

Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club



2025 Annual Report



**THE WOOLLAHRA COLLEAGUES
RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

(Established 1933)

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

Office Bearers 2025

PATRON: Her Worship the Mayor of Woollahra

PRESIDENT: Chris Price

VICE PRESIDENTS:

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

CLUB CAPTAIN: Oliver Cowley

SECRETARY: James Kilby

TREASURER: Jason Monteath

COMMITTEE:

Nick Donlon, Harry Aboud, Sam Bush, Jock Windsor, Will Lembke, Max Wadell, Hugo Allen, Oli Andronicus, Tom Andronicus, Wiley Anderson, Lucy Baker, Alex McLaughlin, Fitz Bowman, Luke Brown, Campbell Duff, Henry Rourke, Charlie Rutledge, Ricky Webb, Charlie Woodhouse, Jock Medway.

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 (2016), Peter Minucos (2019), Ben Waters (2019), Michael Boyd (2022), Dan Kelly (2022), Rob Rush (2022), Ben Wood (2022), Nick Donlon (2023).

HONORARY AUDITOR: Michael Clifford



Trophy Winners 2025

Team Captains

Halligan Cup	Cam Howell
Sutherland Cup	Chris Murphy
Judd Cup	Hugo Allen
Whiddon Cup	Ollie Cowley
Joy Johnson	Lucy Baker & Mimi Stewart
Barbour Cup	Sam Bragg
Burke Cup	Jono Condon
Kentwell Cup	Sam Bush

Team Coaches

Halligan Cup	James & Sam Taylor
Sutherland Cup	Rob Hotchin
Judd Cup	Nick Keighley & Will Harris
Whiddon Cup	Andrew McKillop, Crutch Hennessey & Chris Meharg
Joy Johnson Cup	Toby Cooke, Fitz Bowman & Nick Donlon
Barbour Cup	Pete Minucos, Ben Wood & Anders Steglick
Burke Cup	Dan Kelly & Evan Culhane
Kentwell Cup	Ben Waters, Carl O'Sullivan, Ash Riley

Best & Fairest

Halligan Cup	John Rich
Sutherland Cup	Trent Ryan
Nicholson Cup	Alex Phillips
Judd Cup	Jack Mackenzie-Wood
Joy Johnson	Freya Regan
Whiddon Cup	Bill Freeman
Barbour Cup	Sam Bragg
Burke Cup	Ricky Webb
Kentwell Cup	Theo Strang

Club Awards

Colleagues Honour Cap	Sam and James Taylor
The David Gooch Award	Alex McLaughlin
Club Players' Player	Oli Andronicus
Rookie of the Year	Nicholas O'Neil
Most Improved Player	Tom Andronicus
Leading Try Scorer	Jay Claydon & Nicholas O'Neil
Leading Point Scorer	Hugo Collett
Oldest and Boldest	Brent Crossley

200 games

Sam Taylor
James Taylor

100 Games

Max Duncan
Nick Keighly
Chris Murphy
Jack Sheerin



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President's Report 2025

It's a pleasure to present the Woollahra Colleagues Annual Report for 2025. This past season was another strong one for the Blue Giants, highlighted by terrific performances across the Club and three more trophies added to the shelf — the Whiddon, Judd and Halligan Cups.

I want to acknowledge every player, coach, committee, supporter and sponsor. Your commitment and enthusiasm are what keep this Club moving forward. A huge thank you to James Kilby (Club Sec), Jason Monteath (Treasurer) and Ollie Cowley (Club Captain) and our hardworking committee has shown me just how much passion sits behind the scenes. Their efforts are a big reason Colleagues continues to thrive on and off the field.

Financially, the Club is in a solid position due to strong support from our sponsors. We continue conversations with Council around our new lease and clubhouse upgrade.

Highlights for the season.

- Inaugural Women's team playing in the Joy Johnson Cup
- Our pre-season tour to play the Orange Emu's – touring squad of 90 (Men's, Women's & Colts)
- 100 Club with Jeremey Paul, Lachie Turner and Co.
- Our biggest and most successful ladies day in years
- Black tie presentation night making a come back
- 3 x Grand Final victories!

Kentwell took another step forward in 2025 in a rebuilding phase. There was plenty of talent in the squad and at their best they were dominant, playing some great footy. It was a disrupted season at times with player availability hurting us on a few occasions as we faced some seriously impressive squads across the year. We look forward to keeping the momentum going into 2026!

It was tough sledding for the Burke Men in 2025. There was a lot of change for the team this year with coaches and players which always brings challenges. While the wins/losses look miserable on paper – under the circumstances there were still several positives to take from the year. Kentwell player disruptions/availability naturally flowed to Burke (and even Whiddos and Judd on occasion), the blokes that went up regularly should be really proud of their efforts – the feedback from the Kentwell regulars has been very complimentary. We have a really strong group of players and with the addition of a bit more experience returning in 2026 we look forward a bounce back!

The Colts program once again played a key role in our club's strength. With healthy numbers and a clear pathway to grade, it's no surprise our Colts had another strong year. Congratulations must go to Sam Bragg for being awarded Subbies Colts Player of the Year and making the NSW Subbies Rep team. In addition to this, congratulations to Tom Andronicus for making the NSW Subbies Rep team and being awards the club most improved – huge effort! With a lot of the colt's squad eligible to return in 2026 we are excited to see what they can do.

The Whiddon wombats lifted to trophy this year after a few near misses. Congratulations to Macca and Cowley for sticking with it. The addition of Crutch and Meharg to the coaching team and seriously talented squad lead to a great finals campaign and a fantastic finals campaign leading to a barnstorming finish in the GF to put our old enemy Waverly to sleep.

In a historic year for the club, we fielded a women's team in the Joy Johnson Cup for the first time. It was a special year for the Club; the women's squad have been a great addition to the culture of the club both on and off the field. We look forward to building off a really strong base going forward. Thanks must go to Angus Logan (Jan Logan) and Cam Poolman (Ondeck) for your support of the team and supporting the team financially (and with jewellery). Thank you to everyone who helped in getting this team off the ground – specifically Toby Cooke, Nick Donlon and Fitz Bowman and all the women involved in the squad throughout the year. We're excited to see how the team goes in the Joy Johnson Cup in 2025.

