ST CHRISTOPHERS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

River Road Express

Weekend of 5th & 6th of April, 2014

Volume 14 Issue 1

President's Report

Welcome to season 2014. We've just spent the last 6 weeks registering 290 players to compete in 20 teams from U6s to u17s. Sounds healthy but disappointingly, for the first time since 2003, we will not have an A grade (and with the current spate of shoulder injuries we could be lucky to finish the season with that 20 intact!!)

But nothing beats getting on the paddock for round 1 and that couldn't have come quick enough for our new 6s and minis. Though we looked a bit 'shabby' due to the late arrival of gear, the smiles on the boys made up for that minor hiccup. Our 7 Blues racked a great win over Cheso while the rest of the minis showed enough to let us know they'll be playing some great footy throughout the year.

The mods had pretty good results across the park. The 10-1s and 12-1s both had hard fought draws, the 9-1s and 11-2s had great wins while the 10-3s went down to their nemesis team Moorebank. The 9-3s went straight to the top of the ladder with a forfeit!! The 13-1s had their first taste of div 1 footy and hopefully have learnt they have to take the ball up harder – stopping at the line will only add to the shoulder injuries mentioned earlier. Sunday was a wipe out with our 14-3s playing a team hiding in a lower division while our 14-2s and 15-2s tried hard but couldn't rack up a win.

Socially, it was great to see so many people having a good time at our season opener at the Diggers. And, don't forget that if you're at the park, lend a hand in the canteen or on the BBQ. Many hands make light work.

Go the Saints

John Grealy

ST CHRISTOPHER'S JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Home Ground:
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Round 1 Results

Team	Opposition	Result	For	Against
U6 Gold (4)	Bankstown Sports	Lost	12	24
U6 Green (3)	Bankstown Sports	Lost	4	12
U6 Blue (1)	Berala Bears	Lost	0	32
U7 White (2)	Chester Hill	Lost	0	34
U7 Blue (1)	Chester Hill	Won	10	6
U8 Green (3)	Bankstown Sports	Lost	28	42
U8 White (2)	Bankstown Sports	Lost	8	32
U8 Blue (1)	Moorebank	Lost	10	20
U9-3	Auburn Warriors	Won	Forfeit	
U9-1	Tigers	Won	18	4
U10-3	Moorebank (W)	Lost	0	14
U10-1	Bulls	Drew	12	12
U11-2	St Johns	Won	20	12
U12-1	St Johns	Drew	16	16
U13-1	Moorebank	Lost	10	26
U14-3	Tigers	Lost	8	78
U14-2	Strathfield Raiders	Lost	18	28
U15-2	Tigers	Lost	2	26
U16-1	Mascot Blue	Won	Forfeit	
U17-1	Campbelltown	Lost	Forfeit	

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Under 6 Gold ~ Lost 12-24 v Sports

MOM: Justin Susnjara

All the kids were very excited to kick off the season playing at home against Sports. For some of the boys it was their first ever football match. We had a slow start to the game with Sports leading 8-0 at the end of the first third. Once we were back however, Xavius made a great run and scored our first try of the season! Justin followed in his footsteps with a length of the field run resulting in an awesome try. Xavius scored a second try in the last third. The boys all put in a great effort during the game with runs from Ayden, Harry, James, Riley, Peter and Connor. Cole, Braydon, Noah, Justin and Xavius formed a great defence with some fantastic try saving tackles. I was very proud of all the boys for trying so hard and giving it a good go in round 1!

Under 6.3 Green ~ Lost 4 -12 v Sports

MOM - Izhak MAARBANI

This week kicked off the first exciting game of the season with some boys having played last year and some enjoying their first year of Rugby League.
Our three 4 year olds definitely proved they may be young but they all played with big hearts. Kai proved his size and pace is beyond his years, Harrison had a great game showing great defence and Jacob put his fears behind him to play a great game showing us his skills and passion.
Declan produced some great tackles and ran through the opposition to score our first try of the season. Well done Declan!
Caleb, JP and Sebastian all used their speed to make some great try saving tackles while Leo, Valanti, James and Drew all produced some great runs and proved they had all learnt a thing or two during training.
Izhak was our Man of the Match and had a great all round game which came from experience and confidence. Keep up the great work Izhak!
The boys definitely made us all proud as they came together when they needed to and showed us all they have a true passion for the game. I'm sure they are looking forward to next week.
Thank you to all the boys for trying so hard - if last week was anything to go by, this is going to be a great year of not only meeting new friends (both children and parents) but also developing new skills and enjoying a great year of footy!

