

2003

WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES

ANNUAL REPORT

**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES
RUGBY UNION
FOOTBALL CLUB**
(Established 1933)
Headquarters Woollahra No 2
PO Box 197, Double Bay, 2028

2003 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: Ed Sanders

SECRETARY: Hugh Urquhart

TREASURER: Andrew Moses

COMMITTEE:

Will Foster, Paul Henningham, Jonathon Purbrick, Dan Petrie, Jack Mesley, Lachlan Benson, Cameron Ireland, Justin Crawford, Michael O'Sullivan, Jon Irwin, Peter Minucos, Geraint Hudson, Geoff Fenwicke

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

2003 Trophy Winners

Club Captain ;	Ed Sanders
Team Captains;	
Barbour Cup;	Dan Kelly
Halligan Cup;	Rob Rosenberg
Sutherland Cup;	James Layard
Judd Cup;	Sean Ryan
Whiddon Cup;	Andrew Moses
Burke Cup;	Adam Upton
Kentwell Cup;	Jack Mesley
Team Coaches	
Barbour Cup;	Ben Wood and Peter Minucos
Halligan Cup;	Lawrence Campbell - Avenell
Sutherland Cup;	Nat Bradford and Ben Waters
Judd Cup;	Michael O'Sullivan and Jon Irwin
Whiddon Cup;	Jon Purbrick and Hamish McCathie
Burke Cup;	Michael Boyd and Tony Martin
Kentwell Cup;	Geoff Fenwicke and Angus Stephens
Club Coach;	Geoff Fenwicke
Best & Fairest	
Barbour Cup;	Andrew Ross
Halligan Cup;	Sam Irvine
Sutherland Cup;	Jeff Law
Judd Cup;	Adam Proctor
Whiddon Cup;	Craig Searle
Burke Cup;	Andrew Maxwell
Kentwell Cup;	Dylan Foo
Club;	Luke Kenniff
100 Games;	Greg Quinn, John Pappas and Peter Minucos
The Pappas & General Award;	Dan Petrie
Leading Try Scorer ;	Jeff Law
Leading Points scorer;	Dan Kelly
Most Improved Player;	Sean Smith
Oldest & Boldest;	Angus Barrett
Rookie of the Year;	Nick Cohen
Players Player;	Adam Upton
The Colleagues Honor Cap 2003;	Hugh Urquhart
John Anderson Trophy;	Richard McGrath

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The season past has been a very successful one both on and of the field for the Colleagues.

The completion of the new clubhouse and subsequent opening was a great achievement to all those who were involved with the project from the original idea so long ago to the many who have contributed more recently. It certainly would not have been feasible without the support of Woollahra Council and the generosity of past, current and friends of Colleagues with the assistance of the Australian Sports Foundation.

Our primary fund raiser is now the Long Lunch and it has been very well received by all Colleagues as an opportunity to catch up with old friends and team mates as well meet new players and impress them with stories of great games won and lost. I have noticed current Colleagues listening respectfully and attentively to these stories, but absolutely love the post match high jinx of our older members which are retold at the following training. This year we again have a focus to the Lunch to raise money to make the final payment to Council for the Clubhouse and for the up grading of the training lights.

Work has started on the playing surface of Woollahra 2 & 3. This will be an extensive renovation of the grounds including drainage, watering system and laying of a new surface. Our old facilities were by far the worst in our competition and it will be a pleasure to have new grounds for the season. This work is being undertaken by the council. We feel that to take full advantage of this upgrade it is necessary for the training lights to also be upgraded or else we may soon see the degradation of the surface, as the well lit parts of the ground will once again become overused. Working with a consultant we have come up with a new lighting design that would make it possible to use the full surface area resulting in a more even use of the ground and more efficient training sessions. We believe that it is necessary for Colleagues to be proactive with this project and have undertaken to fund the project ourselves.

On the field Colleagues had a magnificent year culminating in 5 sides playing in Grand finals. Unfortunately only our Barbour Cup or Colts side were able to get up on the day. The nature of the competition is that the longer you are in it the higher the stakes become. The club can be proud of its achievements in the 2003 season and in particular the coaches and players on the way they conducted themselves through the season.

Some on field highlights were: A blue rinse against St Pat's at Pat's in a catch up game on the Long Weekend in June when we were well down on numbers. Our 5th grade accounted for Randwick 5th grade 52 - 0 at Latham Park and our 6th grade eked out a 7 - 5 win over Easts 5th grade. And of course Grand final day, despite some poor results in the senior grades, and in particular our Colts winning Colleagues first Barbour Cup in emphatic fashion. Our 42nd Cup win in the Subbies' competition.

