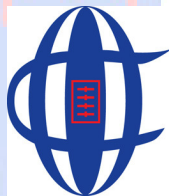




WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES

ANNUAL REPORT

2009



**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES
RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

(Established 1933)

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

Office Bearers 2009

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.
C. Vandervord, Esq.	B. Wood, Esq.

CLUB CAPTAIN: Tom Johnston

SECRETARY: Jonathon Linn

TREASURER: Paul Howard

COMMITTEE:

Richard Hodson, Michael Edwards, John Kelly, Michael Kelly, Nick Jones, Cam Macintosh, Angus Cooper, Daniel Quinn, John Clarkson

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, R. McGrath, J. Noice, E. Radford, S. Ross, C. Vandervord, B. Wood, D. Crawford, J. Crawford, J. Murphy

HONORARY AUDITOR: Michael Clifford



Trophy Winners 2009

Club Captain	Tom Johnston
Team Captains	
Halligan Cup	Dale Quartey
Sydney Colts Cup	James Stirzaker
Barbour Cup	Will Martin
Sutherland Cup	Dave McNeill
Judd Cup	Dai Williams
Whiddon Cup	Rohan Beale
Burke Cup	Matt Aubrey
Kentwell Cup	Luke McCann/Frank Coorey
Team Coaches	
Halligan Cup	Ben Radclyffe
Sydney Colts Cup	Ben Wood & Pete Minucos
Barbour Cup	Ben Wood & Pete Minucos
Sutherland Cup	Andrew Harrington
Judd Cup	Laurence Campbell & Sean Corbett
Whiddon Cup	Jono Hughes, Toby Rakison & Geraint Hudson
Burke Cup	Ben Waters & Adam Harley
Kentwell Cup	Ben Waters & Adam Harley
Club Coach	Ben Waters
Best & Fairest	
Halligan Cup	Diarmid Ryan
Sydney Colts Cup	Will Arnott
Barbour Cup	Will Martin
Sutherland Cup	Chris Munro
Judd Cup	Dai Williams
Whiddon Cup	Luke Adams
Burke Cup	Peter Hubert
Kentwell Cup	Henry King
Club	Mark Colless
Club Awards	
John Anderson Memorial Trophy	David Gooch
Colleagues Honour Cap	Jonathon Linn
The Pappas & General Award	Cam Macintosh
Player's Player	Dai Williams
Rookie of the year	Sean Hubert
Most Improved Player	Peter Hubert
Leading Try Scorer	Simon Gardiner
Leading Point Scorer	Dai Williams
Oldest and Boldest	Brian Varley
100 games	Michael Kelly
	Mark Colless
	Brian Varley

President's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2009 Presidents report for the Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club.

Success can be measured in many ways. All credit goes to our triumphant Whiddon Cup team who flexed its muscles late in the season and kept up a tough attitude into the dying minutes of the Grand Final all the way through extra time. Barbour, Sutherland and Bourke would be disappointed with their finish to the season as some times in a year the margin for error can be minute. And some teams who struggled all year can take some strength from the way they played being undermanned and the future looks bright.

With the world in turmoil thanks to the GFC we knew things would be tough down at the Blue Giants. We lost sponsors early and new things had to change. Among many of the things that new Club Captain Tom Johnston, crusty Treasurer Paul Howard and 'The Quite Man' Secretary Jono Linn achieved during the season perhaps the most significant was to get us through in great financial shape. Colleagues like Goldman Sachs excelled on the balance sheet during this tough period through making do with what we had and prudent budgeting. No need to clamp down on executive salaries here.

Our sponsors are crucial to the survival of the club and our thanks goes to Bbraun, Hill Rogers Financial Services, Property Planning Australia, Ryan's Bar, Compound Capital and Paddington Bowling Club. We look forward to welcoming the Royal Oak in Double Bay as our new hotel sponsor who have brought a new vitality to that space for us. Also it is exciting to welcome Yensen on board and we look forward to a long association, as with our other sponsors.

Coaching is a difficult job and the main emotion when your team does well is relief. That does not deter our dedicated coaching staff. There were highs and lows and they kept their shoulders to the wheel throughout the season. It is pleasing that they are all keen to be involved next year.

Colleagues is a players club and the success for the year on and off the field is driven by their desire to achieve. This is something that we need to continually reinforce. The executive, committee and coaches can only set a platform for the players to build on and take forward. During the off season much work has been done to improve the platform. Rich Thomas's pre season workout sessions and a new hotel in the Royal Oak are great additions to the 2010 season.

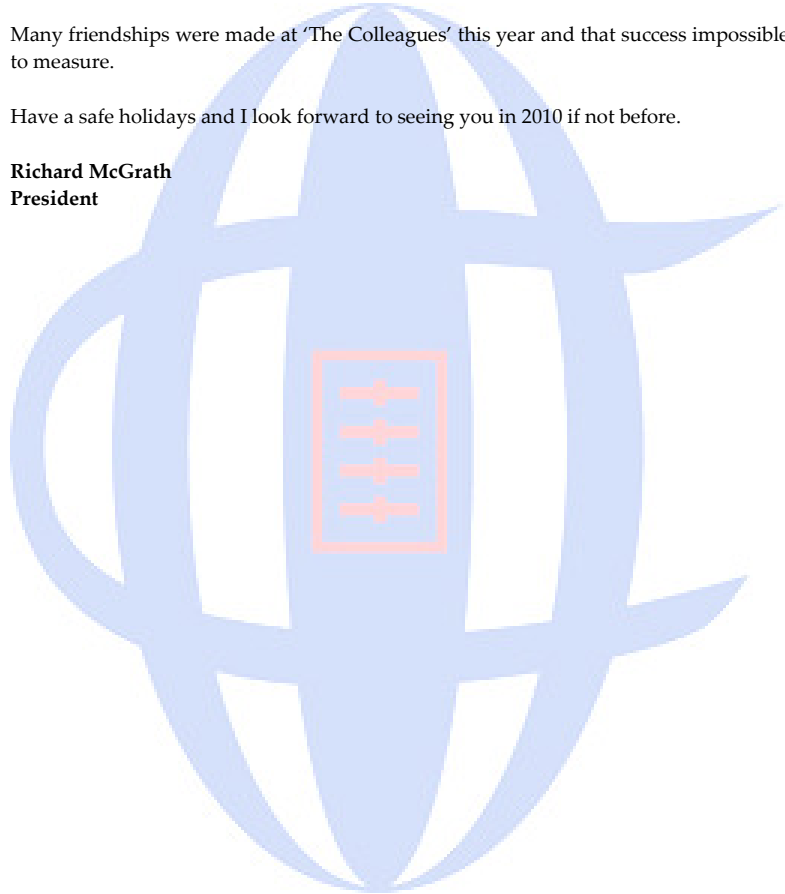


Congratulations to David Gooch for a life time achievement award in the John Anderson Trophy. Everyone sees the work David does on match day. Few appreciate the work that he does during the week or a Sunday morning making sure that the clubhouse is in good order. Also to Jono Linn who manages a full time job, study, water polo and a new girlfriend. As one of our colts who has come through the ranks to play Kentwell consistently you are a worthy winner. A special mention should be also made of Will Martin for Best and Fairest in the Suburban Colts competition.

Many friendships were made at 'The Colleagues' this year and that success impossible to measure.

Have a safe holidays and I look forward to seeing you in 2010 if not before.

