ST. CHRISTOPHER'S RUGBY LEAGUE

River Road Express

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President's Report

Last Saturday saw things get off to a bad start at Billy Dee with our first 3 sides tasting defeat. Labelling the 10s last week as 'the entertainers' was certainly the 'kiss of death' for them , they weren't even nearly entertaining! – Boys, you gotta aim up from the start! Thankfully the 11-3s hit the park running and smashed East Hills to maintain their impressive record. Much to the relief of Coach Whyte (and the Board) the 11-1s got the monkey off their backs with a hard fought win over St John's. Coach Whyte was so happy he even posed for 'Hopoate/Harragon' photo with the St John's coach to be used as a promo for the eagerly awaited 2nd round clash. Clearly inspired by both 11s the 12-1s scored in the dying minutes to knock off Moorebank. Well done boys.

Away from home and we were bubbling. The 6-4s finally got on the field and scored points, had fun and left with a draw. The 6-1s also had a draw. The 7-3s just went down while the 7-1s racked up another victory (luckily we put them in Div 1!!). Over at Hammondville the 8-1s also won with a 6 point victory over Moorebank. That rounded off Saturday and wasn't it good to see so much maroon at the Diggers on Saturday night.

Sunday was our first taste of senior footy at home and the 15s started the day well with a solid win over St Johns. The 19s game against Bulls promised to be a sensational clash between both sets of 2011 premiers (17s and 19s) HOWEVER we were way too strong, classy and disciplined for them and we ran out easy winners. Excellent. The A grade started well, went to sleep then finished well to lose by 2 but showed enough for all of us to realize they will be a force again this year.

Daystar First National "Saint of the Week"

Sunday footy can't happen without a lot of help so a big thank you to the Finches, Killer, Dan the Barman, Raelene Davidson and Dave 'Cecil B De' Muscat . Dave has been giving up his Sundays for the last 2 seasons, doing first aid when needed or what ever else is required so he is this week's 'Saint of the Week' – thanks Dave, thanks Daystar.

Go the Saints

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Round 4 Results

	Opposition	Venue	Result	For	Against
Team					
6.4	Johnnies	Jim Begnall	Drew	16	16
6.2	Tigers	Delauney	Lost	4	26
6.1	Johnnies	Jim Begnall	Drew	20	20
7.3	Johnnies	Jim Begnall	Lost	10	16
7.1	Johnnies	Jim Begnall	Won	14	10
8.3	Bankstown Sports	Delauney	Lost	0	54
8.2	Bulls	Bankstown Footy Centre	Lost	12	38
8.1	Moorebank	Hammondville	Won	22	16
9.2			BYE		
10.1	Tigers	Delauney	Lost	6	26
11.3	East Hills	Delauney	Won	42	0
11.1	Johnnies	Delauney	Won	10	6
12.3	Bankstown Sports	Delauney	Lost	0	18
12.1	Moorebank	Delauney	Won	22	18
13.2	Bankstown Sports	Delauney	Lost	10	22
14.1	Bulls	Delauney	Forfeit		
15.2	Johnnies	Delauney	Won	38	0
19	Bulls	Delauney	Won	40	6
A	All Saints	Delauney	Lost	22	24

U/6 Div 4 Draw 16 all v St Johns

After what has been a disjointed start to the season the boys finally got to play their second game of the competition. After a first game loss it was a much improved performance against St Johns with a 16 all draw. The boys got off to a great start with a runaway try to Jake. St Johns hit back with a quick try of their own and the scores were quickly locked back up. We then traded try for try with St Johns, with 2 more good tries to Ethan and Noah. With a few minutes left Lachlan scored our final try and victory all but seemed certain, until St Johns levelled it up with 30 seconds left on the clock despite a desperate tackle almost saving the game. A great effort by all the boys

