River Road Express
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Presidents Report

Once again the weekend's results were mixed. Bill Delauney became the 'home of the draw' with the 8-1s, the 10-1s and 14s all 'going home friends' by sharing the competition points! Saturday winners were Burkie's 7s (40-10 over the Warriors); Hayes' still undefeated 9-2s (36-10 over East Hills) and Macca's still undefeated 11s (50-0 over Johnnies). Team of the week was definitely the 12-1s (20-6 over Dragons) who continue to improve each week and impress with their good footy. Sunday was also good with the 15s winning 26-6 over Holy Cross and the 19s putting on a great display at Hammondville to demoralize potential semi finalists Dragons 30-0.

However, it wasn't all good. We were rocked on Tuesday when the ICCC decided to regrade our 15s to Div 1! Don't worry about submissions, stats, numbers of kids registered, injuries, size or anything else that might be relevant in making a good decision – just take the 3 undefeated sides! We voted to join the ICCC so that our teams could play and compete at an equal level, hoping that by trekking all over Sydney it could be achieved. Unfortunately that's not the case because 4 super sides have been allowed to develop and there has to be 8 teams in their comp - why? I festered and frothed on this from Tuesday till midnight Thursday before running a quick, late night check over Facebook. I happened across the under 15s page where 171 comments waited on regrading. After the initial shock of the move to Div 1, the boys had decided they would handle it no matter what because they were Saints and that's what we do, just like the current 19s did when they were 13s, 14s and 15s. What a great attitude! As a Club we do not want to lose this age group and although 'the powers' are doing their best to get them out of league, these young men are going to have a go. I want to swear but I'm not allowed. GO THE 15s.

Saints at Reps

On a brighter note, a few of our boys have been making a hit at rep footy. Of course we all know former Club legend **Taylor Brown** is currently playing Toyota Cup with St George – well done Brownie, I knew all those 'curls' would pay off! **Michael Fahd**, one of the stars of our under 12s, has just been selected in the Mackillop side to compete in the NSW Primary Schools carnival in June. **Aidan Harrington**, our red headed front rower in the U15s has been selected in the President's team to compete for a spot in the NSWCCC U15s side while **Tom Grealy,** from our under 19s, is in the Sydney Independent Catholic Colleges team also competing for a spot in the NSWCCC U18s team. Aidan and Tom play today and Saturday so we wish them well.

Go the Saints

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Round 5 Results

Team	Opposition	Venue	Result	For	Against
6.4	Colts	Killara	Lost	0	20
6.2	Bulls	Delauney	Lost	4	50
6.1			BYE		
7.3	Auburn Warriors	Delauney	Won	40	10
7.1	Tigers	Roberts Park	Lost	4	32
8.3	Tigers	Roberts Park	Lost	6	42
8.2	Bears	Delauney	Lost	0	22
8.1	Bankstown Sports	Delauney	Drew	12	12
9.2	East Hills	Delauney	Won	36	10
10.1	Bears	Delauney	Drew	12	12
11.3	Johnnies	Delauney	Won	50	0
11.1	Chester Hill	Delauney	Lost	6	32
12.3	Auburn Warriors	Lidcombe	Lost	0	34
12.1	Dragons	Smith Park	Won	20	6
13.2	East Hills	Smith Park	Won	60	0
14.1	Johnnies	Delauney	Drew	20	20
15.2	Holy Cross	Birchgrove Oval	Won	26	6
19	Dragons	Hammondville	Won	30	0
A			Forfeit		

U/6 Div 4 Lost 32-0 v Colts

Although the score indicates a lopsided result there were some pleasing aspects to take out of this weeks game, with some improvement shown by some of the boys. Some good running from Lachlan, Jake and Cooper threatened the opposition but Colts were to good in defence stopping us on a few occasions just short. Josh made some good tackles but Colts were just too strong on the day. Boys we need to start getting to training on time and listening to the coach so as we can practice more and keep on improving.

