Will Foster
Team Captains;	
Barbour Cup;	Dan Kelly
Halligan Cup;	Nat Bradford
Sutherland Cup;	Jeremy Nesbitt
Judd Cup;	Laclan Benson
Whiddon Cup;	Richard Byrne
Burke Cup;	Adam Upton
Kentwell Cup;	Mark Colless
Team Coaches	
Barbour Cup;	Cameron Ireland
Halligan Cup;	Lawrence Campbell – Avenell, Nat Bradford
Sutherland Cup;	Michael O'Sullivan, Jon Irwin
Judd Cup;	Jon Purbrick, Hamish Macathie
Whiddon Cup;	Todd Ferguson
Burke Cup;	Michael Boyd, Tony Martin
Kentwell Cup;	Michael Doyle, Stu Brown, Geoff Fenwicke
Club;	Michael Doyle
Best & Fairest	
Barbour Cup	Dan Kelly
Sutherland Cup;	Steve Robson
Judd Cup;	Lachlan Benson
Whiddon Cup;	Ralph Williams
Burke Cup;	Ben Chadwick
Kentwell Cup;	Luke Kenniff
Club;	Dylan Foo
100 Games;	Ben Chadwick, Shem Pearson
200 Games;	Glyn Breeze
The Pappas & General Award;	Charlie Powell and James Bush
Team scoring the most tries;	Kentwell Cup
Leading Try Scorer ;	Robert Buckley
Leading Points scorer;	Andrew Brassier
Most Improved Player;	Tim Robinson
Oldest & Boldest;	Michael Boyd
Rookie of the Year;	Hugh Howey
Players Player;	Adrian Morris

The Colleagues Honor Cap 2002; Michael Doyle

This year Colleagues enjoyed tremendous success on and off the field. That success can be measured in many ways. The best way is premierships, 3 out of 7. Then it would be teams in Grand Finals, 5 out of 7. And you could probably be happy with teams in finals 6 out of 7. Or our new born relationship with group of young men out of the Colleges of Sydney University.

Off the field Colleagues stated hard out of the blocks with a Ladies Day on the first round of the season. New innovations like 'family day' complete with jumping castle and face painting. The Long Lunch was again long and well attended. Followed by our biggest ever Ladies Day, the Ball and Presentation Night. We now have a hectic social calendar that does take some organising.

The credit for all the above go to the players, coaches and committee.

The engine room of the committee comprised of Will Foster, Hugh Urquhart, James Doltan and his replacement Andrew Moses.

Will's first year as Club Captain showed what a competent individual he is. His organisational skills from negotiating sponsorships to game day clean up were superb. He took on all tasks with great enthusiasm and can be well pleased with the success that he has enjoyed this year.

Hugh had another efficient year as secretary making sure that every thing went smoothly behind the scenes. Over 200 registered player with at least six teams playing each week and sometimes eight, Hugh did a mighty job organising games, registrations and keeping our relationship with the Union strong.

What is it with the Colleagues Treasurers? The last four have only lasted a year before being promoted overseas or have taken off to do a MBA. James Doltan came in at the end of last year and left midyear when Andrew Moses stepped in. Both are very competent and took on the responsibility of the club finances and did a great job, from collecting takings to handling test tickets.

Many others on the committee contributed enormously including Tom McCardell and Andrew Petrie for merchandise. Lachlan Benson and Shaun Cousins with the organisation of Mudge this year and last, and Bali in October. Cam Ireland who juggled playing Kentwell, organising the Colts and the Ball. Those who organised the club with set up and clean up at day's end. There is always something to do and we seem to get most of it done.

Club Coach was Michael Doyle who again led from the front. Michael's energy is boundless and infectious. I am sure that he earned the respect of every one in the club in the way he handled other coaches, players and in particular the organisation of the finals campaign. Congratulations on a fine year to Geoff

Fenwick, Stu Brown, Michael Boyd, Tony Martin, Todd Ferguson, Sam Reynolds, John Purbrick, Hamish McCathie, John Irwin, Michael O'Sullivan, Laurence Campbell and Brain Wood. All can be proud of the way you turned your teams out each week and their performances through out the year.

The construction of the new clubhouse has come along way this year with additional funds raised at our Long Lunch and a cheque for \$200,000 handed over to Council in April. It has been a long haul and we are very close, but once the building commences we have an obligation to make sure that it is a structure that all Colleagues past, present and future can be proud of. So expect to see another invitation to the Long Lunch early in the season.

Rugby clubs do not get easier to run, there is always some advancement that takes place and inevitably costs money. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking our sponsors who are essential to the success of the Colleagues. B-braun, Royal Hotel, Empire Hotel, Ryan's Bar, Jan Logan, Bell Potter Securities and David Begg & Associates. We are fortunate to have such great support from these businesses and we look forward to their continued support into the future.

Finally I would like to thank the players.

Colleagues is a great rugby club because of the individuals that make the collective. Nobody does it alone, we all make it happen together. The way we play the game with passion and vigor. The support that we get from past Champions who hang on the walls of the clubhouse as a reminder of what is possible. The support that we give each other through thick and thin, on and off the field, in victory and defeat. That is why we play, coach and make the many sacrifices that are needed to be successful. It is something that you can just not get anywhere, so enjoy it for as long as you can.

As always and forever, proud to be a Colleague.

Richard McGrath
PRESIDENT

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

This year has been an incredible success for the Giants, very obviously on the field, where we have had the best year in a long time. Our premierships in Burke and Sutherland Cup are the first in those grades since 1996, and we hold the Halligan Cup for the second year in a row giving us three Cups to take pride of place in the new Clubhouse.

We started the year with a trial in Canberra against the Universities and Norths team after an entertaining bus trip. The relationship with the Universities one is valuable for us – I think we now have around 30 members who have played with Unis, or heard about us through Unis – and it is a good one to nurture. Next March they will again travel up here to trial against us for the third consecutive year.