The Judd Cup squad was one of the standout stories of the season. After coming close so often in recent years, there was a good feeling about this squad early on – numbers were very strong



throughout the year leading to a lot more time on the training paddock. Whilst a lot of weeks were disrupted by assistance to the higher grades. Heading to the finals in 4th position the Juddies were a sleeping giant. They let the dog off the leash immediately – putting 43 points on an unsuspecting Mosman outfit, brushing aside Blue Mountains the following week, finally keeping the 13-1 unbackable favourite, Waverly, to ZERO in the big dance. Well done to Morale, Keils and your squad on a great final's performance!

Another great season for the Sutherland/Halligan group, winning Halligans and losing is nail biter under lights at Easts in the GF. Their leadership, spirit and off-field energy were exceptional. Congratulations to all coaches and players involved — it was a pleasure watching your success unfold.

Bring on 2026 — Up the Blue Giants!

Chris Price – Honorary President





Sponsors 2025

To our sponsors and financial supporters — thank you. Your backing is vital, and we appreciate your ongoing belief in the Club.

**Brook Douglas – Ned Yeomans, Joe
Yeomans & Jack Lamph**

Fleek Constructions – Jock Medway

Fund Me – Bulla De Villiers

Bellevue Hotel – Pete Calligeros

**Royal Oak Hotel Double Bay – Jamie
Malouf**

**Growth Point Properties Australia –
Sam Sproats**

**Ricketson Insurance – Luke
Ricketson**

**SCI Group – Chris Henderson and
Jack Williams**

Jan Logan – Angus Logan

Ondeck – Cameron Poolman

Ryans Bar – John Ryan

Gordon Brothers – Mat Aubrey

**Kemosabe Capital – Richard McGrath
and Nick Donalon**

Robert's Trading – Dougall Roberts

Refinancial – Lewis Halliday

SV Partners – Ian Purchas

Verandah Bar

MJ Bale – Jonathan Lobban

McGrath Surry Hills – Mark Foy





Club Captain Report 2025

Another year has flown by, and what a season it's been for the Blue Giants!

The 2025 campaign brought plenty of challenges, but the club rose to them with teamwork, commitment, and a great sense of community. Five of our nine teams across grades, colts, and women's rugby made it through to the final's series. This achievement reflects the determination, dedication, skill, and teamwork displayed throughout the entire season. It is undoubtedly a credit not only to the players and coaches but also to the support staff and committee members who work tirelessly to deliver the best results. Such a comprehensive display of commitment speaks volumes about the culture of the Blue Giants programme, instilling pride in the rugby community and reinforcing the club's standing as a powerhouse in competitive sport.

There were some brilliant stories on the field this year, with a special mention to Whiddon, Judd, Sutherland & Halligan Cup squads who all successfully reached the grand final. The Halligan Cup squad backed up last year's success with another premiership win, showing what consistency and hard work can achieve. The Judd Cup team gave us one of the highlights of the season, pulling off a thrilling 6-0 grand final victory as underdogs. And then there's the Whiddon Cup side, after losing the first two games of the season, went on an incredible run of 14 straight wins to take the title. The Sutherland Cup also made it to the grand final however fell agonisingly short, which shows the depth and talent coming through across the club.

Off the field, 2025 was just as exciting, where we welcomed several new sponsorships. Sponsors are the backbone of our club, and we are truly grateful for their continued support, as well as the new partners who joined the Colleagues family this season. Further to this, our Ladies' Day was bigger than ever, with a great turnout that made Woollahra feel like the heart of rugby.

One of the proudest milestones this year was seeing the Women's Rugby Team complete its first full season. The support from across the club was incredible, and it's been fantastic to see this programme grow. Building a sustainable, thriving women's pathway has been a long-term goal, and seeing it take shape across a complete season was deeply rewarding for the club. The future of women's rugby is booming, and we as a club, are extremely proud to play an active role in growing the female game at Colleagues.

To all our players, coaches, and volunteers, thank you for everything you've done this season. Being Club Captain of such a proud and respected club is a privilege, and the success we've enjoyed this year is down to your hard work and commitment.

Finally, a big thank you to my fellow executive committee members; Pricey, Kilby, and Monty, for the tireless work you put in week after week. The incredible talent, commitment, and enthusiasm we see throughout the club is a true testament to your dedication. Your efforts make Colleagues not only a successful club but also a vibrant and enjoyable community for all involved.

Here's to building on this year's achievements and continuing to enjoy the game we all love.

Yours in being a Blue Giant

Oliver Cowley – Club Captain





Treasurer's Report 2025

The Blue Giants had a great year on and off the field. We claimed three premierships and entered the Joy Johnson Cup for the first time. Well done to all the Magnificent Men and Women who supported the Club in 2025, whether it be donning the Blue Jersey or getting involved off the field. From a rugby, social and importantly financial perspective the Club is surging into 2026.

This year we hosted two special events in the form of the Long Lunch and Ladies Day. The Ladies Day was the best run and most profitable in my time at the Club, which was due to the contributions and enthusiasm on the day from the Women's team. Subs were very strong and well up on last year due to the Subbies' new requirement this year of their payment now being due at the point of registration. Sponsorships were solid, and we continued to be supported by some grants. Support at all home games was strong on the sidelines and in the clubhouse. All of these income streams and controlled spending meant we improved the cash position of the Club year on year and delivered an operating profit.

The Calligeros Group's Bellevue Hotel partnered further with us this year, in addition to their sponsorship, by having their Friday meat raffle run by the Giants, with all proceeds going to the Club's Silly Sunday boat party and pretty much paying for it! Thanks to those who ran the raffle.

This year also saw Fleek Constructions sign on as a major sponsor; FundMe finance sponsored the Sutherland and Halligan Cup teams; and OnDeck continued as sponsor of the Women's team. There was continued sponsorship from the Royal Hotels Group's Royal Oak, Brook Douglas, Kemosabe Capital, Ricketson Insurance, RE Financial, Fortius, Veranda Bar, SVP Partners, Mark Foy through McGrath Property, John Ryan through Ryan's Bar, Gordon Brothers, MJ Bale, SCI, Roberts Trading, Verandah Bar and Jan Logan.