U/6 Div 2 v Tigers lost 26-4

The first quarter was one sided with the Tigers coming out strong and scoring three tries, however there was positives with both Damon and Lucas having strong runs only to be pulled up short. Rhys did well to recover from a tackle whereby he was picked up and driven into the ground, which resulted in a penalty. We were unable to break the line to score though.
The 2nd third began with another penalty after Marcus made a great run only to be brought down by a high tackle close to the line.
Lachlan came close after a great run but was stopped centimetres from the line.
Our defence was better in the 2nd third and Tommy made many great tackles, however the Tigers eventually scored again.
The last third had our boys defending again, but the Tigers were to strong in defence. Tommy, Marcus and Lachlan all came close to scoring with great runs but the defence was too good and brought them all down close to the try line.
On the hooter however, we finished on a high with the magnificent Marcus Khoury showing speed and strength to score our only try of the game.

U/6 Div 2 Week 1 Saints v Chester Hill

MOM Rhys Gitsham

First game of the season had us at home on a perfect Autumn morning. Our boys started out strong with a number of good runs by Damon and Tom, however it was Chester Hill who scored first.
Rhys played the ball and showed great speed to get around the opposition to score the first try of the season at home for the Saints.
Chester Hill came out strong following the try, however Damon made an excellent try saving tackle.
In the second quarter, our boys fought hard to get the ball back and Lucas, Daniel and Nash all had strong runs.
Tom was proving to be very difficult to pass, making three excellent tackles in a row to keep Chester Hill out.
In the 3rd quarter, the Kovalik brothers Brodie and Cooper both had great runs and were unlucky when it came to scoring. This took us close to the line and Rhys made a direct run over the opposition but was held up. With no video ref to check the grounding, a try was not awarded.
With a well organised defense , Marcus, Rhys, Tom & Brodie made some great tackles to win us the ball back and Damon was able to score a direct try up the middle.
It was close to full time when Lucas managed to finish the game off in style by scoring straight from a tap restart.
It was a great start to our season and the team were in full voice for the winning song at the end of the match.

Week 2 Saints v Sports

MOM Daniel Raish

Our first away game of the year was played at Steve Folks Reserve. The recent rain had not closed the extremely muddy field and the game was on.
From the start, it was clear to see that Sports had a number of strong runners and these players were regularly used to great effect. Three tries were scored by Sports in the first quarter, despite a strong defense from the Saints. The Sports defense was equally as strong as their attack and we were unable to score.
Marcus Khoury had a great run in the first quarter but was run out into touch before he could put the ball down for a try.Marcus also made a great try saving tackle in the second quarter, however our boys were unable to keep Sports out.
Daniel Raish had a number of great runs in the 3rd quarter but was unable to break a very strong defense. Lachlan George came the closest to scoring with a nice swerving run through the middle, however he was brought down just before the line.

Week 3 Moorebank v Saints Lost 20 to 12
MOM Lachlan George

Another sunny morning for a game of footy. The Rams kicked off and proved from the start that they had a good defence; holding back a number of good runs from our boys to turn over the ball.
Equally, the Saints were tacklers to be reckoned with and with great chasing, all the team started strongly with good tackles.
Our good defence had the ball back in our possession and Daniel Raish made a brilliant swerving run to beat a number of defenders and score under the posts.
Daniel was again on fire from the restart, catching a Rams break away and pulling him down just before the line for a try saving tackle.
Our defence was not sustained however, and Moorebank scored a great try in the corner to even it up by the end of the first third.
In the second third, Moorebank came out hard making five man tackles and ensuring our boys could not break the line. Upon winning the ball and gaining yard, Daniel Raish made another try saver.
With the Rams on our try line we needed a well organised defence, however a low flying helicopter proved to be a major distraction to half of our defence allowing the Rams to score a second try to take the lead.
Moorebank followed this up by another try following a great individual effort.
in the third third the moorebank defence was even more organised and stopped the saints from making any meters. However they coulnt stop Daniel who on form and once again made a Huge severing run to score under the posts, this was followed up by another huge individual effort made by Lachlan george whi huge ran up the line around the defense and under the post.More great defence from our boys kept the score to on a two try gap, the result could have been worst due to a strong opposition