Richard McGrath
President



Club Captain's Report

If you were to give Colleagues' 2009 season a mark and report card comment, the following may be appropriate: *"B-, Colleagues is a smart student and constant overachiever, however needs to work harder at maintaining such quality of work if he is to reach his potential"*. Whilst we did not have a terrible year, it was not brilliant in any sense. We finished 5th in the Club Championships, however at times mid-season we were looking to fare worse. There were certainly a few nervous away games. On the positive side, a mass of new and young blokes pulled on the blue jersey for the first time, and a number of colts joined the senior ranks, which sees the club in good stead for the future.

On the field, only the Whiddon Cup boys lifted silverware. They carried on where they left off in 2008, winning well and forming a tight unit from the outset. Congratulations to the players and Jono Hughes, G Hudson and Toby Rakison on the premiership.

Kentwell had a tough year, losing key players through injury and occasionally not having the size of cattle to withhold other packs. The boys tried hard and had some good wins, none better than knocking off Knox at home. The 2010 Kentwell side will benefit immensely from the lessons of 2009. The young blokes will be a year wiser and the new blokes more comfortable in what will be a very competitive team. The Burke Cup boys started slowly, found form just after the mid-point of the season but failed to make the finals. A number of young players made their senior debut in this side and will be the better for it in 2010. Thanks to Benny Waters and Adam Harley for managing and developing such a large squad.

Judd Cup, under the guidance of Laurie Campbell, had a good season with some great wins. They made the finals but came unstuck at the first hurdle against a determined Mosman outfit in the minor-semi. The Sutherland Cup team failed to make the finals this year, but played some entertaining rugby. As always, Suthos was a home for a large group of colleagues. Thank you to Andrew Harrington for looking after the boys this year. Further, congrats and thanks to Ben Radclyffe in Halligan for taking the reins of another large contingent of players throughout the year.

Like Judd, the Barbour boys made the finals after a season of great patches and some shock losses. Unfortunately though, they also bowed out early, losing to Forest by 2 points in the minor semi-final. Thanks to Pete Minucos and Ben Wood for looking after the young blokes, many of which will be warmly welcomed to the senior grades next year. Minu and Woodsy have done a great job with this vintage of Colleagues colts over the last few years.

Getting these blokes on the field takes a lot of work from a number of people. Firstly, I would like to thank the President Rich McGrath for his continued support and direction. Likewise, I would like to thank Jono Linn, our Secretary, for doing so much behind the scenes. He has excelled as the club's secretary and proudly manages the bulk of the administrative duties no one wants to touch. Thank you also to our



Treasurer, Paul Howard, for keeping the finances in check. As you could imagine, this has been significantly more difficult in 2009 as a result of the general downturn in sponsorship, which was largely due to the dire financial times.

Elsewhere, colleagues with and without official duties continue to build this club. Thanks again to Ben Waters for not only looking after his playing group, but coordinating game day and looking after equipment. Surely the thankless task of the year was sorting jerseys, and blokes like Ben did it every week. Thanks to Dicky Thomas for getting the boys fit. I know how much he loves this role and wants to have us at our peek – here's looking to 2010 mate.

The Committee worked hard to organise and oversee all facets of the season, from another successful ball and two whopping ladies days (including the highly popular Slave Auction) to the running of the bar, the ordering of stock, cleaning, setting up and packing down. Every week this club needs blokes like Goochy, Richard Hodson, Cam Mac and Jonesy to do the work or it just doesn't function, and I thank these guys for their assistance. Goochy especially was tremendous assistance, managing the clubhouse, doing repairs and keeping the beast well oiled. Richard and Cam organised most of the social functions and Jonesy ran the bar. I am also indebted to last year's Captain, Cameron Ireland, for his advice and guidance. He did a remarkable job as Club Captain and will sit high as one of the club's best for years to come. (Relinquishing the role seems to have improved his game too!)

The sponsors were welcomed with open arms and a grope this year. Given the uncertain financial times, a few of last year's supporters dropped away. Thank you then to B Braun, Hill Rogers, Property Planning Australia, Ryans Bar and Paddington Bowling Club for their financial assistance for the season. Also, thanks to Garrods Lane, Jan Logan, Barons Brewing, RMG Partners, the Mill wines for sponsoring various events, particularly the Long Lunch. Our success depends on the sponsor's support and we should never take it for granted. I encourage players and supporters alike to back these sponsors and use their services/products whenever possible.

This was my first year as Club Captain. I learnt more about the heartbeat of Colleagues in the first few months, than I had in my previous four years. It is a wonderful club with a sense of life, drive and humour. However, we cannot rest on our extensive laurels. We need to get that winning culture back. The blokes need to get strong, get fit, get serious, win games and reclaim those premierships. We are only a bee's bit away from contesting the club championships again. With a good off season, some new recruits and the lessons of 2009 in the legs of the young blokes, we should be much higher up the ladder at the end of 2010.

Tom Johnston (TJ)
Club Captain



Secretary's Report

At the beginning of the year I was proud to be told by a rival Club Administrator that they model their ambition and success on the results that Colleagues has achieved in the past. Whilst it is good to be the "pace setters" and the "benchmark" in Subbies Rugby, nothing will make me happier than to see the efforts of all involved be rewarded as we turn this beast of a club into full speed, aiming for a blue rinse at the end of September and the creation of many a story and mate along the way. Colleagues is not content to rest on laurels, we are still in the business of making history and forging the path ahead as the number 1 club in Subbies...[if not the universe]

The theme for 2009 may be lost opportunities to fill the coffers both on and off the field, but the optimistic Colleague will only see the resilience and tenacity that resulted in a dominant Burke Cup forward pack averaging 23 or so years, immensely successful social functions aiding the cash flow and the ultimate prize of a cup named 'Horace.'

Such results are no mean feat for a club of our size. We boast 200 odd players, coaches and administrators who participate over the season. We host 8-10 games per weekend and facilitate 5-6 social functions a year catering to hundreds of local supporters. We help to raise funds for charitable causes and provide tours for less charitable, but very enjoyable, causes.

In a year that may be passed off as an overall par performance for Colleagues, we can't overlook the improvements that we have made along the way, and which will hopefully be carried on into the future. The work of DT in the implementation of a more professional fitness program and Colleague of the week emails, Goochies tireless efforts to maintain the clubhouse and refine the bar operations, the efforts to get 2 colts teams on the paddock, a new website, the great work by TJ, Howie and The Pres in establishing a more professional approach to securing sponsorship, the extension of Colleagues further abroad – this year into Newport, Rhode Island USA, and the emergence of some enthusiastic and conscientious members of the social committee all augur well for 2010 and beyond.

It is comforting to know that right now we are welcoming the return of some Old Colleagues, with renewed vigour to lead the Blue Giants forward, and are working hard to lay the foundations for a successful 2010. We should be proud of past achievements, including those of 2009, and be keen to continue to work towards a more professional operation so that we can continue to be leader of the pack and provide the greatest platform for Colleagues of the future to become Magnificent Men and great mates.

Jonathon Linn
Honorary Secretary



Club Coach's Report

Congratulations must firstly go to the mighty Whiddon Cup team who once again took out the premiership. They had a very strong season and the commitment from all those involved with the team is to be commended. The final itself was a fantastic game. To fight back and bring the game into overtime was a credit to the team and then to come away with the silverware in extra time certainly showed the heart of the team and certainly made it interesting for the many Blue Giants who venture out to T G Millner to watch the game. Great season boys and very well done.

