



River Road Express

Volume 12 Issue 1

25 April 2012

Presidents Report

All up round 3 was pretty good. The 6-1s opened the day at Billy Dee with a strong win over the Bulls; the 7-1s continued their good start to the season with a hard fought win over Dragons but the best team on the park was definitely the 10-1s. With 'little Davo' directing traffic, the team has been tagged 'the entertainers' after a spate of great rugby league tries. Well done boys. Away from home our teams were also performing well. The 9-2s are now sitting on 3 from 3 after beating Greenacre at home, the 11-3s easily accounted for Moorebank, and the 12-1s got Sports by 4 while the 13-2s and 14s had comprehensive victories. It made Saturday at the Diggers easy!!

Sunday also brought joy. Our 3 teams were spread far and wide but clearly we travel well. The 15s played a fully manned Bondi at Maroubra but it was our boys who rode the wave of victory. The 19s had a joke game against a 9 man Mascot team (how can this happen in 19-1s??) while the A grade came out on top of Five Dock (even after having 3 in the sin bin at one time!). Well done to the seniors.

This weekend

We have big days on both Saturday and Sunday. I urge all parents and players to hang around and watch a couple of extra games this weekend. Our U14s have been rocked this week by a couple of drop outs so as a show of support for Sello and the boys, I want as many as possible to watch them finish our Saturday off on a high and let them know that when Saints teams are up against it, we pull together. This is the only time you have my permission to get to the Club late!! Sunday is just a great footy day - All 3 seniors together with the last 2 games 'humdingers'.



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Round 3 Results

	Opposition	Venue	Result	For	Against
Team					
6.4			BYE		
6.2	Moorebank	Hammondville	Lost	12	20
6.1	Bulls	Delauney	Won	38	14
7.3	Chester Hill	Delauney	Lost	14	32
7.1	Dragons	Delauney	Won	16	8
8.3			BYE		
8.2	Chester Hill	Delauney	Lost	6	24
8.1	Tigers	Roberts Park	Lost	10	12
9.2	Colts	Killara	Won	20	12
10.1	Johnnies	Delauney	Won	26	12
11.3	Moorebank	Hammondville	Won	34	6
11.1	Tigers	Delauney	Lost	22	24
12.3	Chester Hill	Terry Lamb	Lost	6	32
12.1	Bankstown Sports	Folkes	Won	10	6
13.2	Bulls	Bankstown Footy Centre	Won	54	8
14.1	Bears	Peter Hislop	Won	22	0
15.2	Bondi United	Heffron	Won	28	20
19	Mascot Juniors	Neptune	Won	46	6
A	Five Dock RSL	Five Dock	Won	32	24

U/6 Div 4 BYE

U/6 Div 2 Lost 20-12 v Moorebank

U/6 Div 1 Won 38-14 v Bulls

Under 7's Div 3 lost 32-14 v Chester Hill

On Saturday morning St Christopher's Under 7's Div 3 were expecting a tough game against Chester Hill Hornets, but we were taken by surprise when the Hornets stung us scoring a try from the kick off. The tap off was taken by Sam the steamroller who crushed the defence with an excellent run before being tackled by 4 Hornets players, a quick play the ball and good foot work and passing saw marvellous Marcus almost scoring in the corner.

The Hornets were quick to hit back scoring another 3 tries in the first session. The Saints re-grouped in the second session leaving the Hornets scoreless with tough tackling Thomas and Murray the mauler leading the way with great tackling and in attack both magic Max and Mathew the magician dazzling the defence with their evasive running.

Clever play from dummy half and excellent passing from the team saw speedster Alex runaway for two tries and one conversion, narrowing the gap to 8 points and when Murray crossed from the kick off in the third session the Saints were on the comeback. Despite hard work from monstrous Mason, Billy the kid and terrifying Tarley, the Hornets crossed for more tries in the last session to end the game 32 to 14.