The support from sponsors throughout 2025, both old and new, is greatly appreciated by the Club and we will look to continue with them all next year. Sponsors play a significant role in supporting the Club allowing us to continue day-to-day operations without eroding our cash reserves.

In terms of our social events, as mentioned, we hosted Ladies Day and the Long Lunch. The Long Lunch featured a visit from Rugby Australia CEO Phil Waugh, as well as the auction and good times shared by old and current Colleagues. Ladies Day was amazingly run by the subcommittee with particular thanks to Sophie Lyne and Alex Mclaughlin. A record number of tickets were sold and there was a strong showing by both ladies and gents on and off the field. The strong attendance and support of both the Long Lunch and Ladies Day 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. The Club is in a good position to continue to grow our reserves as we embark on working with Council to improve the facilities at Woollahra No 2 & 3.

To Club President, Club Secretary and Club Captain, Chris Price, James Kilby and Oliver Cowley, thanks for a great year. It was awesome to have Kilbs step up into a formal leadership role 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 2025.

I would also like to thank Nick Donlon for tirelessly running everything gameday-related. Clubs the size of ours would cease to function without the generous input of our fantastic volunteers and committee. Cheers to all of you Magnificent Men and Women.

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

Jason Monteath - Honorary Treasurer



Financial Report

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS

In the opinion of the Management Committee of the Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club the profit and loss account and trading account have been drawn up and presents fairly the profit and loss for the Club for the period ending 30th September 2025.

The Balance Sheet presents fairly the state of affairs of the Club at the 30th September 2025.

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

On behalf of the Management Committee

Christopher Price
Honorary President

Jason Monteath
Honorary Treasurer



Club Secretary Report 2025

2025 was another fantastic year for the Blue Giants and a great one to begin my tenor as the club Secretary. The introduction of the Women's team was the most significant change in Colleague's operations and culture, certainly since I first wandered down to BGS in 2017, and it could not have gone better. A great group of young women assembled throughout the year fitting in seamlessly to the club well led by Toby, Fitz and Scrappy. Alongside the women playing in the higher grading Joy Johnson Blue competition, we had 6 grade and 2 colts teams playing throughout most of the season.

Whilst it was a daunting task to begin with, great support for the executives in Pricey, Monty and Cowley as well as the outgoing secretary Toby Cooke saw the year begin with a bang. The pre-season trip to Orange including 2 grades, a colts and women's team set the momentum for club culture on and off the field. Player numbers started to swell as we approached round 1, an away fixture at Hunters Hill which was somewhat stalled by the prior day's ANZAC day celebrations. By round 2 wet weather already played its part with the home fixture against local rivals Waverly washed out. We then hosted mountains in a mixed day at the office before another wash-out ruined a trip to Lindfield.

The middle of the season saw more momentum build, highlighted by a Kentwell victory at home against Mosman thanks to a dominant scrum which even had the ground marshal storm the field at full time. Then, as per usual, the allure of the northern hemisphere summer struck only this year it was compounded by the Lions tour with player numbers falling off a cliff. A big shoutout to those brave few who made the away trip to Blue Mountains for the Posh bus tour with the vast majority playing 2 games and a couple of surprise Kentwell debuts. A double points round vs Lindfield saw the Giants climbing up the ladders as we approached the point end of the season.

More wet weather ruined the trip to Drummoyne for all who got to play and those who didn't before we approached the greatest day of the year, ladies day. Despite the rain gods playing one more cruel hand which saw a 1-week delay, the day was one for the history books. The input from our new female players and the broader committee saw a perfectly curated (and profitable) event which drew a big crowd for a day full of wins on and off the field. This included a newly created Halligan cup final seeing the club secure our first silverware for the year. Another shout out to the Joy Johnson players who ended up with an internal fixture due to an inflexible opponent, a game they played in great spirit to cap off their inaugural season.

Into the final rounds we went with Colts, Whiddon, Judd and Sutherland all chasing premierships. Whilst Mosman were too strong for the Colties, Judd started their run from 4th on the ladder by demolishing the Whales in front of them. Whiddon and Sutherland had Waverley in their Majors with a win and loss respectively seeing 3/4 teams staying alive. Wins in the Prelim for Judd and Suthos saw a mouthwatering 3 grand finals to end the year. Friday night lights sadly didn't suit the mighty Sutherland squad who fell at the final hurdle, somewhat offset by the opportunity to get the celebrations underway early. Saturday morning was a different story with a Judd Cup test-like final finishing 6-0 to the good guys backed up by a confident Whiddon 12-point victory for a sound result of 2 from 3 against the old enemy. This saw Colleagues as the most successful division 1 club in terms of premierships for 2025. True to form this was well celebrated on our triumphant boat cruise the following day thanks to the Bellevue Meat raffle!

I will finish by saying this club is the perfect example of you get out what you put in. Being involved this year has opened my eyes to how much work goes into keeping this 100% volunteer organisation alive. Thank you to everyone who picked up a corner post, worked the canteen or gave the physio a lift, it is the collective who keep the wheels turning. For those considering getting more involved let us know, in can be as formal or informal as you like. For me there has been great joy in serving the club this year and I look forward to doing it all again in 2026.

Cheers,

Club Secretary – James Kilby



Club Coach Report 2025

The 2025 season was another strong showing for the mighty Woollahra Colleagues with all teams bar Kentwell (missed by 1 win) and Burke (rebuilding year) making it through to the finals and 3 premierships for Halligan, Judd and great to see the Whiddos bring home the big prize after a number of years where they have been very close.

The big focus for this year was ensuring a deep understanding on our systems and processes across all grades to allow players to move easily between the grades this year. With a Lions tour and a European summer to contend with, the Blue Giants were going to need all hands-on deck. It was very pleasing to see how this renewed focus paid off will be a key focus as we continue forward.

