

WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES

ANNUAL REPORT

2005



**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES
RUGBY UNION
FOOTBALL CLUB
(Established 1933)**

Headquarters Woollahra No 2
PO Box 197, Double Bay, 2028

2005 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.
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A. Murchison, Esq.	J. Noice, Esq.
A. Ross, Esq.	E. Radford, Esq.
F. Storch, Esq.	C. Vandervord, Esq.
B. Wood, Esq.	

CLUB CAPTAIN: Cam Ireland

SECRETARY: Daniel Petrie

TREASURER: Andrew Moses

COMMITTEE:

Lachlan Benson, Nick Cohen, Will Foster, Geraint Hudson, Cameron Ireland, Dave Matthews, Rodney McDonald, Peter Minucos, Dan Petrie, Mitchell Tourle, Ben Woods

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

2005 Trophy Winners

Club Captain

Cam Ireland

Team Captains

Barbour Cup	James Hooper
Halligan Cup	Rob Rush
Meldrum Cup	Stuart Hughes
Sutherland Cup	Sandy Harris
Judd Cup	Geoff Mutton
Whiddon Cup	Toby Rakison
Burke Cup	Jonno Lobban
Kentwell Cup	Nick Redpath and Sam Burton-Taylor

Team Coaches

Barbour Cup	Ben Wood and Peter Minucos
Meldrum Cup	Lawrence Campbell
Halligan Cup Black	Andrew Harrington
Halligan Cup Blue	Mike Somer
Sutherland Cup	Hugh Coughlan, Ben Chadwick and Lachlan Benson
Judd Cup	Rodney McDonald and Geraint Hudson
Whiddon Cup	Nick Love, Jono Hughes and Paul Howard
Burke Cup	Ben Waters, Jock Whittle and Dunc Whittle
Kentwell Cup	Mitchell Tourle, Jon Irwin, Justin Crawford
Club Coach	Justin Crawford

Best & Fairest

Barbour Cup	Jordan Thompson
Halligan Cup	Connor Hughes
Halligan Cup	Nick Wonders
Sutherland Cup	Sandy Harris
Judd Cup	Digby Gilmour
Whiddon Cup	Toby Rakison
Burke Cup	James Irwin
Kentwell Cup	Matthew Prowse
Club	Michael Edwards

CLUB AWARDS

Colleagues Honour Cap	Adam Upton
The Pappas & General Award	Timion Rosso
Player's Player	Nick Cohen
Rookie of the year	Peter Shumack
Most Improved Player	Liam Brosnan
Leading Try Scorer	Jordan Thompson
Leading Point Scorer	Mike Kelly
Oldest and Boldest	Andrew Purchas
200 games	Adam Upton
100 games	Mickey Somer, Richard Byrne and Andrew Moses

Presidents Report 2005

It is with great pleasure that I write this report with the Bruce Graham Shield in our trophy cabinet for the 15th time and the first time in 16 years. The Club Championship is symbolic of the effort of every player, coach and administrator's effort in creating a successful club not just in this season past but something that has been built towards for sometime.

At the start of the season we tried to engage a coach of high technical standard. Unfortunately we were unable to appoint anyone suitable and lifted all our coaches up a grade. This was a tough ask but all applied themselves and were rewarded with all of our teams, that could, playing in finals and where dominant through the year. Kentwell is a very tough competition and though disappointed in not making it through to the Grand Final, Justin Crawford, Mitchell Tourle and Jon Irwin gained everyone's respect for their organization and commitment to the players.

Ben Waters continued his impressive work from 2004 Sutherland Cup and with the help of Jock and Duncan Whittle secured our 14th Burke Cup. Recently retired player and 1st time coach Nick Love gathered co first timers Paul Howard and Jono Hughes. What they lacked in experience they made up for in hard work with Lovey's memo's to players legendary resulting in our 4th Whiddon Cup and our 1st back to back. Judd also had 1st time coaches in Rod 'Bega' MacDonald and Geraint 'G' Hudson. A fine year with a Grand Final performance but no trophy. Hugh Coughlan stepped in and coached Sutherland to the finals. Rob Rosenberg took over the helm of our Convict Halligan team and they continued our domination of that cup in recent years with our 4th Halligan. With so many numbers we consistently put out 3 and on one occasion 4 Halligan teams who were ably managed by Mike Sommer and Andrew Harrington. In addition to this we also entered a team at the unions request into the Meldrum Cup. This team was coached by Laurie Campbell who was effectively coaching the Colleagues 6th grade against that divisions 1st grade and was very competitive. And finally to our dynamic pair of Colts coaches. Pete Minucos and Ben Wood managed to drink at the well again with another group of impressive young blokes who added a lot of character to the club and our 2nd Barbour Cup.

Coaching is hard work and our men never shirked the issues. They dealt with all that was put before them, handled the pressure and got on with the job. My heart felt appreciation for the job that you all did and congratulations on your wonderful results.

As a playing group, this years Colleagues continue to throw up great players who always impressed across all grades. There were a few players who had those unusual personalities that made it all worth while. I felt that the vast majority gave great support to their coaches and enjoyed playing rugby for the Colleagues.

Some players who attracted special attentions were Will Davies who was selected in the subbies side but was forced out through injury. Adam Upton with 200 games, finished the season in Kentwell and was awarded the Honour Cap, we wish him safe travels. Mike Edwards was the Club Best and Fairest in his first year at the club (a couple of runs in Halligan in late 2004 not included). Mike Kelly with the highest total point score including a 34 point haul at Drummoyne. Nick Cohen received the Players Player award and Timion Rosso the Pappas. And finally Jordan Thompson who won the Suburban Colts Medal for Best and Fairest with daylight second.

To the administrators who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Few know the work you get through and the club would not function without your diligence and commitment. Cam Ireland as Club Captain was exceptional. Dan Petrie was a work horse in collecting subs and making sure everyone was available for finals, and Andrew Moses who kept the accounts and an eye on everything. My thanks to the web gurus Sean Smith, Hugh Coghlan and Craig Searle. Will Foster took care of sponsorship which is such an important part of our income.

