

River Road Express

Home of CBDJRL 2010 Club Of The Year

April 6 2011



In this Issue

*St Christopher's Masters
debut in style.*

*Marquee Player Impresses
All With Skill & Stamina*





Est. 1965

RIVER ROAD EXPRESS

Web Site: www.stchristophers.com.au

C L U B N E W S

President's Report

Saturday finally saw the season commence! We have 277 players on our books from under 6s to 'A' grade – 20 teams in total. The pleasing fact here is that we have 3 teams in both the under 6s and under 7s. Never before in our 46 previous seasons have we had 3 under 7s!!

There are 75 new players to the Club – a big welcome to those players and their families. To put 277 players on the field has taken a big effort and thank you to the 78 individuals who have volunteered to go coach, manager, trainer and first aiders, especially the first timers.

Enough about the admin, let's look at the weekend's footy. Unfortunately it was not a start the Club could be happy with. On Saturday only 2 teams (U11-1s and U14-1s) got the bickies while the U7-1s shared their bickies by having a draw with Moorebank. Sunday was just as crappy with only the A grade saluting in the last game of the day. Too many basic errors across all teams – play the ball infringements; failure to complete sets and failing to find touch from penalties. I don't want to start raving too early in the season given new

parents may think I'm crazier than what they've heard BUT the expectations from our players are a lot higher than what was shown on the weekend – we are here to compete not merely participate. No doubt the coaches will be working harder on these areas in the coming weeks.

Scoreboard

After some technical hick ups at installation date last year, we are pleased to announce the First National Daystar Scoreboard is now fully operational. Many thanks to Michael Sleiman from First National Daystar for their generous support as a sponsor and to Dave Harrington, Craig Jordan and Tim Bailey who liaised with the manufacturer until we were satisfied. My only concern on the weekend was there appeared to be some in-built formula in the scoreboard that prevented the 'Home' side score from ever being higher than the 'Visitors' score!!! And supporters remember, back up timers always operate in case of scoreboard problems.

GO THE SAINTS**John Grealy**

RESULTS GAMES LAST WEEK: 02/03 April 2011

Age	Opposition		For	Against
U/6-Div 4	Moorebank	L	12	16
U/6-Div 2		L		
U/6-Div 1		L		
U/7- Div 3	Bye			
U/7- Div 2		L		
U/7- Div 1	Moorebank	D	10	10
U/8- Div1	Bankstown Sports	L	10	34
U/9- Div2		L		
U/9- Div 1	Greenacre	L	16	18
U/10- Div 3	Won on Forfeit	W		
U/10- Div 1	Chester Hill	L	12	32
U/11- Div 2	Auburn Warriors	L	12	26
U/11 Div 1	Chester Hill	W		
U/12- Div 1	Chester Hill	L	0	36
U/13- Div 2	Berala	L	0	50
U/13- Div 1	Bankstown Sports	L		
U/14	Greenacre	W	24	18
U/16	Earwood Saints	L		
U/19	Earwood Saints	L		
A Grade	Greenacre	W	30	16



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U/6 Div 4 Lost 16-12 V Moorebank

The under 6 Div 4's first game of the season was an away match against the Moorebank Rams, many of the players were confused as to why were not at Bill Delauney reserve! They had not been told there was such a thing as away games! Also after getting their jersey's they had a bit of a warm up and a number of them wanted the mud cleaned off their hands and knee's before kick off! It was the first ever game for most of the team and they all really got stuck in and enjoyed. It was a close game with the Rams winning 16-12 Our tries came from Marcus Khoury who made two very swerving runs to the try line, the other great try came from Lucas Pengue who also later made a excellent try saving tackle. The whole team got involved and we look forward to a fun season.

U/6 Div 2

U/6 Div 1

U/7 Div 3

U/7 Div 2

U/7 Div 1 Draw v Moorebank 10-10

The first game of a new season after solid form during the trials and we were expecting a tough game against Moorebank. We were away this week and the game lived up to our expectations.