U/6 Div 1 Drew 20-20 v St Johns

This week the boys played in a hard fought 20 all draw against a very competitive St Johns side . We started a little slow and found ourselves behind by eight points early in the match but clawed our way back into it to lead by eight with four minutes to go. Unfortunately we were unable to hang on for the win with St Johns scoring two late tries to level the match. We were outscored as far as tries are concerned but our two conversions by Jack and Mitchell allowed us to come away level on the score board. Good games were were had by the Safi twins James and Adrien, with cousin Fred almost scoring his first try as well as producing some good tackles. Both Lucas's tackled well with little Lucas scoring a sneaky dummy half try. Mark, Matthew and Lachie all chipped in with some good tackles and runs through out the game.
Boys we need to move up faster as a team and tackle around the legs. We are still tackling high on occasions and we must also remember not to run out when we have the ball. A good effort this week boys well done.
Man of the match award this week went to James Safi.

U/7 Div 3 Lost 16 - 10 V St.Johns

Round 4 took us to Begnell Oval up against a strong St.Johns side, with Mason as Captain playing a full game and receiving the Encouragement Award. It took a little while for the team to get going, St Johns were the first to put points on the board, but we came back with greater defence. First try of the day for us was Murray who had a great run that left the opposition behind. Converting his own try was great. Alex and Tarley were great out of dummy half and 1st receiver for the first third which set our play in motion. Tarley, almost scoring a try if not for that massive defender the goal post. Unlucky. Marcus and Sam both had great runs which were supported by Billy. Matthew made a darting run to score a beautiful try to make the score 12-10 at the end of the second third. Thomas was a tackling machine on the day, with not even the bigger players from St. Johns curbing his enthusiasm. Max and Josh both had great runs and only for the grabbing of shirts were they brought down. With a few decisions not going our way and the sideline looking to inviting at times it was overall another great game. Defence was great which shows the boys have been listening at training and the brick wall is starting to get its mortar.

Tries: Murray, Matthew
Goals: Murray
MOM: Thomas
Encouragement Award: Mason

U/7 Div 1 Won 14-10 v St Johns

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U/8 Div3 Lost 0 – 54 v Bankstown Sports

The boy's were playing at home this weekend at a bright and sunny Bill Delauney and eager to prove themselves against a very well drilled Bankstown Sports out fit. That new how plays some good footie and in the end showed no mercy with a very convincing win.

The TEAM tried their best all game but unfortunately were no match for an opposition that scored off every set in attack and also defended well all game Though again it was very rewarding and encouraging to see the TEAM shine in a one sided affair with some clever plays in attack, some strong defence in bringing the oppositions larger units come tumbling down. Which not only had a number supporters in the crowd delighted and pleased, but by the end of the game really showed what potential and plenty of ticker and ability the team has to offer in general,(***remember boys we all now know what you are all capable of).***

With this weeks **Man of the Match Award** going to Jez DeMeur; who continues to improve each week. Had some good runs and assisted his team mates all game. ***Well done Jez…..***

U/8 Div 2 Lost 38-12 v Bulls

Under 8's Division 1 Won 22 – 16 V Moorebank

We were on the road again for our fourth game, this time at Moorebank against a side that we had played in the trials. However this week the boys were not switched on either at training, during the warm up or for most of the game. We did not play to the standard set in round three and we were lucky to get the points in this game.

