

A full-page photograph of a male rugby player in action. He is wearing a maroon and navy blue jersey, dark shorts with "WATSON PARK MERINO" printed on the left leg, and maroon socks. He is running with a white, green, and blue rugby ball. The background is a grassy field.

Goulburn Rugby Union Football Club

2006 Yearbook

The people that made it happen

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Coach (1st & 2nd Grade)

Ben Pearson (replaced Rod White)

Manager (1st & 2nd Grade)

Gary Stephens

Registrar

Gary Stephens

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Kevin Kara

David Klem

Matthew Klem

Dr Doug McCulloch

Brian "Snow" Maloney

John Osmond

Ken Player (dec)

John Shiel

Terry Tilden

About the 2006 Yearbook

Welcome to the Year in Review. The club has had Yearbook's occasionally in the past but now that we are becoming more aware of the club's history, let's hope Yearbook's become an annual tradition.

This particular book exists largely because of two people. Firstly, Gary Stephens has kept incredibly detailed statistics for the club for many years now, and many of those appear in here. Secondly, Peter Oliver (with

help from fellow Post journo Ricky Tozer) has done a brilliant job of reporting on all club games this year. Their work is reproduced here. It's hoped a "club yarns" style column will exist in 2007 and so maybe next year's yearbook can contain a bit more of the colour and fun of rugby.

It was a great year, and I hope you enjoy reminiscing on it's highs and lows.

Chris Gordon

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President's Report

By MATT KLEM

Good evening and welcome to the 2006 club AGM. A special welcome to our sponsors, life members, players, committee and supporters. 2006 has been a very exciting and successful year of Rugby in Goulburn. The year started off with our sponsors digging deep and supporting the Reds Rugby Group. Without your generous support, clubs like the Reds would find it hard to survive. Thanks to all of our sponsors, whose names appear on the preceding page. Thank you all again for your kind support, it is much appreciated.

This year saw the return of the Fizzy Reds back to Poidevin Oval due to ongoing water shortages. Congratulation to Sam White and his band of willing workers, for another fine job of organising and running a very successful Friday night competition, some 250-300 juniors competing. Given the conditions, it was great to see the support shown. Once again thanks to all those involved within the juniors.

Last year saw an under 14's side introduced into the ACT competition and this year the Tablelands Reds were formed, a combination of Taralga, Crookwell and Goulburn players united under the same banner. Teams were entered in the Under 15's, Under 16's and Under 18's age groups. The competition they faced consisted of a lot of established rugby schools. Some great rugby was played, and some stiff opposition met. Congratulation to players, coaches, managers and supporters for a great season, it is great to see the void being filled. Thanks to the organisers of the Tablelands Reds for their time and efforts throughout the season.

The Dirty Reds had a great year, claiming the minor premiership and making the Grand Final in 1st grade for the first time in 15 years. 2nd grade were unlucky just missing out on the finals. Congratulations to Ben 'Pearcey' Pearson for taking the coaching role on mid season and a job well done. Thanks to "fingers" White, Stevo and Geoffrey for your efforts throughout the year and keeping us on the nice soft paddock. Thanks to all the players and supporters for your commitment shown over the 2006 season. The support was appreciated and especially highlighted at Harden for the Grand Final.

Congratulations also to the Fermented's for a successful Gala Day recently, showing the young guys what Rugby is all about. Their year also included a New Zealand Tour, a credit to their love of the game and of continuing the joys of rugby.

The Rugby Ball – a great night from what I remember, and a great night was had by all. Some 400 people enjoyed the return of the 'Lumpys'. Thanks again to the sponsors for your support. Thanks to the Soldiers Club, Amanda and Murph for your contribution, Ben and Kylie for the meal. And thanks to Lizzy, Welshy, Em and all the other helpers for your assistance in organising setting up of the Ball.

2006 has marked a significant milestone for the Club. It was brought to the attention of the committee through the 'old folk' channels that it was 50 years since the reformation of Goulburn Rugby, which in turn created a Jubilee Reunion. The reunion weekend was a massive success and one of the real social highlights of the club's history. The year also marked the beginning of a project to collect the club's history and special thanks go to Chris Gordon and Pete Oliver for compiling much of that history with the help of many others (Fermented Reds, past and present members) as a first step in assembling a complete club history.

To the committee – it has been a long year, thanks to everybody for their efforts, it is a thankless job.

To all the Canteen helpers, thanks for your help!

To Sherm, Jack, Bob Whittaker thanks for continued support and efforts given throughout the season.

Special thanks to Andy Divall and crew, without the water carts Goulburn Rugby would not have kicked off.

It has been an enjoyable year as president and highlights included:

- Playing Rugby with a great bunch of blokes,
- Having some memorable bus trips and nights out
- Annoying Lizzy
- Associating with and annoying our great sponsors
- Watching Junior Rugby develop through all age groups. Well done to all involved.

Thanks for a good year, hope to see you all back in action in 2007.

Klemmy

Fizzy Reds Report

By JACK CUNNINGHAM

The 2006 season was another successful one for the Fizzy Reds that strong player numbers and great enthusiasm tempered by the challenge of having to play at several playing grounds. The year started off well with a trip to Yass where the Goulburn Fizzy Reds represented in all age groups at the Yass 7 a side competition.

We had a much disrupted year in 2006 with the inability to find a base from which we could play our season. We tried two different alternatives including North Park and Poidevin Oval. The choice of where to play was a difficult one but the council finally took all choice away when they closed all council grounds and we had no alternative but to play the games at Poidevin oval.

I would like to thank all parents and coaches for their patience because it was not an easy year and I hope that 2007 will see us establish ourselves at Carr-Confoy and that we do not have to go through a season like 2006 again.

As for the season proper, in 2006 we fielded:

- 6 under 6 sides
- 6 under 8 sides
- 5 under 10 sides
- 4 under 12 sides

All competitions were fairly even with the one exception being the Crookwell under 12 side who went through the year undefeated and I felt were one of the best under 12 sides our competition has seen in the past 10 years. Congratulations to Smirk and to all the Crookwell kids for their efforts in keeping some great young players together and shaping them into such a quality side.

We had around 250 children playing again this year. This is very encouraging and gives me a great sense of satisfaction considering the adverse conditions we played under this year. The Fizzy Reds went away to three gala days this year (one being the Yass 7s already mentioned). The other two were Wagga where we took a bus load away to play a Wagga under 10 and 12 side. Unfortunately we didn't have a lot of success on the day and as a result the annual shield the 2 home unions play for had to be left in Wagga. Let's reverse that result in 2007.

To end the season, an under 9 side went to Canberra to play in their annual youth carnival. A blunder was made on my behalf as I went to enter sides in all other age groups I was informed that all age groups had been filled up five weeks prior to closing date and we missed out. My apologies, and this will not happen in 2007. The under 9s performed well but could not match it for size against the skilful Sydney sides.

Again I would like to thank all those who helped out in 2006 and I hope we can again tap into the same level of passion and commitment for the 2007 season.

Jack Cunningham
President (Goulburn Fizzy Reds)

Fermented Reds Report

By GARY STEPHENS

2006 has seen the Fermented Reds show off their skills both locally and on the world stage. **The Golden Oldies Rugby philosophy of "Fun, Friendship and Fraternity" continues to govern the way we approach our rugby.**

The season commenced with our annual trip to Kiama for the Blowhards gala day. **This is always a popular bus trip. Maybe it's the scenic drive, the destination or the** hospitality of the Blowhards that creates such happy travellers. Rugby is always the winner.

In a masterpiece of scheduling our next game against the Central West Old Boars (one of our oldest foes) was played on the Sunday after the Rugby Ball. Although playing injured, we managed to tough out our usual draw.

Our own gala day was held in August and our friends the Shags, the Holeshavens and the Blowhards made their way to Poidevin Oval. Initial concerns at the state of the pitch soon gave way to open, flowing rugby. All the Oldies appreciated the atmosphere created by those Dirty Reds players who supported the day. Many thanks to Matt Klem and his helpers for the work they did in the canteen and setting up the ground.

On the 29 October 2006, we headed off to the World Golden Oldies Rugby Festival in Wellington, New Zealand. The Fermented Reds have previously toured Christchurch, Capetown, Brisbane and San Diego.