The trials progressed and we were ready for Iggies first round in a spectacular show of Blue Giant strength winning all games bar Kentwell and Barbour in what was a fabulous start to the season. What made it better was Ladies Day - not only did we beat the best going around but we did it in front of a few hundred great sorts. This to me is real Blue Giant rugby.

Out in front in the Club Championship we then 'Blue Rinsed' St Ives up on the High Veld, and proceeded to take all comers in most grades every weekend. A particular highlight for me was the Colts win at Drummoyne – the boys showed in that game that they had the stuff Blue Giants are made of, exploiting every attacking opportunity while defending fiercely when under pressure and coming away with a tight victory.

We had a slow start to the second round with a bad day at Iggies, however the tight results in most grades showed how close the two Clubs were all year, a trend that continued through to the finals. We recovered quickly a few weeks later, 'Blue Rinsing' Hunters Hill at Boronia Park and virtually ensuring their relegation to 2nd Division.

On the entertainment scene we had a top year with two seriously big Ladies Days and another great night at Tatts for the Ball. Thanks to Cam Ireland, Andrew Moses and Lachie Benson for making it all happen, I really believe that this year has been the most enjoyable year off the field since I have been a member.

The Colts were a great addition to the Club this year thanks to the organising efforts of Cam Ireland and their skipper, Dan Kelly. They had a solid first season, and they will be a big force in the competition next year as they all still qualify and are keen to stay with the Club.

We finished the home and away season extremely strongly, not losing a senior game in the last three weeks of rugby – an awesome feat and a credit to the coaches who ensured that all teams were peaking at the right end of the season.

The three weeks of the finals were a lot of fun for all involved, but having 5 sides qualify was a big ask for players, coaches and administrators alike. I'd like to make a special thankyou to Brian Wood, Sean Smith, Nat Bradford and all the other boys who helped out with the tent and lugging gear to and from the clubhouse. Even in the euphoria of Grand Final day Woodsie and Bear were

SECRETARY'S REPORT

there packing up the ute and heading back to drop off the gear before heading up to the Royal to start celebrating with the rest of the Club. Doyle, the rest of the coaches and Hughie Urquhart did a fabulous job of getting the sides organised to be qualified and submitted to the Union, and the team managers that we had for all grades did a great job on game day.

We experienced the highs and lows that all Clubs feel during finals footy, from the heartbreak of the Kentwell Semi to the excitement of the dominating Burke Cup Grand Final win. Through the whole three weeks the Club was together as one, even after the Kentwell and Halligan boys had finished their seasons, there they were at training, doing whatever they could to help the Club to bring home the silverware.

And bring it home we did – who will ever forget Peach's kick to win the Sutherland, or Chadders breaking the line to put Payto over and change the momentum of the Burke Cup Grand Final. I certainly won't.

A few thankyous:

- Crawford and Brian Wood for your advice and encouragement in my first year in this role.
- Lachie Benson for organising the tours and the game day clean ups – they were easily the best we've had for a long time.
- Mose for the awesome job he has done as Treasurer
- The Rock for making sure that everything is going along well behind the scenes.

To Mike Doyle, thanks mate, whatever the future holds we have achieved a lot in the last two years and in our eyes you will always be a Blue Giant. Your infectious enthusiasm and love for the game of rugby has given a new spirit to Colleagues.

Richard, we couldn't hope to have a better man in charge of our Club's future, he has made the new Clubhouse a reality and we are in safe hands over the next few years with him at the helm.

Boys, thank you all for making this a great year – 3 premierships is a great achievement in anyone's book. Every Blue Giant has made an impact this season, and everyone has been successful. Congratulations on a top year.

Will Foster
CLUB CAPTAIN

The 2002 season has proven to be a successful year both on and off the field for the Colleagues Rugby Club. It saw the club achieve a number of milestones. These were as follows:-

- The winning of three cups, our best achievement since 1996. Congratulations to all coaches and players and a special mention should be made of Michael Doyle, our club coach over the last two years, who has put in a power of work to help get the club to a higher level, not just from the on field organization but in how we manage things off the field.
- Handing over of monies to the Woollahra Council for the building of our new clubhouse and amenities block. I would like to congratulate the people who have made this happen over the last few years and extend on behalf of the current body of members and past members a sincere thank you. These are Charlie Van Der Vord, Mark Grey-Spencer, Toby Lawson, Hans Lamens, Tim Booth, Will Foster and of course our President, Richard McGrath who has really been the driving force over the last couple of years.
- On the social side the club again held another resounding long lunch, helping to raise more funds for our club. Tim Booth and I have enjoyed organising what we hope will continue to be a successful annual event. We would like to thank the Tattersals club for hosting us in their club, which provides a wonderful place for such an esteemed body of men to gather and relive past glories.
- The two ladies days were again a fantastic success, both socially and on the financial side. Many thanks to those who contributed to organising these two days.
- On the financial side you will see from the treasurer's report, we had a strong year. These results can only be derived from a delegation of duties amongst members and then each of those people following through in carrying out these tasks. The committee are these people and they put in a lot of work to get all these things done. I won't go through all the jobs that people do but thank you to all. Generally all members are most willing to pitch in when asked. This is most evident on home games, when the ground must be set up and then packed away. It has always been left spotless for the dog walkers on Sunday morning!
- Gear retention has been much better this year, but we must always be vigilant on this front. This is a responsibility of all members.
- I would like to thank Richard McGrath and Will Foster for their help this year. They have both been outstanding in their respective rolls and have carried out their very busy jobs with humour and patience. Their help to me has been invaluable. I would also like to make special mention of Jon Ryan, our club registrar, who helped me with

CLUB COACH'S REPORT

registrations, especially in double checking names once we had five teams in the semi's. He is a whiz on the spread sheet.

- Lastly, thank you to all members who have donated to our new club house. As I write this, I was informed earlier in the day that the council will start turning dirt on the 10th October. Where on our way. We will always remember the old one and I am sure the new one will provide a place for comradeship for many future Colleagues for years to come. As John Barraclough wrote many years ago - 'This is the greatest Rugby club in the world'.