Under 6 Blue ~ Lost 0-32 v Berala

6 Blue lost 32-0 but they put in an excellent effort with try saving tackles and already stand out talents. With a little more hard work at training I'm sure they will be unstoppable.

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Under 7 Blue ~ Won 10–6 v Chester Hill

What a fantastic start to the season, a home game and a win! Congratulations boys, it was a great performance with two tries, one conversion, some great tackling, passing and teamwork. For a team with some new players, a new coach and a new trainer, we are all settling in well. If we continue to listen to our coach, we will continue to learn and will only improve from here.

Under 7 White ~ Lost 0-34 v Chester Hill

MOM - Alexander Bruno

First game of the year and the boys were keen and ready to go. Chester Hill kicked off and showed a very organised defence, quickly turning the ball over and quickly scoring a try in the corner. After regaining the ball, Rhys made an awesome run around the defence to be stopped by a fast tackler and the corner post. Good defence was then shown from Saints with Jake, Aaron and Max making some great tackles, however a smart Chester Hill dummy half caught them off guard and scored. Then the opposition quickly scored again and converted. Aaron made a great run, followed by Brodie and Kristian. Good defence continued but not good enough for an organised attack from the opposition. Rhys then stepped up and made three tackles in one set, the ball was turned over and Aaron made a great run and was stopped by a good tackle into touch with Chester Hill making another try saving tackle.

Zac came on for the next third and instantly had an impact, making a very good tackle on Chester Hill's star player who looked like scoring. Their attack was too strong and they scored again early on. Alexander then stepped up and made a huge swerving run around and through the defence. Unfortunately for us, the Chester Hill defence was as good as the attack. On turnover of the ball, Alexander made a huge tackle, but another try followed from Chester Hill. Our boys wouldn't give up and came back strong with great runs from Zac, Ethan and Christopher! However Chester Hill's dominant player scored again. Brodie then made an excellent run breaking tackle and was heading for the corner, only to be stopped by great try saving tackle from the opposition. Our defence held out many great runs with Zac, Alexander and Brodie making very good tackles. Max then had a great run which included a side-step to dazzle the defence and a sprint to the line, but alas the speed king at Chester Hill brought him down inches from the line! Alex followed with another great run but we could not break that defence.

In the final third, Max started off with a bang making a huge run but once again was stopped short of the line. The Saints then muscled up showing brave defence and Max again made an impressive run. Zac made a number of brilliant tackles and Aaron, Kristian and Alexander showed great defence. A great run from Aaron being brought down from a high tackle, but this didn't phase him and he was up and away making another good run from the tap. Chester Hill showed very strong defence to hold out our boys, and close to the whistle, Jake had a brilliant run through and around most of the defence only to be stopped short.

It was a promising start to the season, as at times we looked very good in defence and have players who can break the line. A helicopter hovering overhead didn't help with keeping our boys attention on the game, I hope they caught the escapee at Villawood! Bring on next week!

Under 8 Green
Lost 28-42 v Sports

The U8-3's had a great start to the season against a tough Bankstown Sports. With some great early tries and conversions, the boys all playing well with each other and each knowing their role to play. As the game went on Bankstown Sports regrouped and eventually won the day. Overall I'm very proud of the boys with their ability to show that they play together well as a team and with a little more training as a team to refine themselves, I can expect good things to come from the U8-3's.
Some stand out players were:
Christian - with some excellent runs and tackles and played as captain.
Joshua - did some fantastic tackling throughout the game and scored 2 tries.
Logan - good runs, good tackles and 2 tries.
Mohammed - great tackling, 2 tries with a conversion.
Lucas - good job at first receiver and a conversion.

