

Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club



2022 Annual Report



**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES
RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

(Established 1933)

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

Office Bearers 2022

PATRON: Her Worship the Mayor of Woollahra

PRESIDENT: Cameron Ireland

VICE PRESIDENTS:

John Anderson, Tim Booth, Michael Caspers, David Gooch, Ron Harriden, John Hitchen, Doug Kirkwood, John Noice, Sandy Ross, Brian Wood, Cameron Ireland, Richard McGrath, Tim Cullen

CLUB CAPTAIN: Jack Williams

SECRETARY: Oliver Lembke

TREASURER: Jason Monteath

COMMITTEE:

Nick Donlon, Will Yeo, Harry Aboud, Sam Devine, Hugo Mactier, Ollie Cowley, Sam Bush, Ben Hooper, Jock Windsor, Will Lembke, Toby Cooke, Max Wadell,

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 2022

Team Captains

Radford Cup	PJ Foord
Sutherland Cup	Henry McInnes
Judd Cup	Andrew Pahoff
Whiddon Cup	Al L'estrange
Barbour Cup	Charlie Woodhouse
Burke Cup	Jack King
Kentwell Cup	Ben Hooper

Team Coaches

Radford Cup	Michael Boyd,
Sutherland Cup	James Taylor & Sam Taylor
Judd Cup	Laurence Campbell & Ben Abrahams
Whiddon Cup	Sam Devine & Andrew McKillop
Barbour Cup	Pete Minucos & Ben Wood
Burke Cup	Sam Deans & Charles Macdonald
Kentwell Cup	Ben Waters, Carl O'Sullivan & David Burnett
Club Coach	Ben Waters

Best & Fairest

Radford Cup	Sam Bragg
Sutherland Cup	Jay Workman
Judd Cup	Jonathan Lobban
Whiddon Cup	Angus Williams
Barbour Cup	Oscar Cheal
Burke Cup	Robin Allen
Kentwell Cup	Olly Stump
Club	Jack Lamph

Club Awards

Colleagues Honour Cap	Harry Aboud
The Pappas Award	Toby Cooke
Players' Player	Joe Sangster & Jack Murphy
Kentwell Cup Players' Player	Olly Stump
Rookie of the Year	Dom Walker
Most Improved Player	Scott Miller
Leading Try Scorer	Oscar Cheal
Leading Point Scorer	Charlie Woodhouse
Oldest and Boldest	Dank Kelly and Jonathan Lobban

100 games Chris Price

200 games Dan Kelly



President's Report

First and foremost, congratulations to all players and coaches for a tremendous year. Ending a regular season with all grades being represented in the finals is a mammoth achievement!! To all our coaches, thank you. As a club, we are blessed to have such a talented group of individuals running our teams each week. I know it is not an easy task juggling players through the grades and I know that some weeks it is a mission to get 15 players to the game on time however you seem to manage to do this week in week out. Until someone becomes a coach, they probably don't understand the amount of work that goes in behind the scenes and the way you do this without complaint or pushing, is greatly appreciated.

With ongoing team changes due to a long list of injuries, players travel plans and wet weather impediments it was a tough year to build momentum. All grades took these challenges onboard to deliver some absolutely cracking rugby this year. The taste of victory was enjoyed mid-way through the regular season with a GF win for our Radford Cup, affectionately now known as the Radford Rats. Whilst we were unfortunate not able to secure a grand final berth in Burke, Whiddon, Judd and Sutherland Cups, these teams can all be extremely proud of their performance in 2022 making it through to the knock out semi rounds. A Grand Final showdown for Barbour and Kentwell was a fitting reward for a fabulous season.

Grand Final day delivered mixed results with Barbour going down valiantly to a very strong Waverley team. Kentwell on the other hand delivered a spectacular performance and secured the premiership over Hunters Hill. Winning the Kentwell Cup requires a level of commitment and hard work that often goes unnoticed by many. After the unfinished business of 2021 where our Colleagues Kentwell team went through 10 rounds undefeated to then face a cancelled season, a full season in 2022 has been completed with fitting reward for their dedication.

Whilst the year will mostly be remembered by the on-field results, it was equally matched with the commitment off the field. The way each team has embraced their weekly bbq, set up and canteen commitments has been great to see. This hands-on approach saves the club a lot of money and drives a higher level of club ownership and responsibility. The commitment of the club committee to muster the troops and do the heavy lifting as required is the benchmark for all rugby clubs. Our club, with the exception of a few, has never really had much of an active old boy involvement so the way our committee, club members, from colts to grade take control and get the jobs done is extremely rewarding to see. I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to making our club the envy of most others.

On the social front, our annual Long Lunch was a great success and Old Colleagues Day was very well attended. The back-to-back format of these two events seems to work well as the feedback from those attending is always positive. Ladies Day was planned to precision however the weather gods had other plans. The last-minute call to move all games to easts didn't detract from the festivities as guests danced and sang along with the Moral Merchant under the tent city which was created in minutes as the deluge started!

Our physios did a stellar job this year managing all teams, especially considering the constant venue changes, time adjustments and roster shuffling!

To our executive thank you again for your support this year. Oli and Jack were a great team in their first year under testing circumstances and Monty has done a power of work in getting grants completed and keeping our finances in check. Having Goochie helping in the background always provides a level of reassurance! A massive thank you also to Nic Donlon for his commitment to keeping our clubhouse running for another year!



