

KINGS OLD BOYS RUGBY CLUB

Walker Cup Champions
U19 Colts Cup Champions



**Annual Report
2001**

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President's Report

Another year of action and exhaustion by seasons end!

If last year was about the hard work of recent years paying off - with the club of the year award and the grose cup premiership – then this year has been about going on with the job on a number of different fronts – many of which are listed below and throughout this report.

As each of us come to the end of our playing days with our club (whenever that may be) – many of our fondest memories will have been created on the playing fields, training paddocks and social events of the 2001 season.

Both on and off the field our maturity as a club has been demonstrated in a most positive way and for this I would like to thank the committee, coaches, players and supporters for the contribution each of you have made to the year.

The purpose of a report such as this is to inform the reader about the activities of the volunteers and enthusiasts who form the backbone of an organization like a subbies rugby club, where we are and how we are going and to provide a helpful starting point for the incoming committee as it prepares for season 2002. Many of you have provided a summary of your efforts and achievements for this purpose and for that I thank you on behalf of the readers.

To the sponsors I would also like to extend my thanks on behalf of the club, without your support, the new jerseys, training equipment, coaching courses, recruitment and other social functions would remain the dream they did for so many years, rather than the reality which they have been this last year or so. Specifically I would like to mention the school and its headmaster Dr Tim Hawkes, School old boys union committee and its President and treasurer Chris Fullerton and Peter Roberts and the Aussie Youth hotel and its owner Mike Scanes. I also refer you to the back of this report for a full list of sponsors

Onfield

Our onfield year is notable for several reasons:

- The integration of last years u19 players into many of the senior teams this year and the outstanding performance of Nick Cohen and Rohan Ramsay in stepping up in the Grose cup side in the later part of the year and the semis,
- The welcoming of new players from a variety of playing backgrounds – in particular, Kiwis Nathan, Andrew and Nattiau, George Hardy and his mates (too many names to mention) from last years premiership winning Canterbury side, and the new u19's from kings, Wesley and Sydney Uni,

- The performance and success of the clubs new coaches, Mat Page, Jon Hayward and Patrick Cunningham – two of whom had not previously coached before (Mat and Jon),
- The results! – we fielded 5 sides week in week out for the first time in the clubs history for the following results:
 - Premierships in the Walker and U19 cups,
 - Runners up in Maclean and Haligan cups
 - Point scoring for and against record and finalists to last years premiers, the Grose cup

Off field

Off the field we continued positively on the following fronts:

- Our relationship with Sydney uni rugby was further developed, with trials being conducted with Uni Colts, and with a number of our U19 side playing colts for uni against Randwick during the season proper
- 100% retention of sponsors -with income of \$.
- We reconnected with past players through a most enjoyable sponsors and golden oldies day
- The annual ball – with over 300 patrons – was held at the ANA hotel, with special guests Mark Ella, Bill (the William Webb Ellis trophy) and all other trophies currently held by the wallabies (and the club)

The future

This is my last report as president. I have very much enjoyed my 4 years in the role and trust my successor will find it as rewarding as I have.

I leave the position with a great deal of confidence in the prospects of the club – we have quality young people who give their time selflessly both on and off the paddock and I look forward to sharing in the enjoyment which continued association brings. As our playing age has come down considerably in recent years, I am hopeful the benefits of this policy will show in the next several seasons as younger players reach their full playing maturity.

Richard Weekes
Club President

[stick weekesey in here]

Jon Hayward in action (at half time)

“A smiling player is an inspiration to all” – Vince Lombardi

Treasurer's Report

Attached to this report are the financial statements to for the club up to Nov 2000. These show that while we are in a relatively healthy cash position with cash in the bank of \$6,472 our other assets have decreased significantly. This was partly due to end of season giveaways to the victorious Grose Cup team , but also due to less than satisfactory control over jerseys, bar trading and other assets.

On the positive side, sponsorship was the buzzword in Season 2000 for KOBS. With fantastic work from David Lennox gaining new sponsorship and maintaining previous sponsors KOBS were able uphold it's focus of giving back to the players in terms of equipment and player comforts.

This sponsorship was a major factor in turnover increase from \$4,215 last year to \$10,750 (not including Ball sponsorship \$2,000) this year. David has provided more detail regarding profit from sponsorship in his marketing report. In total 54 fees were collected before the first game in Season 2000. We are set to improve on this figure in Season 2001 with 25 players having booked their spot already in January.

This year was expensive in terms of equipment, and the upkeep of the Club up to and beyond the final whistle of the Grose Cup premiership final. Shack renovations were paid for in this financial year. Bar food and beverage ordering in terms of quantity and price remains an improvable area. Transport was mostly subsidised by the club this year and unforeseen premiership expense was a pleasure to have not budgeted for. All up we have more than we started with, helped by a successful End of Season Ball. Also inspiring commitment shown by members paying their fees already for Season 2001 will show up in statements to come.