As usual the Club performed well in the Burke, Whiddon and Judd competitions as is the norm, but this year did not deliver in the top grade. This was particularly disappointing as the Kentwell competition was as open as it has been for many years and it was a real shame not to capitalise on the opportunity. That said, the problems we suffered are not insurmountable and I expect the boys will be back stronger than ever next year to make a mends.

There is a huge amount of work that goes into making the mighty Blue Giants rugby club run as smoothly as it does. I would firstly like to thank the committee for the huge amount of work they put into their roles and how easy that makes it for the rest of us. I would also like to thank each member for their support in what was a tough year results wise.

To the coaching group, the effort you guys put into your teams and the club in general is fantastic. It at times can be a thankless role but you should all be very proud of what you achieved this year and the effort you put in makes it a pleasure to be involved. For your countless hours, emails, opinions and presence around the club I would like to thank you. I would also like to mention Dick Thomas here for his very professional and enthusiastic Tuesday sessions for strength and conditioning. They are a great addition to the club and we are lucky to have him.

To the player group, thank you for turning up each week and putting it on the line for the Blue Giants. I look forward to seeing you again next year ready to bring home the both the Bruce Graham shield and a bag of premierships.

Thanks again and congratulations to the mighty Whiddon cup team.

Ben Waters
Club Coach

Knox Old Boys	2640
St Patricks	2588
Mosman	2340
Beecroft	2313
Colleagues	2155
Drummoyne	2155
Campbelltown	2116
Forest	2083
Old Ignatians	2063
Kings Old Boys	1789

Kentwell Cup Report

It was a tough year for the Kentwell boys, which was a real shame as the Kentwell competition was as open as it has been for many years. This year saw a large number of new faces come into the team from both the lower grades and from other clubs. Yet, plagued by injury we were very rarely able to put the same team out on a weekly basis. Without continuity and combinations, consistency in Kentwell is very hard to come by and the results showed.

Whilst we had some great wins, the highlight definitely being the win against Knox at Blue Giant stadium, we also had some heart breaking and very disappointing losses. Sometimes it was bad luck, other times it was things that need to be addressed next season. These include effort by the players at preparing themselves for games and the season in general, it is not good enough to simply turn up each week. Kentwell is a tough competition that requires tough competitors and if we are honest with ourselves, we were simply not tough enough or competitive enough to be contenders in 2009.

The good thing about this is that it can be addressed. We certainly have a good depth of players and there is still plenty of pride in the jersey, we simply need more effort in preparing for each game.

If we take away the positives of the season and work hard to rectify the shortcomings, we can be very strong in 2010 and I would invite the whole club to take on the challenge of winning a Kentwell cup.

Thanks boys and a special thanks to Harls for his enthusiasm and commitment to every aspect of his coaching. Bring on 2010.

Ben Waters
Kentwell Coach

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
Knox Old Boys	18	12	0	6	496	312	184	5	11	16	64
Drummoyne	18	13	0	5	488	305	183	1	10	11	63
Campbelltown	18	11	1	6	582	359	223	5	11	16	62
St Patricks	18	10	0	8	465	402	63	3	6	9	49
Beecroft	18	8	1	9	330	278	52	5	5	10	44
Forest	18	8	0	10	358	504	-146	3	8	11	43
Kings Old Boys	18	9	0	9	345	415	-70	2	4	6	42
Mosman	18	7	0	11	338	438	-100	0	6	6	34
Old Ignatians	18	6	0	12	290	417	-127	4	3	7	31
Colleagues	18	5	0	13	292	554	-262	2	4	6	26



Burke Cup Report

Whilst the finish to the season was a little disappointing, it was another strong year for the Burke cup boys. We started a little slow but the momentum certainly picked up during the season and one of the most pleasing aspects was the number of young players, and in particular 2008 colts, who made their way into the Burke cup team.

There were some classic wins through out the year. The one that stands out for mine was the win against St Pats at Hudson park in the rain. I once remember an old Colleague saying that the only thing tougher than playing Pats at Pats in the rain was watching your wife give birth and the way the boys played on this day showed they had the mettle to win the competition. However, there were a few games that we let slide and as a result we missed out on the finals by the smallest of margins. It certainly was an opportunity that we let slip as we had accounted for each of the top 4 teams through out the year.

With a number of the players in the team destined to become Kentwell stalwarts, it will be a pleasure to watch these guys continue to improve and strengthen the club. We must ensure that we are ruthless in the Burke cup competition next year as we are overdue in bringing home the silverware here as well.

All in all it was a great effort boys, one you should be proud of but also one you let slip. I look forward to seeing you all down there again next year and thank you for the season. Thank you also to Harls for his help with the team and his massive effort week in and week out.

Ben Waters
Burke Coach

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
Beecroft	18	14	0	4	380	220	160	3	5	8	64
Mosman	18	12	0	6	393	350	43	2	8	10	58
St Patricks	18	12	0	6	379	279	100	1	8	9	57
Old Ignatians	18	10	2	6	315	296	19	2	3	5	49
Colleagues	18	10	0	8	305	273	32	3	5	8	48
Knox Old Boys	18	9	1	8	349	324	25	2	5	7	45
Forest	18	6	3	9	255	311	-56	3	3	6	36
Kings Old Boys	18	6	1	11	261	327	-66	5	2	7	33
Drummoyne	18	5	1	12	317	435	-118	3	5	8	30
Campbelltown	18	2	0	16	314	453	-139	9	3	12	20



Whiddon Cup Report

Champions 2009

They say that when the Colleagues Whiddon Cup team is strong, the Wallabies are weak and 2009 was another perfect example of this well known fact. This has been the case since 2001, where the Colleagues Whiddo's team has been practically unbeatable in the big matches, while the Wallabies trophy room is about as empty as Gav's pockets after a night in Redfern. That being said the pressure on Australia's premier rugby team was immense in 2009 with a huge expectation placed on the Colleagues boys. The Whiddo's side, like in the years past, dealt with this pressure the only way they know how – by turning up mid season (usually at Ladies Day) and beating everything in its path on the way to no undy sundy. However, it must be said that this year there was a couple of significant speed humps along the way, in particular a team called St Pats, who topped the table for the majority of the season and won the Minor Premiership.

While Whiddo's got off to an ok start, a turning point came mid season when we were beaten at home in front of the Ladies (not our style at all) and a sudden realisation came over us that we needed to change our complacent ways if we were to win the Grand Final. A huge change also came over our coaching staff who suddenly decided that being friendly, approachable and easy going was not going to win us a Grand Final either. Here began the Jono Hughes regime where the Rugby ball was replaced by a tackle shield and any talking during training meant a 400m sprint. Colonel Hughes' Lieutenant, Toby Rakison (a very angry Englishman at the best of times), was made to look like Ghandi during this regime. This regime did take its toll on our baby faced coach who over the course of the season aged at least 10years and by season end looked almost 25 years old.

When we eventually dragged ourselves off the training paddock and played some Rugby, the Whiddo's boys, were now a lean mean (often hungover) Rugby team and were gathering significant momentum coming into finals time. One of the highlights of the season was a massive towelling up of Mosman at home. Points came thick and fast with Luke (never scored a try at school) Adams scoring a hat-trick in the first 5 minutes and Marty (headbutt) Askew sideways torpedoing through many conversions. It also showed the emergence of the running talent of Dave (Ram Man) Adams, whose lack of any ligaments in his knees meant that he could not step left or right so could only run straight over the top of anyone in his path.

