



# Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club





## **THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES**

### **RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

(Established 1933)

Headquarters Woollahra No 2

PO Box 197, Double Bay, 2028

### **Office Bearers 2018**

**PATRON:** His Worship the Mayor of Woollahra

**PRESIDENT:** Richard McGrath

#### **VICE PRESIDENTS:**

John Anderson, Tim Booth, Michael Caspers, John Corlis, Tim Cullen

David Gooch, Ron Harriden, John Hitchen, Cam Ireland, Doug Kirkwood

Hans Lamens, John Noice, Sandy Ross, Brian Wood

**CLUB CAPTAIN:** Winston Bradley

**SECRETARY:** Charlie Evans

**TREASURER:** Paul Howard

#### **COMMITTEE:**

Nick Donlon, Tim Moore, Josh Moloney, Oliver Lembke, Jack Williams, Sam Deans

#### **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), Cam Ireland (2016)

**HONORARY AUDITOR:** Michael Clifford



## Trophy Winners 2017

### Team Captains

Halligan Cup	David Tink
Sutherland Cup	Campbell Brister
Judd Cup	Mike Bentley
Whiddon Cup	Jack Williams
Barbour Cup	Ollie Cowley
Burke Cup	Tom Wilson
Kentwell Cup	Dan Kelly

### Team Coaches

Halligan Cup	James Taylor & Sam Taylor
Sutherland Cup	Ben Abrahams & Tim Martin
Judd Cup	Laurence Campbell & James Robertson
Whiddon Cup	Nick Watson, Chris Knight & Jason Monteath
Barbour Cup	Ed Nankivell & Sam Deans
Burke Cup	Pete Minucos, Carl O'Sullivan & Cam Ireland
Kentwell Cup	Ben Waters & Ash Riley
Club Fitness Coach	Nick Fletcher
Club Coach	Ben Waters

### Best & Fairest

Radford Cup	Harry Gibson
Halligan Cup	Andrew Muston
Sutherland Cup	Tim Moore
Judd Cup	Billy Gosper
Whiddon Cup	Richard Saville
Barbour Cup	James Lott
Burke Cup	Jack Murphy & Sam Zelinski
Kentwell Cup	Tim McCutcheon
Club	Ben Hooper

### Club Awards

Colleagues Honour Cap	Nick Donlon
The Pappas Award	Nick Fletcher
Player's Player	George Hazlett
Rookie of the Year	Tim McCutcheon
Leading Try Scorer	Julian Hoefflin
Leading Point Scorer	Dan Kelly
Oldest and Boldest	Cameron Pattern

### 100 games

Harry Aboud, Tim Martin Andrew Parhoff



## Presidents Report

### Presidents Report 2018

The 2018 season will go down as one for what could have been. All teams, except Whiddon Cup, going into the finals with a chance. Unfortunately, we were only able to secure a superb Judd Cup victory in the end. Off the field, while club spirit remains strong, we had a very poor year by our standards making a loss to which the Treasurer's report is more instructive of.

Still, it remains a fine achievement for so many teams to be represented in the finals and congratulations must go to all players and coaches for the efforts and resolve shown during the year. That also goes to Whiddon Cup, who after a slow start to the season rallied mightily to fall just short of gaining a berth at the business end.

Congratulations to Judd, Halligan and to the Convicts for their outstanding years.

Halligan has become a very tight, yet inclusive unit. Some started the year with a tour to Hong Kong and managed to come back more unfit than when they left. The team is made up of club stalwarts, plenty of Colleagues debutants, Australian rugby debutants, and even rugby debutants. There are legendary guest appearances, and all play in the spirit that the game intended. Thankfully, we did not offer a 'Grand Final' this year when we already had the first-past-the-post competition in the bag, but the boys did celebrate with a convincing, after a slow start, win in a 'victory lap' game at home in the final round to accept the Cup.

9.00am Grand Final day looked more like 3:15pm. Our Judd were superb when it mattered most. While it would have felt more comfortable to have the scoreboard ticking over a bit more in the first 10 or 15 minutes, they had a winners look about them all game and so it proved. It was a fitting victory for Laurence Campbell-Avenell who has not had the easiest of years and for the team, very ably led by Sam Devine who had a storming Grand Final.

While the home and away season is problematical for our Convicts in finding a level that is constructive to the vast range of experience and abilities that goes into making the Convicts, mention a Bingham Cup and the machine kicks into overdrive. The Colleagues has been a great facilitator for many Convicts players to experience playing a team sport and in our case some of the best of what rugby has to offer. Another outstanding win in the Bingham Cup (number 5), and Shield in Amsterdam was a great reward for their very well planned and committed campaign.

The Colleagues can count itself fortunate to have so many great coaches throughout the grades. In the latter pages of this report, the coaches will fill us in on their seasons. What they won't say, is how dedicated they are to ensuring that the best possible team is out there each Saturday, despite uni holidays, exams, work commitments, and the usual mishaps that occur on a Friday evening. In some ways it is a thankless task but in so many others a very rewarding experience and on behalf of all in the club they should know how much they are appreciated.

2018 saw a new look Committee. We have a great group that is very talented, and we will see more of them come to the fore over the coming years I am sure. It can be a bit daunting at first but as they come to understand the nuances that is The Colleagues, I feel very confident for the future of the club.

As this is my last report, I have been reflecting on my time at The Colleagues and what it means to me. Rather than plagiarise, I thought I would borrow some words from Dan Rooney who went from being a water boy at the Pittsburgh Steelers when his dad bought the team in 1933 to team owner and running



the franchise. “Football and the Steelers have taught me lessons about perseverance, the belief in possibilities, the expansion of boundaries, the kindness of people and the unpredictability of life.”

Swap out ‘Steelers’ for ‘Colleagues’ and I cannot improve on those sentiments to describe my time at The Colleagues.

