

# Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club



2017 Annual Report





**Boonahra Collegues Rugby Union Football Club**  
Division 1 Club - 2017



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**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES  
RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

(Established 1933)

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

**Office Bearers 2017**

PATRON: His Worship the Mayor of Woollahra

PRESIDENT: Richard McGrath

VICE PRESIDENTS:

John Anderson, Tim Booth, Michael Caspers, John Corlis  
David Gooch, Ron Harriden, John Hitchen, Doug Kirkwood  
Hans Lamens, John Noice, Sandy Ross, Brian Wood

CLUB CAPTAIN: Mark Blackmore

SECRETARY: David Burnett

TREASURER: Paul Howard

COMMITTEE:

Winston Bradley, Nick Donlon, Shawn Talbot, Harry Aboud, Mike Kelly, Cameron Ireland, John Kelly,  
Ben Waters.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

John Barraclough\* (1963), John Herman (1963), David Higgins (1963), Ken Mclean\* (1963)  
Harry Barraclough\* (1964), Aubrey Ball\* (1968), Charles Messenger\* (1968), John Corlis (1968)  
Clarrie Noice\* (1968), George Osborne\* (1971), Eddie Radford\* (1971), Cyril Diggle\* (1975)  
Charles Vandervord\* (1975), Ron Harriden (1977), Fred Storch\* (1978), Geoff Hughes (1979)  
John Noice (1981), Robert Caldwell (1982), Geoff Robbins (1982), Bruce Diggle\* (1986)  
Iain Edwards (1986), John Hitchen (1988), Sandy Ross (1988), Doug Kirkwood (1988)  
John Anderson (1989), Alan Murchison\* (1989), David Gooch (1995), Hans Lamens (1998)  
Michael Clifford (1998), Tim Booth (1998), Brian Wood (2002), Richard McGrath (2005)  
David Crawford (2007), Justin Crawford (2007), Jerome Murphy (2008), Harvey Welman (2009)  
Bruce Donald (2009), Vance Lowry (2013), Laurence Campbell (2014), Tim Cullen (2014)  
Andrew Purchas (2014), John Ryan (2014)

HONORARY AUDITOR: Michael Clifford



## Trophy Winners 2017

### Team Captains

Halligan Cup	Nick Wiadrowski
Sutherland Cup	Tim Martin
Judd Cup	Mike Bentley
Whiddon Cup	Chris Murphy
Barbour Cup	Olly Stump
Burke Cup	Jono Willis
Kentwell Cup	Dan Kelly

### Team Coaches

Halligan Cup	James Taylor & Sam Taylor
Sutherland Cup	Ben Abrahams & James Robertson
Judd Cup	Laurence Campbell & Nic Sproats
Whiddon Cup	Carl O'Sullivan & Jason Monteath
Barbour Cup	Andrew McKillop & William Arnott
Burke Cup	Pete Minucos & Cam Ireland
Kentwell Cup	Ben Waters & Ash Riley
Club Skills Coach	Matt Barlow
Club Coach	Ben Waters

### Best & Fairest

Radford Cup	Billy Chapman
Halligan Cup	Brent Rae-Miller
Sutherland Cup	Angus Cooke
Judd Cup	Harrison Fleming
Whiddon Cup	George Stanham
Barbour Cup	Harrison Petkovich
Burke Cup	Oli Lemebke
Kentwell Cup	Joe Sangster
Club	Tom Hardison

### Club Awards

Colleagues Honour Cap	Shawn Talbot
The Pappas Award	Harry Aboud
Player's Player	Jono Willis
Rookie of the Year	Oli Lemebke
Most Improved Player	Winston Bradley
Leading Try Scorer	Leo Guthrie
Leading Point Scorer	Dan Kelly
Oldest and Boldest	Shawn Talbot

**100 games** Patrick Aboud

**300 games** Cameron Ireland



## Presidents Report

It is pleasing to report that The Colleagues are in good shape both off and on the field.

While Halligan and Radford won premierships, all other grades played finals except for colts who narrowly missed out on a spot in the finals. While Kentwell through Sutherland would be disappointed, and particularly Whidden who made it through to the grand final, it is still a successful year of football. It says a lot about our club that so many players and coaches are disappointed not to have won premierships.

John Corlis tells a story of when Knox OB returned to 1<sup>st</sup> Div in the 70's the president of KOB's said to Harry Barraclough 'you should see our Kentwell' to which he replied, 'You should see our Sutherland'. I was reminded of that story often this year watching our Halligan and Radford Cup teams. Both teams played with great spirit and enthusiasm which is a great credit to the players and their coaches.

Some time ago on our website we had the clubs mission statement which read with words to the effect of 'The Colleagues exist to provide a good standard of rugby to anyone who wishes to play'. I still think that the club lives up to that statement through every grade but particularly Radford, Halligan and The Colleagues Convicts.

There are many elements to our success and the coaches are integral to that success. I am still amazed that all but one coach has come through our player ranks and that is Matt Barlow who has brought a wealth of experience with him. And congratulations to him and Dave Burnett who jointly coached the Subbies Rep team this year with DB being the first current Kentwell player to coach that side.

Off the field we rely on the great work of a number very dedicated people. Dave Burnet has been tireless as Club Secretary and playing Kentwell and coaching subbies. As Club Captain Mark Blackmore has shown great leadership both on and off the field. Paul Howard has been excellent in managing the clubs finances for many years and this years results are very satisfying for all involved. Around the club there were many selfless helpers including Nick Donlon and Harry Aboud in the Clubhouse, Sean Talbot everywhere, Winston Bradley stepping into a new roll as Vice CC and having his first season in Kentwell. In addition, Ben Waters, John Kelly, Cam Ireland and Mike Kelly all contributed greatly.

Our sponsors are always important and we had a considerable uplift with the initiative of the Sponsors Tshirt through Cam Ireland and additional sponsorship of Premier State, Fortuis and a welcome return of Bbraun as well as long term sponsors Woollahra Hotel, MCS, Grays Online and Kemosabe Capital.