Thankyou to all our sponsors (see below) and supporters this year. Without your ongoing support and commitment, we would not enjoy the success that has been celebrated extensively this year!!

Bring on 2023!

Thankyou.

Cam Ireland





Club Captain Report



Treasurer's Report

After two years of COVID-shortened seasons, it was great to see the club pick up right where we left off claiming two premierships. I'm sure all other teams will be coming back hungry for more next year with all teams making it to at least the second week of finals. Well done to all the Magnificent Men who donned the Blue Jersey in 2022.

Like last year we were able to have two special events in the form of the Long Lunch and a Ladies Day. Subs were very strong with all players taking the field in the second round of finals having paid. Sponsorships were solid, and we continued to be supported by grants allowing some upgrades to the clubhouse in the form of new fridges in the bar, the installation of the spectator seating at Blue Giants Stadium and some training equipment like the ice bath.... We saw some strong support on the sidelines and in the clubhouse at all home games when the weather allowed. All this meant we improved the cash position of the Club year on year but delivered an operating loss due to depreciation charges.

The Calligeros Group's Bellevue Hotel, in conjunction with the Royal Hotels Group's Royal Oak, again provided the Club with support and we will look to continue with them next year.

2022 saw the continuation of sponsorship from Qube, Fortius, Sharp IT and SVP Partners, as well as Mark Foy through Belle Property, John Ryan through Ryan's Bar, Gordon Brothers, MJ Bale and Jan Logan.

The support from sponsors throughout 2022 who have stuck with us through the last few uncertain years is greatly appreciated by the Club. Sponsors play a significant role in supporting the Club allowing us to be able to continue to support the day to day operations without eroding our cash reserves.

In terms of our social events, as mentioned, we hosted a Ladies Day and the Long Lunch. The Long Lunch profited from the inclusion of the Jersey Calcutta and an influx of heritage jerseys around the Club. Ladies Day was a bit damp with the games played on Woollahra 1 and live streamed back to BGS. Both events were strongly attended and supported, despite the wet weather on Ladies Day. These events also contributed positively to the Club's cash reserves.

As is stated each year, the cost of running such a large Club will continue to escalate with rising insurance, registration and council costs.

To Club President, Club Secretary and Club Captain, Cam Ireland, Oliver Lembke and Jack Williams, thanks for a great year. It was great to have Lemmo and LJ in formal leadership roles this year. The passion shown by these guys for the Club is second to none. To run a club of our size so smoothly needs great dedication and we've been fortunate to be led by these guys and supported by the committee and coaches in 2022.

I would also like to thank Nick Donlon for running everything gameday-related (aptly supported by Honour Cap recipient Harry Aboud – Well done mate!), and to David Gooch for managing the gear and merchandise. Clubs the size of ours would cease to function without the generous input of these guys, aptly supported by the committee and Club's volunteers – cheers to all of you magnificent men.

Lastly, I am confident that the Club has the capacity to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Jason Monteath

Honorary Treasurer



Club Secretary Report

What a year for the mighty Blue Giants!

Off the back of the disappointment of the COVID-19 season of 2021, which will forever be remembered for what could have been, heading into season 2022 the Colleagues had some unfinished business to attend to.

The season kicked off with a pre-season trip out west to the annual Boorowa Goldies Beer and Rugby festival. Against some formidable opposition the Colleagues acquitted themselves remarkably well never backing down from the challenge and despite this being our first hit-out the Blue Giants proved they had not lost any of their fitness over the off season.....we played some half decent Rugby on the field as well. Thanks for the Boorowa Goldies and the Boorowa Hotel for hosting us, we look forward to coming back again in 2023.

We welcomed a wide variety of new blood as well as some old faces who had been out in the wilderness for a year or two back to the club and all contributed to the success of the Colleagues in 2022. Furthermore the 2022 colts' program under the astute leadership of Pete Minucos and Micheal Boyd picked up where 2021 left off, with enough numbers to easily fill two sides.

Unfortunately, the main obstacle for the Colleagues to begin the year came in La Nina, with almost every round of the first half of the season disrupted by weather in some form. Our first full round at BGS involving all 5 grades plus colts didn't come until round 7! The wet conditions didn't seem to deter the Blue Giants' march towards glory with all sides comfortably making finals and at the very least advancing to within one week of the big dance.

For the first time since 2019, and COVID rearing its ugly head we were fortunate enough to run a full slate of social event in 2022 and hold onto our mantle as the best off field Rugby club in the country. From a very successful long lunch/old boys day, bus tours all the way to Drummoyne, and the player's ball at Cabana bar there was plenty of opportunities for players and supporters alike to let their hair down.

However, perhaps the pick of the regular season events was the 2022 Ladies Day which was later in the year than normal, scheduled for round 14 and also happened to coincide with a torrential rain event in Sydney's east. Despite the muddy conditions under foot and all fixtures having to be moved to Easts the show went on at BGS, with the playing group and volunteers pitching in to ensure all our guests were well looked after and the day was a tremendous success. The final icing on the cake a Blue Rinse over Drummoyne to finish off the regular season!

A massive congratulations to Boydy, PJ Foord and our Radford Cup premiership winning side. It was a thrilling grand final under lights at Easts, despite Wakehurst getting off to a flying start the young Giants did not panic and came over the top of them in the second half and begin what seemed like a month of celebrations for the "Radford Rats".