The festival ran for a week and involved 4000 players from 15 countries. The festival commenced with an opening ceremony followed by a huge party. You were then expected to play 3 games in 5 days, participate in all after match functions, maintain a normal social life and then front up to the closing dinner, another spectacular event.

This would seem daunting to the uninitiated but thankfully the Fermented's are made of stronger stuff. Being a little light on for players, we teamed up with the Fuwaku Club from Japan. Language difficulties impaired pre-match tactical and organisational discussions but as soon as we hit the field, it all came together. The after match Sake seemed to break down any other barriers that may have existed.

To wind down after an arduous week, the Team did a bus tour (we just love buses) of the South Island before returning home. This trip would not have been possible without the organisational work of Mick Harris and Colleen and Tony Wilson. I would also like to thank Steve Cansell for the exceptional job he did as our Team and Tour Manager. The next festival will be in Edinburgh in 2008. We are planning on being there.

The issue most confronting the Fermented's is the lack of playing numbers. Currently the majority of our players are from a non-rugby union background. For our future survival, it is essential that the Goulburn rugby community (especially former players) be **involved with the Fermented's. It was very heartening to see the number of players** who took part in the match on the reunion weekend. Hopefully some of these players will have caught the golden oldies bug.

Finally, I would like to thank the Goulburn Golf Club for their continued support, Tony and Colleen Wilson from Liquid Blue for their generosity and Mick Harris for all his hard work throughout the year.

Gary Stephens

Tablelands Reds Report

*In 2006, the Goulburn Dirty Reds juniors formed two separate groups - one for the existing local competition (already known as the Fizzy Reds) and the other as a junior representative body fielding teams in Canberra competitions in various age divisions (known as the Tablelands Reds). The president was **Peter Greaves** and this is his annual report.*

This year we attempted to raise a team in all age groups, from Under 13s to Under 18s. We didn't have the numbers following through from the Fizzy Reds that we would have hoped for, and so we had to drop the Under 13s and combine the Under 14s and Under 15s to make up a team for the Under 15s age group.

The 16s had a good roll up from the very start of the season. The team was made up of older heads that have come through from the Fizzy's, some ex league players, soccer converts and a few that never played any code of football at all before.

The Under 18s struggled with numbers at the beginning of the season but somehow managed to put a team on the paddock as the season progressed. The word got out about the team and the numbers grew until at the end of the season the team boasted healthy numbers and had become a tight nit unit.

It would be fair to say that we had a real mixed bag of results this year. The Under 15s struggled against much stronger and experienced school sides, mainly through their lack of size (as there was a lot of Under 14s in the side) and continuity as a team, however they did manage to pull off a few upset wins throughout the season.

The Under 16s - though fairly inexperienced as a team - were very keen to learn and always had a full roll up at training which was reflected in their results. They played in a very competitive school competition and certainly made other teams sit up and take notice. They managed to make the semi finals where they played and lost to St Eddie's in a very close match. Many players will remain and form the basis of 2007's Under 18s.

The Under 18s had a rough year with roll ups at training being dismal at the start of the season. While coaching and leadership came mainly from within the team in the early days, they still persevered until numbers improved and coaching staff were provided. This team had a fantastic spirit de corps and were very competitive once they had numbers, and were unlucky not to make the finals. Half of this team would be eligible to continue playing in Under 18s in 2007.

Some points to come out of this year would be:-

1. Re-rostering of training times eg Under 15s down 5pm, Under 16s from 6pm and Under 18s from 7pm.
2. More consultation needed with ACTJRU about game allocation and timings as rarely did we get to have all teams together on one ground.
3. Scrummaging was a skill that was not well developed due to the lack of a quality scrum machine, a real priority for the future.

Peter Greaves

Coach's Report

2006 turned out to be a mixed bag for coaching - a success despite considerable setbacks. On one hand, it saw the first grade coach that started the season having to withdraw after only four rounds. Ben Pearson took on the job but found himself as the only coach for both first and second grade.

Despite the difficulties of coaching two squads and of picking up the threads four rounds in, without the chance to have planned ahead at the beginning of the season, Pearson was able to take the side all the way to the grand final. Here is his coach's report.

Overall 2006 has been a fantastic year for the club. With great support for the juniors, a good time had by all the fermented Reds on their tour of New Zealand and first Grade winning the minor premiership and making the big one for the first time in 14 years.

Second grade had a long season with an ever changing player roster, no coach and lack of commitment to training struggling all year. Making it almost impossible for the handful of players who were committed to make any sort of impact and break their way in to 1st grade.

First grade saw a core group of young player's band together with the old heads to form a much more committed team than I have seen in a while. This higher level of commitment coupled with quite a few talented individuals made the difference in the 2006 results to previous years. I can only hope this can be repeated in 2007.

As a coaching team in 2007 we will again be asking players to commit them selves heavily to us. Assessments have already been made on the 2006 season to identify areas in need of improvement. Apart from various skills we will be focusing heavily on our reserves to improve our player depth and overall club performance.

I hope to see you all again in 2007.

Ben Pearson

2006 FIRST DIVISION COMPETITION DRAW

		<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2</u>	<u>Possible Rescheduled Matches</u>
		29-Apr	24-Jun	
Hall	v Tugg / Royals	Hall	Viking Park	Saturday 24th June RMC v Harden <i>(Harden and RMC Clubs to discuss options)</i>
Cooma	v Goulburn	Cooma	Goulburn	
Harden	v RMC	Harden	RMC	
Yass	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		6-May	1-Jul	Saturday 6th May RMC v Tuggeranong/Royals <i>(Possibly Reschedule to either Saturday April 22 or Midweek between April 22 & April 29)</i>
RMC	v Tugg / Royals	RMC	Viking Park	
Goulburn	v Yass	Goulburn	Yass	
Cooma	v Harden	Cooma	Harden	
Hall	v Bye	Bye	Bye	Saturday 1st July Tuggeranong/Royals v RMC <i>(Possibly Reschedule to Saturday 29 July (Comp Bye)</i>
		13-May	8-Jul	
Yass	v Cooma	Yass	Cooma	
Tugg / Royals	v Goulburn	Phillip	Goulburn	
Harden	v Hall	Harden	Hall	Saturday 17th June RMC v Hall <i>(RMC & Hall Clubs to discuss options)</i>
RMC	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		20-May	15-Jul	
RMC	v Yass	RMC	Yass	
Cooma	v Hall	Cooma	Hall	29-Jul Comp Bye
Harden	v Tugg / Royals	Harden	Phillip	
Goulburn	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		27-May	22-Jul	
Goulburn	v RMC	Goulburn	RMC	3-Jun 5-Aug
Hall	v Yass	Hall	Yass	
Tugg / Royals	v Cooma	Viking Park	Cooma	
Harden	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
				10-Jun Comp Bye
		3-Jun	5-Aug	
Cooma	v RMC	Cooma	RMC	
Hall	v Goulburn	Hall	Goulburn	
Yass	v Harden	Yass	Harden	17-Jun 12-Aug
Tugg / Royals	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		10-Jun	5-Aug	
		17-Jun	12-Aug	
RMC	v Hall	RMC	Hall	
Tuggeranong	v Yass	Phillip	Yass	
Harden	v Goulburn	Harden	Goulburn	
Cooma	v Bye	Bye	Bye	

Finals Series Dates: 19th August, 26th August & 2nd September.