U/6 Div 2 Lost 50-4 v Bulls

U/6 Div 1 - BYE

Under 7 Div 3 Won 40-10 v Auburn Warriors

On a crisp sun soaked Saturday Morning the Saints were up against the Auburn Warriors. Having trained well during the week, the Saints were buzzing with excitement and anticipation.
Kick off saw the Saints receive the ball and from the outset we could tell that the Saints were on song. Great ball work from terrific **Thomas** combining with jumping **Josh** put the Saints in a great position to attack and when menacing **Mason** manhandled the defence the Saints speedsters were ready to pounce. Enter **Alex** "twinkle toes" Alkhair who with lightning speed left the Warriors clutching at thin air as he crossed for the opening try.
The shocked Warriors took the tap off and ran straight into the unbreakable Saints brick wall made up of magic **Max**, **Marcus** the destroyer and new recruit explosive **Evan**. The ball was soon back in the Saints hands and in a backline movement that resembled the great Eels of the 80's …Sterling onto Kenny, Kenny to the Zip Zip man… with good passing from **Billy** the kid and **Matthew** the magician, jumping **Josh** was given the ball 80 meters out and with evasive running he outpaced the Warriors to crash over for the second of Saints tries.
A momentary lapse in concentration saw the Warriors swing the ball wide and cross over in the corner and with a successful conversion the Saints lead narrowed with the score board reading 10-8.
From the tap-off new recruit explosive **Evan** proved to be an excellent mid season acquisition living upto his name with a damaging first run in Saints colours. This was followed by a destructive run by **Marcus** and when menacing **Mason** burst onto the ball only an illegal stripping of the ball prevented a try.
With the Warriors supporters counting down the last seconds of the first session, smart thinking by terrific **Thomas** saw him take a quick tap and sidestep the Warriors tacklers to go in for the first of his two tries, then lining up the ball & slotting it through the posts to collect the two extra points, the score now was a coach pleasing 16-6.
Saints kicked off in the second session and proving that they could tackle as well as they could score, were wonderful, hard hitting defensive efforts by magic **Max**, **Murray** the mauler, speedster **Alex** and terrifying **Tarley** which bundled the Warriors into touch.
From the tap off, like a hot knife through butter, **Murray** sliced through the middle of the Warriors pack, showing skill by palming off wood-be tacklers to race away for the first of his two tries and when **Murray** converted his own try, doing the "Agadoo" coach Steve showed that money he'd spent on dancing lessons was money well spent.
Not long before the end of the second session, the Warriors and the Saints went try for try with **Josh** crossing for his second and the visitors crossing for their second and final try, with the score now 24-10.
In the final session the Saints kept the scoreboard attendant busy crossing for another three unanswered tries.
The first saw a barnstorming run by **Sam** the steamroller who flattened the defense to give a magic ball to Terrifying **Tarley** who used his quick legs and skill to get past the Warriors to score in the corner.
The next saw great lead up work with **Matthew** dazzling the defence running circles around them before offloading to a fast moving **Murray** who raced away for his second try.
The final try of the match was a great team effort steamroller **Sam** took it up strongly damaging the defence, this was followed up by punishing hit up by menacing **Mason** and when **Billy** the kid spotted a gap he darted through it passing the ball onto talented **Thomas** who stepped past the Warriors defence to go over for his second try.
After belting out a ARIA award winning rendition of the team song, in the post match interview, a very happy & smiling coach Steve with trainers Paul & Anthony agreed that all the boys played well, they were very pleased that we were tackling around the legs and that we stayed away from the sidline.

Because everybody played well it was very hard to give out the team awards but for their excellent hard hitting tackles and their strong line breaking running man of the match was steamrolling Sam and the encouragement award went to Marcus the destroyer.

…….GO SAINTS!!

Under 7/1 Lost 32-4 v Greenacre

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U8's D3 Lost 42-6 v Greenacre

U/8 Div 2 Lost 22-0 v Berala

U/8's at ANZ Stadium – Half Time Entertainment.

U/8 Div 1 Draw 12 – 12 v Bankstown Sports

This week saw us start the second round at home against Bankstown Sports and the boys had a solid week of preparation at training and were looking to put into practice some of the moves they had worked on during the week.

We commenced the game with a deep kick off by Ricardo and this saw Sports trapped in their own half as we had a good line in defence with Zac, Luke and Trent all putting in big shots early. This was a good third of hard footy, with both teams trying to make ground in attack, with Jordan, Sean, Jared and Kaled all running hard. We tried a run around late in the third which created a half chance for us but we were brought down short. Towards the end of the third Sports got a repeat set following a penalty which saw them scoring a converted try on the bell to take the lead 0 – 6 at the break.