Geoff Fenwicke was a committed club coach and despite the frustrations of not being able to get Kentwell to the finals was there for all players and coaches during the finals series. Angus Stevens had his first taste of the Subbies' and was a great asset for the club. All coaches are to be congratulated on their dedication. I would like to make special mention of Ben Wood, assisted by Pete Minucos, on completing the Wood family dream. It was a pleasure for the rest of the club to have a much closer association with the Colts thanks to Fimat providing transport for our students to training and games. This side was ably lead by their impressive and modest captain Dan Kelly who I feel sure we will see represent the Colleagues in the senior teams along with some of his team mates in the coming season. Another leader who was rewarded with the newly named Ben Roberts Players Player trophy was Adam Upton. Adam fought back some tough competition to win his place in the Burke cup side and never neglected to rise to the occasion when asked. Luke Kennif won the club Best and Fairest which would surprise no one with his play of the past 2 seasons.

Much of the success of this year rests with our hard working committee. Ed Sanders was his own man as club captain. Having had so many good club captains I always find it interesting how individuals put their stamp on the job and excel. Andrew Moses as Treasurer runs a very tight ship and as we go through this period of capital expenditure I feel reassured to have someone of his quality in this position. Congratulations go to Hugh Urquhart for his years of service being rewarded with the Honor Cap. Hugh throws all of himself into this job and I for one am grateful for commitment. Dan Petrie was tireless all year and was recognised with the Pappas award. Dan has given the club a new dimension with his dedication and in particular his impersonations - fantastic. Pete Minucos, Shem Pearson and Ben Wood on the bar, Geraint Hudson and Jon Irwin for ladies days and Boothy of course for our old boy contact, thank you.

Sponsorship is a very important element of our club and the support of those businesses has been of tremendous benefit to the running of the club. Dave Crawford has been a major sponsor for 7 years with B Braun, the 4 in Hand, Bell Potter Securities, Hill Roger Chartered Accountants and Financial Services, Ryans Bar, David Begg & Associates, Fimat, Rosebay Liquor and Rose Bay Afloat have all made a significant contribution to the season and I would ask all colleagues to return that support if they are able.

Next season has many challenges. Payment of players at other clubs tends to skew the competition. I do not believe that Colleagues should pay players. Although Kentwell is very important to all of us the club as a whole has to be paramount. The Union seems to be unwilling to even consider the possibility of an amateur competition which I think is disappointing.

Another challenge is that old chestnut, referees. Generally Kentwell Referees are competent but in lower grades the players are expected, and generally succeed, to tolerate substandard refereeing. As a club we need to show a little more respect to the men in the middle and encourage past players to take up the whistle. There is no doubt it is a difficult job but there needs to be a

concerted effort from all involved in rugby to improve this most basic service of our game to improve the enjoyment of all concerned.

It is with great pride I look back on the achievements of the club as a whole and on the personal achievements of many.

I feel sure that 2004 has plenty more of the same in store for the Blue Giants.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Blue Giants,

Thank you all for a fantastic year on and off the field in 2003. I will remember my first season as Club Captain with immense pride, as we witnessed the birth of the new Clubhouse and watched the Club go from strength to strength in so many areas, thanks to each and every Blue Giant who contributed. I first especially just wanted to say thank you to Will Foster, who graciously stood down as Club Captain early in the year as he had planned to travel, putting the Club ahead of himself. When his travel plans didn't materialise, he nonetheless maintained a strong presence in and around the Club. We simply couldn't have done it without him this year, and our appreciation must be duly noted.

They were not the overall results we wanted in the Grand Finals, but on looking back the pain of disappointment for those of us who fell at the final hurdle is mellowed by the pride in what we achieved as a Club during the season as a whole.

Obviously a massive congratulations to the Colts who won the Barbour Cup for Colleagues for the first time - a classy season which finished as decisively as it had begun. A big thank you to Dan Kelly, Ben Wood, Pete Minucos and Cam Ireland as well as to everyone else who played a part and helped the Colts become Colleagues premiers for the first time. I know it won't be their last. A huge rap to DK for winning the Golden Boot for the Colts Competition - congrats.

Thanks on behalf of the players must go to all the coaches and captains - to Rob Rosenberg, Dan Petrie and Laurie Campbell-Avenell in Halligan, to Jimmy Layard, Benny Waters and Nat Bradford in Sutherland, to Sean Ryan, Jonny Irwin, Mick O'Sullivan and Maxi Christmas with the Juddies, to Andrew Moses, Hamish McCathie and Jon Purbrick for their inspiring efforts in Whiddos, and to Adam Upton, Michael Boyd and Tony Martin with the Burkies.

In Kentwell, to Gus Stephen, Jack Mesley, Dave Crawford, and Stu Brown – a great club effort in a tough year up top. To Geoff Fenwicke - you have done a sterling job as club and Kentwell coach and should be really proud of your charges this season. Long may it continue.

A quick thanks to the sponsors - the Four In Hand, Rose Bay Afloat, Empire Hotel, Bell Potter Securities, B Braun, Fimat, Hill Rogers, Jan Logan, Ryan's Bar - we couldn't do it without you.

The list is endless, but I also wanted to say a huge thank you to Tim Booth, Peach, Jon Pappas, Jon Ryan, Spanner, Lachie Benson and the Bear for all they've done. Apologies if and when I've missed anyone.