Generally profit is less than last year despite larger membership and sponsorship for the following main reasons:

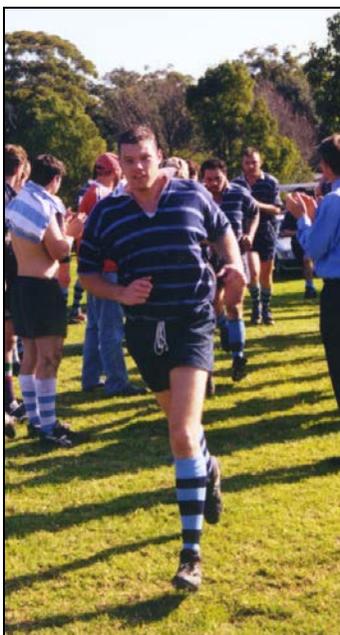
- Kingdome renovation costs expensed in this year
- Insurance costs increased
- A lot more playing equipment being bought and expensed - heaps of shorts, socks, balls, blankets, bottles, training equipment.
- The bus mostly subsidised by club
- No large profit making functions before the Ball
- Less merchandising
- Bar profit small
- Cost of winning 2nd grade - trophies, etc (\$1,800 cost for trophies)

My crack at treasurer this year has shown me the following would be required to help our club;

- Expense sheets to be filled out for better management of expenses and re-payment.
- Assistant Treasurer banking of cash, cheques and credit card slips.
- Internet ordering of food and beverages for BBQ.

I would like to thank all those people that week in week out go above and beyond the call of duty behind the scenes so that 80 people can enjoy their Rugby every Saturday.

Earl Hekking



After hours and hours of 'cooking the books' club treasurer Earl likes to take time off to play rugby

Balance Sheet as at 21 Nov 2000

Assets	As at 21-Nov-00	As at 16-Oct-99	As at 5-Jan-99	As at 11-Nov-97
Cash at bank	6,472	5,650	1,930	3,316
Jerseys/shorts/socks and footballs	440	2,451	800	1,600
Merchandise	0	854	0	638
Sundry debtors - sponsorship	0	182	0	65
Goal posts / pads	501	0	0	600
Capitalisation of Rug Shack expenditure	2,090			
Less: accumulated amortisation	(697)			
Total assets	8,806	9,137	2,730	6,219
Liabilities	2,150	690	231	0
Net assets	6,656	8,447	2,499	6,219
Members' funds				
Prior year accumulated profits	8,447	2,499	6,219	6,154
Accumulated profit / (loss) for the year	(1,791)	5,948	-3,720	65
Total members funds	6,656	8,447	2,499	6,219

Statement of Income

and Expenditure

Period from 17 October
1999
to 21 November 2000

	17-Oct-99 21-Nov-00	6-Jan-99 to 16-Oct-99	12-Nov-97 to 5-Jan-99	1-Jan-97 to 11-Nov-97
Income				
Membership fees	6,955	6,548	3,536	6,680

Bar revenue	7,545	5,588	6,474	8,545
Sponsorship revenue	10,750	4,215	1,000	2,800
Functions revenue - Ball	27,200			
- Other	6,918	11,343	2,754	8,000
Merchandising - revenue	205	2,763	0	330
Bus hire takings	0	305	495	200
Interest	44	154	0	179
Tours - Mudgee, other	0	69	0	1,975
Other revenue	61	0	0	0
Total revenue	59,678	30,984	14,259	28,709

Expenses

Bar - food and drink	7,538	3,466	4,606	5,448
Bus hire expenses	1,435	1,250	2,250	470
Cleaning of jerseys	0	359	579	350
Club drinks / dinners	608	1,213	0	0
Function costs - Ball	23,117			
- End of season trophies	1,818			
- Other	7,547	8,712	2,285	10,604
Kingdome expenses	398	355	197	0
Kingdome renovation	697	30		
KOBOSC expenses	0	289	0	0
KOBweb fees	543	415		
Merchant fees	1,504	479	92	219
Bank fees	239	75	23	49
Mobile phone	0	218	323	240
Tour fees	0			
Players insurance	3,450	3,000	2,847	3,480
Playing equipment / trainers	2,526	186	90	229
Printing & postage	0	154	139	0
Purchase of footballs	440	190	393	225
Registration fees	1,197	1,150	1,000	1,200
Theft and bad debts written off	0	0	0	880
Training ground	750	690	215	1,468
Merchandise - costs	3,118	2,617	855	2,908
Other	0	190	-18	874
Total expenses	56,925	24,346	15,876	28,644
Gross Profit / (loss) for the period	2,754	5,948	-1,617	65
Abnormal asset write-off:				
- Jerseys/shorts/socks and footballs	3,691			
- Merchandise	854			
- Other	0	0	2,103	0
Net Profit / (loss) for the period	(1,791)	5,948	(3,720)	65

Independent Audit Report

To the members of The King's School Old Boys' Rugby Football Club

SCOPE

I have audited the financial report of The King's School Old Boys' Rugby Football Club for the year ended 31 December 2000 consisting of the profit and loss account, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and accompanying notes. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Club.

My audit has been conducted to provide reasonable assurances as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects the financial statements are presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Club's financial position and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

QUALIFICATION

It is not always practicable for the Club to establish accounting control over all sources of fundraising appeal activities prior to receipt of these funds by members of the Club and accordingly it is not possible for my examination to include procedures which extend beyond the amounts of such income recorded in the accounting records of the Club.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, except for the effects on the financial statements of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the limitation referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of The King's School Old Boys' Rugby Football Club gives a true and fair view of the Club's financial position as at 31 December 2000 and of its performance for the period ended on that date.

