

WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB



2019 ANNUAL REPORT





**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES
RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

(Established 1933)

Headquarters Woollahra No 2

PO Box 197, Double Bay, 2028

Office Bearers 2019

PATRON: His Worship the Mayor of Woollahra

PRESIDENT: Cameron Ireland

VICE PRESIDENTS:

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

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

Hans Lamens, Richard McGrath, John Noice, Sandy Ross, Brian Wood

CLUB CAPTAIN: Winston Bradley

SECRETARY: Sam Deans

TREASURER: Paul Howard

COMMITTEE:

Winston Bradley, Sam Deans, Nick Donlon, Matt Anderson, Charles Macdonald, Charlie Evans, Josh Moloney, Jack Williams, Tim Moore, Will Yeo, Harry Aboud, Sam Devine, Rob Rush.

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), Cameron Ireland (2015), Ben Waters (2017), Peter Minucos (2017)

HONORARY AUDITOR: Michael Clifford



Trophy Winners 2019

Team Captains

Radford II Cup	Angus Macintyre
Radford I Cup	Stuart Mclean
Halligan Cup	David Tink
Sutherland Cup	Campbell Brister
Judd Cup	Billy Gosper
Whiddon Cup	Richard Harvey & Richard Saville
Barbour Cup	Joe Yeomans
Burke Cup	Damon Holmes
Kentwell Cup	Lachlan Pigott

Team Coaches

Halligan Cup	James Taylor & Sam Taylor
Sutherland Cup	Ben Abrahams & Stephen James
Judd Cup	Laurence Campbell & Jason Monteath
Whiddon Cup	Nick Watson & Chris Knight
Barbour Cup	Ed Nankivell, Sam Deans & Michael Boyd
Burke Cup	Pete Minucos & James Robertson
Kentwell Cup	Ben Waters, Carl O'Sullivan & Ash Riley
Club Skills Coach	Dave Burnett
Club Coach	Ben Waters

Best & Fairest

Halligan Cup	Sean O'Mara
Sutherland Cup	Charlie Toll & George Storer
Judd Cup	Harry Bennetto
Whiddon Cup	Mack Bowman
Barbour Cup	Hamish Sheehan
Burke Cup	Sean Walsh
Kentwell Cup	Cammie Burnhill & Lachlan Pigott
Club	Joe Sangster

Club Awards

Colleagues Honour Cap	David Gooch
The Pappas Award	Jack Williams
Player's Player	Matt Anderson
Rookie of the Year	Alex Hamilton
Most Improved Player	Ben Griffiths
Leading Try Scorer	Cammie Burnhill
Leading Point Scorer	Sean Walsh
Oldest and Boldest	Luke Kenniff

100 games James Taylor, Sam Taylor

300 games John Kelly



Presidents Report

In 2019 we were fortunate enough to again win more than our fair share of silverware, a theme that has become all too consistent with the might Blue Giants. Taking out premierships in Halligan and Barbour, runners up in Sutherland and Burke and Plate winners in the Radford cups.

Whilst we can look at our success in these grades and feel exceptionally proud of what we have achieved, it is only fair to say, there were lots of missed opportunities in 2019 as well. This year we were hammered with injuries which caused ongoing headaches for all coaches. Couple this with the decision by an ever-increasing number of players to take extended breaks during the season and we have a perfect storm. Our competition has become more focused and consistent and we must rise to meet this new level if we are going to continue to be competitive across all grades.

A massive shout out to our Colts of 2019. Our Barbour Cup team going through the season undefeated and taking out the Premiership, our Radford Cup 1 taking out the Radford Shield and our entire Colts squad more than ably filling in across the grades, from Kentwell to Halligan when we were short of numbers in the senior grades. Your extended leadership team were forever reliable, and the comradery built up amongst your group is infectious. I look forward to you all becoming leaders of our great club into the future. Thankyou Colts, your contribution this year was tremendous.

Our Halligan team secured the 3-peat, a remarkable performance, watched by many under lights at Woollahra #1, what an experience for all involved. A massive congrats to you all. The effort that goes into arranging games each week and the commitment shown by the playing group is inspiring.

What could have been a disastrous year for Burkie's turned out to be a turnaround of enormous proportions. With minimal changes in Burke for the last 4-5 games of the season, it goes to show what consistency can achieve. Well done to all of you and let's go one step further in 2020!

Sutho's got a sniff of victory but the back field at TG Milner delivered the fateful blow. A gutsy season from a very tight knit group of blokes. Congrats on getting to the final dance.

Judd Cup weathered the injury and availability storm better than most and secured themselves a top two finish. Unfortunately, the pressure of the finals and some well 'drilled' opposition meant that we called it stumps in the knockout semi. A disappointing end to a toiling season.

Our Kentwell and Whiddon Cup teams this year suffered the most at the hand of injuries and holidays. With over 50 players representing the top grade this year, combinations were always going to be tough. This problem is only compounded throughout the rest of the grades. Each of these teams boasted a significant number of colts from 2018 which was great to see. Every one of them stood up and owned their position each week. For this you should be immensely proud. Couple this with the old heads in each group and we were hopeful of some finals footy from each one of these teams. Whilst the season didn't end up where we would have liked, congrats on some gutsy performances across the board in both grades. 2020 is a new challenge and you have the building blocks for great success.

Colleagues Convicts, competing in the Jeffery and Halligan Cup had an equally frustrating 2019. Whilst they finished with a victory in the Cup and Plate at the Purchase Cup in Brisbane, they will be looking to build on their 2019 season for the Bingham Cup tour next year.

A sincere thankyou to all our volunteer coaches who put in so much effort to get their teams onto the field each week. The work they do behind the scenes is extraordinary and we are exceptionally



lucky to have them turn up and put in each week. From pre-season training to an entire season training schedule planned and mapped out, this season was the most organised and professional I have witnessed at Colleagues. I know that this preparation will pay dividends next year. I implore all our players to get involved and commit to what is going to be a cracking 2020!!