Under 8 White
Lost 8-32 v Sports

We met Bankstown Sports in our round 1 match and we knew this would be a tough game 1st up. Our Captain this week was Mark Bishara and he led the boys well with strong runs and dedicated tackles. We also added some new players to our squad who have come from other sports and they seemed to pick the game up well. Sports got off to a good start with a couple of tries on our flanks and some of their bigger kids busting through our middle. To our credit the boys fought back with Logan Collinet crossing the line with a nice zippy run on the fringe. Marcus Khoury was up to his sneaky little best and scored a nice try from dummy half, catching the Sports' defence off guard. Sports continued to pepper our sideline defence (or lack of) and went on to score a few more tries, making the Final score 32-8. Special mention to Harrison Holmes who led the way with his strong hit-ups and enthusiastic defence. Well done to all the boys and I'm sure if we get a few things right at training the wins will come a plenty.

Tries: Marcus Khoury, Logan Collinet Goals: Nil

Under 8 Blue ~ Lost 10-20
v Moorebank

Our first game for the 2014 season was against Moorebank at home. With some recent intense training the boys knew their positions and were dominant. The boys started off well with some super tackling and passing. By 3-quarter time the scores were all level and although we had our chances, Moorebank came through with a late flurry of tries to win, 20-10.

Jack and Mitchell both scored tries and Mitchell converted his own. James, Adrian and Cody excelled with more than 10 tackles each. While Matthew and Mitchell made strong determined drives all game.

Adrian was declared the Man-of-the-Match.

The Coach stated during his press conference that he will be focussing on encouraging the boys to:
1. Pay attention at Training,
2. Listen to the Coach, and
3. Tackle Harder.

Well done boys. It's the first game down and there are some inspiring moments that will ensure a successful year.

Under 9.3 ~ Won Forfeit v Warriors

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Under 9.1 ~ Won 18-4 v Tigers

Finally season 2014 is upon us! No more trials… No more wondering how we will go… But time to put that pre-season practice into motion, and play proper competition!

The line-up for the year is as follows:

Alexander Alkhair, Dean Armstrong, Peter Assaf, Kian Boyne, Thomas Forrester, Murray Hardy, Ryan Klem, Toto'a Lynch, Owen Millar, Oscar Moseley, Marcus Sahyoun, Fanafou Seve, Hayden Swibel, Joshua Trevitt and Jack Zanbaka. Coach: Anthony Sahyoun. Manager: Chris Zanbaka. Trainers: Charlie Assaf, Mark Boyne & Murray Hardy Snr.

Our first mission was up against Greenacre Tigers, who have always been one of the standout teams in our comp over the years. Throughout our preparation, we knew we had to raise the bar if we were going to compete with sides like this. Our record over the years against this side isn't too crash hot either, with us only winning once against them in 3 years!

From the kick-off, Greenacre were on the back foot straight away, with their kick not even making 10 metres, giving us a golden opportunity to capitalise. All we had to focus on was to play mistake free, and practice what we'd learnt at training. We did exactly that! Our first try was scored by Fanafou Seve, who was too strong with his big tackle busting runs, with Ryan Klem converting that try. Murray Hardy also crossed for us in the first half, and going into the break, we led 10-4.

Coach Anthony was impressed, and pepped the boys up at half time to continue with their great defence! In the second half, the boys tried their hearts out defending well and making very minimal errors. Toto'a Lynch crossed for us mid-way through that second half. With only a few minutes left to go, Hayden Swibel also crossed near the sideline, and had the ball down before being tackled out. It was a great win for our side considering our record against the Tigers, and it has surely instilled a lot of confidence into our boys. Next week is another big test for us, but that's what makes this game so fun!

Congratulations to the whole team for their great attitude on and off the field. Man of the match went to Murray Hardy Jnr, and the coach's award went to Josh Trevitt.

St. Christophers 18 *(Tries: F. Seve, M. Hardy, T. Lynch & H. Swibel. Goals: R. Klem)* **beat Greenacre** 4

Under 10.1 ~ Draw 12-12 v Bulls

Our first game for the season and the boys have dusted off the cobwebs. We would like to welcome 4 new boys to the team – Ben, Kelley, Henri, Jesse and Thimas who have come up from the div 3. All boys played well against the Bulls at home it was nil all at half time. In the second half we score with Jared and Zac getting the first goal. Then Bulls scored to even up 6 all. Saints scored again with Ricardo and Kaled converting the goal. The final score ended up a 12 all draw. All the boys put in a great effort.