The score line could have blown out even more if not for the never say die attitude of jumping Josh who chased a Hornets play for what seemed like 300 meters before bringing him down with a copy book bootlace tackle centimetres from the Saints try line, it was this effort which helped Josh earn man of the match honours with Tarley being awarded the encouragement award. Overall it was a good effort by the boys, who improved on last week's performance....keep up the good work, I am sure a win is just around the corner.....GO SAINTS!!!

U/7 Div 1 Won 16-8 v Dragons

Playing up against Dragons this week, nobody (including the coaching staff and parents) knew what to expect, but the boys soon found out that they were a pretty tough team. At the end of the first 3rd, the score was nil-all, and both teams defensive efforts were pretty solid.

It was then try for try and the end of the second 3rd showed that we had the promise to beat them. Anything could happen from here. It just depended on which team wanted it more!

Going into the third 3rd, our boys lifted another notch, especially when the Dragons boys began to show desperation, by arguing within themselves. We made it 2 from 2 on our home turf with the final score being 16-8.

Oscar Moseley tackled well and scored 2 good tries for a 'Man of the Match' performance. Peter Assaf played another good game with some angry tackles and a good try. Sean 'Mini Kegs' Amy scored a brilliant try out of dummy half which took 2 defenders over the line with him after making his own decision of reading the play and having a scoot from dummy-half himself on last tackle. Kian Boyne, Owen Millar and Hayden Swibel also played well, and the rest of the boys had some great runs and made some awesome tackles.

A special mention must go out to our player turned ball boy, Jack Zanbaka (out injured with stitches to the head), who was at training all week and turned up to support his teammates. We all can't wait for you to come back in 2 weeks Jacko!

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U/8 Div 2 Lost 24-6 v Chester Hill

Under 8's Division 1 Lost 10 – 12 V Tigers

Our third game of the season saw us play away at Roberts Park against the Tigers and it was a game for the league purists. This was an exceptional game of football and defence was the key for both teams.

The game was dominated by defence and for two thirds there were no points scored, which is very rare in mini football. It featured significant body contact and contrasted two different styles of play, the Tigers based on sheer physicality and ours based on skill, determination and never say quit attitude. We kicked off to commence the arm wrestle with a deep kick by Alex and the kick chase provided good indicator that the boys were switched on. The game went back and forth just inside the half of each team. There were some very willing exchanges between the teams with both sides struggling to dominate field position in the first third. Hard yards were shared among the boys with Ricardo, Zac, Alex, Bailey and Jordan all taking the ball up. The boys were coordinated in defence by Jared at the back, supported by Kaled and Trent who ensured that we kept shape in defence and moved up in a straight line. The boys worked as a unit in defence stopping the big boppers in the Tigers team cold and snuffing out any opportunities early. Even though there were no points scored the quality of the game ensured that our fans were right behind the boys and supporting their efforts.

The second third continued from where the first third finished, however there were a couple of half chances for both sides that were shut down by great cover defence. We started to get some second phase play in this third as the boys tried to break through the Tigers line, with some great plays by Kaled, Sean, Trent, Jared and Jordan who all backed up to be in position to continue the attack. We went very close to scoring in the corner following a movement that saw our boys make four passes and ended with us being tackled out about a meter from the try line. In defence Luke and Ricardo were taking on the big boppers with Zac, and Bailey all working hard to defend our field position and on occasions on our own line. Both sides got several repeat sets in this third from penalties and there were also turnovers due to level of body contact in defence. It was hard to believe that the boys had played out a full twenty minutes and there was no score in such an absorbing contest which had the fans riveted.

We kicked off to start the play in the last third with Kaled booting it deep into the Tigers half and then on the return the Tigers scored a long range try after their player stepped half the kick chase team and then took off, first one way and then back the other. It was a good individual try but the efforts of our boys was also pleasing with a number of players making several attempts to stop the try, but the Tigers ended up over the line and following its conversion we were down 0 - 6. Instead of dropping their heads our boys returned the favour with Jared scoring a superb solo try from the restart and made some to the Tigers look ordinary one on one and with Bailey slotting the conversion we were level 6 – 6. After twenty minutes with no score we had now seen two tries in less than two minutes. The game returned to its arm wrestle and went back and forth as both sides continued to dish out punishment through solid defence. Great work in defence by Sean, Alex, Luke, Bailey and Trent and when we had the ball, Ricardo, Jordan, Kaled and Jared were beginning to make ground. After about 8 minutes the Tigers crashed over again to score a converted try to take the lead 6 – 12. The boys could have ended the game at this score, but they showed true determination and grit to work the ball downfield and following a repeat set from a penalty Trent barged over from dummy half to score as the clock wound down for 10 - 12. Unfortunately we did not get the conversion but the boys were set and determined to try and force an error to get the ball back. Just as the Tigers got back to halfway for the restart the hooter sounded to end the game at 10 - 12.