A special thankyou to our extended committee of 2019. Your commitment to the club this year in getting teams involved, making sure all jobs are done and willingness to chip in whenever required was fantastic. Thankyou.

Special thanks must go to Nic Donlon our Club House Manager (and his offsider Harry Aboud) for his tireless work in keeping the clubhouse running. A thankless task performed with extreme commitment, diligence and patience!! Thankyou!

The dynamic duo of Jonny Ryan and Goochie has again been the stuff of legends. If we could bottle their enthusiasm and commitment, we would be set for all time!!

Our Club Captain of the past two years, Winnie Bradley has been amazing. Leading from the front on and off the field. A couple of seasons hampered by injury has made the footy side of things frustrating, but I know he will be chipping in behind the scenes over the next few seasons as he just can't help himself as he is always willing to rip in and get things done.

To our stalwart Treasurer Paul Howard, your eager eye on finances and willingness to get in and do the jobs no one notices on the busy days is greatly appreciated. Notwithstanding the commitment to your role as Treasurer, one which you have done so ably for quite a while and a little longer yet is so valuable to the club, thank you.

For anyone who didn't notice the extraordinary effort by Sam Deans this must have been living under a rock. Sam's willingness to take on any task and deliver in a timely well thought out manner was amazing. Sam's work behind the scenes across several areas has set a new benchmark in how our Club will operate going forward. A legendary first year as Secretary.

And lastly to our amazingly generous sponsors of 2019, a long and distinguished list, a huge thank you. Bellevue Hotel, Qube Logistics, Sharp IT, Escala Partners, Fortius Funds Management, Belle Property Surry Hills, Kemosabe Capital, Jan Logan, Gordon Brothers, Veranda Bar, SV Partners, Mad Hatter Wines, Ryans Bar, QGS and Woodstock resources. We are so grateful for your support as without it we cannot be the club that we strive to be. We can only hope that your partnership with Colleagues was equally as rewarding. We are always keen to hear your feedback, so I encourage you to reach out to me at any time. I look forward to welcoming you back down in 2020!

As we close out the 2019 season, I encourage all our player group, our old boys, recent and long term retired, to get around our great club in 2020. We have an amazing amount of young talent around us now and the future is looking as bright as I have ever seen it.

Thankyou. Cam Ireland



JAN • LOGAN





Club Captain Report

2019 saw the Giants victorious in Radford I, Barbour and Halligan Cups. Broadly, we were strong as ever on player numbers both at trainings and game days and this showed with the 75 registered colts not only bolstering their own competition but also slotting nicely into the grades when needed. Barbour broke a long standing club drought of being the first team in ~60 years to go through a season undefeated.

Both Burke and Sutherland very much deserved to play in their respective grand finals however were unlucky on the day. Despite both being amongst the form teams of their grades and hot favourites, both teams fell short to Mosman and Drummoyne.

Two newcomers to the club took out the top try scorer and top point scorer awards this year. Cam Burnhill (11 tries) and Sean Walsh (21 conversions and 9 tries). Well done to these champions, worth their weight in gold with both ball or beer in hand.

Behind the scenes at any well operating organisation are some heavy lifters who often go without wanting praise and happy do a load of work without recognition. Sam Deans took to the secretary role like a duck to water, ramping up the newsletters, sponsorships, social media and social events to a level not seen since Goochies lush blonde mullet alone was enough to sell 100 Ladies day tickets. Nick Donlan can't go unnoticed, his unwavering administrative efforts, organising all events, staffing and (not to mention stocking the bar) kept the social aspects that Colleagues is renowned for humming.

The club has operated well under the new leadership group in 2019. There is promising amounts of rugby talent and drinking prowess around to keep Colleagues in good stead for many years to come.

Cheers,

Winston Bradley



Treasurer's Report

"We're back baby!"

I am very, very happy to report that the Club has had a stunning turnaround from 2018, which can be put down to:

- Better expense management.
- The reinstated long lunch.
- Two huge Ladies Day events.
- Increased sponsorship arrangements.
- Increased subs.
- A fairer contribution from the Convicts.
- Some new blood at the top and better focus from the Club Committee.

The net effect has seen the Club's cash position come powering back to historic levels.

The Club had 268 part or full financial members (including the Convicts) which is up significantly on last year helped by the massive Colts turn out. 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 again.

We had a great year with our new major pub sponsor the Bellevue in conjunction with the Royal Hotels Group's other pub the Royal Oak in Double Bay. It's good to get back to the Bellevue and having the alternative venue has also been excellent although the Committee is working on getting better visibility of our spend there too so we can be assured of hitting the "bonus" \$5k for an \$80k spend next year with ease. The Royal Hotels Group have agreed to return next year too.

This year also saw the continuation of Qube's (formerly Maritime Container Services) support and we are working hard to maintain their sponsorship for 2020. We also saw other significant sponsors come on board through Sharp IT, Escala Partners and Fortius. I would like to thank our other long-time supporters of the club such as Mark Foy through Belle, John Ryan through Ryans Bar and Richard McGrath through Kemosabe Capital. The micro sponsorships initiative which showed a lot of promise in recent years also brought in much needed revenue.

The addition of the new sponsors to the Club is very important in order to be able to continue to support the day to day operations of the Club lest we eat into our cash reserves.

In terms of our social events, the Long Lunch was back with a vengeance this year and once again was an excellent contribution to revenue. The two Ladies Day functions this year were extraordinarily successful from an event perspective and a huge generator of money for the Club and I would congratulate the Club Committee for their efforts in that regard.

