



## COLLEAGUES ANNUAL REPORT 2004



### Colleagues Committee 2004

#### 2004 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.
B. Wood, Esq.	

CLUB CAPTAIN: Ed Sanders

SECRETARY: Hugh Urquhart

TREASURER: Andrew Moses

#### COMMITTEE:

Will Foster, Dan Petrie, Jack Mesley, Lachlan Benson, Cameron Ireland, Justin Crawford, 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, B. Wood.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Michael Clifford

## 1-0 President's Report

The 2004 season proved to be another successful year for the Colleagues.

### The Rugger

Our on field performance culminated in playing in all grand finals from Kentwell through to Sutherland having been knocked out of the competition controversially in Colts and having secured the first past the past Halligan in early August.

We walked away from that day with just the Whiddon Cup for the trophy cabinet but with a lot of pride in how the players, coaches and supporters had conducted themselves throughout the season. For that reason I find it difficult to pick out individuals to highlight for this report because it may do an injustice to many who gave of themselves to the Colleagues in 2004.

Therefore I will talk about the effort from all. The coaches in supporting one another and sharing the workload around throughout the season. For their honesty and faith in their players under sometimes difficult circumstances when dealing with such a large player group. The coaching staff of 2004 worked hard at getting selections right and were excellent council for one another. The high standard of organisation was appreciated by players and all can take a lot of satisfaction in the season.

As committed as our coaches were the players. Playing rugby is hard work and failure can be all too close for the unsuspecting. I found that the vast majority were very committed and that was borne out by the results through the year in only just failing to take out the Club Championship. This season may dim over time but never forget that it took you and those around you a lot of work to get where we did.

Outside of our Subbies competition we sent our Convicts back to England and they just fell short of winning the Bingham Cup and on the third attempt our team brought home the Bali 10's.

### The Bucks.

We are pleased to report another profit for the club.

After a number of years of large capital expenditure we feel that the clubhouse and grounds are now of the highest standard and should service us well for many years to come. The new scrum machine certainly caused some excitement for the usually dour forwards but I don't think that the backs have noticed it yet.

Our main drivers of revenue are subscriptions from players, bar sales, The Long Lunch, the "200 Club" and our magnificent sponsors. All of these revenue streams are very important as we try to rebuild some sort of capital base that will put the club in good stead in the coming years. I am grateful to the efforts of the many people who organised these processes and events and in particular to those who have generously supported the future of the Colleagues.

### Esprit

People often ask me to compare one year against another. I find this an impossible task because if you are a Colleague every year is a great year. If pushed I rate 1998 as without doubt the most difficult yet it was a very satisfying year.

Put simply it is the people who are involved with the club who make it a good year. We have been blessed over the years with individuals who will take up the challenge to make every year special in its own way. That is the imprimatur of the Colleagues that I have noticed most during my time at the club.

Again this year there was a willingness to not rest on our laurels and to improve on previous high standards. The Colleagues have enjoyed many magnificent years in its history and I will guarantee that not one of those was a result of people standing back and letting things drift along. That is not to say we can not yet again improve and we surely will.

Although we had our largest player numbers ever there is still the great interest in how the other teams performed with groups of mates being spread through the grades. The Convicts were an unusual and welcome addition to the club. At the start of the season there may have been a few raised eyebrows, but by seasons end I feel that there were a few stereotypes torn down about gay people and 'boofheaded' footballers. I think we learned that we are all comfortable with who we are.

### Ahead

We continue to be frustrated in the process for getting the final go ahead to replace the ground lighting. It will now not be until the New Year that we can get the go ahead and we are very confident that this project will

proceed. New lights will certainly make training a degree or two safer but also ensure that we can manage wear and tear on the grounds surface as well as train more effectively.

In February the Colleagues will host the inaugural Bondi 10's, a charity event for the Royal North Shore Hospital and Bali bombing victims. I think that this is an exciting innovation and I feel that it will be great success as it will show case all that makes Rugby great, the game itself but just as importantly the camaraderie that it endears.

.... at last I hear you say.

To all those who were associated with the Colleagues in 2004 I thank you for your patience, toil and support. I hope you had as good a time as I did and I look forward to seeing you in 2005.

## 2-0 Club Captain's Report

I come to the end of my tenure as Club Captain at Colleagues as a very satisfied man. The Club is in fantastic shape, and continues to grow and develop in a manner befitting a place of such tradition and strong values. Being involved with rugby organisations on a professional basis, I can honestly say that Colleagues puts many of its more celebrated rivals to shame with its dedication to the upholding of the Colleagues mission, and its simple philosophy of enjoyment and tolerance.

On the field, 2004 was a superb year by any stretch of the imagination. The last hurrah again failed to provide the ultimate overall results we wanted, with several teams falling at the final hurdle on Grand Final weekend. But, again, we can look back and be immensely proud of what we achieved as a Club during the season as a whole.

While my shoulder injury meant that I missed out on the successful Whiddon Cup Grand Final this year, I am proud to have been part of the 2004 Colleagues campaign, which I consider to be the best Colleagues season I have been involved in, both on and off the field.

### Whiddon Cup

A massive congratulations to the Whiddon Cup side who won the Major Premiership (as well as the Minor Premiership) for only the fourth time in the Club's history. A fabulous effort from all involved - a classy season which finished as decisively as it had begun, 17-8 to the good guys. To come back from 8-3 down at half-time was testament to the spirit in the side which has led from the front all year.

A big thank you to Jon Purbrick and Hamish McCathie (as well as Ed White) who erased two previous disappointments to come up trumps in their third year at the helm of a Colleagues side.

Special mention to three Colleagues stalwarts - Justin Crawford, Jonathan Clydesdale and Grand Final day skipper Richard Byrne - who secured their first premiership for the Club after many years of long service. The experience in this trio was complemented by some fantastic young Colleagues who will become great club men in years to come.

### Halligan Cup

Congratulations also to the Halligan Cup sides which took an unassailable lead in the Halligan Cup relatively early in the season, ensuring that Colleagues secured its first piece of silverware in season 2004.

After a mighty season which saw the real Halligan spirit come to the fore, the Halligan sides finished in first and second place on the ladder. In a tradition started by Colleagues when it had two Burke Cup sides many years ago, the sides did not play each other for bragging rights. Instead, Colleagues was simply crowned Halligan Cup champions.

My thanks go to Rob Rosenberg and Laurie Campbell-Avenell for all their hard work in a notoriously tough job. And to the players who put in solid performances each week - congratulations on behalf of the rest of the Club.

### Bali

Colleagues' solid 2004 continued with the Bali tourists taking out the 2004 Bali Tens title in October. A big congratulations to the entire squad for bringing home the silverware at their third attempt and maintaining the important and dedicated tradition of Colleagues touring.

