

VIKINGS RFC

STIRRER AUGUST - 2010

Fish's Corner

And there we have it...

At the conclusion of 2010, and as we head into the semi finals this is where Vikings stand....

1st Grade – Minor Premiers having lost only one game all year - the first of the season!

Over the previous 4 weeks however, 1st grade certainly haven't had it all their own way, with every game having to be ground out. Tech Waratahs seem to be the team who might give our boys the biggest scare. With two games in a row against the taha's, and trailing both times at half time, 1st grade had to dig deep in the second half and play controlled rugby to grind down the opposition. Having said that, there are no doubt now 4 other teams who will be eagerly hoping for another shot at us this year. Time will tell who that is and how they will go!

2nd Grade – Minor Premiers having lost only three games all year!

In previous weeks this team has gone from strength to strength. Playing tough football to knock off teams like Shamrocks and Uni before showing flamboyance, speed and skill to demoralize lowly placed teams. 2nd grade have now not only claimed the Minor Premiership but can proudly claim the title of best attacking team (with more points for than any other team or club in any grade) as well as team with the biggest points difference in the whole competition. An outstanding achievement!

3rd Grade – 5th place after sneaking into the Semi Finals after thinking they were out!

With the final round underway and a points difference of over 90 to make up our 3rd grade had it all against them. They then found that University beat Shammies (the team in front of them) 52 – 10. The objective was simple – win by 38. Final score 43 – 10. They thought they had fallen agonizingly short... But there is a twist in the tail... If two teams finish on the same points (as we did with Shammies), rather than points difference you go to who had the most wins for the season – Vikings 9 Shammies 8. I couldn't think of a better team to have knocked out in such an unfortunate way!!!

Club Championship – 1st!!!! By what can only equate to a country mile!!!

For the first time since 1991 the club has secured this prestigious title. As is suggested in the name, this title recognizes the strongest club in the Illawarra Region. With 1st and 2nd Grade Minor Premierships under our belts and 3rd Grade consistently winning we had it in the bag with about 3 rounds to go! This is a huge achievement and something most definitely to be savoured by players, coaches and supporters.

So where does that leave us???

1st and 2nd grade have a bye this coming weekend due to their Minor Premierships.

1st Grade will play the winner out of Tech and Shamrocks at Shamrocks on Saturday 11th September. Kick off at 3:00pm.

2nd Grade will play the winner out of Uni and Camden at Shamrocks on Saturday 11th September. Kick off at 1:30pm

3rd Grade will happily fight for survival this coming Sunday 5th September at Vikings RFC against Tech. Having beaten them only 2 weeks ago, they must certainly fancy their chances. Kick off is at 12:15pm.

My opinion – for what it's worth!

Since the weekend I have heard the comment by many players and coaches – "The job is only half done". There is so much truth to this statement.

While the club can be hugely proud of its achievements this year, finals football is a whole new step up (No matter what the grade). It is now time to take a breath, pat ourselves on the back for a job well done and then knuckle down and get back to work.

I myself have played over 15 years of rugby. I have been lucky enough to play in 8 Grand Finals. I have won 1. Premierships are like diamonds in the rough. Make sure you stay on the ground, because there is no use looking if your head is stuck in the clouds!

Cheers

Fish

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How beer works!



Latest results...

Vikings vs Shamrocks

3rd Grade – Win 5 - 0

2nd Grade – Win 13 - 10

1st Grade – Win 22 - 10

Vikings vs Uni

3rd Grade – Loss 8 - 3

2nd Grade – Win 22 - 10

1st Grade – Win 33 - 16

Vikings vs Wollondilly

3rd Grade – Win 48 - 0

2nd Grade – Win on forfeit 28 - 0

Vikings vs Tech

3rd Grade – Loss 27 - 22

2nd Grade – Win 57 - 10

1st Grade – Win 31 - 21

Vikings vs Tech

3rd Grade – Win 18 - 7

2nd Grade - Win 36 - 0

1st Grade – Win 22 - 17

Vikings vs Bowral/Bundanoon

3rd Grade – Win 43 - 10

2nd Grade – Win 72 - 0

Latest news...

The Dexter Porter Cup concluded at the end of August. This wonderful competition has been running now for 2 years and we have won it both times. Here's hoping that we again are able to raise this trophy in recognition of our clubs community support.

We recently played Shamrocks at Shamrocks. After earlier in the year reporting on the fact that it may have been over twenty years since we beat Shamrocks in all three grades, we then travelled to their home ground and beat them in all 3 grades again. On speaking to a few guys, the questions started to be raised. Has it ever happened that Vikings have beaten Shamrocks in all 6 games played in the regular season? My guess is not! What an achievement!

A huge thankyou to REXEL ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES. The Area manager is Justin Giles, an old bluey, and they have donated new lighting for the ground. Hopefully this should go up in the next month.

This one nearly slipped through to the keeper! Tristram Devitt is a finalist in this year's Illawarra's Best Catch – recognising the contribution of young men 18-24 who volunteer within the local community.

Humble, modest & shy I know that Tri won't give himself a plug for any of this, so we decided to give him a little help.