Moorebank kicked off and we were under some early pressure due to a knock on from the start. The boys quickly recovered and show some good efforts in defence, moving up and limiting the opportunities for Moorebank. When we had the ball there was great ground made by Ricardo, Sean and Alex all making good runs. After some great back and forth play Trent broke free and scored our first try which Bailey converted to give us a 6 - 0 lead midway through the first third. Moorebank made great ground on the restart and had us under the pump. The boys did well to hold them out but on the next possession we forced a pass in our own half and from the ensuing set of tackles



Moorebank scored and converted to level up the scores 6-6. We went close to scoring again just on bell at the close of the first third following good run by the boys including Zac and Jordan after which Jared went close to scoring but was brought down just short of the line. The second third was an arm wrestle from the kick off as the boys forced an error from Moorebank. We made some strong runs with

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Luke and Kaled taking the ball up hard and we were tackled out after making a break. Moorebank made good ground due a staggered defence line that allowed some players to break our line. We had Trent, Bailey, Alex and Riccardo all making great covering tackles. Sean and Jordan made great runs in the lead up to our next try by Jared and we were in the lead 10 – 6. There were a number of turnovers in this third by both teams and we forced a number of passes when we should have taken the tackle. The boys continued to work hard in defence and went into the break holding the lead.

Moorebank kicked off to start the last third and we could see that they were very keen in defence and forced an error from us late in the set. Moorebank made great ground in the next few plays taking play from one side of the field to the other and we worked hard to hold them out. After our next set Moorebank had the ball in our half and despite the efforts of Jared, Trent, Jordan and Bailey scored to draw level and the game was locked at 10 - 10. Riccardo, Luke, Zac and Kaled all made great runs trying to gain us good field position. The game went back and forth and we had to make an injury substitution when Jordan had a head clash and was replaced by Sean. The game went back and forth between two evenly matched teams, which was enjoyed by the fans and we ended the game in possession but unable to score. The boys played well for our first game, a little bit rusty (move up together in defence and run straight) and eager to show off the passing skills being taught at training, but a great effort all round.

MOM: Not awarded
ENC: All Players

U/ 8 Div 1 Lost 34-10 v Bankstown Sports

Our first game of the year had us on the road to Bankstown Sports at Steve Folkes Reserve. We were expecting a torrid encounter against one of last years division 1

grand finalists and that is exactly what we got. We were beaten 34-10 and were certainly shown the areas of our game that we need to improve on in order to be competitive in Division 1. With our opposition simply being too fast for us in all aspects of the game.

We were missing three of our more senior players which really adds weight to the perception that we are not out of our depth in Division 1. All the boys tried their guts out and never gave an inch but were just out played on the day. We scored 2 tries (Thomas + Braidon) with Thomas converting his try for a final result of Bankstown sports 34 -St Christophers 10.

U/9 Div 2 Lost v Chester Hill

Great performance from everyone for our first game of the season against Chester Hill. Playing 1 man down all the boys dug deep. Tries by Lofty, Ali and Maric. All debutants made a huge impact in the game also, keep up the hard work fellas. Strong game by Lakey. Division 9-2's.

U/9 Div1 Lost 16-18 v Greenacre

Well, what a game to start the season. Having no subs in grade is always to going to be tough but the boys showed how tough they were in this game. With a nervous start in the first half, we turned over some easy ball, defending 2-3 sets in a row we were instantly on the back foot and three tries down. To their credit the boys defended very well by putting pressure on their halfback and runners.

We were back in the game with two quick tries of our own. Coming up against a bigger side we showed size didn't matter with two of their bigger boys coming off worse for wear with some crunching defence by all the boys. Another try scored by Lachlan had us behind by 2 points with 3 minutes to go but it just slipped away from us in the end. All in all a good game by all and well done to you all with a short preparation (have to treasure

that ball in attack boys). Congratulations to Malaki our man of the match.

Coach John

U/10 Div 3

U/10 Div 1 Lost 12 – 32 v Chester Hill

Our boys played their first game in the top division, having won the Division 2 premiership last year. We met Chester Hill (who came third if Division 1 last year) at their home ground. It was a messy start. They were well prepared for the game and clearly confident of winning. We got called onto the field before our warm up was finished and really didn't really expect to win. This showed during the first ten minutes when Cheso ran in a couple of easy tries down our LHS before we even touched the ball. Then the game changed. Our defence aimed-up and we got a fair share of possession, ultimately resulting in a try scored out wide by Cameron just before half time, converted well by Lachlan.

The second half was more of an arm wrestle. Cheso were moving-up quickly and giving us little space to attack, whereas we did not move-up as well and seemed to be on the back foot. Some dogged defence and good kicking helped us to stay in the game. Our highlight was when Noah took an intercept mid-way through the half and showed his speed, sprinting from half-way to score and convert his own try.