Finally, to the executive, without whom the Club would fall to pieces. Hugh Urquhart did a sterling and thankless job as Secretary, ensuring that everything from match fixtures to registration ran smoothly – and it was fantastic to see his efforts rewarded with a well-deserved Colleagues Honour Cap. Andrew Moses maintained the finances of the Club with integrity and diligence – we wish him the best of luck in his new job in 2004 but know that he will continue to fulfil the functions required of him with customary efficiency and good humour. And finally to Richard McGrath – the Emperor, the Dictator, the Pres ... we joke about the tight ship which Richard runs at Colleagues, but sincerely appreciate the efforts which this man puts into the Club. Despite what he may say, he is responsible for so much of the good and the progressive at Colleagues. Thank you, Richard.

So in 2003 the Blue Giants successfully toured Bali and Mudgee, had 6 players selected to represent NSW Subbies, and finished fourth in the Club Championship. Ahead of us were Iggies, Dundas Valley and Drummoyne. Iggies won 3 premierships and had 5 grand finalists. Dundas had 1 from 1, and Drummoyne failed to make a grand final. Colleagues had 5 grand finalists and came away with the Barbour Cup. I think that speaks volumes for the strength, depth and passion of the Blue Giants, and I want to build on that for 2004 and take our rugby up another level, on and off the field.

Thanks for a great year, and well done to all.

Ed Sanders
Club Captain

Secretary's Report 2003

Dear Members

Once again the Colleagues have had another very busy year in 2003. The highlight of course was the opening of our magnificent new Club House at the beginning of the year, by our patron, the Mayor of Woollahra, Mr John Comino. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by a wide cross section of past and present players, partners and supporters of the club. It only seems like

yesterday, that I wrote in last years report, that we had handed over our monies to the council and development was about to begin.

Once again I would like to thank all those that donated to the building and also to the staff at the council who were so helpful in getting this project to completion.

The Club continues to consolidate its financial position under the firm guidance of our Treasurer, Andrew Moses. Andrew uses an accounting treatment known as the Scottish Method. We must still

Strive to build our position, so that future members will always start each year on a sound footing, as we try to build a bank of income generating investments, that will help meet the on going costs of running a Rugby club in the 21st century. These costs include insurance, ground hire, gear, medical, security, and affiliation fees to name a few.

The Club held all its usual social events. The first ladies day, held on the day of the first round, was the biggest we had ever held. The new club obviously had a lot to do with this. The day was very busy and to some degree was too large. We did learn from this and how to utilize the new premises in a more efficient way.

The long lunch was another great day as usual. I would like to thank all our guest speakers and Tim Booth for all his time looking after the Old Colleagues. On the Rugby side of the ledger, we had a record year for registrations, with over 250 players signing up with the club. Payment of reges was slightly down. Once again, I can only say that it is players Responsibility to pay their dues. The club cannot afford to subsidise anyone and will not.

Once again I would like to acknowledge our Club Registrar/statistician, Mr Jon Ryan, for his magnificent job in this role. His record keeping is a godsend come semi final time.

We had a strong coaching staff this year who were all very enthusiastic in there jobs and were a great help to me when I asked them to help me on administrative matters. We had a number of people who took on the role of managers. This is great to see, as I see this role as crucial to the clubs future on field

Success .So if any member would like to participate in this role for a team, any enquiry would be most Welcome .I would like to congratulate all teams that made semis and grand finals, especially our first ever colts winning team.

The committee was once again united in its efforts across the board. Andrew Petrie was a godsend as clubhouse manager this year and put more time into the club than anyone else. This role is now quite onerous due to the logistics of the new house. Some refinement to this role will have to be undertaken.

Will Foster's role as a roving COO, was without doubt a revelation. He had a hand in everything that went on within the club this year, and took a great deal of pressure off Richard and myself. Andrew Moses was once again brilliant and continues again in 2004. We have been fortunate to have had some very bright 'sparks' running our financials over the last few years and this gives me great peace of mind to know everything is transparent as it should be, but in smaller clubs such as ours, can sometimes not be. Our Club Captain this year, Sanders, conducted himself in a very professional way and his matter of fact way in dealings was greatly appreciated. His confidence was well presented at after match speeches and he thrived on the cut and thrust of this sometimes-onerous task. We look forward to his ongoing stewardship in 2004. Lastly to our President, Richard McGrath, who has achieved so much in his time at the club, and still has more that he wants to build on. I know that the new clubhouse was a moment of great personal pride for him, and it is fitting that his name should be on the opening plaque. Quite frankly, this would never have happened without his determination and drive. The award of the John Anderson cup was only fitting - congratulations.

Finally, as we all know, our dear friend and colleague, Fred Storch passed away towards the end of 03. He was a great member of the club, over nearly fifty years and his humour and council will be missed. Our last event held in the club, was the dedication of the bar in joint memory of Freddy and Barra. Fred will never ever be forgotten and we will always raise our glass to his memory.

Thank you all for your help this year and we all look forward to building on 2003.

Cheers in Rugby

Hugh Urquhart.
Hon. Secretary.