Hugh Urquhart
HON. SECRETARY

Fellow Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Club Rugby report for the season 2002. What a incredible thrill for me to watch the transformation of Woollahra Colleagues from a having an average season in 2001 to the superb club performance of 2002. You all should be very proud of the hard work and determination that this transformation took from the Kentwell Cup side right down to the several fine performances of the Barbour Cup Colts team.

One of the most memorable highlights, in a season full of highlights, was the club running Second in the prestigious Club Championship. This alone was a fine performance and one that you all should proud of. I believe this to be a real indicator of the strength of Colleagues rugby and I also believe that the number one position is not far away from being ours and we must strive to achieve this.

To win one premiership during the course of a football season is a fine performance, however to win three and be runner up in two more is a totally outstanding performance.

The mighty Halligan Cup's performance to win "back to back" premiership by being first past the post, with a couple of weeks to spare, was a great effort. Lawrence Campbell- Avenell and Nat Bradford should be congratulated for the spirit and success that they generated with their squad in one of the hardest to organise team competitions going around. Well done !!! The rest of the club used this performance as a catalyst for success as the end of the regular season and as the semi finals loomed.

The regular season ended and we had achieved all senior grades in the First weekend of Semi final football. The Barbour Cup side had finished in eighth position in the Colts competition, having several fine performances along the way. This was their first year playing together and most of the players still have another year under the colts age limit, so we can look forward to continued success from this group. I would just like to say a very big thank you to Cam Ireland (Kentwell Cup player) for the time that he put into these lads to make them a success. Also a huge thank you to Dan Kelly , the captain of the team, for his total commitment to the team.

The first semi final weekend of football loomed as a very good test for the senior teams, the coaches and the club management. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who made the final series run so smoothly. To The General, Brian Wood, his Sergeants Nat Bradford and Shaun "the Bear" Smith, and to your Army, your commitment was outstanding and the results we achieved would not have been achieved without your enthusiasm. Well done, Men !! Stand at ease !! (you deserve it) Carry on!!

Even with the "Best laid Battle plans" sometime things don't go according to plan. This weekend out of five matches, we only managed to win one game (the sudden death semi in Judd Cup.) This sadly meant the end of the year for the Kentwell Cup side been beaten by St.Ives 17- 14. This defeat cut deep into the men of this side, after beating them twice during the year and finishing above them on the competition table. The Game was dominated by the Colleagues side everywhere except the scoreboard. We will learn a lot from this defeat, however it does not make it easier to bear. Burke, Whiddon and Sutherland teams had to pick up there wounded bodies and return to headquarters to fight another day. Judd needed to continue on their winning way.

The efforts of these teams and coaching staff over the next week was tremendous. The concentration and belief in the task at hand was phenomenal. We stormed towards the next weekend of finals with great vigour and enthusiasm. By stumps on the afternoon of the 7th September, 2002 Colleagues had booked themselves four Grand Final berths without a point been scored against us. Surely a record in itself !! Once again the "Colleagues Juggernaut" had performed superbly a credit to all the people involved. Thank You !!

Once again we returned to "Blue Giant Headquarters" knowing that there was lots of work to do before the forthcoming Grand Final Day. We all went about the build up knowing the job was not yet finished. The Club feeling in this week was the best it had been all season. The coaches of all the teams kept everyone's feet on the ground and prepared their sides for the final game of the year.

Wentworth Park Dog Track, 14 th September, 2002 was to be the place of destiny for the Burke, Whiddon, Judd and Sutherland Cup teams. An immaculate football field in the centre of the track was the place for the final battles to take place. At 8AM the "Colleagues Juggernaut" began to arrive for what was to be a special day in the Clubs History.

The outcome of the next seven hours of Rugby are now etched in the New South Wales Suburban Rugby's History books. It was a fine day for Woollahra Colleagues Rugby :- winning the **BURKE AND SUTHERLAND CUPS** and having fine team performances in **WHIDDON AND JUDD CUP**, ending the day as runners up. This was a exceptional club performance to add to our premiership in **HALLIGAN CUP** and our second in the Club Championship. **THIS WAS A FINE YEAR OF RUGBY.**

The "THANK YOU LIST" for a special season such as this will always be a long one so please bear with me. A season such as this does not just happen-everyone plays a part, so if I miss saying "Thank You" to anyone I apologise, you all meant a great deal to me and to the Blue Giants.

The Club President, Richard McGrath, the Club Captain, Will Foster, the always impressive Secretary, Hugh Urquhart and 2002 Colleagues Committee thank you all for incredible support and enthusiasm during the season. We are now moving into a new era of "Colleagues Rugby" and the place could not be in better hands.

To the coaching staff :- Geoff and Brownly in Kentwell, Boydy and Marto in Burkies, Todd and Sam in Whiddo's, Jonny and Hamish in Judd, Michael and Jon in Sutherland, Lawrence and Nat in Halligan and Cam helping out in Barbour. You are a unique bunch of special people. Congratulations to you all on what you achieved this year. Thank you for your support and belief that we could create something very special. Its been a pleasure working with everyone of you. Thank you for the hours of hard work, the hundreds of telephone calls and the total commitment to your teams. You will all hold a special spot in my rugby memory and I thank you all for this.

To the club sponsors :- Rugby clubs would not exist if it was not for you people, who really get little for your generosity. I thank you for allowing us to create what happened this year, and for the memories that will never be able to be taken away from us as a club. A special personal thank you to Mr. David Crawford, not only is he a major sponsor of Colleagues, but the best supporter of all the club sides. He is amazing in his enthusiasm for Colleagues, he is often seen doing the most unenviable job on match day or running to get a kicking tee. This is surely above and beyond the call of duty. David, I thank personally for your enthusiastic support and friendship during the last two years and I will cherish the friendship I have developed with you and your whole extended family. Cheers, mate.

To the medical staff:- Jerry and Amanda from Sydney Physio, Thank you very much for everything you did during the year. It certainly makes my job much easier knowing the players have your professional help at their finger tips. Colleagues is very lucky to have such a professional outfit to service them.