Thank you to the so many who have helped the club, and me, over the years to make The Colleagues the wonderful place that it is.

It has been a great honour and privilege.

Richard McGrath

## **Club Captain Report**

### Club Captains Report 2018

2018 has proven to be more successful than Grand Final weekend results may suggest. Judd and Halligan Cup Premiers, close GF loses for Sutherland and Radford, a Minor Premiership for Burke and finals appearances for Kentwell and Barbour is surely enough to conclude the club is in sound on-field shape. Solid numbers at Saturday and Monday preseason sessions and great Tuesday/Thursday trainings put us in good stead that everyone should be proud of. Collectively, we were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the club champs – hopefully one better next year.

It can't be overlooked that a continuously strong club isn't possible without a steady, composed head steering the ship. To Rich McGrath in his last year at the helm, we can't thank you enough for what you've done for the club. Whether it be scrubbing the clubhouse windows with a 15ft extendible squeegee on a Saturday, managing the clubs solvency for well over 20 years or providing guidance for players young and old but also passing on invaluable pieces of the clubs rich history – thank you. Working alongside Rich, I've learnt how the club should be run whilst aiming to keep it the relaxed, enjoyable place that continues to draw so many people to play there. Maintaining such a healthy club “general wellbeing” won't to be an easy feat.

Laurie Campbell has etched himself a little further into Judd cup folk law winning yet another Premiership. His youthful teams' spirited win was not only clinical but a classy display of flair that Colleagues breads throughout all grades. On that note, congrats and thanks to ALL coaches - you guys are a pertinent part of the clubs framework and we appreciate all that you do week to week.

The club was operating under a fresh committee in 2018, you guys did a ripper job and couldn't have been done without the likes of Scrappy, Pres and Howie keeping us all in check. The re-introduction of live music on both ladies days this year allowed for two cracking evenings with huge crowds enjoying the clubhouse in all its glory.

Notable highlights of a Blue Rinse against Petersham and Hunters Hill (both away) has to mentioned – huge effort for the club to travel to Camperdown oval and run an ever strong Shammies off their feet on a field so hard “it feels like being tackled into the Hume Highway” according to Jack Williams. Well done gents, look forward to some more Thursday night Blue Rinse Beers in 2019!

The colts squad this year was a force not to be reckoned with both on the field and in the pub. Well done to Sam Deans, Ed Nankivell and Boydy for managing 2 teams of rowdy young bucks. Hopefully we can bring home both the Barbour and Radford cups next year as you well deserve. They didn't



call themselves the “Goochie Gang” for no reason either – thanks Goochie for kitting out and mentoring the future of our great club.

In summary 2018 was a great year, looking forward to 2019.

Cheers

Winston

### **Treasurer’s Report**

“Wow, what a difference a year makes!”

That’s how I started last year’s report and it is appropriate again this year but for all the wrong reasons. The club suffered a large trading loss this year, which can be put down to:

- Ineffective expense management in certain areas.
- The cancelled long lunch.
- Reduced sponsorship arrangements.
- Reduced subs.
- Timing issues.

While it is not all doom and gloom as some items are merely timing issues it has still resulted in a significant hit to the cash position of the Club. The Club had 228 part or full financial members (including the Convicts) which is down 12 on last year. Jon Ryan did a power of work once again in collecting and chasing payments which meant we were able to get full transparency across the Club’s membership. Unfortunately this year there were a lot of part or no payments and it was hard to chase people at season’s end meaning we were down approximately \$5,000 this year in that area.

We also struggled with our major pub sponsor, the Light Brigade Hotel, who were only arranged at the last minute when the Woollahra Hotel fell through. At least we were able to secure a further \$5k from the Woollahra after we hit the magical \$80k expenditure mark before the season started (over and above the \$15k from the previous year). Poor attendance and other issues at the Light Brigade saw us fall \$5k short of the promised \$15k and I can’t see us going back there. The Club Committee are currently in discussions with various venues in an effort to get us back to somewhere more sensible in terms of a venue and much needed revenue. I would like to thank our other long-time supporters of the club such as Richard McGrath through Kemosabe Capital. This year also saw the continuation of Maritime Container Services recent support and we are working hard to maintain their sponsorship for 2019. The micro sponsorships initiative which showed a lot of promise last year also fell short but brought in much needed revenue. Besides that there were no other major sponsors of note. For years now I have warned of the need to attract new sponsors in order to be able to continue to support the day to day operations of the Club lest we eat into our cash reserves and those chickens have now come home to roost. In terms of our social events, the Long Lunch which is usually a very strong contributor was cancelled and this proved very costly on the revenue



front. The two Ladies Day functions this year while successful from an event perspective have never been a great generator of money, and unfortunately this year costs were not as well managed as in the past. While they and the ball remain important parts of the social calendar more discipline is required on the expenditure front. As is stated each year, the cost of running such a large club will continue to escalate with rising insurance, registration and council costs although this year these costs remained relatively static, aside from one timing issue on the ground hire. It should be noted that there were increases across the board in most categories but the biggest disappointment was the

\$10k plus outlay on duffle bags which are still mostly sitting gathering dust in the store room.

Another example of poor execution was the sound system we installed last year which turned out to be ineffective for playing music on Ladies Days and so we had to acquire different speakers. Also, we have had to pay storage costs for the scoreboard acquired the previous year via a NSW State Government grant because we are still waiting on Council consent to erect, and will need to fund the installation costs from somewhere once that's ready to go.

As noted in previous reports, the Club has always been based around honesty and the emphasis is definitely placed back on the members to ensure that they uphold this ethos. Awesome work led by Nick "Scrappy" Donlon this year, with David Gooch also making a welcome return, meant we kept the club maintained and humming along during the week and on game day. The Club Committee is yet to decide how the bar and canteen will operate next year but we need to do something about the rising staff costs which are becoming untenable.