The season started off with a tough trip to Hunters Hill on the Anzac Day long weekend (Thanks Subbies) and finish with a big day against Div 1 new commers, Newport at home. There was some fantastic footy played by the Blue Giants but a few results that slipped away from Kentwell and Burke. A great season all up and looking forward to 2026

Kentwell Cup

It was a season that just got away from the Kentwell team. With some great new recruits and a good number of players returning from 2024, the Kentwell boys looked like they could have gone a lot further in the comp than they did. There were some great victories, beating Waverly twice and often matching it with the better teams, we just couldn't close out a couple of very tight results which cost us in the end. The attack was there, but defence at times was a little underdone and will be a big focus for the 2026 season. There was a lot of player turnover during the year and as a result it was difficult to build the combos that are needed to win a Kentwell competition. I am certain we have the depth, the skills and the game plan, 2026 will just be about executing as a team and working hard for each other. A massive thank you to Carl for all his hard work throughout the year, as well as Ash. Thanks also to all those men who stayed around and backed up or supported, it is most appreciated. Looking forward to seeing the boys go to the next step in 2026.

Burke Cup

It was a big transition year for the Burkies boys in 2025 with a lot of new players and a new coaching setup. There was certainly no lack of desire, but a year under the belt in this grade and with a year into the processes and systems will see the Burkies bounce back for a big 2026. The wins were hard to come by, but there are plenty of green shoots that would suggest the next season will be a vastly different one to 2025. Great work DK on your first year as a senior coach and to all those that helped out during the season. Looking forward to seeing what the Burkies can do in 2025.

Barbour/Nicholson Cup

Another great year for the colts' program with some outstanding new talent getting a taste of Blue Giant rugby and both colts teams doing the club proud and finishing high on the ladder. The number of players that the colts' program has at the moment is testament to the culture that they group has built through its player leadership and coaching. Minu and Woodsie again helped the boys understand what it means to be a Blue Giant, and the Radford boys welcomed new coach Anders to their ranks.

As usual boys play an enterprising and expansive style of footy, fast paced and with a willingness to move the ball wide to get and attack from any part of the park. Both teams were real contenders for the silver wear but unfortunately didn't get there in the end. A fantastic season for the colts' program and we look like we are well stocked with great players and humans coming through the ranks. It was great to see a decent number of the boys backing up and playing grade, including Kentwell, throughout the year. Congratulations to Sam for being named as the Colts Medallist.

Whiddon Cup

Unreal to see the Whiddos back in the winners' circle after a few years of being very close. With a few new coaches (Crutch and Chris) to assist long term Whiddon mentor Macca, the boys looked great all year and were very consistent and the first Colleagues team to book themselves a grand final berth this



year. The style of football was great to watch and the way the boys were able to bring that each week saw them finish top of the table and well in control of the comp. The composure and execution were fantastic and lead to some very big scores throughout the year. The other pleasing aspect was to chalk the win up against Waverly who had proved to be a bit of a nemesis in recent years. Well done coaches and players, a wonderful result for a very dominant team. Look forward to seeing the boys keep it for another year in 2026.

Judd Cup

So good to see the Juddies boys get it done in 2025. The Judd Cup had been a bit difficult to get out hands on in recent years and was awesome to see the boys get the big prize this year. It is not often you see a team win from the bottom half of the top 4 but the Juddies worked through the process on a week-by-week basis to get the job done and ground out a 6 to 0 win on grand final day. To hold the top of the table Waverly team to zero in a GF is an incredible result and testament to the toughness and work ethic of the team. To Moral and Keels, well done gents. What a reward for a number of years of very hard work. To the player, well done fellas, great result.

Sutherland/Halligan Cups

The one that got away on us in 2025. The Blue Giants looked to go back-to-back against their main rivals over the last few years but couldn't quite get it done. The grand finale, like last year, was an awesome game to watch and the boys threw everything at it from every part of the field. The lead changed a number of times during the game, and after a few very tough calls from the ref, we didn't quite get there. But what a season. There is a lot to like about the group that has been representing the Blue Ginats in this grade over the last few years. Well done coaches and well-done players, looking forward to seeing you get revenge in 2026.

Joy Johnson Cup

This year saw the Blue Giants roll out their first women's team and it was brilliant. The team came together very well and quickly developed a fast and expansive style that saw plenty of wins in their first season. It was so good having the girls around the club and seeing them take to being a Blue Ginat both on and off the field. Well done to the organisers, coaches and more importantly the players. We are a better club with you and look forward to many more wins in 2026.

There are a lot of people to thank each year to get a season of footy completed. To the old boys, sponsors and supporters, your support and encouragement really make an impact on the boys. Thank you for travelling and being there regardless of the weather or results. To the executive and key administration roles, especially club President Chris Price, Secretary James Kilby and Treasurer Monty, thank you for all the work you do to make sure everything is done so the boys can play their footy. They club is very much growing under your leadership, and we are getting sharper every year. What happens behind the scenes is the most important part of our club and without it there is no footy. Thank you to all the physios and medical team for your hard work in keeping the boys the boys fit.

To the coaches, a great year and reflective of all the hard work you put in and your passion for the game, the club and your teams. The standards keep lifting each year under your leadership. Well done and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Finally, to the players, it is hard graft being a Blue Giant at times. As a benchmark and foundation club, a win against the Blue Giants is as good as a win in a GF for many. The way you work hard and look after each other and how you represent the club each week is very much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you down at Blue Giant stadium in 2026 and building on what was started in 2025. Don't be shy on getting down to preseason as well, winning a GF always starts in January!!

Thank you for the honour of being a coach at the unreal joint. There is nothing better.

Go the Giants!



Benny Waters

Kentwell Cup Report 2025

2025 proved to be a disrupted but encouraging campaign. We welcomed back familiar faces Sam Bush, Connor Size, Aidan Brown, Jock Macgregor, Jack Murphy, Will Smith, Oli Andronicus, Alex Simson, Evan Culhane, Issac Meincke and Aidan Moore while adding new faces like Theo Strang, Ed Taylor, Dom Moretti, Luca Rossi, Ellis Hawker, Dylan Hansen, Hugo Collet, Eddie Poolman and Vinnie Creagh.

We finished in 5th place with an 8–6 record from 13 matches played (1 match was rained out, so our home game against Lindfield at home was worth double points). Our 8 wins was equal to the team who finished 4th and higher than the 7 wins for the team that finished 2nd. Across the season the team scored 339 points and 44 tries (26.1 points and 3.4 tries per game) but conceded 424 points (32.6 per game), underlining that while attack was a strength, defence remains the key area for improvement.