Club Coach Report

To all players and friends of the Blue Giants,

It was with much anticipation and excitement to have the opportunity to club coach at Blue Giant stadium this year and I just wanted to say thank you to Richard and the committee for the faith and support shown to all of the coaching staff in the 2003 season. This was an exciting time both on and off the field with the new clubhouse getting built, great player numbers in the pre-season and plenty of enthusiasm to get off to a great start to the season.

The goal simply for us this year (as it is every year) was to win the club championship and this objective was going to take care of all teams making the semi finals. To only have one team miss out on the semis was fantastic result and a huge congratulation to all the coaches, managers and players who dedicated themselves throughout the year in reaching that goal.

It was without doubt a successful season for the boys in blue this season. The club played, in the regular season, a total of 129 games won 92 and drew 5. Close enough to winning or drawing 75% of all games played. We came 4th in the Club Championship getting pipped by only 27 points for second place.

We made the grand finals in 5 grades which was a sensational effort and although bitterly disappointing to only come away with one premiership again just to get there takes an incredible amount of commitment and time.

To the premiers and definite highlight of the season was grand final day for the Barbour Cup (colts). After defeats in the 4th and 13th rounds by their grand final opponents in the regular season the boys prepared well for the big game and proved worthy winners on the day. The enthusiasm they played with was only just pipped by the celebration they took place later at our major sponsor the 4 in Hand. The mantra of celebration was "thank god for those colts" repeated over and over again and I don't think any of the lads will forget the walk into the bar that night.

A special mention has to go to coaches Ben Wood, Peter Meneucus and to captain Dan Kelly. Seeing you all develop throughout the season and the fun that was had during training I believe lead you to your final destination. Dan was also justly awarded the "golden boots" for the entire colt's competition. To all three of you, we are very proud of what you achieved.

The great thing about our club again this year was the depth but this also became the biggest headache at selection times for the coaches. It was a difficult time making selections week by week as the list of injuries being astounding at times and this did effect consistency right through the grades. This is a great problem to have as opportunities arose for players coming through the grades.

To all the coaches – what a year and it has been an absolute pleasure to share this season with you and the level of commitment and time you put in was fantastic. I can't mention you all but I must say the most difficult coaching jobs in the club was managing a huge number of players in Sutherland and Halligan cups – to Nat Bradford, Dan Petrie and Benny Waters. You were outstanding all season with winning 17 out of 18 (best record in the club this year) and Ben to come straight from playing to coaching, the level of respect shown to you should make you proud.

To Jerry and the medical staff thank you again for your tireless work patching the boys up week in week out. To my family, Angela and young Xanthe thank you for supporting my passion. To the supporters and friends of Colleagues thank you for being there week in and week out, it gives us knowledge and a

sense of history to know where this club has been and with you, it help us understand to where we want to be in the future.

To the players – I have enjoyed watching you develop as rugby players and as mates. The people are what makes rugby great and a club that is strong. Thank you for your support, patience and dedication to this great club and I hope you will be back to do battle with us again in 2004.

Geoffrey Fenwicke

Burke Cup

Tall poppies are always the first picked, so the task ahead of the Burke Cup team in 2003 was always going to be monumental. From the outset it was evident that we were always going to be under pressure to maintain our superiority, and this was surely evident after the first few weeks of the competition. If you had asked whether we would be grand finalists in April, I would have said yes. If you had asked if the team had the ability to win again this year I would have said of course, but only if we can maintain composure, possession, make the first up tackles when they count, and control the set pieces, as had been our trademark of the previous season.

Unfortunately for the 2003 Burkies, the premiership proved to be the one that got away from us. On our day we were worthy champions, however consistency was our Achilles heel. The Grand Final replay of 2002 had all the hype of a prizefight, excepting that on the day we didn't have the control and were outplayed, despite our own efforts, by a more committed opponent. Therefore we must put that behind us and plan ahead for Season 2004, and the glory that awaits us.

Many thanks must go to all the boys who played through out the year. The players from Whiddon and Judd Cups who supported us unreservedly when required. To Purbs and McCath for working with us on selections during the week and on game days. And also thanks to head coach Geoff Fenwicke who did a sterling job at the helm from pre season thru to the Grand Final, with all who crossed his path. Despite facing an uphill battle to field a full strength Kentwell side week after week, Geoff did his utmost to ensure that the Club performed admirably from Kentwell down to Halligan, and this can be seen in the fact that we were ultimately represented in 5 out of 6 Grand Finals at seasons end.

A lot of the success of this team is due to the involvement of our Captain, Adam Upton. His enthusiasm and never say die attitude that he brought to the team ensured that when the title was up for grabs we were in there for the fight. Adam is a long time Colleague who arrived as a fresh faced boy back in the early nineties, and has surely become one of the clubs most recognisable features through out his many years down at Blue Giant Park. We should all be very proud of his efforts with the Burke Cup team over the last few years; I

believe it has been his ability to be in touch with the spirit of the Burkees that has given the team the edge in many close games. Thanks Adam.