Sports started the third with an awkward kick off which bounced backwards to them and their chase team knocked the ball on giving us the ball about 10 meters in our half. The boys really stepped up the pace when we had the ball, with Zac, Luke, Ricardo and Kaled all making good runs up the guts. We had a couple of repeat sets in the early stages of this third and we converted this pressure into points with Jordan making a great run to score out wide and with Ricardo kicking the goal we were level 6-6. The boys worked really well as a unit in this third with Trent, Alex and Jared all putting in to stop the Sports getting any momentum. We dominated the field position in this third and this resulted in Jordan scoring another try late in the session, which Jared converted to give us the lead 12 – 6. However the boys took their eyes of the game for half a second and as the hooter sounded Sports scored another converted try to draw level 12 – 12.

The boys might have been a little disappointed to not be leading the game going into the last third, but Alex got us off to a good start with a deep kick off. The boys began to tire in this third and except for some good cover defence from Trent, Jared, Kaled and Ricardo Sports might have scored. Alex, Zac, Jordan and Sean all tried to make good ground and there was some nice second phase play in this third when we had the ball. The game ended controversially with Trent being injured following what look to be a bad swing tackle delaying play as the clock wound down. The fans and the boys were vocal in their pleas to the referee for a penalty but this was in vain. We demonstrated some skilful plays in this third as the boys followed the instructions from the coach and trainer to put into practice what they had been doing at training which they did well.

The boys should have got the full two points for this game, but came away sharing the points with a draw. The boys need to work for the full 30 minutes, play to the whistle, stay focused on the game and not on the comments from the crowd. This game saw us return to our usual standard of competitive football however we have yet to play to our full potential consistently this season. A good overall effort by all the boys this week, keep working on the plays at training and continue to enjoy playing footy.

GO THE SAINTS.

Tries: Jordan 2
Goals: Ricardo X1, Jared X1
Goop Guys M.O.M: Jordan
ENC: Trent, Jared

U/9 Div 2 - Won 36-10 v East Hills

U/10 Div 1 Drew 12-12 v Berala

U/11-3s BYE

U/11 Div 1 Lost 32-6 v Chester Hill

U12's Div3 Lost 34-0 v Auburn Warriors.

U/12 Div 3 showing off their new club colours.

U12-1 Won 20-6 v Dragons

The boys were excited for our first match ever to be played at Smith Park against the Dragons. This was the second time the teams had met this year and our boys were keen to redeem themselves after the loss to St Johns last week. Even though we had beaten this team before we knew it was going to be a hard task especially without our big gun Michael, and our regular 5/8 Byron, who were out due to injuries. The boys started slow with the opposition scoring first points. To their credit the boys got straight back in there and put in a great defensive effort. We hit back and evened up the score at 6-6. The high light of the game was the spectacular try scored by our front rower , Stuart, who backed up Ryan after a great half field run who looked set to score himself, until he was tackled around the ankles, he turned and found Stuart who went over for his first try this season. Junior cemented his place in the team with some tough runs and making plenty of metres. Sneaky Pete went over in the second half for his first try of the season as well as converting a try scored by Josh who ran ¾ length of the field to score a great individual try. They kept the Dragons scoreless for the rest of the game and ran away with the win. All in all it was a great effort by the boy's; they really stood up and started to move the ball around. There is still a lot to work on but they are doing well. Once they play more consistent football they will be a force to be reckoned with. Exciting game boys, good luck for next week.

GO THE MIGHTY SAINTS!!!!!

Tries: Lachlan, Stuart, Josh, Peter

Goals: Bodie, Peter

WIN - Score 20-6

MOM: Bodie Coaches award: Junior

U13/2's U13/2 v EAST HILLS WON 60 - 0.

A week is a long time in Footy and this was so true in the turn around from our 46 point Loss last week to Berala. The talk on the bench and pleas to the coach to get back on, illustrated the difference we encounter in this Division. The talk was great out on the field early and at times the tension and wrestle was there, but hopefully our boys learnt where they went wrong last week when East Hills dropped the will to compete and allowed our boys to dominate.
Nathan was told to lead the forwards and they laid the platform to some terrific Tries scored out wide. As the Ball sang to our speed machines, Sammy, Antos, Liam, and Riley. Tries at this age are not easily scored through the middle, so it was rewarding to witness the points coming from backline movements. Our defence ensured they never made breaks and Luke, Kieran, Jack, Rhys, Jonah and Adam were strong in their tackles. We have Tigers next week so lets build on this game and take it to them.
Quote from Game Day Captain.
"The Boys had a good game on Saturday beating East Hills by 60. Didn't think we could play any better, hopefully we can take that score to Berala or Sports. Boys lets keep our heads up and smash some more teams. See you Wednesday". Nathan Boland.