Moorebank kicked off to start play and we struggled to get the ball out of our half. This resulted in Moorebank having their first set in our half and pinning us down in our half. Following an early turnover in our second set Moorebank took advantage of the field position and scored late in their second set, as our boys were not moving up in defence and were waiting for the Moorebank runners to come to them. We were down 0 – 6 following the conversion. We gained more ground after the restart, with Luke, Zac, Sean and Ricardo all making strong runs. We had some better field position during the middle part of the third and this resulted in try to Trent, which was converted by Ricardo to bring us level at 6 – 6. Despite some great work in defence by Alex, Jordan and Jared Moorebank scored late in the third to go into the break leading 6 – 10.

Ricardo kicked off to commence the second third and Moorebank knocked on in the tackle, giving us the ball in good field position. We took advantage of this with strong runs from Ricardo, Kaled, Luke and Zac, putting us into position for Trent to barge over and score our second try and with Kaled converting we hit the front 12 -10. However the boys continued to hesitate in moving up effectively and the Moorebank big boppers were allowed to build momentum when carting the ball up, which drove us backwards. Jared, Alex, and Jordan all working hard in cover defence and when Trent was hurt making a great cover tackle we failed to set our line and Moorebank strolled over to retake the lead 12 – 16 after having a second conversion due to the referee checking on Trent when the first kick was taken and missed. This incident sparked a bit of fire in the boys and we took the ball into Moorebank's half and after forcing an early turn over late in the half Jordan scored on the bell which Alex converted to give us the lead 18 – 16.

The boys finally began to move up quickly in the final third and this stopped the big boppers from making ground at will. Good work in this area from Luke, Ricardo, Zac and with Jared now talking at the back our boys were quick to smother any half chances. This pressure saw Moorebank become more anxious in attack. This resulted in the ball being kept alive in risky situations as Moorebank played catch up footy,

which gave us more possession due to several turnovers. When we had the ball, Trent, Kaled, Sean and Jordan all driving us forward with good runs during this period. Following one of these turnovers we had some great attacking play which saw Trent scoring his hat trick and our last points of the game to extend our lead to 22 -16 as we failed to kick the conversion. We were now a converted try in front and Moorebank was desperate to draw level, which lifted the tempo of the game. Moorebank kept the ball alive after the hooter with several passes sticking and being offloaded in the last play of the game before we finally brought their player down to end the game.

This was a game where we did not play our best football, but still got the points which will be important in such a tight competition. The boys need to take on board what was discussed after the game about focus at training and on game day, following the game plan and instructions from the coach and trainer. We can put this game behind us and look forward to the next round.

GO THE SAINTS.

Tries: Trent X3, Jordan X1
Goals: Alex X1, Kaled X1, Ricardo X1
Goop Guys M.O.M: Trent
ENC: Jordan, **Coaches Award** Zac

U/9 Div 2 - BYE

U/10 Div 1 Lost 26-6 v Greenacre

U/11-3s won 42-0 v East Hills

The game couldn't have started better for us with a dropped ball off the kick off from East hills. We then controlled the ball we raced to a 22 nil after 8 minutes. Errors then started to creep into our game and we got greedy with the ball and unfortunately couldn't put them away properly. It was a big improvement on our defence often bending Hills back and to keep them to nil and never really look like scoring. Jarrod was dangerous making ground each time he ran scoring 4 tries in the first half, with Reece and Ethan strong out wide. It was a big improvement from the forwards with Camille leading the way and Jordan and Mark getting through their fair share of work. Good stuff guys

U/11 Div 1 Won 10-6 v. St Johns

The boys are to be congratulated on their first win of the season. After two very close loses in Rounds 2 and 3, the boys really muscled up in defence and crafted out a well deserved win. The first try was scored and converted by Cameron who slammed down after a nice kick from Christian that was retrieved on the St John's line. Unfortunately, Jack was injured in the first couple of minutes and was unable to resume the field. Both Jordan and Isaac ran the ball strongly throughout the game and Noah, Ryan and Kueva were very strong in defence as usual. Callum and Josh gave great ball from dummy half and in the second-half Callum played really well in the unfamiliar position as a running forward. The boys left the best for the second half when a quick ball from Lachlan put Cameron through a gap for a beautifully executed try in the corner. It is good to see Vincent is showing his worth on the wing as is Blake in the centres with strong running and good cover defence. It's only a matter of time before we see Billy's electric speed and swerve result in a couple of tries. Excellent work boys.