The yearly pilgrimage to TJ Milner was highly anticipated this year with both our minor premiership winning Barbour and Kentwell teams involved. Unfortunately, Waverly were too strong in the Colties, who performed admirably and can hold their heads high. We look forward to seeing a number of these young guns up in grade next year.

After the heartache of 2021 it was particularly special to see the hard work of our 1st grade squad pay off as they claimed our first Kentwell Cup since 2011. Congratulations to Benny, DB, Carl, Ash, Hoops and the rest of the team on what was a very nerve-racking hard-fought premiership.



A special mention must go to Nick Donlon, Harry Aboud and all other members of the committee who devoted their time to ensure this great club operates week on week.

I'd like to thank our coaching and management staff for the significant time and effort they gave to the club throughout the season.

I'd also like to thank Cam Ireland, Jason Monteath and Jack Williams for their tireless support this year. Their significant contributions go largely unnoticed by many but the club simply wouldn't function without their efforts and dedication. Special mention must go to Club Captain Jack Williams who was outstanding in his first year in the job.

Unfortunately, this will be my first and last season as Club Secretary as I'm moving out of town in 2023. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in the role, and I wish the incoming Secretary and Club Captain all the best and look forward to watching the success of the club from afar (cluch) in 2023

Cheers,

Oli Lembke





Club Coach Report



Overall the 2022 season was a very successful one and one the club should be very proud off. All teams into the finals, three grand finalists and two premierships is a pretty handy outcome. Especially given the challenges the club faced in 2022, a very long offseason given the covid restrictions bringing season 2021 to a premature end and with the re-opening of the boarders saw a number of the Giants head overseas, but these were minor challenges compared to the weather. The amount of rain and trainings cancelled was outrageous and made getting everyone ready for round one very difficult. Disjointed trials, weeks on end where we couldn't get on the ovals certainly tested the club but much thanks must go to the executive and the committee for the outstanding work they did in managing council and getting us access to grounds to get games played and supporting other training initiatives to keep the boys in good shape.

Halligan Cup

Because of the disjointed lower grades this year, Colleagues had 4 teams competing in the Halligan competition which must be some sort of record. Colleagues 5s, 6s, 7s and 8s all competed with Colleagues 7th grade taking out minor premiers and Colleagues 5th grade coming forth. Much respect and admiration must go to the Blue Giants who play in the comp as there is a hell of a lot of work that goes into organising the games week in and week out, the travel and the fact that regardless of where the boys play, they are always back at the club supporting the rest of the teams. Well done gents and another great season representing the might Blue Giants.

Sutherland Cup

The Sutherland Cup boys had another strong year and although missing out on making the grand final, the season was a great building block for the years to come. Unfortunately the competition is not as strong as it has been in the past with very few clubs being in a position to field a consistent team. This makes it difficult on players and coaches alike with a huge amount of additional admin.



Having said that the boys played some great running rugby and were unlucky not to be in the grand final to face off against Mosman. Well done fellas, a great effort in a difficult year.

Judd Cup

The Juddies boys had a little bit of a slow start to the year but once they got going they showed that they were able to keep pace with the best teams in the comp. Laurie and Benny did a great job of managing the team in what was a very competitive comp. There wasn't much between 2nd and 4th and the boys were unlucky not to squeeze through into the grand final. The Blue Mountains team that won the comp was always going to be tough to beat given they let in less than 3 points a game but the Colleagues boys were brave and did the club proud. As usual the team scored some great length of the field tries and defended like a Blue Giant should. There was also some great talent uncovered in the Juddies ranks this year and looking forward to a big 2023.

Whiddon Cup

Affectionately known as the Wombats, the Whiddon boys toiled hard during the regular season with some great wins but a few surprising losses as well. In what was a pretty tough competition, the boys brought the season home with a wet sail finishing 5th on the table and then going on to improve the final standing at 3rd after the finals. Macca and Sam did a great job bringing the boys together and the Wombats played some great footy. When they were on, they were a very tough side to handle and pushed all the top teams and nearly pulled off the upset of the season with a narrow loss to the much favoured Waverly in the semi's who then went on to win the comp. Well done gents, the way you played the final series showed the potential of the team and the Wombats continued to produce key talent for the higher grades.

Radford Cup

What a season and what a great bunch of blokes. After winning the comp against a tough outfit from Wakehurst, the boys stayed involved and supported many of the other grades throughout the rest of the season. The club is very grateful and appreciative for the support the boys showed the club, stepping up on a number of occasions when senior teams were short. With just one loss in the regular season, the Radford boys went through the finals to bring home the cup on a Friday night down at Easts. It was a tough game but the boys hung in there and got the job done. To Boydie and the team, congratulations on the win, huge effort, but just as importantly, thank you for all your support through the grades. Great outcome and well done.

Barbour Cup

An outstanding season for the Barbour Cup boys only to fall at the last hurdle against what was a ridiculously stacked team from Waverly. The Colts were one of the standout teams for the club this year and this showed in their results. Finishing top of the table and rolling into the GF only to be denied from capping off what was a great season. The talent this year in the colts team was sensational. Many of the bolts played up the grades and supported 1s and 2s on a regular basis and never looking out of place. The willingness of the boys to step up and support the club was great and we look forward to seeing many of those same players pulling on the Burke and Kentwell jumpers in the future. To Minu and Woodsie, a great season fellas and very unlucky to not get there in the end. Well done Colts and looking forward to seeing you blokes tear it up in the senior grades in years to come.