As always there were a number of seasoned players that we were able draw upon for experience. Players of the calibre of Luke Kenniff, Nick Love, Tony Scott and Tim Stoyles would almost surely make a Kentwell line up in most clubs. Others such as Chadders, Braze, Maxi and Gus Caldwell kept the momentum of the team going forward, keeping the forwards happy for most of the time. A couple of players worthy of mention are Rian and Coota. Rian was the most capped player of the year and, and also led by example from the front. Coota has his moments and can be purely inspirational when on his game. Thanks for the past few years, and good luck with your career change up in Orange.

All in all it could be argued that the team requires little coaching as there is sufficient experience and self motivation there to ensure that the job gets done. From both of us it has been a pleasure to coach you

Through out the year we had most players crossing over between 2nds and Kentwell with plenty of 3rd graders pushing for recognition or just helping out up in the top grades all the way to the final series, a true testament of how strong the club has become over recent years.

As for Tony Martin the Blue Giants have been incredibly lucky to have a man with such a huge heart be involved both on and off the field. Whether it is giving his insight and experience to the team or in fact running on and packing down for us when needed, he just puts in and gets it done. Thanks mate for your valuable input and help this year.

On a personal note I wanted to thank every one who helped out, stood in for me during the season when I was away. Also thanks for noticing my different fashion statements on the side lines, a boy needs to be acknowledged as he gets older, makes him feel loved.

What's better than getting to the GF? Winning it of course. That was not to be this time around with our team being outplayed on the day much like what we did the previous year. Essentially I believe our timing was out as we had displayed a near faultless game in the Final against Mosman. Purely poor coaching in not getting the taper right I assume.

Nonetheless I was very proud and satisfied with all that we achieved this year and applaud the efforts of all individuals involved and associated with Burke Cup 2003.

Two highlights of the year would be in the win at Rawson over Mosman in the second round to avenge probably the lowest point which was the loss at home in the first round. Second and most memorable was the moments before we ran out in the final against the Whales where the whole room had an aura of complete calm and invincibility". I call that feeling the "it" factor. The type of

feeling that allows everyone the luxury to smile and feel good about what is going to happen, like they know already, and then the satisfaction of doing it on the field. Which we all watched as the Burkees gave it to Mosman for the second year in a row during the Final.

Rugby teaches us a lot about ourselves and provides a sense of community that very few pastimes can offer. That's why I love playing and being involved with rugby. You can't do that anywhere else.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the preseason, and all the best for Season 2004.

Yours in rugby

Michael Boyd

Judd Cup

A successful year for Juddies, culminating in a grand final berth only to go down fighting in a grand final that was the most competitive of the year. There are still a few Iggies guys that count themselves lucky to hold the premiership spoils aloft after a game that went down to the wire.

The season started out in Juddies as it usually does – messy. There were players playing out of position and grade and generally jostling for position for a spot in the team or higher, and because of the sheer volume of players and not enough trials to select on form, we picked a team that only one person was a part of at the end of the season. We started out the season with a win and although not the most convincing of wins, a win none the less. With Jono Hughes at the helm, we were off to a flyer with our forwards – (all who with nearly every other forward played up the grades) putting the team on the front foot so much our backs outside of doing some defence didn't break a sweat.

All wins and a draw against Iggies were the order of the first half of the season and along with Mosman and Iggies, were in the box seat to make the finals. Although we were having to make wholesale changes every week with movements up the grades we had the shaping of a grand finals spot. Our first trip out to Ryde brought about our first defeat of the season, and it was a hiding to boot. It was at that point where we started to lose our confidence and composure. With the exception of a couple of games, every game seemed to be a nail biter and there was an air of sure we will make the finals but weren't that confident of winning it.

Coming into the finals, with confidence waning and attitude, ego's and politics playing it's day to day duties as in every Rugby clubs mid season life, we had started to drop games. Upon reaching the finals the Judd Cup side came out blazing against an incredibly strong Iggies side, and demonstrated that the Judd Cup will go down to the wire. Although we lost inspirational skipper Sean Ryan with a shoulder injury, the Juddies' standard of play should mean that we could go all the way.

The following week against forest and with the same team in tow minus an injured inspirational captain Sean Ryan we put together a controlled game of Rugby with a lot less dropped ball, and some good solid phase play. The score line didn't reflect the game as it was a lot tighter than it seemed plus it was just the hit out we needed for the final.

It is amazing what a difference a couple of weeks can make in Rugby. With the same team, our game plan, communication, and confidence was growing ever stronger even on the Thursday nite before the GF.

The Judd Cup side was massive underdogs against the Iggies Dream Team, except someone forgot to tell them. Sean Ryan led by example and the team came out of the blocks like men with purpose and did something to Iggies that no other team had been able to do all year –make them defend against a team which rushed them in defence, fought at the breakdown and had backs attacking at pace and generally created havoc to their usually structured plan. With Lachie Benson pouncing on some loose ball in some brutal attack by the Juddies pigs we've gone to oranges up 7-0 with full head of steam. The second half didn't go as planned with discipline and composure - our bugbears of the season once again letting us down. A spate of penalties, a sin bin as well as a lack of communication contributed to Iggies only try and two penalties for Colleagues indiscretions. They held on to win the best game of fourth grade rugby I have ever seen.