2 tries and one goal to Cameron.

Man of the Match – The whole Team

U12's D3 Lost 0 -18 V Bankstown Sports

The boy's were at home this week to face a very strong Bankstown Sports. The first half proved to be another tight contest and though the Sports were able to go into the half time break at 6 points – 0. There was really nothing separating each side's first half ability and display of good quality football being played all around the park.

The second half tarted the same as the first half and again both sides matched each other's efforts. With the boys continuing to defend tight and hard as our ability to attack with ball was somewhat limited and also proved to be a tough assignment due to the oppositions strong defence. Which resulted in the back half of the game being the turning point and favouring the opposition who enjoyed consecutive sets of attack. That allowed them to eventually score some more points and achieve their victory against a TEAM that played well and never gave up all day,(***well done boy's you had the opposition rattled on many occasions)..***

With this **weeks Man of the Match Award** going to Mohamad Arnaout; who was always a threat whenever he touched the ball. Managed to create some opportunities with some great off loads and worked tirelessly in defence. ***Well done Mohamad…***

Round 3

U12-1 won 10-6 VS Bankstown Sports

After their first loss of the season against Moorebank's gun side, the boys were put through their paces at training, leading up to their match up against Bankstown Sports. It was always going to be a tough game, playing at Steve Folkes Reserve, with the home ground advantage, Sporties put the first points on the scoreboard. To our boys' credit they defended well, there were a few missed opportunities and silly mistakes but at half time we were only trailing by a converted try, 6-0. The boys put in a gutsy effort 2nd half, they started to pass the ball well and found plenty of space on the outside which put Karim over in the corner for their first try of the game, this was then converted by Bodie levelling the score to 6-6. Second try then came from the opposite outside edge with Michael scoring in the other corner to give our team the lead 10-6, unfortunately we did not convert this try but the boys did an awesome job holding the opposition scoreless for the rest of the match and taking home the win.

There is still plenty to work on, with silly mistakes and missed opportunities during the match, whilst it is great to have 2 from 3 wins, it is still early in the season and the boys really need to buckle down and focus on their discipline if they want to be competitive with sides like Moorebank and St Johns, who were joint premiers in 2011. Work hard boys and don't get too complacent!!!!

Tries: Karim Saboune, Michael Fahd
Goals: Bodie Bradford

U/13 Div 2 LOST 10 - 22 v Bankstown Sports

For the 1st time we were at full strength and looking forward to playing the yard stick of this competition. Unfortunately the Football Gods chose this game to punish us for our sins. Simple errors, rub of the green and bounce of the ball all went against us and when they crossed right on half time we hoped we could turn it all around. Alas things got worse!
More simple mistakes gave this team all the ball and when they scored from a kick off the boys knew they had met a team that will give them strong competition this season. We will need to learn from this match to ensure when we meet Sporties again we show them just what we are capable of. So it's back to training and remember: "the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary" - Vince Lombardi.

Tries: Anthony & Kieran.
Goals: Jonah.

U/14 Div 1 Won on Forfeit v Bulls

Under 15's Won 38-0 V St Johns

On a cool Sunday morning we have our first home game of the season at Bill. Up against St Johns we expect a physical match from them. Our forwards take control early and set a great platform, field position is good and we are eating up the yards. Ball retention lets us down on more than one occasion and St Johns put up a good defensive show. By half time we are up 10 nil.