SYDNEY
25 January 2001

N.R.F. HOBLER
Chartered Accountant
Honorary Auditor

Secretary's Report

This year was successful. A large portion of the success can be attributed to the members of the committee who, from November of 1999, undertook numerous and time consuming responsibilities.

In January of 2000, each committee member announced his goals for the season. Every member of the committee met his goals. Because of this, the foundation of a successful year existed and of a promising future exists.

I am confident that the work of this year's committee provides an example and basis for the incoming committee to excel.

My thanks goes to the president, each member of the committee, the coaches, every other member of the club and their partners for making this year an enjoyable one

.
Damien Allen

Registrars Report

Season 2000 saw Kings Old Boys registering 89 players with Subbies and it was very encouraging that a large number of these players (43) were new to the club and registered with Kings for the first year. All players eligible to play in the under 19 and 2nd grade playoffs, by playing the required number of games, were duly registered and took their part in Kings' successful playoff efforts.

Season 2001 will see the introduction of electronic registration, and with the database of player details developed during season 2000, the club should be in a position to make a hassle-free transition.

Guy Martell

Recruitment Report

Bill Carpenter and I met shortly after the end of season 2000 and contemplated the season that was. In particular, we looked at my woeful speed around the paddock and Bill's pitiful passing from half back (in first grade!).

We then thought about we could do in the off season to improve these aspects of our games- i.e. solutions ranging from beach sprints to Bill daily passing medicine balls under water with the use of shock therapy if he continued to pass to the left when he was supposed to pass to the right.

After a few more beers, we then considered that this was -like most of our conversations- unrealistic and implausible. So we decided the best solution by far

was to find someone else who could do all the accurate passing, running, tackling and try scoring that we neglected to do last season. So we turned over a few rocks and kicked a few tyres to try and find some new players.

Recruitment highlights included:

- poaching a team from Canterbury Football Club.
- forming and developing a relationship with Sydney University (thanks to Pat Cunningham) where we would provide a home for some of the 60-70 excess players they cannot field in colts sides each year. This included attending and providing jumpers at several Sydney University colt trial games.
- a recruitment dinner and football trial game against St Andrews College (Sydney University).
- Pat Cunningham's recruitment efforts as the coach of Wesley College Football (Sydney University).
- Richard Weekes/Guy Martell/ Nigel Hobler recruitment efforts through KPMG harassing the existing player base to bring along a friend or two.
- developing and producing Q & A's, information sheets and business cards.
- developing further the KOBWEB as a source of recruiting local and overseas players.

It was particularly pleasing to see the addition of a fourth grade side to the club and the ability of the club to cope with mid season injuries in a way that wasn't possible a couple of seasons ago.

Alex Rhydderch

Ladies Committee Report

The 2000 rugby season heralded the formation of the first Kings Old Boys Ladies Committee. A long overdue initiative, we picked an excellent year to formalise the longstanding female support of the club.

Of course the highlight of the 2000 season for the Ladies Committee and all supporters of Kings Old Boys were the final games. During the finals we saw the sideline support grow considerably. Our attendance was rewarded with 2nd grade's sensational victory in the Grand Final, a great day for the whole club and especially for those nervous females who's partners were on the field battling Hurlstone Park. We all knew that our lives would be considerably easier if Kings were to leave the ground with Grose Cup in hand - and so they did!

During the 2000 season it was decided that the main aim of the Ladies Committee would be to encourage further support of the club from the partners, families and friends of the players. By making home games a more family/female friendly environment, we hope that the supporters ranks will grow and that everyone will be able to further enjoy coming out to watch the games and becoming more involved in the club.

It was acknowledged that players are more likely to enjoy their time playing with Kings and that there is a higher retention of players if the experience of rugby went beyond them playing the game after leaving the house on a Saturday morning and their partners/families simply waving them goodbye. We hope that the initiatives we have suggested will increase the already strong social aspect of the club and enable a strong network of friendships to form amongst the supporters, as has been the case amongst the players.

We recognise social events as an excellent way to encourage and build on the friendships within the club especially as they enable partners an opportunity to meet the people that their husbands and boyfriends spend so much time with during the winter months. Wine and Cheese Nights, Race Days, Ladies Days and Black-tie Balls have been suggested for the 2001 season and of course there will be the regular home game gatherings of the so called "Chardonnay Set". We are all looking forward to catching up on the off-season happenings and re-kindling the firm friendships forged out of long Saturday afternoons cheering on all the grades. We'll all be there - rugs, champagne and food at the ready.

So as the 2001 season approaches, The Ladies Committee looks forward to welcoming all new players, their partners, friends and families and catching up with the current players and their supporters. We hope this season brings the club even further success and if we have even half as much fun as last year – it will be a great season!

Off-season report

The off-season was a busy one at King Old Boys, and significant efforts were focused on the repair of the heralded Rug Shack. A number of people were committed to this cause throughout the summer and appreciative thanks go out to Lenny, Ruddy and Rudds who provided much of the physical labour, Dieter who got the floor so that it could be walked on again, Colin and Jo who sourced most of our materials (they say that they didn't fall off the back of a truck), and to Tricky, Sarge, OC, Jonesy, Brian, Lowie, Cabo, Moose, Francey, Nixie, Crouchy, Earl, and all the others who gave up their week-ends for a good cause.