### Convicts

I was delighted with the success of the Convicts who joined Colleagues in Season 2004. As Sydney's first gay and gay-friendly rugby side, the Convicts as part of Colleagues broke down many of the traditional barriers which have existed over the years.

The Convicts joined Colleagues as a training mechanism for the Bingham Cup in London in May, which they bowed out of admirably in the semi-finals. The Convicts comfortably won all their pool matches and quarter-final, but a couple of key injuries were sustained. The heavy schedule saw them suffer a narrow loss (6-3) in the semi-final to the eventual champions, the San Francisco Fog.

I also wanted to acknowledge the efforts of the Convicts as the Halligan III side, particularly to those who stuck around and played in various sides for the rest of the year and contributed to the Halligan premiership.

Thanks to Andrew Purchas for all his help and commitment this season.

### Other Grades

The Barbour Cup (Colts) competition was a closely fought thing all season. Defending a premiership is really tough, but these mini-Blue Giants showed extraordinary toughness and spirit all season. They were cruelly undone in the semi-final by an Old Iggies outfit unwilling to pack a proper scrum. The Colts should be delighted that, at the very least, they provided some superb judiciary antics for members of the Committee. But on a serious note, well done to them all, and a big thank you to Ben Wood, Chris Warfield and Peter Schumack for a great season – we look forward to seeing the Colts develop and play many more games for Colleagues in years to come.

The Sutherland Cup season was tight and tough and ended with a defeat against Iggies in the Grand Final. Iggies scored two runaway tries against the run of play, and these were enough to hold off a committed Colleagues side 14-0. Well done to Will Foster, Benny Waters, Noodle and the team for a fantastic season in getting to the Grand Final from fourth spot on the ladder - no mean feat.

The Judd Cup side went in to their Grand Final against the Iggies Dream Team having beaten them in the major semi-final two weeks previously. Jonny Melia's try from the kickoff set the platform for a committed Colleagues first half which saw them lead at the break. Iggies, to their credit, came back strongly in the second half to hold off a fast-finishing Colleagues side by the narrowest of margins, 15-14. Andrew Moses led by example all day, and the Juddies should be extremely proud of the football they played all year. A big thank you to Jon Irwin and Mitch Tourle (who had a sensational year in his first year of coaching) as well as Muffy for all they did to get the Juddies to the Grand Final.

Adam Upton led the Burkies for most of the year again, including the Grand Final, which saw the Blue Giants go down to Drummoyne. Although the Burkies played some sparkling rugby in 2004 and continued to fight back all day, they never really hit their straps on the day and seemed to be playing catch-up for the remainder of the match. Well done and a big thank you to Adam Upton, Michael Boyd and Tony Martin for another great year and for the Minor Premiership.

I thought the Kentwell Cup Grand Final was a truly entertaining game of rugby played at a standard which Subbies could only have dreamed about even ten years ago. I, along with the Club, was immensely proud of the 2004 Kentwell side - all resolutely amateur, unlike some of our friends at other clubs - and our congratulations go out to them on a fine season, especially after the disappointment of 2003.

Stu Brown was inspirational (even up to when he burnt his boots on the oval during the Grand Final recovery weekend) and Dave Jepson was one of the best forwards coaches I can remember at the Club. Thanks also to Justin Crawford for his managerial skills which he juggled beautifully with the resurrection of his (premiership-winning!) playing career.

I also wanted to mention Dan Kelly's phenomenal effort this year, playing every game except round one, and coming agonisingly close (1 point) to the all-time Colleagues point-scoring record for a season. To see the development of DK and Alex Smith (happy to get off nude after scoring a try in the Grand Final), who both came through the colts program, was a highlight this year - well done.

I cannot thank Geoff Fenwicke enough for all he has done for Colleagues over the last few years, but particularly this year. He is not only a great bloke, but has developed into an excellent communicator and an outstanding coach with a rare ability to read a game. His award of the Honour Cap this year was an outstanding and deserved tribute to a real Colleague.

### NSW Subbies

Congratulations also to Jonathan Clydesdale and Matt Kowal on being selected in the NSW Subbies Representative side this season.

### Appreciation

From me, I wanted to say well done and thank you to all the players, coaches and others who help make Colleagues the great Club that it is.

Thank you to our sponsors - the Paddington Bowling Club, Empire Hotel, B Braun, Bell Potter Securities, Eastside Home Loans, Fimat, Hill Rogers, Jan Logan, Ryan's Bar and Wentworth Travel. The Club simply couldn't do it without them.

The list is endless, but I also wanted to say a huge thank you to Rich McGrath, Andrew Moses, Will Foster (another truly deserving Honour Cap recipient), Cam Ireland, Tim Booth, Dan Petrie, Jon Pappas, Jack Mesley, Pete Minucos, Geraint Hudson, Ben Garland, Jon Ryan and Adrian Morris for all they've done in 2004. My sincere apologies if and when I've missed anyone.

### Conclusion

So in 2004 the Blue Giants finished a narrow second in the Club Championship behind Drummoyne, had five grand finalists and came away with two premierships.

I think that speaks volumes for the strength of the Club, and I want to ask the Club to remember that an effort like this takes character and contribution from a wide range of people. It wasn't so long ago that Colleagues was facing relegation. We are on pretty solid foundations at the moment, and I am proud of everyone who called themselves a Colleague this year.

On a personal note, apart from the mateship and the rugby, I have been a part of many satisfying things at Colleagues (including playing my 100<sup>th</sup> game in 2004), and I wanted to record some of them for posterity.

- Seeing people with an unquestionable dedication to a Club which often goes unrecognised, like Richard McGrath, Justin Crawford, Tim Booth, Will Foster, Jon Ryan, John Pappas and Dan Petrie. They are the heart and soul of the place.
- Helping in a small way to integrate the colts into the Club to the position of strength which they are in now, and to see guys like Dan Kelly and Alex Smith come through the system, and hear Tim Martin say he is determined to be part of a rare father-and-son combination to play 100 games.
- Seeing the way in which the Convicts were welcomed with open arms, hearing stories of how they were so surprised by the levels of acceptance and encouragement, and how Bruce Donald (a 300-game Colleague) saw his gay son become a Colleague too.
- Seeing the Club grow from near-relegation in 1998 to the point where we have new facilities, 9 grades and an immeasurable spirit.

Congratulations on season 2004.

**Ed Sanders**

**Club Captain 2004**

### **3-0 Secretary Report**

Dear Members,

Once again the Woollahra Colleagues had another very busy and successful year in 2004. The on field efforts speak for themselves and are well covered throughout this report.

Off field it was another full year, with organisation starting in November of last year after a short sabbatical. We were expecting to have another influx of players, but what we ended up with was way beyond our expectations, with over 350 players registering with the club. This broke our previous record from the year before, and puts the club from a numbers point of view on level pegging with most of the more successful Premier clubs. I believe there are a number of reasons for this.