This was a great game of footy and we were very proud of the boy's effort against a very big and physical Tigers side. The level of defence from both sides was exceptional and for there to be no score after two thirds is very rare. The boys matched it with the Tigers and we can take a lot of positives out of this game as we move into the season. This game topped a great week for the boys as they were invited to play at the interval of the Bulldogs Friday night game and this was enjoyed by all the boys, who got to play on the field at ANZ in front of a big crowd.

GO THE SAINTS.

Tries: Jared X1, Trent X1

Goals: Bailey X1

Goop Guys M.O.M: Ricardo

Coaches Award: Trent

U/9 Div 2 Won 20-12 v Milperra Colts

U/10 Div 1 Won 26-12 v St Johns

Round 3 brought out the fighting quality and the never say die attitude within the boys. After a slow start the boys conceded an early try to St. Johns. After a demolishing run from Malakai, Meihana followed with some nifty foot work to pick another 20 metres. Man of the match Lachlan Maric took the ball up next and ran over 3 St.Johns defenders before being tackled. None other than Lachlan McAlpine was there to finish off the set and cross for our first try of the match. This kicked started the boys rampage and before half time we were ahead 3 tries to 1. First set of the second half was finished by the best Under 10 try I think anybody has ever seen. A cross field bomb from Aidan, was placed with pin point accuracy only then to see Dane leap above the pack and score his first try for the maroon and gold!!

The boys has to defend for majority of the second half with St. Johns inching closer and closer to the try line after every set. But to the boys credit they only crossed for one more try. Brodie Erksine got a well deserved reward for his tireless efforts in defence with a 4 pointer on the last play of the game, sneaking over from dummy half finding a gap in the lazy defence.

U/11 Div 3 Won 34-6 v Moorebank

The boys had another solid hit out this week and played some entertaining football to end up comfortable 34-6 winners. After some early mistakes from Moorebank we managed to take advantage and really caught them napping to race to a 24 nil lead. Some soft defence near the try line let them come back with a try before 1/2 time for a 24-6 score line. The main thing said at halftime was to work on the defence and with a lot more even possession the boys lifted and defended their line strongly and kept to their game plan and took advantage when they had the ball. The work Ben and Hendo put in with the backs paid off with Corey and Jarrod having blinders controlling our attack and doing plenty of work in defence while Ethan and Daniel ran of them well and Tyler was very solid out wide. In the middle Dean and Camille hit it up strongly while Eddy and Ben were busy in defence. Keep it up guys good work

U/11 Div 1 – Lost 24-22 v Greenacre

U/12 Div 3 Lost 6 – 32 V Chester Hill

This week's game saw the boys travel out to Terry Lamb to play Chester Hill in what turned out to be another very close game of rugby league with the score line only blowing out in the last stages of the game.

The boys started off fairly well and they managed to match the opposition in both attack and defence, but couldn't manage to post any points on the board resulting in Cheso heading into the half time break 10 points – 0.

The second half also started off well and the TEAM managed to plant a try right under the post and with a successful conversion they managed to narrow the gap, but with lady luck being on the opposition side this was short lived with Cheso regathering the ball from the kick off. They were able to score a try out wide in the blink of an eye which was the turning point of the game. As from then on it was a case of trying to play catch up footie within limited time resulting in a few missed opportunities go begging. As overall the boy's did managed to play consistent football with limited errors with only a couple of the oppositions bigger boys proving the difference in the end, (**remember boy's in attack you need to let the ball do all the hard work**).....