Burke Cup

The Burke Cup regular season was a tough ride in what was a very competitive competition. The boys regularly pushed the top teams but had a few games that slipped away from them at key moments. However, their win against a much fancied Mosman team in the first week of the finals was one to remember. A huge effort and great win. There were a number of changes throughout



the year, and key injuries in the Kentwell back line did put some pressure on the Burke squad but there was no lack of effort from the team. Thanks to Deansie and Chuck for all their efforts in getting the boys ready and it was great to see Chuck rip the boots on and take out a number of 3 points during the season. Whilst the season may not have ended up where the boys would have hoped, given the changes and the challenges from the weather, a solid result. A special thanks has to go to the boys for standing by and supporting Kentwell.

Kentwell Cup

In what was a very competitive competition, the Kentwell boys were able to pick up from where they left 2021 and get the job done. The boys took the top ladder spot in round 1 and were not bested for the rest of the season and whilst the semi against Mosman was hard fought, the boys got there in the end to roll Hunters Hill in the GF. It was a great day and a great reward for a group of players that worked harder than everyone else in the comp to be ready and give themselves every chance of the win. With a few key injuries, Luke Brown, Connor Size, the talent depth was tested but thanks to all those players that stepped up when asked. Special mention needs to go to retiring skipper Ben Hooper for all his hard work over the years and a hugely fitting end to Dan Kelly's career. Well done gents and well done to the playing group. To DB and Carl – you guys were huge this year and your efforts were a big part of the difference.

There are always a lot of thanks in any season. To the committee and all those that do all those thankless tasks, your efforts re very much appreciated. To the fans, sponsors and old boys, thank you for your support of the club. It makes such a difference. To all the coaches, thank you for the many hours you put in and your efforts to give the boys every chance of success. Finally to the players – well done fellas, a great year.

Thank you also for the honour of being club coach. There is nothing better than being a Blue Giant and looking forward to 2023.

Benny Waters

Kentwell Cup 2022 Report

The 2022 season had a lot to live up to and a lot of expectation given the performance of the Kentwell team in 2021 and the disappointing end to that season. The team came together well and it was clear from pre-season that the boys were very keen to pick up from where they left off in 2021. From round 1 they took top spot on the ladder and did not relinquish that through the regular season. The effort of the players, was nothing short of amazing this year and it was very pleasing to see them get the rewards they so richly deserved. When it comes to Subbies rugby success, so much of that comes down to the leadership group and the player buy-in to be doing the tough work when others won't. This team had it in spades. Prepared to do the extras and the hard work and the results looked after themselves. This is backed up by the stats, with the team only giving away 12 points a game across the regular season and scoring just north of 30. You want to win Kentwell, you have to be prepared to defend and the attitude toward defence and getting the hard work done was second to none.

Backs Update – Carl O'Sullivan



The 2022 season began with huge promise for the backs. After a disappointing end to the 2021 season, being cancelled due to COVID-19, there was a feeling of unfinished business regarding the 2022 season.

Joe Sangster, Dan Kelly, Jack Murphy, Luke Brown, Nic Clancy, Alex MacDonald, Sean Anese and Connor Size were all returning to try and continue the success of the previous year. There were several colts and new recruits pushing for selection such as Dom Walker, Ralph Mitchell, and Ethan Miller, raising hopes that 2021 would not be a one-off success.

Round 1 saw almost the same backline run out against Mosman that has done so in the last game of 2021 against the same opposition. With a similar game plan and already established combinations, the good guys prevailed 38-0 in a 5 try flogging of the old foe. We were picking off just where we had left off in 2021 with good connection in defence and enterprising attacking play.

This was followed by wins in the first 6 rounds where the Blue Giants disposed of Waverley, Petersham, Hunters Hill (welcomed to the comp in 2022), Drummoyne and Mosman scoring 25 tries in the process. Arguably more impressively however, was our defence, conceding on average just 10 points per game.

Joe Sangster, rapidly becoming a Kentwell veteran, was assured and calm both in attack and defence, firing the ball from the base of the ruck. Dan Kelly, a Kentwell veteran 10 years ago, was equally composed, executing our game plan and unleashing attack raids and Burton Bombs at will, toying with the opposition. Our centre combination of Luke Brown and Nic Clancy, both 100kg plus, were a huge advantage either punching the ball through past the gain-line or attracting defenders to unleash the wider channels and defending with venom. This platform allowed Connor "50/22" Size to pin down opposition teams through his precise kicking while Jack Murphy, Alex MacDonald and Ethan Miller could finish off phase play with tries or chase hard or defend fearlessly.

However, key injuries to Luke Brown (season) and Dan Kelly affected our momentum. This gave opportunity to Ralph Mitchell to secure his place in the side, Dom Walker to experience the top grade and Sean Anese to continue his contribution from 2021.

The boys were training well, combinations were developing, and the group was confident. However, the ease with which we were executing our game plan and breaking through the opposition was not as obvious as the previous year, the other teams were doing their homework and catching up.

The result was a disjointed performance and a narrow loss at home to Waverley (10-14) in round 7, our first loss in two years. This coincided with the Sydney rain arriving and many fragmented training weeks. Ironically, this experience seemed to galvanise the men, training through cold, wind and rain to improve and not let the opportunity pass us by. Our attack started to click, and over the next 6 games we scored 35 tries and despite a loss away to Hunters Hill, secured the Kentwell minor premiership for the first time since the mid-1980s.