This year saw the running of the 13th Bondi Ten's Tournament with the tournament once again going back to its roots and being run on the smell of an oily rag with a much smaller number of teams albeit in very good spirits. Unfortunately the tournament ran at a small loss and ate into our ever dwindling working capital. With a crowded schedule of rugby events in and around that time of year more work is needed to promote the new format so it can one day return to the heights of years gone by or at least break even. The Tournament Committee are working on a plan so stay tuned.

While this year has been mostly down, and I openly accept my part for some of the above, I look forward to next year positive that more focus, hard work and diligence we will see the Club's financial stability return and a significant operating surplus too.

Finally, I am confident that the Club has the capacity to meet all its liabilities as and when they fall due.

**Paul Howard**

**Honorary Treasurer**

**Club Secretary Report**

As the Pres, Club Cap and Club Coach have all reported on, this finals result's was a tough pill to swallow. For the first time in recent memory our Widdon side saw a tougher than usual comp and



missed out on a finals berth right at the last minute of the season, literally. Despite the low conversion rate in the finals rounds this year our club is made up of over 200 registered players and eight teams strong. This is no small feat in a year where we saw old power houses of subbies like Balmain struggle to field a colts team. Although most our sides fell short in the finals, we can celebrate our Halligan and Judd Cup players taking home the trophy at the big dance, well done fellas.

Off the field, the club had one of the most successful years in recent memory engagement wise. Participation both in playing numbers and social event crowds continue to grow. This was illustrated with our Colts program entering and the Radford Cup competition for the second year in a row only to fall short in the semi-final. As the treasurer details, club sponsorship revenue had a significant decreased year on year which is something that will be thoroughly reviewed in the off season and closely monitored in 2019. A big thanks to our sponsors for their support of the club in particular our Major sponsor for the year the Light Brigade Hotel who were able to come on board at the stroke of





midnight before the season started and have been great assets to the playing cohort this year. To all our other supporting sponsors we thank you for your on-going support throughout the year and look forward to next year.

2018 saw a large changing of the guard both on and off the field and with that brought great energy. Stepping into the large shoes left by committee's gone past we had Josh Moloney, Tim Moore, Jack Williams, Sam Deans and Oliver Lembke all put their hands up and go the extra mile for the club. 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 new committee was adamant about improving the food and beverages on offer in previous years and bring not only record numbers but a cracking time as well. Colleagues continue to set the Subbies standard for Ladies Day quality, enjoyment and value for money and the addition of the cover band keeps the good times rolling at the club for longer. Big things to come in 2019!

I'd like to thank our coaching and management staff. The club had a considerable number of talented players retire and move interstate following a strong 2017 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 2018 included Assistant Secretary Jon Ryan, Goochi who still is always there to lend a helping hand and the gentlemen mentioned above. Lastly I'd like to say, on behalf of the club's past and present members a big thanks and farewell to Richard McGrath or Pres, who has given so much for the club over the years, you have certainly left the club in a great place with a strong future ahead of it and you will be missed.

Looking forward to big things in 2019!

Charlie Evans



## Club Coach Report 2018

By the great standards that have been set by Colleagues in years gone past, 2018 was fair year but not a great year. We have some great performances throughout the year, across the club, but I feel like we lacked consistency and we didn't take the opportunities presented to us. This was very apparent with regard to our performance in the finals. Whilst the season maybe didn't end exactly the way we wanted it, there were still some really great highlights, in particular Judd Cups demolition of the competition to take out the title was very impressive and well done to Laurie and the entire group for the result. Another highlight was the great result for Halliagn boys winning the cup in that competition. Sutherland cup pushed through to a grand final but were rolled on the day against a very strong Mosman side.

The Blue Giants played some great rugby throughout the year with some great wins. There were plenty of point scored through enterprising play but there was also a lack of application in defence which saw our against for this year much higher than we would have liked it.

There were also some real missed opportunities, Kentwell should have gone further into the final series and the is no doubt in my mind that Burke and Barbour teams should have been raising silverware at the end of the season but unfortunately it wasn't to be. Despite that we have unearthed an great number of very talented and young footballers coming through the club and with some better application, I think there are premierships to be had in the coming years.

## Kentwell



The season looked lost a few times but it was through sheer determination and some pretty good footy that Kentwell clawed their way into the top 4 and held that until finals. It was a shame to go out the way we did but we made the age old mistake of not matching a team that was truly there to play. The win against Petersham at Petersham was outstanding and the great young new talent coming through the team looks good for 2019 and beyond. There was some great passages of play but we were too susceptible to playing poorly and letting teams get away from us only to have to fight tooth and nail to get back into the game. The talent is there in the group but it will be application to the task that will make the difference. Done well and with a purpose, 2019 looks very promising.

### **Burke**

Definitely one that got away but a great season especially to finish minor premiers was a great achievement. Pete, Cam and Carl brought the boys along in a great fashion and some of the footy played was brilliant. The team played some of the best rugby and again found a raft of new talent that turned into great assets for the club. The win against Mosman in the last round on lady's day to clinch the minor premiership was an absolute cracker. It was a real shame that the boys couldn't fight their way into the GF to repeat the dose to Mosman but a wonderful season nonetheless. Well done gents

### **Whiddon**

Sometime you have season that no matter how hard you try, and sometimes you just try too hard, things don't go your way. 2018 was that season for the Whiddos boys. After a slow start, they fought so hard to get back within striking distance of the top 4 only to be cruelly denied in the last round by Mosman. The mid-season turn around was very impressive but it was a real shame not to have been in the final series with the talent contained within the team. Chalk it up to experience fellas and look forward to seeing the Whiddos juggernaut return in 2019.

### **Judd**

Great season, great team and thoroughly deserved the trophy. Strong from round 1, with only a few close losses against a number of very strong wins the boys rolled into the finals and really kept up the momentum. The grand final was clinical and testament to the preparation of Laurie and the team and their application on the day. Well done, a great result and look forward to seeing many of the Juddies pushing for higher honours in 2019.