To my two managers:- Charlie and Bushy. Once again a season of football comes to an end and I look behind me to see who is still there, and everywhere I look I see you two guys. You have become incredible friends and co-workers, as we work towards achieving the best we can. Your work ethic for Colleagues in the past two years has been unquestionable and the results of the club has been as a direct result of this. On behalf of Colleagues and myself well done for an exceptional year.

To the rest of the Colleagues family it has been a tremendous journey over the past two years, and as we enter the new era of "Colleagues Rugby" I hope we can do it with the enthusiasm and unselfishness that was displayed this year. Thank you for all your support during 2002.

Finally to my special wife, Angela and my family, Holly, Harry and Emma, who give me the wonderful freedom to pursue my passion and are often called upon to lift me up when things our down. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Now for the front Garden !!!!!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone of you !!!

“GO YOU BLUE GIANTS”

Michael Doyle
CLUB COACH

KENTWELL CUP REPORT

Fellow Colleagues,

We sit here writing this report and still can't believe the season for the Kentwell Cup side ended the way it did. We have spoken to a lot of people who have each given their opinion of why, and we still don't have a better grip on it. This is not to say that we felt the season was a unsuccessful one, the opposite actually applies. We feel that the season 2002 was a tremendous season for the side. In rugby clubs each team has its role to play and we believe that the success of the club this year comes down to the improvement and success of the Kentwell Cup side. Each team had to go and win their individual games but when the team at the top is having success it tends to drag the rest of the club along.

The season began much more settled than the previous year, Geoff and Mike had coached the side before and with the arrival of Stuart Brown, to be our forward coach, to replace Nigel Davis, who had retired at end of 2001, the coaching staff was in place. The management of the team was once again in the very capable hands of James Bush and Charlie Powell backing up for another year. With no Hong Kong Tour, the players were champing at the bit to get the action happening.

After a successful pre- season , we set about building a team that could get us in the 'top four' come September. Many of the faces from last year began to bubble to the top and with the inclusion of several new faces, the nucleus of the team looked quite stable. We played some good football in the first round, but still couldn't force our way into the top four teams. We had experimented with several combinations all over the paddock in the first round trying to achieve the right balance. Finally it was coming together nicely as we moved through the second round. Our results were now gearing us for a top four finish. The

players had responded to the hard work been put in at training and results such as the defeat of Drummoyne and been pipped at the post by Iggies at Ryde were very satisfying.

We qualified for the semi finals with a week to spare and upon winning the last round against Mosman, we had finished the regular season clear in third place. A fine effort. We don't like to mention too many names in team reports, as we feel everyone has a job to do to make a team successful, however two men do come to mind. Dylan Foo who, while playing in his first year at Colleagues, made the representative team and also is one of the three players nominated for the player of the Kentwell Cup Competition. Dylan is a uncompromising backrower and was a pleasure to coach in his first year at Colleagues. Well done, Dylan. On the other end of the time scale was Mark Colless, our Captain for the year. Mark has been at Colleagues for several years now and once again he played in the representative side. His leadership and ability to read a game assisted us greatly to achieve the results we achieved. Mark is the perfect player to coach, he attacks and defends at 110% with no concern of his personal safety. Mark, it has been a pleasure to have you in the team and a pleasure to coach you.

The team developed very well in the lead up to the semi finals with every player doing his job, to make the job easier for each other. In our opinion all the players in the team improved throughout the year and that is the prime objective of the coaches. The semi final against St Ives was to be our last game together as a team. We lost that game, but probably played some of the best football of the year during that eighty minutes.

We would like to thank all the players who played Kentwell Cup this year for their commitment and their support to the coaching staff. In our opinion the Kentwell Cup premiership is not far from our grasp. Continue to strive for improvement and believe in what you are doing and the results will come.

Thank you must also be given to the outstanding job that Charlie Powell and James Bush did as our managers this year. Then team and the coaches are forever grateful for the job you guys put in- week in, week out. Thank you from everyone.

Congratulations and thank you to all the other coaching staff on your fine performances this year. It has being a pleasure to be involved with everyone of you.

Have a great Christmas and a safe New Year.

Michael Doyle

Geoff Fenwicke

Stuart Brown

BURKE CUP COACHES REPORT

The following is full of praise and plenty of smoke, blown squarely up every ones arse. It is not everyday that you have the opportunity to do this, I have waited 10 years at Colleagues for this moment. I will not abstain from being gloriously generous in my words of thanks to all and sundry.... simply because I think we deserve all the praise available.

So here is mine...

I could not have imagined, back in March, the feeling of such sweet satisfaction that I now sit with as I recall the past six months. To be honest it has been the most enjoyable year of football I can remember, without doubt the most successful and there are numerous thank you's to be expressed.

Firstly to the club officials for the great job of providing the framework and support for all involved on the field in the games contested.

To the fans and previous playing Colleagues from all seasons past who watched and cheered from first game till the last Grand Final whistle, I hope the sweet taste of victory is still tickling those taste buds a couple of weeks on, as it is for me and the players.

To the coaches and managers who were all part of what was an astounding season of success. I hope some one took notes on how that formula went. Congratulations on your fantastic results this year, just reward for all the hard work put in.

I do believe that Mike Doyle's roll as head coach over the past two seasons were a huge part of this years success that the grades enjoyed on the field as well as off and in the sheds.

Thanks Doylo for all the time you put in for the Burkies this year. I had to learn a new role and you were great, thanks mate. Included in that thanks is Brian Woods (my first coach at the Giants) and Richard McGrath for their words and thoughts through out the season.

Part of the role of 2nds coach is working with first grade and saving your better players in Burkies from ending up in Kentwell. So lucky were we with the quality of players that I could provide Mike, Jeff and Stuart with most of their eventual first grade line up. Well done to the first grade boys and to your gutsy efforts to finish off our day on Saturdays.

A good bunch of guys were lucky enough to find each other and play some footy in 2002. To all the players this year who pulled on the boot.....HOW GOOD ARE WE? FANTASTIC!!!!