Monaro First Division Results

Round 1 - 29th April

1st Grade:

Harden	17	def	RMC	12
Cooma	22	def	Goulburn	19
Hall	25	def	Tuggers	22
Yass		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Harden	19	def	RMC	12
Cooma	12	def	Goulburn	5
Royals	26	def	Hall	13
Yass		Bye		

Round 2 - 6th May

1st Grade:

Harden	15	def	Cooma	5
Goulburn	37	def	Yass	0
Hall		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Harden	29	def	Cooma	12
Yass	36	def	Goulburn	5
Hall		Bye		

Round 3 - 13th May

1st Grade

Cooma	36	def	Yass	26
Goulburn	31	def	Tuggers	8
Harden	40	def	Hall	20
RMC		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Cooma	20	def	Yass	5
Royals	38	def	Goulburn	0
Harden	42	def	Hall	13
RMC		Bye		

Round 4 - 20th May

1st Grade:

RMC	15	def	Yass	24
Cooma	52	def	Hall	14
Harden	71	def	Tuggers	0
Goulburn		Bye		

2nd Grade:

RMC	3	def	Yass	0
Hall	38	def	Cooma	29
Royals	22	def	Harden	5
Goulburn		Bye		

Round 5 - 27th May

1st Grade:

Goulburn	40	def	RMC	15
Yass	23	def	Hall	21
Cooma	28	def	Tuggers	7
Harden		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Goulburn	13	def	RMC	10
Yass	52	def	Hall	0
Royals	26	def	Cooma	0
Harden		Bye		

Round 6 - 3rd June

1st Grade:

Cooma	12	def	RMC	10
Goulburn	51	def	Hall	6
Harden	17	def	Yass	5
Tuggers		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Cooma	13	def	RMC	5
Goulburn	57	def	Hall	20
Harden	46	def	Yass	5
Royals		Bye		

Competition Bye - 10th June

Round 7 - 17th June

1st Grade:

RMC	41	def	Hall	7
Yass	19	def	Tuggers	5
Goulburn	23	def	Harden	18
Cooma		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Hall	26	def	RMC	5
Royals	12	def	Yass	7
Harden	45	def	Goulburn	0
Cooma		Bye		

Round 8 - 24th June

1st Grade:

Tuggers	24	def	Hall	15
Goulburn	25	def	Cooma	18
Yass		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Royals	17	def	Hall	0
Cooma	25	def	Goulburn	23
Yass		Bye		

Round 9 - 1st July

1st Grade:

Goulburn	31	def	Yass	7
Harden	29	def	Cooma	15
Hall		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Yass	5	def	Goulburn	0
Cooma	24	def	Harden	14
Hall		Bye		

Round 10 - 8th July

1st Grade:

Cooma	54	def	Yass	0
Goulburn	85	def	Tuggers	14
Harden	50	def	Hall	0
RMC		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Cooma	31	def	Yass	10
Royals	33	def	Goulburn	10
Harden	57	def	Hall	7
RMC		Bye		

Round 11 - 15th July

1st Grade:

RMC	27	def	Yass	5
Harden	43	def	Tuggers	7
Cooma	36	def	Hall	13
Goulburn		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Yass	13	def	RMC	3
Harden	19	def	Royals	12
Hall	14	def	Cooma	5
Goulburn		Bye		

Round 12 - 22nd July

1st Grade:

Yass	17	def	Hall	5
RMC	29	def	Goulburn	24
Cooma	66	def	Tuggers	19
Harden		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Yass	10	def	Hall	6
RMC	20	def	Goulburn	10
Royals	48	def	Cooma	5
Harden		Bye		

Competition Bye - 29th July

Round 13 - 5th August

1st Grade:

RMC	38	def	Cooma	15
Goulburn	85	def	Hall	0
Harden	95	def	Yass	5
Tuggers		Bye		

2nd Grade:

Cooma	34	def	RMC	5
Hall	19	def	Goulburn	0
Harden	26	def	Yass	14
Tuggers		Bye		

Round 14 - 12th August

1st Grade:

RMC	77	def	Hall	14
Goulburn	27	def	Harden	24
Yass	40	def	Tuggers	27
RMC	31	def	Tuggers	28*
				*(deferred game)

2nd Grade:

Hall	36	def	RMC	14
Harden	39	def	Goulburn	5
Royals	19	def	Yass	10
Royals	103	def	RMC	0*
				*(deferred game)

2006 - The Post Perspective

SEASON PREVIEW

Dirty Red and White

By PETER OLIVER

"DON'T think, just do."

This is the call that will be heard at most training sessions for the Goulburn Dirty Reds this season, under new coach Rod White.

The former prop with some 35 years experience on the paddock believes his players should be spontaneous with the ball, and in defence.

"I don't want them to think about things too much, or to over-complicate things," White said. "I just want them to act on the moment. Because of the speed of the game these days, players have to take their chances and seize their opportunities."

It's not the first time White has held the clipboard, having coached Tamworth reserves to a grand final victory back in 1991. While White would like to replicate that feat this season with the Reds' First XV, he has set his goals for a semi-final

spot.

"The aim is a top four finish, and hopefully get into the semis. We have every other year," he said.

The Reds have figured in the semis for the past couple of seasons, but have always fallen just short at the final hurdle. White aims to change that this season.

"We'll be trying a few different things this year. It'll be a different approach to training, with the forwards and backs training separately to improve the skills they've already got."

White said that the First XV would see some changes from the squad that took the field last season.

"I think the one thing that we've overlooked is that most of the sides in this comp have figured out Goulburn's style of play. We'll be very different this year, by utilising the individual player's discipline. We'll be a lot more physical, and what I mean by that is we'll be taking the other side on, at the set piece in particular. The line-outs and scrums will play a pivotal part, but we're going to try and get a little bit more from the rucks and mauls," White said.

"I'm looking for a forward pack whose skills are going to be honed, with their existing skills to be continually improved upon."

2006 marks a big season for the Reds, as the club celebrates 50 years after reforming following World War II. The club is actually the second oldest in NSW, forming in 1872 after Sydney University.

"I'm looking for a big year from the boys, because it's the 50th year after reforming. I hope there's going to be a fair bit of pride shown," he said.

Another aspect White wants to focus on is the relationship between the senior and junior sides, and is hoping to establish a club mentality within the Reds.

"We want to encourage the juniors by showing up and giving them some support at their matches, and we'd like to give them the opportunity to come up and watch us play," he said.

The season for the Reds will kick off after Easter, but they will play a few trial matches before the season proper, including taking part in the Crookwell 10s tournament, and matches against Taralga, Bowral and possibly Boorowa.

BOWRAL TRIAL PREVIEW

Reds get hearts pumping

By PETER OLIVER

Goulburn Dirty Reds coach, Rod White, will use the tomorrow's first serious trial match against Bowral to 'tinker' with the side ahead of the season, which begins on April 29.

The Reds started their pre-season at the Crookwell 10s tournament last Saturday and turned in a solid performance, leaving White impressed with the performance.

"I was over the moon with the effort from the boys on the weekend," White said.

"I thought our forwards at the set-piece were sensational and dominant, and the back-line just ran around the other teams all day."

What has impressed White more than the skills on display was the amount of ticker shown by the Reds, something he hopes the side will replicate it through out the season.

"The boys showed big hearts on Saturday, and more importantly they backed each other up," he said.

The Reds lost to Bigga in the final, after the predominantly rugby league side asked for non-contested scrums. The Reds had been dominating the set piece all day, and managed to destroy Taralga's scrum a couple of times during their pool match.

White had to leave Crookwell early on Saturday and didn't see the final, but said the decision had left him and the team disappointed.

"It has irked the whole side, the team certainly wasn't happy about the decision," he said. "Once the scrums were out, it just didn't give our forwards a chance to get some momentum up."

The Reds won't be dwelling on the decision too much, and instead will refocus their efforts on tomorrow's trial against a tough Bowral outfit.

"I'll be looking for the Reds to make a good account of themselves against Bowral," White said. "We're not playing for sheep-stations, so everyone in the squad will be getting a run at some stage. The day will be to sort out some of our positional play, and tinker with a few things."

White said he had a rough starting XV in mind for the match, with the nominated side training as a team last night. The Reds scrum machine also underwent a solid workout at last night's training session, with White hoping to teach his pack a new scrummaging technique. On Wednesday White said he was aiming to "reshape the pads on the scrummaging machine."

Pre-season matches against Bowral were a common event in past years, before the Highlands side moved to another division.

"Goulburn v Bowral used to be a big annual event, and we're hoping to get the tradition started up again," White said.

The format of the match will be four 20 minute quarters, with the game to be played at Trinity Two ground instead of the usual Poidevin Oval.

"Trinity Two is in very good condition, and we'll be kicking off there at 2pm," White said.

Poidevin Oval is still the Reds' ground of choice, but at the moment it's in a pretty rough state. As they did with the Fizzy Reds, Divalls have been watering the ground, with White hoping that will continue throughout the season, if Goulburn doesn't get some much needed rain. The Goulburn Dirty Reds get their pre-season campaign under way against Bowral at Trinity Two tomorrow. The match kicks off at 2pm, and anyone is welcome to turn up and cheer the Reds on.