Looking forward to next year we will see some changes to the club with DB and Blackie stepping down. We will continue to build on Goochy's good work around the club with many new faces willing to help in the day to day running of the club which is so important to making sure that the club is run well and translates to on field success.







## Club Captain Report

Well you can't win them all!

Despite the lack of silverware compared to past seasons we still manage to have the senior grades represented in the finals which is a great achievement. A testament to the depth of the club even when faced with a significant portion of the previous Kentwell team unavailable for this season.

I would like to start off by thanking Rich McGrath for his ongoing support and guidance throughout the year. The club would not be in the successful position it is now without his knowledge and commitment. And likewise, Dave Burnett has worked tirelessly throughout the year organising buses, events, ground changes, community grants etc the list goes on – DB thanks for time and dedication this year. This year we brought in a new role of Club Vice Captain, Winston Bradley filled the shoes this year and did a great job on the committee and stepping in for me while I was getting hitched, thanks Winnie and all the best for next year!



And now onto the season.

The 2017 season should be remembered as the year of the “dry track”, the usual 3-4 weeks of wet weather pushing us to train and play in some weird locations around Sydney was absent this year. The lack of rain contributed to BGS looking more like a dust bowl than a rugby pitch. Despite the look of the facilities we managed to coax over Matt Barlow from Easts to be our Skills and Conditioning coach, Matt has brought great ideas and training sessions to the club and made Tuesday night training



sessions far more enjoyable... sort of.

On behalf of the playing group I would like to thank the coaches for their time and effort to manage the teams throughout the year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Will Arnott and Andrew “Macca” McKillop for their effort in managing two Colts teams. The extra effort in managing this large group of young Colleagues is nearly a full-time job and you have both done a fantastic job culminating in a successful Premiership in the Radford Cup competition.

A big congratulations to our Halligan boys who also took out the competition this year in what was a rough game against Mosman! I know most of the guys are keen to stick around next year to defend the premiership, starting off with a team building camp in Hong Kong at the Sevens!

This year in grade we welcomed quite a few graduating colts who had an immediate impact on the club, the new crop of talent has improved both on and off the field throughout the season. It’s vital that we continue to provide a solid pathway for the colts through to grade. The number of talented Colts we have will only improve our club going forward.

This season also produced a steady increase in kiwi talent that we need to keep an eye on in the future. We may need to introduce some sort of culling program in the next couple of years, starting with Jono Willis.

As the year come to a close we had a successful 2x ladies days, Colleagues ball, Long lunch, mystery night and numerous unforgettable games of rugby played throughout the year. I would like to congratulate all teams that competed this year especially the Halligans boys and Radford Cup colts.

The 2017 season will be my last as Club Captain of this fine club. It’s been a privilege to be in this role and to give back to the club that has given me so many awesome experiences and memories. Thanks to the players for being an awesome group of guys!

Cheers,  
Mark “Blacky” Blackmore





## Club Secretary Report

As the Pres, Club Cap and Club Coach have all reported on, this season's on field result was a tough pill to swallow. For the first time in.....a long time, neither Colleagues Judd through Kentwell teams made it to the big dance. Thankfully our club is made up of over 200 registered players and seven teams, and although our senior grades only made it to base camp, we can celebrate our Halligan and Radford Cup players making it to the summit.

Off the field, the club had one of the most successful years in recent memory. Participation numbers continue to grow. This was illustrated with our Colts program entering and winning the Radford Cup competition. As the treasurer details, club sponsorship revenue had a significant increase year on year. This was largely due to the fantastic salesmanship of Cameron Ireland. His ongoing support is very much appreciated. A big thanks to our sponsors for their support of the club. We look forward to having them back in 2018.



The club was successful in a number of state government sporting grants which delivered a stack of new training equipment and a brand new scoreboard. Now although the scoreboard has not been installed yet, we are confident a current grant application will provide us with the considerable funds needed to raise the scoreboard structure at the Bondi end of BGS in time for the beginning of next season.

2017 saw a new generation of Colleagues taking over the management of the clubhouse. Stepping into the large shoes left from the previous custodians Goochy, Leigh and Hitcho, were Nick Donlon (Bar Manager), Shawn Talbot (Clubhouse Manager) and Harry Aboud (Assistant Bar Manager). These guys did an incredible job preparing, stocking and cleaning the clubhouse week in week out, and on some occasions taking annual leave to do so. The entire club, particularly myself, the club captain and the president are extremely grateful and proud for their unwavering support.





Our Ladies Days this season took a step up in quality both on and off the field (if you know what I mean). The social committee was adamant about improving the food and beverages on offer in 2017, and this was achieved all whilst staying under budget. Colleagues continue to set the Subbies comp bar for Ladies Day quality, enjoyment and value for money.

I'd like to thank our coaching and management staff. The club had a considerable number of talented players retire and move interstate following our very successful 2016 season, and the coaches did a fantastic job bringing up the next generation of magnificent men. It's a clear sign the club's depths are in a good place when a Judd player from one season can make the jump to Kentwell Cup the next season and not only hold his own but dominate round after round.

I would like to give a big thanks to the official and unofficial Club Committee, which in 2017 included Club Vice Captain Winston Bradley, Assistant Secretary Jon Ryan and the gentlemen mentioned above. It was complete team effort this year and I'm confident we've laid solid tracks for next seasons new Club Captain and Secretary.

DB

### Club Coach Report



The 2017 season for the mighty Blue Giants was successful in terms of teams making the finals but disappointing from the point of view of going on to convert those regular season finishes into premierships. In the division 1 competition all senior teams made it through to the finals with colts missing out due to some freakish last round results. A real shame as they were a great team and when they had their full contingent looked good enough to take the cup. Unfortunately our senior teams



did not take the opportunities presented to them at finals time and we only managed to book ourselves into the Sutherland Cup grand final with Kentwell, Whiddon and Judd finishing third and Burkie's finishing in fourth spot.