And now to the Burkies.....

It is Thursday night before the start of the season and the forwards and backs have broken off. Firsts have lost Spanner on the run around the field with an ankle strain; Clemo soon follows with a blown knee. Micky Wydeham moves up from 3s and is mixing in at the line out until his eyebrow is given a six or seven stitch opening by Dylan Foos head. Doylo enjoyed me letting him know that, especially as Dylan sat out the rest of training. I'm not sure if Todd Ferguson minded when I asked him after training had finished for his next available prop for Saturday he just looked a little stunned.

So started the year.

First round Vs Iggies Ladies Day. I don't think I was nervous, probably a little edgy due to the fact that I hadn't played in the earlier fixtures. I was extremely happy though having just seen Old Ignations 5s, 4s and 3s beaten at the breakdown and on the scoreboard. Any fear of being the team to loose the rhythm and succumb to the opposition was only a flash in my mind as the boys on the field took control and snuffed Iggies out. Impressed! I would continue to be impressed through out the whole first round with the teams tenacious defence and incredibly powerful scrum. The confidence created by these two aspects of the game was to remain constant through out and be the difference between two teams on Grand final day six months on. While true that we let few teams score highly against us we were no flash on the score board either during the regular season. The reason for this I feel was fly half being one of the only positions not secured by the same player on a regular basis through out and into the 2nd round. If we were to win this that would have to be resolved.

Best game of the 1st round would be Iggies game 1 at home; Gutsiest Vs Dundas Valley and poorest Vs Forest.

I had been talking to Tony Martin since season start about coming down and joining in. Hesitant at first about leaving his beloved UWS Hawkesbury he joined us in time to have us draw, loose twice in three games. I of course blamed him and was done with it.

It was a great relief to have him on board, a player with his experience was needed and we got him. Tony also joined me later in the season in playing in the Sutherland Cup victory, Id reckon he was as pleased as us to be here. Things were solid and leading the comp at the turn I looked forward to game 1 of the 2nd round.

The things I noticed with these blokes was that they were highly motivated, looked for direction and seemed organized in their play. Our captain for the year was a Colleague who I had met back in the early 90s. He was a kid compared to my 28years back then but has always showed a maturity on the

field that made him a natural choice as leader of the Burke Cup 2002. Uppers and I did not have an on the phone everyday sort of relationship but spoke and expressed ourselves when required and kept it going. Thanks for your leadership Adam, I don't know how you went in the B&F points but you fulfilled your role as "lead from the front player" for me and the boys joined you. The sound of our pre game focus with studs and voices all climbing in intensity always brought comment from the sideline and no doubt left an impression on the team waiting to face us. Enjoy it mate you did a fantastic job!

Round 2

A lack of fitness cost us the game out at Ride oval and the lead for the rest of the year. That was never a concern because we knew that as Iggies scored bonus after bonus point they would have to face us in the semis and once again we would be there to smash them anywhere we could. Our front row was superior in most grades this year with such depth down into 5s that we rarely gave anything away up front. Thanks to all the boys who had a go up front, to hear you speak about it sort of sounded like "fun". Spanner yelled "cunts" and stomped, leading the boys forward all year. Fantastic work you old cunt. Lovey considers himself an old cunt, I believe it to be the hard life you've endured buddy. Crawl and Robbo, Nic O'neil, Riaan, Clydey were all part of the original machine that hurt every scrum in the early rounds. Richard Brown was there from the start and except for being MIA catching bad guys and stuff was part of the line out through out. Brownie also developed a fantastic wing game during touch on Thursdays.... keep an eye on him next year for a possible position change. Lovey and Jon Scharrer gave us the push in the scrum not to mention the ball in the air. Jon unfortunately had his nose put all over his face 2 weeks in a row and on advice took it easy after that sitting out the rest. Bad luck mate see you next year. The backrow remained big and committed with Uppers, Payto, Cotta, when not on call in firsts joined an all star cast headed by Hugh Howey who slotted in to what ever was required and did it so well. The 3rd grade backrow all did time on the side this year, thanks boys. Steve Day until his leaving for OS provided an old head, which helped us, maintain the consistency, which was the forwards this year. Alister Killen contributed later as we approached the end helping us create what was a most awesome pack.

The halves saw us loose the Commish to a back injury a third of the way through, his place taken by Doug Hayter. A battle was soon waged with Mark Tonkin up in Kentwell with both doing time behind what was becoming such a good pack. Dougy found himself behind the wheel as the semis approached and complemented our forward play continually improving distribution and his own running, kicking game.

Fly half seemed to be on a one or two game rotation and was our only concern. Many were tried and either injured or replaced. Stawlsie how are the hammies mate? The hapless Mendo who so wanted to play at his new club but seemed to suffer from injury, poor health and expectation from those who had

only ever heard about you and not seen the true player. Congratulations for hanging in there and playing in a grand final, I am sure not on the agenda a month earlier.

Out at Hudson Park I played with Ben Chadwick in 4s against Pats, he had a great game. All of a sudden our 5/8 problems were gone. Chadders is a lovely bloke with a calm and composed manner on the field. The middle of the season had him floating about in the lower grades happily accepting his role and obviously enjoying the space provided down there. His joining us from round 16 through to the end finally brought forwards and backs together. I believe that the play by the halves during the final games created the roll that was not to be headed bar the last 30 seconds of the major semi.