BOWRAL TRIAL Report

White seeing Red after trial loss to Bowral

By PETER OLIVER

Goulburn Dirty Reds coach Rod White was left 'unimpressed' after his teams' **25-5 loss** against Bowral in their first pre-season hit out on Saturday.

The energy sapping heat of Saturday played a factor in the match, which Bowral ran away with in the second half.

While the effort and heart shown the previous week at Crookwell were on show, coach White was left disappointed by several facets of the Reds' game.

"The score doesn't worry me, we could have lost 100-0, and I wouldn't have cared. Saturday was all about technique," White said.

"But I was unimpressed, to be honest. There was no real support for the ball carrier when he took the ball up.

"I was pretty happy with the first 20 minutes of the match, that was a good effort. But I think the heat became a factor for everyone, and we started to fall off tackles."

Bowral took advantage of the extra

men in the heat, with everyone in their extended squad of some 30 players getting time on the field. The Reds only managed six reserves on the bench, and subsequently suffered in the conditions.

White said there was definite room for improvement, with the forward play requiring some work over the coming weeks.

"Our scrums, lineouts and set-play in general need a lot of work, and we'll be doing a lot more exercises, and really knuckling down at training," he said.

"I think the biggest disappointment was that we weren't taking the ball-carrier at the first tackle, and we didn't capitalise on Bowral's mistakes.

"We didn't do enough with the ball and didn't take advantage of space and get it wide."

White conceded that it was only early in the season, and with the finals in September the Reds had some scope for improvement.

"It was only the first 15-man match of the year, so maybe I'm reading too much into it," he said.

"I was impressed that the boys stuck to it all day though, considering the difference in numbers."

The Reds' next trial match will be against Taralga on April 6, with the game to be played under lights at Poidevin Oval with kick off at 6.30pm.

Meanwhile, the draw for the 2006 sea-

son is out, with Goulburn down to kick off their campaign away against Cooma. This is followed up with a tough encounter with last year's premiers Yass.

"It's good that we've got the cold game out of the way first up," White said.

"By then the boys will really know rugby has started, and I believe that Goulburn, Yass and Cooma will make up the three of the final four positions.

"It's a big call, but looking at past history, they're the form teams of the competition. For us, this year is all about credibility.

"It's time Goulburn was known as a rugby town again, and we all need to show pride in the club for the 50th anniversary. I'll be asking the boys to treat every game as if it's their last."

White said first grade positions would be given to those players who had regularly turned up to training and had put in the effort.

"The blokes that have been the consistent trainers will be in that starting XV in Cooma on April 29," White said.

"We need a much bigger effort from our blokes to get to training."

The Reds train at Poidevin Oval every Tuesday and Thursday, with training getting under way at 6.30pm sharp.

TARALGA TRIAL PREVIEW

Reds tough final trial

By PETER OLIVER

A HARD game against a tough opposition is expected tomorrow night, when the Goulburn Dirty Reds take on the Taralga Tigers in their final trial match before the season proper starts.

Reds' coach Rod White believes the Taralga side will come out firing, and is predicting a tough match.

"I'm expecting a hard game, and I think Taralga are really going to stick it to us," White said. "They're going to be competitive in the forwards, but I think we'll have them in the backs.

"The game will be dictated and won in the forwards. I want their initial ball-carrier socked. We're not going to let Taralga have our ball. I'm expecting big games from a few blokes, such as Mikael Webber, Matthew Klem, Robbie Cosgrove, Boyd Newby and Jay Butler."

Lack of numbers could pose a problem tomorrow night, and White would be thrilled if everyone turned up, which could give him more options to play with.

"We've had 32 blokes turning up to training, but never on the same night. It would be absolutely sensational if we could get them all there tomorrow night," he said.

White expects his players to concentrate on their technique against the Tigers, and like the Reds' earlier encounter against Bowral, isn't concerned about the score.

"I want us to concentrate on what we've been doing at training, such as the rucks and the mauls. Our positional play will be important too," White said.

The Reds are currently blessed with a plethora of props and flankers, which White anticipates will create intense competition for the starting positions.

"We've got a heap of front-rowers, and there's going to be a real battle for the flankers. The flankers are going to be assessed on their ability to attack the ball at the breakdown, and win it back," he said.

The younger Reds' players have also been a presence at training, with some under-18s players regularly turning up. Unfortunately, due to new regulations imposed by the ARU, these players can't take part in any open competitions.

"It's a pity these blokes can't play, because they've been putting in the effort. But they're more than welcome to come along and watch the team," he said.

Evan Rees from the Taralga Tigers said his side would be looking to improve their support play in the trial.

"We'll be looking a bit of teamwork and improving our supporting the ball-carrier. We played Bundanoon last week, winning 15-5. That was pretty good, we showed some glimpses of what we are capable of. "I think the opposition tomorrow night will be a bit harder though."

Rees was hopeful of bringing 20 or so players to Goulburn, to "give everyone a good run."

With the season not starting for another few weeks, tomorrow night will be the Reds' last chance for a real hit-out. The team will continue to train as per program in the weeks leading up to the opening round against Cooma, with the exception of Anzac Day, which falls on a Tuesday this year.

"There's only seven training sessions left before we kick off, and we have to be prepared for what could be a very competitive season," White said.

The Goulburn Dirty Reds take on the Taralga Tigers at Poidevin Oval tomorrow night, with kick off expected to be 7pm. All players and supporters are invited back to the Goulburn Soldiers Club after the match.

Newby in rep side

Goulburn Dirty Reds flanker Boyd Newby has been selected in the Monaro combined first and second division side.

The Monaro Representative Team heads down to Ulladulla to compete in the ACT/Southern Coast Rugby Cup.

The 24-man squad has been picked from the Monaro-based 1st and 2nd Division clubs, with 11 clubs represented within the team.

The side will play representative teams from both the Far South Coast and the Illawarra region, in a bid to regain the trophy they last held in 2004.

The ACT/Southern Coast Rugby Cup will be held at Frogs Hollow, Milton, NSW. Newby is the only Reds player selected, with Taralga gaining three selections.

ROUND 1 - Preview

Reds begin charge

By PETER OLIVER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds will look to get the celebrations to their 50th year off to a flying start against Cooma tomorrow. Last year's runners-up, Cooma will pose a challenge to the Reds, but coach Rod White is confident the Reds will make a good account of themselves.

"Cooma brings out a good game in us, and we lift a fair bit against them. They're a very good side, and Goulburn enjoys the competition against them," White said.

"It should be a good hard game, I'm looking forward to it. I think we'll do well, and we'll stick it to them, like we did against Taralga in the trial match. I think the forwards will hold themselves well."

The Reds will be looking forward to travelling away to Cooma early in the season, meaning they miss the possibility of playing in snow, freezing rain and solid mud.

"We've got our coldest game out of the way early, which is a real bonus," White said.

There is the possibility that the Reds may not field a second grade side, with numbers slightly down. The decision on whether or not to play the two sides will be dependent on the numbers the Reds can confirm will travel tomorrow.

"The blokes have been committed at training, with the regular crew that turn up training well," he said. "I hope the effort pays off for the team tomorrow."

White said the starting side would be finalised at last night's training session, with the players to elect a captain to lead them for the season.

"Our focus at training will be on our positional play, and getting the ball wide. I want us to brush up on our technique before we play as well," White said.

White said there was a possibility of an additional training session tonight, to finetune a few things before the match.

"We might have a short sharp session tonight, just to go over a few things," he said.

The Reds have organised a bus to travel down to Cooma, with players to meet at the RSL at 10am tomorrow. The cost will be \$15 each for those wishing to catch the bus.

ROUND 1 - Report

Hearty showing from Reds

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

IF rugby results were decided on heart, then the Goulburn Dirty Reds would have swept Cooma away on Saturday. The Reds faced an uphill battle from the outset; a two-hour journey, poor weather conditions and a chronic lack of numbers which meant some squad members played 160 minutes of rugby on the day.

The players were greeted at the ground with a waterlogged pitch, with the cricket-square in the middle presenting a treacherous stretch of thick mud.

Goulburn's First XV gave a magnificent account of themselves, with several players backing up after playing a torrid second grade match.