Whilst the division 1 teams were not able to take home any premierships our Halligan Cup and Colts 2's were worthy winners of their respective competitions and brought those 2 cups back to Blue Giant stadium for 2017. An excellent result for these teams and coaches who not only have to organise themselves for the week in terms of getting ready but often have to organise an opposition, physio's, referees and grounds. The extra work required by these guys is significant which makes the win all that much sweeter. They also often have to play away and therefore don't enjoy the support of their mates on the sideline like the rest of the Giants. Well done boys, you often had to travel to faraway places and do so solo and then rush back to sit on benches and support the rest of the club. True Colleagues spirit and a fantastic result. Well done.

Across the division 1 competition, the games were not as one sided as they have been in the past in particular in the lower grades. It was very clear that a number of clubs were determined to win a cup in division 1 and the talent stacked into the Sutherland, Judd and Whiddon Cups was something to behold. Whilst it was evident that some clubs had been filtering talent down, the boys in blue took to the challenge and often rolled much more fancied competition. There was certainly no lack of effort.



### **Kentwell Cup**

The Kentwell team had a good season but consistency was not great. We were unable to keep regular combinations and it showed in our results. When it clicked, we were good enough to win the comp but too many times we left it in the hands of the opposition or the referee to make key calls and missed too many results. To make the finals in any Kentwell competition is an achievement. It is always a strong competition and you have to turn up each week. To make the finals and finish third is not a bad result, but I think the talent contained within the team would probably feel like it didn't do enough and there was a bit left on the field. A strong season nonetheless and thanks to Ash, Matty and the senior players for their efforts and contribution.

### **Burke Cup**

A very disappointing end to what could well have been a title defence and a back to back premiership. The Burke Cup team were again blessed with a huge amount of talent and got some fantastic wins. The team featured strongly against the other top teams and proved that they could go on with it and get the results when focussed. To finish fourth was disappointing and I know it hurt the boys. As has become regular with the Burkie's boys, some of their attacking football was the best in the club and there was some truly gritty wins. Whilst probably not happy with the outcome, Pete and Cam as well as Fletch must be thanked for their huge contribution to not only their team but the club. Well done boys and plenty to play for next year.



### **Whiddon Cup**

A real shame the boys didn't get a chance to defend their title as they were no doubt the form team coming into the finals. Some of the footy played and the outstanding results throughout the regular season were worth the price of admission to Blue Giant stadium alone but the boys would be sore from not taking that form into finals. The expansive back play, relentless forward back and great ball movement saw them end the regular season on fire but weren't able to take that into the finals. One that got away no doubt. Congratulations to Carl, Monty and Ratty for all the work you put into your team and the club in general. A pleasure to watch you fellas do your thing on a regular basis and will no doubt be a point to prove next year.

### **Judd Cup**

This year was probably the hardest Judd Cup to win in recent times with both Knox and Mosman "dropping" many Kentwell calibre players each week to their respective Judd Cup teams. Whilst the task was always going to be difficult, the Juddies did not shy from the contest and was able to test these teams both in the regular season and in the finals. Known for their expansive play and ability to keep the ball alive, I have no doubt they would have gone back to back if the competition had been a fair a reasonable one. Well done to Loz, Sproates and the boys for the season, very tough circumstances but you did us all proud.

### **Sutherland Cup**

The Suthos were the only senior team to make it through to the GF only to come up against a very experienced and "over talented" Mosman team. Whilst the boys threw themselves into the contest youth and skill were not enough to overcome old age and treachery and Mosman won the day. It was a great year for the Suthos and much recognition is required as they often have to organise games away from the rest of the club and then turn around and get back to reserve for the other grades. Well done to Benny A and Robbo for all their efforts in organising the team and the results.

### **Colts**

Heart breaking not to see these blokes make it through to the finals and had they got there anything could have happened. In typical colts fashion, they scrapped and borrowed to get through the regular season and were one result away from getting into the finals. A real shame as they had the talent and cattle to take it out one their day. Well done to Macca, Butto and Will plus their support for season, whilst the result is disappointing the work you have done in continuing to develop the colts program is awesome and highly valued by the club. Well done colts.

There is a lot of work that goes into the Club behind the scenes that allows the players to turn up each week and enjoy their footy. To the executive, Rich, Howie, DB and Blacky, well done on another great year and your efforts make life easy for the rest of us.

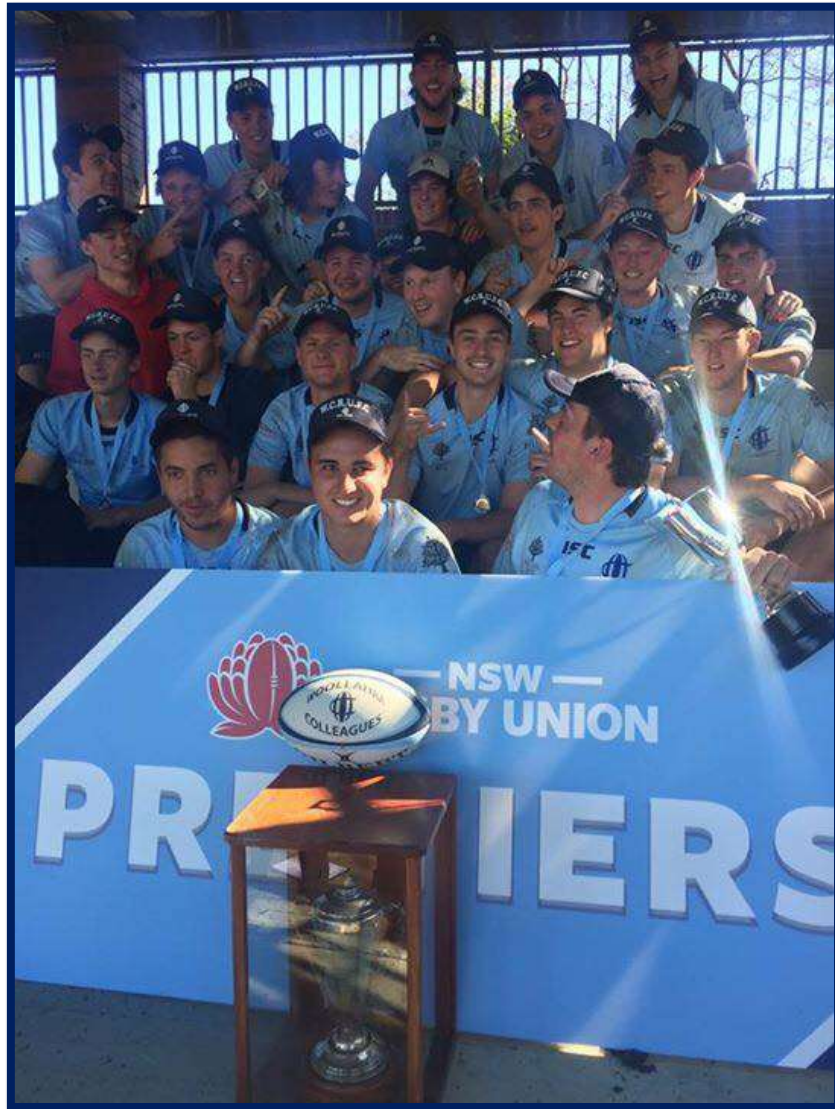
For the coaches and managers, yours is often a thankless task but one that is crucial to the running of the club. Thank you for your hours, effort, good humour and passion in getting us to where we are.