### **Sutherland**

The Sutherland cup has become a shadow of its former self with Subbies doing a very poor job of promoting and supporting it. Because of that, it makes the efforts of Benny A and team even more special. Never knowing if you are going to get a game, constantly trying to find teams to play, the boys played a great brand of footy despite all the interruptions and challenges. To win the GF was always going to be a huge ask given the team they were coming up against but they stuck at it and kept pushing right to the bitter end. Very well done fellas and some great talent discovery which the club will benefit from in years to come.



## **Halligan**

There is no team that has to work harder to find footy game and travels further to don the sky blue jumper. The fact that you did that and won the comp is an outstanding effort. Often pushed to faraway places and playing pretty wild opposition, the boys once again delivered the outcome and brought eh Halligan Cup back to Blue Giant Stadium. Well done fellas, you are what footy is all about.

## **Colts (1 and 2s)**

The colts program is going brilliantly and they had another very strong year. The 1's team should have been in the GF and it will no doubt be one that slipped away. The 2s team, a little bit like Halligan travelled far and wide to get a game of footy and very nearly got there in the end, a fantastic effort. A good colts program is very important for a club like Colleagues and the players and coaches we have there at the moment is boldly brilliant. With many of the boys still within the age limit, 2019 looks like it will be an absolute stellar year. Well done fellas.

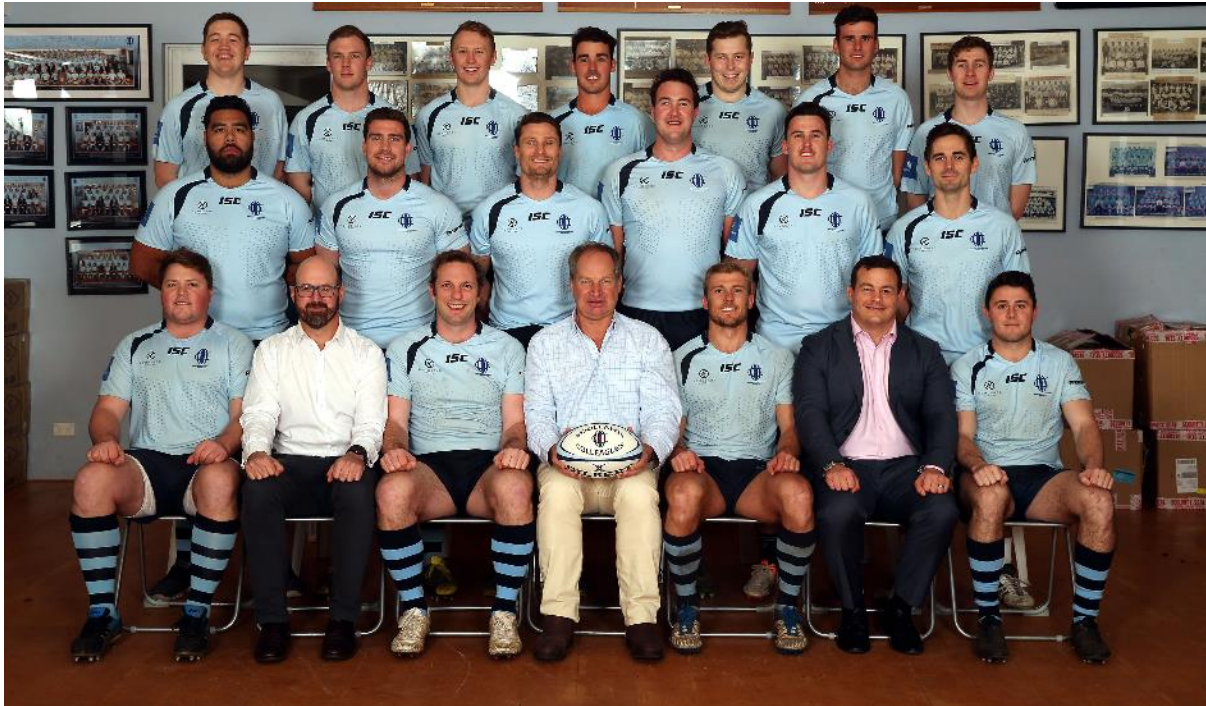
2019 has all the promise of being a brilliant year for the club. Plenty of talent, a few missed opportunities this year to be fixed next year and a club that is due a bag of silverware. Application to the task and constantly being able to lift our game throughout the season will be the key. Get involved early fellas and make the most of it.

Thank you to the executive and all the key support roles that go into making our club work. To all of the supporters, in particular the old boys, thank you for all the time you spend on the sideline willing us home. To the coaches, your dedication is unreal and the group continues to grow and do very well. Lastly to all the players, well done and let's look at 2019 being a very special year.

This year we will see the departure of our current president, Rich McGrath. What a role you have played for the club mate and what we have achieved whilst you have been at the helm is nothing short of amazing. Thank you for all that you have done and most importantly the way you have done it. We stand here looking forward strongly and much of that is due to the foundation you have set. From all of us, thank you.

Thanks for the honour of being the club coach and look forward to 2019.

Benny



## Kentwell Report

The Kentwell Cup season for 2018 was a pretty good result overall, some moments of brilliance (beating Petersham at Petersham) but was overshadowed by a few too many losses to teams that should not have even been close. All in all it was a pretty even competition with between the top 4 teams with wins shared pretty equally by the end of the regular season. There was a group of new players that came through the team this year and it was pleasing to see them fit into the team and start to carve out their position. What was really pleasing was the number of players who had come through the grades and made their mark in the Kentwell team for 2018. By the end of the season there was good balance in the team and no doubt the makings of a strong foundation for 2019.