The Reds also had some players playing out of position, with regular number-eight Robbie Cosgrove dropping back to fullback, and a number of forwards switching positions in the pack.

The first of the Reds' tries would have warmed the cockles of any forward's heart. From a lineout, the Reds pack pushed, propelled and powered their way over the try line. When the carnage had subsided, captain and hooker Ben Pearson came up with the ball, and was awarded the try. Mick Webber's conversion sailed between the uprights for the Reds to jump out to a lead.

Cooma hit straight back shortly after, and skipped out to a 12-7 lead with two quick tries. The Red Devils secured their lead just with another try seconds before halftime. The Reds fired up in the second half as the players got their

second wind, and began to dominate.

Reds' veteran fly-half Matt Klem showed plenty of class with a great solo effort to get them back in the match. Klem ran around plenty of seemingly gormless defenders to notch up a well-deserved try. Webber's conversion missed and the score stood at 22-12.

The Reds were always in the hunt, but sadly time beat them. Webber scored under the posts and converted at the death to narrow the margin, but it wasn't enough for the Reds to take out their first match of the season.

Special mention to go to Brad Smith and Ben Green, who not only turned up to fill in, but ended up playing two matches each.

Cooma 22 bt Goulburn 19 (Ben Pearson, Matt Klem, Mick Webber tries; Mick Webber 2 conversions). Best and fairest points - 3 Anthony Yeo, 2 Heath Elford, 1—Ben Green.

SECOND GRADE

Second grade was a torrid affair, with a muddy pill and poor discipline from both sides negating any possible attacking flair. Again, Webber showed plenty of skill to dominate the match, but unfortunately the Reds couldn't get over the line. A fine try to flanker Boyd Newby saw Goulburn skip ahead, but Cooma hit back with two tries to take out a closely contested match.

The Reds will now focus on this weekend's clash with last year's premiers Yass. Anyone interested in having a run with the Dirty Reds as they celebrate their 50th year of reformation is welcome to come along to training at Poidevin Oval on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm.

Cooma 12 bt Goulburn 5 (Boyd Newby try). Best & Fairest points: 3 Daniel Fry, 2 Ben Green, 1 Peter Oliver.

ROUND 2 - Preview

All or nothing for Dirty Reds

By PETER OLIVER

A couple of years ago, Wallabies captain George Gregan sneered at the idea of players relying on passion when they play rugby. This holds no water with Goulburn Dirty Reds' coach Rod White, especially after seeing his side's effort against Cooma last weekend.

"That was an absolutely professional bulls..t quote. Rugby is a game of passion," White said. White said he was 'absolutely impressed' with his side, with more than half the players backing up to play first grade. Although the Reds were down 22-7 at the break, the side rallied to come within a whisker of beating the Red Devils.

"At halftime we identified a few things that were going wrong for us, and we fixed them up," White said. "We were a much different side in that second half. Cooma didn't ever look like scoring in the second half, we went well and played well, and unfortunately ran out of time."

The Reds have shifted their focus to tomorrow's clash with defending premiers the Yass Rams, and White expects another tough encounter.

"It's got to be all or nothing against Yass. They will punish you if don't commit 100 per cent," he said.

"We can't underestimate Yass. They'll be out to prove their credentials for the season. But having said that, if we can reproduce the same performance as last week, this time with a fresh side, we should win. If we show that same commitment each week, we shouldn't have any dramas this year. All I ask is that each bloke does his job, and makes it easier for his mate."

Tomorrow the Reds will have the home ground advantage for the first time this season, with Poidevin Oval receiving a much-needed watering during the week with the rain. White expects the home ground advantage to give his side a boost against the Rams, and hopes it will encourage more numbers to show up.

"The home ground advantage is great, and we might get more blokes showing up after hearing how well the team played against Cooma," he said.

In another first for the club, the first grade side will wear a special jersey to celebrate the club's 50 years since reforming after World War II. The jersey, made in New Zealand by Canterbury, was due to be used last week but a shipping error meant its debut was delayed by a week.

White expects, barring injury or unavailability, to start with the same first grade side as last week. The second grade side kicks off proceedings at 1.30pm, with firsts to play at 3pm. Players are asked to be at the ground by 12.45pm, with a reception to be held after the match at the Goulburn Soldiers Club.

ROUND 2 - Report

Reds kick start season

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

A massive **37-0 win** by the Goulburn Dirty Reds over last year's premiers Yass at Poidevin Oval has kick started their season, following the side's opening round loss to Cooma.

The Reds showed what a difference having 15 fresh men on the paddock makes, and proceeded to blow Yass off the ground with a scintillating second half effort.

In contrast, it was the Rams' first outing for the season, and the majority of their team played half a match in second grade.

The first half was an arm-wrestle, with both sides trying to crack the opposition defences.

The Reds skipped out to an early 6-0 courtesy of some ill discipline from the Rams and some accurate kicking from Mikael Webber.

Some committed Reds defence ensured this was the score at halftime, after the Rams missed a penalty chance.

It was just after the second stanza began that the floodgates opened. Mercurial scrum half Jeff Caldwell went over for his first try of the season, and with Webber's conversion the Reds went out to a 13-0 lead.

Heath Elford has been one of the finds of the season and along with fellow second-rower Chris Kilby played themselves to a standstill.

From here the Reds never looked back, with Elford nabbing two well-earned tries after providing some good back up work.

His first was the result of some quick thinking, after one of his team-mates was dragged down just short of the line, Elford came steaming through, grabbed the loose pill and dived over.

Some sneaky line out plays from captain and hooker Ben Pearson and flanker Boyd Newby left Yass exasperated, and helped the Reds gain the upper hand.

In the end, the Reds ran away with the match, with Webber sealing the match with two more tries towards the end.

Goulburn 37 (M Webber 2, Heath Elford 2, J Caldwell tries, M Webber 3 conversions, 2 penalties) **bt Yass 0.** Best & Fairest points: 3 Matt Klem, 2 Jeff Caldwell, 1 Ben Pearson.

SECOND GRADE

In second grade the Reds went down to **Yass 36-5** in a match where the score didn't truly reflect the match. The seconds could easily have been called the Motley Reds, with an assortment of players coming together for the first time just 10 minutes before kick-off.

With no set game plan or attacking moves, they were still in the hunt at halftime thanks to a Lindsay Garnock try. But Yass ran away with the match in the second half after they injected a few first grade players into the game.

Yass 36 bt Goulburn 5 (Lindsay Garnock try). Best & fairest points: 3 Joel McPherson, 2 Ben Green, 1 Charlie Brewer.

ROUND 3 - Preview

Patient Reds eye top two By PETER OLIVER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds will be looking to snatch a top two spot when they travel to Phillip to take on Tuggeranong tomorrow.

The Reds powered into third position in the ACT First Division last week, with a 37-0 demolition of last year's premiers, the Yass Rams.

Hall and Harden occupy the top two spots on the ladder, on nine and eight spots respectively, and will take each other on at Harden tomorrow. A win by the Reds, currently on six points, will see them

cement a top-two spot.

This season Tuggeranong have merged with fellow ACT side Royals, with the Vikings to play first grade and Royals to make up a second grade team.

Reds' coach Rod White isn't too sure what to expect from the second-last placed Tuggeranong, but is expecting his troops to continue their good form.

"All I want is for us to be playing like we have so far. We've been committed, consistent and patient," White said.

"We're playing patient rugby at the moment. We're not rushing, the blokes know it's an 80-minute game, and they're playing accordingly."

The Reds first grade side is also

playing smart rugby, last week conceding few penalties and keeping their tryline intact. But the defence around the ruck is still a bit of a concern, with the Reds finetuning their defence at last night's training.

Meanwhile, second grade are still looking for their first victory of the season, after a close first round encounter with Cooma, and last week's loss to Yass.

A lack of cohesion has hampered the side, but there are signs that with a bit more work, the Reds seconds side could be a force to contend with towards the end of the season.

Players are asked to meet at the Goulburn Soldiers Club at 11am tomorrow. A bus will be on hand for anyone wishing to get up there, the cost is \$15.