With Finals now upon the Whiddo's boys, it was time for some of the experienced heads of the team to take overseas holidays and give opportunities to some of the up and comers to show their stuff. The major semi-final saw us up against our old rivals St Pats in what turned out to be a one-sided affair with a good win to the boys in blue. Particular standouts included Rossy (had to back up after the Dally M's), Mal (unfortunately tore a tattoo in his shoulder) and Kel (making up for his send off for being a punching bag against Knox).



To the big Grand Final and the boys awoke at 5.30am in order to get to our morning game in Eastwood with plenty of time to warm up. Little did anyone know but after such a comprehensive win against Pats two weeks prior, the Whiddo's players thought they'd play a practical joke on all their adoring fans by doing almost everything they could not to win the game. A little bit of credit must go to the Pats boys who played out of their skin, but it was us Colleagues boys who had the last laugh. Head prankster Daniel (Disco) Quinn was having a great day pretending to miss penalties kicks and even bombing a few tries with the help of Boris (who the fark is Simon Gardiner?). Even the ref got in on the act making the breakdown more confusing than a Toby Rakison training drill. With no time on the clock, camped inside our half and 3 points behind, we decided that we'd end the jokes and so we ran the length of the field and were subsequently awarded a penalty in front of the posts. Disco was quickly reminded not to joke around anymore and the penalty put us into extra time.

An early try to Craig (the Honey Badger) Searle put us up by 5 and so all that was left to do was defend our line for 20minutes while St Pats threw all they could at us. Particular mention must go to Chris (headless chook) Coe for his workrate and total disregard for his body. And so after nearly two hours of Rugby on a dusty TG Milner field, the Colleagues Whiddon Cup team was triumphant in what turned out to be one of the most miraculous comebacks as well as physically draining games I have been involved in.

Thanks must go to all our supporters, our water team of Pappy and his large headed assistant G, Vice Captain Molesy, Jono, Tobes and the entire squad involved in the Colleagues Whiddon Cup. When games are that close, it really does come down to the smallest things that can influence a match and so it can be safely said that all those involved had an influence on us winning the Whiddon Cup Grand Final.

Rohan Beale
Captain 2009

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
St Patricks	18	14	1	3	448	196	252	1	11	12	70
Colleagues	18	14	0	4	351	138	213	2	9	11	67
Old Ignatians	18	10	0	8	288	254	34	3	5	8	48
Knox Old Boys	18	9	1	8	270	298	-28	3	1	4	42
Forest	18	9	0	9	220	246	-26	5	1	6	42
Beecroft	18	8	0	10	206	258	-52	3	2	5	37
Mosman	18	7	1	10	206	305	-99	1	2	3	33
Drummoyne	18	5	2	11	220	283	-63	7	0	7	31
Campbelltown	18	4	2	12	273	396	-123	6	3	9	29
Kings Old Boys	18	6	1	11	159	267	-108	2	0	2	28

Judd Cup Report

And so the Juddernaught of 2009 has finally come to its resting place on Dave Phillips Field. In true Juddies style, they showed their ability to hit back when their backs were against the wall and got very booed and completely wrecked Trelawney and Swanny the funnel!

The season started off slowly with losses to eventual 1 and 2 finishers Campbelltown and Old Iggies, and the wheels lurched into motion against a very Dirty Drummoyne Reds team with a solid, physical 10-0 win. Healthy wins followed over Forest and KOBs before we hit a speed bump against our nemesis for the year, the dirty sperm Whalers of Mosman. Rounds 8, 10 and 11 saw probably our 3 finest performances - some of the gutsiest man on man defence ever seen in Juddies football to hold out 5-0 against a Pats team that included numerous players who played in the higher grades that same day. The defeat 5-0 to Iggies away, will go down not as an all time classic for the spectator but a game that as someone on the field I will never forget. These boys have smoked all comers this year and the Mighty Juddernaught just went down after being camped on their line for the last 10 minutes in weather that would make torrential rain blush.

Round 11 it all came together and we dominated a very physical game against some big units from Campbelltown 17-12.

A very good victory against Pats at home 20-12 saw us safely into the finals were we all know what happened. I wont go into too much detail because the wound has not quite healed yet.

It has been an absolute pleasure to lead you boys out onto the park this year - as I have said before we went from a group of blokes playing footy together to a group of mates willing to do a lot for the man next to him, and (this may sound very cheesy) but it has made me pretty chuffed to be part of such a great set of blokes. We firmly became the social nucleus of the club.

To end, I just want to thank Laurie. The boss man is arguably the most passionate coach I have ever played sport for, and I know for a fact he was incredibly proud of what we achieved this year. He put in the hours (none more so than driving down from Taree for a dead game) and made sure that the Juddernaught ran smoothly all year. I think each and every single one of us should buy him a beer at presentation night.

Thanks for the season boys, it was a cracker and I know for sure we will be back next year...

Dai Williams
Judd Captain

From The Coach



Dai has covered most things in his review, but I just want to add my personal thanks to all the boys who played Judd this. You have all put in a very big effort to get the Judd Cup team to where it finished this year. After some lean times for the Judd boys it was pleasing to see Colleagues put a competitive team on the paddock. With a bit more luck we may have gone further.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pts
Colleagues	18	12	0	6	360	147	213	56

A stand out of our season was our defensive record and shows the level of commitment by all concerned to our cause. But unfortunately we fell short at the last hurdle to finish 4th in the comp. I know the boys were as disappointed in the end result as was I, but as they say there is always next year. I hope that the young guys in the side learn from the experience and bring it back next year stronger and with more hunger for success.

I would like to thank Sean Corbett my fellow coach and Michael Boyd for his help as well during the year. Thanks also goes to all my fellow coaches at Colleagues and the committee for providing the foundations for what has been a very good year for the Judd Cup side.

Lastly I would like to thank Dai Williams for leading the side this year and getting the boys to gel, as a team should.

All the best to all for 2010 bring it on.

Laurence Campbell.
Judd Coach

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
Old Ignatians	18	18	0	0	581	87	494	0	14	14	86
Campbelltown	18	13	1	4	475	221	254	2	10	12	66
Mosman	18	14	1	3	332	178	154	0	6	6	64
Colleagues	18	12	0	6	360	147	213	3	5	8	56
St Patricks	18	9	0	9	276	271	5	2	5	7	43
Drummoyne	18	7	0	11	152	365	-213	1	1	2	30
Beecroft	18	6	0	12	210	316	-106	2	2	4	28
Forest	18	4	1	13	245	388	-143	4	2	6	24
Kings Old Boys	18	4	0	14	115	475	-360	1	1	2	18
Knox Old Boys	18	1	1	16	151	449	-298	4	0	4	8



Sutherland Cup Report

The season could be summed up similar to one of those report cards that would read "plenty of potential, if only they had applied themselves better". Sums up a disappointing season for the Sutho's seeing the team finish 7th in a 9 team comp. First time in recent memory Colleagues hasn't been represented in the 5th Grade Finals.

2006, 07, 08 are seasons that were always going to be tough to follow, so we will simply call this season a 'correction'. (Much like the Global FC)

The season outcome could have easily panned out much better should a few of the 7 x 'less than 7 point' defeats had gone the other way, particularly at critical points of the season. The team will take the knowledge that there is 'no such thing as a guaranteed result in Rugby' into 2010.

Some of the challenges faced during the season were somewhat out of the players control. Selection pressures up the grades meant our weekly squad would be mostly 'variable', and each week mixing in natural attrition, our critical positions went wanting as did structure. As a result of the continual changes we struggled to build a team dynamic and cohesion that we have had in previous years.