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. Other costs were also relatively static although there was a sharp increase in the use of buses and a significant GST expense because of the increased revenue. Fortunately, we now no longer have to pay storage costs for the scoreboard acquired in previous years via a NSW State Government grant. The Club President is working with Council and other interested parties to finally get it installed.

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 doing more than his fair share especially in



getting \$5k in the tin for merchandise sales, meant we kept the Club well maintained and humming along during the week and on game day. The Club Committee is yet to decide how the BBQ 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 14th 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. Better management this year saw the tournament run at a decent surplus and meant we were able to make a \$4,500 donation to the Kids Cancer Project. The Tournament Committee are working on a plan for next year's event so stay tuned.

This year has been very good and I look forward to next year positive that further focus, hard work and diligence we will see the Club's financial stability continue to go from strength to strength and deliver another operating surplus. I would also like to give a special thanks to the Club Secretary, Sam Deans, who has got through a power of work in that role and as co-coach of the all-conquering Colts, and our new Club President, Cam Ireland, whose energy and focus has been integral in getting our finances back on track.

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 has been noted above, 2019 was a largely successful year for the club with the on field victories of our Colts and Halligan cup sides matched by the success of our social calendar, where Colleagues once again demonstrated it is leading the way in subbies footy.

While our two Ladies Days were unsurprisingly among the highlights of the season, the return of the Long Lunch, Cocktail Party and the Posh Bus Tour to the Blue Mountains also helped to foster a great vibe around the club.

In this regard, special thanks must go to the Committee who have worked hard over the last year or so to ensure the all-important social side of the club continues to go from strength to strength.

Of course, none of these social activities would be possible without the income to fund it and it was pleasing to see strong player numbers again this year, which led to a record subs intake – shout out to Jonny Ryan for his tireless work on this front.

We also managed to retain and grow our pool of supportive sponsors and the hard work of Nick Donlon, Harry Aboud, David Gooch and others ensured the bar was always open to keep the boys well-hydrated and the till ticking over.

Although it has been noted elsewhere, it would be remiss not to mention the performance of 75-strong contingent of outstanding Colts men whose contribution to the club cannot be overstated, on or off the field. Having arguably one of the most talented Barbour Cup sides Colleagues has ever seen, a number of high quality players were forced to bide their time in Radford Cup but rather than complain they demonstrated the true Blue Giant spirit to ensure the Radford boys were the cultural heart of the colts brigade. It's also always great to see the young fellas stepping up to help the grades in the back end of the season and we hope the boys stick around to form the next generation of the club.

I'd like to thank our coaching and management staff for the significant time and effort they gave to the club throughout the season. It was great to see some new blood amongst the group this year and it's always nice to have club legends come back to pick up a clipboard once they've hung up the boots.

I'd also like to thank Cam Ireland and Paul Howard for making my life easier in my first year in the role and I look forward to building on this solid start next year.

Finally, a very special mention must go to departing Club Captain Winston Bradley. Winnie has been the leader of the club for several years and the mountain of work he gets through is unrivalled. But more importantly, Winnie is a champion bloke who has time for everyone at the club and ensures it's always running smoothly.

They'll be big shoes to fill but I look forward to returning alongside the new Club Captain and the rest of the committee to make 2020 even better.

Cheers,

Sam Deans



Club Coach Report



Another sound year for the Blue Giants and a few outstanding points of note. Firstly the Colts, what a year, undefeated throughout the season, winning the GF and finishing with a points differential of 587 points. An incredible result and well done to the players and coaches, brilliant. Halligan also took home the silverware this year thrilling game under lights at Easts. Despite Kings Old Boys being fancied to win, the boys never gave an inch and fought on to take out a fantastic victory. The Halligan comp is a tough one, many different games at many different venues, not always getting to play with the rest of the club, but despite these challenges, the boys got the job done.

This year saw Dave Burnett leave the playing ranks and take on the role of revising our rugby program and work to put in place a new strategy for the 2019 season and beyond. In typical DB style, not stone was left unturned and he pulled together a great program for the year. We were lucky enough to have some time with Robbie Deans who very generously attended a few sessions and gave us a few pointers on how we might improve what we are doing next. The building blocks we have in place from DB's work and Robbie's input will leave us in a great position moving forward.

The Kentwell season was not what the team had hoped for. With a significant number of new players joining the club and the team, the group did not reach its potential and fell short of what they wanted to achieve. There was definitely some highlights, and some of these new players will no doubt become Kentwell stalwarts, I know that the team will be better for the experience this year and the results will be a contrast in the 2020 season. Better prep and a little bit of luck on the injury front will make a world of difference. Look out 2020.



The Burke Cup season was one to remember and they nearly snuck away with the trophy. Some brilliant footy played and some great wins through execution and sheer determination. The team finished 4th in the standings and had to do it the hard way to get to the GF and full credit to them for getting there. Unfortunately the Drummoyne team on the day were too good and although the boys had a real go, it was not to be. Well done to Pete, Robbo and the team on a great result.

Whiddos was a bit like Kentwell. Huge amount of talent in the team but building momentum was tough and wins were hard to come by. It was definitely a season where the boys weren't far off the pace but the continuity wasn't quite there. I am sure this will be different in 2020. Well done to Bunsen, Knighty and the boys and looking for to next season.

If feels strange to write this report and not be writing about a Judd cup grand final or premiership, but unfortunately the boys didn't quite get there this year. The season was filled with some sensational footy and some great wins and Laurie and Monty should be proud of what they and the boys achieved this year. Especially with a disjointed comp and a few teams failing to field a Judd cup team making the preparations all that little bit harder. Well done gents and looking forward to this part of next years' report being filled with Judd Cup glory.