This brought us to the semi-finals and a night game against Mosman (again!) under lights at Easts. The character shown by the men in sky blue was awesome. Down 8-0 with 15 mins to play with key injuries, blokes playing under duress and nothing seemingly going our way, finally we cut through the defence with a brilliant run by Andrew Roche to score in the corner. A few minutes later, Jack Lamph dived over from close range and the good guys prevailed 10-8 to proceed into the Grand Final against Hunters Hill.

As predicted, the game was again an arm wrestle for the first 65 minutes, with both teams locked 13-13. However, Colleagues were clearly the better team and all the work put into our game



scenarios, team moves, and conditioning were placing enormous pressure on Hunters Hill. After all the adversity faced by the men over the previous weeks, we knew we were fitter, more skilled, better drilled, and hungrier for a result. The dam broke in the 65th minute and again in the 70th minute and the good guys secured the 2022 premiership with a gutsy and memorable 22-13 win.

Special mention needs to go to Dan Kelly. Dan first played for the club in 2004 and has given almost two decades of service to the game and this club that cannot be ignored or fully appreciated. At 40 years young he competed with men half his age in our top grade, equally inspiring and surprising his teammates and coaches with his ability to continue to perform and contribute, culminating in orchestrating a grand final win, a fitting end to stellar career. Put simply, thank you DK.

My thanks to Ben Waters, Dave Burnett, and Ash Reilly and all the coaches at Colleagues who put so much time and effort into this club and their teams. Seasons like 2022 make it all worthwhile.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all the players who put on a Kentwell jersey in 2022. You've all contributed to the premiership win and I hope you've enjoyed yourself and improved as players – judging by the 3-day bender post season, you've all made mates for life, and that's the true magic of rugby.

A brilliant season and one I will never forget. See you in January to do it all again in 2023. LFG!

Forwards Update – Dave Burnett

With a similar starting pack to 2020 and 2021, the Kentwell forwards of 2022 hit the ground running this season. Showcasing both a power game to drive the team up the field or linking with the backs to shift the ball wide, all eight forwards demonstrated a fantastic balance and depth of skill. To the delight of the backs coaches, this interchange of short and long passes resulted in more tries than ever before to fleet footed props out wide, with try and post try celebrations going viral (within the Subbies rugby community).

As a pack and as individuals the Kentwell forwards grew in dominance each and every game and this was represented at year end with hooker Olly Stump taking out the jersey Calcutta (collective player of the match points) prize on 12 points. He was followed in equal second place by second rower Jock McGregor, blindside flankers Stu McLean and Aidan Brown, and open side flankers Jack Lamph and Oscar Cheal on 9 points.

The solid and stable front row of Sam Bush, Olly Stump and veteran Chris Price were well supported by Hugo Mactier and Tex Smouha-Ho who dominated in the final round and off the bench in the Grand Final. The coaches were also very lucky to always have the reliable Ted De Hann and Will Smith ready and waiting on the bench after full matches of their own.

The Kentwell lineout proved to be an equally reliable platform in attack as it was a weapon in defence with the massive mits of Jock McGregor, Charlie Crawford and Ben Hooper consistently stealing opposition ball. But as all less vertically able forwards would know, a jumper is only as good as his lifters, and our lifters were both technically perfect and mentally switched on to every option the attacking lineout had to offer.

The Kentwell backrow proved again to be the most physically dominant and skilful in the competition and the coaches were absolutely spoilt for options with four first grade quality backrowers to go into three jerseys. Although as fate would have it, Aidan Brown, Charlie Crawford, Jack Lamph and Stu



McLean were only fully fit and available at the same time for the finals series. These guys led from the front time and time again whether it be chop tackles, rhinos, pilfers or an up the guts meat pie.

Testament to our boys physical preparations this season, serious injuries to the forwards were minimal. But when minor injuries and unavailability popped up, there was a conga line of Burke and Barbour players ready and able to step in. Robin Allen and Scott Miller joined Mactier and Smouha-Ho in putting their Burke ambitions a side to start in Kentwell in a handful of matches. Fantastic clubman and 2021 first grade regular Cal MacIntosh made himself available for multiple Whiddon and Burke matches before putting in a man of the match performance in his sole Kentwell game for the year. Then there was Barbour skipper and openside flanker Oscar Cheal, who not only filled the big boots of Jack Lamph in his only Kentwell start, he took out man of the match against eventual grand finalists Hunters Hill as well

There are so many thanks in a year like 2022. To the President and the executive, thank you for all your support this year and for managing the year through such difficult circumstances given the weather. To the old boys who turn up every week, your support is very much appreciated and the standard you have set over the years is a big part of who we are. To the club supporters and sponsors, we enjoyed great crowds this year and it certainly helps in getting the tough jobs done on the field. To all the players who stood by to support Kentwell and to all those that came one a played crucial roles in the various games, your support of the Kentwell team this year was awesome and made a big difference.

To Carl and DB – the effort you both put in this year was amazing. The professionalism by which you approached your roles, the hours of feedback and video analysis were a big part of our success. Your management of the team and the individual players was exceptional. I dare say, it was a big part of the difference this year and the boys loved it. Ash – the scrum was a big part of our success and thank you for all your assistance there and the work you did every week around managing the team was very much appreciated.

Finally, to the playing group, you lot are the definition of team. I have had the honour of being involved with a number of teams over the years, you guys weren't the flashest or the fastest, you weren't the biggest, but you were the toughest and you worked for each other like a real team does. You set the standards, you did the work and you got it done. The photo says it all.....