Finally to the players, you are what makes us Colleagues. The way you play the game, the effort you put in each week, the way you back each other up and support the club is what makes us great and long may that be the case. Well done for playing this game in the right way for the right reasons. As a parting comment, we have a real pattern forming on a year in year out basis. This relates to our finals performance of one strong year followed by a not so strong year and if form is anything to go by we will be back in the winners circle with a vengeance next year. Remember what it felt like to trip up in this year's finals and make sure we fix that next year.



Thank you to all the old boys and supporters who turn up every week and show that what we do each weekend means so much to so many people. Your support is appreciated and crucial.

Thanks for the honour of being Club Coach. It is great to be part of such a wonderful organisation.

Go the Blue Giants

Ben Waters



## Kentwell Report

The Kentwell 2017 season was another strong result and what was most pleasing was the number of younger guys that had come through the grades and made their debut in Kentwell this year. Many of these players had played in the Burke, Whiddon and Judd cup grand final winning teams in 2016 and coupled with a strong pre-season earned their opportunity. It very pleasing from a club development point of view to see so many earning their spot.

The regular season was a little bit patchy for the blue giants. Some great wins but some disappointing losses and consistency was a real issue. A lot of this has to do with continuity of selections and this year we had real trouble putting out the same team week in and week out. Having said that there were some great highlights. Beating Mosman twice in the regular season and then in week one of the finals was very pleasing, a very pleasing trip to Petersham oval only to be pipped at the post was probably one of our best games. However, we let poor teams score way too many points against us and left teams in the game way too long. Application wasn't the issue, execution just wasn't there which saw us finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the regular season.

The first week of the finals was against Mosman and the Blue Giants played a great game of footy to come away with the win. Had we played that standard throughout the year the results would have been much different. In week two of the finals we came up against Drummoyne who were too good on the day and we finished the year in third place.

The senior leadership team of DK, DB, BJ and Callum was of great assistance to the coaches and provided great leadership for the team. The awards this year went to Dan Kelly as captain, Joe Sangster for best and fairest and Charlie Henley for Players' Player. We also had great numbers in the subbies representative team with 5 players selected, being Dave Wright, Dan Kelly, Duncan Boyd-Jones, Evan Culhane and Charlie Henley. A great result for the boys although hard luck to Wrighty who injured himself the weekend before the game and was unable to play.





Special mention must go to Ash Reily and Matty Barlow for all the work they did in getting the boys prepped for each week as well as managing the training sessions and selections.

To the rest of the players in the club, thank you for your support this year and for making yourselves available to play Kentwell. It is the competition coming up from the guys below that keeps the pressure on the player in Kentwell and drives the success of the club.

To all the players, we can't thank you enough for the effort you put in each week. It is a very competitive competition and there are no easy games. The way you blokes play the game and look after each other is to be admired.

Thank you for the honour of being the Kentwell coach and looking forward to the continued success of the mighty Blue Giants.

Ben Waters



Kentwell Cup halfback and Best & Fairest Joe Sangster against Knox.





## Burke Cup Report

The subbies Burke Cup is always a great story. Unfortunately, instead of this season being a Hollywood blockbuster that finishes with the hero winning, we went for the Hemmingway novella that peaks with a few chapters to go and then fades to a tragic finish.

I think even old Ernest would struggle to find a more tragic finish than being knocked out of the comp by a draw with a penalty goal after the siren, but that's where we ended up. Maybe not a fair finish for the boys that dug in all year, but it's not always a Hollywood ending.

As is our home recipe, the Burke campaign mixed a bunch of players trickling back after past successes with a smattering of new blood to the club. There seems a scarily consistent theme of Kiwis taking over the club, but – glass is half full – at least they're not Poms or Saffers.

And in Burke it's one step easier, with our resident Kiwi skipper Jono able to provide translation services for all. Another great year from Mr Willis, right-up-to-and-including the tackle of the year that he pulled off in cover defence on the flying Petersham winger that almost saved our semi-final.

Speaking of the old guard, we got solid performances from the usual suspects, the likes of Dingo, Savalicious, Roddy, Bunsen, Pooley – same old lads pushing the wheel. Meanwhile, blokes like Sull, Datey, Hale, Yeo and Baitzy will be the old heads before they know it. Not quite Cam-Ireland-level but two decades of trying, Sull, and I reckon you can do it.

Cammie added another chapter to his own story – which is more Tolstoy than Hemmingway by now – with his effort to boot up and play just 7 weeks after a Grade 4 AC tear (his shoulder reported to be found in the next suburb) being the stuff legends are made of; not many legends mind you, pretty much just Cam...and maybe Gus Graham,



Our new combos included the rarely-found Colleagues tattoos of Darce, Nick, Bo and Beaumont, who brought down the rarely-found Colleagues entourage. I think there was season long confusion as to which one was who's girlfriend and which one was who's sister, but the boys weren't complaining.

Then came the Kiwis. For self-reported tough guys they seemed a little brittle of bone? But when we could strap them up and get them out there, they were pretty damn good on the pitch. And when we couldn't, they were even better on the balcony. Hope to see them back next season.