Our new clubhouse has an attraction for players looking to play 'Subbies' Rugby and still enjoy a very fine facility, if not the best in the sub-district competition.

Our ground underwent re-surfacing and drainage improvements, which after a long period of deterioration meant we now had grass to play on and we are now in the last throws of having new lighting put in, which will cap off a number of years of hard work and effort by numerous people, both old and current players.

Our President has led this effort, leading from the front and supervising tasks with a firm and guiding hand. Also our Treasurer, as I outlined in last years report continues with strict control over accounts and this sees us in an enviable position, even after our large capital expenditure.

A key to this is our sponsorship, with David Crawford from B Braun, once again providing his support, both with sponsorship and now with family! Will Foster has worked very hard on this front and is to be congratulated for his hard work and also for his other off field help, which included registrations, clubhouse and ground.

Dan Petrie once again was indispensable with his organisation of the Clubhouse. His stamina throughout the season not just on this front, but many others has not gone unnoticed by any member who takes an interest in the club.

Lastly, Geoff Fenwicke's organisation on the coaching side was truly professional and the final outcome for the whole club in having all Grade sides there on Grand Final day was a tribute to him. I personally wish him well in the future, and thank his wife Angie for her patience and understanding.

There are of course many other people from coaches to sub committee members who worked very hard to make 2004 a success and of course our general membership, who are always more than happy to help when required and I believe, represented the club both on and off the field in a manner that would be expected of a club of our standing.

As for myself, I shall be standing down from the position as Secretary. I have found the job to be fulfilling and very busy. After 20 years of involvement with Easts and then Colleagues, I feel it is time for a break. I would like to thank all those people who have helped me in my current role and for their patience. I think that we have a wonderful place to enjoy Rugby both on and off the field, but this ethos can die a very quick death, unless people are willing to step up and take there turn on the admin side. It does take up time, but you will get satisfaction out of it.

With all the changes that are being muted in the Premier grade, we need to be vigilant in protecting what people like Tiger, Murchison, Freddy, Turner, Charlie, Noice, Gooch, Edwards, Booth, Lawson, Wood, McGrath have laid down. So please step up and do your time.

I will still be available for any background work and I look forward to 2005.

Cheers in Rugby

Hugh Urquhart

Hon. Secretary.

#### 4-0 2004 Season in Review

##### To all players and friends of the Blue Giants,

It was with much anticipation and excitement to have the opportunity to be the Club Coach at Blue Giant Stadium again this year and I just wanted to say thank you to the Richard and the committee for the faith and support shown to all of the coaching staff in the 2004 season. This was an exciting time both on and off the field with the new clubhouse feeling more and more like home, the ovals getting re-surfaced and purchasing a scrum machine of international standards towards the second half of the season. All of these factors contributed to great player number's in the pre-season and plenty of enthusiasm and success progressing throughout 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 congratulations to all the coaches, managers and players who dedicated themselves throughout the year in improving on our position from fourth spot last year to second place in the Club Championship in 2004.

It was without doubt a successful season for the boys in blue this season.

2 Minor Premierhips – Burke Cup & Whiddon Cups  
2 Major Premierhips – Whiddon Cup and Halligan Cup teams.  
2<sup>nd</sup> in the Club Championship at 900 points with the winners at 918 points.

With the welcome addition of the Convicts, who were aptly named the 'Pink Giants' saw us run out 9 teams out on a Saturday 7 times this year and Rainbow (Blue) rinsed the opposition at least 2 times. As a club we won 120 games, drew 4 & lost just 26 games.

We made grand final appearances from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through to 5<sup>th</sup> grade which was a sensational effort and although bitterly disappointing to only come away with one premierhip again just to get there takes an incredible amount of commitment and time.

To the premiers and definite highlight of the season was on grand final day (and night) for the Whiddon Cup team brilliantly coached by John Purbrick and Hamish McCathie. Well done to everyone who played on the day and throughout the season.

The mantra of celebration that night was instead of "thank God for those colts" in 2003 to "thank God for those Whiddon cup lads".

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 but this did not affect the spirit and effort right 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 and I hope you found it as rewarding as I did. There are a few departing coaches this year and will certainly leave a great opportunity for future leaders of the club to step into these roles and hopefully secure the success that has been so agonisingly close again this year.

Ed Sanders had another great year as Club Captain and on behalf of the club we can't thank you enough for all your support and leadership shown again this year.

To my family, Angela and young Xanthe thank you for supporting my passion. To Jerry and the medical staff thank you again for your tireless work patching the boys up week in week out and to the supporters and friends of Colleagues thank you for being there week in and week out, it gives us a great sense of history to know where this club has been and it helps us to understand where we want to be in the future.

To the players – we have enjoyed watching you develop as rugby players and as mates and continuing on the true spirit of rugby, quite simply the people are what make rugby clubs great and a club that is strong, well done. Thank you for your support, patience and dedication to this great club and I hope you will be back to do battle again in 2005.

Geoffrey Fenwicke

#### 5-1 Kentwell Cup

The Kentwell Cup side of 2004 played in their first grand final since 1996 and were indeed one of the stronger teams to represent Colleagues in recent memory. The side was led initially by club stalwart and inspirational inside centre Jack Mesley whose season was cut short by a horrific injury sustained after driving back from the country that morning just to reserve and support the team. To Jack, we hope to see you back on the field soon and your contribution to the club and Kentwell team was again outstanding this year.

The side started the year nervously with a first round loss to Waverley although it is fair to suggest that the team displayed enough potential to threaten the premiership in 2004 from game one. The first half of the season saw the Kentwell side win five matches in row with the highlight of the year beating last year's premiers, Dundas Valley at Ray Price. It was one of the toughest performances I have ever been associated with when the Kentwell Cup side scored an impressive victory with a bonus point in the final minute to beat Dundas 34-19.

Dan "DK" Kelly and Alex "Smitty" Smith who had played colts the year before had a huge impact on the season with Kelly's point scoring prowess giving our side an unassailable lead in what would have been some more closely contested contests. Smitty provided many bone crunching hits which left many colleagues oppositions very wary during the hard fought contests this season.

Colleagues were very lucky to enjoy the services of Robbie Aarvold and Paul Howard in the second row during the beginning of the year which gave us a very dominate forward pack and in the front row, Jonathon Clydesdale was again impressive but had his season cut short through injury however was rewarded in a winning Widdon Cup side. Cam Ireland, Joe Dusseldorp and Dave Brown were simply awesome and secured many a win for our side. Lachie Bassingwaite who leaves Colleagues to move to Cootamundra was again outstanding for Colleagues as the leader of the forwards and indeed a leader to many off the field as well. The club wishes Lachie and his wife Mary the very best on the next chapter in their life.