The opening phase of the season was heavily affected by weather, with two rounds washed out in May. On the field, Colleagues began with losses to Hunters Hill away (12-45) and Blue Mountains at home (where leading by 9 with 3 minutes to go we snatched defeat from the jaws of victory 38-41), before registering our first victory in a tight game against Waverley (26-24) and backing it up with a one-point away win at Drummoyne (19-18). Over those first four fixtures the team averaged 23.8 points for and 32.0 against, demonstrating that they were competitive but still finding cohesion.

The period around the King's Birthday break marked our most productive block of rugby. After the bye, Colleagues put together a win for the ages in overtime, over Mosman at home (25–24) and Newport away (40–20) before a heavy home defeat to Hunters Hill (24–63) highlighted the gap to the competition's top team. From King's Birthday onwards the attack clicked into gear: the team's scoring lifted to 27.1 points and 3.6 tries per game, including a notable away win over Waverley (34–28) and a strong home performance against Lindfield (24–5).

The final third of the season was again mixed. There were important victories – most notably a seven-try, 48–26 bonus-point win against Newport at home – but these were balanced by losses to Blue Mountains (23-43), Drummoyne (14-24) and a heavy defeat to Mosman away (12-63). Player injuries and wet weather meant that momentum was frequently interrupted during the year, and the group was never able to string together a long run of consistent performances. However, the effort never faulted, and the boys should be proud of how they accounted for themselves

Overall, the 2025 season showed that Colleagues possess the attacking capability to challenge any side in the competition, as reflected in the positive try-scoring record and six bonus points earned. However, the negative points differential of 85 and the average of more than 32 points conceded per match make clear that defensive systems, discipline and game management will be the major focus heading into 2026. With a solid core of players, the foundation has been laid for the team to convert promise into a more consistent, finals-contending campaign next year.

My thanks to Ben Waters and Ash Reilly for their support as coaches during the year. Also, thanks to all the coaches at Colleagues who put so much time and effort into this club and their teams, in particular to Dan Kelly and Tom "Crutch" Hennessey. Coaching is a huge commitment, and not without its challenges, however seeing that work pay off with a win in front of an adoring crowd at Blue Giant stadium certainly makes it worthwhile for me. Looking forward to next year already.

Up the Giants!

Carlos



Burke Cup Report 2025

Notwithstanding an enormous “thank you” to the people that make the Club what it is (coaches, committees, volunteers, sponsors, supporters and, of course all the players), it was a challenging year for the Burke Cup boys.

Chasing further glory of the back of back-to-back premierships was always going to be a tough ask. There was plenty of new blue blood in 2025, and a renewed focus on club-wide success meant attacking our strategy a little differently. Unfortunately, it meant a rather lean year for second grade.

There were early positive signs: great pre-season attendance, evolution (rather than revolution) of our game plan, fresh new energy with a bunch of new faces coming to Woollahra #2 to see what the fuss was all about and a memorable pre-season outing to Orange (for some). An early loss to grand finalists Hunters Hill in Round One (HH clearly didn't pay their respects anywhere near as strongly as some of our Burke boys), a tight but unsuccessful affair against eventual premiers Waverley and a heartbreaking loss to third-placed Blue Mountains after leading by 21 points at home, did not set us up for a dominant run.

Then there were the injuries, for which there were pros and cons. The pros are that an injury can open the door for another player to show their wares. To grab an opportunity with both hands and demonstrate to their coaches that they're ready to take the next step forward in their playing career. It's sometimes the only way new talent is discovered. (We even gained a forwards coach after Evan Culhane managed to rip his biceps tendon off the bone... still not sure how he did it...) But struth, there are cons. With an overarching goal of building fluidity throughout the club, not just in singular grades, there's a high level of continuity required at the best of times. And if you add injuries across all grades to the limited time we get together, it can be difficult to reap rewards from this renewed approach in a short period of time. For context, the Colleagues Burke Cup side fielded no fewer than 58 different players across 14 games in the 2025 season, including six different starting captains.

One silver lining from this difficult season, however, is that we saw an enormous number of young players gain invaluable exposure to the pointy end of Subbies, and some excellent talent has been unearthed. Also of note is that we saw the Burke boys absolutely pull it together in many different segments within games, with the high point being a clinical dismantling of Newport at home in the final game of the year. The question that rang around the changeroom immediately afterwards was “why didn't we just play like that all season?”

I guess we'll find out in 2026.

DK



Whiddon Cup Report 2025

From early in 2025, there was a sweet, sweet smell in the air at Blue Giant Stadium. A smell so slight it went unnoticed by mere mortals. But a select group of magnificent men with refined desire and a willingness to sacrifice grew ever fonder of this scent as we progressed into the depths of a Colleagues sky blue winter.

That smell was opportunity for a premiership.

The 2025 Whiddon side had all the ingredients. The team had gone agonisingly close the year prior, and many of those core players returned for one more shot at glory: stalwarts W Lembke, J Steven, S Underhill, E Cook, A Williams, O Whiteley, D Tejcek, W Anderson and captain O Cowley. This was balanced with several clubmen who, through improved performances or perhaps divine intervention, found themselves 'promoted' to the Wombats Burrow™: D Cooke, M Wilkinson, L Baguley, S Miller and B Crossley all provided valuable experience. Fresh exuberance came from players joining from overseas (D Duncan, B Freeman), Colts (N O'Neil), or showing exceptional growth from other grades (R Alston, N Robinson, A Hyles, C Price).

The season started with close, unfortunate losses to Hunters Hill after ANZAC Day (a Subbies scheduling conspiracy?) and to Waverley (by 2 points) that could've set the tone for a tough year. Instead, those setbacks galvanised the squad. The initial smell of opportunity became hunger. And as we all know, hungry dawgs run faster.

From Round 3 onward, the team caught fire—an extraordinary 15-match winning run that showed belief and consistency across the park. Week after week, the group found new ways to lift and win. Scar tissue from last year's heartbreaks, especially against Waverley, became fuel for focus and resilience. Come-from-behind victories over ladder leaders Mosman and Waverley were season highlights, but a post-siren win away at Blue Mountains was a defining moment - with a patched-together side as most of the team were apparently "on the European training camp." It was our gutsiest performance and showed that we could overcome any adversity.