Thank you to all those players who found themselves playing new positions, or a different position each week. And to those whom had opportunity to play up the grades, we know you represented well.

Overall the squad always played with conviction whilst on (and off..) the park. Thanks also to those that played this year and of course to the greater Club for putting up with us, particularly our performance at the Colleagues Ball. Whiddo's...well done on the Silverware, we aspire to follow your lead in 2010.

James Robertson
Sutherland Cup Player

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
Campbelltown	18	17	0	1	496	130	366	0	12	12	80
Drummoyne	18	14	1	3	369	175	194	1	8	9	67
Mosman	18	12	1	5	358	118	240	4	8	12	62
Beecroft	18	11	0	7	213	170	43	2	3	5	49
Old Ignatians	18	11	0	7	276	237	39	0	5	5	49
St Patricks	18	9	0	9	246	264	-18	2	5	7	43
Colleagues	18	6	0	12	233	210	23	7	4	11	35
Kings Old Boys	18	7	0	11	191	229	-38	5	2	7	31
Forest	18	2	0	16	152	497	-345	3	2	5	9
Knox Old Boys	18	0	0	18	0	504	-504	0	0	0	-4



Barbour Cup Report

The 2009 Barbour campaign began around 1.30pm on some hot arvo in September 2008, where the previous campaign ended with a 21-24 loss to Iggies in one of the better subbies GFs. Unfortunately that day we were missing our skipper, Watty, and lost another six players to injury during the game, and the boys went desperately close to a valiant victory before being done by an Iggies try with two minutes to go. But the seeds were set that night for revenge. Most of the boys were wishing the new season was beginning the next Saturday.

While a handful of boys would ply their trade in the seniors in 2009, there were also plenty returning. Little Marto aka Fat Monk, the prized addition to the squad. With Colleagues blood in his veins, many mates in the side, Marto was keen to help avenge the GF that he watched from the sidelines the year before. He lived up to this, firstly with his unselfish play. Ex-premiership Colleagues are often a little precious, whereas when I explained to Marto I was going to need a rotation selection system this season, that some may react negatively to it, and that I could ensure they would be positive if they saw him take the first rotation, he was happy to oblige for the team. Throughout the season he proved the best and fairest, not only for our team, but for the comp, and was rewarded as such with the Competition Medal.

Dyl-Shep and "Are you smarter than a 5th grader" Tilse were welcome roommates, for their antics off the field as much as their play on it. We can only hope to see these two dominating the Kentwell and Burke fields, and the Long Lunch and Colleagues Ball dance floors, for the next handful of seasons. Red Dog was a specifically targeted recruit: While Roddy was admirable as an 18yo playing out of position as a 70kg inside centre in 08, we wanted a way to have the skill-set of Crouchy, Morty and Roddy on the field but with a bit more grunt in mid-field, and I'd formulated a plan to use the numbers 8/9/10/12 as new positions to what they are normally known as. Red was as much a key to this as the other three, and his play throughout the year in whatever position he was placed was outstanding. On top of this, we'd added some more boys from around the college traps, even more boys from The Kings School, and even found a couple of kids from near Woollahra that play rugby.

With 40+ guys to training pre-season, there was going to be a playing time problem. The solution became the newly formed Sydney Colts Comp (which will transfer to 3rd division colts this season), and Colleagues were proudly represented in two colts comps this year, a fairly phenomenal effort for a district that has kids more adept at applying hair product than physical effort. While Colleagues' colts program is the strongest in subbies rugby right now, it should not be forgotten that Colleagues forfeited colts from 1990-1996 and again in 2001, and that there are practically no locals upon which to draw players. We've won three premierships and made the semis six times in the past seven seasons, but it must be remembered that complete player turnover is basically biannual, and we are always two years away from having no colts. (Contact Waverley for reference.)

The Sydney Colts campaign was largely a success. Firstly, it put guys in a blue jersey when the 22 spots in Barbour were insufficient. Secondly, the esprit de corps of the team was running rugby and lots of fun, and the team managed to win a semi final spot with a great attitude to rugby. The 5-3 win at eventual premiers Roseville under lights in the last round of the season was, despite the score line, as entertaining a game of rugby one could witness; end-to-end, ball-in-hand rugby only matched by consistent, desperation, try-saving defence. Thirdly, it allowed 60 minutes per week to the fringe Barbour Cup players to improve their game far more than 15 minutes off the bench would have. Guys like Will Arnott, James Stirzaker, James Ferris, Bart Oswald and Tim Buttenshaw come immediately to mind, but plenty of guys fit this category. This team also served as a way for guys like Tom O'Connor and Michael Wayne and Charlie Kelly to get back into footy, where they may have been less comfortable trying to force their way into the Barbour team. The team was desperately unlucky in their semi final, going down 17-27. They were beaten fair and square by their opposition on the day, however subbies' disgraceful decision to ban 18 players as eligible simply because 1st division had a bye that week was the difference. (How you can rule we have a 1st XVIII is beyond me.) Two of the three that were unfairly banned were the fullback and winger, and the oppositions three first half tries were from kicks. The team tried their guts out to pull them back, and got to 17-19, with great games from skipper Stirz, all of the forwards, and little Jooste in the unfamiliar 10, however it was not to be.

With the entire colts program being discussed, I should get to the Barbour Cup campaign, I'm perhaps avoiding the heartbreak. As said, we had won premierships and had many great teams. The 2003 Barbour premiers featured Smut at 8, Prowse at 9, and DK at 10. The 2005 squad was in my eyes the best team in all of subbies rugby that season (given it was a weak Kentwell year), winning their major semi by a devastating 45-3, and then easily winning the GF despite missing a heap of players to injury. But I had thought the 2009 version surpassed even those vintages. The season begun as anticipated, with convincing wins to open the first six weeks of the season, including a 57 point performance against Kings that was up there with the best games our colts have ever played. At this stage the 8/9/10/12 experiment was still unsettling to some of the boys (especially Crouch, completely unable to get used to wearing the 8 on his back), but it was working a treat, allowing the skill of Morty and Roddy to be juxtaposed with the toughness of Crouch and Red. Unfortunately, short term injuries, followed by long term injuries, meant the skill-set was to be lost and the strategy was not to be seen again.

This led into a night game against the equally undefeated Mosman, and when we walked out of there 12-3 victors we felt the comp was at our mercy. How quickly we were brought back to earth. The next week was a wet and muddy game out at St Pats, and unlike previous games where our skilful inside backs were supported by grunt, we were a little manhandled at the gain line, and one try in the first minute plus one try in the last minute saw the first loss of the season, 3-10. The following week was worse, a 0-31 loss to eventual premiers Knox who were too classy on the day. While there were maybe five opportunities to three, they took five and we took none and the scoreboard looked scary by the end. Not the best way to enter the dreaded uni



holiday break, however this season we performed remarkably well, thanks largely to the efforts of many of those guys in the Sydney Colts team who filled in and we won four on the trot to get us back on track heading into the business end of the season. Also key was Fat Monk planning his holidays around the team and being there to lead these four games. Unfortunately, this run saw us lose a core member of the team in the Sam Crouch to a season ending knee injury.