Final call out is to the young fellas coming through. We got a massive kick from two colties for the final in Ollie Cowley and Bailey Hilder – and they ended up scoring all 15 of our points (though 16 would have been better). And they were a reinforcement to the rest of the young guns that joined grade recently: Mol, Ando, Wiz 2.0, and Ollie Lembke who was our most consistent performer all year and a popular pick as B&F.

To the rest of the grades and coaches, another successful season when you think we had 7 of 8 teams in the finals and won 2 premierships. So big congrats to Benny as club coach for once again presenting Colleagues one of the best clubs going – and to the premiers of Arnott & Macca with Radford and Rushy & Taylors with Halligan.

Cheers, Minu.



Burke Cup utility forward and centre Josh Moloney against Knox.



### Whiddon Cup Report – Minor Premiers

The 2017 season started full of promise with the Whiddon Cup side hopeful of defending the premiership won in 2016. The offseason had been eventful for the coaching staff of Monty, Big Rat and Carlos who were counting down the days until pre-season began, then kept counting until the Thursday before the first game.

This plan arguably failed with the first round of the season resembling a game of “dropsies” amongst 15 drunk mutes who’d never played a contact sport before. Final score went the way of Drummoyne 16-8 in a game the ref should have ended well before full time to save the spectators.

From that point though, the boys fired up and won the next two games convincingly against Knox (49-7) and St Pats (40-0) displaying the customary Whiddon flare with expansive rugby and hard hitting defence with tries being scored all over the park with Scotty “Catch me if you can” Phillips nailing a hatrick and even TK the “Hebrew Hammer” getting across the line.

The boys came up against Waverley in round 4 and faced much stiffer opposition. Despite dominating the scrum and Chris “Oh Captain my Captain” Murphy being called back after scoring under the posts to receive penalty, the boys couldn’t quite find their rhythm and went down 14-7. Other highlights included Richard “the defendant” Harvey abusing the coaching staff for disrupting his game rhythm through selfishly giving someone else some game time.

From here the tide turned with the magnificent men in Whiddon going on a 10 game winning streak and remained undefeated for the remainder of the regular season commencing with a hard fought win against Petersham in round 5 (8-5), then not so hard fought against Balmain following some inspirational words from Carlos at half time (54-7), Mosman (52-0), Drummoyne (26-10), Knox (38-





19), St Pats (45-19), Waverley (7-0), Petersham (18-3), Balmain (45-7) and Mosman (36-5). Through these hard fought victories the Men of Whiddon wrapped up the Minor Premiership and earned a place in the Major Semi Final.

The boys were on a roll with even Big Rat giving them the “thumbs up” from his seat beneath the posts two fields away. However as someone who wasn’t Oscar Wilde said “Success breeds complacency”. For the second time in two years we were ripe for an ambush and it came in the form of the “Shammies” from inner-wherever. The boys were out enthused by a more physical side and lost the day 22-12.

From there the boys had another chance to progress to the big dance in the prelim final against Drummoyne. It a nail biting game the boys dominated the set piece and out enthused their opposition, but due to a combination of dubious decisions and poor luck, we fell short on the day, losing 13-15 and ending the season. All in all, a very successful season that hopefully all involved enjoyed despite the continued selection of Ed Washer.

Final thanks to all the players who ran on for the Whiddon Cup side this year. Without your efforts, not only would we not be successful in rugby terms, but we wouldn’t have had a year as fun and enjoyable as we did. Well done boys, see you in 2018!

Carlos



Whiddon Cup winger Harry Martin made his Kentwell debut against Mosman 2017.



## Judd Cup Report

Judd cup this year proved to be a little harder than previous years. This was due to a high turnover in players from 2016 throughout the club. However we were able to field a complete team throughout most of the year that acquitted itself well during the finals campaign.

It's a credit to the club as a whole that all team in grade made finals this year. We did not bring any silver home but, again due to circumstances the club performed very well

Judd had a number of clots play with the team this and this is a good omen for the future of the blue giants.

Our strength this year was our forwards, which remained stable throughout the year, whereas the backline changed from week to week due to injuries or players being away, we at one stage ran 5 forwards in the back line for 4-5 weeks. This makes it very hard to get in any continuity integrated into the team. Though we lost only 2 games during this time, those that filled positions did the very best they could at the time.





I firmly believe that towards the backend of the season and playing finals we were 2-3 games short of being able to bring home a trophy.

Some standouts this year were the discovery of Sam Devine as one of the biggest half backs to take the field in subbies, he had kept it a close secret that he had played half at uni in NZ. Justin Van Nekirk playing at 10 filling the shoes of stalwart Judd 10 SP, and making the spot his own (you do need to work on kicking though). A big year by Sean Talbot at prop (maybe his last, I am working on that) and also honor cap winner for the club, good job Sean, and to Mike Bentley for leading the team thank you.

To Nick thanks for your help again in putting together a great forward pack and your help through the year. To all the other coaches and people that help make the blue giants the club that is thank you for your input and help this year.

I look forward to bigger and brighter 2018 for the giants on and off the field and to seeing the silver back where it belongs.

Laurence Campbell

Coach Judd Cup 2017



Judd Cup and Subbies biggest halfback Sam Devine against Mosman.





### Sutherland Report – Grand Finalists

The Sutherland Cup 2017! What a year for the mighty men in blue. While it may not have ended quite the way we would have wanted (more on that in a bit) - to watch this team of champions unite together under the 'expert' tutelage of legends Benny 'Angry Man' Abrahams and James 'Robbo' Robertson was a sheer delight. It's a year that will be looked back upon fondly - from magical moments like James Hayward Davies spurning a four man overlap to bomb a certain try; to the dueling bromances between Baz Porter and Cambo Brister vs Angus 'Cookie' Cooke and Bradley Terrence Potts. Oh the man love!