Simon Gardiner, Will Davies, Matt Kowal, and born-again rugby player Jono Lobban were simply outstanding for the blue giants this year in the back row and also (without to much complaint) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row as well. Lobbo's effort was amazing considering he hadn't played for several seasons and is a great addition to the club.

In the second part of the season, the Kentwell team welcomed back journeyman, Stu Brown whose professionalism, attitude and endless desire to win was at the core of our charge to the finals. "Brownie" has called it a day as a player but gave our great club two very memorable years and naturally the club will no doubt do everything they can eight weeks from the finals to coax this wily veteran to go around one more time!

The Kentwell Cup side of 2004 was indeed a very happy unit with the team providing many highlights but firstly the statistics

- The Kentwell side won 11 from 18 games securing second place in the minor premierhip > earned 15 bonus points > scored 433 points for (3<sup>rd</sup> best attacking) and 276 against (best defensive team in the competition).
- The most consistent performer Ollie Winchester – a great team man and winger 17/18 games & Mal Eadie's endless hit-ups and gutsy defence 17/18 games. DK and Smitty also got 16/18 games and consistency in all these position faired well for us all season.
- The final round victory against St Pats' which saw backline generals, Joe Toohey and Gav Kidd have an absolute field day against one of our oldest rivals and also prided themselves on hard hitting defence. Both used there opportunities well all season and both were rewarded with grand final appearances. (I'm sure baffler will be back next season)
- Nick Marval's three tries against Forest at Forest which did not sit well with the green men whose dislike of the Blue Giants is legendary! Marvs had an outstanding season at fullback and always made the smart decision on the field and his counter attacking flair kept oppositions guessing the whole time.
- Matty Kowal and Jonathon Clydesdale for again making the Subbies Representative side.

Making the Grand final has been a holy grail for us giants for the last few years and this year we made it but only took the lead for a precious few minutes during the game. To come back from 17 points down again was a huge effort but I think just took its toll on us all. We missed our opportunities by getting held up over the line, missing a crossed field kick by inches and a slight forward pass was the difference between these two teams so unfortunately a red hot Drummoyne who dominated the entire season came away with the win.

Congratulations are extended to Drummoyne for taking out the Kentwell and Burke Cups and they were the best side all year, especially in first grade dropping only one game all season.

No club can run without the dedication of its supporters, committee and team management well done and thank you to all who helped Colleagues to its success this year. Pappas again had another great year and his support is legendary.

To my fellow coaches, thank you again for another great year and congratulations on the way the club was lead this year.

David Jepsen was brilliant with our forwards and gave us the toughness and direction in the forwards necessary to shoot for the premiership. To Justin Crawford, only age will weary you my friend, your support, and professionalism is an inspiration to all of us.

Thanks again to the committee and I'm sure the rewards of many years of work by the Colleagues collective will be rewarded in the next few years.

Go you giants,

Geoffrey Fenwicke.

## 5-2 Burke Cup

The 2004 Burke Cup Season was one of mixed emotions, which saw Colleagues secure the Minor Premiership with an impressive record of only one loss, only to be denied at the final hurdle by a more committed Drummoyne outfit. In all though the record of played 21 games, won 18, lost 3, and drew 1 is still an outstanding effort.

Any Burke Cup side is a strange and eclectic mix of a clubs talent with a collection of those players knocking on the 1<sup>st</sup> XV's door and those beginning the slide down the grades. As such there is a fine blend of youthful exuberance as well as wisdomed older heads. Typically the grizzled appearance of a Luke Keniff, coupled well with the boyish appearance of our outside backs, and the Ivy League types of the Brazier. Also who could forget such characters as Rian and his expansive vocabulary of words that start with "C", Spanner who just wants to "smash C's", and the "Elastoplast Bandit" Nick Love This combination helped produce for us a memorable season that will be etched in many of our minds for years, if only for what might have been.

The Club owes a debt of gratitude to the players of Burkies for there continued support of the betterment of the Club as a whole and did their best to assist in our attempt to wrestle the Club Championship trophy back home to Woolahra. In what was a truly supportive collective effort we again fell short of the mark by the leanest of margins, despite not having to rely on the Clubs chequebook.

Once again Adam Upton who as typically as ever led by example and commitment, and was always in the thick of the action when things got tough captained the Burke Cup side. Thank you Adam for support and leadership over the past few years.

A solid platform for the team was our illustrious front row. By far and away this was a front row of Kentwell standard for most Clubs, and we were fortunate enough to have them in Burke Cup. Whilst the main stays of the front row were Adrian "Spanner" Morris, Rian "Count with the O" Slabbert, and Paul "I'm good for another run" Henningham, we were also ably supported by a host of other players throughout the year, and whilst too many to name, we thank you all.

Our experienced second row of Upton and Nick Love, assisted on and off by Ollie Temperton, Will Davies and others, was also part of a dominant tight five that demolished opposition packs time and time again. The experience of these two players ensured that even when Rian threw into the lineout we were on the money ball, and on numerous occasions were able to completely dominate opposition lineouts.

The back row positions throughout the Club were hotly contested all year and the number of players that came through the Burke Cup ranks was high. In the end though we were well equipped with Toby Rakinson, David Rolph and Sam Field to the end, but special mention should be made of Luke Keniff's contribution throughout the year.

Our back line also saw a variety of talent pass through the ranks with many of our players going onto represent the Kentwell side, as well as being a part of the Championship Whiddon Cup side.

At half Sam McPhie was a consistent and reliable performer who never gave less than 100%. Five eight was a moving feast in 2004 with probably no fewer than 5 players filling the ranks. Notably we were well represented by Ben Chadwick, Druzal Brazier and Jamie Payne throughout the season, all three of which played the Grand Final, the latter two in the centres. Andrew Brazier should also be congratulated for winning the Fisher & Paykel Award for Worlds Cleanest Player for a record seventh time. Well-done Andrew.

Our back three were some of the most electrifying and talented players in the Club in 2004, providing a surety and depth of pace. Damon O'Loughlin scored a hat trick of tries on a number of occasions and was a pleasure to watch with the ball in hand. Elton Berrange, who despite being afflicted with a God awful accent like Rian, was another player who possess great ability and was a delight to see with the ball in hand. Finally Ross Hynard, probably the find of the season and for mine the most improved player in the Club had an outstanding season, capped by what I would say was a Man of the Match performance in the Grand Final, despite being on the losing side.

Mention must be made of a couple of other players who graciously accepted their fate at seasons end. Tim Berryman who was found to be an unregistered player had to sit out the Final series, and James Hendie who had played the majority of the season played as a fresh reserve in the Grand Final.

Once again thank you to all the players who donned the dirty blue jersey in 2004, and to the other coaches and administrative members of the Club who made our task so much easier. Special thanks to Geoff Fenwicke who has given his heart and soul to the Club for the past few seasons, and we wish him well for the future. Finally to Richard McGrath for his generous support and enthusiasm throughout the past few years.