The final five weeks began with Mosman trying to get square with us, and would finish with us looking to get square with Pats and Knox. The first game was another beauty, where there was quite astoundingly not one stoppage of play for the first 25 minutes. That was Mosman kicking a penalty goal, and they also scored on the half time bell to lead 10-0. On top for most of the second half, we were unfortunate to concede a try against the run of play. Down 0-17 with 15 minutes to go, the boys could have let the season slip there, but dug deep to score the next try and ended up camped on the Mosman line for the final 5 minutes. The final result was 7-17, one try to two, and there looked to be work to do to get back to the top where we stood some nine weeks before. This work was done, with training stepping up to twice a week, with a full XV available at every training. A few easy wins brought us to Pats, and a dominant 33-0 victory had us feeling confident heading into week 18 at Knox. This proved a tough game where both teams took turns on top, and ended with a 10-10 score line as the final hooter went – only we had a penalty near halfway. Given that we needed to win by >7 to gain a major semi spot, we went for the win, only to have the penalty kick ricochet off the cross bar and back.

Two more extremely good solid training sessions saw us head into the minor semi ready to put in 100%. We came out fired up, took a 7-0 lead early which became 10-0 after 25 minutes, and things looked to be running smoothly. Then just before halftime, a deft kick by Forest from about 35m out saw their winger win the race for the ball and touchdown in the corner. We looked to regain the buffer with a 40m penalty after the whistle, but as the ball sailed well clear of the miniscule posts the two touchies looked at each other, and as they did this the ref called halftime, ignoring the protests of the Colleagues kicker and the captain who believe the ball went over. Still, it was 10-5.

The second half was much like the first, with Colleagues clearly winning the gain line and the breakdown in both attack and defence. A line break count for the game would have read about 8-1 to Colleagues, but that didn't prove as effective as the excellent Forest #8 coming up with the play his team needed: a charge down and re-gather and 40m sprint to the line.

If there was one part of the game we wish we could have back, it would be the referee's view of the line outs. With Marto and Buis, we had two of the best line out jumpers that Colleagues have ever seen in any grade, and had totally dominated this aspect of the game all season. Yet on this day it wouldn't be the case, and we had to watch repeatedly horrified, as Forest were not pulled up once on their throw (a Forest non-throw on their own 5m line the most memorable mistake), and yet we were on three occasions. The third of these came after a pressure-relieving kick by Forest, and

led to a Forest scrum 40m out, where the excellent Forest #8 executed their clean line break game, and two passes later they were over in the corner for a 17-10 lead.

Knowing a draw would be enough to see us through, the boys dug deep and threw everything they had at the Forest line, being held up at one point. At the same time, Forest correctly threw everything they had into killing the game, with their #8 being yellowed for an indiscretion on their line that saved a certain try. Eventually we crossed, but right on the sideline, and needed the miracle conversion to save us. In 2006 we got the break, when Lowy slotted it from touch to win the GF. This year it wasn't to be, and when Forest smartly kicked their restart into touch on purpose it was game, and season, over.

I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed (most of) the season as much as I have any. The players were excellent, they trained hard, they executed, and they gave it all. Given the premierships we have won, it is hard for me to believe this team didn't go all the way – but hey, the All Blacks have gone >20 years without a World Cup. It was the sort of season that makes you wonder whether the best team does always prevail, despite what the scoreboard says. The hard luck stories of both teams this year, and the team last year, enforce this point, but also serve as reminder for how fortunate we were to have the bounce of the ball in 2006. It can't be guaranteed, and it is very hard to dominate as much as the 2003 and 2005 teams so that you are above bad luck.

The success of the 2009 season will hopefully be judged on the flow-on effect these players bring to Colleagues in the next handful of years. As said, there were 40-50 players a lot of the rounds. The majority of these would make successful Whiddon and Judd Cup players immediately. A multitude of them would make very good Burke Cup players straight away. A number of them with the talent to be dominant Kentwell players. There are also enough of the boys returning to colts to have an almost instantaneous premierships quality team. Third year blokes like Roddy, Chud, and Fez should be ready to be the core, and blokes like Bligh, Brock, the Hick, and some mentioned above, should provide the correct support. They should be in for another fun season.



After the last seven seasons featured Woodsie, and six of them me as well, we'll be leaving the Barbour Cup to these boys and a new coach next year. Given Woodsie and I played four seasons of Barbour as well, we have in fact been involved in a fair proportion of Colleagues' 12 Barbour seasons! We've shared overseas trips, houses, and a million memories with Colleagues colts over the years, here's hoping the tradition continues.

Pete Minucos
Barbour Coach

Barbour Cup

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
Mosman	18	16	0	2	447	155	292	1	9	10	74
Knox Old Boys	18	13	2	3	588	130	458	3	11	14	70
Colleagues	18	14	1	3	426	166	260	0	9	9	67
Forest	18	13	0	5	399	205	194	2	8	10	62
St Patricks	18	8	0	10	263	320	-57	3	4	7	39
Beecroft	18	7	0	11	256	335	-79	4	5	9	37
Kings Old Boys	18	7	1	10	273	375	-102	3	3	6	36
Old Ignatians	18	7	0	11	238	315	-77	2	3	5	33
Drummoyne	18	2	0	16	127	580	-453	2	1	3	11
Campbelltown	18	1	0	17	180	616	-436	4	2	6	10

Sydney Colts Cup

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
Hawkesbury Valley	12	11	0	1	358	86	272	0	8	8	52
Roseville	12	10	0	2	270	75	195	1	6	7	47
Colleagues II	12	7	0	5	143	144	-1	1	4	5	33
Epping	12	4	1	7	185	141	44	4	4	8	26
Gordon IV	12	5	0	7	169	251	-82	1	2	3	23
Lindfield II	12	3	1	8	124	277	-153	1	2	3	17
Beecroft II	12	1	0	11	37	312	-275	2	0	2	6

Halligan Cup Report

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
12	Colleagues	11	5	0	6	159	198	-39	0	3	3	23

Convicts Report

Capatins:

Convicts 1sts: Steve Thorne

Convicts 2nds: Simon Thompson

Best & Fairest

1sts: Charles Gregory

2nds: Marcel Garraud

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP <7p	BP 4t	BP	Pts
8	Colleagues	17	6	2	9	206	283	-77	3	3	6	34
19	Convicts											
	Colleagues											
	Convicts II	7	2	0	5	68	111	-43	2	0	2	10



End of Season Tour: Mudgee 2009

In sporting tradition and legend there is a time-honoured and sacred rule that “what happens on tour, stays on tour” (McKenna et al., 2009, p. 114.). In the composition of this document, the writer aims to ensure that every event and detail of the trip is recorded in print so that the inevitable slip of information can be backed up by hard proof (Disclaimer: in no way can the writer guarantee that the written recount demonstrates the absolute truth of events as they occurred).

On a barmy Friday, 9th October, having fluffed about with the ‘ever-ready’ team from Never-ready rentals; with ‘Papa Smurf’, some drink bottles, two flat tyres, 14 blokes, Pappas the dog and a box of snickers (for good measure), the trip commenced, only one hour later than scheduled. Each man in the touring party was armed with a small bag of fun and the dreams of glory headed for “Mudgee: the region of Sensory Perfection” (Mudgee Region, 2008). Who’d have thought we could fit so much into a tiny space? Then again, that’s what they said about Ron Jeremy’s long and distinguished career.