This year saw two measures implemented: our now-iconic team call "Raiders"- a mid-game

signal to sharpen focus and lift collectively (ironically, the Canberra Raiders could've used it themselves - unlike them, we never faded!), and the "Hot Lap," an organic display of togetherness at the start of training that began as a piss-take but brought the team closer each week. A great example of the player led culture we strived to build this year.

All of our work, belief, and culture culminated in the ultimate reward: winning the premiership. In a fitting finale, we faced Waverley - our long-time rivals and the source of much motivation. The boys delivered one more determined come-from-behind victory, finishing in front of a huge and vocal band of Colleagues supporters. The atmosphere was incredible, and the performance embodied everything this team stood for: resilience, unity, and an unshakeable will to win.

It was one of the most memorable and rewarding campaigns in recent 3rd Grade history. A year defined by resilience, growth, and a group who refused to accept anything short of their best. The coaching group couldn't be prouder. Thank you to all players, coaches, managers, and supporters who contributed. We've built something special, and the challenge now is to carry this momentum into next season.

A McKillop, C. Hennessey, C Meharg.



Judd Cup Report 2025

The 2025 Judd Cup campaign will go down as one of the great Colleagues stories. A true come-from-behind season where belief, resilience and heart carried us from the edge of the top four all the way to a 6 - 0 Grand Final victory.

At the start of the season, few would have predicted the path ahead. With some uncertainty at one point about even making the finals, the Juddies refused to fold. Instead, we fought, built momentum and stormed home from fourth place to claim the Judd Cup for the first time since 2018.

Guided by the coaching duo of Will "Morale" Harris and Nick "King" Keighley who had been so close to glory in the prior years, they ran a strong recruitment campaign over the summer with one goal - the Judd Cup. With the retirement of our Irish two-rower, Kevin, the Juddmen needed a captain to stand up and lead. Hugo "Howard Moon" Allen was the obvious bloke for the job. Not only did he lead but with a lack of tight head props, he trained himself into our starting prop for the season.

A core group of seasoned Judd veterans returned for the campaign. Campbell Brister, Jock Windsor, Nick Keighley, James Kilby and Max Duncan - who had each worn the heartbreak of six lost Colleagues premierships - came together determined to give it one more crack. Their experience and determination for glory became the spine of the campaign.

Across our team were a number of club stalwarts whose effort and pride built the foundations for our late-season surge. The go-forward and grit came from Colleagues household names of Richard Harvey, Jack Mac Wood, Jack Richards, Jock Medway, Charlie Woodhouse, Chris Price, Max Waddell, Will Sones, Harvey Duncan, Hugh Beith, and Harry Aboud (DA). Their work in the trenches set the tone for what the Judd Cup demands and breeds.

The injection of fresh talent proved to be the missing ingredient from recent seasons. Ben Miller, Tom Forsythe, Sean O'Flynn, Tommy DiBasi, Tom Raine, Sam Kendall, Harry McDougall, Alex Bhamra, Will Douglass, and Ashton Gribble all slotted into the Judd system and brought energy, class and depth when it mattered most.



The early rounds were unforgiving. Facing Waverley and Blue Mountains back-to-back in Rounds 2 and 3 put us under pressure immediately. But Round 7 away at Newport became the turning point. A 10am masterclass highlighted by Ashton Gribble's electric, untouchable performance. That morning lit a small spark of belief that on our day we were untouchable.

The second half of the year still wasn't smooth sailing. A narrow loss to Waverley, knocking the ball over our own line on the siren to fall 19 - 14, was tough to swallow. But it also proved something important: Waverley were beatable and the Juddanoughts had the resilience to match it with anyone.

The boys banded together and as all good Judd Cup squads do at the pointy end of the season, we started showing up to training and it began to click. Thanks to Richard Harvey, Charles McDonald and Billy Gosper who assisted at training to intensity, physicality and quality of our performance.

As the season neared the end, questions hung over after losing to Mosman at Rawson in the second-last round. We knew they would be our semifinal opponents. Did we have what it takes to beat them when it matters? Oh yes, we did.

We blew Mosman off the park, 43 – 14, which was a statement performance featuring Harvey Duncan and Jack Mac Wood absolutely slaughtering and cutting the Whales' defence apart.

Rolling straight into the Preliminary Final, the momentum continued as we dispatched Blue Mountains 31–19. For the first time in years, there was a genuine sense of destiny. The Juddmen started to believe: Was the Judd Cup coming home to Woollahra?

Grand Finals are never easy and 2025 was no exception. Nil-all at halftime, bodies bruised, pressure mounting - neither side was willing to give an inch.

Early in the second half, a tactical change to bring Club President and Stalwart, Chris Price on in the front row led to a scrum penalty in front of the sticks that broke the deadlock. Soon after, another penalty pushed us to 6–0. Suddenly, the dream felt real... and the nerves kicked in.

Coach Morale paced the sideline like a man possessed as the Juddies dug in for a monumental defensive stand.

For the final eight minutes, Waverley hammered our line. And time after time, the Juddies repelled them.

The defining moment: Jock Medway producing a number of pilfers in the dying minutes, a performance that will be retold every time Judd legends gather.

When the final whistle blew — the Judd Cup was ours.

After coming close to the Judd Cup so many times since 2018, this special group of humans, now premiership brothers for life, finally broke through. From fourth place at the end of the home & away to champion, it was a special season in Colleagues history.

Thank you to everyone who assisted on the sidelines, cheered us on, filled up the water bottles and had a role to play in our glory. Your effort is etched permanently into the Juddies story.

To the Juddanaughts, congrats on the greatest success that a Colleagues Judd Cup player can achieve. We finally did it, glory cannot be taken away from us. It was a special year to be a part of.

Morale Merchant



Sutherland/Halligan Cup Report 2025

What a year. From the moment we stepped off the bus in Newcastle for preseason, there was a feeling that this group was building towards something bigger than the usual run around. The energy was different. The intent was sharper. Even the hangovers were more...professional

The Suthos of 2025 had a promising balance of power and flair, with a dynamic forward pack led by the experience of Chris Murphy up front & the dangerous backrow of Tommy Ridhalgh, Trent Ryan and Bulla de Villiers, supported by the threatening Leo Norman, Conor Scully and Sean O'Brien in the backs.