Most people would know that for the Shack to become the affectionate Shack that it is again today, serious repair work was in order and some of the more significant work carried out included replacing the floor inside, sanding and painting the inside and outside of the Shack and the outside of the sheds, re-joisting the front and back verandahs and the stripping and cleaning of the kitchen. Structurally the Shack is sound now, however before Season 2001 the clubhouse deserves some decorating and a bit more TLC – if anyone has any posters, photo collages, or other appropriate decorations please bring these out with you to the first 2001 home game.

Among other activities organised during the off-season was a successful Mudgee 7's (1999) where the club played 6 games winning 3.

Guy Martell

The Presentation Lunch

This year the club's annual awards gala was a low-key affair (compared to some) following the celebrations surrounding second grade's win. A lunchtime function at the Aussie Youth was the setting, ably organised by the redoubtable Chris Jones, who was also MC.

The main awards were as follows:

Doc Harris Award	Guy Martell
Best and Fairest	James Hawkins
Most Improved	Nick Sergeant
Billy Carpenter All Star	Matt Page

A new prize named in honour of Richard Weekes for 'Rookie of the Year' was awarded to Dan Evans.

Marketing and Sponsorship Report

The year saw continued growth in the marketability of the club. The figures below indicate the level of this growth. In short, we have achieved 100% growth in sponsorship received for the past two seasons - a statistic which will be a challenge to maintain over the next few years.

	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Sponsorship received	21,444	10,750	4,215	1,000	2,800

What is most pleasing has been the strengthening of relationships between the club and its sponsors, which saw all of the sponsors from Season 2000 come on board for Season 2001.

The major goal of the club in terms of sponsorship is not only to receive benefits from sponsors but to provide the sponsors with benefits. Please pass on the good names of our sponsors (listed below) to your network of friends and associates and help them generate some business in return for providing us with a healthy club.

We already have a number of sponsors for Season 2002, including a new major sponsor in Cropper Parkhill Solicitors.

Season 2002 will be a major challenge following the successes both on and off the field in 2001. A challenge hopefully we are all looking forward to with relish.

List of sponsors

Organisation	Who to thank	What they have provided	What they
The Kings School	Tim Hawkes - Headmaster	The ground since the Club's inception and the maintenance of the shed and changerooms	
The Kings School Old Boys Union	Peter Roberts – Secretary	2 year relationship – provided funds towards the refurbishment of the shack	
Australian Youth Hotel	Michael Scanes and the rest of the bar staff	2 year relationship – towards club registration and insurances and other administrative activities	One of Syd St, Glebe – facilities, wa home of the
Allied Pickfords Business Relocations	Ross Simpson – Manager	2 year relationship – provided funds towards dress shirts and playing shorts for club members	They are pa respected r in the world of relocation and business storage, sh records ma
The Response Design Group	Mark Perry – Managing Director	2 year relationship – sponsors of the defending premiers 2 nd grade and the currently undefeated U19's	Commercial and project
Strategy Interiors	Bruce Purser - Director	2 year relationship – major sponsors of the end of season Black Tie Ball – this year on Fri 14 September at the Novatel – BE THERE	Construction company.
Cropper Parkhill	John Simpson – Managing Partner	1 st year relationship – sponsors of club apparel – the soon to be released and long awaited club tie.	Practices in corporation and convey Located in t
Vision Home Loans	David Lennox / Matthew Ivers	2 year relationship – sponsors of 1 st grade	Mortgage B Australia's low cost, ha the best fin
Tip Talk	Geordie Gill	1 st year relationship – sponsors of 3 rd grade	Waste man specialising bobcat and outs, demo moving. Fr

Rhinodot.com	Charles and Richard Mason	Creators and content providers for the world's greatest rugby website – the KOBWEB	Providers of services.
Front Row Media	Nick Sergeant	Provider of design services to the club	Designer
Eco Civil Construction	Julian Ashmore	Provider to the scoreboard to the club	Landscaping
The Chiropractor	Andrew Stevenson	Game Day – injury prevention and treatment	Chiropractor

David Lennox

Social Committee Report

With the 2001 season now over, we can now reflect on what could be regarded as the most successful season to date for KOB's both on and off the field. Kicking off the social calendar for the season was the "Welcome To The Club Function" held at the club's esteemed major sponsor, The Aussie Youth Hotel. A novel idea of using name tags to identify all the new young bulls together with available single females was cleverly devised to ensure this getting to know you function was a success.

Following on, the perennial favourite of many a quiz enthusiast was none other than Maso's Trivia Night. Well the crowds had been queuing for days in the hope of securing tickets to the most revered of all trivia contests and they were not let down. From the first question to the final answer Maso had minds ticking, tongues a wagging and scribes scribbling. Once again masses were being turned away at the door whilst the "A" list keenly contested the title of trivia kings.

As the season progressed, the Tri-Nations night was resurrected under the guise of the British Lions Night with log fires, multiple tv screens, pig on a spit and enough alcohol to sink the Kittyhawk. Once again, this night was a great success with the ambient atmosphere of the Rugshack being the venue for this favourite of the social calendar. Despite everyday being ladies day at the Rugshack, the decision was made to make one ladies day more celebrated than the other ladies days and so it was. Champagne flowed as freely as tries against the opposing team and all in attendance were treated to a great day of fine fare.