Tries: 3 x Sammy & Anthony, 2 x Hayden, 1 x Riley, Luke, Liam & Mohamad.
Goals: 4 x Luke, 1 x Liam & Jayden.

U/14 Div 1 Drew against St John's 20-20
This round the 1st game after a back to back forfeit and a bye and the loss of both Josh & Jarrad to injury. The game started out well with Cockie crossing over the line in the corner in the first minutes to put our 1st 4 points on the board. The scores were fairly even most of the 1st half and Fatu powered through the defence to go over just before the half time bell with Steele converting to level the score at 10-10.
The boys defence was tested again in the second half but with some persistence in attack, Scotty darted from dummy half to cross the line and scored the 1st try of this half and Fatu converted.
With only a minute and a half left on the clock, a scrum was set and we won against the feed. Trailing by only 4 points the boys let the ball do some work and passed it out wide to Cockie who saw a gap for Kit Kat who went over in the corner after the full time siren to keep the score locked 20-20 with a kick to win, but unsuccessful.

Good effort boys....keep it up.

Under 15's Won 26-6 v Holy Cross Ryde

U/8's in action at ANZ Stadium – Referee Aidan Harrington (St Christophers U/15's)

U/19 – Won 30-0 v Dragons

A Res Won Forfeit

U/8's in action at ANZ Stadium – Referee Aidan Harrington (St Christophers U/15's)

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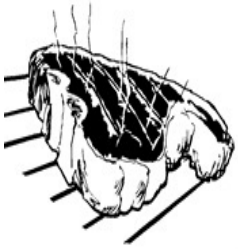

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This Weeks Games Sat 26th May

U/6 Div 4	9.00	Chester Hill	Bill Delauney
U/6 Div 2	9.40	Milperra Colts	Bill Delauney
U/6 Div 1	9.00	Greenacre	Roberts Park
U/7 Div 3	9.40	East Hills	Smith Park
U/7 Div 1	10.20	Bankstown Sports	Bill Delauney
U/8 Div 3	11.00	St Johns	Bill Delauney
U/8 Div 2	11.40	Moorebank	Hammondville Oval
U/8 Div 1	10.20	Dragons	Clemton Park
U/9 Div 2	11.40	Greenacre	Bill Delauney
U/10 Div 1	11.00	Dragons	Clemton Park
U/11 Div 3	11.50	Auburn Warriors	Lidcombe Oval
U/11 Div 1	2.00	Moorebank	Hammondville Oval
U/12 Div 3	12.30	St Johns	Bill Delauney
U/12 Div 1	3.40	Moorebank B	Hammondville Oval
U/13 Div 2	1.20	Greenacre	Bill Delauney
U/14 Div 1	1.30	Greenacre	Roberts Park
Sunday Games		**27th May**	
U/15 Div 2	10.10	Mascot	Bill Delauney
U/19 Div 1	3.00	Hurstville United	Bill Delauney
A Res	3.00	Penshurst RSL	Evatt Park

Social Events

Annual Ball

Friday 8th June – Long Weekend – no footy. A must do on the social calendar!!!! $80/head – buffet meal and Drinks until 11pm. Start organising your tables of 10 or 12 now.

Kids Disco

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

Annual Golf Day

6th July - Start organising your groups of 4.

Poker Tournament

4th August – Revesby Pacific Hotel

Raffle Winners

Raffle Winners
$50 Meat Baron voucher – Ken Mahoney

Raffle Roster

Friday 25/5, Joker Draw raffle at Revesby Pacific from 5:30 – 7:00, **Under 15's**
Saturday 26/5:

(a) Revesby Pacific Hotel, Meat Tray raffles from 3:30 – 5:30, **Under 11's**
(b) Panania Diggers, Meat Tray raffles from 3:30 – 5:30, **Under 7's**

Saints Merchandise

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