The Suthos team had another great year and the significant rivalry with Mosman saw the teams meet yet again in the GF. Unfortunately Mosman were too good on the day and took the trophy but they boys played very well and had a great season. The performance was made all the more impressive by the difficult nature of the Sutherland cup these days with very few clubs fielding a Suthos team. This means Benny and his team are chasing footy games nearly every week trying to build up momentum and get the team firing. Hopefully the comp will return to some strength next year but well done to the boys on another great year.

The Halligan group had a sensational year leading to them taking out the trophy. As mentioned above, this comp is tough and filled with many teams from all over the place meaning there is a lot more travel and organisation to get through the season. Regardless the boys got the job done and what a win it was.

It is hard to summarise the success of the colts program over the last few years. We have grown from 1 to 3 teams and with the numbers up, success has followed. This year was no exception and culminated with winning the Barbour Cup. What a season, 16 games, 16 wins including a comprehensive GF win. I haven't seen a team as talented as this one in quite a while and filled with good blokes as well. The way they supported the rest of the club after having played their games was sensational. Deansy, Nanks, Boydie, Goochie and the boys well done.

I would also like to thank the coaching group for another great year. A thank less task but you guys do a great job and the club is lucky to have you.

To the executive, committee and new president, well done on a great year. The club is in a strong position and this is largely being driven by your efforts and enthusiasm.

To the supporters, that you for being there each week. The boys love it and the club appreciates it.

To the players, thank you for being Blue Giants. We ask a lot of you and you apply yourselves every week in the sky blue jumper. We were impacted a bit this year due to lack of numbers, especially

throughout the middle of the year. I would encourage you blokes to hang around a bit more and save those holidays for summer. Take it from me, Europe is overrated, skiing is no longer cool, tanning is for summer and there is no better place to be than down at Blue Giant stadium plying your wears on a Saturday. Time to get around the Club for a big 2020.

Thank you for the honour of being club coach, this joint means the world to me and I know 2020 will be a huge year for the Colleagues.

Up the Giants!!!!



Kentwell Cup 2019

Kentwell Report

The Colleagues 2019 Kentwell season was one that slipped away from us in a year that promised quite a bit. We weren't able to build any significant momentum with lots of injuries and a significant number of changes each week. We welcomed a number of new players into the team as well as a new skipper, Lachie Piggot, who made a significant impact on the field and was nominated as a recipient of the Kentwell medal. Despite the significant new talent and a new football structure courtesy of Dave Burnett and Robbie Deans, we weren't able to string together the results required to be successful in this competition. There were plenty of moments of brilliance and some really good games, but the consistency of the team was short and the results showed.



The competition was quite strong this year with Drummoyne and Mosman being the standouts and we struggled to match it with the top 4 teams. Our defence was not where it needed to be and our ability to finish off opportunities was lacking. This is not unusual in a team that is made of a lot of players new to the club and new to playing with each other, however, it requires significant improvement. With the majority of the team back next year, and knowing the sort of blokes they are, I expect there will be a significant turnaround in results.



The season started with a narrow loss to Drummoyne away but the effort during the game was just where we needed it to be and if we had been able to keep that intensity up for the remainder of the season I would be writing a vastly different report to this. Despite the loss, this was the effort and impact that is required to do well in the Kentwell competition. We showed real desire with ball in hand and defence and gave the much fancied Drummoyne a real scare. It should have been a significant building block for us but unfortunately we weren't able to build into it. There were some good wins throughout the season, the games against Balmain, Knox and Waverly were sound wins and you could see the system and style starting to come together, the narrow loss against Blue Mountains at home also showed quite a lot of promise but in a short season, you have to be hitting your straps early to be playing footy in September.

Despite not ending up where we wanted to in terms of the results, we uncovered some great new talent and welcomed a bunch of new blue giants to the Club. Players like Rory, Hammo, Jack Naylor, Seb, Boysons all made great impacts in the debut season in the pack. We also welcomed a number of new backs, James (Dr Birdbath) McMahon, Cam (King in the North) Burnhill, Keirin (Prince in the North) Wilyman and Lachie Condon. The players also enjoyed the protection of Colleagues newest enforcer, James (I'll take the) Lott who was the first into any sticky situation where his mates needed a hand. Special note to the King in the North for picking up B&F and the leading try scorer for 2019.



It was an honour to be involved in the Kentwell team, and getting to work with the likes of Carl, Ash and DB was a real treat. The effort you fellas put in and your dedication to the team was outstanding. I can't thank you enough for your time, patience and enthusiasm. To the senior players and leaders in the team, thank you for your efforts despite us not getting the results we wanted. The fact that you turned up each week



and gave it everything is a testament to the type of humans you are. Special note to DK who feel agonisingly short of his 200 hundred games in Kentwell. We struggled to find the same rhythm without him but I have it on good authority that he will be back next year to see about getting into the 200 hundred club.

To the broader player group and all the reserves who put in each week, a massive thanks to you. We expect a lot of our first graders and anyone who pulls on the Kentwell jumper knows that no matter who we play it will be a tough game as every club loves a win over the Giants. A massive thanks to the colts who stepped up this year and helped out in 1s. You fellas did an outstanding job for us and looked right at home out there as well.

To the rest of the club, well done on your year and thank you for your support. To the guys that hang around and watch each week and the supporters who are there to cheers us on, it is much appreciated.

Well done to those that took home some silverware, well done and special note to the Colts who had a sensational season.

Looking forward to 2019.

Benny.



Burke Cup 2019

Burke Cup Report

The Burke Cup Team of 2019 finished the year with a tough Grand Final Loss to a 'better on the day' Drummoyne team 22 – 29. It was a disappointing end to a season that provided plenty of ups and downs.

After a 'very structured' pre-season provided by the Club Brains Trust, Burke 19' had an inconsistent start to Pool play. A significant issue was the clear success the Flight Centre was having flogging EU holiday packages to Footy Players in need of cultural enlightenment. Player stocks were decimated.