Well done you bloody legends!

Always a Giant – never in doubt. Look forward to 2023

Benny



Burke Cup 2022 Report

2022 can best be described as consistently inconsistent for the Burke Cup men.

It was very much a year of regeneration for the Burkies following the departure of some influential and experienced stalwarts at the conclusion of the shortened 2021 season.

All told, 47 different starting players were used throughout the 2022 season, including 13 debutants, as well as many more off the bench. Encouragingly, this cohort included several recent colts graduates and a number of newcomers to the club – who no doubt enjoyed the opportunity to learn what it means to be a Blue Giant during some typically enthusiastic changing shed sessions under Blue Giant Stadium.

It was also pleasing to see a number of Burkemen play key roles for the successful Kentwell Cup side at various points throughout the year, including in the Grand Final, with injuries and absences regularly affecting both sides.

While the constant chopping and changing made building combinations and continuity difficult, it also enabled us to blood some good young talent and build depth, which will hold the club in good stead for years to come.

From a performance point of view, we started the regular season well with a tough last-minute win over fellow top 6 side Mosman and finished it by claiming a must-win match against Drummoyne in round 14 to secure 5th place.

The middle of the season was a mixture of good, bad and ugly as we won games we should have lost and lost games we should have won.

While our personnel changed each week during this period – consistent effort, positive attitudes and a great team culture remained consistent throughout. This was no more evident than after our Ladies Day victory and it meant the team entered our Qualifying Final against Mosman with rare momentum. A gritty performance saw us edge out the higher ranked side from across the bridge to book a Semi Final against eventual Premiers, Waverley.

In an otherwise extremely competitive Burke Cup ladder – where 4th and 9th were separated by just two wins – Waverley were head and shoulders above the rest. Colleagues pushed them as hard as anyone had all season but ultimately we came up short against a side that went on to win the Grand Final by 40 points.

It was a valiant end to the season and our 3rd place finished probably qualifies as an overachievement, given where we were placed in the middle of the season.

There were a number of standout players at various times throughout the season but special mention must go to consistent performers Robin Allen, Adam Goodman and Richard Harvey in the pack. Harvey claims the unique honour of being the only player at the club to appear in every match this season – a testament to his durability and longevity, which has been honed over 30+ seasons of rugby.

The high turnover of players in our backs made it difficult to build combinations but Jack King, Lachie Stewart and Toby Cooke were consistent performers.

With regular skipper Will Yeo succumbing to the judiciary and a packed social calendar for large parts of the season, halfback Jack King and No.8/coach Charles Macdonald wore the captain's armband with distinction.



Charles also brought a level of credibility and expertise to our coaching setup that was otherwise lacking and our forwards responded well, with the rolling maul becoming a key attacking weapon as the season progressed.

Manager and hydration specialist James Robins was another important cog in the Burke Cup setup. playing a crucial role keeping the side hydrated on and off the field.

Thanks must also go to the club leadership – Cam, Monty, Lemmo and LJ. Despite the constant challenges of wet weather, it was a memorable season off the field and the administration of the club was exemplary once again.

That's all from the 2022 Burkies, see you in season 2023.

Cheers,

Sam Deans

Whiddon Cup 2022 Report

It was the best of times, it was the worst times... On the back of two spicy flu riddled seasons, which technically had the Whiddon Wombats coming in as defending premiers, the lads in sky blue were once again primed for a huge year. With Covid but a distant memory, like Max Gaynor's sex life, everyone was fizzed to finally play some FOOTBALL. Unfortunately the weather gods had other ideas, with Sydney being wetter than the royal oak upstairs D-Floor on a saturday night. As a result training and momentum was difficult to find, and after a good start with a harpooning of the Sperm whales, the lads were brought back to earth by Waverley side who would be the benchmark for the rest of year. This then resulted in a number of wet weather weekends, a couple of Dub's verses the gimp clubs, followed by the height of being a coward with a couple of defaults which saw the Wombats take maximum points, albeit far preferring to have had a game of footy. Fast forward to July and after the signature Colleagues mid season speed wobbles with half the club in Europe, with losses to the Blue Mountains Penrith Panthers reserve grade side and Hunters hill, the lads needed to lift in the build up to Finals footy. And boy oh boy did they lift, with a game plan based purely on pick and go the lads secured a famous quarter final victory, with club favourite the iceman Will Lembke scoring a meat pie after the final siren. This lead into a semi final showdown against the waverley weiners who had been unbeaten all year, and a minimum winning margin of 30 plus. However F#ck that the wombats thought and a good old fashioned up the guts and into em approach was taken, with some herioc efforts after the lads went down to 14 (thanks greeny you jerk) and unfortunatly the lads went down in a cliff hanger 5-0 and season and defending premiership over for the wombats. A huge shout out to Macca, thanks for all your efforts mate over the past few years and for putting up with my bizarre coaching theories and unique man management style. I can gladly say the wombats legacy will live on and you will finally be able to attend the 15 family brunches and high afternoon teas on a saturday afternoon. On a selfish note, following a record breaking coaching deal to run the port macquarie pirates or if you listen to other reports, to fight in the ukranian foreign legion, I also want to take this time to thank absolutely everyone at the club. Having spent the best part of 10 years down there, I can genuinely say it is the best footy club in Sydney, where it is a pre-requisite to be a good bugger (except you Harvey) and there is nothing better than turning up on a thursday or saturday to sink tins, play some code and abuse whichever loser club we are playing. So for one final time, this is the supercoach, the worlds fattest halfback and only man in colleagues history to score all the points in a GF and kick one from his own 22 into the wind, up hill and to have a restraining order placed on him to remain 15 metres



away from the showers, up the blue giants, you magnificent men



Sutherland Cup 2022 Report

The Sutherland Cup squad for 2022 was made up of the bulk of the clubs successful Halligan team from the last few years, keen for a shot at bringing the Sutherland Cup back to Colleagues.