The boys should be proud of how they fought their way into the game. Kueva, Noah and Cameron all had top games in both attack and defence with very high involvement. Ryan and Lachlan were also strong and reliable. As a team we stuck together and,



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once we got into it, played some tough footy. We have plenty to work on during the next few weeks, especially around the ruck where we were clearly not yet up to the mark. But, there are some basics where we can bridge this gap. Certainly in the physical contest the boys are already well positioned for a competitive year.

Tries: Cameron and Noah.

Goals: Lachlan and Noah

MOM: Kueva Lynch

U/11 Div 2 Lost 26 – 12 v Auburn Warriors

Welcome back everyone to season 2011 and also a big welcome to all the new boys who are slipping on a Saints jersey for their very first time.

Round 1 saw the boys playing away this weekend against a very large Auburn Warriors outfit. The game started out quite well for the boys and for the first half of the game it was quite obvious that the **TEAM** needed to move up quickly in one straight line, tackle hard and stop the opposition from breaking through. Especially the oppositions much larger forward pack and as a result we were able to go into the half time break 6 points to 10 behind on the scoreboard.

The second half again started of quite well for the boys and with a few positional changes in trying to discover some hidden talent and potential. That the boys were able to claw their way back into the game to a respectable 6 point margin. Which then unfortunately blew out within the last 5 minutes of the game due to the opposition scoring two more tries in quick concession., *(good effort boys and well done).....*

This weeks **Man of the Match Award** went to Michael Tanevski who read the play well, saw the opposition napping and scored a top try straight up the middle of the park. To also include a number of top tackles in chopping down the opposition like fallen

trees. *Well done Michael.....*

With this weeks tries also going to Michael Tanevski,(1), Kye Muscat, (1) and successful kicks for conversion going to Ryan Dunn, (1) and James Mckenna,(1).

To also include and remember boys what we spoke about after this weeks game..... *You need to move up in one line in defence, Tackle, Tackle and more importantly TACKLE.....*



U/11 Div Won v Chester Hill

After a long season in 2010, and the addition of 6 new players, we all knew going into round 1 that it was going to be a tough game. The game started off on a great note with the boys scoring in the first few minutes. We had great possession for most of the game and handling errors were kept to a minimal. Our defensive line had patches of brilliance but was obviously still our weak point and will definitely be the focus of this week's training. Whilst there were a few standouts of the game, the team really showed potential as a group each time they spread the ball out wide. It will take some time for the team to gel and to reach their full potential, but they are heading in the

right direction. It was great to hear the boys, proudly, sing the Saints chant at the end of the game and I am sure they will be even more motivated to keep on improving each week. This week's win will do wonders for their confidence going into round 2 and if they keep up the hard work they will only get better. Good job boys!!!!

Tries: Michael Fahd, Shaun Bailey, Bodie Bradford, Dylan Chong Sun
Conversions: Michael Fahd, Dylan Chong Sun, Jaidin Obeid

U/12 Div 1 Lost 36—0 v Chester Hill

Not the start to the season we were looking for, our overall game was not that bad and with a little adjustment to our game we will improve. The following boys were our best on the day Luke, Jonah, and Rhys

U/13 Div 2 Lost 50-0 v Berala

First game of the season and we welcomed to our side four new players to the club, Mitchell Bailey, Adam Alameddine, Marcus Guzman and Joe Milliss all players have fitted in well with the team and proved this with their contribution to the game on Saturday.

Well the first game of the season proved to be a tough one for the U13's Div 2, up against Berala Bears at Auburn. They were big, fast and mobile and hard to stop when they got a roll on.

The Saints started off attacking and defending well, but couldn't break the line with the Bears strong defence.

The Bears attacking line made it very difficult for the Saints to move out of their half, but the boys never gave up taking hit up after hit up, and Donnie nearly making it through the defence but being forced over the sideline trying to break through. We know how high the benchmark is set, keep up the hard work boys we can only improve from here.

U/13 Div 1

U/14 Won 24-18 v Greenacre

After a fairly disruptive pre season and three relatively easy trials we were faced with a big task in round 1, a grand final rematch



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against arch enemies Greenacre. As usual we start slow, failing to complete our sets or get any sort of field possession. Their big forwards dominate and we let them. Fate strikes and we lose Dean with a broken bone in his ankle with 10 minutes to go, down to a bench of 2. Just before half time Aidan scores a wonderful individual try which takes us to the break down 14-8.