A new initiative this year was the very successful Bondi 10's. This event raised \$20,000 for charity and my congratulations to Richard Byrne, Cam Ireland, Ed Sanders, Will Foster, Jack Mesley, Alan Roberts and Lachlan Benson who made up the committee. Many more helped to make this a great event that we intend to run annually and my thanks to them.

The 2005 season for the Colleagues was a great success and it was a privilege to be part of a great club and a great group of people.

Richard McGrath
Club President 2005

Club Captain's Report 2005

The Bruce Graham Shield is back home.....After 16 years Colleagues Rugby Club has won the first division sub districts rugby championship. Whilst this result is heavily weighted towards the higher grades, it is the depth at Colleagues which makes such a result possible. Together with this Colleagues also ended 2005 with 4 premierships in Burke, Whiddon, Barbour and Halligan Cups.

Since being on the verge of relegation 8 seasons ago, this season has been the culmination of a lot of hard work by too many people to mention. Last year we were commended for our efforts in putting 9 teams on the field most weekends a great effort, this year, Colleagues managed to field 10 teams every weekend and towards the end of the season, there were 11 teams playing each Saturday.

A big thankyou to our coaches of 2005, the majority of which were in their first season of coaching.

Kentwell Cup

With at least 10 new faces to the Club regularly playing in Kentwell, this team had some hard work ahead of it. To finish the season the way they did with 12 consecutive wins and a top 2 finish is nothing short of outstanding, congratulations to each and every player involved. Under the leadership of Nick Redpath and Sam Burton Taylor, this team really stuck together and have built a great foundation for 2006. To the coaches, Justin Crawford, Mitch Tourle and Jon Irwin, well done! This was no easy feat and as ex players still very 'green' on the coaching front, you did an excellent job in pulling this team together.

Burke Cup

The Burke Cup team has always been a very popular team to be involved with at Colleagues and this year proved to be no different. Burke Cup this year also had at least 10 new faces to Colleagues playing amongst its ranks come season end. Whilst some of these players knew each other before joining Colleagues, there was a general feeling amongst all players that at seasons end every player had developed mateship that will last a lifetime. Burke Cup of 2005 was the dominant team in the competition all season. This result is a great credit to the coaching staff of Benny Waters, Jock Whittle and Dunc Whittle. Paul Henningham was plucked into Kentwell late in the season after a sterling year, mostly as Captain of the side. Jono Lobban took over and for the second year running at Colleagues, proved to be an inspirational leader. Well done on your premiership.

Whiddon Cup

A Minor Premiership and a Grand Final win in 2005 saw the Whiddon Cup team successfully defend their title from 2004. This year's team was under the guise of new coaches Nick Love, Jono Hughes and Paul Howard who were inspirational this year and must be commended for their commitment and enthusiasm. Whiddon Cup was made up of a number of 'Old Heads' who were never going to back down to the competition, be it either good or bad, that they encountered every weekend. Whilst the player base was changing constantly, a core group of players remained which highlighted the importance of building solid combinations with your team mates to ensure success. Well done on your premiership.

Judd Cup

A Grand Final appearance that was well and truly deserved following some very hard work throughout the season. Rodney (Bega) McDonald and Geraint (G) Hudson in their first year of coaching did an amazing job this year in getting this team to TG Milner having had to deal with a new team nearly every week. Geoff Mutton was an inspirational skipper, leading by example in every facet of the game. We look forward to seeing his time commitments lose up so he can play higher up the grades next year.

Sutherland Cup

Sutherland Cup is a tough team to coach and coordinate. With the 4 other teams above you constantly changing their players, Sutherland Cup this year was under the watchful eye of Hugh Coughlan who did a fantastic job in his first year of coaching. The Sutherland boys were bitterly disappointed to miss out on a Grand Final berth but still managed a top 4 finish for the season.

Colts

Our 'Nuts and Bolt's' continue their dominance on the NSW Subbies competition. Between 21st birthdays and picnic races these boys still manage to get the results on the field. With a record 100 point win over Dundas they were definitely the benchmark of the Barbour Cup in 2005. Pete Minucos and Ben Wood again showed their coaching (and drinking) prowess over the past three years with a thrilling and well deserved Grand Final win having been ably led by James Hooper. Big congratulations also to Jordan Thompson who won the NSW Subbies Colts player of the year. Well done on your premiership.

Meldrum Cup

Our Meldrum boys started the season behind the eight ball after missing the first couple of rounds of competition due to a late entry. Once they hit their straps, they proved they had the potential to be as competitive as any other team in the competition. The Meldrum boys finished the season with some gutsy performances in the second half of the year to beat some of the top

teams. Laurie Campbell has again done an excellent job in coordinating a great rugby team which was well led by Stuart Hughes all year.

Halligan Cup

We had up to four teams compete in the Halligan competition this year including a second colts team coordinated by Rob Rush. Congratulations to the Convicts who managed to get through the season undefeated. Whilst the other three teams were not able to match the performance of the Convicts team coordinated superbly by Rob Rosenberg, Mike Somers and Andrew Harrington did an exceptional job in managing a squad of up to 40 players every weekend. Well done on your premiership.

Bali

Once again our tourists competed in the annual Bali 10's tournament in October. After some questionable refereeing decisions, our boys were unsuccessful in defending their title. Due to the terrorist attack again this year, it has been decided that 2005 will mark the last year of our tours to Bali. Stay tuned for the next destination however a taste of South America has been flagged.....

NSW Subbies

Congratulations to Will Davies who was selected in the NSW Sub Districts team in 2005. Will however declined the selection to ensure he was available at all times to play for Colleagues (he may have also been injured).

Sponsors

A Club like Colleagues cannot function without the ongoing support by a number of loyal sponsors: B Braun, The Four in Hand Hotel, Empire Hotel, Fimat Bell Potter Securities, Leyland Private Asset Management Eastside Home Loans, Thompson, Hill Rogers, David Begg, Jan Logan, Ryan's Bar, Karabiner Access, Wentworth Travel and Topping Mad Pizza.