Led by Henry McInnes, Chris Murphy and Angus Taylor, the year started with the teams' annual pre-season tour. Heading up to Newcastle for the weekend, we fought out a 17-17 draw in an entertaining game against Newcastle Griffins, before taking out the boat race thanks to secret weapon (& former Guinness world record skuller) Ollie Connell.

The regular season started with a tight 3-0 loss to defending champs Mosman. After some mixed results early, a convincing 19-6 win over Waverley turned the season around. This was followed by bonus point wins over Blue Mountains and Hunters Hill, securing us a spot in the Semi Final.

The Semi Final saw us come up against Waverley. In a close encounter, we took a narrow lead into half time off the back of a brave defensive effort, however Waverley proved too strong in the end to unfortunately end the Suthos season.

Thanks to all the Suthos boys for a solid year on and off the field. Particular mention to strong breakout seasons from newcomers Troy Redman, Jarid Kolver and Joel Pearsall, and congratulations to team Best and Fairest - Jay Workman. Bring on 2023.

Sam and James Taylor



Barbour Cup 2022 Report

COLTS RECAP 2022

An ode to the Bolts

Well Subbies were back
COVID had abated
And the coaches at Colleagues
Were yet to be Mandated

After a year of hiatus
Where no titles were won
The Colleagues Cabinet
Faced a large Conundrum

The Colts are the lifeblood
The fire that fuel us
Who can ignite the flame?
Let's call Pete Minucos

Not without Woodsie!
Said the Life Member
The backs may be the fire
But the Pigs are the Ember

So in earnest they began
Their Barbour Campaign
But they had so many players
These troops they should reign

Cue The Bintang Warrior
The great Michael Boyd
"To run the Radford team"
Is where he was deployed

This team of young Colleagues
Had ability to burn
But the Barbour Cup wasn't a right
'Twas something to earn

The Season started strongly
With 5 wins on the trot
Then a tough game at Rawson
Where the ref lost the plot

A massive wake up call the next week
And we knew our main threat
It was Uni holidays though
So we weren't worried just yet

We rattled off 7 straight
And were crowned Minor Premiers



But coming first before the semi's
Is not what anyone remembers

The Semi against Knox
Was a massive rollercoaster
The Trent Ryan late pilfer
Deserves to be on a poster

I'll leave the GF for now
And talk about the Young Men
That did us proud and wore the blue
And made us feel young again

Charles Woodhouse or Woody the skipper
A smooth boot and brave
Oli Andronicous the lineout gun
A Greek so Clearly Minucos' fave

Zinzan Still is 6 foot five
And a jumper like you never seen
But when we lost a tighthead prop
He puts his hand up and said "I'm keen"

Oscal Cheal is an actual weapon
He plays like he's stalking his kills
Will Smith is a savage at loosehead
Woodsie's fave – he has the silkiest skills

Matt Wilkinson's pass is elite
It's flat and it's fast and it's deadly
And Campbell Duff in counter can hurt you
The step, dummy, speed, what a medley

All four of them made the top grade
Plenty of game time in Kentwell
From a Blue Giant point of view
That was time that was spent well

Jacob Alchin was a revelation
Joining us mid year from Randwick
Trent Ryan took souls at breakdowns
And wasn't afraid of a sandwich

Patty Turnbull is an 8 or 12
he's got great flexibility
Nick Hay-MacKenzie played everywhere
the ultimate utility

Lachie Bagueley played every position
The coaches could of requested
But there was the odd night on the piss
When by a judge he was sequestered

And who could forget Sam Ridley
A genuine outside centre



His jeans are baggy, his shirt unkempt
But my god a gap can he enter

The future is bright
With The Maule boys and Dighty
Plus Bragg at the back
2023 could be mighty

We've got a Future skipper in Rutts
Although we don't want to flaunt
I pray for your scrums
Because good lord - Henry Daunt

There was PJ and Wando
and Turkic and Charley
Without their contribution
Stuff would have got gnarly

The GF posed a problem
Injuries had cruelled us
But Archie Lawson stood up
And his courage fuelled us

Freddy and Wicks off the bench
Were both just immense
But in the end... it wasn't to bed
Waverley's pressure was too intense

I'll be honest and say
it's been a hot minute
since I've coached a GF with Minu
and we didn't win it

But if wins are measured
By who gets the Silverware
That's a flawed system
Because our victories were everywhere

As I stood in the shed
Gutted and broken
I didn't feel like we'd "lost"
A new wave was awoken

This wasn't a time to mourn
This was actually a triumph
We may have lost the GF
But we got heaps of new Blue Giants

Woodsie and Minu
Barbour Cup Coaches



Radford Cup 2022 Report

There were so many moments throughout the season 2022 that gave me immense satisfaction. The first colts meeting up at the Bellevue hotel set the standard for the year as several of the third year young men sat and discussed how this year would work.