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Under 10.3 ~ Lost 0-14 v Moorebank W

We started our game a bit under done, due to the Friday afternoon down pour that ruined our game preparation. With a number of players in new positions, we had to put our game plan together in our 10 minute warm up session. Zac as our first time first receiver did a great job of organising our attack and proved to be a natural ball player. Our other new players stuck to the game plan, held their positions well and provided good support in attack and defence.

Saadi captained the team and led from the front with several long tackle bursts and a solid game in defence. He was unlucky not to score being pulled up just short of the try line 3 or 4 times. When we did hold it for 6 tackles we made good metres. Jarrod was unable to capitalize with Moorebank raking or tying up the ball to deny 2 tries. PJ proved a real "jack in the box" with the ball in the middle, making good metres with his darting runs and a busy game in defence. Ky also made plenty of metres with his elusive stepping game and was tackling everything. All the players kept busy. We never gave up and although we showed a lot of effort and commitment in defence, our attacking errors early in the tackle count gave Moorebank far too much possession. The defensive line out remained solid, but we grew tired in defence and stopped moving up. This allowed them room to move and to gain the speed and momentum which ultimately allowed them to post their 2 tries in the first half.

The second half was much like the first but by reducing our mistakes, they only had enough ball to score the 1 unanswered try. Again we were unlucky not to score with Saadi, Jarrod and Ky going close. Harry and Liam coming off the bench gave us some good penetration, with Liam launching himself up the middle into their defensive line at 100 mile/hour. With speed to burn if we can direct this level of energy out wide on the fringes he will prove an unstoppable force in coming matches. In defence he was just as lethal and his kamikaze style knocked a few of them flying, which really slowed their attack right up. Bianca was a standout in defence out wide, showing the boys how to get up and in their face. Her tough and strong front on tackling stopped what, without her efforts, might have been a walkover.

Overall it was a good first up performance. We are still finding our feet and the score did not reflect the effort and commitment we showed. With a good effort at training this week, to cut out our attacking errors and work on moving up, we will be ready for a win in Round 2. Bring it on!!!

St Christophers 0 – Moorebank W RAMS 14

Player of the Match – Saadi, Defensive AWARD - Bianca

Under 11.2 ~ Won 20-12 v St Johns

What a great start for our under 11 team who came away with their first win to start the 2014 season with a score of 20-12.

Christian was the first try scorer for the season and followed through with a great conversion. Ethan was next to pull off two great tries and Braidon our fourth try scorer and converter.

A great team effort for all with great passing and hitups. Michael pulled off some amazing tackles along with Jack, Daniel and Len. Well deservingly, our man of the match was Jonathon for his huge effort of hitting it up straight.

With this fantastic start to the season, we can only look forward for what is yet to come. Thank you to Steve for the encouragement and training to date and taking on the challenging role of the team coach.

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Under 12.1 ~ Draw 16-16 v St Johns

For our first game I was happy with the boys' effort. Our start was not great, but we showed we definitely can improve. With a number of new players to our team this year, we can build on our team performances over the next few weeks and match any team in the competition.
Congratulations to Dane for being this year's team captain.

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Under 13.1 ~ Lost 10-26 v Moorebank

Welcome to Grade Football Team. Saturday saw the Under 13's take to the field for their first game of the season in Division 1. The boy's attitude didn't seem to be there in the first half and the Moorebank side could sense it. Silly errors and simple mistakes allowed our opposition to score easily and make it look worse than it was. Half time could not come quick enough and the Coach reminded them of what they **are** capable of, and to forget the first half.

The second half saw us more in the game, although our halves had done more hit ups than our forwards and our full back was tackling better than others. There was some more passion from the boys and their heads seemed more into the game, but our forwards really need to stand up and be counted for, to allow our playmakers and speed men to do their jobs.

We finally got some field position and had a great attacking raid on Moorebank's line. The cross field kick found the ground and Ethan Taufa picked it up and scored in the corner. The conversion was unsuccessful but the boys were more positive on the field from it.

Again once we had some possession we pressured the line and from a strong and determined run - Lachlan Jordan scored near the posts.

Too much one out running and none of what we practiced in training was to be seen. The boys need to talk more positively to each other and direct the plays as we practice, there is no place for half measures in Div. 1 so let's aim up and give it a real hot go. Quicker play the balls, forwards hitting up hard and fast, kicks that find the grass and help provide field position, putting the ball in front of the player, just the small 1% things that with time will help our team improve.