After 7 rounds (halfway) 49 athletes had started in the XV and 'selection experimentation' was rife. Whilst this is reasonably healthy for player development ie getting an opportunity to play up Grade, it is taxing on the development of those key combinations required to win in 2nd Grade. The fluctuating roster during the EU summer did an incredible job of just getting it done for the Club. They did enough to always ensure the Top 4 was within sight. As EU finally closed for the Summer,

some stability returned to the roster, the 'click' arrived. By Rd 10 form and results were good and with only 4 rounds till Finals, things were happening. The team did take the opportunity to remind Minu & Robbo of the perils of Coaching. Providing a Rd 12 shocker v Waverly, @ Home on Ladies Day, losing 25-Zip. Only to bounce back just one week later with a 107 – 6 disfigurement of Balmain.

The Bus Trip to Blue Mountains for the last round of the season provided the opportunity for some the team bonding in a way that only Victory Beers (35-12), Bon Fires and Big Screen Bledisloe can do.



It was a perfect end to Pool play, and the Giants advanced to the Semi's from 4th place behind Mosman, Drummoyne & Waverly.

Very hard to separate the 2 x Semi Final games that followed. Equally both games of the year. Burkie's really lifted to Finals intensity exacting some Ladies Day redemption on Waverly 25-7 then dominating Mosman 18-9 after losing both pool games to them during the Season. To get the ticket to TG Milner from 4th is tough and Burkie's did it in style.

Grand Final day we couldn't have been better prepared, and the Group had plenty of confidence from the Semi's. Unfortunately, on the day Drummoyne simply brought more physicality to contact areas, bullied our scrum (SA v Eng) and some old smarts that really slowed the game down. We just couldn't get our game going. The great Giants crowd got right in behind the team and credit to the Burkie's they fought & hung within striking distance, eventually going down by just the 7 pts.

A thanks to Dingo for his Leadership and chat all year. Walshy for team best and fairest. Also well done to Joey, Griffo & Mando for the Club accolades.

Thanks to all the Players & Coaches and everyone involved in the running this outstanding Rugby Club.

Minu & Robbo

Whiddon Cup Report

The 2019 Whiddon Cup side consisted of a largely new group of grade qualifying colts with a sprinkling of club stalwarts from 2018 hanging around to provide some form of continuity. As always, the Whiddon competition was the most tightly contested competition across first division. Historically, the Whiddon Cup has been targeted by veterans from rival clubs keen for a swansong, and 2019 was no different. The stronger teams in this year's competition were Knox (eventual winners), Drummoyne, Waverley and Mosman.

Ultimately the Colleagues' men finished the season in 6th position, narrowly missing out on a finals birth by 2 points. A slow start to the season worked against us, with mixed results in the first round, which was highlighted by victory over eventual finals qualifiers, Mosman, at Blue Giants' Stadium. The second round allowed Colleagues to maintain some continuity in selections and gain some momentum. Losses of less than 7 points against the competition front runners Knox, Drummoyne, Waverley and controversially to Mosman summed up the season. A win in any of those games would have seen the Whiddos sneak into the top 4 and have a crack at finals footy. Undoubtedly, this young and talented squad will benefit greatly from the many hard lessons learnt at the hands of our rivals elder statesmen, with most games taking the appearance of a fathers v sons matchup.

The Whiddos were ably led by detergent loving Richard "The Grinch" Harvey, in the absence of the injured Richard "Pinhead" Saville, in a 'might means right' manner that would no doubt tug on the heart strings of other Manawatu bogans. Key contributors to the Whiddos' season included Olly Cowley, Archie Weston, Jono Condon, Declan Lloyd, Ted De Haan, Mini Van, Mack Bowman, Pat Aboud, and Will Lembke. A few cameo appearances from Liam Nichols were also welcomed throughout the year.

Although the season didn't finish where the group wanted it to on the field, rugby, and particularly Colleagues is about much more than on-field results. Every year the nucleus of the Whiddon side is formed by subgroups of men who are little known to each other, but required to work together to achieve a common goal. That pathway often results in the forming of indelible friendships that last long beyond a season of subbies rugby. The 2019 Whiddon side was no exception to this rule.



Whiddon Cup winger Harry Martin making a break.

Shout out to Boris who again agreed to host Kangaroo Court at his Point Piper residence. Special attention will be paid to his next choice of residence, which will no doubt be a determinative factor on whether he plays Whiddon or Judd next year.

The side was again coached by Nick "Bunsen" Watson, and Chris Knight who were ably assisted by brothers Charles MacDonald and Pinhead Saville along with Captain Harvey. A changing of the guard for the 2020 Whiddos has been foreshadowed, and there is no doubt that with the talent in this group, there is scope to go much further than the 2019 edition and reclaim the Whiddon Cup for Colleagues.



Judd Cup 2019

Judd Cup Report

What started as a year filled with so much promise, in which the team looked set to defend the cup win from 2018, but came apart at the wrong end of the season when we lost both semi finals. Such are the rugby gods...

The team as a whole played some really good code during the year, even if we did seem to struggle with getting the ball over the line. Judd 2019 was graced with a VERY strong forward pack and very dominate scrum – this was the first time in a long time and provided ample opportunities and excitement around the boys.

One of the biggest challenges for Judd this year (and many other grades) was continuity from week to week to put stable teams particularly backlines on the field due to injuries and players being away. I believe this was a large contributor to our inability to get points on the board when needed. If it was not for a large number of Colts players who made themselves available to grade teams when needed, it would have sometimes been tough to field teams. To those colts thank you very much indeed the club has a great future based on the talent exhibited by the colties amongst the grades (you're all more than welcome in the dome from now until forever).