In the second half we hang onto the ball a lot better and it shows on the scoreboard as the tally gradually builds in our favour. The forwards control the game and give the backs plenty of room to do their stuff. The boys play some good footy, but, more importantly focus on having the correct attitude for the whole game – a first for this season. By games end we are up 38 nil. Very happy to keep St Johns scoreless for 50 minutes, not bad considering we only had one interchange player. The fitness work the boys have done over the last 3 months (is it that long ???) is really starting to show and the effort and execution they put in for this game places us exactly where we want to be. Keep up the hard work boys.

U/19 – Won 40-6 v Bulls

A Res Lost 24-22 v Liverpool All Saints

While it was our 1st loss for the season, it was by far our best effort to date. Liverpool all saints are a side that's been together for a number of years and were narrowly beaten in the western suburbs grand final last year. All Saints drew 1st blood in the 11th minute after receiving a penalty in our half and then a repeat set to eventually, through the weight of possession scored next to the posts to lead 6-0. For the next 15 minutes the game went from end to end with some entertaining footy from both sides before Cameron Mortimer crossed out wide to make it 4-6. 2 minutes later and we were in again after a penalty in their half which was converted to give us a 10-6 lead. Right on half time we received a penalty out wide and Nathan Sellings converted to give us a 12-6 halftime lead. The 2nd half started disastrously for us, we committed 3 errors in the first 5 sets to let all saints in again 12-12. 3 minutes later and Mahdi scored a great try in the corner. Sello converted from the side line to make it 18-12 at this point fatigue set in and after all saints received a penalty and a repeat set they scored to make it 18-18 with 14 mins to go. 5 mins later and All Saints were in again after we had a poor set of six in our own 1/4 and then kicked out on the full to give All Saints the scrum feed in our 1/4 18-24 with 8 to go. we received 2 penalties in a row and were attacking their line when we dropped the ball on the 3rd tackle and a scoring opportunity went begging, but to our credit we dug deep after All Saints kicked a 40-20 and attacked our line and the boys scrambled well to hold them for a change over in our ¼. After a couple of tackles we received a penalty and from the next set Andrew Powell scored in the corner to make it 22-24 with 1 minute to go, Nathan Sellings missed from the corner and the siren sounded. Justin Bold and Sam Smythe were the pick of the forwards, Nathan Sellings and James Leten were the pick of the backs. When you consider that this team is made up with players from 9 different clubs, and we were playing last years Wests runners up you realise what a good effort this was, we still have a lot of improvement in us and I look forward to our next meeting with All Saints.

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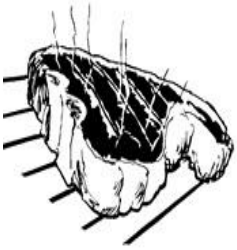
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This Weeks Games Sat 12th May

U/6 Div 4	9.00	Revesby Hts	Bill Delauney
U/6 Div 2	9.00	St George Dragons	Clemton Park
U/6 Div 1	9.40	Moorebank	Bill Delauney
U/7 Div 3	10.20	Berala	Bill Delauney
U/7 Div 1	11.00	Moorebank	Bill Delauney
U/8 Div 3	11.40	Revesby Hts	Bill Delauney
U/8 Div 2	10.20	East Hills	Smith Park
U/8 Div 1	12.20	St Johns	Bill Delauney
U/9 Div 2	1.00	Revesby Hts	Bill Delauney
U/10 Div 1	12.30	Bankstown Sports	Steve Folkes
U/11 Div 3		BYE	
U/11 Div 1	1.30	St George Dragons	Clemton Park
U/12 Div 3	1.50	Greenacre	Roberts Park
U/12 Div 1	1.10	St Johns	Begnall Oval
U/13 Div 2	12.00	Berala	Peter Hislop
U/14 Div 1		BYE	

Sunday Games		13th May	
U/15 Div 2	11.30	Regents Park	Hammondville Oval
U/19 Div 1	1.30	Liverpool CC	Eschol Park
A Res	2.20	Hurstville United	Bexley Oval