With this weeks **Man of the Match Award** going to Aaron Karnold, Who played like the Aaron we all know. Was able to bust the opposition in attack and make some very good breaks in also stopping them in defence with the same grit and determination, **well done Aaron**.....

With this weeks try going to; **Mohamad Arnaout** and our successful attempt at conversion going to **Blake Linnegar**.

U/12 Div 1 Won 10-6 v Bankstown Sports

U/13 Div 2 Won 54-8 v Bulls

St Christopher's 54 defeated Bankstown Bulls 8

The sun was shining both on and off the field with the boys winning another game quit comfortably, we score in the first couple of minutes with a nice try to Jonah for his 1st of 3 and we went in at ½ time up 24 to 8. The second ½ saw some good ball movement out wide with Hayden, Anthony and new recruit Moey all getting doubles. Boys we have played well over the last 3 weeks but we now need to step up a gear as we play the other 2 former grade teams in the next 2 weeks who will stretch us.

Tries

Jonah x 3 Hayden x 2 Moe x 2 Anthony x 2 Luke x 1 Nathan x 1 Jack x 1

Goals

Nathan x 1 Hayden x 1 Anthony x 1

U/14 Div 1 Won 22-0 v BERALA BEARS

This week the boys showed a great deal more confidence in their game. Both teams defended quite strong during the first half keeping it scoreless until 4 minutes till halftime. With the boys really working hard in defence and keeping the pressure on the Bears, Devante went over to score 4 minutes before the bell.

After the half time break they came back with improvement in their passing and gained great momentum with Scotty scooping from Dummy half and going in to score only 2 minutes into the second half, this try was converted by Steele. Another two tries were scored by Devante and Luke Annakin, both of which were converted by Steele.

The boys defence was 10 out 10 with some great tackles from all the boys but some work is needed at training to clean up their passing and ball work.

Unfortunately Josh came off the field at the end of the game with a suspected broken collar bone which was confirmed at hospital and he will be out for at least 6 weeks. This is a great loss to the team. Let's hope he makes a speedy recovery.

Overall boys a great win this week. Your hard work at training is paying off. Keep it up.

Tries: Devante x 2, Scotty x 1, Luke x 1

Goals: Steele x 3

U/15 Div 2 Won 28-20 v Bondi United.

The team started the year with a solid win in Round 1 against Coogee Randwick. Week 2 was a wash out so the boys were keen to play in Round 3.

We travelled to Heffron Park Marouba for our first game ever against Bondi United. This year we are playing in the ICCA for the first time. The boys will play 11 teams this year that they have never faced before, at places they have never even heard of.

Because of this the coaching staff has stressed the importance of getting a good start in matches, so as not to give the opposition a sniff. So you can understand my annoyance when Bondi kick off and send it dead, we watch it bounce over the dead ball line untouched.

From the drop out the home team scores, converts and give themselves a lift.

It takes the rest of the half for the boys to grind their way back into the game. Thankfully our forwards led by our Captain Nathan Harrison did what they do best and by half time we have got back to six all, not too bad as we were running into a very stiff breeze.

After half time we managed to assert our authority and bang a couple of tries on them. Using the wind we enjoyed better field position and completed more sets, although our last tackle options need a lot of work. At one stage Bondi got within 2 points of us before Dylan Elias scored his second try and converted it as well to give us victory 28-20.

Considering our injury status and positional changes we have affected it wasn't a bad result, we were saved by our forwards. We do have a lot of work to do this year if we want to be a threat in this competition but the potential is there, keep up the hard work boys and learn from each game.