There are very few moments in a mans life when he can be truly proud; first pee by himself, first try, first root, getting married, finishing primary school just to name a few; but receiving a personalised tour jersey was one of them. This symbolic early gesture revealed some key elements to our trip i.e. ‘The Creature’, ‘Tin-Tin’ and ‘The Penis’. With jerseys in hand and looking good, beer was found and consumption commenced...our trip was finally kicking off. Special mention here must go to Tin-Tin for call of the tour. The christening of the ‘Lone Ranga’ will go down in history as one of the most aptly appointed pseudonyms of all time.

The trip to Mudgee was fairly smooth and only took us 6 hours. From a drivers perspective it was a great ride apart from the 1000 ‘piss breaks’ we had due to pe-sized, Jap bladder of a couple of tourists...namely ‘Golden Child’. A brief but eventful stop at Lithgow McDonald’s ensured that we were well fed and ready for the night to come. Apart from the threat of death from the locals whose ute we left our rubbish on, we got away fairly unscathed from that little adventure. ‘The Olsen twins’ and ‘Pacman’ really laid the foundation of their trips by finding the least attractive girls behind the counter and throwing some excellent chat...good game boys, well played.

‘Tin-Tin’ is going to get a very special mention here as the second-youngest man on tour behind the fresh-faced ‘Cointreau’. Unfortunately for him, this meant taking punishment for any troublesome acts he may have participated in. With the advent of the Katoomba rule¹, his adoption of Pappas the Dog and the excellent historical yarns being spun from the driver’s seat, poor old ‘Tin-Tin’ had a pretty rough trip, but a commendable effort in anyone’s books.

¹ An amnesty on the use of real names as opposed to tour nicknames that finished at Katoomba.



The Mudgee Valley Tourist Park didn’t really know what had hit it when the Colleagues touring party came and left within 15 minutes at about midnight on Friday night...but the Wool Pack Hotel certainly did. After 2 minutes, a cockroach, a seagull and a round of drinks; the clock was broken, fingers pointed and the first official warning given. It was at this stage that the ‘eyeballs’² came out and the shape of the night changed for the better. Some very sly time change calls³ from our silent assassin tour co-captain ‘Bacchus’ saw many an involuntary consumption dished out for inexcusable errors. The night was heading in a great direction.

It was about 1:20am on Saturday 10th October when the tour was given its first blow. A small faction of the group fearlessly lead by ‘Vince’ decided to get home early to warm up the Sodomy Suite⁴ for our fearless tour leaders. This saw the tour pack separated for the first time and made some members wonder whether cohesion would be achieved again. Another small group left with an hour left of service, leaving ‘The Engineer’, ‘Bacchus’, ‘Mandibulus’ and ‘Cointreau’ behind to fly the flag for the entire team...a fairly handy job.

The night ended at the Wool Pack Hotel when the Kariong Wanderers decided the best way home was in the back of a paddywagon. With a good fight brewing on the dancefloor, the remaining tourists made the decision to call it a night and hoof it back to the Tourist Park for some well-earned shut-eye in preparation for the tournament which started a mere 6 hours later.

A beautiful day greeted us for the start of the Pudgee (Mudgee for you sticklers) Seven’s tournament...shining sun, singing birds, snoring props, smelly hungover (possibly still drunk) shitting blokes in foreign cabins...it surely was a sight to behold.

Having made it to the ground in one piece thanks to Vince, we had one final hurdle to overcome; convincing the security guard that our overly large chilly-bin was totally packed with powerade and snickers. We missed. And so our carefully made plans had to chill for a while until we returned for the afternoon session.

There were four games played on the day. A few highlights and lowlights are as follows. Game 1 vs The Paragon Hotel was a stunning success. A win by a lot of points saw us looking dangerous for success in the competition. We then played the team from St. Pat’s Old Boys which was a tough contest seeing us go down by a mere 4 points. Our final round-robin game was against The Guard Dogs who were the local bouncers and we smoked them. In the quarter final (of which it was considered a bit of a lowlight that we actually had to play) we came up against the Tysonesque Kariong

² Small balls made of plastic or rubber that, when placed in a tour members drink, enforced a small, involuntary consumption.

³ Different hands for different hours of the night...left=odd, right=even.

⁴ “Cabin” in which our tour leaders were sleeping



Wanderer's who had managed to play some decent footy to put themselves into a good position for the top game.

Anyway...highlights and lowlights in no particular order (based on memory loss) are: Sneaking a brick into the ground 'unknowingly', Tin-Tin's length of the field "oh do I actually have to score it?" try, The Engineers stunning efforts in cover defence all day, The Penis' handling issues, Ashley's lack of consideration by leaving the boys for a cheeky collagen implant mid-tournament, The Sloane Ranga's excellent scrimmaging and mid-field defence, The Heartbreak Kid's amazing (slightly high) defence, The heartbreak Kid's passing ability, Pacman's amazing chat, Vince's robe and hat combination, The Golden Child's footwork and instant shining to the front row, Bacchus' robust running and the look on his face when we found out we had to play the quarter-final, The Creature's workload and ballskills, and his vivid descriptions of the cable he either had just laid or was planning on laying...on Mandibulus' pillow, who incidentally played a screamer in most games and made many good call from the sideline (probably on the field too, but I didn't see much of that...which brings me to my next MASSIVE lowlight), Cointreau got injured and didn't really contribute much else to the games, Mary-Kate played a little bit of good footy but would have been awesome had she not been bitching the whole time about how much better treatment Ashley was getting...I mean grow up girls!

With the rugby well accounted for, having played one more game than necessary...it was beer o'clock. The boys headed back to the campsite, hopped into our one's and got ready for a fuel-injected court session. There were some fantastic punishments given out, some good defence's argued (not really, but he tried) and a bit of fun was had by all. I think it is interesting to note the The Penis seemed to have rum-handling skills to match his awesome ball handling skills from the day's play. A definite highlight was the creature getting ridden to the ground by some little bogan whilst doing 23 one-armed push-ups. But with the trophies given out, the rum consumed and the rubbish cleaned up, it was time to hit the town.

On our mini-crawl of Mudgee...we endeavoured to take in the sights of Mudgee and just get wasted. The Oriental Hotel was our first port of call where the uber-steak was sighted briefly at the hands of the heartbreak Kid and The Penis...little too much meat for my liking. This was the perfect opportunity to test out our cock-gulling⁵ performances and freak out the locals a little bit...standard! From ehre we took a short stroll which was kind of a long hop down to the Henry Lawson Hotel for a few schooies in a happening place in Mudgee...well the 12 people in there thought it was pretty good, but we soon livened up the atmosphere...the pegs came out, the eyeballs started bobbing, the drinks got darker and shorter and The Creature started swimming on the pool table...all signs of escalation. It was here, though, that a strange sight was beheld in the form of a rare sighting of a full-grown Silverback Gorilla. Luckily for us, we had bacchus on board who swore he knew how to deal with 'Creatures' like this (how I don't really want to know). We all watched as this fine, majestic beast had its

⁵ The art of cockroaching and sea-gulling...abridged form.



way with our evening and moved on to terrorise other members of the public. It was unfortunate that The Creature missed the show, but I'm sure he gets the drift. Our third and final destination was The Waratah Hotel⁶. A multi-level, multi-fun establishment had us licking our lips and the other teams present gloving up for round two in the ring (take that as you will). We all had bit of fun in there...losing everyone then finding everyone, looking at girls, drinking rum, talking game, looking at more girls. Definite highlights was the heartbreak kid getting rejected by local Gina and the Olsen's and Pacman trying their luck at steer-wrestling in the lower bar.