ROUND 3 - Report

Rampant Reds into top two By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

An emphatic four-try-to-one win over the Tuggeranong Vikings has seen the Goulburn Dirty Reds secure a top two place in the Canberra First Division competition. Outside centre Mick Webber had an outstanding match, scoring two tries and booting four conversions and a penalty. Just like the past two matches the Reds played a patient game, chipping away at the opposition before opening the floodgates.

The first half of the match was a fairly dour and scrappy affair, with the referee blowing the whistle at nearly every breakdown, and not allowing either side much momentum.

The Reds had an early chance to open the scoring, but after good lead up work dropped the ball at the line.

Both sides pulled off some solid hits in defence, and there were sure to be some sore bodies yesterday morning. The Reds' first try came from a fine counter-attack after Tuggeranong had kicked the ball into Goulburn's territory. Instead of a returning kick, the Reds' back three of Jay Butler, Neil Gustafson and Daniel Fry decided to run it back, putting Webber into a hole. Webber danced around a few Vikings' defenders with a great weaving run, before off-loading to inside centre Martin Browne who crashed over.

The referee continued to pepper the Reds with penalties, and it was only some solid defence on their line that prevented the Vikings from scoring. A Vikings penalty was slotted over to take the score at the break to 7-3.

Tuggeranong didn't muck about after the break, and pressured the Reds' line again for a long period, before one of their wingers crossed in the corner. The missed conversion

meant the Reds trailed by one, and were still in the game.

It didn't take long for them to hit back, with fly-half Matthew Klem continuing his exceptional form with a darting, weaving run to set up Webber's first try. The Reds were relentless, and soon posted another score when Jeff Caldwell made a great solo bust down the wing after Tuggeranong had failed to clear the sideline.

Webber, who earned the Bryant's Pies Player's Player for his efforts on the day, capped off the win with a run away intercept try to claim an all-important bonus point. The win wasn't without a price, with number eight Robbie Cosgrove injuring his back during the second half.

Goulburn 31 (M Webber 2, J Caldwell, M Browne tries, Webber 4 cons, 1 pen) **bt Tuggeranong Vikings 8.** Best & fairest: 3 Mick Webber, 2 Jeff Caldwell, 1 Anthony Yeo.

SECOND GRADE

The Reds seconds were again on the wrong end of the score-line after going down to the experienced Royals 38-0. The older and wiser heads played all around the make-shift Goulburn side, dominating the set pieces and excelling in broken play.

The Reds spent most of the match defending, and didn't really get any momentum going. Young scrumhalf Joel McPherson earned the Bryant's Pies Player's Player award for a sterling effort, and looks set for a big season.

The seconds have the makings of a good side, but require more time together at training to form some cohesion. Both grades will have the bye this Saturday, but players are asked to still attend training on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Poidevin Oval, starting at 6.30pm.

Royals 38 bt Goulburn 0. Best & fairest: 3 Joel McPherson, 2 Ben Green, 1 Adam Trucker.

ROUND 5 - Preview

White steps down, Pearson takes over

By RICKY TOZER

Time restraints have forced the Goulburn Dirty Reds coach, Rod White to step down from the job just four rounds into the season. White's position as coach will be taken over by Reds captain Ben Pearson who captain/coached the side to the finals two years ago.

"I just didn't have the time. I have a few things to do at the moment and I couldn't afford the time that the team needs," White said.

Despite the setback of losing their coach Pearson believes the Reds can keep their form going which has seen them win two of their three matches this season. Pearson won't be coaching the team by himself, instead he will receive input from senior players, much like the coaching structure last season.

"It's back to me now as coach, but I will receive plenty of input from other team members, I don't have the time to do it all by myself, but I will be doing the best I can," Pearson said. "I will have a lot of senior players helping me with running drills and the team."

Even though the Reds are sitting second on the table and have only lost the one game in 2006 Pearson believes there is plenty of room for improvement tomorrow against RMC.

"I am hoping that we can improve our game over the coming weeks. Our form has been alright with two good wins and a loss to Cooma," he said. "Numbers wise we need to fix things. We have been having trouble getting players to away matches. And the last game against Tuggeranong was very scrappy and if we were playing a half decent opposition we would have got beaten."

The Reds had last weekend off courtesy of the bye, but Pearson believes they would have been better off on the paddock as they build towards a top of the table clash against Harden in three weeks time. While Pearson's long term attention is on Harden he is wary of what RMC could throw up tomorrow.

"RMC are always an unknown, because it depends on who is at the College at the time of the game," he said. No matter what, they are always a very fit and hard side, but they do lack the technical skills, and their results haven't been that flattering this year."

Despite just one victory this season RMC find themselves only five points behind the Reds, but Pearson is hoping their cohesion will come to the fore tomorrow.

"We need a bit more cohesion in attack and the forwards need to get us moving forward," Pearson said. "We need to get some good phases and keep things going forward and keep pressure on the opposition for long periods of time. Overall we just need to tighten up our game and play the full 80 minutes instead of in patches."

The Reds will field a similar side to the one that came up trumps against Tuggeranong and Pearson said he is looking for second rowers Anthony Yeo and Heath Elford to continue their solid form. The Reds second graders get rolling at 1.30pm tomorrow and first grade is from 3pm.

ROUND 5 - Report

Reds blow RMC away

By RICKY TOZER

FIRST GRADE

The Goulburn Dirty Reds put the mid-week loss of their coach behind them on Saturday as they ran rampant against RMC, scoring a stunning 40-15 victory at Poidevin Oval. Reds' coach Rod White stepped down due to time restraints earlier in the week, but the side refocused and blew RMC off the park with a fine display of attacking rugby. The Reds were boosted by the return of hard running forward Anthony Allport who missed the opening games of the season as he was overseas.

Both teams struggled with handling in the opening half, with the game not opening up until after the break. But when the Reds did keep ball in hand the play was exhilarating with half Jeff Caldwell and Mick Webber leading the way as the Reds piled up 27 points in the second half.

The going was tough in the opening exchanges with neither side able to get a stranglehold on field position. Infringements around the breakdown let the visitors down and the boot of Webber had the locals up 6-0 halfway through the first stanza.

RMC hit back to get within one-point of the Reds when a good backline move paid off for the visitors and they crashed over out wide. The conversion attempt was terrible and the Reds led 6-5. RMC were unlucky not to add to their tally soon after, but a try saving tackle from fullback Neil Gustafson saved the day for the locals. The try kicked the Reds into gear

and they took full advantage of another RMC infringement with Anthony Yeo running a good inside line from captain/coach Ben Pearson and crashing over under the posts. Webber converted for a 13-5 lead. RMC weren't going to give up easy on the locals and just before halftime they made the Reds pay for a turnover close to their line and again crossed outwide. The conversion was wayward and the halftime score was 13-10.

After the break the Reds stepped up a gear, with them dominating field position thanks to some good attacking kicks from Caldwell and solid forward charges. It didn't take long for the local to extend their lead, with Webber booting a penalty and that was closely followed by a try down the blind side to Jay Butler to take the score to 23-10. The Reds' forwards completely dominated the RMC pack and tries to Robbie Cosgrove and Allport put the game beyond doubt. Bryants Pies players' player for first grade was Webber.

Goulburn 40 (Anthony Yeo, Robbie Cosgrove, Anthony Allport, Mick Webber, Jay Butler tries, Webber 3 conv., 3 pen goals) bt RMC 15. Best & fairest: 3 Yeo, 2 Allport, 1 Butler

SECOND GRADE

The second grade team also had plenty to cheer about, scoring their first victory of the season over RMC. The Reds tied the game up at 10-10 courtesy of a try to Nathan Hewett and then with just minutes remaining Nick Harton kicked a penalty from 35 metres out and 10 metres in from touch to guide the Reds to a much-deserved victory. The Bryants Pies players' player for second grade was Lindsay Garnock.

Goulburn 13 (Chris Griffin, Nathan Hewett tries, Nathan Stewart pen goal) bt RMC 10. Best & fairest: 3 Ben Green, 2 Joel McPherson, 1 Dillon Mackie.

ROUND 6 - Preview

Consistency the key

By PETER OLIVER

With the season nearly at its halfway point, the Goulburn Dirty Reds are locked in a tight three-way tussle at the top of the table, with a win needed tomorrow against Hall to keep them in the hunt.