### 5-3 Whiddon Cup

Firstly the Coaches would like to thank the committee as they are the people who put an incredible effort to make sure that we get onto the paddock each week, especially people like Richard McGrath, The Rock, Peach and Ed Sanders. Their effort cannot be underestimated as without people like these this club would just not be able to function.

To the coaches – Geoff has brought a new set of ideals to the club with an emphasis on high skills ability and after a tough first year reaped the benefits this year, and in my opinion should stay on to bring home Kentwell next year with his partner Jeppo who brings toughness to the forwards.

All the coaches have done an incredible job this year with Marto & Boydy in Burke Cup losing just one game in the regular season. Johnny Irwin & Mitch Tourle who probably had the toughest gig as usual, coming up against the Iggies dream team, who were taken all the way in a dramatic grand final.

Benny Waters and Will Foster, first year coaches took a very competitive 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the grand final and of course Rob and Laurie once again took Halligan to victory for the third time in 4 years.

Whiddos – Minor Premiers and Premiers, there is no doubt in my mind that we could have been undefeated, but for the sake a lapse of concentration for about ten minutes during the whole season.

As we said in the grand final report the grand final was won not only on the field but on the training paddock, even though the sessions were short the team effort was always there especially in the ring of death!

The team was extremely lucky to have two incredible captains. Ed Sanders who led the team through out the majority of the season and was injured in the major semi and Byrno, who stood in when Ed was playing Burke Cup or injured. Both brought incredible determination and pure toughness to the team, as they knew what was required to win a Grand Final, having felt the pain of losing one before. Both can take great pride in guiding this team to victory

I would like to go through each individual player however to do so would be incredibly difficult as over 60 players played Whiddon Cup at some stage or another throughout the season and all are apart of this great victory. However there are a number of players that were the rock of our team and created the hard edge and special commitment to the team, these players were the ones that took on that extra yard did that extra tackle and played until the full time whistle went and not before. They are the determined ones, the quiet ones, they would not allow this opportunity to slip through their fingers and they know who they are!

However as the forwards coach I was truly lucky to have an extremely balanced pack. They were ruthless in their pursuit of domination; they laid the platform and the go forward to give McCath's backs room to tear up the paddock.

Talking about McCath, well what a coaching record you have: Coached 62, lost 9, Drawn 2 and One Premiership! (Included in that is three grand final appearances) McCath is without a doubt the brains in our organisation. I managed to recruit him at a funeral and we never looked back. His ability to read a game and get the best out of his players is quite inspiring to watch. I think that he gave more potential Kentwell players (and tried to hide them) starts than I can remember.

He moulded a raw talented back line that was not only the most dangerous attacking weapon within the comp but the meanest of all back lines having also the best defensive record! They could suffocate opposition to death with their overwhelming defence and turn them inside out in a split second later.

McCath's pure passion for the game is self evident as the arguments about the referees decisions were not only heated but always right. Without doubt his retirement from the club will leave a gapping hole which will be extremely hard to fill.

Personal thanks to Ed White who after getting injured two weeks out before the semis became the team manager and worked very hard to ensure a Whiddo's victory.

The Club which is more important than any individual team victory, is in my belief poised to dominate all grades for many years, for the best is still to come, however remember the hard work that you have already put in, and be prepared to go once more to the breach!

Gentlemen once more congratulations on a great season and may your beer always be cold.

Yours in rugby

The Coaches  
Hamish McCathie & Jon Purbrick

### 5-4 Judd Cup

The Judd Cup team has once again shown the comp that they are a genuine force to be reckoned with by once again making the GF for the third year in a row.

The season started out with a new team, a new attitude after the disappointment of last year and a new forwards coach in Mitchell Tourle. We started out with wins all round until a draw with Iggies and a loss to Mosman made us realise that we weren't as good as we thought and we duly had to remove a digit from the area which shall not be mentioned in this report. This was compounded by a game against St Pats where we actually pulled their pants down but only won by a point from a kick on full time by a Scottish import from the Halligan Cup squad who promptly disappeared among a shroud of secrecy and visa issues never to be heard from again except in asking for employment.

It was about this time of year when the captain and the team changed as often as my missus' mind and we bumbled along until Bega took hold of the wheel and steered us back to playing some good footy and a few more convincing wins. Towards the end of the season with two draws in a row and multiple changes in the team, we started into the finals campaign with the makings of a team that could go all the way. When we played against Pats we all of a sudden realized that we not only had the same team together, but become mates along the way – this is the one thing that Colleagues Juddies for mine is all about.

The season reports from Mitch sum it up as far as the games go but this report is something more than that. We as coaches have to make some tough decisions about who goes where and unfortunately it tends to be dictated from up the grades – this is the way it is though and it will always stay the same unless we don't get injuries or blunders along the way. It is hard to have so many talented players to pick from and admittedly I have made mistakes along the way, but if I had my time again I would do everything the same way and would have no regrets about the decisions.

I don't think Juddies need to find the belief any more in their ability in themselves, they should have it. They are all playing in a clubs 4th grade at Colleagues where the majority could be playing (and did) play Burke Cup and some even higher.

Mitch had a great year as a coach and the respect I had as player was quickly conveyed into coaching. His ability to get the forwards working like clockwork despite many personalities and changes amazed me. Well done mate and I hope you keep at it and I would love to have another go at it with you.

My mum asked me the other day why would you go to ridiculous lengths to leave meetings / work early, only to go back at 9pm, take overnight flights from Perth or where ever the hell I was during on Thursdays during the year, or generally sacrifice relationships / weddings / family do's (although if you met some of my family you'd get that one) etc to get to training / games etc and I never really knew until Sunday nite at the Pub. It was you guys the players. I have coached for a few years now and always thought it was a desperate attempt to cling to my youth or because I needed something to fill my time but no.....

But it is because I love it.

That comes from you guys, the players. I consider you friends and that's why I think I always wanted you guys to do so well, and I enjoyed it so much. I had times where I didn't do the best job at it and I admit it readily, but I always wanted to get down to training and catch up with the boys and chat to you all about footy and general shit. Colleagues is a great club because it has great guys in it. The Juddies this year should be proud of their achievements both on and off the field.

Well done gents, you have all done the club, me and Mitch proud. I may not be there next year due to other commitments, but if I've got the time and the same calibre of blokes that were there this year are ready to have another go, I would love to be involved with all of you again.

A couple of highlights for the year.

- Halligan / Convicts boys hitting their straps and flogging all in front of them (No ironic pun intended Fuzz)
- Whitey up and down like a prostitutes underpants – showed great character from being dropped and reinstated 3 times in one night (Thanks Boydy). It was hard to explain that one to him. Cheers Mate.
- The after match drinking games which turned out looking like 5am in the Empire rather than 2pm at Blue Giants stadium. Highlight was Johnny Melia running out onto the field while the game was still on, no-one knows why.
- Bensons Mr Mannering call to the Iggies Captain after they started losing their bottle.