We went down in a nail biter 11-7.

Myself, Mick O'Sullivan & Maxi were very proud of the team and the spirit they showed when the chips were down. Juddies should be extremely happy with themselves and the way they played their rugby.

My thankyou's for the year:

Michael O'Sullivan: We are like a married couple, only we get on. He is the elder statesman and I am the Anna Nicole Smith-esque part of the partnership. Mick molded a forward pack out of a team whose players were up and down like a prostitute's underpants and has had to continually change tactics, forward moves, set pieces and packs to suit with outstanding results. He on more than a few occasions played devil's advocate for me and bore the brunt of criticism at the time, but when the smoke settled – he always made the right decisions for the team with a foresight that was always a couple of games ahead of schedule.

Maxi Christmas: The benefit of having a mate as the team manager is that you not only get the benefits of many late nights out on the drink talking tactics and what not at 6am on a Wednesday morning, but also having the benefit of a bloke who knows his footy and can offer me advice on things that I just didn't see. Thanks Maxi for being as much of a part of the coaching team as the manager. Hope to see you next year.

Sean Ryan: Sean led the side in the second half of the year and his no nonsense; lead by example style of play was inspirational to all around him. Thanks mate for a great year.

Jono Hughes: The first half of the year captain who had his season ended by a shoulder injury. Much in the same mould as his successor.

Purbs & McCath: Thanks for all your help, advice and the pre warning of a reaming in team selections on Thursday nite as well as few late afternoon scare on Friday's whilst on my 10th schooner. I hope the Vaseline jar needed won't as big next year.

Geffro: I learnt more off Geoff this year than in any of the years I have been involved in rugby previously, your rugby knowledge is to be commended on. You played a huge part in getting the Judd Cup to the Finals. Big thanks to Gus Stevens and the other coaching staff this year.

Rich, Ed, Rock, and the committee: A great year – new clubhouse, plenty of support right throughout the grades and for backing me upon a few decisions that were not always going to win the people's choice awards. The club is in great hands.

The players: Thank you boys, made a point of not really mentioning names as there were too many – you know who you are. You guys are the Judd cup, all we do is fill in the team sheets, offer a bit of direction and occasionally yell for no apparent reason. You believed in yourselves this year and you almost pulled off the coup of the year. We, the club and old Colleagues are very proud of your performance right throughout the year. The respect you gained from the club and opposition alike is something that we will take into next year. Look forward to catching up with you all and putting together some good shows on and off the field next season.

Yours in Rugby

Jonny Irwin

Sutherland Cup

I must admit it took some convincing from the Pres for me to coach Sutherland this year. But despite the pressures of being a first time coach (and inversely, the pressure on the team being coached by a first time coach),

the season rolled through with some excellent results and the team ultimately making the grand final to defend their reigning premiers' title. Although we were runners-up, I know the resolve of many of the Sutherland boys is to come back better than ever for another crack at the top spot.

There were many highlights in 2003, and the first game was no exception with the largest forward pack assembled in living memory by Colleagues taking the field against Dundas - think about this for a minute - Dundas lined up against a pack that included Tony Martin, Spanner, Bear, Angus Barrett, Byrno, Ed Sanders, Will Foster and Will Coker. Eyewitness estimates reckon the eight of them would have given the 1000kg mark a good push. The back line even included somebody called Measley. But this proved to be one of the tightest games of the year despite all the reputations, with us narrowly winning 5-3, the closest margin any team got to us in the regular season. It also proved that my long professed non-smoker status was in serious doubt as the nerves of standing on the sideline had me reaching prematurely for Purbs beloved Benson & Hedges.

Wins over Uni and Waverly followed and the first big test of the year came against the old enemy, Iggies. Having a wedding to attend in Adelaide that weekend, I can only assume that poor coaching let the boys down as a 3-all deadlock was broken by Iggies right on fulltime after a charge down and length of the field try by the Iggies fullback. But it was clear from this result that the year would come down to an arm wrestle between us and them.

Mosman, St Pats and Drummoyne all fell victim to the mighty Blue Giants, and we were securing bonus point after bonus point, which helped maintain the aggression and the desire to be number one. The team was starting to settle by this stage and it was clear that Jimmy Layard's leadership was a key factor in maintaining the passion in a winning side.

It was about this time that co-coach Dan Petrie took a side step and managed to find games for the three Halligan sides we were running at the time, which was a Herculean effort (love your work, Truth). Enter newly retired Ben Waters to marshal what was shaping up to be a pretty handy back line, and the results were instantaneous.

Two games stand out to me about what Blue Giant rugby is all about. The first was a demolition of a Randwick fifth grade side on a bye weekend. Randwick still don't know what hit them. 59-0 to the Giants if memory serves.