The season started with an eclectic bunch of ragtag blokes assembling at Blue Giant Stadium way back in April, ready for a red hot tilt at the Sutherland Cup title (Colleagues were the defending premiers - after winning it in 2015 and then the cup going on a weird, unexplained absence in 2016). The men who fronted up were the type of blokes you'd go to war for, and bloody good at rugby to boot! They'd take the great Colleagues Sutherland Cup team of 2017 all the way to a Grand Final (and then some). They were The Boyz!

With Andrew 'The Hoff' Pahoff taking the proverbial grenade for the team and moving to the front row, and his little mate Alex 'Chengers' Cheng sliding down from Kentwell to slot in on the wing - this team would have given the Wallabies a run for their money (not that that is saying much...but still!). Matty Walters, Brister, Hoppa, Sibbs Singh, Jack Sheerin and the mercurial Minivan rounded out a front row that would keep teams honest (and keep them guessing) all season. The 2-row saw experience in the likes of Michael Roche, Lachie Sharp, the Cookie monster, Pottsy all have a crack - even the over the hill skipper Tim 'Marto' Martin made the occasion appearance in his beloved number 4 jersey. The backrow was led by the human terrier Jimbo, with a rotating line-up of legends filling in the gaps - from Madge, Jacko, Schliebsy, Guillame and Jonny Smith to any combo of the Cooke-Marto-Potts disaster trio.



It was probably the most formidable forward pack ever assembled. They ate metres and pumped out tries. They were the epitome of *For The Boys*.

Then there were the handsome, lazy buggers otherwise known as the backs. Old heads Mark 'Malarky' Smith and Johnathan Dart led from the front, after Skip vacated early in the season - with an assorted arsenal behind them. Baz, Mike Kelly, Julien Hoffman, Harry Cole, Cam Haddad - it didn't matter who started as they were backed up by generals from the bench like Timmy Moore, Harvey Duncan, Brendo, Chengers, Brent, Matty Whitton - the list goes on.

Harry Reid had a blistering start to the season, so bloody hot he got sucked into the vortex of the Dome (may he rest in peace) and never came back. Hoppa would follow suit, later in the year. Many more faces wore the Suthos colours with aplomb - Murph, Chook, Xav, Nicko Weal, too many to mention.



Not every club shared the beauty of the Blue Giants depth though and thanks to Drummoyne, Knox Old Boys and St Pats all being massive carn'ts (that stands for: Can't Field a Fifth Grade Team) - it wasn't til Round 4 that the boys got their first crack at some competitive action. We hadn't been twiddling our thumbs though, with a huge win over Norths 5s and a very narrow loss to Gordon 5s punctuating the start of what would be a very good season.

A start-up loss to the locals across the way in Waverly was a wake-up call we needed and we wouldn't be headed again until the very last game of the regular season, those dirty old farts from Mosman.

In between we made mincemeat of Petersham, Balmain and Mossy; we saw our beloved coach Benny make his only appearance for 2017 - not for Suthos mind you but for bloody Whiddos. We saw the other coach go missing in action for long periods of time (something about New Zealand immigration and sheep, blah, blah, blah...).

We saw a serious kicking at North Sydney Oval mid-season, we saw Hoppa turn up at the correct time but the wrong rugby ground. We saw Bulk Beers buried and a Suthos Code created. It was the best of times.

And then suddenly it was Finals. We missed the Minor Premiership by a point - though that didn't matter because we were ready to roll Mossy the next week anyway. But the boys thought a week off before the Grand Final was taking the easy route - so we threw our Major Semi (with a bullshit try in the last seconds of the game), lined up a sudden death match-up against our old foes from Waverly, trounced them a massive 6 points to nil (it was 3-0 until just before the bell...no heart in mouth stuff there) and waltzed into the Grand Final, ready for all other Colleagues teams to join us and for a serious Grand Final 'Blue Rinse' to materialise.

But it was just us. Suthos Code representing the entire Blue Giant army. The pride of Colleagues representing the proudest club in all of suburban rugby (some would say the world). Good vs evil. Boys vs men. Colleagues up against our arch enemies, the dirty Sperm Whales - who we had a 2-2 record against for the season.



The honour to represent all of those who had put in so much hard work throughout the season only to falter at the last hurdle can't be trivialised or cheapened. We knew what it meant to pull on the jersey that fateful weekend in September and we did so with pride. It just didn't go our way... Something in Baz's leg was snapped in the opening moments of the game, and we never really recovered. That may be unfair on the effort we put in, but we couldn't quite match the Mosman boys who were up for a win. The 18-0 scoreline flattered them and didn't fairly recount what a season the Suthos boys had had - and we well made up for it in the post-season celebrations.

A big BIG thank you to Benny and Robbo for a helluva season and to my Suthos boys who made it such a pleasure to be involved in. Until next year fellas - when we will win it - Up The Boys! *Marto*







## Halligan Report

After coming close to winning the Halligan Cup in the last few years, 2017 was our year, seeing us win the double - Minor Premiership and Premiership.

Led by club stalwart Rob Rush, Sam Taylor, James Taylor and captain Nick Wiadrowski, the Halligan Cup squad consisted of a good mix of experienced and new players to the club.

Highlights of the season included:

- a strong win against Sydney Harlequins at Waterloo oval and a stronger celebration afterwards for their ladies day; and
- a great contest against the Sutherland Cup team at Blue Giant Stadium, falling just short in the last play of the game.

After some mixed results early in the season, including tough games against Mosman, Alexandria Dukes and Waverley, we came home strong in the second half of the season and won our last 6 games straight with only 3 tries scored against us, and scoring an average of over 30 points per game ourselves, to set us up as Minor Premiers for 2017.



The season wasn't over there however, as for the first time in a number of years a finals series was introduced in Halligan Cup (regular rules see the Minor Premier take home the trophy). Winning the minor premierships earned us a spot straight through to the Grand Final, which pitted us against competition rivals and the always strong Mosman. Played at Rawson Oval in Mosman in the last regular season game, with one win each head-to-head for the year, the game was set to be a cracker. The boys saved their best performance of the year for the Grand Final, putting in a great display of running rugby to come away 31-7 winners to take away the Halligan Cup, presented by Brent Halligan himself.

Special mention goes to best and fairest Brent Millar. Thanks to all the boys for a great year both on and off the field, and congratulations to the Halligan Cup team of 2017 on bringing home the silverware.