The Suthos squad built momentum throughout the season - week after week, we fronted up, played for each other, and proved that our best was good enough to take on anyone in the competition. That run took us all the way to a top of the table grand final clash against Waverley under lights at Easts. A repeat of last year's epic grand final victory and a chance to go back-to-back Sutherland & Halligan cups for the rare 'double double'.

With captain Chris Murphy forced off the field injured in the first minute, the boys dug deep in a tense back and forth match. A powerful try to Joe Kosiek early in the second half kept us in the game, and a bone crunching hit from Dan McKay had the Waverley team rattled and lifted our team into an extra gear. With minutes left on the clock, Tommy Ridhalgh went sniping through untouched off the back of



a lineout to score & take the lead 15-13, which looked to have sealed another gutsy win. However, it was not to be, with a late penalty awarded to Waverley, final score 16-15 in the tightest of losses.

A devastating loss but couldn't fault the effort across the board, with everyone having a hand in what made this season special. The veterans who still show up with pride. The younger boys who bring hunger and spark. Some guy called Rob Hotchin putting together the most comprehensive training plan ever seen in a Suthos team, and the volunteers who keep the whole thing moving. The supporters who ride every high and low with us.

This season was also defined by milestone moments that remind you how lucky you are to be part of a club like ours. Jack Sheerin and Chris Murphy crossed the 100-game mark, which is as much a testament to passion as it is to stubbornness. And then there are the Taylor twins. Two hundred games each. That kind of loyalty and durability is rare in community sport. It is even rarer from two blokes who have given absolutely everything to this club

We also ushered in the first official season of our club financier FundMe Finance, led by Bulla De Villiers. This added responsibility saw him deliver a dominant season on the field all while quietly running half the "back-office operations" of the club at the same time from the Oak. He sets a standard on and off the field.

A huge shoutout to Best & Fairest Trent Ryan for his standout performances all year.

We did not get the fairytale finish. But we built something worth being proud of. And if this season proved anything, it is that our best rugby is still ahead of us.

Onwards.





Women's team report 2025

I write to you with the first season summary for a Colleagues Women's rugby team in the illustrious history of this club. 2025 had it all for the mighty Colleagues, who carried strong momentum from an emphatic Ladies' Day exhibition match in 2024. Lean in and enjoy a summary that is the first but certainly not the last as this sensational group of humans look to change history at Blue Giant Stadium.

Pre-season began early, with the girls eager to dig their heels in and learn as much as they could as quickly as possible. We were working towards the inaugural Women's and Colts' 10s rugby competition held at Penrith in March. The girls arrived in strong numbers for their first hit out of 2025 and unwrapped their jerseys, proudly bearing Jan Logan Jeweller as the major sponsor. Little did they know, their gallant efforts at this carnival would land them in the top tier Subbies Women's competition for 2025.

Round One fittingly saw the Blue Giants face off against the same opposition we had pipped on the buzzer during our exhibition match the year before. The girls showed no signs of slowing down, dusting our north shore foes 19 to 10 in an opening round thriller. From there, they did not let up. Key highlights included being rained out for a home game but choosing to travel to Wollongong rather than settle for a washout. The girls took the cake that day 26 to 25 in a trip absolutely worthy of a Sutton Forest Maccas run.

The first half of the year continued to produce mixed results, including a sensational fight against top of the table Shute Shield side Norths, going down 31 to 5, though no one could quite explain why they were in the wrong competition. Rain wreaked havoc, with the girls often confined to the four walls of the Bellevue Hotel for training instead of the open pastures of Rose Bay.

A major highlight was the trip to Merrylands, where the girls fielded strong numbers and put on a beautiful display of rugby to beat the home side 43 to 5. Another standout moment was when Colleagues played without Sarah Waddell, who stopped mid game to rush to the aid of an opposition player and stayed with her for hours until an ambulance arrived.

The second half of the season welcomed back a large number of players returning from Europe, Asia and various mid-year holidays, bringing a much-needed resurgence to the squad. Their growth in skills, creativity and confidence on the field was incredible, an exciting sign for a first-year group.

Rain continued to plague the season, but whenever the girls had the chance to play, they grabbed the opportunity with both hands. This resilience was on full display when we faced undefeated heavyweights Norths, with never a lack of smiles or intensity on the field. This never say die attitude was complemented by efforts like Sarah Waddell's, who played a full game after a night shift.

Mimi Stewart was named co-captain towards the end of the year due to her consistent leadership, barn storming carries and her calm, commanding and positive presence. This steadied the group heading into the final rounds, where they produced a very strong win over Sydney Irish, showcasing expansive rugby and exceptional skills.

Coming into Ladies' Day, it must be said how instrumental the girls were in its success. They were heavily involved in organising sponsors, food, promotion, merchandise and activities such as the dash for cash and the player auction. It became one of the most successful Ladies' Days ever, and that success sits firmly with this exceptional group of women. Although we could not find an opponent on the day, the girls rallied and fielded two teams for an internal match for the ages.

To the 36 registered players of the inaugural Colleagues Women's rugby team, what a year. In hindsight, starting pre-season in February and competing perhaps too well in the 10s competition in March led to us being placed directly in the top division. But rarely was there a complaint. You simply loved turning up and playing for each other. When a home game was cancelled against Wollongong Uni, you rallied, jumped in cars and drove an hour and a half to play 45 minutes of footy. Be incredibly proud, not only of that effort, but also of the moment 11 of you turned up to training in the rain on a half flooded basketball court even though you knew your Saturday game would most likely be



cancelled. Bravo. And a special mention to those who spent hours ringing councils from Woollahra to Leichhardt asking if any ovals were open so you could squeeze in one more game in 2025.

Coaching this group was a privilege. Season highlights included Freya Regan's bone crushing tackles, Lily Hall's lightning speed, and Skye Weston's mid game sickness, usually due to the previous night's antics. I am so grateful to have been part of something so special and excited to see how the club grows with this brilliant group proving to be such an important addition.

What a sensational bunch of women who have started something they can be proud of for years to come. We look forward to seeing what 2026 brings and cannot wait to see the Colleagues Women's team out in force again soon.