- The Judd Cup team overrunning the Ruby Rabbit packed with hot chicks to which I introduced every one and no-one got laid.
- Me that same morning sneaking home at 8.30am and telling my girlfriend that we had footy training on Sundays and although I was still in the same clothes that I went out in the previous nite, they all trained well and sent their regards.
- Me doing the exact same story on Monday morning about 6.30 am – that one didn't work.
- The Lebanese Sheriff tearing through the Iggies defence in the semi and the forwards streaming in after him with Iggies blokes left all over the field.
- Robbie Laycock's youthful rejuvenation drinks which is now on sale in leading chemists. Your wife hated through footy season mate but I'll bet she's happy now!!!
- The big hits, the great tries, the rolling mauls and Cush's attempt to speak on GF nite!

Thanks to Junior early on and the Big Muff Daddy to take over the reigns and all and sundry for the help provided during the year.

Yours in Rugby

Jonny Irwin

## 5-5 Sutherland Cup

The one that got away, so close yet so far, we had our chances but didn't take them, the cliches run thick and fast but unfortunately for us they are all true.

On Grand Final Day Iggies were just too good, but to their credit they were probably too good all season.

Unfortunately we can't call it a successful season, as we failed to achieve our main goal of going one better this year and returning the Sutherland Cup to its rightful place in the Colleagues Clubhouse. We did, however, have many a good time, a few close wins and a few big wins. We were greatly assisted this year by the organisation of the Halligan competition, and the endless talent that was provided by those boys week after week.

We played close to 50 different players throughout the year, but it was the core playing group that we need to thank for putting in the effort over the full 23 week period. Inspirational leadership from Dave Hunter, Benny Rolleston, and Rodney "Bega" McDonald towards the end of the season laid a terrific base for the rest of the team to follow, especially in those weeks where there was a big change in the personnel on the field.

Thanks to our stalwarts, Pissant, Jono Linn, Shane "Birch" Birchall and Grant "Yowie" Hourigan in the front row, and Tim "Marto" Martin and Steve "Teddy" Rabe locking up the tight five. Geraint Hudson and Matt Ward, thanks for not complaining too much when selected in the 2 row (because Marto had to go skiing), and to Hunter and Col for always staying on the ball.

Bega, Steve Robson and Matt "Jacko" Jackson were the generals at the scrum base, and Benny Rolleston and Zeke were certainly in control of the game as good five eights should be. As much as it is against my will, I have to give credit to a Kiwi, and Jeff Law made some of the biggest hits of the year at 12, while Charlie "Brownie/Blackhawk" Brown took out the Best and Fairest award by further proving that he is the angriest short man going around the Club. The Peach, as always, was mercurial in whatever position he played, although some questionable drop goal attempts in the finals may relegate him to Juddies next season. The wingers provided some of the more memorable moments (damn glory boys...) of the year:

- Ed Todd Jones doing his hammy sprinting for the tryline when we were 30 points up one week before the finals.
- Wormy's try at St Pats to secure the game,
- Bairdy's enthusiasm and chat, rivalling Brownie for the I'm NOT Small Award

The backline was secured by Coonie, Huender and Whyte, ensuring that we conceded very few tries and resetting the attack whenever possible.

Highlights/Lowlights from the next couple of days

- Yowie naked (my retinas have been permanently scarred).
- Marto in general.
- Hunter in a skirt.
- Pissant going home with a six foot black man in a sailors suit.

Not only at a Suthos level but across the club we need to address our self belief. There is no doubt in my mind that we have the best players in Subbies, we just need to show it by working better together and knowing we are going to win when we run out on to the field.

May 2005 be the year that we punish those who took away our 2004 glory.

In closing boys we would like to thank you all for your contribution through out the year. It has been a lot of fun. We worked hard and nearly got there. Let that loss burn you for the summer as the job is not done yet and will not be done until September next year. And thanks to the rest of the Blue Giants for your support through out the year. Congratulations on all the other teams for making the finals and to Whiddos and Halligan - "You little beauty!!!!!"

Benny, Wilbur and Noodle



## 5-6 Halligan Cup

What a great year! What more can you say really... Being undefeated was one thing but doing with such a great bunch of lads who were totally committed to one another made it all the better.

Without doubt for mine the stand out game was "The Battle of Redfield" where we were not only up against the toughest non-colleagues side in the comp but we were also out to break the Subbies record for most games on the trot without a point being scored against us. Sadly we missed out on a new record, with them kicking a goal at the first opportunity they could to spoil our party (equalling the old record was reward enough) however, we had a titanic struggle, winning it at the death with a magic try to Benny Isaac..

Highlights for the year would have to be:

\* "The Club Special" performed against Iggies to perfection, which I sadly missed however; by all accounts it was true to the name special.

Then in no particular order:

\* Lachie Roach's quietly achieved get the job done attitude and meteoric improvement throughout the year.

\* Nick Potter's bursts of brilliance that were unfortunately cut short by injury.

\* Seamus Fingleton's staunch defence, unselfish attack and damn good clubman attitude.

\* Ben Isaac: "THAT TRY"....

\* Uti Alatan: When he finally found his Mojo was a sight for sore eyes on the fly...

\* Nick Minato's committed running and tenacious defence not to mention side of field vomiting.

\* Jimmy Turnbull's numerous tries and open play running - our back of the year.

\* Micky "ABBA" Turner's punishing defence and inspiration play.

\* Shaun Dwyer's mercurial skills and awesome goal kicking.

\* Stu Tollis emerging as a damn good prop.

\* Chris Braid's cool hand and ability to keep getting up no matter how hard they hit him.

\* The front row (Bear, Breezy, Liam, Wazza and Stu plus a couple of cameos) never taking a backward step and never once walking off the field in second place.

\* Chris Schliebs' terrier like defence and never ending endurance on the paddock.

\* Jason Bentley's outstanding lineout jumping not to mention unwavering commitment to the side and its spirit.

\* Andrew Cameron's desperation close to the line in attack and defence and lineout work.

\* Jim Stanford's straight and hard running.

\* Chris Kirby's amazing versatility and dynamic hard running.

\* Dave Meredith's brilliant work at the line out, breakdown and in defence.

\* Dan Pugh's hard-hitting and tireless efforts to recycle the ball.

\* Brian Teplacanic's amazing agility and safe as house work cleaning up at the back.

\* Cannonball Bill Asmar's shots coming out of the line and amazing hole hitting ability.

\* Neal Dooly..... Well for being Neal Dooly.....

Every one of those boys put it on the line week after week and defined the word "team". Couldn't have asked for more from any one of them. They most certainly will be a very tough act to follow for many years to come.