Social Events

Annual Ball

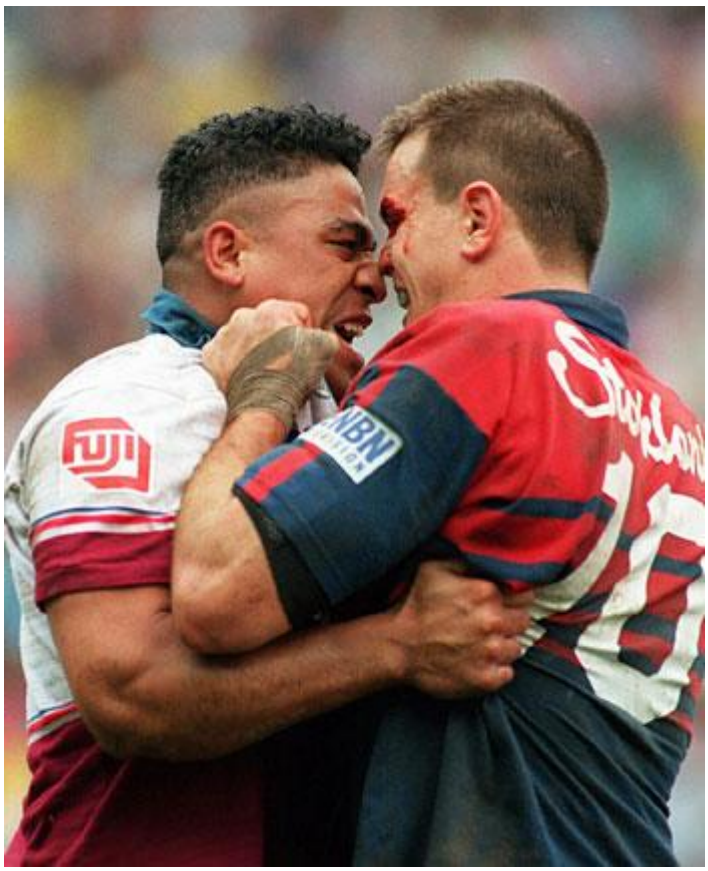
Friday 8th June – Long Weekend – no footy. A must do on the social calendar!!!! More details to follow. Start organising your tables of 10 or 12 now.

Kids Disco

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

Annual Golf Day

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



Scott Whyte showing his form.

Raffle Winners

$50 Meat Baron voucher Chris "Fozzie" Forster

Joker Jackpot - $9,270 won by Kevin Dredge and Col McCarthy

Raffle Roster

Friday 11/5, Joker Draw raffle at Revesby Pacific from 5:30 7:00, **A Grade**
Saturday 12/5:
(a) Revesby Pacific Hotel, Meat Tray raffles from 3:30 5:30, **Under 13s**
(b) Panania Diggers, Meat Tray raffles from 3:30 5:30, **Under 9s**

Saints Merchandise

On Sale this weekend:

Hoodies
Beanies
Scarfs
Shirts
Shorts
Caps
Key Rings and Stubby Holders

Get all of your supporters gear this weekend at Bill Delauney

VOTE FOR DAYSTAR IN LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Daystar First National Real Estate is a major sponsor of our football club. Their sponsorship has funded our score board - the best of any junior league club in the world, and every player will soon be wearing training shirts that are also funded primarily by Daystar. We appreciate this generosity.

As a Club we aim to support our sponsors, but most of us deal with real estate agents infrequently. So let's show our gratitude to Daystar by voting for them now in the Local Business Awards:

- In your web browser go to: **thebusinessawards.com**
- Under "Local Business Awards" choose "Bankstown"
- Select the "Vote" tab, Vote Now
- Enter your personal information as the voter
- Click the "Vote 1" button
- Select "Real Estate Agency" as the category
- Select "First National Daystar" 78 Cahors Road Padstow
- Click "Add Vote to List" button
- Click "Submit" button