Toby Cooke and Fitz Bowman





Barbour Cup Report 2025

Season 2025 kicked off with a lot of unknowns. After we had lost the vast majority of players from 2024: 1) Who would join Braggys, Arch, Mont, and Tommy to help have a crack in 2025? 2) Would we have enough to field a second's colts? 3) How long would it take Minu and Woodsie to remember everyone's names? The answers were 1) A truckload of new legends. 2) Yes. And 3) approximately July and 2026 respectively.

Led by a large contingent of Cranbrook boys who flirted with the idea of rugby league before remembering they were Cranbrook boys, the numbers swelled handsomely through the preseason. This allowed us to get a second's team entered into the Nicholson Cup (Division 3 colts) and boast a solid 45-man squad that could take on the Barbour season. To sum up Nichos quickly, a slow start, a fleeting hope, then uni break which was too much to overcome. But the effort to form the squad and enter the comp meant we could welcome an additional 20+ players to Colleagues culture and get them some footy. Critically, it meant we have stock to draw upon during the uni break, and plenty of the Nichos boys stepped up in huge wins at minor premiers Newport and vs defending premiers Hunters. Over the last half decade, we have seen plenty of 18yo 2nds colts go on to be Barbour legends and Kentwell players, and no doubt plenty more will spring up from this cohort.

The Barbour season got underway with a 0-31 loss at Hunters, which was closer than the scoreboard suggested and gave hints that a solid team was just under the surface. Comfortable wins over Waverley, Blue Mountains, and Lindfield showed that we could be finals contenders, before a cracking away win at Drummoyne (remembered for the Marky Mark style finish from Dyl Melv to win the game). The next week saw us host Mosman. A couple of controversial interpretations of the rules late in the second half turned the game. Unfortunately, one of the lads asking the ref whether offside was still a thing led to a judiciary appointment that week and a two competition point deduction.

Knowing we had Newport and Hunters the next two weeks, our finals hopes were now to be tested. And the boys passed with flying colours. We knocked off comp leaders at Newport, led by a hulking game from our #8 JJ, then Hunters at home, with a two try performance from Wilson including a 1999-Minu-esque chip and chase for himself. This started a 6-game winning streak that solidified our top 2 chances. Unfortunately, the last two weeks crashed with losses at Mosman and vs Newport. Another controversial interpretation of the rules against Mosman led to another judiciary appointment. We had the same result at the judiciary, where the platter of party pies seems to serve as a barrier between the evidence and the judiciary. This led to our poor player being suspended for the Newport game - though Colleagues did have a win, lodging the first successful appeal of a suspension in a long time, and he was reinstated for the semifinal. Worse luck was to come against Newport, when our gun centre JT badly dislocated his shoulder, forcing him out for the season. We were on top in that game at that time and couldn't help but feel losing him might have taken the chance of that game and the season with it. It's not hyperbole to say that JT had a GI like presence on the Barbour Cup (I would have used a rugby union analogy if there was one available). His dicky shoulders will now render him retired to his fallback career in medicine.

The good news is that 2026 shapes up as a cracker for the Colleagues nuts and bolts. We have a record 22 players destined to return from this season, all of which played Barbour. Plus, Cookie. Stirlo gave Braggys a run for his money in the Dally M, and all things going well will be back to lead the boys from the back. Our pack looks strong, where we had a number of 18yos starting in the finals against 21yo. Another year under their belts and they will be a force to be reckoned with. Plenty of classy cattle in the backs led by Melv and Pricey. And the Phillips brothers ready to step in the Committee as the best Colleagues twin contributors since the Taylors. (Note a tag team wrestling between these two sets of behemoth brothers would really be something.)

To the departing players, it's been a blast. Thankfully a couple of you got a Radford prem at the start if not a Barbour prem at the end. Hopefully we'll see you running around in grade next season if you're still in Sydney. Archie Miller adding himself to the short list of 4-season colts is a great effort.



And finally, to our captain Sam Bragg. Colleagues colts have such a strong tradition over its 29 seasons, that there is a staggeringly long list of true colt's legends. You've put yourself firmly in the absolute top tier in every aspect - player, bloke, leader, teammate. Been an absolute pleasure and will miss watching you give 110% every game you play. You may not have gone out holding the Barbour aloft, but winning the Colts Medal as best player in subbies was a fitting consolation. Losing the Colts Medal on Grand Final night was equally fitting for a bloke that goes 110% off the field also.

Onwards and upwards for the colts in 2026!

Minu & Woodsie

Sydney Convicts Addendum Report 2025

2025 saw our First XV filling in for Maccabi in Div 5 McClean Cup which was challenging but was the right level. This meant that our home games were at Burrows Park at not down at Woollahra which was a challenge in terms of missing out on shared game days.

We almost made it to the finals but were pipped at the post. Injuries and availability wreaked havoc although it led to great development of some of our players. Recruitment was good and our Pathways saw some great new potential coming through and playing in the season.

Our Second XV were back in the Halligan and getting plenty of practice. There was a fair bit of movement between the Firsts and Seconds which was great to see.

The Purchas Cup, an Aus/NZ inclusive comp was held in Auckland in September, and we took two teams with their being 5 other Aussie teams and one from New Zealand. It was good to see the development and longevity of other gay and inclusive teams.

The competition was hard fought with our Second XV taking home the Purchas Shield after an incredible run through. Our First XV lost the final of the Purchas Cup by 2 points after a valiant effort but all respect to the Brisbane Hustlers who took the silverware back with them. We didn't get the chance to host Community Day down at Rose Bay due to the way our fixtures fell so it was a more low-key event, but we hope to be back there next year. Changes to the system meant that no judiciary hearings this year which I suspect is a better way of doing things!

In other news, I have handed over the baton to James Moorey who has been with us for 9 years and been very much involved in all aspects of the Club. Andy Sandersons remains on as Vice-President.

I wanted to thank everyone at Colleagues for their support and assistance in my tenure over the last 3 years and look forward to seeing the 2026 season from the stands.

August 2026 sees us off to Brisbane for the Bingham Cup so recruitment is a priority, and our training will start early. We don't know how Subbies will look in 2026 but hopefully it will see us return to our home ground.

Ken Averde

Convicts President