In the second half the team follows the match plan and it starts to pay off, with good field position and better ball control the tempo of the match swings our way. As the big Greenacre forwards tire we find holes in their edge defence and bang on a few tries to go ahead 24 to 14 with about ten to go. Some lazy right hand side defence lets in a late try and we end the day up 24-18.

Not a pretty game, but an important game, the boys "remembered" what footy is all about and what they need to do, and not do,

each week. A good first up effort, let's work hard and improve ourselves and enjoy the journey. Special mention to Nathan N and Paikea, well done to both of you, Greenacre is a difficult welcome to Div 1 for new boys, you both handled it well. Commiserations to Dean, out for 3 months – we'll miss you mate and can't wait till you get back on the field.

U/16 Lost - v Earlwood Saints

U/19 Lost - v Earlwood Saints

A Grade Won 30-16 v Greenacre

The team started their season with a win against Greenacre. The team performed well in their opening game for the season and showed a lot of the hard work they had done in pre-season in regards to fitness and skill

development definitely pay off against a side that also matched them in fitness and skills. Try scorers for the game were: A. Powell; M. Hanratty; J. Dance; D. Elliott and J. Kavanaugh. Man of the match was awarded to Matt Dawes who showed positive leadership skills both on and off the field and lead the team by example. Thank you to the people who took statistics throughout the game your help was much appreciated.

ARL Masters Report

March 10, 11 and 12 saw St Christopher's field its inaugural side in the ARL Masters Tournament held at Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast. The brain child of the "Coyote", the Masters is a tournament for Over 35's and is played in a spirit where no one is supposed to get hurt and it is all about giving "Old Blokes" a run in a safe and controlled environment.

The lead up to the tournament saw most of the players train hard and many a kilo has been shed in anger.

A special thankyou to some of the A graders who obliged with a good bashing as part of their pre season training and also to the 14's who also gave a few of us a good hiding. Departure day saw the team meet at Revesby station for the train trip to the airport. After checking in the group settled in with a coffee and pre-flight nibbles. Finchy, who will never qualify as a frequent flyer, opted for some medicinal nerve calming elixir. The trip up was uneventful and after collecting baggage we met our bus driver for the trip. A quick headcount (all seats full and 2 on the floor) and we were off to our apartments. These daily bus trips would set the foundation for the camaraderie we experienced within the group.

A quick reconnaissance mission and we found somewhere to have lunch. After a quick acclimatising to our new surroundings we went to the Runaway Bay Sporting Complex and registered to play. This was followed up with a dinner put on by the organisers and we met some of the teams we would be playing against in the upcoming days.

Thursday saw us play our first of 2 games for this day. After a breakfast at the local RSL we met in the foyer for the bus. The mood on the bus was sombre – nervous tension filled the air. Most of us did not know how far from the ground we were. Luckily the Coyote, in a fit of anxiety, started his pre match ritual. We knew we must be close. At the ground we quickly took over the cricket club and its surrounds (the only shade within a 2km radius) and settled into a day of footy. The warmup was long and intense – something that seemed to fall off as the days went on. Our first opponent was Sunshine

Game Day Photos

Check the link below to see if your child is featured in the game day photos. To order the photos simply email me at david.h2@optusnet.com.au and quote the file name and size you would like to purchase.

<http://www.acdseeonline.com/album/David+Harrington+Photography/98412/>

5x7—\$10

8x10 - \$20

8x10 Magazine Cover— \$25

Coast. This was to be our toughest game of the tournament. Our forwards led by Finchy and Dave Mac bashed their way into the opposition and made good ground. Special mention to Scott Whyte and his sacrificial rib cage. The little caboose just kept on going. After a number of debilitating injuries we were starting to wonder if we would be able to field a team for the rest of the tournament. Luckily the next game against Musswellbrook was played in the true spirit of Masters footy and a great time was had. There was an incident however that marred the first day. Killer our master waterboy, in an act of extreme selfishness, found the barman at the cricket club and forged a close friendship. This meant that there were footy players that struggled to get a drink on the field. Luckily he saw the error of his ways and kept us well hydrated for the remainder of the trip.

A highlight of the trip was the after match debriefs around the pool at the apartments. Simmo had us all well hydrated and ensured our after match cooldowns were done.

Day 2 of the tournament and we played Jamberoo and Raymond Terrace. These games were both played in great spirit. Raymond Terrace featured and injured Charlie Elias (George's Brother). There were many aches and pains from day 1 and the massage tent and strapping stands did a roaring trade.