I can't fault the players for their commitment and desire to have a go and to try new things during the year, but in a 14 week season, with the odd missed game here and there (some clubs must be really doing it tough to forfeit a Judd or Whiddon game), you don't have a lot of time to get things worked out. Combinations and players playing in the same positions week in week out make for continuity in training and playing, thus making winning just that little bit easier.

I'd like to thank Jason for all his hard work with what was an outstanding forward pack this year, and Sam Devine for also assisting at the end of the season after an injury. Finally, thanks to all my fellow



coaches, committee, El President and all those people who work behind the scenes to make the Blue Giants the great club it is.

Till next

Laurence Campbell



Judd Cup and Subbies biggest halfback Sam Devine against Mosman.



Sutherland Cup 2019

Sutherland Report – Grand Finalists

The mighty Sutherland cup was close within our sights all season. Having strong wins throughout the comp with the return of some familiar faces and welcome additions to set up some great combos.

The season was kicked off with a strong 43-0 win which set our EYES on prize from the outset. Some amazing and gritty work up front from Max Dawson saw the scrum remain a pillar for our backs who provided devastating ball running off the breakdown, always smashing the advantage line which gave us the go forward. George Storrier's blistering pace on the wing put the finishing touches on our go forward.

We always knew it would come down to Mosman in the big dance. Unfortunately, we didn't come away with the biccies in a controversial 6-3 loss. Nonetheless, I was proud of the efforts of everyone who stepped onto the field. Extremely proud of the behaviour we displayed off the field as well, a real eye-opener for some.

Would like to thank Benny for his dedication to the Suthos cause for the whole season which put him through some unwarranted stress.

Thanks to the club and supporters!

EYES on for next season!

Benny Abrahams



The victorious Halligan Cup side

Halligan Report

‘3 Peat’

The Colleagues Halligan Cup team had another great year in 2019, winning the Premiership (and minor premiership) to successfully defended their 2017 and 2018 premierships. Many thanks to all who contributed to make it an enjoyable year on and off the field.

The season began with the Halligans annual pre-season tour. Unlike 2017 and 2018, the Halligan boys did not attend their usual trip to Hong Kong to play in the Kowloon RugbyFest, instead heading down to wonderful Wollongong for a game against the Wollongong Tech Waratahs Rugby Club. In positive signs for the season, the boys got the win in a close but high scoring game before heading to the pub to order over 150 rum and cokes, during happy hour of course! This showed the lads were not only committed on and off the pitch but that the halligans culture was alive and well.

The regular season progressed well with only 2 losses, one in the first game of the season with a loss on the buzzer against Sydney Harlequins and the second against the eventual runner up Kings Old Boys; enough to seal the minor premiership. Quite an achievement in what was a hotly contested Halligan Cup competition where we only moved to the top of the ladder for the first time all year in round 13!

After a strong performance in the Semi Final against Lindfield to come away 38-5 winners, the stage was set for a huge Grand Final against Kings Old Boys, giving the team a chance to avenge their previous loss.

The Grand Final was an epic affair against Kings Old Boys played under lights at Woollahra Oval in front of a large boisterous crowd. The game was initially very tight where KOBs to their credit were on top in the early exchanges. We went into half time down on the scoreboard 6-0 and one man down after receiving a yellow card for a dangerous tackle. The second half didn't start much better with our returning player instantly receiving a red card (matching his hair) for a second dangerous tackle. With 14 men, Halligans mounted the greatest comeback I have seen in my association with the club as we came back and scored 2 late tries to win the game 14-6. It was a most sweet victory against a very strong KOBs outfit and a great way to bring up our third premiership in a row. We cannot rest on our

laurels as we know the other clubs are determined to stop a fourth premiership in a row and we look forward to the challenge.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed and played for us throughout the year. Special thanks goes to: Sam and James Taylor who worked tirelessly behind the scenes organising everything; Captain David Tink who always led from the front (and gave a great Tinky salute to the vocal KOBs crowd after he converted in the GF); Sean O'Mara who deservedly won best and fairest for playing the house down every week; club/ Halligan oldest and boldest Luke Kenniff; our always dangerous centre pairing of Jules and Roles; and Burke coach Minu for his work all season capped off by the 2 premiership winning tries he scored in the GF (don't be shy to ask him about them as he won't be shy to talk you through them)!

Also, thanks to Club Pres Cam and Club Secretary Winnie for all their strong support during the year.

Halligans as always is only as strong as the social network around it and is a great entry point to the club. Many thanks to all the regular Halligans contingent, to those returning back to the team after a few years off - Gussy Allen and Elliot Hanna, as well as all the new faces - Walshy, Coatsey, Truman, Greeny, Philly Dan etc, we look forward to seeing you all next year and remember bring a mate down to get involved in the four-peat!



The 2019 Colts contingent

Colts Report

2019 was an unprecedented success for the Colleagues colts group, with 75 paid and registered players for the season. This enabled Colleagues to field three colts teams – Barbour, Radford and Radford II, with the teams affectionately known as the Barbour Bredleys, Radford Grogmen and the Radford Goats. Each team was filled with talent and great blokes. The teams were skewed to allow the older lads to play in the higher teams while the younger boys formed the heart of the Radford IIs. It was a pleasure to get to know these young men, who quickly grew to love playing for the club and embraced the culture of the mighty Blue Giants.

A shoutout must also go to Boydy, Goochie and Jonny Ryan. It took a team effort to manage such a large group of lads and the successful season on & off the field wouldn't have been possible without their endless commitment and support.

Barbour - Undefeated 2019 Champions



This was by far the most talented group of colts we have seen come through the books over the past decade as plenty of talent came in from surrounding Shute Shield clubs looking to give up the training and pick up the beers. However, this incoming talent did not overshadow the boys from last year who returned bigger, faster and stronger than ever. The team was captained by club favourite Joe Yeomans, who was one third of a dominant back row featuring country hard men Jack Lamph and Charlie Crawford. These three had a fantastic year and I feel sorry for any poor opposition forward looking up from a pick and go to see the shoulders of these three bruisers coming at them.