Once it was all over the team decided to head on home to prepare for the trip ahead of them. Along the way something happened. Something that will go down in the annals of Colleagues and Mudgee tour history. The inaugural Mudgee Gift was contested. A handicapped running race with heats and finals, trying to find out who was the fastest man home after a thousand⁷ rums. After a hotly contested round of heats, the final was set, handicaps calculated and the race ready to go. The Creature looked odds-on to win and had streamlined himself down to jocks from full kit for the occasion...and...BANG! The starters gesture was given and he was gone. Apparently, the force outlaid by his athletic movements was felt as an aftershock in Samoa. He was flying...apparently he had "never gone that fast before" (Creature, T., 2009.) in his life. It was looking victorious for the young lad from Cremorne until the unthinkable occurred. Newton's new 6th law of motion came into play in an unprecedented way and his torso started accelerating all by itself, perhaps a little bit too fast for his feet. The crowd looked on anxiously as they saw the inevitable happening right in front of their eyes; a loud and heart-wrenching "Ohh FFAARRRRKK" (Creature, T., 2009) rang out from the road and it was all over. He hit the deck hard and managed to leave half his big toe behind him. Shrieks of pain⁸ from the crowd were heard all over town as they knew what they had seen was something big.

Some minor shenanigans occurred back at the Mudgee Valley Tourist Park, the most notable of which being the theft of any item of warmth from the 'gayest trailer in the park' to ensure that the sodomy suite was well heated and, more importantly, padded.

We awoke the next day to the shrills of The creature who made us aware that it was a half-hour until checkout time. A brilliant breakfast saw us ready to go and the Strategic Packing Team ensured that we were ready to go...after they worked out what to do with that bloody green bag! On the road now sadly after a wonderful trip, the men had a lot of reflection to do on what had just happened. There were some sorry looks on faces and some healthy headaches but all in all a good-looking bunch of blokes. It was a pretty standard bus trip home with jokes and laughter, a few stories

⁶ Or Mudgee Sheaf...up to you really.

⁷ Probably not an exaggeration.

⁸ Possibly laughter.



and a lot⁹ of shit-talk. All in all, I think it was an incredible weekend made better by a great bunch of blokes who knew exactly what we were there for. I hope you don't feel weird when I say I dream about you guys every night...but I do!

Well there isn't much more to say than...let's get on board for next year's tour...if we get around it and grab someone else to come with us, we will tear that place apart and make it a blue streak all over the houses and faces of Mudgee.

Until such times boys...lets get up for next season and make it the best we've had...which will be pretty good! Thanks again to The Golden Child for getting everything organised and ensuring we had a great trip.

Yours in Mudgee (but anywhere else you might like too),

Cointreau.

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⁹ Like seriously...I have never sat in a place and talked about shit and shitting for so long...we are one sick bunch of blokes to have that many shit stories...it was like an hour and a half of non-stop chat about shitting in bad places or on bad people...wouldn't have swapped it for anything though!



Bondi Tens Report

2009 Bondi Tens Tournament Report - Find photos of the tournament at <http://flickr.com/photos/35768566@N04/>

Woollahra Colleagues hosted another very successful Bondi Tens competition on 13/14th February. Twenty four teams in the main competition, plus the Singapore Wanderers over 35s, who played a couple of games against Spanner's BOBS. On Day 1, the six pools of four teams contested a round robin. In Pool A, Bali Legends were cock-a-hoop after they gained maximum points in a pool that contained Colleagues, KB's and newcomers White Line Fever. In Pool B, Gents Club, past winners of a couple of tournaments, were too strong for Ramrod from Quirindi, first timers NSW Crows and Convicts and, by collecting a massive points difference, looked good for the knockout. In Pool C, unknown quantity Brothers (from other Mothers) were held to a draw by a strong British Lions team, and headed the pool by beating Misfits and Landmark Lemurs.

NSW Country Barbarians were held to a surprise draw by the Toucans in Pool D, but headed the pool with good wins against Silver Bullets and newcomers Landmark (QLD). Silver Bullets, an inaugural team, won their first competition point in 5 years, against Landmark; and more, much more, was to come. In Pool E, Cougars won the battle of newcomers against Wagga Waratahs and Knox OB's, and old faithfuls Fire Brigade. In Pool F Tattersalls, who always look good on paper, were too strong for new entrants Maccabi, UTBNB and last, but not least, BOBS from Queensland.

Day 2 was the knockout competition. Pool winners Bali Legends, Gents, Brothers, NSW Country, Cougars and Tattersalls were joined by top- ranking Toucans and British Lions in the Bondi Tens Cup. Cougars got away to a quick start against Bali Legends and were never caught; NSW Country and Toucans had fought for a draw on Day 1 but Country were too strong in the knockout. Likewise, Brothers and Lions drew on Day 1 but Brothers prevailed; and Tattersalls, perhaps surprisingly, beat Gents Barbarians. In the semi-final, NSW Country comfortably disposed of Cougars while Brothers, who were becoming favourites, knocked out Tattersalls. The Cup Final was hard fought battle and scoreless until the final seconds when NSW Country Barbarians dropped a goal against a valiant Brothers team and so finally won their long-sought Bondi Tens Cup.

In the Plate, Maccabi and UTBNB were scoreless at full time, with the Cowra team winning with a golden point. KB's beat a depleted Colleagues, who had most of their players playing for visiting teams. Knox OB's beat a Wagga team who might have found the standard a bit higher than they expected; Misfits, who lived up to their name, just beat Quirindi Ramrod in a close game. In the semis, KB perhaps surprisingly beat UTBNB while Knox OB's were too good for the Misfits. In the Bondi Tens Plate Final, KB's, who had never played more than one game on Day 2, finally ran out of puff and were well beaten by Knox OB's.



In the Bowl, Fire Brigade were too strong for Landmark Lemur; White Line Fever comfortably beat Landmark (QLD); Silver Bullets had their second revelation when they beat BOBS; and NSW Crows dismissed the Convicts. In the semi-finals, a rejuvenated Fire Brigade were too strong for White Line Fever and, wait for it, Silver Bullets beat NSW Crows. The final between Fire Brigade and Silver Bullets was scoreless for almost 40 minutes when Fire Brigade scored a scintillating try to win the Bondi Tens Bowl Final with a golden point.

The Challenge competition was a popular initiative whereby the losers in round one of the knockout played off in a mirror of the Cup, Plate and Bowl. In the Challenge Bowl Final, after a busy tournament, in which most of the team played in two over 35's games, BOBS were too strong for a depleted, gallant Landmark (QLD) (who had previously knocked off Landmark Lemur (NSW)); Ramrod beat Maccabi with a late try to win the Challenge Plate Final; and British Lions declined Bali Legends offer to settle the matter with a sculling contest only to manage a draw in the Challenge Cup Final.

The over 35s realised their age in a couple of games in which the Wanderers were a little too strong for the BOBS-but it didn't matter. Everyone had a great time, despite the gloomy weather, and all threatened to return, especially after experiencing the spectacular Bondi Rodeo after party.

A big thank you to the NSW Referees, 18 of whom were on duty on Friday and 22 on Saturday. All the games were played under the new Experimental Law Variations (ELV's) and it is to their great credit that this innovation ran seamlessly.

Thanks to our Sponsors, particularly Landmark who were our sole Gold Sponsor this year. As ever, the Woollahra Council presented the grounds in immaculate condition; and to Lisa Kinny at Subbies for assisting teams with registration. In excess of \$20,000 were collected for charities

Bondi Tens Committee 22nd January 2009