Please paste the following link and click vote <http://bestcatch.com.au/best-catch-awar2/2010/#candidate-tristramdevitt>

This weekend on both Saturday and Sunday Vikings host the Major and Minor Semi Finals for the Illawarra District. Games will begin at 12:15pm and run until 5:00pm on both days. However, help from players and supporters will be required for some time before and after this to ensure the club is prepared. It brings about a huge opportunity for Vikings to show that we have the best facilities in the Illawarra competition while also giving us the opportunity to gain valuable income. Players and supporters are encouraged to support the club by putting in a little effort throughout the day. Remember – Many hands make light work.

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Congratulations to Nicole Beck who is currently playing for the Australian Wallaroos in the IRB Womens World Cup in London. The Wallaroos went into the tournament as 7th seed. With the pool stage over, the girls found themselves playing England to qualify for the World Cup Final. Unfortunately they lost 15-0. This Saturday they play France in the play off for 3rd. Good luck to Nicole and the rest of the Wallaroos,

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. 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.

Upcoming Events

What: Vikings Sports Lunch

When: 12pm Friday, 17th September

Where: Towradgi Beach Hotel

Details: \$80 for a 2 course meal and drink package. Guest speakers include Adam Frier, Dan Palmer, Mark Occhilupo, Nicole Beck, Michael Lowe, Robert Hurley and James Courtney!! A great time is guaranteed.

For tickets contact Andrew Barrett on 0403476880

What: Vikings Long Lunch

When: Friday, 24th September

Where: Mt Kembla Pub

Details: Cost is \$80 per head, which covers finger food and main course, plus liquid refreshments and guest speaker, John Lambie. John is a former Wallaby and well-known raconteur, as well as having been an honorary Longhorn for many years.

Phone Corny on 42 266118 or Storky on 42 848113.

Joke of the week

Two 90 year old men, Mike and Joe, have been friends all of their lives. When it's clear that Joe is dying, Mike visits him every day.

One day Mike says, "Joe, we both loved rugby all our lives, and we played rugby on Saturdays together for so many years. Please do me one favour, when you get to Heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's rugby there."

Joe looks up at Mike from his death bed," Mike, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favour for you".

Shortly after that, Joe passes on.

At midnight a couple of nights later, Mike is awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to him, "Mike -- Mike."

"Who is it? asks Mike sitting up suddenly.

"Mike -- it's me, Joe."

"You're not Joe. Joe just died."

"I'm telling you, it's me, Joe," insists the voice.

"Joe! Where are you?"

"In heaven," replies Joe. "I have some really good news and a little bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," says Mike.

"The good news," Joe says, " is that there's rugby in heaven. Better yet, all of our old friends who died before us are here, too. Better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always spring time and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play rugby all we want, and we never get tired."

That's fantastic," says Mike. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?"

"You're in the Starting XV for Tuesday."

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2010 Finals Draw

Game 1 – Major Semi Finals

Saturday, 4th September

Vikings RFC

1st Grade – Tech vs Shamrocks

2nd Grade – Camden vs Uni

3rd Grade – Camden vs Uni

Game 2 - Minor Semi Finals

Sunday, 5th September

Vikings RFC

1st Grade – Shoalhaven vs Uni

2nd Grade – Shamrocks vs Vincentia

3rd Grade – Vikings vs Tech

Game 3 – Major Semi Finals

Saturday, 11th September

Shamrocks Rugby Club

1st Grade – Vikings vs Winner Game 1

2nd Grade – Vikings vs Winner Game 1

3rd Grade – Avondale vs Winner Game 1

Game 4 - Minor Semi Final

Sunday, 12th September

Camden Rugby Club

Loser Game 1 vs Winner Game 2

Game 5 –Finals

Saturday, 18th September

Shoalhaven Rugby Club

Loser Game 3 vs Winner Game 4

Game 6 – Grand Finals

Saturday 25th September

Win Stadium

Winner Game 3 vs Winner Game 5

Vikings Juniors 2010

Our Juniors are also now heading into the Semi Finals, with most teams having strong seasons and being competitive throughout.

Here is where they currently stand going into the Semi's:

9s – Finished the season Undefeated!! (No Semis or table for this age)

10s – Finished with more wins than loses (No Semis or table for this age)

13s – 3rd

14As – 1st

14Bs – 2nd

16s – 4th

All the best to the Juniors in their efforts to bring home a Premiership. Well done on another successful season.

Quotes from rugby players...

"Colin has done a bit of mental arithmetic with a calculator." - Ma Nonu

"He scored that try after only 22 seconds - totally against the run of play." - Murray Mexted

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body." - Jerry Collins

"That kick was absolutely unique, except for the one before it which was identical." - Tony Brown

"I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father." - Tana Umaga

"Sure there have been injuries and deaths in rugby - but none of them serious." - Doc Mayhew

"If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again." - Anton Oliver

"I would not say he (Rico Gear) is the best left winger in the Super 14, but there are none better." - Murray Mexted

"I never comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat." - Ewan McKenzie

Murray Deaker: "Have you ever thought of writing your autobiography?" Tana Umaga: "On what?"

"Well, either side could win it, or it could be a draw." - Murray Mexted

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The latest magazine for those of us who are married..



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Catch you on the hill...
Fish