Finally with three teams in the grand final and two resultant victories the end of season ball was destined to be a crowd pleaser. Strategy Interiors were once

again major sponsors of the ball providing not only important funding but also the guest speaker being the Wallaby legend Mark Ella. The venue was the grand ballroom of the ANA Hotel with attendance of over 325. Guests danced the night away to the tunes of the Fun Factory. With the ARU kindly providing the four trophies from their cabinet and the incomparable Paul McGettigan as master of ceremonies the night was a fitting finale to a sensational season. In closing, I would like to acknowledge the sterling efforts of all those who contributed significantly to the social committee and its respective functions ie Penny Keramidas, Paul Lowe, David Lennox, Guy Martell, Renee McGuinness & Paul McGettiganthe magnificent 7.

Scott Rudd



Who doesn't love a drink after footy on the Rug Shack Verandah?

www.kobweb.org.au

At a time when many web sites are having trouble getting even their own staff to look at them the kobweb keeps getting more and more hits with little if any publicity.

Our web server statistics show the site gets on average over 200 individual visits per week demonstrating its usefulness in promoting the club and indeed, rugby union. Perhaps it's time to take advantage of this a little more.

In terms of usefulness to players on a weekly basis, the site has been supplanted by email as a way of making announcements, which is much more convenient. We are working on getting the site to be a better archive of club events and happenings rather than just be a noticeboard of things you have already read about on email.

Like so many things around the club you get out of them what you put in, unfortunately not many club members feel they are in a position to contribute to the site. This is in fact wrong; it is as easy to contribute to the site as it is to write and send an email. The more match reports, stories, updates and so on from club members the better.

Some of you may feel that this web site report has only been included in the annual report so there isn't a blank page at the end. You may also feel this particular report is too long. That it restates the obvious, that it is self-serving and just plain wrong.

You are entitled to your own opinions, of course, but I ask you, before you pass judgement too quickly or too harshly, is this the worst report in these pages? If your answer is yes, then tear it out and shred it before it further contaminates the words of those noble report writers it cowers amongst. If on the other hand, your answer is no, then I ask you to consider not ripping it out, but to let it stay as a reminder that report writing is not fun, it is not a hobby that you can put aside once there is too much glue on your fingers, it is in fact an important way of concluding the previous year 's activities within the club and launching the next by figuratively smashing a champagne bottle full of wordy prose on its hull and setting it afloat once more on the ocean of fate that is subbies rugby.

Charles Mason

Club Captain's Report

What a great season both on and off the field for Kings in 2000, with two of four teams making the semi-finals. Well done to both 2nd grade for winning the Grose Cup and the under 19's for making the final in their first year with the club.

With increasing numbers in our club over the last two seasons, positions in all grades have been up for grabs. Due to this we saw strong numbers at training each week. Good to see!

2000 saw the introduction of our under 19's team largely made up of Sydney Uni students, excellent to see some new blood in the club. Special thanks must go to their coach Nick Cohen for his extra effort in their first year.

Socially the club excelled as always. New major sponsor the Australian Youth Hotel providing the perfect venue for King's to hold many social events during the year. The social calendar was capped off with the Masquerade ball with over 250 Guests at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. Well done to the social committee for a successful year.

The driving force behind the success of our club has been the tremendous dedication of our committee and coaches. Thanks to the committee: Richard Weekes, Damien Allen, David Lennox, Chris Jones, Guy Martell, Earl Hekking and Stuart Pass. Thanks to the coaches: Matt Crouch, Stuart Nix, David Lennox and Nick Cohen.

Thanks to all players for your continued support and club spirit during the season. We have started to build great depth in the club and should see all our grades improve in 2001 and remember to always enjoy your rugby.

Nick Sergeant
Club Captain

Club Coach's Report

This year saw more players both training and playing with the Club than in the past two seasons (at one stage fielding a fourth grade side, before the introduction of the U'19s). This in conjunction with keen coaches enabled a better focus on our Rugby.

The standard of Rugby throughout Division 4 is relatively high. All grades played a brand of football in keeping with the modern game and remained competitive through the season, even when injuries mounted. With continued foul play and poor refereeing I believe all players played in the spirit for which the game is intended and our Club promotes.

Motivation was normally high at training to learn, teach and enjoy, along with satisfactory attendance.

The position of Club coach I see as a necessary one, although coaching an individual grade as well proves tough and time consuming. (But I did enjoy it.)

Stuart Nix



First Grade after their thrilling defeat of Matraville in the second round

First Grade Coach's Report

The year 2000 promised much for first grade. Pre season training was well attended and there was a real feeling that we could accomplish anything if we set our minds to it. By the end of the season, we had won only a handful of games.

The rugby public at large could be forgiven for believing the year to have been a failure. But 2000 was anything but a failure. The results of first grade show that we were very competitive on all games played. In the majority of games we actually led the opposition at some time through the match and often at half time as well - a huge improvement on the previous season.

But winning itself is a skill, and one that we at Kings need to learn. We had some heart breaking losses to teams that we had on toast, but our guys showed a huge amount of ticker against opposition sides that were much bigger, man for man.