Tries: Ethan T & Lachlan J **Goals: Camille S**

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Under 14.3 ~ Lost 8-78 v Greenacre

Under 14.2 ~ Lost 18-28 v Strathfield

First game of the season but not the start we were looking for. This was a game we should have won but too many silly mistakes and missed tackles cost us the game. We've still got some settling in to do with a couple of new players to footy and several of the boys playing out of position due to injuries. Great performances by Jaidin O & Tino. Onwards and upwards boys!

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Under 15.2 ~ Lost 2-26 v Greenacre

Not the start to the season we were looking for. The game was tight for the first 10 minutes but unfortunately we forgot to defend both sides of the ruck and allowed a soft try in to the Tigers. We didn't learn from this mistake and allowed another in 5 minutes later. We were down 10 nil until Rhys kicked a mighty goal from 30 out to put us on the board and we went in at ½ time down 10-2 but still in the game . The second ½ started with a try to the Tigers and we were down 16 -2. Another try to the Tigers with 10 to go and the game was over. The Tigers got their last try right on the bell to make it 26 - 2. Considering this was our second game as a team and the fact that we had no reserves other than the 3 boys we bought up from the 14 div 2 team it was not that bad an effort.

Abdul, Rhys, Liam and Elisha had great games with the rest of the boys trying their best.

Boys we made some simple mistakes and had some cohesion issues. If we work on these during the week I think we can turn it around for next week.

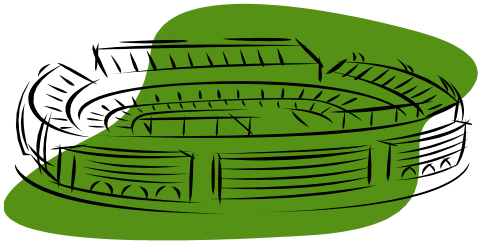
Goals 1 x Rhys Harrington

Under 16.1 ~ Won Forfeit v Mascot B

Under 17.1 ~ Lost Forfeit v Campbelltown

This Week's Games

Saturday 12th April			
U6 Gold (4)	9.00	St Johns	Bill Delauney Res
U6 Green (3)		BYE	
U6 Blue (1)	9.45	St Johns	Bill Delauney Res
U7 White (2)	10.30	Bankstown Sports	Bill Delauney Res
U7 Blue (1)	10.30	Bankstown Sports	Steve Folkes Res
U8 Green (3)		BYE	
U8 White (2)	11.15	Berala Bears	Peter Hislop
U8 Blue (1)	12.15	Bankstown Sports	Steve Folkes Res
U9-3	11.15	Tigers 1	Bill Delauney Res
U9-1	1.15	Bankstown Sports	Steve Folkes Res
U10-3	2.05	Bankstown Sports	Steve Folkes Res
U10-1	12.05	Chester Hill	Terry Lamb Complex
U11-2	12.05	Bankstown Sports	Bill Delauney Res
U12-1	1.05	Bulls	Ruse Park
U13-1	3.45	Bankstown Sports	Steve Folkes Res
Sunday 13th April			
U14-3	11.10	Five Dock RSL	Birchgrove Oval
U14-2	10.35	Renown	Todd Park
U15-2	11.40	Hurstville	Roberts Park
U16-1	12.45	Renown	Roberts Park
u17-1	12.00	All Saints	Hillier Oval



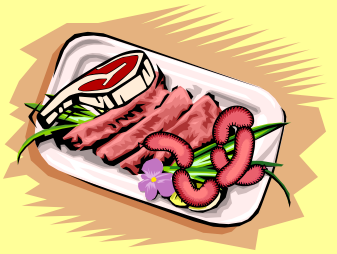
Raffle Roster

Friday 11th April:

Joker Draw raffle at Revesby Pacific Hotel
from 5:30-7:00 ~ **Under 16's.**

Saturday 12th April

- (a) Revesby Pacific Hotel ~ Meat Tray raffles
  from 3:30-5:30 ~ **Under 12's.**



- (b) Panania Diggers ~ Meat Tray raffles
  from 3:30-5:30 ~ **Under 9.3's.**

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