To prove this was no fluke, the Suthos ventured to Forest the following week on a high - this for me was possibly the game of the season. Something had polarized the boys on that day - it could have been the Pres turning up to watch for the first time, it could have been the stirring pre-game speech, it could have been just the desire to flog the pants off whoever got in our way on the day, whatever it was, it was rugby magic. Much of backline that served us so well for the remainder of the year stood tall with Crazy Dave, The Law, Huender ("that's -er"), Tony Hennessy, and of course, Jimmy, making every ball they touched turn into a try - literally. Although a few forwards contributed

with single-handed try scoring efforts, Colleagues amassed 95 points in just 40 minutes of footy. This against a side that had always been a serious thorn in Sutherland sides in years gone past. The ton could have been broken had not the ref called full time several minutes early due to fight breaking out, which ultimately Forest lost as well.

The return game against Iggies was a nail-biter, with us holding a 5-0 lead for most of the game. Iggies attacked until the end, but were held out by great defence. The second half ran into its 30th minute (20 minutes being the norm) with Iggies still pushing for a try to level the scores. Rob Huender made sure Iggies would remember him by pole-axing their five-eight, who afterwards looked none too sure about what actually happened and could be seen crying for his Mum. Finally the whistle blew, and revenge was ours.

The regular season ended with us having only lost the initial game to Iggies, finishing with 17 wins and 1 loss for the year. The for-and-against was the best in Division One with 569 points scored and only 36 points conceded. But despite the excellent record, Iggies sneaked one more bonus point win in the regular season to finish one point ahead of us as minor premiers.

The first week of the finals is still somewhat of a mystery to myself, and to Benny I'm sure as well. We recorded a big loss to Iggies, but ultimately, the score gave Iggies false confidence, with them having rotated nearly every prop they had available through the team thanks to crushing scrums of the reliable duo of Greg Quinn and Rob Laycock.

The semi final was a different kettle of fish altogether, with G Hudson, Scott Simpson and Col Samuels arriving with the look of determination that carried over to game time. No quarter was given, with Rob "The Axeman" Huender felling yet another five-eight in a great, if not somewhat delayed, tackle. Although not the best game of the season by a long shot, every player gave it their all knowing a loss meant an unjust end to a great season.

The grand final was an anti-climax for us all. The absolute desire to win was evident from all the players that day, but as is the case on grand final day, it was several freak things that allowed Iggies to sneak home. We were not disgraced, and we made them fight for every second of the game. I couldn't have been prouder of the way the run on team that day played, supported by so many excellent reserves and the support from the big Blue Giant crowd.

If I regret anything this year, it would be not being skilled enough to take the boys all the way. Several Colleagues have indicated that 2003 was their last playing season (but to Coker, Quinny, Rob Laycock and Jimmy Layard - we've heard it all before) - I wish we could have taken you all out with the premiership you all deserved.

Ben Waters is an excellent bloke, a superb footballer and great coach. I'm sure with the right persuasion (and a support bloke who understands how to

speak "forward") he'd make sure we right the hiccup that was this year's ultimate result.

My thanks also this year to the unstoppable Dan Petrie, finals manager Dave "it's not broken that badly, is it?" Drain, and the support of the rest of the coaches and club officials.

Cheers,

Nat Bradford

Barbor Cup

Colts 2003 Report

After 6 years of battling, The Blue Giants finally captured the Barbour Cup. The emphatic 28-15 clinical destruction, of a well performed Iggies outfit, put paid to a long years worth of blood, sweat and rum, and exorcised the demons that had tormented the Colleagues Colts for so long.

There are a few things that need to be said about this team. Never have I seen a bunch of blokes enjoy their footy so much, never before have I seen a team stick together so much, never have I seen a team inflict so much pain on the opposition. The thing that also got me was that we had 32 guys who were a regular part of the team. That sort of depth was critical to our success, the fact that we could easily fill a team with quality footballers all the time kept our confidence high. And when it came semis time, and we could only run 22 guys per game, we still had 30 at training. In fact at one stage we had 18 forwards in one scrum session. Spanner was very excited.

A few moments stand out in my memory (in no particular order)

- Watties penchant for thuggery – late hits, early hits... dearest he's like Mix 106.5 all hits, all the time
- The Smith – expressing his dislike of the Forest 10 in a verbal vitriol that left the opposing fly half in fear of his life
- Mini Kel Back vs Oakhill – so big, so physical, so intimidating
- Nucleus Applicants – Prowse v Forest (accepted), Burgo v Mosman (accepted), Salt v UNSW (accepted), DK v Iggies (accepted), Rossy v Drummoyne (accepted)
- Prowse's GF display - dazzling
- Didge's Niggle
- Mama's cybergenetic display against Mosman – best game I've ever seen... by a cyborg
- Warf's blatant disregard for his personal wellbeing
- Shu's flexibility – able to play anywhere from 1 to 3 (with some occasional Red Short 11 work)
- Marto's 30m GF dash – the crowd loved it