Our centers let few through in defence. As our scrum and work around the ground impressed it was in the mid field where as much stand over work was continually achieved. Bourney started with the Irishman Roachy but left to go away for "3weeks" as he told me. About 7 weeks later he returned and when asked how his 3 weeks was he just smiled and protested that I knew it was 7 weeks all along....just like a lawyer. Roachy and his mate Ross Staunton filled in out at outside and fullback. They gave us plenty of flair early on until Staunton thought that Skiing powder and getting his knob sucked in NZ was a better option, can't blame him really. Roachy was the constant until his departure just before the semis. If the boys weren't scoring tries they were sure tackling the opposition out of it. Elton Berrange played really well either inside or out and barring his ankle injury surely would have enjoyed plenty of time in 2s and 1s. Sam Mears couldn't always train but we enjoyed his playing on Saturdays. You came and enjoyed yourself job very well thank you. So as we approached the business end, Scott Sealy joined first on the wing and then in the outside center the freshly returned Bourne. Seals had played plenty of 1st grade games over previous and had come down to see off his career with a hopeful win, somewhere. You must be stoked now mate. Your play in the semis and finals were big efforts and helped make the difference, enjoy retirement.

The outside backs would have to have been the most pleasant bunch of blokes I have met in while. They were however, on the field, part of a very tough defensive unit and kept it under control at the back adding to our ability to keep opposition scores low. Tim Berryman started with us until he moved on up a few weeks into the 1st round, Brownie started with and finished with the Bourkies, his swerve and pace through traffic was great to see when the balled moved his way, and in my opinion saving his best stuff for the finals

Michael Bourke, did I ever call you Michael? Was to enjoy plenty of time out in a back line that, through the middle rounds, didn't receive a lot of great ball but showed glimpses of what they could do with some ball in hand. Thanks to

WHIDDON CUP REPORT

James Armarti and Mick Douglas for your help throughout the year and into the finals.

Mark Lewis fantastic at the back with speed to burn was a real pleasure to have onside. We acquired Mark on his return from a shoulder injury sustained against Pats and if you remember the hit that saved the try in the corner and earn't him "hit of the round" you'll also know how happy Marto and the others were to have you back there, cheers Mark.

So at the end of the regular season we finished in the top two securing the major semi against Old Ignations. Our worst game of the season against St Pats brought out the best in all of us with a real focus and commitment to improving our play ready for our opportunity at the end. Every thing seemed to be improving and gelling with forwards and backs uniting in the phase play, which would be required to win.

The major semi loss in the last seconds to Iggies didn't hurt us so much as infuriate every man that came off that field at Macquarie Uni. That feeling was carried through the week and unleashed on Mosman the next week. It was theirs now if they got it right on the day.

The week of the Grand final saw 4 of the Giants teams down getting ready. Burkies kept it simple and unchanged in their lead up to the big day. The saddest thing that week was knowing that Burkies hammy had finally blown out and he would struggle to be on the field for the match. Enter Peter Minucous who did a great job of slotting to a position held by a long-term member of the team. Not easy to do....thanks Peter. To his credit Burkie joined in and enthused every step of the way, nice one mate!

The rest is history. I would always remind the boys in their warm up that NO ONE stands over us in this game. They certainly got that right. No doubt was left at the end who deserved top spot this year and the song echoing through the stand at Wentworth Park surely reminded Iggies that coming second when they expect to win will never be easy to cop.

Thinking of that moment still gives me incredible satisfaction.

Cheers Boys and thank you for a most memorable year.

Mick Boyd

The Whiddon season started with the appointment of the co-coach Sam Reynolds, who fortunately for the colleagues coaching ranks had been sidelined through a knee injury. It wasn't hard to convince Sam that this was the job for him giving it involved footy, mates, drinking, eastern suburbs girls and the chance to learn some coaching skills.

Sam was on board and with the guidance of our energetic Club Coach, Doylo, the personnel were in place to get the ball rolling. After a dissapointing lower place finish last year in Whiddons, the coaching staff were keen to see better results in 2002.

With the talent we saw coming to the first few training runs, it was obvious there was going to be a lot more depth throughout the grades, which would benefit Whiddos.

This showed in the first few games of the year with strong wins against the likes of Mosman, Dundas Valley and Drummoyne.

Drummoyne was an especially encouraging game. This was always going to be a tough one, but on away territory the guys really stuck to their guns. The Rolleston brothers half/five-eight combination was particularly brutal with the both Rollos making breaks in mid-field. Jamie Stewart also had a cameo Whiddon appearance and exposed plenty of holes out wide in Drummoyne's defence.

There was a bit of a mid-season drought with close losses to pats, forrest and iggies.

The Iggies game was a hard fought battle only to see iggies scrape home victors in the dying seconds.

It was great to have Mearsey back in 3's who showed his depth of experience with some dominating runs out wide. Michael Douglas also proved to be a handful for the Iggies defence.

After completing the first round, it always seemed likely that Colleagues and Iggies were going to be the teams to beat.

The 2nd part of the season saw the top 6 teams closely bunched together in a close struggle for finals spots. Iggies had sealed there spot, but Forrest, Drummoyne, St Pats, Mosman and Colleagues were all fighting out for the other 3 spots.

Our strong wins against Forrest and Mosman ensured our deserved top 2 finish. Against Mosman, we saw some strong forward player, in particular through James Campbell leading the pick and drive, with Mitch and Byrno also proving a handful for the soft Mosman defence. This gave us plenty of confidence leading into the Major Semi.

It was always going to be a tough one against an Iggies outfit that had all their guys back from injuries, whilst we were still missing a few through injury.

The first 15 minutes went well with Colleagues pick and drive making inroads up the middle. The game was turned on its head though after all our pressure was turned around when Iggies managed to snap up a loose ball from their own line and run the length of the field to score. This also proved to be a psychological turnaround too for Iggies. Some points soon after pretty much put us out of reach. Minoucas, Armati and Roberts were particularly strong in backline defence against a rampaging Iggies side. This was not such a bad thing though as we had a bit to work to do and a good hit out before the grand final was just what we needed.

St Pats in the final were a whole different story. We never gave them a look in – they really didn't have any answers with our backrow combination of Williams, Hazelman and Shin shutting them down. Shiny was outstanding and got the 3 points on the day. Andy McCosker also showed why he is a talent of the future working well with Maxie and Robo.

With a lot of time and effort put in by all the guys during the year, it was not surprising to see them keyed up for a big Grand Final appearance against Iggies.