Don't kid yourselves, sports-fans, 4th division is not so lowly as you might think. It's the TOP division of clubs that field 3 teams. Some very tough opposition!

Even so, with a little more depth of numbers (we had a sorry run of injuries to key players) and a little luck here and there, the scoreboard could well have been vastly different.

Particular mention must go to the tight five and the evergreen Owen Craig in the front row. Many opponents remarked that they were the most feared 5 in the comp. Also special mention to the best and fairest for the year, James Hawkins, whose consistent hard work and technical ability was a memorable contribution.

Also particular mention must go to our long awaited victory over Matraville. In this coach's 10 year history with the club it was a first, and almost rated (my wife will kill me) up there with the arrival of our first born! The grin is still there and I don't care whether Billy Carpenter got the ball down or not.

Thanks to the seconds for reserving so valiantly so often and to Nixie for your help all year. You are a big asset to the club. And of course congrats again on that spectacular grand final win!

See you in 2001

Matt Crouch

Second Grade Coach's Report

Season 2001 from my point of view was a highly successful one.

As a first year coach and making the finals with a team made up of young and old, inexperienced and experienced was tremendously satisfying – although at times very challenging.

Memories that I think will last include the way we never stopped when we go to the front, we went on with the job and really beat teams playing on most occasions for the full 70 minutes.

It was great to see a mixture of young fellas and the older blokes and how they all blended together as a side. For that I thank you all for your commitment to the club and myself.

To Mcgett's – you did such a good job as a captain – making my job a whole lot easier – I always felt that what I didn't say you said.

To all the new guys (young and old) who were not guaranteed a spot - you were always there at training and forced yourselves into the side through your dedication and attitude – you were an integral part of the side's chemistry.

Finally a big thank you to each and everyone of you – as much as I hated sitting on the sideline watching I really enjoyed getting together at training and before the game, planning how we were going play and watching you guys actually do it on the day.

Well done for a good season – a club point scoring record for and against, third in the comp proper and valiant finalists in the semis

From my personal point of view whilst I enjoyed the experience overall, I was introduced to a level of behind the scenes positioning which I was unaware of during my playing days – someone said to me during the season this was good preparation for fatherhood – to that I say I don't want 22 boys!!

Mat Page



Reigning Grose Cup Champions of the World KOBS 2nds 2000

Third Grade Coach's Report

Well, well, sportsfans, what a year it was for the KOBS all round!

Third grade had it's most successful season in this coach's near decade-long association with the club*. Yes, it's now old news that WE WON THE COMP and are the WALKER CUP CHAMPIONS - but that's not all by a long chalk.

This year we introduced a youth policy (doesn't apply to coaches) as the average age of the players was, well, let's put it this way, to print it would not be in good taste. We received a terrific injection from the colleges at Sydney Uni and another from the Canterbury Doggies. It made a massive difference to the club as a whole. For the first time in ages the club had depth; indeed, 2 players initially in thirds, Ben McAllister and Cameron (the "pornstar") Mitchell ultimately played in the first grade grand final. Great effort, fellas.

But third grade also had depth. It is important to acknowledge the achievements of the other grades and coaches, because without their help and their generous enthusiasm and back-up, thirds could not have done so well. Special thanks to Patrick Cunningham and his players of the u-19s, your Dave Hammills, your Graeme Harrisons, your Mike Rivers-s, Murray Masons and Rohan Ramsays for your important contribution to thirds. (Don't you hate that "your + plural crap?") And congrats again on your GF win! Special thanks also to Jon Haywood and your Halligan Cup Hooligans who always helped out when injuries hit us and congrats to you all on your marvellous season as well.

My third grade side was a pleasure to coach - they demonstrated to me again that rugby is about generosity of spirit. I cannot remember a selfish act on or off the field once during the year - they always played first for each other and the club. And that's what makes the difference. Witness one Dave Sheridan with his arm almost useless, battling on in the grand final alongside Gus Doolin with both hammies shredded. Witness Andrew Sharpe doing his impersonation of a Gallipoli victim and LOUDLY demanding to be put back on. Witness Gus MacInnes at tight head almost always first to the breakdown (sorry George, Carts) and rookie Stu Haigh (alias Tom Gavin) soaring, a veritable colossus, to mark the high ball. Witness Sammy Davis' comeback from a broken leg to star in the finals series. And witness the effort that Beau Ward put in after sustaining a shocker to his shoulder in the prelim. final. Just some examples but great stuff and as important as the brilliance we showed at times on the paddock and in the bar afterwards.

Importantly, they also taught me that I can cut my speeches in half and still bore everyone to tears. Sure, I copped a lot of crap all year, from people who are in

fact, taller, more talented and just plain better looking than I ever was (or will be) - but it was all in fun.

To the players, I hope you enjoyed your footy in 2001 and that you all stay with the club. To my great mate Owen Craig, I am thrilled for you that we got there and chalked up a win after so many years. To the inspirational Weekesy - you are a legend, old son; it was a blast.

The best and fairest was breakaway George Hardy, whom it was my privelege to get to know and to coach this year. George Smith eat your heart out! A great and consistent performance from George (Hardy) all year, and a hell of a bloke, if I may say.