- Mini Kel Fwrd v Stokes Rock Off – Major Semi, Back Row sub needed, rock covers paper, Mini Kel... you're on
- Kilbs, Kiwi, Hewso & Rose – the most sexy, most fun, most angry, most smoking back row in Subbies history
- Nige's Running Lines – you need a compass and a protractor just to pass him the ball
- Units ubiquitousness – he's like Visa, everywhere you want to be
- Puss – always there, always willing
- Boogs
- Struths Service – the only place you'd find better is at the 'Pire
- Cheets - brilliant finisher, 2 tries... he touched the ball twice
- Jono Linn's training essentials – headgear, mouthguard, boots, Tooheys Extra Dry
- Meersy, Rebs, Couso & Bag – broken arm, broken toe, broken thumb, broken chest... broken livers
- Big Jez's barnstorming runs – I wouldn't tackle him either
- Cutter – so fast, so agile, so asleep... wake up you're on
- Kerno v Forest – not so fast, not so agile, no so brilliant finisher... he dropped the ball once
- DK's entire season – superb, deserving of the Colts Award for best Colt in Subbies
- The Rossy Show v Drummoyne – props in the backline... I love it
- Burgo passing – took him 9 games but he got the hang of it
- Salt's effort – Ref's gave him 10 points, I gave him 0... must have missed something

A big addition during the year was Superback Minucos to the coaching staff. At the time the backline lacked direction, mainly because Woodsie had Rossy playing Outside Centre (as all good props should). His vision and direction was integral in us having the best, most balanced and skilful backline in the comp, no matter what line up we ran out.

I must thank a few people, firstly the much maligned and often forgotten Lachie Benson. His help early in the season was great, the boys really responded to his Nazi like fitness regime, and his warm up methods of "follow the blue line and do 2 laps" were well received by the fellas. Thank you for all your help this year mate. Thanks to Clydie & Spanner for your help with the pigs, and also a huge thanks to Cam Ireland. Obviously Cam's influence is well known on the boys, and his hard work last year set the platform for this years success. However, it was his passion and commitment come Semis time that fired the boys up, and his words in the shed's minutes before kick off of the GF will be remembered by all who were privileged enough to hear them.

To the boys who played: It's an honour and a privilege to have been a part of this year and I am proud to call myself your coach and your friend (and your dad or brother)

No longer will we be considered the also rans, no longer will we be an after thought to those other Barbour Cup squads... that's what Mosman is for now.

"Barbara" is ours and it's "very nice"... which way is the wind blowing?

Woodsie

NB: For a complete game by game account of this years Colts performances, you can see the Colts Page on the Colleagues Website for match reports

Kentwell Report

The best way I think I can break down the season is in patches because for most of the season, this was how the Kentwell team performed. It could be described as a season of injuries and lost opportunities (narrow losses) but the simple facts were that we came up short in 2003.

This however, does not take away from the effort, commitment and time that the players and managers put in and I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of Angus Steven and myself for a great experience. We certainly enjoyed your mateship on and off the field throughout the year and especially thank you for your support during some difficult times.

After a solid pre-season with plenty good performances and lots of players putting claims on various positions, the selections for the first game was a very difficult task. This luckily, for the coaches, was a good headache to have but always not a very nice one. This competition for places continued throughout the season.

Our first goal of the season was to get off to a good start and to come away with 4 wins, a draw and one loss (against the eventual premiers) was the right tonic we were after but the cost to the players base was heavy. Four season ending injuries during this time was just the signs of further things to come. A couple of highlights of these games were a very unlucky draw against Iggues (grand finalist) and nothing but guts and determination for a win over St Pats at St Pats.

Next came a series of narrow losses and the inevitable the lost opportunities, each of these games was there for the taking but the killing blow could not be delivered, and still the injury toll rose. Even after a string of losses, the good start to the season still had us in contention for the 4th spot in the semis. If we could just get a couple of early wins in round two, the title we were so desperately seeking seemed still to be in reach.

I think ultimately this desperation became the undoing with more losses following but a fantastic win over St Ives and Forest in the last rounds gave us some reward after a long season.

In particular the win against St Ives was a beauty and with debuts from our star colt's players, the future of the club is looking very bright indeed. We had by this stage a policy of have a go from anywhere and the fresh injection of the colt's and the spirit of the older heads lifted everyone and was one of the most satisfying wins we'd experienced for quite some time. This was also just rewards for those players who kept at it week in week out no matter what the results were and we enjoyed some winners beers at last and there was plenty of them.

To Anus Steven – thank you for everything, the standards in forward coaching has been raised every year and you certainly did it this year, you should be proud of your effort's, commitment and ability, good luck for your future endeavours. To Dave Crawford and Andy Campbell – The boys and I loved having you there and organising us all is a difficult job and you guys did it with calm, enthusiasm and panache.

To the players – You blokes are why we coach, I would of liked to mention you all and it would be unjust to mention just a few so the best way I can describe the season is this.

I have enjoyed watching you develop as rugby players and as mates and as men “the men the blue”. Thank you for your support, patience and dedication to this great club it has been an honour, I hope you will be back to do battle with us again in 2004.

Yours in Rugby

Geoff Fenwicke