Rob Rosenberg

## 5-7 Barbour Cup

It's often been said that defending a premiership is infinitely more difficult than winning one. The 2004 Barbour Cup season was testament to that statement.

Coming off the 2003 Grand Final destruction of Old Iggies, Coach Wood, not willing to rest on his laurels, implemented a gruelling off season training regime - swimming, 7km runs, weights sessions... were replaced with smoking, 7 pie lunches and drinking sessions. We looked good.

Changes from last years team were numerous and obvious. The stoic, workmanlike leadership of Dan Kelly has been replaced by the workmanlike, stoic leadership of Peter Shumack. Thuper Backs Coach Minucos' football brain has been replaced by new Demolition Consultant Chris Warfield's swollen brain. Alex Smith had taken his shoulders to first grade and Andrew Ross V2.1 (now with improved Fitness!) took over at the 8.

It all looked very positive, last years returnees were primed and ready to play: Matt Prowse was handed the number 10 jersey, which he dropped. He was drunk.

Andrew Watt finally got an opportunity to make the number 6 his own, but he abused the ref got sent off and I had to make him give it to Wonders.

Chris Cousins got the green light at Inside Centre and was earmarked as a skipper of the future, but forgot which night we trained... a lot.

Chris "Killer" Kilby continued his high level of appearance. Just a great looking bloke.

The Mini Kel's finally got some playing time together... with Stokes... in EUROPE! Who goes on holidays 5 weeks before the Semi's? I mean, seriously.

James Symonds blossomed into a lineout grabbing machine at 4 and a Rum drinking machine at 4am.

Boogert joined the army.

James Cheetham ummed and ahed about whether or not he wanted to play football before finally deciding he didn't really mind.

There were also some new and scintillating additions to the squad this year, coming from outside our normal ranks.

Pete Short, Jeremy Simpson and Mark "Tubby" Taylor were bought in from rivals UNSW and immediately filled holes at Lock, OC and Fullback respectively. Apparently they've been filling various holes at "The Roundhouse" for years.

Nick Cox came across from Uni, obviously looking to take advantage of the additional year of Colts that Subbies offers. That didn't quite pan out for young Coxy, as once Boydy & Marto saw him, he ended up playing half the season in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!

Chris Bailey provided some blue heeler like yap at the scrum base, issuing stray boots at will - in one game he actually shattered the Guinness Book of Records in the "Most Players Violently Rucked by own Halfback Category". It would've been nice for previous record holder Charlie Brown to be on hand for that, but he was getting his head taped back together, shattering Laurie Daley's record for "Most Tape on Head during football game". I digress.

There were some highs and lows during the regular season, a 116-0 victory over Drummoynes, an obvious high. The lows were few and far between, but when they came, they were immense. The farcical way in which we were bundled out of the competition in the Semi Final's by a ridiculous loophole in the rules allowing Old Ignatians to decontest the scrums but leave the "injured" player on the field was a horrible way to end the season.

We train and prepare to play rugby. We worked diligently on our scrum as it is a critical part of the game and one where we can exercise dominance. We use it as a tool, a tactic often taking a scrum when given a penalty. As a result our whole game plan revolves around having a correctly balanced team on the field. My props are my lifters in line outs, my pick and drive merchants, my in tight ball runners. Other teams seem to think that a forward pack is an opportunity to play 8 back rowers. We plan a game around having the big fellas on the park. This is not rugby league.

The eventual premiers Mosman were an exceptional side and worthy of their title. I don't begrudge them their achievements for a second. We would have however liked to have the opportunity to meet them in the heat of Semi Final battle. They were the only team to pack a scrum against us consistently this season and the 28-22

loss against them at Balmoral was one of the finest games of rugby I have seen at this level of football. To Mosman - congratulations.

To the rest of the club – congratulations on a fantastic year. To get all 5 Senior Grades in the Grand Final was an astonishing accomplishment and Geoff Fenwicke and all the coaches deserve all the credit in the world.

Rob & Lawrie – you guys are the lifeblood of this club, and the way you instil the Blue Giant spirit into the Halligan boys is a thing of beauty. Keep it up.

To Purbs and McCath – well done lads, just a sublime performance. Purbs, I have played with you and for you and I must say you are one of the finest drinkers I have ever met.

To Wart & Shu – thanks for the hard work all year boys. Wart – your backline was a thing a beauty. Although I am disappointed you never got an opportunity to use “Cut 7”. Shu – Cut 7 is a backline move, not a type of lineout throw.

To all of the Bolts this year – I’m proud of the way you played the game, I’m proud to call you Colleagues, I’m proud to be your coach. I’m honoured to be your friends.

Woodsie Jnr

## **5-8 Sydney Convicts Inaugural Report**

### **SYDNEY CONVICTS (HALLIGAN III) 2004 SEASON IN REVIEW**

Convict pre-season training started earlier than Colleagues with the need to firstly find and then to give some basic rugby skills to a bunch of “poofs” who wanted to, not only take on a full contact sport again, but also the local press and rugby community as well as the best that International Gay Rugby could throw at them. Not a task for the faint hearted.

January saw the start of the Convict Rugby Boot Camp (no pun intended) with 20 players of widely varying skills, a new coach and committee hastily formed. Basic catch & pass, tackle & place, ruck & maul skills were taught long before a back line move, line out or scrum were ever spoken of. Fitness and team spirit were the order of the day and coach Geoff’s four corner sprint drills formed the basis of each training session.

February saw the Convicts join their adopted club Colleagues for their version of pre-season training. Beep tests, 2.5km time trials and skills drills brought additional variety and organisation to the training and the talk of trial matches soon began. A change at the top saw Charlie Winn take over as coach and the full contact work began in earnest. A set of backs and forwards were formed in anticipation of our first ever match and a chance to find out what we were actually made of.

The long awaited first trial saw the Convicts take on a rough and ready Colleagues side for a half of rugby at Waverley. The Convicts, playing in uglies, came out like men possessed and gave it to their more fancied opponents. The second half saw a stronger Colleagues line up take to the field, but the result was still the same. The Convicts had finally arrived as a team and tasted victory in their very first outing (literally). This was unheard of in Gay World Rugby, where start ups teams take weeks and months to graft their first win. There was a real sense that something special had taken place and that this was only the beginning. There would be plenty more to come.

Future trials saw the team changing, as combinations were varied to find the right positions for first up players and to give everyone a run. The object as always was to build a squad for England and the Mark Bingham Cup. The wholesale switching of the side at half time saw disruption to the flow of matches but it was always a necessary evil to further our main goal.

April and our first official game saw us having to ring our travel agents for directions as we were matched up for an away game against Campbelltown. This would be the first time we would wear the All Blue of Colleagues and the Halligan III side was born. The trip deep into the west saw us face some “interesting” opponents, but the team stuck to their guns and their game plan and a victory was secured (12-0).