Whilst many rugby clubs in NSW have struggled for numbers, willing volunteers and have undergone restructure after restructure not to mention on field performances, Colleagues has managed to build a culture of success and self improvement that is a unique attribute amongst sporting clubs of the modern age. This can be attributed to all of those involved from coaches, to supporters, players and partners with special mention needing to go to Rich McGrath, Club President, who works tirelessly for Colleagues, never turning down an obligation on behalf of the Club and always willing to chip in and do whatever is required. Dan Petrie (Secretary) and Andrew Moses (Treasurer) each manage their demanding work lives with a mountain of work for the Club and somehow manage to get the Clubs work done as a priority. Without the

commitment of these unique individuals, Colleagues would not be enjoying the fruits of success that we have over the past few years.

Two Colleagues stalwarts leave us this year however we know they will eventually return to Colleagues in some capacity in years to come. Adam Upton has decided to take a period of sabbatical in France. Adam played his 200th game for Colleagues in 2005 and was also the deserved winner of the Honour Cap this year. Adam has been instrumental in guiding the futures of some of our younger players and will be missed by all who know him. Justin Crawford heads off to Singapore to take up a very senior role with his current employer. Justin has been Club Captain, Kentwell Coach, and has taken out almost ever award that is on offer at Colleagues. Justin has been an extremely valued contributor to Colleagues for most of the past decade. His absence will not go unnoticed and we look forward to his enthusiasm for the Blue Giants being demonstrated through some of our newer members.

Wrap Up

2005 saw Colleagues have one of the more successful years it has had in some time. Every one that pulled on a jumper, coached a team, ran a training session or filled a water bottle in 2005 can consider themselves as being instrumental in the continued success of Australia's greatest rugby club. Colleagues is the benchmark for other rugby clubs in NSW. I cannot count how many times I have been asked by members of other clubs (both in subbies and premier division) how Colleagues does it. How do we maintain our members? How do we breed success? How do we succeed without paying players or coaches? The list goes on. The answer however is simple, it is our winning culture. A successful Colleague accepts all kinds from all walks of life, works hard, plays hard and enjoys the fruits of success with mates.

Well done to all Colleagues of 2005, let this year be a further foundation for continued success in 2006

Cam Ireland

Club Captain, 2005

Secretary's Report 2005

I would like to start this year's Secretary's report by offering my congratulations to every player, coach, supporter and official who took part in season 2005. The challenge of this year has been extraordinary with Colleagues continuing to be a Club which attracts a large playing group from all parts of the globe as well as the country, interstate and of course locally.

In season 2005, over 300 players were registered for the club making Colleagues the largest senior club in Australia as well as being one of the most successful. There is a saying that 'success breeds success' and in recent years this has certainly been the case.

Our financial membership was in line with last year (not including the Sydney Convicts who paid as one sum) but could have been better. The challenge in the coming years will be retaining our coaching and playing talent as well as continuing to keep the club in a strong financial position. Whilst the vast majority of players continue to pay their subscriptions, diligence in this area must be adhered to. Subscriptions are an area in which coaches as well as players have been keen to address as well. It was a source of pride for some teams to have all players with their subscriptions paid which was very pleasing to see.

Online registrations were done for the first time this year and this will become a team by team responsibility next year as team managers take more direct responsibility for their sides.

The escalating cost of shorts and jerseys are being looked at in the interim and processes are being put in place to ensure we do our utmost keep costs down.

From an administration point of view, it is great to see so many players who are interested in the running of the club and keen to help out. It is an old adage but many hands do make light work.

The club is doing a fantastic job with its administration and whilst there is always room for improvement, the work done by coaches and officials alike is indeed commendable.

Cam Ireland was an inspirational Club Captain in 2005 and Colleagues are lucky to have such a remarkable young man leading our great club.

I would like to thank Richard McGrath, Cam Ireland and Andrew Moses who as the executive of the club do who such an unbelievable job. I would also like to thank Jonny Irwin, Justin Crawford and Mitchell Tourle for leading the coaches and being such wonderful support throughout the year. To Justin, I wish you every success in your new role overseas and thank you for your patience, support and indeed friendship over the last four years.

I look forward to seeing all of you in February-06 next year to do it all over again.

Daniel Petrie

Honourable Secretary 2005

Club Coach Report 2005

Ten Teams, Four Premierships, Suburban Districts Colt of the Year and the Club Championship. What a Year 2005 has been.

Pre Season commenced back in February with an influx of new players as well as new coaching staff in every grade. Although enthusiasm was on our side, as a coaching staff, we were not the most experienced bunch. Collectively however we fed off each other's ideas and listened to suggestions and the enthusiasm shown by each coach rubbed off onto the players enabling us to put our best side in each grade on the paddock week in week out.

Although Kentwell did not have as positive start to the season as the rest of the grades, the support given to the Kentwell players and coaches was appreciated, and helped Kentwell complete the last 12 rounds unbeaten.

As a Club our main objective is to win the Club Championship. By doing this, we need every side performing well and ultimately finishing in the top 4. I guess our attitude was if we can achieve this, we are a good shot at then winning the Premierships. Each team should be congratulated on making the semis and securing the Club Championship, and all teams (excl Kentwell and Sutherland) making the Grand Final.

It was a successful day at TG Milner with the Blue Giants contesting 4 Premierships and winning 3. The coaches of Burke (Jock, Benny and Dunc) and Whiddon (Lovey, Pauly and Hughesie) were in their first years of coaching, and it is an absolute credit to the diligence and determination of the way they coached these teams to bring home the silverware. Well done guys. The coaches of the Colts (Woodsie and Minu) continued to bring these young guys together and make them bond to be a formidable force. For a couple of young coaches whom have come through the playing ranks, they demonstrate commitment and willingness to pass on the Blue Giant Spirit and camaraderie to these young guys that will be the future of the Club for many years. Well done boys, we are all very proud of you.

The Convicts are now entrenched Blue Giants, and everyone loved the experience of watching you guys wrap up the Halligan Cup on the bye weekend. Well done to Robbie for his organisation, and to Purch and Charlie for your leadership.

A Club would not function without a great committee, and with Rich McGrath at the helm Colleagues is positioned very well. Cam Ireland must also be congratulated on a great first year as Club Captain.

To our sponsors, thanks for enabling us to put 10 sides on the field. You are part of a great Club, and we feel proud to have the many companies associated with us.