In all honesty the Barbour Cup competition was disappointingly weak in 2019, with the only real contenders being Mosman and ourselves. For the most part the other teams failed to offer a punch and most of our wins ended up being 50+. So we'll just focus on the theme of the season in this report – 'JUST BEAT MOSMAN' – which we did comprehensively 5 times throughout the season, including a hard-fought Grand Final. The defending champion Mosman team were very good themselves and our battles are the highlight of the Rugby calendar.

Myself and Deansy are very proud of the boys and their season this year and would love to write an essay about each of them but for now we will just touch on the whole team. There was talent all over the park and if we can keep them at Colleagues for next season, we will have a fantastic foundation to continue the long tradition of winning in the Senior grades. The forward pack set the standard and the backs were able to capitalise on plenty of space. One player in the backline who deserves praise is Hamish Sheehan, who was an absolute standout kicking goals and as an attacking weapon all year round.

Next year we look forward to welcoming back a few players from this season's Barbour Cup, including Ralph Mitchell, John Downes and Brendan Cush.

Until then, we've got the Barbour Cup in our hands!

Radford I – Plate Winners

This was an extremely talented Radford Cup team who would likely have played Barbour level in any other team. These boys were the cultural leaders of the Colts group, meaning they were the last to get to training but the last to leave the pub, and they created a close-knit bond because of this. The boys were masterfully coached by Michael Boyd and led by two future leaders of the club in Stuart Mclean and Jackson Scott. Both these boys bought into the culture of Colleagues and that meant the Radford team followed suit – some great friendships were formed and great footy was played under the guidance of these two gentlemen.

Thankfully the Radford Cup was much more competitive for players this season, with four teams playing good competitive footy. Gordon (under the guise of Chatswood), Briars, Colleagues and Mosman were all evenly matched this season but it was clear the two best teams in the comp were Colleagues and Chatswood. Due to some scheduling ambiguities throughout the season a Colleagues team who only dropped one game ended up playing in the Plate Final against Mosman, which we won much to the chagrin of Mosman Club supporter and potential Wallabies coach Phil Kearns. This was a particularly satisfying win in the cold and rain on a Friday night under lights at Rawson Oval. Although we didn't win the competition proper, we certainly had a good time trying and it was great to see many of the Radford boys feature in finals through the senior grades and in Barbour Cup.

Radford II

Lastly, we finish with the Radford Goats. These guys were taken good care of by the Colts Cultural advisor David Gooch. Goochie speaks very highly and emotionally about this team and he is extremely

proud of their achievements throughout the season. The boys were led around the park by Colleagues stalwart Angus Macintyre and newcomer Jack Richards. AMac led the boys admirably, especially when they came up against stiff competition such as Mosman and Chatswood, while their most notable win came against a tough Wollongong University side. Wollongong came up the Hume highway thinking would pinch an easy win of the boys but we absolutely stuck it to them, running away with a big victory 29 to 12.

There was some exceptional playing coming from our outside backs throughout the season, including versatile young gun Angus Macdonald and the Iceman Jack Richards, both having stellar seasons. Hopefully these two hang around for next year as they both have some exceptional footy ahead of them for the Blue Giants.

The boys had a great season and a good time playing for the Blue Giants and we look forward to seeing them progress up the ranks in 2020.

A great year was had, looking forward to next year.

Cheers,

Ed Nankivell



The undefeated Barbour Cup premiership winning side



Convicts Report

2019 has been a good year for the Convicts which started off in February with high attendance and participation at our pre-season sessions. For the first time in our history we entered a 7s team into a pre-season 7s Tournament competing in the 3rd division of the annual Kiama 7s which was great for the development of some of our senior players and also a really fun day.

2019 also saw another big step up in a more strategic and effective Development pathway for new to rugby players. Lead by Tommy Bourne we took on about 20 new to rugby players with about 10 of these graduating to our 2s squad by the end of the season, 1 player even made it into 1st grade in the final game of the year.

In subbies we competed in Jeffrey & Halligan Cups. Despite promising starts for both sides, injury and other unforeseen absences impacted weekly performances throughout the season with first grade missing finals and second grade achieving one draw as their best result.

Despite a difficult subbies season with players returning from injury then we were able to send two full teams and a joint BaaBaas side to the 2019 Purchas Cup in Brisbane. The hard work and perseverance of the season was on display with both Convicts teams playing exceedingly well and winning the Purchas Cup & Shield undefeated. Both teams scored in total more than 300 points, with less than 20 scored against us in 4 matches.

2020 is shaping up to be a big year for us, we already have the goal to make finals again in Jeffrey Cup and with 2020 being a Bingham year, we are preparing to send 3 squads for the first time to the Bingham Cup in Ottawa, Canada. As always, we wouldn't be able to achieve this any of this without the support of being a part of Woollahra Colleagues, thank you to Cam and the team and looking forward to working more closely in 2020.