Colleagues were off to a solid start thanks to Andy McCosker's accurate kicking boot, with the first half pressure seesawing between the 2 sides. Iggies were able to win plenty of ball in the lineouts thanks to their tall guys up the back of the lineout.

Our scrum was dominating though, but it was hard for us to consolidate this advantage with the ref. Pinging us for offside whenever we had a tighthead.

In the 2nd half the weight of possession turned to Iggies and our rock-solid defence had to give at some stage. Iggies turned pressure into points eventually, but Colleagues stuck to their guns and defended vigorously. A credible performance on the day against a side that was too strong on the day.

All up, an outstanding season for Whiddos both on and off the field. Some fantastic football was played, which was due to hard work at training, high skill levels and generally good fitness. But more importantly the team brought

together a fantastic bunch of guys that were positive, competitive and knew how to have a laugh.

The grand final side was:

Mitchell – ex defence forces player & shows it
Slabbert – Riaan is a great team guy who gives 110% every game
Denny – outstanding scrummager, lucky to have this calibre of player in 3's
Byrne – showed excellent leadership and is very effective in the tight stuff
Killen – key lineout jumper and his size and mobility around the park were top rate
Hazelman – adds a lot of grunt in the pack, good runner with the ball
Williams – outstanding in all facets of the backrow game
Shin – nothing this guys can't do from throwing in the lineouts to ballrunning to tackling, plenty of ticker
Ross – good link man between forwards & backs, good delivery & timing
McCosker – talent of the future, plenty of speed off the mark
Douglas – size, speed and commitment at the breakdown to burn
Maxwell – lucky to have maxie for a couple of games, really stood out
Roberts – one of the best defenders in the clubs
Armati – plenty of pace, strong defender, saved many tries
Meares – great talker, plenty of experience, had a very positive impact on 3's when he was playing

Thanks also to these guys who were also a big part of 3's throughout the season:

Campbell – great commitment, his pick & drive skills are a very valuable part of a good allround game
Coon – noone runs at the line harder, good defender, doesn't take a backward step
Moses – quick to the breakdown, reads the game very well
Rolleston – excellent pass and makes good yards from the base of the scrum and rucks

Thanks:

A big thanks to Sam Reynolds who did a great job in his 1st year of coaching. Got the guys respect and showed a good understanding of the game. His good humour was enjoyed by all.

Also to Doylo who put in a huge effort over the year and has had a very positive effect on the club. A good competitor who always likes to see sides win.

Thanks also to Richard McGrath, Will Foster, Purbs/McCath, Boydey and Crawford.

Go the Blue Giants – 2003!

Todd Fergusson
WHIDDON CUP COACH

JUDD CUP REPORT

Judd Cup journey commenced way back on the 6th April against Old Ignatians down at Blue Giant Stadium with a hard fought win over who turned out to be the front runners of the competition.

No matter how you look at this season it was a success, during the home and away season the team only lost two games out of the 18 and only conceded 84 points, our defense was what truly separated us from the rest of the pack.

Teams are made up with individuals and Hamish McCathy & I were lucky to have team of individual working toward the common goal. There are a number of players who should be mentioned.

Lochy Benson was an outstanding Captain, who not only led by performance on the field but set the example to all, by his dedication and commitment to the team and club, it has been truly inspirational.

The team had great combination of youth and old nuts. The old heads of the team guided us through the tight matches, with the likes of Will Coker, Gee Hundson, Paul Merriman, Mac Lydiard. While the “young Guns” of Gavin Kidd, David Whyte, Shem Pearson, Mickey Wydeman, Ben Waters showed their brilliance when the opportunities presented themselves.

We also we very fortunate to be able to draw on some great players from 5th grade when required, with Ben Woods, Hugh Coughlan & Andrew Sinclair making a valuable contribution throughout the season.

It is now history that Old Ignatians are now Premiers (we congratulate them) however I think the players in general will be better players next year through their experiences this year, & I do believe that we will see many of this years Judd Cup side playing up the grades in the near future.

I also must thank Hamish McCathie who came down half way through the season to take control of the backs and did a fantastic job. His energy and drive transformed not only our back line but influenced the whole team in general,

and I truly believe that a great part of the teams success is directly proportion to Hamish.

It was unfortunate that we were unable to bring home the championship, but if we were honest with ourselves a great team beat us and Judd Cup should be proud of this years achievements (but not satisfied)

I also must thank Doylo for his continued help through out the season and wish him luck in the future. John Irwin for his understanding when I rang him up on Friday afternoon to take players and congratulations his 5th Grade for a great Grand Final win.

Once again I thank Judd Cup for giving McCath & I a fantastic season which we enjoyed immensely and look forward to go the extra step next year.

Jon Purbrick
HEAD COACH

SUTHERLAND CUP YEARLY REPORT 2002

A great man once said that the strength of rugby club lies within its depth. An even greater man replied “Oh it’s true! It’s damn true”

2002 proved to be a watershed year for 5th Grade Colleagues Rugby, erasing last years bitter semi final defeat and no doubt sewing the seeds for a dynasty the likes of which Suburban rugby has never seen.

The regular season was supremely successful for 5’s as they matched Minor Premiers Iggies with 16 wins and 2 losses. Iggies gaining the Minor Premiership only through bonus points. There are now proposals being submitted to the union for the bonus point rules to be revised to include front Rows over 350kgs, Penalty Goals off crossbars and successful completion of matches without jerseys.

Towards the end of the home and away competition, many obstacles were thrown at these resilient lads from Rose Bay, but team spirit and that innate Colleagues ability to bounce back came to the for.

The St Pats game was a perfect example of this spirit; Master Strategist Irwin was so impressed by the training accomplished on Thursday night, he wanted to harness that intensity, so he left the jerseys at the club, and then orchestrated a traffic jam so they were delayed even longer, all to create that “Play the way you train” atmosphere. Even when the jerseys arrived at half time, the boys in blue (well, red, yellow, white, green etc etc) chose to stay in what they had on.

HALLIGAN CUP PREMIERS 2002

We won that game, and every single player remembers why, because we played as a team and overcame adversity (and stupidity!)