And lastly thanks to all our supporters. From the older Colleagues (Noicie, Bruce and Wal) to the younger ones.....this year is as much about you guys as the players. There is no better afternoon than being done at Blue Giant Stadium and witnessing a Blue Rinse.

We are well positioned for 2006, and look forward to continued successes.

Justin Crawford
Club Coach, 2005

Kentwell Cup 2005

2005 was one of the most open Kentwell Cups seen in years. Colleagues saw a new look Kentwell Cup team, having 10 players new to the club and 2 coaches new to Kentwell meant time to gel was important for the squad as a whole.

The earlier part of the season saw close wins to Waverley, St Pats, and losses to UNSW, Knox Old boys and to Forrest. Being 2 wins from 5 games, the final loss to Forrest 27-10 was a turning point in the team's season.

Following the loss to Forrest the coaching staff worked hard to look at the individuals in the team, and the team as a whole and look to areas where we felt our strengths were. From here we put together a plan to develop these areas over the next few weeks. Our goal originally was to make the top 4 by Semi final time.

The squad reacted well to the change and a lot of players showed their maturity in working together with the squad. Special mention should go to Nick 'Patch' Redpath in these early days for showing the leadership qualities the team desperately needed. We came out and blitzed Mosman 36-10. The following week was an important game in our season - Drummoyne. Having beaten the Giants the year before in the grand final, Drummoyne were the team to beat. The first half of football was our finest half of attacking football all year. Right from the whistle the team worked together using a combination of rehearsed moves and individual skill to score 24 points. Special mention should go to Nic Redpath, and the forward rolling maul which dominated the Red pack. However this game was to come at a cost, losing Will Davies with a broken collar bone which would keep him out for the season and Gav Kidd getting pounded by their No 6.

Kentwell continued the rest of the season without loss, drawing to Knox at home and St Pats at home. In both games we were robbed of the win and should've put the nail in the coffin when we had the chance. Injuries to Matt Prowse- who was playing spectacular football during the St Pats game was also a huge loss to the team.

Beating Iggies away on their Gala day was also a special occasion with Sam Burton Taylor and Adrian Stern's dogs both leaving steamers on the Iggies pitch after the game.

The amount of heart and team unity was highlighted in the Forrest home game and the Drummoyne away game when the Kentwell team defended for 15 minutes on their own line to win the match.

Prior to the semi finals the team had not had the best preparation with a number of injury concerns to crucial players. Finishing 2nd we played St Pats in the Major Semi and were wiped off the park. Individually the boys played their heart out but they didn't use the rugby that got them there which was playing as a team and following the attacking plays rehearsed and talked

about at training. The unbeaten run and the week off due to Dundas forfeiting had taken its toll.

Once again out to Macquarie Uni to play Knox Old Boys, and a similar situation happened. The key to semi final football is to do what you've done all season, just 10% faster and harder. Unfortunately the Kentwell boys couldn't put it together on the day and injuries to Matt Prowse and Adrian Stern early in the game didn't help.

Congratulations are extended to Knox Old Boys for taking out the Kentwell Cup. Moving from 4th through to 1st Division and winning every cup along the way is a great achievement for their club.

Kentwell Cup could not 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 and a challenger to his title, an injured Owens again had another great year. Johnny Pappas' support is legendary.

Lastly special thanks to John Noice, Dave Crawford, Geoff Fenwike, Matt Prowse, Peter Shumack, Sam Burton-Taylor, Adrian Stern, Paul Horton, and Nick Redpath.

Mitch, Crawford and Jonny
Kentwell Cup Coaches, 2005

Burke Cup 2005

Grand final result: Blue Giants 27 - Dirty Reds 14

What a year. 18 rounds for 16 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. 518 points for and 149 against. Of the possible 90 competition points available during the season, we got 77 (doing the quick maths, take off 5 for the loss and 3 for the draw means in only 6 games did we miss out on the bonus point). The stats pretty much speak for themselves. We set our benchmark of being the best team in the competition and it would be fair to say that we achieved that goal.

The year started off a bit shaky, the team came together quite late for the first round and we were probably lucky to sneak home with the win thanks to Colleagues' resident B-Grade model and goal kicking extraordinaire, Hilly. But from there it was pretty much clean sailing. The preparation and the commitment from the team was excellent, however, what really made the difference was the leadership. The Burke Cup squad was blessed with some exceptional leaders, who set the platform both on and off the field. Guys like Uppers, Paulie, Super G and Lobbo were outstanding. Their commitment to the team and their leadership was what made coaching this team very easy.

The other thing that was extremely important to the success of the team was the way the boys bonded off the field. Getting up off the deck or smashing some low breed opposition is always easier when you are doing it for your mates.

There were some very memorable moments throughout the year as well. Beating Forest at Forest by 17 to none is a massive effort. Smashing Iggies at home is always sexy but unfortunately will couldn't pull off the triple crown and beat Pats at home in what played out to be a very ugly nil all draw. It is hard to go through the team we had and single a people out, but a few deserve recognition, Super G played the house down all year, Kiwi Bob, when he wasn't spitting the dummy, lead from the front, Lobbo lead the years tally for rushing yards, Hilly slotted them from everywhere, Aaron Dwyer picked up school girls, Greg Irish was simply a class above, Rossy Hynard turned many games on his performance and even spoke sometimes, the Lip never shut up, Hilly and Chucky made many referee friends and the Hound did a great job in at half.

Other memorable moments include Mick the Lips constant dribble, the Bullgoose naming himself "Bullgoose", Mick the Lips late hit on Jocko, the boys catching that poor bloke trying to get a quick one away outside the Paddo Bowls in the back of his sister's car..... The list goes on.

That pretty much brings us to the GF.

A replay of the year before, the good guys, Blue Giants versus the filth from Drummoyne.

The boys were extremely dedicated in the build up for the GF. They applied themselves in a way that made losing almost impossible. It was a pleasure to watch.

The game itself was fantastic. We completely dominated them in every aspect. Their big forward runners were smashed time and time again. They had no go-forward. The backs defence was excellent and after about 20 minutes it was clear that they had nothing there. It was very kind of Super G and the Hound to throw those intercept passes to keep the game interesting for the spectators, because outside that, the Dirty Reds were well contained.