Currently sitting in second place, just behind Harden and in front of Cooma on for and against, the Reds will need to be consistent for the rest of the season to figure in the finals series. Last weekend's demolition job of RMC at home has given the Reds plenty of momentum, but captain-coach Ben Pearson believes they need to focus for the whole match.

"I'm happy that we played consistently, but we need to play consistently across the full 80 minutes. We need to concentrate from the outset, and stick to our game plan," Pearson said. "When we did stick to the plan, we scored most of our tries."

The Reds, as they have for every match this year, ground out the opening half-hour of the game, before really breaking the shackles and running away with the match.

"Against most of the sides in the competition the first 20, 30 minutes are going to be hard, but you've got to weather that storm and come out on top," he said. "Hall are a team you just don't know about, but we'll just have to concentrate on our own game and do

everything right. If we can do that, we should beat any team in this competition. We need to control what we do, and focus on that."

Pearson said the first grade side to meet Hall would be very similar to the one that defeated RMC, with only one or two changes. Winger Daniel Fry is out due to work commitments, with Martin Browne expected to slot into his place.

It is also expected that Anthony Allport will retain his place at inside centre after a strong match against RMC. Allport only touched back down in Australia last week after spending several months playing in the UK, and Pearson was full of praise for the former hooker.

"The good thing about Anthony is his versatility. He really makes a difference, and if there's an injury in the forwards or backs, we can put in a quality replacement," he said.

Pearson also nominated Anthony Yeo and Mikael Webber as having strong games against RMC, and said it was good for the club that the younger players were putting their hand up in first grade.

"We need to capitalise on this though. We had 23 blokes turn up for second grade on Saturday, and only three of them were at Tuesday night's training. Seconds just had their first win of the season, and we need more of them at training," Pearson said.

The Reds will meet at the RSL at 10am tomorrow, with players asked to car pool to Hall.

ROUND 6 - Report

Reds hold up Hall

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

A massive win over Hall Bushrangers has provided the Dirty Reds first grade side with plenty of momentum heading into next weekend's top of the table clash with Harden. The seven try to nil romp certainly didn't harm Goulburn's for and against in a dominant display of rugby.

Hall were actually the first to score through a penalty, but scrum half Jeff Caldwell soon struck back to put the Reds back in front.

Fly half Matt Klem then scored possibly the easiest try of his career after a terrible Hall clearing kick, off their own line, grubbered into Klem's hands. Klem ran the ten metres back and planted the ball down without a hand touching him. Out-side centre Mick Webber nailed the conversion and the Reds skipped ahead to a 12-3 lead.

The sides traded penalties, including a 50 metre kick from Hall. Anthony Yeo notched up his first try of the game following a bullocking run from the back of the scrum. Yeo smashed over the line, cleaning up the Hall scrum half and leaving him winded on the deck. Webber converted again and the score at half-time was 25-6.

Into the second half, and some niggly play from both sides came to a head on the Hall try-line when a brief fight broke out. Hall lost a player for 10 minutes to cool

his heels, and the Reds took advantage of the overlap, with Yeo barging over to score with his second try.

The match was halted for 20 minutes mid-way through the second half after one of the Hall players snapped his Achilles tendon, and had to be carried from the field. Captain Ben Pearson limped from the field shortly after from an aggravated hamstring injury.

The versatile Anthony Allport slipped back into his old role of hooker and Joel McPherson earned his second cap in first grade, following a slight backline shuffle. The injury break did neither team any favours, with poor ball-handling and penalties sneaking into the match.

Martin Brown was rewarded for his solid effort with two late tries in the match, and not content with scoring two tries in the lower grade, Rob Sheekey came on the bag his third for the day. Yeo's performance earned him the Bryant's Pies Player's Player award.

Goulburn 51 (Yeo 2, Browne 2, Caldwell, Klem, Sheekey tries; Webber 5 conv., 2 pen goals) def. Hall Bushrangers 6. Best and fairest—3 Aaron Wild, 2 Dave Anable, 1 Ben Pearson.

SECOND GRADE

The Dirty Reds seconds made it two wins in a row when they smashed Hall 57-20 on Saturday. The win marked the return to Goulburn Rugby of Rob Sheekey, who celebrated with two tries before setting up a couple more. In a match played in soggy conditions, the Reds crossed the line nine times with flanker-cum-centre Dillon Mackie kicking four conversions and scrum half

Joel McPherson one.

Winger Nathan Hewett was lucky to get on the board after Sheekey made a break and generously offloaded after crossing the line.

The Reds scrum was solid without being spectacular, but definitely held the advantage over the Hall pack, even winning a couple of tight heads. In one memorable piece, the Reds' scrum drove through, knocking the Hall pack backwards and leaving players all over the place.

In the second half Hall requested uncontested scrums, a move that left many Reds' players and officials scratching their heads as their front row remained unchanged. For the Goulburn pack, workhorses Ben Green and Charlie Brewer, along with loose forwards Evan Dougal, Sheekey and captain Lindsay Garnock all played well.

But as dominant as the forwards were, it was the backline that made the difference. Nathan Stewart and Pat Little showed plenty of pace and verve to outrun the opposition to score, and fullback Cameron Neville was solid at the back with some penetrating runs and solid defence.

Hall hit back with some late tries and did enough to earn a bonus point by scoring four tries, but they were never in striking distance of Goulburn's lead. Rob Sheekey was the Bryant's Pies Player's Player for second grade.

Goulburn 57 (Sheekey 2, Mackie 2, McPherson, Stewart, Hewett, Little and Brewer tries; Mackie 4 conv., McPherson 1) def. Hall Bushrangers 20. Best and fairest points: 3 Brewer, 2 Green, 1 Neville.

ROUND 7 - Preview

Winner takes all

By PETER OLIVER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds will look to snatch the top spot in the first division comp when they travel to Harden for a top of the table clash tomorrow.

Following their last start demolition of Hall, the Reds will be fired up to take on the current leaders in final match of the first round.

Reds' publicity officer Dave Anable said despite the week off, the side would be ready for a big match against the Red Devils, who were last start winners against the Yass Rams.

"The week off is always dangerous, and I think we were on a bit of a roll before the bye," Anable said. "There's probably a few blokes in the side that would have preferred to keep going and get the momentum up - especially as it's the last match of the first round."

Anable said he was unsure if the Reds would have any players unavailable for the match, but would have to wait and see.

"We could have had better numbers at training, but for whatever reason people haven't been coming. We've got to

hope for the best with numbers, and with a top performance from the second grade the other week, we should get more turning up," he said.

The Reds' forward pack has been solid all season, and Anable said the pack would look to continue the good form this week.

"Our scrums have been really good, and the general mobility across the paddock as been really good, especially in the past couple of games," he said.

"Our lineouts could probably improve, but that's more a communication thing. Still, everyone's got to be out there at the top of their game, especially in a match like this."

Harden have been hit with injuries, with their captain-coach Matt Stadtmiller and number eight Joel Blundell both unavailable. These injuries will see Danni Flanery and Adam Walsh move into the first grade side.

The Reds second grade side will be looking to achieve three wins in a row following their dominant display over the Hall Bushrangers two weeks ago.

As a side that traditionally doesn't travel well, the Reds will be looking for all their players to turn up on the day in a bid to extend their winning streak. The Reds will be meeting at the RSL tomorrow morning, with a coach trip organised.

ROUND 7 - Report

Reds reach summit

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

A close win over the competition front runners has seen the Goulburn Dirty Reds storm to the top of the ACT Division One competition, with outside centre Mick Webber kicking the Reds to a 23-18 win over the Harden Red Devils.

In a tense match which was in the balance right up to the final whistle, Webber booted two late penalties to seal the victory for the Reds, who have now won their past five matches on the trot.

The Reds opened the scoring through Webber, who kicked the first penalty, then followed that up with a barging try next to the sticks after some good phase play by his forwards.

Harden had the running of the game for the next 40 minutes, scoring two tries and kicking a couple of penalties to hold the advantage early in the

second half.

The Reds stormed back into the match when their captain-coach Ben Pearson burrowed his way over after his forwards hammered at Harden's tryline. Webber converted, and Harden were on the back foot.

With 15 minutes to go, Webber again found himself in the thick of the action when he made a break down the left hand side of the field and was promptly decked by one of Harden's centres.