Next year, if I coach, I will cut my speeches in half again, I promise I will, but then again it's an interesting thing about footy that.....

Matt Crouch
Third Grade Coach

* - and we owe it all to a vintage pair of Reebok moon boots that my Mum bought in Beijing in 1979.

Fourth Grade Report

Here's the deal. You've never coached before, you have no idea whether you'll have players from week to week, or who they'll be, anybody for them to play against, anybody to referee them, or anywhere to play. But if you want to play rugby this year (well you're not getting any younger, and there are some good young beanpoles coming through ...), then ...

It was a crazy idea. So crazy it just might work. Take a large part of last year's thirds, and send them into battle against God knows who. Provately at the start of the season I thought we'd be lucky to score nil, and nothing happened in the first ten minutes of this season to convince me otherwise, until against the run of play in our first outing against Petesham, we picked up a loose pass, ran the rest of the field and scored. And against the run of play for the rest of the game we continued to chip away, and came off the field with a point from a 19-19 draw.

Of course, that was a complete fluke, as we were to find out against Beecroft the following week, where a combination of some rather inclement weather, rather good opposition and a complete lack of application saw us on the 0 of a 37-0. The turning point for the season came at half time in that match, where, lacking any sensible plan, we decided that now was as good a time as any to see what upping

the defensive workrate in defence felt like. Through the simple aggressive in their face defensive line we were able to limit the second half carnage, and when we came off the field I had the glimmer of an idea that things were going to be OK.

The next week was one of those odd ones; a game arranged at the last minute against Hawkesbury Valley, out in Windsor. We'd lost a number of players to the tyranny of distance, but we were honoured to have a couple of honoured visitors from second grade; young Mr Foster particularly ran riot and Rod Ormond showed what he could do with a bit of space and we notched up our first victory, 25-5.

We're at round four, we don't really know what we can do (Hawkesbury weren't that good, truth be known) and we're playing St Pats. This is serious, they're from first division The tactics were simple. Don't even try to beat them at football; they'll be looking forward to an hour or so of throwing the pill around, so our job is to stop them doing so, and to pick up the crumbs when they fall. Which, in the shape of two penalties, they did. We absorbed a phenomenal amount of pressure towards the end of the game, and emerged the most unlikely winners 6-0. And a pattern is starting to emerge, which was to form the cornerstone of our season.

Can't let on too many trade secrets, suffice to say that being switched on and alert both in attack and defence compensates in a very large degree for any deficiencies in natural talent.

Game the fifth takes us to Liverpool, with the rest of the club, for our only outing against a team from below third division all season. While Liverpool were scraping the barrel a bit to put a team together, as everyone knows there's no free lunch out west, and while we came away with a 15-0 win, particularly pleasing for Nick Salom's first ever meat pie, the game hurt, and was probably the most niggly encounter of the season, for obvious reasons. But a win's a win, and to nil is even better.

Now we're beginning to have expectations. Oh God, please may we not believe our own publicity next week against Beecroft, again.

We didn't. Messrs Foster and Ormond were once again the smiling assassins as we ran out 43-0. A game notable for a number of things, principal amongst which was the triumphal return of Dave Wilson from several weeks out injured, culminating in his first try ever; probably the first time he's ever scored anything come to think of it. A classic prop's try (bodies, ball, line, hand, yesssss), from a classic prop ...

By now we've gone 3 and a half games without conceding a point, and there's some serious strutting going on. Are we The Men, or what? To Lane Cove, and a real wake up call. Points conceded, behind on the scoresheet, and a real ground out win, 12-11 in the dying stages. Notable also for the first appearance of Simon

Carlyon, solving our fullback problems at a stroke, and Scott Wiseman, who managed to go from Hooligans to first grade within the space of six weeks, and then just as suddenly vanished back to somewhere in the UK to wear a cardigan in a rural solicitor's practice. Shades of Steve Merrick.

Just up the road from Lane Cove is Lindfield, who have the hide to play in Kings School jerseys. Point to prove. It wasn't pretty, it wasn't particularly memorable, but I liked our 6 and I loved their nil.

It is one of the quirks of Halligan Cup that because the draw, such as it is, is a week by week thing, one can easily end up playing the same team two weeks in a row, and with a weeks pause for a holiday weekend, we were up at Lindfield again. They were fired, we were fired, we were more fired. Mr Hagen had one of his unstoppable afternoons and we ran out 24-7 winners, in one of our most satisfying games of the year.

Six in a row. Where will it ever end. There was a palpable swagger about the lads as we entertained Petersham on sponsors day. I had a bad feeling. The wheels are going to fall off soon, and we don't want them to just yet. Not today, people to impress, Petersham to beat.

Very ugly. A game of rugby best forgotten, but once again, our 10 and their nil very much the right result. By this time, a cursory glance at the table showed us to be in second place, some way behind Colleagues, but still catchable. Noblesse oblige that we arrange a meeting before too long

But first, another foray into first division for a crack at St Ignatians. More than anything else, we needed a good hit out to focus the mind and toughen the body prior to Colleagues. It was a bit of a funny one with various players off in the snow or doing the Lions thing in Melbourne, but they were probably in the same boat. Tha having been said, we were god awful. Standing around, letting them dominate proceedings; we forgot what teamwork was all about. While it was a surprise to go in at halftime still 0-0, it was no surprise when an iggy strolled over just after half time. And we didn't get much better until about the last five minutes or so, when we began to make some sustained pressure count. Just when it looked like a valiant but futile rearguard action, the ball popped out of the back of their scrum, they didn't clean up, we did, 5-5, converted, another fluke.