A few memorable moments from the GF. The Lip doing the treadmill run to the try line. Rossy Hynard again turning the game through leading by example, Clydie and Lobbos defence, "the hand of god" try from Radel (he would have sooked if I didn't mention it) etc, etc.

In the end, we did it.

Congratulations boys, a fantastic effort and one you should remember always.

A few thanks. Firstly to Jocko and Dunc for there support, ideas and help throughout the season. You guys are some sorts of rugby genius's. Thanks to all the players who played in Burke Cup throughout the year. Your efforts got us there in the end.

To Whiddos and Colts, congratulations, an excellent result. Juddies, unlucky boys but a great effort nonetheless. Also to the Kentwell Coaches and the executive, thankyou for you support.

Other than that, GO YOU BLUE GIANTS!!!! And bring on 2006.

Keep it stiff

Benny Waters, Jock Whittle and Dunc Whittle

Burke Cup Coaches, 2005

Whiddon Cup 2005

Firstly the Coaches would like to thank the committee as they are the people who put in an incredible effort to make sure that we get onto the paddock each week, especially people like Richard McGrath, Peach and Cam Ireland. Their effort cannot be underestimated as without people like these this club would not be able to function. We would also like to thank all of the people who don't have designated roles in the club but still give their time week in week out to help around the club. You are the unsung heroes of Colleagues.

To all of the coaches – what a great year. The Club Championship and 4 premierships. Undoubtedly the best year we have had in a long while and a great foundation for 2006. You all deserve congratulations for your efforts and for we three first time coaches this year a new found respect for the time and effort that you all put in to getting your teams on the field and through the season.

And now to the Whiddos, but first a quote from last year's report:

"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."

This was also true of this year's team but like our motto throughout the season – "Holding on to Horace" – in the end what counted most was grand final glory.

We could trot out the old cliché that "the grand final was won not only on the field but on the training paddock" but it really came down to wanting it more than the other team and that old chestnut of the bounce of the ball and in the end Horace came home again. If anyone knows where the other half of "Junior" Horace is can they please tell Cohey who, as the youngest member of the winning grand final team, was tasked with looking after him but failed miserably!

We were extremely fortunate to have many talented and committed people pull on the jersey for us with over 70 different players doing so through out the season. Creating a team ethic with that kind of flow through of players was always going to be difficult but we tried to build the reputation of the team so that people would want to play for us rather than simply viewing it as just another team. To everyone who played for us, thanks. You all shared in our grand final victory and we could not have done it without you. Your dedication to the club is what makes Colleagues great.

To name individual players would be too difficult and do a disservice to everyone who played for us this year but there was a core of committed players (you know who you are) who helped build the foundation of the team and who we hope will be back next year to try for the three-peat and to once again take that bus ride to "happy valley".

One guy though does deserve a special mention. This bloke actually played 75% of the games for us before being dropped for the finals. He went down to fourth grade and had a fantastic and humble influence on their side without complaint. All this after recently being a Kentwell 10. That person is Braz. He deserves a special mention in this report as a symbol of what this club is about and for his contribution to this side.

To the forwards, you guys were awesome. The most dominant pack in 3rd grade bar none. Your demolition of packs throughout the competition was a sight to behold and something which continually got Lovey all barred up. Who will ever forget that push over try in the final! Perhaps the Wallabies could do with a bit of your metal up front. From the set pieces to the loose you all had a great year and helped set a magnificent platform for the backs.

As for the backs, flashes of brilliance is perhaps what best sums up your year. We easily had the best back line in the competition as well and when you guys clicked it was enough to even get an old piggy to appreciate your talents. We were just unlucky that there was not enough consistency in selections due to player requirements up the grades and injury/unavailability for you to be able to really gell and dominate on a consistent basis.

To Hugheso, the hard work you put in with the backs in your first season as a coach was fantastic particularly given you came from forward stock (perhaps that's why you flogged them so hard!). As stated before you had a difficult job given the high rotation of players in the backs and no doubt will take what you learned this year and come back with new ways of making the backs deliver the goods and take all the glory off the back of the forwards toil.

Also to the part timers who came down to help out during the season, Boothie – an untapped treasure of scrum knowledge ("shit and spew" will stay with me always), Jack Mesley and Hamish McCath – thanks for giving up your time at the pointy end of the season when we needed focus and input from a few old heads, and Peach – cheers for your managerial services during finals, that is when we could tear you away from the sausages at the Preso's BBQs on Thursday nights!

And finally, here's to our supporters and of course to Horace!

See you all down the club next year for a beer or 900 and some great footy.

Cheers

Lovey, Hugheso & Howie
The "Super" Coaches, 2005

Judd Cup 2005

I should first point out that as I write this season report it is just after Melbourne Cup and my memory of the season just past may have been tainted by the cheap alcohol I consumed to celebrate the first half of the grand final and the expensive hypnotherapy I undertook to wipe my memory of the second half of the grand final.

First up I would like to thank my co-coach G for all his excellent work during the season. whilst he may not look it, he is in fact significantly older than me, and despite his rapidly advancing age he is still willing and able to lace on the boots and run around each week; he had to forgo this simple pleasure a lot during the season so he could coach Judd Cup. His knowledge of forward play and his patience with my assertions that if the forwards would only do their job the backs will run amok (I wish it was that simple) was invaluable. His directions whilst a passenger in the silver bullet were frustrating and his unfailing attempts at the selection table to remain fair to his players was admirable. Everything he added to the team was done with good humour – which is vital on Thursday night when the team changes for the 78th time that week!

Judd Cup was lucky to have two managers throughout the year, with Lachie Benson and Pissant sharing the role. The importance of their work was best demonstrated when they were away for a couple of weeks and G and I failed to take jumpers, balls, cones or hit shields to any of those matches! Pissant's work during the finals was especially vital, the session at the Barracks were a useful reintroduction to a grass covered field.

The nature of Judd cup is very transient, and is vital that the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade coaches work well together. In effect 3rd and 4th grade and to a lesser extent 5th formed a squad for most of the year. This was vital in building some combinations which would have been impossible to garner if we had been split strictly into grades. Thanks to Lovey, Hugheso, Howie, Hugh, Chadders, and Lachie for all your support this season.