There were some significant highlights for the year, the win against Petersham at Petersham (our first win by Kentwell since they joined Div 1) was a great effort and really showed the style of footy that the group can play when they were switched on. Some great wins against Drummoyne during the season and I think there were 2 or 3 pushover scrum tries during the year as well (Boothie I can imagine how much you enjoyed that and well done to Ash for getting the scrum in great shape). Along with a vast improvement in the set piece, there was also some very enterprising play in the backs and some great tries scored out wide. A couple of Robbie S specials against Petersham was what got us home on that day and Cutch's work in the mid-field was awesome.

Unfortunately we were also plagued by some ordinary performances and at times a real lack of consistency. We lacked focus in our preparation and there were times that it very much showed on the park. Defence was not at the usual high standard for Kentwell and we suffered from very poor starts in many games. Often having to chase down a 20 plus point lead to win the game only a few minutes before the final bell. Whilst it was great to see a team that has the belief to chase down a lead, it was disappointing to give some pretty



ordinary outfits far too much of a lead. It was also clear that the lack of dedication in our prep meant that at times in the season, and in particular in the finals, we were out enthused and left behind by teams that were nowhere near as strong but had much greater desire.

There is no doubt there is the basis for a great team, but no team can win the Kentwell Cup without the proper application and consistency. The number of absentees from key trainings and games hurt us, but the real positive is that we have a group of footballers who could win this competition, walk it in if they wanted to, but must do the work.

Thank you to DK for his tireless leadership and dedication to the team. Other key senior players like DB and Dunc also played a big role and we wish DB all the best for retirement (a bloke that fit surely can't retire???). To the young leaders coming through the team, Tommy B, Mol, Kingo, Cutch, the future looks great and what you fellas added to the team this year made a big difference and the future looks great.

To all the players who pulled on the Kentwell jumper, be it the first time or the 100<sup>th</sup> time, thank you for representing the club the way you did. There is nothing better than to give a guy a shot at Kentwell and then to see him tear it up and prove he should have been there all along. It is a big ask to play Kentwell, we come up against all sorts and to a player they love nothing else than trying to bash a Blue Giant. Your efforts and application are much appreciated.

Whilst it was a disappointing end to the season, there is much to look forward to with the troops we have.

Thanks to the executive for their support, the supporters, in particular the old boys, and mostly the players. Ash played an enormous role in shaping the team this year and our forward play continues to improve. For all your effort and dedication mate, thank you.

Thanks for the honour of being Kentwell Coach. It means the world to me.

Looking forward to 2019.

All the best Benny



## Burke Cup Report 2018

As 2017 seemed like the start of a new era, that was certainly continued in 2018. The old heads, maybe a dozen blokes that had played big parts in the 6 x straight GFs (and won half), had mostly dried up. Only Cam Patten's downright refusal to retire kept a line between the first premiership and the current squad. What this opened up was an opportunity for a range of new Colleagues to step up and be part of the Burkies campaign this season. And a truly enjoyable run it was.

Another fresh step was the addition of Carlos from years of dominating in Whiddos, and young buck Fletch to lead the fitness and join the forwards coaching ranks. With four coaches, I'll concede the downside was it being hard to know exactly who should speak first, next or last. But the flipside is coaches beers went a helluva long way. All in all something must have been working, cause for most of the season it seemed like Burkies were on the path to glory.

After dropping the first two games, with players getting to gel especially in attack, we went on a great streak of twelve straight Ws. This was built on a league best D, but then punctuated with some great tough and clutch play, with notable wins: out at a previously undefeated Mosman; a 20 point second half comeback against Knox (starring Cam 'Any Given Saturday' Ireland rev up at HT); and a real gutsy win out at Waverley where colt Oli Cowell came on early to play 10 against the big boys and got MoM. This streak uncovered our skipper Ronnie as a great addition to the club, and a bloke players clearly love to play for. It saw Zelinski at prop and Murph on the wing play consistently top footy as they shared the B&F award – another two new awesome ins for the club.

A few late season injuries saw us go into the finals a tad undercooked – but still supremely confident. Unfortunately, some odd selections up north meant Mossie significantly chopped and changed their minor premiership Kentwell team for the finals. Not good for their Kentwell, who got pumped two straight weeks and went out backwards. But it sure boosted their Burke pack, who eventually got over the top of our brave boys in the semi and went on to win the premiership. No excuses from our end – we had the second bite of the cherry the next week against the defending

prems Waverley and couldn't get it done. We felt like we had their measure most of the game, and would have undoubtedly won the "territory" and "possession" stats. However, they're not the numbers that count at the end of the day, and they took a couple of chances where we didn't, which is rugby on any given Saturday.

It was a great team to be part of though, and while we didn't see success in the form of a Burke Cup, the success will be this next few years at the club if these new blokes that formed the squad are all in for a dig, which it seems they will be. Along with those mentioned, young blokes like Madge, Condo and Mando, colts coming through like Yeomans, and other players verging on vets now like Winny, Boults and Baitz – the club is in good hands.

Big thanks to the executive for their tireless work. Commiserations to other coaches who didn't quite get to that spot we want – but a big congratulations to Lozza on his best year and best prem yet. If our KO was what can happen any given day, the Judd GF was what you hope might happen on any given Saturday. The best. I'll also throw a shout out to my Halligan boys for going back to back – legends.

Cheers,

Minu



### Whiddon Cup Report 2018

The 2018 Whiddon campaign saw a lot of new faces join the set up. In the coaching ranks Bunsen and The Dark Knight joined Monty following Carlos' promotion to Burke and The Rat being granted a coaching sabbatical. On the playing front some Whiddon stalwarts of recent years joined Big Rat on his sabbatical led to some fresh young talent on our playing roster who will be great for the Giants in years to come.