Don Rose
President - Sydney Convicts Rugby Club



Division 1 Club Championship		Points
Mosman		3680
Drummoyne		3273
Woollahra Colleagues		2977
Waverley		1882
Blue Mountains		1793
Petersham		1690
Knox		1298
Balmain		26

Kentwell	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Drummoyne	14	13	1	0	573	158	415	8	62
Mosman	14	11	1	2	614	256	358	14	60
Blue Mountains	14	8	0	6	449	455	-6	10	42
Petersham	14	8	0	6	441	341	100	9	41
Waverley	14	6	0	8	340	285	55	10	34
Colleagues	14	5	0	9	313	395	-82	8	28
Knox	14	2	0	12	259	581	-322	6	14

Burke	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Mosman	14	13	0	1	580	185	395	12	64
Drummoyne	14	13	0	1	621	117	504	10	62
Waverley	14	9	0	5	428	162	266	8	44
Colleagues	14	8	0	6	434	230	204	6	38
Blue Mountains	14	5	0	9	324	358	-34	5	25
Petersham	14	5	0	9	264	316	-52	5	25
Knox	14	3	0	11	217	522	-305	3	15
Balmain	14	0	0	14	54	1032	-978	0	0

Whiddon	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Waverley	14	10	1	3	281	128	153	7	49
Knox	14	10	0	4	305	165	140	5	45
Mosman	14	9	0	5	360	207	153	7	43
Drummoyne	14	8	0	6	318	194	124	9	41
Blue Mountains	14	7	1	6	176	227	-51	5	35
Colleagues	14	6	0	8	238	214	24	9	33
Petersham	14	5	0	9	218	247	-29	5	25
Balmain	14	0	0	14	67	581	-514	1	0



Judd	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Mosman	14	12	1	1	297	128	169	6	56
Colleagues	14	11	0	3	251	117	134	5	49
Petersham	14	8	2	4	304	151	153	9	45
Waverley	14	8	0	6	224	166	58	5	37
Drummoyne	14	7	0	7	233	144	89	9	37
Knox	14	6	0	8	226	230	-4	6	26
Blue Mountains	14	2	1	11	157	336	-179	6	16
Balmain	14	0	0	14	7	427	-420	0	0

Sutherland	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Mosman 6ths	11	10	1	0	320	28	292	7	49
Colleagues	12	10	0	2	263	69	194	7	47
Mosman	11	7	0	4	206	162	44	5	33
Waverley	12	6	0	6	149	151	-2	5	29
Drummoyne	12	4	0	8	87	241	-154	1	17
Petersham	12	2	1	9	55	269	-214	2	12
Blue Mountains	12	1	0	11	94	254	-160	5	9

Barbour	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Colleagues	14	14	0	0	623	36	587	13	69
Mosman	14	11	0	3	502	139	363	13	57
Knox	14	9	0	5	330	233	97	7	43
Drummoyne	14	8	0	6	310	347	-37	8	40
Blue Mountains	14	4	0	10	192	384	-192	8	24
Petersham	14	5	0	9	135	370	-235	4	18
Waverley	14	5	0	9	173	362	-189	4	16
Balmain	14	0	0	14	12	406	-394	0	0

Radford	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Chatswood	7	7	0	0	344	48	296	7	35
Briars	7	5	0	2	132	131	1	2	22
Colleagues II	5	4	0	1	163	69	94	4	20
Colleagues III	6	3	0	3	83	155	-72	2	14
Mosman II	6	3	0	3	112	174	-62	1	13
Uni of Wollongong	7	2	0	5	115	161	-46	4	12
Burraneer	6	0	0	6	38	142	-104	3	3
Mosman III	4	0	0	4	36	143	-107	1	1



Halligan	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Colleagues 6ths	13	11	0	2	395	81	314	9	53
King's Old Boys	13	10	0	3	311	178	133	7	47
Menai	11	9	0	2	352	188	164	8	44
King's Old Boys II	8	7	0	1	294	110	184	7	35
Lindfield	10	5	0	5	260	104	156	9	29
Mosman 7ths	12	5	1	6	211	364	-153	4	26
Sydney Harlequins	8	4	0	4	164	131	33	5	21
Chatswood	5	2	1	2	115	141	-26	4	14
Forest	9	3	0	6	76	252	-176	1	13
Burraneer	2	2	0	0	79	31	48	2	10
Alexandria Dukes	2	1	0	1	39	10	29	2	6
Dee Why	1	1	0	0	74	0	74	1	5
Western Raptors	1	1	0	0	64	0	64	1	5
Colleagues II	1	1	0	0	41	3	38	1	5
Drummoyne	1	1	0	0	33	7	26	1	5
Beecroft	1	1	0	0	22	12	10	1	5
Colleagues	1	1	0	0	25	21	4	1	5
Wakehurst	2	1	0	1	59	26	33	1	5
UNSW	2	1	0	1	43	34	9	1	5
Epping	2	1	0	1	27	50	-23	1	5
Lane Cove	5	1	0	4	44	152	-108	1	5
Mosman 5ths	1	1	0	0	15	5	10	0	4
Macquarie Uni	2	1	0	1	49	26	23	0	4
Waverley	3	0	1	2	46	83	-37	1	3
Sydney Convicts	13	0	1	12	67	462	-395	1	3
Briars	1	0	0	1	22	44	-22	1	1
Northern Saints	2	0	0	2	31	55	-24	1	1
Hunters Hill	3	0	0	3	19	92	-73	1	1
Lindfield 4ths	1	0	0	1	10	19	-9	0	0
Blue Mountains	1	0	0	1	0	14	-14	0	0
Petersham 4ths	1	0	0	1	15	40	-25	0	0
Renegades	1	0	0	1	0	64	-64	0	0
Sydney Irish	1	0	0	1	0	66	-66	0	0
Hills	2	0	0	2	12	46	-34	0	0
Petersham	2	0	0	2	7	41	-34	0	0



Canterbury	2	0	0	2	12	81	-69	0	0
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Jeffrey	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP	Pts
Burraneer	15	12	0	3	553	241	312	18	66
Engadine	15	10	0	5	567	345	222	13	53
North Cronulla	15	10	0	5	392	294	98	8	48
Maccabi	15	5	0	10	330	431	-101	6	26
Alexandria Dukes	15	4	0	11	278	510	-232	5	21
Sydney Convicts	15	4	0	11	243	542	-299	3	19
Burraneer	15	12	0	3	553	241	312	18	66
Engadine	15	10	0	5	567	345	222	13	53



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