The wake up call would have to wait another week. And it came with a vengeance. Before we knew it Colleagues were 19-0 in front, and we didn't have a chance from then on. That we managed to more or less hold our own in the second half was commendable, but a 29-7 loss was not part of the script. Oh well, They were very good, anyway.

The next weekend was a stroll against a sadly depleted Blacktown; while there were some good things about, one couldn't conclusively say that the form slump was over.

In mind of which it is probably just as well that the Big Wet appeared next week and led to our Colleagues rematch being cancelled. While we were rather better prepared, and I for one would have relished the mud, 'twas not to be. The following we visited Petersham. Given that Camperdown Oval is but a short yomp either from the Yoof or Wentworth Park, it almost seemed like a home game. And it was a very pleasant, warm day, and there were lots of kiddies and families having a fun day out, and so it was with a song in our little hearts that we trotted out and stood and watched Petersham play Rugby. It was dire. We were 7-0 down within a few minutes, and kept them further at bay only through their inability to capitalise.

Thank God a bit of Love magic got us level again midway through the second; it was clear with a minute or two to go that we weren't going to win it, but with the feed in our 22 they had a good chance to. Rush the 5/8 or hang back to avert the chip over the top? We chose the former, they went the latter. Unfortunately their very zippy half chose to chip over Wilson, D, and the result was never seriously in doubt. What made the day doubly painful was that we had just lost a game we should have won. Our previous two defeats we had no huge expectation of winning; this one hurt.

We had another chance to do Lindfield the following week. We did, but they were rather tougher than we expected. Mr Hagen turned in his tired straight throbbler against Lindfield. Come the end of the game there were more than a few tired sky blue inside backs seen retreating from the big man

All this time the competition had been going on; the Colleagues juggernaut had stalled somewhat; they had missed out a week owing to the division 1 bye, and they had also been held to a draw by Iggies the previous week. The maths was quite simple. Colleagues win, Halligan Cup goes east. Kings win and pick up a bonus point, we're still a chance. In fact, I calculated that the for and against being what it was, life would have got very interesting when we got to 72-0 in front.

One does not expect to play one's Grand Final on a dust bowl no 2 oval, with no supporters in attendance, but such was the schedule that everyone else was down at Hurlstone Park. Those that were there will talk of the ensuing heroics for many a year. IT was tight, it was hard, it was an arm wrestle and a half. It was scoreless at half time; one knew that all it would take was one half chance; it was a day for that rare subbies phenomenon, the 40m drop goal attempt. That it had to come down to one player, one foot offside, and one penalty from right in front, 20 yards out, for a 3-0 Colleagues victory just goes to show that Rugby can be a cruel master from time to time. But for us it was one of those out fo body

experiences; when you know that you've given everything you can, and that there was no petrol left in any tanks come the final whistle.

With second spot guaranteed, and no chance of first, pride was now at stake. We had Beecroft at home on a horribly windy day, and thanks party to the most dubious try awarded all year, we put another 10-0 victory into the record books.

ANd that, as far as the competition was concerned, was it. Which is a shame because we had a game arranged at Iggies for the final round of division one, and while we were squeezing Beecroft out yet again, Colleagues were getting beaten by St Pats, and well, who knows what might have been.

It was doubly ironic that we saved the best till last. The scoreline of 19-7 might not suggest a rout, but we played out finest rugby of the season, with 14 players, a ringin halfback, a hooker who hadn't hooked since school days, and more end of season injuries and infirmities thatn you could wave a tube of Dencorub at. It was fantastic to see young Mr Campbell get over for his first five pointer, making your esteemed scrive the only regular to remain tryless for the whole season, and CHRis Dirckze's length of the field effort for our third was equally joyful.

And that was that. A season which was far more successful than anyone could have dreamt about, in which we enjoyed success on the field, camaraderie off the field, some interesting logistical challenges which at times tested patience and tolerance, for which I take reponsibility. It was also a season in which we showed that a healthy club requires depth as much much as width; I feel sure that when the round 12 numbers crunch hit had we not had a strong Halligan side the effect on morale could have been serious and farreaching; as it was, we were able to ensure that full teams were on the field in all grades every round, with the silverware that resulted more than a partial consequence.

For me as a player it was by far the best season of rugby I have ever had, and as a coach it was a personally enriching and educative experience. I the club for their confidence and backing, the supporters and sponsors for their support and sponsorship and most of all I thank my players for their outstanding effort, solid teamwork and firstrate sportsmanship. If Subbies are watching and listening, there can be no better indicator of a club ready for third division than exploits of fourth grade this season.

Jon Hayward

Under 19s Report

The under 19s are a new and exciting development at the club. Thanks largely to the efforts of Nick Cohen, Tim Colless, Simon Goodhew and Tim Bryant the first

year on under 19s was a success with the side making the final of the competition. We hope all involved enjoyed their football and will return in the future to play colts or senior football with the club.