The personnel changes translated into to a slow start to the season and an overall a season of “what could have been”. Despite some disappointing results on the field, there was some great rugby played and it was a thoroughly enjoyable season off the field and on the training park. All the boys learnt a thing or two from Harry “the dominant” Aboud (aka The HB) on how to make the most from their off field performances.

2018 really lived up to the cliché of being a season of two halves. In the first half of the we season left too many chances and opportunities on the field. However, the discovery of some new talent meant the second half of the season was looking very promising for Whiddos. LJ was settling into the captaincy, Sav’s decision after a few years up the grades that his football could only improve under the tutelage of Christopher Knight (which would result in him be awarded the teams best and fairest) was taking shape, the attacking flare of Keighley and Reyno in the halves was being refined with their commitment to make tackles, Fleming and Roundy were throwing themselves into everything and the enigma that is Boris had landed on his prematch nutrition of a bacon and egg roll and a Milton Mango.

We really began to pull it all together in the second half of the season. After a draw with competition leaders Knox we needed to win our remaining games to make the finals and the boys were playing some inspired rugby. As has been a bit of a theme for the Blue Giants of recent years our side had a strong kiwi contingent. Richard Harvey returned to his beloved Whiddon after a stint in Burke and would combine with Charles and Liam to form a formidable back row. The addition of Joe Bradley and Rollsy injected some experience to the backline and translated into some classic colleagues running rugby. All of this even tempted Bunsen back onto the field for a few player coach cameos.

Our season was on the line in the final game of the season against Mosman with the winner through to the finals. But it wasn’t to be. A heartbreaking end to the season being done 18-19 by a conversion from the in the final play of the game really summed up our season.

Congratulations to all the other grades and coaches in the club for getting through to the finals and coming away with 2 premierships.

A big thank you to all the players who ran out in a Whiddon Cup jersey this year. See you in 2019 for bigger and better things!  
Monty





### Judd Cup 2018 Major Premiers

Record Won 13 lost 3

This is without doubt one of the best years I have with the Judd Cup Team. This group of player from the very first game invested themselves in what, I and James envisaged for the season. A simple no nonsense brand of football encompassing ball control and a never say die attitude. Although the winning score lines where often at times not large, the boys placed their trust in what we were trying to achieve, (a ) a grand final appearance (got to be in it to win it) (b) a grand final win. Achieved, that makes it the 5 Judd cup grand final win in 9 years.

The team was lead by example this year by Sam Devine who I believe is most likely the biggest half back in subbies rugby. He had played in the Judd team over the last 5 years as a second rower, number eight and breakaway, but unfortunately missed a few of our wins due to injury, so I'm pleased that he got one finally. I'm also pretty sure that half back is where he belongs. Good job Sam and I look forward to playing again next year.

I have always liked a mix of old and new players in any team I have coached, as I think this leads to the new guys buying into the club and team ethos very quickly, and shows them what Colleagues is all about. Its not always easy to bring players up to a team from a lower grade when they are wining each week, but you always have in the back of your mind, those from the year before and some new talent for the following year that you'd like to get into your team. So for those who made into Judd this year from Suthos good job and well played and for those that got a few runs you're on my radar for next year you all know who you are.

James Robertson who I thank very much for his help this year coached the forward pack with enthusiasm, forging them into and outstanding unit that work hard each other at every breakdown, lineout and scrum and the scrums where hard this year for us, as we never seem to have this quite



right. It is something that I think the whole club needs to work as well. So I see more scrum work for the forwards next year (sorry) All this hard work paid off for them in the grand final where they showed Mossman how to lineout, ruck, maul and support one another in a game, bar a few scrum hiccups it was one of the most complete performances by any forward pack I have coached.

To the backs my domain, was punctuated by constant injuries to key player right through the entire season. Form 10s (I went through 5 of them) 12 15 well you get the picture. This makes it very hard for any back line to get any continuity about it; it's not for the lack of any talent they had, more the lack of time together in the right positions to total bring it all together. That being said they did an outstanding job in defense, and attack when they had the chance to show what they could do. To those that played in the back line this year you all did a fantastic job with the odds always seemingly sacked against you.

I always find hard to single out anyone players as it is team effort that gets the results on the paddock. So to all that played for me this year I wish to thank you all very much for an outstanding season. I don't think we were at times the best team in the competition, which probably went to Mossman and Waverly, but we never gave up and when things where against you, you all dug in and gave it your best shot, that's all I can ask of you as a coach.