## Barbour Cup Report

In reflecting on this year, I have no hesitation in saying this was the most enjoyable year of coaching, and yet easily the most unsatisfying. Despite an incredible season of attacking rugby and set-piece improvement, the bitter taste of finals failure will linger long in our mouths.

The squad that assembled this year was the perfect mix of returning players and quality new recruits. To the established players like Lachie Condon, Jacob Miller, Pat Weston and James Marsh we added quality individuals in Ollie Stump, Tim McCutcheon, James Lott and Charlie King. This meant we could hit the ground running with a good level of understanding as to the tactics we would look to implement over the season.

It was evident that competition for spots was going to be very competitive, as 31 players arrived at our first game against Drummoyne hoping for minutes. As such, our entry into the Radford Cup was born (see adjoining report). Indeed, that opening fixture resulted in a win to colleagues 27-15 against Drummoyne. It must be said that Toby Moore contributed to a tight-head in his first ever scrum – “that was easy”.

Round 2 against Knox, who were last years premiers, was a reality check. We were willing, but lacked fire in the tough-stuff and at the set-piece. It showed us that we can have all the talent and endeavour but that meant little if we couldn't front-up physically. Jacob West and Bailey Hilder were fantastic out wide, but couldn't carry the teams laziness in the centre.

That message was well received and we went on to beat St Pat's 45-7 in round 3, and Waverly 43-12 in round 4. Both games were a feast of running rugby and defensive pressure. There were fantastic efforts from Alex Hamilton and Pat Weston in those games who did the hard work in tight and running off the line-out, while Jack Murphy and Will Lembkie were brilliant in the open. However, our 2<sup>nd</sup> half against Waverly was disappointing. There were too many unforced errors and attempts to swing it wide without properly earing the right.





When it came to round 5 against Petersham, I think we arrived assuming it would just happen for us. Well it didn't, and we paid for it. Several injuries had meant we had an unsettled side, and composure was lacking. Petersham showed they were the benchmark of the competition defeating us 24-12. Sam Plunket was his usual energetic self with ball in hand as was Pecker, but the emergence of George Derrick at the back was impressive.

Its safe to say the boys were flogged at training the next 2 weeks, and responded with a 65-0 win against a hapless Balmain side with some front-rowers sporting questionable beards of 45-year-old men. Charlie Steel-Park, Ollie C(r)owley, Jock McGregor and Tom Cummins were newer members of the team who were exceptional this game.

Next came Mosman, who were a unique test given they were known to many of the lads in the team. Despite some friendships off the field, there was a spiteful contest on the pitch. To put it more bluntly – they were grubs, receiving a red card and several yellow cards. Injuries and trips to Europe severely hampered our ability to punish their ill-discipline and we were disappointed to end the game with a 17-all draw. We would look back on this game with the knowledge that had we capitalised, perhaps our season would have been different. Yet, the benefit having a look at players like Robin Allen, Benny Watt, and Jackson Scott had great benefits for the team in future weeks.

Round 8 was a return to Drummoyne who had no fire-power. We played well, and won 28-0. A handy bonus point with swanny lazily striding down one flank and Rob Irwin bruising defenders in tight. Next was Knox who again had the rubber over colleagues who had only 13 players for the entire 70 minutes. This mid-season exodus to Europe was a disappointing reality given Knox were poor, yet with 13 men we were unable to capitalise.

Despite a pitifully small squad, we managed to win games 10 and 11 against St Pat's 42-7, and Waverly 25-0. Special mention must go to Harrison and Hammo who were absolute rocks over these weeks, with Cutch captaining the side well.

However, our lack of numbers again hurt us against Petersham, who escaped with a 21-14 win at home. Condo played a great game in his return, however a lack of cohesion meant we just weren't quite 'on' for the full game. Peter Brown scored a brilliant try under the sticks. The mood after that loss was of bitter disappointment. The leaders of the team stood in front of the group and asked for the players to lift. There was this sense that we had drifted along happily for what seemed the entirety of the season without stringing a complete performance together. Training was the best I have seen over the next week.

So we arrived at the penultimate round against Balmain, chomping at the bit. There were still many absent, but bailey Hilder was a threat for the full game, and the line-out functioned well with tall timbers Jock, Max Welbourne, Lotty, and Rob directing traffic. Ollie and Charlie again were a real difference in the half's. This performance made the final week even harder to digest.



We had spent 2 weeks training solidly on our set-piece, and against Mosman our front row was absolutely destructive in the scrum, with our line out also annihilating Mosman. Our ability to make the gain-line with our runners was evident, and our contest at the breakdown was complete. In short we dominated almost every facet of the game. Mosman did make some yards wide of the ruck through the centres as well as through consecutive pick-and drives around the ruck, but we were dominant. Yet they managed to continuously keep us out. A bitter 17-all draw again cost us a finals birth.

Looking back at our season as a whole, it seems cruel that we only lost to two teams the entire season, yet failed to make finals. I have not seen a more talented group in my time with colleagues. While that doesn't make it any easier, it does express the magnificent men who line-up to play for this club. There was a respect across the entire squad (Barbour and Radford) the likes of which I may never see again. There was also a thirst for schooners I hope I do never see again...

I cannot say how privileged Macca and myself feel to have spent the year with such an infectious and committed bunch of men. To think many had not known those wearing blue before the season started, is hard to believe when I recollect the banter and enjoyment seen at seasons end. Although a disappointing year on the field, we were truly luck off it.

Will Arnott Co-Coach.



Barbour Cups impressive backline in action against Mosman.



## Radford Cup Report

With a squad of over 50 players in the Colleagues Colts in 2017 we decided to field a Seconds team to compete in the Radford Cup for the first time in the Club's history.

The Radford Cup was named after Eddy Radford who is one Colleagues favourite sons. Eddy was a Kentwell Premiership winning player and coach. He was also an Honour Cap winner, Club President, Subbies Vice President, Premiership Kentwell Team manager. Eddy was so respected by the N.S.W. Suburban Rugby Union they decided to name the competition after him.