Finally and most importantly the players deserve all the credit for our successful season. Despite using over 70 players for the season, we were able to form a close team and have excellent focus for the semis. With the amount of players going up and down each week it would have been easy for guys to get upset and toss the whole thing in, it can be very frustrating to know that you are playing well and still get dropped – to everyone's credit we didn't have a drama with any players at all, everyone accepting that when you play for a successful club like Colleagues there will be some tough selections to be made. A large part of the success we had in bonding together as a team was due to our luck in having Geoff Mutton as our captain for most of the year, Mutts could have been playing up the grades quite easily, but his work commitments meant he was 'stuck' in Judd Cup – it was with great sorrow that G and I had to inform Lovey that Mutts wasn't really available to play 3s!

It was incalculable the benefit G and I got out of having someone of Mutt's experience as a sounding board for all our planning and scheming.

At the beginning of the season G and I discussed the importance of teaching the players something new, making them think about their football a little bit more. We felt it was important that we kept training interesting and focused on improving individuals' skills, especially at the breakdown. Whilst most of the drills we ran were well researched and could have been found in a coaching manual somewhere – there were a couple of things we ran that may have been deemed a bit left field – I'm thinking specifically of the time I made the backs run through their moves without the ball (in my defense they couldn't catch it anyway on that night) – to the players credit they trained on regardless, showing great enthusiasm for the task at hand. Some of the other things we introduced including the active warm up for games (seeing Byrno do bunny hops was worth the price of admission!), the hot and cold showers after a game or our focus at some of the more technical aspects of the breakdown may have raised a few eyebrows with the players, but at the end of the day I think our success was in some small part due to the players willingness to challenge themselves on the training paddock.

I hope all the players who passed through the Judd Cup ranks in 2005 learnt something about the game that they didn't know before; hopefully you can see the improvement that this has made in your game already.

See you all in February!

Bega

Not being one to miss an opportunity to speak...

I would like to express my thanks to everyone this year for all the support and encouragement. Bega has named almost all of them so I won't go through it again. The players are the reason I keep coming to the club and this year they humoured me more than normal! The transition from player who knows it all, into coach who knows it even more is a strange one and I am grateful for the respect that was shown by players who knew me in the previous incarnation!

We worked hard this year and the fall at the final hurdle has still not healed for me. The nature of Colleagues means we can't just get back together as a team and focus on reversing the result next year – but as a group of individuals, you can take into next year the pain of missing out and use that to help you improve and contribute at whatever level you play.

Thanks for the fun boys. Bega, thanks for the lifts, even if you do drive like an old granny.

See you in December for weight training...

G

Rodney 'Bega' McDonald and Geraint 'G' Hudson

Judd Cup Coaches, 2005

Sutherland Cup 2005

The Sutherland cup enjoyed a successful season, however failed to reach the Sutherland cup final for the first time in a few years, going down to Drummoyne in the preliminary final. Hugh Coughlan was head coach for season 2005, ably assisted by Ben Chadwick and Lachlan Benson.

The season began very brightly with 8 straight wins, including a hard fought 10-3 win at Blue Giants stadium against the 2004 premiers Old Ignatians. As ever, the faces changed from week to week as new players worked their way up the grades. However, some solid combinations were beginning to develop. Simon Rose was proving to be a very capable leader, picking up points most weeks at breakaway. Unfortunately, Simon injured his ankle against St. Pats at home and was gone for the season. Colleagues succumbed to their first defeat of the season against Drummoyne at home and relinquished top spot on the table.

The second half of the season was not so successful, losing close games to Mosman, Forest and Drummoyne again as well as a heavy defeat to St Iggies, in what was the only disappointing performance of the season. With finals approaching, a strong squad began to assemble. A good hit out against Waverley provided a good opportunity to get the combinations going before finals began.

So at the end of the round robin, Drummoyne finished up minor premiers, with Colleagues finishing third. This meant a minor semi final against Forest at Macquarie University. A very strong performance resulted in a 23-8 victory and a place in the preliminary final against Drummoyne. It was back to Macquarie Uni again a week later on an unusually hot day. The game finished 7-7, which meant Drummoyne progressed due to their higher position in the minor premiership. It was a disappointing end to a season that promised a lot, especially given the overall success of the club in 2005. However, the Sutherland Cup players can be proud of their contribution towards the club's first Club Championship since 1988, and their support they gave to the teams above throughout the season.

Hugh Coughlan, Ben Chadwick and Lachlan Benson
Judd Cup Coaches, 2005

Barbour Cup (Colts) 2005

Season "Bring Back Barbara" had one self-explanatory goal from the outset. With coaches Minucos and Wood reunited, and a host of players back after the disappointment of the minor semi final loss to Iggies in 2004, there was plenty to be excited about. Although with a penciled in backline of 10-MK Mike, 12-Tugboat Couso, 13-MK John, the anticipated brand of rugby was not one of them. But that all changed at a training session just before the season, when the Cranbrook connection rocked up (bringing Jordie with them), and all of a sudden we were swimming in skill and pace. Someone may have said Woodsie looked more like he was drowning in it during the warm up touch games. Woodsie just rebutted he thought that was M Dale.

So the influx of some actual Woollahra boys into Barbour changed the face of the team. It also brought multiculturalism into the squad, with the expensive wardrobes and be-seen-at-the-right-clubs attitude of the Eastern suburbs lads, combining with the trackies and uggies and "we can still get into the Gross" nature of the Drewsmen creating a great juxtaposition.