Further games against Mosman (29-5) and Drummoyne (19-0) saw the side continue to build momentum with convincing victories. Word began to spread within the Subbies comp of this gay rugby team that Colleagues had. Rumours had always abounded that Colleagues were fond of the odd frock (after all they did live in the Eastern Suburbs and they always look so neat and well dressed). But to have a side that was both open AND winning was unheard of.

The 1<sup>st</sup> May bye gave the Convicts a chance to host the only other gay rugby team in Australia, as the Brisbane Hustlers made the long bus trip down from north of the boarder to take on their more fancied opponents. Despite their enormous size (keep it clean) the Hustlers we no match for the Convicts who went on to win the inaugural Purchas Cup 29-3.

The game of the Halligan Cup was to follow as the Convicts took on Halligan I in the very local derby. The Convicts took it to Halligan I in the first half damaging their scrum and proving their worth with a 7-0 lead. The second half saw the now familiar wholesale changes take place and Halligan I seized their opportunity to graft an early try 7-5. A penalty goal saw the score move to 8-7 and Halligan I had taken the lead for the first time in the match. The Convicts with time running out on the clock threw everything at Halligan I but their experience in spoiling back line raids proved the difference and a late try saw them victorious 13-7. It was to be the first and only time a Colleagues Halligan Cup side would loose all season.

One more game against Kings Old Boys and with victory under their belts 19-0 the Convicts were ready to make the long trip to London to take on the world in the Mark Bingham Cup.

It is history now that the Convicts started their campaign in a blaze of glory beating the host team London 17-3 in the opening match of the tournament. Further convincing victories against Seattle 37-3 and Edinburgh 86-0 saw them end Day 1 top of their pool and through to the finals. Despite an early try to Los Angeles quarter final victory was secured 23-10 and it was on to meet San Francisco in the semi. This proved to be the match of the tournament as the new kids on the block, the Sydney Convicts, took on the defending champions. After a momentous struggle, in a see sawing match, sadly missed opportunities were the order of the day as, despite dominating territory and possession, the Convicts run had ended one game short going down 6-3.

The sense of disappointment amongst the team and supporters was enormous as we had set such high standards for ourselves. Nothing less than tournament victory was ever contemplated. We had worked so hard and come so far to make it happen. But in truth and after a few dozen or so pints, we realised how much we had achieved since forming 5 months earlier and that we had much to be proud of. We had clearly set the benchmark for new teams and had put gay rugby in Australia well and truly on the world map.

After a few weeks off to enjoy the sights and delights of Europe we cleared our heads and set our sites on helping Halligan I to secure the Halligan Cup. After such tough game against us before we left, the boys were more than happy to have us play along side them and the victories continued to flow. The race was soon not between Colleagues and the other Clubs, but Colleagues and Colleagues to see who could score the most bonus points and secure the most victories to bring home the Cup.

In the end the long awaited grudge match between Colleagues I and II did not eventuate as we added to the tradition of Colleagues teams not facing off when victory (the Halligan Cup) was already secured. There was nothing left to do than to party and celebrate a year that had produced so much for the Convicts and for Colleagues in the Halligan Cup. A chance to reflect on what makes rugby such a great game ... the physicality, the skill, the mateship of your team, your opponents and most of all your club.

We were honoured to be accepted into the Colleagues family and to be given the opportunity to show that, in the eyes of rugby and the rugby community it is not who you are but how you play the game that matters, be you black or white, gay or straight.

A special thanks must go out to a few people for which, without their help and dedication, this year would not have happened. Firstly to Andrew "Fuzz" Purchas whose inspiration both on and off the field was the foundation of the Convicts and for that he will always be remembered and immortalised in the Purchas Cup. To Charlie Winn who took on the role of Captain/Coach in a move not seen in modern times since Wally Lewis tried his hand with the now defunct Seagulls. Fortunately for us he was infinitely more successful. To our Colleagues coaches through out the year, Dennis, Laurie and Rob. Your assistance and experience proved invaluable in developing our rookie players and making us feel part of the club.

To Bruce Donald, Rich McGrath, Geoff Fenwicke, Peach and Spanner for their willingness to help out and put in whenever they were needed. And finally to the players and supporters of the inaugural Convicts side for their enormous effort to not only form a side from scratch but to train and fund them to make it all the way to the Bingham Cup and beyond. May your deeds be long remembered and your footsteps followed by many.

Simon Thompson  
Assistant Team Manager

## 5-0 Awards for Season 2004

Award	Winner	Presented by
Halligan coaches	Rob Rosenberg Laurie Campbell	Rich McGrath
Halligan captains	Chris Braid Chris Noble	Rich McGrath
Halligan best and fairest	Mick Turner	Rich McGrath
Convicts presentation	N/A	Andrew Purchas
Colts coaches	Ben Wood Chris Warfield	Cam Ireland
Colts captain	Peter Schumack	Cam Ireland
Colts best and fairest	Matt Prowse	Cam Ireland
Sutherland coaches	Will Foster Ben Waters	David Begg
Sutherland captain	Rodney Macdonald	David Begg
Sutherland best and fairest	Charlie Brown	David Begg
Juddies coaches	Jon Irwin Mitch Tourle	Dan Petrie
Judd Cup captain	Andrew Moses	Dan Petrie
Judd Cup best and fairest	Johnnie Melia	Dan Petrie
Whiddon Cup coaches	Jon Purbrick Hamish McCathie	Will Foster
Whiddon Cup captain	Ed Sanders Richard Byrne	Will Foster
Whiddon Cup best and fairest	Dave Matthews	Will Foster
Burke Cup Coaches	Tony Martin Michael Boyd	Geoff Fenwicke
Burke captain	Adam Upton	Geoff Fenwicke
Burke best and fairest	Luke Kennif	Geoff Fenwicke
Kentwell coaches	Geoff Fenwicke Dave Jepson	Justin Crawford
Kentwell captain	Stu Brown	Justin Crawford
Kentwell best and fairest	Matt Kowal	Justin Crawford
Club Captain	Ed Sanders	Rich McGrath
Wentworth Travel try of the year	Nick Marval	Nick Cohen
Rookie of the year	Alex Smith	Ed Sanders
Most improved	Dave Brown	Ed Sanders
Oldest and boldest	Paul Henningham Richard Byrne	Rich McGrath
100 games	Ed Sanders Cameron Ireland Mark Gibson Alister Killen Luke Kenniff Lachlan Benson	Rich McGrath
Pappas	Rob Rosenberg	Rich McGrath
Club best and fairest	Dan Kelly	Ed Sanders
Ben Roberts Player's Player	Ben Chadwick	Ed Sanders
Honour cap	Will Foster Geoff Fenwicke	Rich McGrath