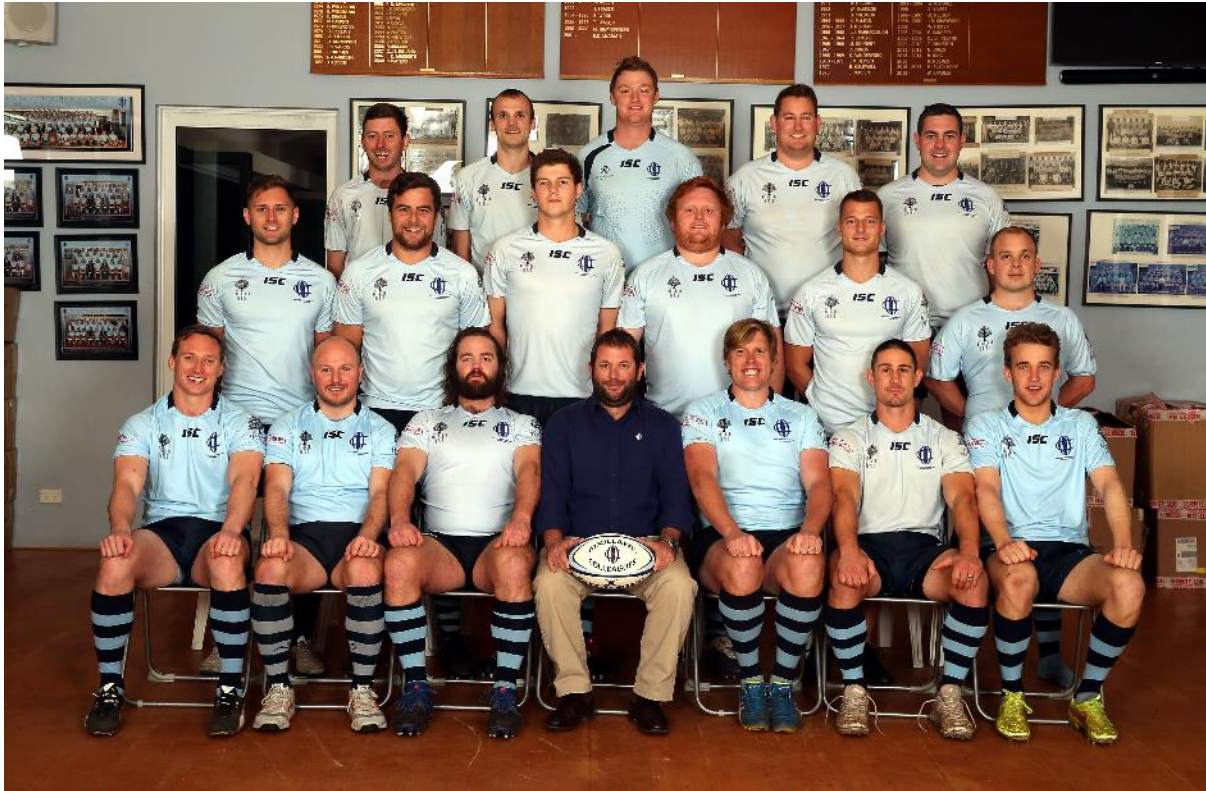
Lastly to all the other coaches' thanks for your hard work in each of your grades which help to make Colleagues the great club it is and others the club they wish they were. To all the guys behind the scenes thanks for the effort you put each week, it does not go unnoticed because without you all, we would have no club.

That's all folks till next season

Laurence Campbell



Judd Cup and Subbies biggest halfback Sam Devine against Mosman.



### **Sutherland Report – Minor Premiers**

The Sutherland Cup 2018! What another great year for the mighty men in blue. While it may not have ended quite the way we would have wanted (once again going down in the big dance to bloody Mosman) - this was a very important year that hopefully built some solid foundations for the wonderful WCRUFC. It was a year where we unearthed new, raw, young talent and blooded the 'Next Generation' of Blue Giants and Sutherland Cup heroes. And claimed the Minor Premiership to boot.

Shorn of the usual 'brains trust duo' that holds this motley crew together, Benny Abrahams saw his partner in crime James 'Robbo' Robertson exhumed into the Dome... only for him to shatter it open from within and create a sociable, working dialogue between the two great teams that will hopefully continue long into the future. It's certainly what is needed to keep both teams successful and 2018 shall be remembered as 'The Year The Dome Was Destroyed'.

Benny led from the front as ever and had some amazing new charges this year. The likes of Joe 'Waco' Walkom, Aaron Sculli, Kurtis Bennett, Will Healy and the RedDog just to name a few! Of course, the old faithfuls were there too - the return of Skip and his magnificence; Malarky rounding out his Colleagues career by 'sleeping through his alarm' not once but twice and missing two crucial games; Moorey stepping up and playing an even more integral part than he did the year before; Tommy Hamblin coming of age and menacing in attack and defence; Jules breaking all sorts of club records with his astonishing try scoring prowess down the sideline; MiniVan being... well, MiniVan; the mercurial seagull that is Christopher Schliebs; and then the legendary Hoff, Jackson, Martin combo pouring on the pain for countless oppositions.



On the paddock, new leaders were born. Sutho debutant Hamish Fuller was thrust into the captaincy early in the season when the incumbent went on his yearly sabbatical to Europe and young Hame pulled off the leadership mantle with amazing aplomb, only to be cruelled by a horrific injury midway through the season.

Who better to step into the breach than the malevolent force that epitomises Suthos - Campbell Brister. The Wildman oversaw some crucial results, most notably beating the dirty sperm whales on our own turf on Ladies Day to take out the Minor Premiership.

Other Suthos legends were established and the likes of Nado, Gaynor, Ruddy, Tommy Sif, Musto, Seano, FK will all go down in the annals of Blue Giant history as the true workhorses of the 2018 season.

But the Suthos Finals tilt would have been nothing if not for a special few faces who rose from an alarming end of season depth slump to fill the void with fresh, young legs. Colty 1, Colty 2 and Colty 3, 4... etc (Beithy, Hugo Allen, Jnr Jnr Ridge, et al) gave us the impetus to have a crack at taking back the Sutherland Cup...only to fall short at the final hurdle to a Mosman side loaded with, as their captain put it in his victory speech "boys that probably should be playing 1s, 2s and 3s".

A big BIG thank you to Benny for a helluva season and to the 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

The Halligan Cup team had another successful year, winning the premiership for the second year running.

The year began with a pre-season tour to Hong Kong, going down in the Plate semi-final of the Kowloon 10's.

Returning to Sydney, the first game of the season saw the boys travel out to Kings where we managed to grind out a 5-0 win after scoring on the siren.

From there the season was disrupted slightly with a couple of games forfeited by opposition, and farewells to regular Halligans Guillaume Dupin and Peter Krueger moving back overseas.

The back end of the season saw great wins against a Merrylands side a few weight classes above our own, and a come from behind win against a mixed side of Colleagues Old Boys and Suthos, before beating Mosman in the final.

Thanks to Rushy and Taylors for their efforts, and congratulations to the team for retaining the Halligan Cup. Special mention to captain David Tink and best and fairest Andrew Muston. We wish the boys the best for 2019 as they attempt to make it three in a row.