Eddy sadly passed away last year and, in an almost scripted manner, the Seconds Colties would go on



to win the Radford Cup in his honor. The game versus Lane Cove was a classic final. Colleagues got out to an early lead however Lane Cove would fight back to within a whisker after a string of unanswered tries. The Colties showed true grit and determination to turn the momentum in the final stages and hit back with a few tries to win comfortably in the end. After the game the daughters of Eddy presented the trophy to our men in sky blue colours and said how happy Eddy would have been to see Colleagues win the trophy. It was an incredible day on the back of an extraordinary season (notwithstanding the slump in the middle of the season when most of the team was on European Training Camp).

While most of the players played or could have played for the Firsts there was never any ego in the team. A driving factor for the Premiership winning team was the culture they fostered around the lads playing for the team and the club. A sign of a good team is how

loud they are in the warm up and on the field and this was one of the loudest teams the coaching staff has ever been a part of.

The team was superbly led by Billy Chapman who would also win the player's player award. Every player deserves to be listed as every player contributed enormously to the season and the final.

Lachlan Sharp, Billy Chapman (C), Barney White, Max Welborn, Jock McGregor, Lachie Bernays, Robin Allan, ben Watt, Ollie Cowley, Alex Messara, Sam Swan, Toby Cooke, Ben Maltman, Jackson Scott, Will Lembke, Hugo Allen, Charlie Fleming, Josh Doust, Jack Pritchard, Henry Evans, James Samuels, Bailey Hilder, Hugh Beith, James Kilby and James McClelland.

We look forward to defending the Radford Cup in 2018.

Macca, Willy A and TSH





Division 1 Club Championship		Points
Petersham		2692
Drummoyne		2397
Woollahra Colleagues		2190
Mosman		2047
Waverley		1515
Balmain		1276
Knox		1166
St Patrick's		1056

Kentwell	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Petersham	14	12	0	2	529	273	256	10	58
Drummoyne	14	11	0	3	397	261	136	10	54
Mosman	14	8	1	5	402	299	103	13	47
Colleagues	14	8	0	6	371	308	63	6	38
Balmain	14	6	0	8	304	288	16	8	32
Waverley	14	5	0	9	257	373	-116	4	24
Knox	14	3	1	10	245	501	-256	4	18

Burke	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Waverley	14	10	0	4	340	197	143	9	49
Drummoyne	14	10	0	4	347	190	157	8	48
Petersham	14	9	0	5	361	264	97	9	45
Colleagues	14	9	0	5	280	197	83	4	40
Mosman	14	7	0	7	263	295	-32	3	31
Balmain	14	6	0	8	255	321	-66	7	31
St Patrick's	14	3	0	11	211	297	-86	6	18
Knox	14	2	0	12	129	425	-296	2	10

Whiddon	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Colleagues	14	12	0	2	433	112	321	10	58
Petersham	14	12	0	2	338	98	240	9	57
Waverley	14	10	0	4	269	128	141	6	46
Drummoyne	14	9	0	5	258	184	74	7	43
St Patrick's	14	4	1	9	189	327	-138	4	22
Balmain	14	4	0	10	173	337	-164	5	21
Knox	14	3	0	11	296	392	-96	4	16
Mosman	14	1	1	12	87	465	-378	2	8



<b>Sutherland</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Mosman	8	7	0	1	168	34	134	4	32
Colleagues	8	6	0	2	236	53	183	7	31
Waverley	8	5	0	3	182	86	96	2	22
Petersham	8	2	0	6	45	263	-218	1	9
Balmain	8	0	0	8	10	205	-195	1	1

<b>Barbour</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Petersham	14	12	0	2	394	145	249	9	57
Knox	14	9	0	5	339	193	146	13	49
Mosman	14	9	2	3	334	182	152	8	48
Drummoyne	14	9	0	5	303	234	69	9	45
Colleagues	14	8	2	4	451	176	275	9	45
St Patrick's	14	5	0	9	249	322	-73	8	28
Balmain	14	1	0	13	91	603	-512	3	7
Waverley	14	1	0	13	132	438	-306	2	6

<b>Radford</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Lane Cove II	9	7	0	2	270	157	113	8	36
Colleagues II	10	6	0	4	266	163	103	6	30
Petersham II	9	5	0	4	183	141	42	5	25
Lane Cove I	10	4	0	6	191	271	-80	5	21
Eastern Suburbs - Colts 4	10	4	0	6	200	217	-17	4	20
Oatley	10	3	0	7	144	305	-161	4	16



Halligan	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Colleagues	13	9	0	4	277	105	172	7	43
Dundas Valley	12	8	0	4	348	214	134	8	40
Mosman	12	7	0	5	215	140	75	5	33
Epping	11	4	0	7	186	231	-45	4	20
Waverley	4	4	0	0	76	43	33	1	17
Alexandria Dukes	6	3	0	3	105	133	-28	2	14
Mosman II	8	2	0	6	107	165	-58	2	10
Hunters Hill	2	2	0	0	56	0	56	1	9
Beecroft	2	2	0	0	43	12	31	1	9
Blacktown	2	1	0	1	48	43	5	2	6
Hills	3	1	0	2	51	45	6	2	6
Menai	1	1	0	0	47	7	40	1	5
Waverley II	1	1	0	0	29	10	19	1	5
Blue Mountains	1	1	0	0	22	11	11	1	5
Balmain	1	1	0	0	19	7	12	0	4
Merrylands	1	1	0	0	14	7	7	0	4
Maccabi	2	1	0	1	34	28	6	0	4
Petersham	3	1	0	2	17	50	-33	0	4
Sydney Irish	1	0	0	1	5	7	-2	1	1
Petersham II	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	1	1
St Patrick's	1	0	0	1	5	15	-10	0	0
Chatswood	1	0	0	1	5	19	-14	0	0
Sydney Harlequins	1	0	0	1	0	17	-17	0	0
Roseville	1	0	0	1	22	41	-19	0	0
Briars	1	0	0	1	5	88	-83	0	0
Lane Cove	2	0	0	2	22	67	-45	0	0
Convicts	6	0	0	6	0	248	-248	0	0





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