

VIKINGS RFC

STIRRER OCTOBER - 2010

Fish's Corner

What is there to say???

2010 started out as a season where there was hope that Vikings would return to be a competitive team. By mid season this hope had graduated to the thought that we might have a crack at a minor premiership and a return to semi final football. It concluded with Saturday, 25th September, a day that will go down as one of Vikings finest days as they collected the 1st and 2nd Grade Premierships!

So... For those of you who have been hiding under a rock... Here is a very short recount of the day that was...

Grand Final Day 2010. Time for the long serving and patient Vikings contingent of supporters to don their colours and Vikings horns and make their way down to Win Stadium. Being Blue had never felt so good!

They traveled from everywhere – Melbourne, Western Australia, America, rumour has it that even some made the trip from Dapto just for the opportunity to see the mighty blue juggernaut!

It was a cracking day with a slight breeze blowing across the field. The smell of chips and pies fermented with the stale smell of alcohol oozing from the pores of the old boys who enthusiastically scattered the hill after their traditional pre Grand Final luncheon. While the victories were yet in the bag, the winners were already evident – the Eastern side of Win Stadium was awash with Blue – it was our clubs time to shine.

First out were the 2nd graders. A team who had stormed into Premiership favouritism after annihilating Camden 2 weeks previously to take their place in the Grand Final. Vincentia however had different ideas and after coming from 5th place had their eyes firmly placed on knocking off the favourites.

After coming out on fire our boys finally crossed the line early. Things were looking good. The rugby was great, the beers were cold, the weather was hot... and the Blues were on top. Things couldn't get better!

But of course in a Grand Final you can't have it all your own way and a talented and committed Vincentia proved a worthy opponent. They ground our boys down, frustrated us into mistakes and

were magnificent in scrambling defense. With 10 minutes to go in the match our boys were down 17 – 5. It was hard to see them coming back – 2 games in 4 weeks was hardly enough fitness to grind out a win against a battle hardened opposition. Surely? But was I ever wrong. Leadership was needed on the field and it came in the rather large form of Mark "Blommy" Foster who snared 2 quick tries. With both conversions missed we were in for a cracking last 3 minutes.

Straight away the old 2nds were back. Playing with confidence and fitness they were beating the opposition into submission but still the score remained 17 – 15. With time all but up on the clock they got a penalty 25 out and 10 in from the sideline. As this team has done all year they trusted their ability. The ball was put into touch, the lineout secured, the forwards started to grind towards the line.

With time up, the next stop would bring about the end of the game. That next stop came at the hands of Vikings Outside Centre Beau Midgley as the ball was thrown wide, Beau slipped through a gap, shrugged off a tackle and scored next to the posts. Vikings had completed the great escape... It was time to celebrate!!

Of course before you celebrate there is always a Victory song to belt out and with hundreds on the hill to back you up in full voice, the ground was alight with the taste of one victory and the smell of another.

As 1st grade ran onto the field you couldn't help but wonder how they felt. You knew they knew what had just happened in 2nd grade. Surely this would inspire them even further. I later spoke with Simon Watts – Vikings 1st grade open side break away. He said they were told of the win while they warmed up. He said the feeling of excitement and pride on the player's faces was electric. Our 2nds had paved the way for our 1sts.

As the game kicked off the first thing that became evident was that Vikings were here to play. In previous matches our first grade had done enough to secure victories (minus Tech in the Major) without fully finishing off the opposition. Today was going to be totally different. Shamrocks were in for a lesson!

The 1st half was unbelievable! They ground the Shamrocks down in every aspect of the game.

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The scrum was brutal, in attack they made easy metres and built pressure, which they turned into points, while in defense they shut down every raid, turned the ball over and attacked again. By half time and with a score of 24 – 0 it was hard to believe what had happened.

To Shamrocks credit they came out in the 2nd half with renewed vigor. But what became more evident as the game went on was that while Vikings handed opportunity after opportunity to Shamrocks to attack, they had no idea what to do when faced with the tenacious defense that Vikings threw at them.

With a few penalties and a late run away try to Andrew Barrett to seal the fate of the demoralised Rocks, the final score was set... Vikings 37 Shamrocks 0. What started for many players some 10 months earlier had finally been achieved – Vikings 1st Grade Premiers 2010!!