The outcome of that meeting was the election of a Colts captain who would sit on the colleagues committee for the year. Max Waddell as captain did a wonderful job and took control of much of the communication to the players as the season rolled on. Well done Maxy

I made it clear also that after the last few years of running more than one Radford team I would focus solely on the one team. I believe this paid a huge dividend as we developed into the winning outfit we became.

The other point made was that I would not administrate the team as time did not allow on a weekly basis. Big thanks to Radford skipper PJ Foord for stepping into that role. Angus Taylor also gave valuable service to the team as trainer/ manager and stand in coach on a couple of occasions when required.

As always in the preseason it is the mix of old and new players that arrive to commit to the new year that gives you an idea of the talent you have to work with. Problem was that the rain and weather that began the year gave us limited opportunity to prepare for the games to come.

A Barbour team in ones colts that picked itself and settled early made my job much more straight forward and we moved into our only trail against Mosman.

A balanced blend of second and third year players mixed with the new boys and we started the year against Mosman of at Rawson. As always a highly competitive match played on a drenched surface at Rawson oval had the teams even on two tries a piece, the conversion the winning difference for Mosman winning the Doc/Gooch cup for the second year. 10-12 the end result. Hamish Todd, Jackson Austin tries

A short season with weather not allowing any training is a worry but the boys turned it on against the Northern Saints 43-14 up at St Ives. Hamish Todd adding to more tries to his try the week before and collecting another 3 point BnF effort. Sam Bragg try and 4 conversions, Coxy, McGregor, Ollie Boscoe and skipper PJ getting over in a dominant display.

Another wet game against Brothers 2 weeks later saw us build after a slow start to triumph 19-5 up at a windy wet Christianson Park. Bragg try and 2 conversions with Nat Robinson and Orlando Maule bagging one apiece.

A week later we played the leaders of the comp Wakehurst at BGS. An unknown force in Radford cup it didn't take long to work out they were a 50/50 union league team with some big hard running boys one off the ruck. I spoke of the several moments of immense satisfaction I had during the year. We tackled and hit Wakehurst the whole game and they folded. They were the benchmark and we met and defeated them with rugby. Constructive, cohesive, physical forward play that was a pleasure to watch. 28-7 to the Giants. Bragg with more meat and conversions, Hamish Todd try and Tom Wickham 2 tries.

Macquarie Uni were a rabble 45-5 was flattering. We were combining better every training and come Saturday the Radford Rats, as they were calling themselves now played with real belief.



Charles Cox 2 tries having moved from backrow to the centres. Tom Wickham and super sub-Archie Hyles, Oscar Richardson, Will McGregor, Hamish Todd tries, and a penalty try, Bragg 4 conversions.

And then there were Semis. A short season is not ideal as a coach, but it hasn't changed in several years, but we travelled up to St Ives (Woollahra oval closed) to do battle with Northern Saints confident. Opposition was short players and imported a couple of ring ins to help out. They were willing and battled the full 70 minutes, but their two tries were no match for the "Rats" as they simply out entused the Saints.

32-10 Charles Dight, Zac Newman, Ollie Boscoe tries, Nathanael Robinson 2 tries, Bragg has his Mum show

The tragedy from this game was the red card for Henry Rourke. Now a senior player I would say Henry was having a monster of a season and playing number 8 imposed himself in every game he played. To lose him a week before the GF was inconceivable. The judiciary did him no favours suspending him for 4 weeks. A tough call to one of our cornerstones.

We were ready. The weather had improved, Tues and Thurs training had been the norm for the last couple of weeks.

Wakehurst had kept Mosman to nil in their semi and now the final was set. Friday night under lights at Easts. Perfect.

A great final to be part of. A forward's game from the start to finish. Wakehurst scoring their two tries with classic league kick and chase first phase plays. We ground it out taking our points from well earned penalty kicks in the first half. A try to fullback Nathan Weston after a prolonged assault on the opposition line. 11-5 the half time score. It was tight

The second Wakehurst try early in second half had the sideline a little tense. Another penalty goal allowed us some breathing room with an ongoing physical battle in the midfield making up the majority of the half. The final blow came from a Nat Robinson try, we had done it.

20 years since my last premiership and sense of pride for the efforts by everyone involved. An absolute squad effort.

I don't usually mention lists of names in case I leave anyone out but if I have, forgive me.

First the reserves. Trained and stood by week by week and stepped up every time when required.

Ollie Boscoe who couldn't play in GF, Archie Hyles who stepped in for Zac Newman in GF and excelled, Toby Smith, Tom Pearce, Toby Weston, Lachy Enzernink and Tom Whipple who played in GF.

The short season allowed many of the lads to try themselves up in Barbour Cup. Thanks to Pete Minucos and Ben Wood for welcoming me up into the squad for the balance of the year.

Well done to Sam Bragg who moved into the Barbour Cup fullback position, nice work for a first year colt. Jack Turkic also needs to be congratulated for his efforts up in Barbour. Others who played up include Nathan Weston, Orlando Maule, Nat Robinson, Henry Rourke, Jackson Austin, Simma Underhill, Charles Dight, PJ Foord and Tom Wickham

A mention to Archie Stacey who suffered serious injury early on and made his way back to enjoy some game time later in the Barbour season.



A wonderful bunch of young men who thoroughly deserved their victory this year. It was great to see them enjoy each other both on and off the field.

I look forward to Season 2023.