That was indicative of the entire season, when it came to the crunch time of Semi Finals football, it wasn't just 15 blokes that ran on, it was a whole squad of 22, sometimes 25 blokes, and when we lost 5 key starters in the semi's, there were always blokes ready and waiting to do their job.

Obviously every team needs some leaders and we seemed to have the perfect mix – Sinkers lead the pigs around the paddock, Robbo was a nippy as ever as the base of the scrum, Peaches controlled general play with his judicious kicking game, Jamie Stewart at the back provided the spark for us, and doused any fire that came back at us.

Outstanding performers were everywhere – Foster locking the scrum was like a rampaging bull (for the 30 minutes a match he played!), Hughie Coghlan was like an Irish tornado (???) on the side. The 4 headed beast that was the front row pummeled most opposition scrums, and provided plenty of attacking flair out wide. Hughie Griffith was solid if not spectacular in the centers, and Black Hawk Brown popped up everywhere when we needed him.

The grand final victory, the sweetest victory of all, was typical of the style of rugby employed by the Blue Giants throughout the year. Master Strategist Irwin with the help of Forwards Guru O'Sullivan created a brilliantly structured yet spontaneous brand of rugby that the men in blue played out to perfection, much to the chagrin of a shell shocked, lackluster, very pedestrian Iggies outfit (that's how it looked from the stands anyway)

When Peaches kick caressed the crossbar and sounded the death knell for Iggies, the world was good again. Good had triumphed over evil, I mean seriously you couldn't script this stuff any better. The final score 3-0... again. The Sutherland cup was coming home (in several pieces)

Special thanks to Ed Sanders, Tony Martin, Boydie and Benny Rolleston who were able to slot right in at the last minute, and Snowy and Oli who's help during the Finals was awesome.

Great stuff to the rest of the Club, 5 grade in the semi's, 4 grades in the grand finals, and 3 Premierships! Go you MIGHTY BLUE GIANTS.

Yours in rugby,

Ben Wood (Woodsie Jnr)

With over 116 players playing Halligan Cup this year, the writing was on the wall for a very good season early. Having played the eighteen games in the competition we came away with fifteen wins and 69 championship points for the season, with second place on 57 giving us our second Halligan Cup in two years.

The highlights for the year included the five (yes five) matches against we played against the perennial enemy Iggies, which saw us win four out those five matches, the last of these a 10 – 5 away win. The other standout game was the second last game against Kings old Boys last years' runner up. With the boys up 5-3 with just under 2 minutes to go Kings slotted a fifty-meter field goal. The Boys ever confident did not give up and put the pressure on of the restart to for an infringement, and our ever-reliable kicker to slot the winning goal on the bell. With other results going our way the cup was ours, having scored 268 points for and 99 against.

Notable mentions for the year must go to a number of players, Glen Breeze who played all 18 games for the year as well as backing up for higher grades. Nat Bradford who captained the side from the out set and was still on hand when injury over took him. Best and Fairest Sean Smith AKA the Bear, had a barn storming year after we took one look at him and played him at prop. You know the club is in good hands when this side can put on 6 props for the day. Other notable mentions must go Peter Franks, Ben Garland, James Rodgers, Rob Laycock, Shaun Cousins, Alex Wade, Thomas Gaberial our international import from Austria (and I did not get him from the airport), and well frankly the whole team and they know who they are.

Finally I would like to thank all those people from the committee, who got us the games and provided the support that coaches and players need, this is not an easy job. I look forward to again being part of the club next year as player (I hope) or a coach.

Laurence Campbell-Avenell
HALLIGAN COACH

COLTS REPORT

In late 2001 it was decided (once again) that next season we would have a good look around for some young blokes who were not yet of age to take on the rigours of senior football. With many failed attempts by spotters in the early hours of the morning at pubs close to schools, King's Cross establishment's

such as Mansions and Aussie Rule's, the hunt turned to the Hallowed Hall's of St Andrews College, a breeding ground for some of the best in the game.

When negotiations began with last years Captain of the team, the challenge was soon realised – we had to get these Andrews boys to jump ship from their existing club, the Premiership winning "Doggies". The Doggies had been relegated to fourth division, a division in which the younger players were not nurtured, educated and filled full of grog to convince them they were on a good thing.

Our task proved relatively simple in the end. Armed with Empire bar vouchers, Empire gold cards and free VB tinnies we entered the Hallowed Halls to begin our marketing campaign. The rest is history.

The first trial game proved a great success for the newly found Colleagues Colts, thumping Drummoyne in a game that critics said was going to be a gimme for Drummoyne. With another couple of free VB tinnies, the Colts were keener than ever.

The proper season started off reasonably well with a very close one against Iggies and wins over St Ives and Drummoyne. The UNSW game saw the majority of the team turn up with heads feeling as though they had just been run over by freight trains, the resultant score reflected this!. A solid performance against the eventual Competition winners with them stealing the game with only a 9 point victory.

Uni holidays hit hard with player numbers forcing us to forfeit one of the games. A special thanks must go the Newcastle boys who mustered up their mates to fill in the gaps. The second round saw the Colts take their minds off the game. A lack of dedication from some of the more experienced players guaranteed a tough battle in the second round of the competition. To their credit the boys stuck to it, turning up every week and giving their all, a credit to each and every one of them.

A special thanks must go to the Captain of the team, Dan Kelly for his tireless efforts to ensure that the boys turned up every week.

The Colts will be back, however an early season effort is required to encourage them to become more involved in the club. Training with the club, hanging around for grade games and grade players making the effort to support them where possible are all ways to ensure their success.

These boys, now Colleagues Men are a tribute to the Club, they are committed for next year, they are hungry for victory, a feeling that some of the club tasted this year.

Well done to the Burke, Sutherland and Halligan teams this year for bringing home the silverware. Commiserations to Judd and Widdon for a fantastic year, a great effort to get to the Grand Final.

Go the Blue Giants!

Cameron Ireland
MANAGER