Of course like 2nd Grade a victory is not complete without a song, and with an additional 20 singers through the already celebrating 2nds, as well as the voices of many who had lost their inhibitions to sing through the previous few hours of drinking, the echo of the Vikings song rang proud and clear. The 19 year drought had been broken!

Fish

Poor bloke...



Joke of the week!

An elderly couple was watching a Discovery Channel special about a West African bush tribe whose men all had penises 24 inches long. When the black male reaches a certain age, a string is tied around his penis and on the other end is a weight. After a while, the weight stretches the penis to 24 inches.

Later that evening as the husband was getting out of the shower, his wife looked at him and said, "How about we try the African string-and-weight procedure?" The husband agreed and they tied a string and a weight to his penis.

A few days later, the wife asked the husband, "How is our little tribal experiment coming along?"

"Well, it looks like we're about half way there," he replied.

"Wow, you mean it's grown to 12 inches?"

"No, it's turned black..."

Finals series results...

Game 1 – Major Semi Finals

1st Grade – Tech 40 beat Shamrocks 20

2nd Grade – Camden 20 beat Uni 13

3rd Grade – Uni 29 beat Camden 7

Game 2 - Minor Semi Finals

1st Grade – Uni 33 beat Shoalhaven 19

2nd Grade – Vincentia 29 beat Shamrocks 17

3rd Grade – Tech 13 beat Vikings 7

Game 3 – Major Semi Finals

1st Grade – Vikings 41 beat Tech 17

2nd Grade – Vikings 41 beat Camden 7

3rd Grade – Avondale 27 beat Uni 20

Game 4 - Minor Semi Final

1st Grade – Shamrocks 36 beat Uni 35

2nd Grade – Vincentia 35 beat Uni 10

3rd Grade – Camden 37 beat Tech 32

Game 5 –Finals

1st Grade – Shamrocks 31 beat Tech 29

2nd Grade – Vincentia 33 beat Camden 18

3rd Grade – Uni 36 beat Camden 22

Game 6 – Grand Finals

1st Grade – VIKINGS 37 BEAT SHAMROCKS 0

2nd Grade – VIKINGS 22 BEAT VINCENTIA 17

3rd Grade – Avondale beat Uni (Yes this is deliberate)

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Let me explain:

My process...
Google search: Funny Rugby Pics
Images – Clicked
This is what came up.. I am therefore justified in putting this in... I hope no-one minds!



Latest news...

The Grand Final Dinner was held on Wednesday, 22nd September. The Presentation turned into a Mini Vikings Presentation with Vikings Taking out a number of the trophies up for grabs. To have so many award recipients is a glowing reflection on not only the individual or team, but the collective efforts of all involved in the club in allowing people to reach their potential. Congratulations to the following players / teams / coaches who collected trophies on the night:

Individual Awards:

Illawarra Player of the Year – Paul Fisher
Illawarra Highest Point Scorer – Dan Lawson
Illawarra Highest Try Scorer – Andrew Barrett
Illawarra Coach of the Year – Phil Green and Jay Tregonning

Club Awards:

Club Championship
1st Grade Minor Premiership
2nd Grade Minor Premiership

Paul Fisher won the Illawarra player of the Year as well as the Illawarra Grand Final Best Player in what has been a fantastic season for the Tim Fisher protégé. On receiving his awards he commented "I think you guys have mistaken me for my brother". I appreciate the compliment Paul, but I don't know if you realize this - I wasn't on the field this year.

On a serious note for Paul, the achievement of Illawarra Player of the Year is very special. Being considered the best player in a team with some of the most talented players to ever play in the Illawarra competition would be a huge achievement. To be considered the best in the whole competition is not only a huge accolade for Paul but for the players and coaches around him. Vikings have only won this prestigious award twice in the last 20 years - James Campbell in 2001 and Fabio Benedetti in 1995. Paul certainly joins a very elite club.

The Dexter Porter Cup concluded at the end of August and was also presented on the night of the Illawarra Dinner. I am happy to say that we have again won the Cup, with a majority of the donations collected coming from Vikings RFC. An Award the club can be truly proud of. Well done to all who took the time to support such a worthy cause.