Some of these lads included:

- Rooter, Bails and Coatsie: don't let the identical appearance fool you – two of them scored a lot of tries for us while the other is just a very good half back
- Luke "Frank the Tank" Adams: was only going to stop in to Colleagues for one season, but now that Barbour Cup has hit his lips, I'm pretty sure he's back for at least one more
- Jords and Michael Dale: the first 2 person love triangle in rugby history
- Mike Kelly: the only man to start in both 2003 and 2005 GFs. Is unfortunately out for 2006 because of a torn ACL suffered in the first half of the GF this year. Somehow played another 50 minutes on it before twisting his ankle – he was only kicking goals with it. They breed them tough in Kelly Country
- John Kelly: once Mike's identical twin, now a Kelly hybrid. Has retained Michael's shoulders while growing DK's arse
- Doogs, Mont, Puss, Horse: the Drews forwards. These guys all played extremely well for us at various stages of the year. In typical Drews fashion they go back home for a week here and there, but these 4 were all Colleagues in 2004 (Puss in 2003!) and hence appreciated the win this year. Best yet is that Mont, Puss and Horse are still eligible for 2006, and will form the nucleus of the defending pack
- Hoops, Sauce, Slug, Sumi: The Wowsers. This Wesley College quartet wanted to play one more year of colts together, and choosing to do so at Colleagues may have been the difference between us

drinking out of Barbarella and choking on our own vomit after losing. It would be great if they continue as Colleagues in grade, as they all can make an impact. Sumi especially (being a back where youth is paramount) would be a stand out in Kentwell next year. I believe that they can be enticed back down with the purchase of copious amounts of rum. Please send all rum to the Pokie Room c/o HQ Bar, Parramatta Rd, Camperdown.

- Hewso: came off bench at #7 in the 2003 GF for Colleagues, Drews boy until 2004, but then came back with the Wowser quartet in 2005 after playing with them at Sydney Uni in 2004. Nothing can ruin Hewso's weekend like a bad referee. And nothing can ruin a bad referee's weekend like Hewso.
- Dunny: angry, angry young man. Scares people into missing with hard running...in touch. Woodsie adds he is absolutely petrified of him.
- Couso: at a David Boonish 5'2 85kg provided the consistent go forward and defence from 12 to balance out the awesome flare of our other backs. I believe it was once Lukey got the knack of balancing the Couso punch with the Jordie cut-out that our team became unbeatable.
- Streets and Chud: two random guys that came down, they seemed to know everyone in the team, seemed to both go to Sydney Uni, seemed to both have played with everyone in the team at some stage and went to school with others. The coaches never quite figured it out, but they helped out a lot. Chud showed all his class when losing a rock off to be the last substitution in the GF. Streets shows all his class on the catwalk, on the catwalk yeah. You are too sexy Streets. He is an actual model btw, this is one case where having man-love for a great player gets a little confusing.
- Spark: first year out of school understudy to Coatsie and Frank. Refuses to talk unless drunk, and since he will be starting at #9 next year we'll have to liquor him up before games it seems. A technique not used since the Matthew Prowse era.
- The Halligan brigade: Walks, CDale, Sam Harding, Budtz, Kerno, Jono, Klaus, Steve Ritchie. These guys all played Barbour at different points of the year, filling in very well when called upon – CDale even pulling out the 3 points in a scintillating individual display again Knox. Unfortunately for them injuries and great players limited their minutes in Barbour, but under the steadying guidance of Rob Rush they had a lot of fun belting teams in Halligan where they finished a commendable second. Hopefully they'll all be back to play either Barbour or Halligan again next year depending on their age. Kerno is one guy I feel particularly sorry for – after benching a lot in previous seasons he was ready to step up and play out the season at 15 in 2005, until Jords came along and pinched his spot. We still love you Kerno (this

comment was not endorsed by coach Woodsie who hasn't forgiven you for dropping that pass in June 03).

- DR: like that guy in that Vanessa Williams song, I saved the best for last. Fantastic player. Stunningly dapper. Ever the gentlemen. Everything a Colleague should be.

The highlights of the season are too many to properly recap, but we'll have a stab at some that come to mind:

- Not one piece of contact, not one second of fitness at training. This was the cornerstone of our coaching philosophy (it is also the cornerstone of Woodsie's playing philosophy). A rude awakening however for Horse, Mini Kel John and Streeter when they were pulled up into 5th grade towards the end of year and had to sit through a Benson "Coolangatta Gold" training session. They looked to Nuki and Wood, their mentors all year who were now playing aside them, as if to say "have we told you lately that we love you". Nuki and Wood were busy trying to eat enough air at this point to tell Benson we had to return to colts training.
- As the season progressed and we drifted towards the 22 man squad – we started experimenting with planned subs and impact players. We found that Dunny would get so furious at not starting a game, he would pace the sideline until we "unleashed" him on the opposing team. Against UNSW, at around the 25 minute mark, we wiped the foam away from his mouth, and inserted him into the game. His eyes focused on one thing, a single point of destruction – the small of the UNSW #9's back. It was horrifying. 30 minutes after the game finished the #9 was still lying on the sideline incoherently groaning. Dunny never started another game.
- Season turning games against Knox and Iggies in round 3 & 4. We had lost our first two games of the season to Waverly and UNSW before knocking off these two previously undefeated teams back to back in very close games. Could have been 0-4, instead it was 2-2 and we never looked back
- Beating Mossie with 14 men for 60 minutes. It was 7-7 when Slug got sent for rucking the head. Totally unfair cause he did not do it. Whether Bails did or not is open to interpretation. Nonetheless, the performance by everyone to totally dominate the defending premiers and would-be grand finalists 27-13 for the rest of the game was when everyone realized this comp was ours to be won.
- Great tries against Drummoyne in both games....Dunny's try in round 1 (chip and chase by someone, passes in and out, Dunny carries 3 over the line), Mike's try in round 2 (Frank isolated on goal line after fielding a kick, fakes the kick and passes 30m across goal to Jords, a

few passes to support players ends up with MK Mike running 55m for a try).

- Seeing Jords in his overcoat and scarf running the show at Greenwood on Thursday nights
- IGGIES SEMI FINAL. 45-3 over the minor premiers. What needs to be said.
- Stealing Barbara and barricading ourselves in the dressing room, resulting in club veteran Brian Wood performing the rare "circular skoll" – where the vessel is being refilled as it is being consumed.
- AJ's chick
- Back room at the 4 on GF night (including Michael Dale's emotional outpour)
- Jords winning Barbour B&F, joining DK and Nuki (and we're still trying to figure out how Prowse didn't get it last year). Girlfriend on one arm, yummy mummy on the other – he was styling and profiling.

We had a great time coaching the boys. The squad liked to think of itself as a cerebral team, and having feedback from guys like Hoops and Dunny in the forwards, and Lukey and Couso in the backs, made that very easy for the sideline.