## Barbour & Radford Cup Report

For the second year running the colts program featured some 40+ young men, which once again enabled us to field two teams across the Barbour and Radford Cup competitions. On the field it will likely go down as a season of missed opportunities, while off the field the colts were once again among the most enthusiastic contributors to the club's famed culture.

### Radford Cup

From the first week of trials it was evident our Radford Cup side would be a force as the core of the team played back-to-back games against Mosman in typical Sydney late-summer heat.

It was a herculean effort from our boys, with many of them having to play upwards of 100mins against a full Mosman squad who had been training in their lush Balmoral surrounds for 3 months prior.

The Colleagues team held Mosman scoreless for much of the two games in a clear sign this was a tight-knit group destined for a strong season. From there, the Radford Cup side swept all before them en route to a Minor Premiership.

The toughest game of the regular season came in round 1 against an Eastern Suburbs side made up of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade colts. Colleagues prevailed 24-19 but the closeness of the match was a sign of what was to come in the finals.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the season was the bus trip to Wollongong to take on Wollongong University. The team's talisman, Goochie, ventured south a day early to scout the ground and ensure the boys were greeted with a friendly face and a full esky. The lads piled into a minivan early on



Saturday morning and with Boydy leading the charge headed off for an important mid-season fixture.

Colleagues emerged 27-0 victors despite some dodgy goal kicking at a picturesque, picket-fenced Wollongong University. For many in the side, the main fixture of the day was in fact the return bus trip to Sydney during which Boydy came to learn these millennials can hold their own just as well as generations past. After a few pit stops along the way, the Radford Cup side returned to Colleagues a very tightknit bunch.

The side proceeded to navigate the rest of the 7-round competition without a glitch and qualified number one seed for the finals. Colleagues was drawn against Easts and due to scheduling issues the match had to be played on neutral territory at Hunters Hill.

Colleagues entered the match as favourites but wary of an Easts side full of talent and new faces. From the outset it was evident the Colleagues side was in for a tough match, particularly with the late arrival of several key players that caused a late reshuffle.

Despite this, and several unlucky breaks, Colleagues fought hard to get into a leading position with just minutes on the clock before Easts stole it at the death.

It was a bitterly tough pill to swallow for the Radford boys who were clearly the competitions best team throughout the year but were beaten by an Easts side who showed up to play on the day.

A sincere thanks must go to Goochie and Boydy who managed the team with passion throughout the year, often trudging to obscure parts of Sydney never before seen by the young Radford boys. While a disappointing end to the season, the strength of the Radford Cup side bodes well for the future of the club and we look forward to again fielding a team in 2019.

### **Barbour Cup**

With a mixture of new faces, returning veterans and players make the step up from Barbour, the 2018 season looked promising from the outset for Barbour Cup.

The season started strongly, with the side recording bonus point victories across the first 6 rounds of the competition, including two 70-point victories that ensured most of the side would avoid the nudie run.

The toughest early-season match came against Knox at Lofberg Oval. With much of the side backing up from a 21<sup>st</sup>, the warm up was riddled with dropped balls, Gatorades and bacon & egg rolls. Despite this adversity, the team bound together and ground out a tough-fought 22-12 victory.

The match signalled the unearthing Barbour's destructive front row – arguably the lightest ever seen in the competition – who powered the team to victory. Assisted by the Brad Thorn-like James Lott in the second row, Colleagues was able to get underneath its opponents and disrupt Knox's set piece ball.





After comfortably dealing with Balmain, Petersham, Hunters Hill and Waverley, Colleagues arrived at the mid-point of the season with maximum points as they prepared to take on equal-first placed Mosman at Rawson Park.

The grudge match was played in tough conditions, which undoubtedly favoured the larger Mosman forwards, and it led to a tough day at the office for Colleagues.

The end result was a 21-0 loss with the boys heading into the university holidays under no illusions that Mosman would be the team to beat. The university holiday period is always a challenge for Colleagues with a number of players unavailable as they work the land or try their luck at a European summer.

But thanks to the strong showing of a number of Radford players, Colleagues entered the finals in second place with just the two losses against Mosman to its name. Unfortunately the lead up to the finals saw Colleagues miss two games due to forfeits by Balmain and Waverley, which meant the team was underdone coming off a long break and into a semi-final against the unbeaten Mosman.

This was evident in the early exchanges with Mosman getting out to an early lead in the match played at David Phillips Field. After a Cheika-like spray from coach Ed Nankivell, the boys responded strongly in the second-half to give Mosman a scare before ultimately falling short.

Colleagues entered the preliminary final against Hunters Hill after an encouraging second half performance and a solid week of training. Unfortunately, the match followed a similar theme to the semi with Colleagues slow out of the blocks as we surrendered a large early lead.

Despite showing glimpses of what we are capable of, the team couldn't pull it back and we bowed out in week two of the finals. Much like Radford Cup, this was a disappointing end to the season as we didn't play at a level we had shown throughout the year we were capable of.

Looking back at the colts program as a whole, the end results do not reflect the strong performances shown throughout the year or the incredible talent possessed within the group.

The comradery, respect and genuine mateship shown across the entire Barbour and Radford squad is testament to the quality of the character of the players – and this was evident to all who saw these magnificent men in action both on and off the field.

Special mention must go to those players moving from colts to grade, many of whom have committed their time and effort over a number of years and who leave the colts program in a great place.

It is now up to the large number of players from both Barbour and Radford returning in 2019 to maintain the colture they have helped develop and deliver the success we know they are capable of.

Cheers

Deans and Nanks



## Club Championship standings

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

## Financial Report

### STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS

In the opinion of the Management Committee of the Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club the profit and loss account and trading account have been drawn up and presents fairly the profit and loss for the Club for the period ending 30 September 2018.

The Balance Sheet presents fairly the state of affairs of the club at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the club will be able to pay it's debts as and when they fall due.

On behalf of the Management Committee

Richard McGrath  
Honorary President

Paul Howard  
Honorary Treasurer