Rumour has it that some 5 minutes after Andrew Barrett was announced as the "Illawarra Top Try Scorer" his girlfriend had put it as her status on Facebook. How did she know??? Andrew text her immediately after it happened to ensure she got the message out!

Mark "Blommy" Foster was named 2nd Grade Player of the Grand Final. With 2 tries under his belt and a mountain of work the big 2nd rower deserves this wonderful acknowledgement. Well done Blommy!

Congratulations and thanks must go to all players and supporters who assisted on the day of the Major and Minor Semi Finals held at Vikings. The smooth running resulted in 2 highly successful days for the club both financially and in giving our club the opportunity to display our ground and facilities to the rest of the Illawarra Rugby Community.

Congratulations to our 3rd grade who snuck into the Semi finals in 5th Position. In the first round of the semi finals they came up against a

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Tech team boasting 3 players who had played the previous day in 1st grade for Tech. They gave a good account of themselves going down narrowly 13 – 7. With lots of youngsters, the future is bright for 3rd, 2nd and 1st grade as these boys start to push for selection in higher grades.

Mitch Wakeford and Simon Watts win the award for the biggest partiers out of the Vikings contingent. I personally picked them up en route to Sydney for the Golden Oldies Festival on the Wednesday after the Grand Final where they spent the day continuing to celebrate with the Oldies of the club. While Thursday was a quiet day, I know that Simon then returned to celebrating on Friday with the Dragons Grand Final Luncheon on at City Beach. Well done boys!

It has come to my attention that Mark Fisher, is amongst the best sledgers in the Vikings 1st grade team. With 5 minutes to go in the 1st half against Shamrocks and with the scoreboard at 24-0 and a scrum about to pack, Mark Fisher asked Shamrocks halfback (serial complainer and heckler Mark Tarasanko) if he actually woke up that morning and thought he had a chance. Mark Tarasanko had no reply so Mark asked him the question again. Again silence. The only reaction was the 8 forwards from Vikings “pissing” themselves as they packed down and a wry smile from referee Kel Giddy...

Four of our senior players are now expecting to be fathers early in the coming year. Chris Rooskie, Dan Lawson, Nick Long and Jake Bazzano have all found out what happens when Vikings have a successful year! Congratulations to all the boys and of course the girls – Bianca, Carly, Melinda and Nat... Enjoy your sleep while you can! For the record Jake’s fiancée Nat and Dan’s wife Carly are due on the same day - 19th April. On further investigation the boys discovered that the girls fell pregnant after drinking at “Ladies Day”. Seems like Ladies Day is valuable in ensuring the next generation of Vikings – watch out next year girls!



Celebrations were epic over the Grand Final weekend. Saturday night was massive with hundreds of people at Vikings – a huge marquee supplied from sponsors Go Hire, 2 big screen TVs for the Dragons, a Bon Fire and 2 busy bars being operated by TBH Staff. The next day players, coaches and supporters headed to breakfast and drinks at TBH before partying the night away. Mad Monday saw the players on a mini bus starting at Berkeley Pub with a breakfast sponsored by Dan O'Hara followed by a lunch up at sponsors Mt Kembla Pub. Later that night the boys again headed to TBH where they partied until close. Theme for the day was fancy dress and from all accounts the boys were well in character and had a very messy day.

I noted earlier, the World Golden Oldies Festival took place last week in Sydney including our very own Longhorns. With them our Scottish mates from Forrester RFC in Edinburgh. For one week players aged 35+ shared beer, blood and bruises and then more beer. The port was never far away and quite at home on the halfway line before, during and after the games. In a week that included drinking, sailing, winery tours, dinners, and more drinking, I can happily confirm one thing – Rugby players don't change... They just get older!!