Back to back premierships is something that hasn't been accomplished in the Barbour Cup by any team (I believe), and it will be high on our personal agendas in 2006. Barbara is ours again, we love her, and we intend to keep her. Oh, and if you can try not to have Nuki hospitalized after this GF that would be nice.

Cheers,

Coach Minucos, Coach Woodsie
Barbour Cup Coaches, 2005

Meldrum Cup 2005

With the ever growing number of players turning up at Colleagues this year, it was decided to enter the 6th grade side into the Division 6 Meldrum Cup, which is played by clubs with one team. This turned out to be very a big learning curve for the players involved and very invigorating for myself. The players had the opportunity to play to a higher standard of very competitive football than they otherwise would. It also allowed them to play 80 minutes instead of 40 minutes. Most sides we played were much larger than ours as was exhibited by the Manly Savers side who fielded one of the biggest forward packs I have seen in suburban rugby, averaging 120kg as told to us after the game.

It was a highlight of the year that our forwards did dominate all and sundry in this competition with great lineouts and a very strong scrum, given the size of the opposition we played. The backs (when we did get it right) showed that they could match it with anyone given the platform layed on by the forwards. The never say die attitude of the players was outstanding, as was highlighted against Claymore in our biggest defeat, when with 5 to go we had 6 players down with injures, and no reserves left, I wanted to call the game off, but the players said no and then scored a try showing what the Blue Giants are all about.

With only one win in the first round it was looking like a very long season for us, although we were only beaten comprehensively once by Claymore, with narrow losses just going the way of the opposition. So we finished the first round with only one win and a draw against the Canterbury boys who had won the first Bondi Tens competition held by Colleagues at the beginning of the season, and a few to many injuries to key players. As is the lot of lower grade teams it is often hard to get continuity of players. But the boys never gave up and the turning point came in the second round.

It was becoming quite obvious that we could be a show in the division given the right preparation at the beginning of the season. Unfortunately most of the players did not attend pre season and as a result were not up-to the 80 minutes physicality required at the start of the season. This however was resolved by the end of round one and we were not far away form hitting our straps.

The second round saw the boys play some very good football and record 5 wins on the trot knocking off 3 of the 4 sides that made the finals. During this period we scored an impressive 127 for and 25 against. The highlight being a very tough and hard fought game against Claymore which we won 10-6, having been beaten by them 58-10 in the first round, and was also the first time that they had been denied a try in a game. This proved to be the grand final for our team and proved that given continuity of players, we could be more than competitive. With the loss again of some key players we lost our next 3 games and our run to the finals was over. It was some measure as to how close the competition was that even with 3 rounds to go we were still a chance of making the finals.

My thanks go must to Stuart Hughes who captained the side the whole year and did a remarkable job motivating the team. He continually out played himself given the size of the opposing props & his 80kg stature, Stuart was a big help to me and a true club man and was dually voted players player by the team. To all those other players who played with the side this year, I also thank you and hope that you enjoyed the season as much as I did.

So in our first year in the Meldrum Cup we finished with 6 wins, 1 draw and 9 losses, with 201 points for and 257 points against.

I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Laurence Campbell
Meldum Cup Coach, 2005

Halligan Cup (Convicts) 2005

The Convicts had an outstanding 2005.

37 players. 388 points for. 71 against. 15 wins. 1 draw. 0 losses. 2 Cups. And a partridge in a pear tree.

Pre-season, we played in the inaugural Bondi Tens. We were privileged to be invited to participate and whilst not exactly setting the world on fire, we gave our all. Through a special coach share relationship with the Maralinga Isotopes under the redoubtable Rob Rosenberg, the Convicts managed to effectively concentrate our season losses into one intense three-day period.

Now, for the season proper. The clear highlight was winning the Halligan Cup undefeated, playing as the Colleagues-Convicts. The Convicts was one of four Colleagues teams in the Halligan Cup all of which finished the season in the top six, with Colleagues Black coming second.

One of the things we were particularly proud of was, by winning the Halligan Cup, the Convicts achieved a world first. No other gay Rugby team has ever won its local mainstream competition in any grade. The significance of this can't be overstated. Fantastic all-round effort boys, including the straight(er) boys in the Convicts for their commitment to the cause and absolute class shown in not once mentioning 'showers and soap' in the same sentence.

For those who don't know, the Convicts were Australia's first gay Rugby team, competing for the last two seasons in the Halligan Cup. The team was founded in 2003 with the aim of representing Sydney in the 2004 Mark Bingham Cup, the World Cup of gay Rugby, in which we achieved a rank of third in the world.

For the past two years the Convicts have also held the Purchas Cup, awarded for the two game series against the Brisbane Hustlers, Australia's only other gay union team.

Special thanks must go to:

- Colleagues' players and management (especially Rich, Peach and Cam) for their unwavering support and commitment – there would be no Convicts if it wasn't for you guys and everyone in the Woollahra Colleagues family
- Convicts' Committee members for their incredible dedication to the team's current and ongoing success
- Convicts fantastic band of supporters (mums, dads, partners and the like) for keeping it real
- Our supporters in the gay and mainstream press. Special thanks to Peter FitzSimons, ex-Wallaby superstar and prolific sports journalist, and to James O'Loughlin, ABC radio presenter, whose weekly chat with yours truly

updated scores of North Shore residents on our progress through the season

- The teams who we played throughout the year, for their good spirited rugby against an obviously gayer side – who we are was never a bother despite our best efforts to make it an issue and gain gratuitous publicity!

2005 Convicts Awards winners were:

Convicts' Clubman:	Ewan Samway
Players' Player:	Dean Tapiki
Best & Fairest:	Steve Thorne
Best Back:	Andy Noble
Best Forward:	Charlie Winn
Highest Points Scorer:	Dean Tapiki
Shooting Star:	Luke Carpenter
President's Award:	Laf Sotoriou

In only our second year of operation, it has made us proud to think that our success played a part in Colleagues best season for many years. As a team, we truly feel part of Colleagues' strength and success and we are working to see this continue next season and beyond.

Andrew 'Fuzz' Purchas

President – Sydney Convicts