Day 3 and with one game to go we played Alexandria Rovers from South Sydney. These guys looked old and slow but have played this game many times. We were out smarted in all aspects of the game but again played in the true spirit.

One of the Coyotes many talents is that of a master recruiter and talent scout. We were fortunate enough to have a Marquee player on the books. Sonny Bill Reardon was the epitome of professionalism and performed just how you would expect a Marquee player to perform. This bred such awe within the team that he was even getting his gear laundered for him on a daily basis. Unfortunately there can only be one Marquee player so the race is on to fill this spot for the next tournament.

It is a credit to the management team that this trip went off without any "night club incidents" or niggles. A great bunch of guys, a great tournament and a great trip. After having kids involved with St Christopher's for a number of years it was awesome to finally pull on the colours myself. Bring on 2012!!!



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO **ALL PARENTS**

Code of Conduct and ARL Safeplay

The junior league has reminded all Clubs to inform their members about conduct. When you're supporting our teams the best advice is to stay positive and follow the ball i.e. leave the ref alone. Everyone is also reminded that no one is to enter the field of play at any time (that definitely includes half time). Only 'card carrying' team or Club officials can enter the field. Please take note.

The referees have also advised the ARL Safeplay code will be rigidly enforced throughout the season. This code is applicable up to and including the under 15s. It means there is no tackling above the arm pits, no swinging of players by arms or jerseys, no lifting in tackles. A breach of the safeplay code is an automatic penalty. It is no use hollering from the sideline – the refs will be consistently and automatically administering this code. I recommend all coaches (and supporters) click on the following link to read the full code. Good luck to everyone on the weekend

http://www.arldevelopment.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Documents/Club_Admin/downloads_about_us/14270_Safeplay_Code.pdf





Start of Season Welcome Function

Come to Panania Diggers and join in with your fellow club members to celebrate the start of the footy season.

It will be great to see all of the new Under 6 parents so lets make this a big event.

Free Sausage Sizzle

Start time is 4pm so wear your club colours and show support.

Saints Supporters

Wear your club colours to our games
and when visiting our sponsors.

Saints gear is on sale this weekend:

Caps, shirts, jackets,

Key rings, stubby holders.

Package deals available - check it out.

Panania Diggers Meat Tray Raffles Saturday	U/9's 3.30pm—5.30pm
Joker Draw Raffle Revesby Pacific Hotel Friday:	A Grade 5.30pm to 7.00pm
Meat Tray Raffles Revesby Pacific Hotel Saturday: Join the winners list.	Committee

WEEKLY WINNERS

Meat Trays:- Lucky Pat Corbin & Chris Stokes
\$50 Meat Baron Voucher: Belinda Smith



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Friday Joker Jackpot: \$3,700

Drawn at 6:30

Saturday Meat Tray Raffles

Drawn 3 - 5

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Field Set-up U/6 Div 1

Field Clean-up: U/12 Div 1

Canteen Duties: All parents 1 hr before your game.

BBQ Duties: All parents 1 hr before your game.

NEXT WEEKS GAMES:

Games: Saturday 9th April, 2011

Teams	Times	Club	Venue
U/6- Div 4	9.00	St Johns	Begnall Oval
U/6- Div 2	9.00	Greenacre	Roberts Park
U/6- Div 1	9.00	Bulls	Bill Delauney
U/7- Div 3	9.40	Moorebank	Bill Delauney
U/7- Div 2	9.40	Milperra Colts	Killara Res
U/7- Div 1	9.40	Berala	Peter Hislop Park
U/8- Div 1	10.20	Milperra Colts	Bill Delauney
U/9- Div 2	9.40	East Hills	Smith Park
U/9- Div 1	11.10	Sports	Bill Delauney
U/10- Div 3	12.00	Warriors	Bill Delauney
U/10- Div 1	11.40	St Johns	Begnall Oval
U/11- Div 2	12.50	Moorebank	Bill Delauney
U/11- Div 1	1.50	Sports	Steve Folkes Res
U/12- Div 1	1.40	Berala	Bill Delauney
U/13- Div 2	11.20	East Hills	Smith Park
U/13- Div 1	2.10	Greenacre	Roberts Park
U/14	3.30	Moorebank	Hammondville Oval

Games: Sunday 10th April, 2011

U/16	12.30	Hurstville United	Neptune Park
U/19	1.35	Hurstville	Renown Park
A Grade	3.00	Warriors	Neptune Park



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