A Res Won 32-24 v Five Dock RSL

An ugly win, but we'll take the 2 pts anyway. We kicked off and defensively put the Dockers under pressure right from the start and forced an error to give us possession in their 30, two tackles later and our winger Mahdi crossed in the corner. At this point the game was 3 minutes old and this was the time when we decided to go away from the game plan, we tried a long pass and that was intercepted and the Dockers raced 80 mts to score and convert for 4-6. We kicked off and gave away a penalty on the 3rd tackle and then some poor defence out wide allowed the Dockers to score their 2nd try and we were down 4 - 12. At this stage the Dockers were playing like a 1st grade side, completing their sets and getting in good kicks to take advantage of the strong wind at their backs and to our credit we held them when at one stage they had 3 sets at us in our own 1/4. We finally held the ball for 6 and Jason Mayoh kicked and regathered to score alongside the posts for Sello to convert and make it 10 - 12, 5 mins before 1/2 time James Leten crossed to make it 14 - 12 at the break, right on half time a fight broke out and 3 Chrissies players were sin binned along with a Docker. we began the 2nd half with 10 men and the instructions at halftime were to slow the game as much as possible, dockers kicked off and for the first few sets Chrissies controlled the ball well and Sellos long kicking game kept us settled in their half and in the 4th minute Sello ran through a huge hole to score out wide and convert to make it 20 - 12. Then as a replica of the 1st half we threw a long pass that was intercepted and the Dockers raced 60 mts to score and convert to make it 20 - 18 the game see sawed along with the saints running out eventual winners 32 - 24. A number of good efforts today with Nathan Alchin the pick of the forwards and he was well supported by Sam Smythe, Mahdi and Jason Kavanagh were the pick of the backs. Next week's game is against Liverpool all saints who were grand finalists in the west's comp last year and this will no doubt be our toughest game to date, let's hope that we can get more than 10 to training this week

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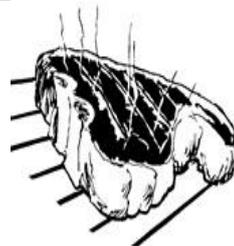
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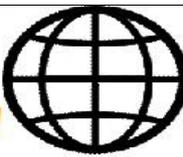
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This Weeks Games Sat 5th May

U/6 Div 4	9.00	St Johns	Begnall Oval
U/6 Div 2	9.00	Greenacre	Bill Delauney
U/6 Div 1	10.20	St Johns	Begnall Oval
U/7 Div 3	11.00	St Johns	Begnall Oval
U/7 Div 1	11.40	St Johns	Begnall Oval
U/8 Div 3	9.40	Bankstown Sports	Bill Delauney
U/8 Div 2	9.40	Bulls	Ruse Park
U/8 Div 1	9.40	Moorebank	Hammondville Oval
U/9 Div 2		BYE	
U/10 Div 1	10.20	Greenacre	Bill Delauney
U/11 Div 3	11.10	East Hills	Bill Delauney
U/11 Div 1	12.00	St Johns	Bill Delauney
U/12 Div 3	12.50	Bankstown Sports	Bill Delauney
U/12 Div 1	1.40	Moorebank	Bill Delauney
U/13 Div 2	2.30	Bankstown Sports	Bill Delauney
U/14 Div 1	3.30	Bulls	Bill Delauney
Sunday Games		6th May	
U/15 Div 2	10.10	St Johns	Bill Delauney
U/19 Div 1	1.45	Bulls	Bill Delauney
A Res	3.00	All Saints	Bill Delauney

Social Events

Annual Ball

Friday 8th June – Long Weekend – no footy. A must do on the social calendar!!!! More details to follow. Start organising your tables of 10 or 12 now.

Kids Disco

Sunday 10th June – Panania Diggers Auditorium – FREE !!!

Annual Golf Day

July – confirmation of date to follow. Start organising your groups of 4.

Raffle Winners

\$50 Meat Baron voucher – Adam Brincatt

Meat Trays – Ken Sheehan and Kiwi Dave (pub patrons)

Joker Jackpot - **\$9,270** with only 7 cards left. Drawn at 6:30 Friday, Revesby Pacific Hotel.

Raffle Roster

Friday 4/5, Joker Draw raffle at Revesby Pacific from 5:30 – 7:00, Under 14's

Saturday 5/5:

(a) Revesby Pacific Hotel, Meat Tray raffles – cancelled this week

(b) Panania Diggers, Meat Tray raffles from 3:30 – 5:30, Under 6's

Saints Merchandise

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