Congratulations to Nicole Beck who was part of the Australian Wallaroos who competed in the IRB Women's World Cup recently in England. I am happy to say that the Wallaroos secured 3rd with a fantastic victory over France. A wonderful achievement considering they went into the tournament ranked 7th. To see Nicole in action click on or paste the link below to see a cracking hit... The girl can definitely play...
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9r2gKV_v30

A survey has been developed with the purpose of gaining feedback from players and supporters on season 2010. Surveys are vital in pointing areas of strength, weakness and future direction. Please click on or paste the included link and ensure you complete the anonymous survey by Wednesday 20th October. Remember... Your club is run for you!!! Here is your opportunity to make your club an even better place in 2011.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YS7CTVG>

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Vikings RFC are currently conducting a **Major Fundraising Raffle**. Tickets are \$5 each and will be drawn on Saturday 23rd October at the Senior Presentation. All players have received \$100 worth of tickets and are expected to return them sold. **TICKETS MUST BE RETURNED TO PHIL GREEN OR ANDREW BARRETT EITHER PRIOR TO, OR ON THE NIGHT OF THE PRESENTATION.** If you have an opportunity to purchase some tickets please dig deep and support YOUR club.

Here are the fantastic prizes:

- 1st – 46 Inch LCD TV
- 2nd - \$1000 Travel Voucher
- 3rd - \$500 Grocery Voucher
- 4th – 3 course dinner for 2 at Lagoon Seafood Restaurant.
- 5th - \$250 Fashion Only Voucher
- 6th - \$200 Hair and Beauty Voucher at Zoe Blackburn Hair.
- 7th – 12 Bottles of Queens Pinch Cab Sav.
- 8th – 5 “Hot Laps” in a V8 ute.

DVDs of Grand Final day will be available for supporters from Presentation night. Players will be given theirs next week. There is a 1st Grade set, including the game and photo slideshow, and a 2nd grade set, including the game and photo slideshow. Both are Brilliant! The DVDs will cost \$20 each or both grades for \$25, which will cover the production costs.

Little Johnny..



LITTLE JOHNNY

You're Gonna Go Far Kid

10/ MotivatedPhotos.com

Staying with the Little Johnny theme...

Teacher: Okay Children, what sounds did we hear on our trip to the farm yesterday?

Little Sarah: Moooooo!

Little Patty: Baaaaa!

Little Jason: Quack Quack!!

Little Johnny: Get Off that Fuckin' Tractor!

Upcoming Events

What: Scottish Day 2010 – THIS SATURDAY!

Date: Saturday, 16th October

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Where: Vikings RFC

Details: RSA holders are required to help man the bar on this major fundraiser for our club. Only responsibility is bar service. If you are available for a few hours work between 9am and 5pm please email vikingsrfc@yahoo.com.au with availability.

What: Vikings Junior Presentation

Date: Sunday, 17th October

Time: 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Where: Towradgi Beach Hotel

Details: Get down there for kick off time as the day will be done and dusted by 3pm. An excellent opportunity to support our juniors – the kids, the parents, the coaches, the supporters...

What: Vikings Senior Presentation

Date: Saturday, 23rd October

Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start (SHARP!!)

Where: Towradgi Beach Hotel

Dress: Shirt and tie aka Cocktail

Details: **4 Hour Drink Package + 4 Courses of food... Contact Towradgi Beach Hotel (Phone: 1300 672277) before the night to book tickets at a cost of \$70 per person. Tickets bought on the night will cost \$90, so get in early. The drink package starts at 6:30 and there will be heaps of awards, so things will kick off at 7:00pm SHARP...**

What: Vikings Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday, 26th November

Time: 7:00pm start (SHARP!!!)

Details: If you are interested in putting a little more into the club off the field, here is your chance! Between now and the AGM have a think about the role you might like to play. If you are interested, contact Geoff Devitt on 0401527164 for an official nomination form.

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Vikings Juniors 2010

A special mention to our Under 13s and Under 14s teams who made it through to the Grand Final for 2010. Our Under 13s lost to a dominant Kiama team but our Under 14s turned the table on the cows with an emphatic victory. Here were the results:

13s – Kiama 32 beat Vikings 12

14s – Vikings 52 beat Kiama 19

Well done on another successful season. I can't wait to see some of these 13 and 14 year olds in 5 or so years. Let's hope we can keep them together. They are our future.

Junior Presentation will be held this Sunday 17th October at TBH from 12pm. There will be lunch provided and it would be great to see as many Senior Players and Supporter there to show our support.

Club Sponsors

Towradgi Beach Hotel

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Bathing in the glory...

Fish