The referee pulled out the yellow card, and the Reds were looking promising again, with Webber slotting the near sideline penalty to snatch the lead.

Harden began to self-destruct, and one of their flankers was binned after collapsing a Reds' lineout. Webber knocked over the kick, and the Reds held on for the crucial win.

Webber yet again earned the Bryant's Pies Players' Player award, and will soon be in the front row if he continues to gorge himself on pies each week.

The 3-2-1 points went to Pearson, flanker Scott Kremer, who was involved in everything and applied good pressure to Harden's kickers, and veter-

an scrum-half Jeff Caldwell.

Goulburn 23 (Webber, Person tries; Webber 2 conv., 3 pen goals) def. Harden 18. Best and Fairest: 3 Pearson, 2 Scott Kremer, 1 Caldwell.

SECOND GRADE

In second grade it was a vastly different story, with the Reds outgunned by 45-0. Despite a sensational opening ten minutes, poor communicating and handling prevented the Reds from getting any momentum, while Harden made the most of their chances to score.

Fullback Nathan Stewart paid a brief visit to La La Land after trying to tackle one of Harden's monster truck props, and had to be helped from the field. The forward not only used Stewart as a speed bump but also as a landing pad with the courageous back copping the full force of the rampaging front-rower.

This incident seemed to push the Reds back into their shells, and Harden took full advantage, running in several tries. Best for the Reds was Charlie Brewer who constantly punched the ball up and frequently disrupted the Harden ruck.

Harden 45 def Goulburn 0. Best and fairest points: 3 Garnock, 2 Brewer, 1 Green.

ROUND 8 - Preview

Six in a row awaits Reds

By PETER OLIVER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds can claim victories against all six teams in the competition if they come up trumps against Cooma tomorrow at Poidevin Oval.

The only cross on the Reds mid-season report card came in their opening round of the season when they were defeated by Cooma, but they can turn that around tomorrow and strength their winning run to six.

Reds captain-coach Ben Pearson said he will be looking for a repeat performance of last week's efforts from his troops tomorrow.

Pearson was thrilled with his side's effort last weekend when they toppled the previously undefeated Harden Red Devils.

"I thought it was a very good win, it was the first game this year where we have strung 80 minutes of rugby together and haven't lapsed," Pearson said.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game from the start, and we didn't switch off - I think we actually lifted in intensity for the last 25 minutes - and we played the full 80 at a pretty high intensity. Now we have to stay on top and consolidate first place."

The Reds find themselves ahead of Harden on bonus points, and Pearson believes bonus points will become a crucial factor at the end of the season.

"We need to go through the rest of the season undefeated, and we need to get bonus points from each match," he said.

"Second grade are just one point out of the top four, so if they can into gear at training they could do alright."

When the Reds last met Cooma the

southerners just got up with a 22-19 win over a tired Goulburn outfit, with half of the Reds' players backing up from second grade.

This time the odds are in Goulburn's favour, with a home match usually drawing out more players to take part in second grade.

"We need to focus on ball retention against Cooma, they're a tough, spoiling side and they'll be looking to target the ball on the ground and get some turnovers," Pearson said.

For first grade, winger Rob Sheekey is out with a wrist injury and second grade will be without Nick Harton and Nathan Stewart, who is still recovering from a heavy head knock he took last week.

The Tablelands Reds U18s side will play in the curtain-raiser at Poidevin Oval, with the Reds second grade to kick off at 1.30pm, and first grade to follow at 3pm.

ROUND 8 - Report

Reds consolidate top spot

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

The Goulburn Dirty Reds have consolidated their position at the top of the Division One competition, with a gritty **25-18 win** over the Cooma Red Devils.

The victory extends the Red's winning streak to six this season, and crucially was won without key player and captain Ben Pearson, who has decided to sit out the rest of the season because of his unavailability at finals time.

His spot at hooker was taken by Anthony Allport, which forced a backline re-shuffle with Joel McPherson making his first grade run on debut.

Veteran scrum half Jeff Caldwell took over the captaincy. The Reds were impressive for most of the match, with fly half Matthew Klem leading the way with some big hits in defence, which was topped off with a great solo try. Klem got the ball about 10 metres out from the Cooma tryline, and ran rings around the defenders to cross near the sticks. Number 8 Anthony Yeo notched up a well-deserved try when Webber kicked a ball through the Cooma defence and Yeo dived on the loose pill.

Cooma stormed back into the match with two late tries, but the Reds held on to take the match and complete victories over all the sides in the comp.

Goulburn 25 (Anthony Yeo, Matt Klem, Mikael Webber tries, Webber 2 conv, 2 pen goals) **bt Cooma 18**. Best and

fairest points: 3 Anthony Yeo, 2 Anthony Allport, 1 Matt Klem, 1 Scott Kremer.

SECOND GRADE

Second grade were unlucky not to earn their third win of the season, going down to Cooma 25-23.

Crafty scrum half Andrew Ginn crossed early on over in the corner after the Reds' forward pack rumbled its way towards the line from a lineout, setting the tone for much of the match.

In the second half hooker Pete Oliver thought he'd claimed his first try of his career when he rumbled over under the posts, but the ref had other ideas, and called the Reds back for the penalty. From the next ruck fellow front rower Dougie Webster smashed his way over. Dylan Mackie's conversion looked good off the boot, but it cruelly bounced off the left up-right.

Flanker Ben Green played a sensational match, with his Kamikaze style of defence quite a sight to behold. Green also made some great penetrating runs, usually creating quite a dent in the Cooma defensive line with the ball in hand.

After the Reds' final try fullback Nathan Hewett stepped up to take the kick. With the Reds trailing by two, it was Hewett's chance to snatch a draw for the home side. Sadly, he shanked the ball well wide, and Cooma held on for the two-point win.

Cooma 25 bt Goulburn 23 (Doug Webster, Evan Dougall, Andrew Ginn, Jason Smith tries, D Mackie conv.). Best and fairest points: 3 Ben Green, 2 Pat Lyttle, 1 Doug Webster.

ROUND 9 - Preview

Bonus points will count

By RICKY TOZER

A lacklustre final 20 minutes against Cooma last weekend didn't cost the Goulburn Dirty Reds a victory, but has the ability to cost them top spot on the ladder later in the season.

Leading comfortably against the only team that had defeated them during the season, the Reds switched off with 20 minutes remaining and let Cooma score two tries, thus giving them a bonus point, while the Reds missed out.

With only a handful of points separating the top three teams Reds coach Ben Pearson believes bonus points will be vital come season's end and he is hoping his team will knuckle down for the full 80 this weekend against Yass.

"It was good to beat the only team that had beaten us last weekend, but we let ourselves down in the last 20 minutes," Pearson said.

"We let them score two tries and couldn't score ourselves and missed out on the bonus point. It was very important to consolidate the top spot, but we still have Harden and Cooma biting at our heels so we are going to need every bonus point we can get. We are in a pretty good position with a few games to go, but it doesn't take much to drop your bundle."

The Reds made short work of last year's premiers, Yass, earlier in the season with a 37-0 thumping, but Pearson is expecting them to be much tougher on their home pitch.

"Yass has built up some great experience over the past decade and even though they have lost a few quality players they are still a tough side," he said.

"I am expecting them to come back pretty strong this weekend and there is no chance of us taking them easy. "We need to improve our communication in defence and must keep the intensity up for the final 20 minutes."

At the time of publication Pearson was still awaiting news on whether winger Robbie Sheekey would take the field after suffering a nasty wrist injury against Harden after he was bundled onto the adjacent cricket pitch. Pearson did confirm that second rower Charlie Brewer would take the field after being ruled out of last weekend's win with a stomach bug.

"I won't know about Robbie until Thursday night and if he is ruled out then there will be some changes made to the backline," Pearson said.

"But it will be a big boost to have Charlie back. He is a big, strong bloke and will add to the forwards and especially in the scrum."

The Reds travel to Yass tomorrow, with second grade getting proceedings under way at 1.30pm and the main game will kick off at 3pm.

ROUND 9 - Report

Rev up works on Reds

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

A halftime rev up by coach Ben Pearson was the catalyst for the Goulburn Dirty Reds' comfortable win over the Yass Rams on Saturday. The five tries to one win has extended the Reds' lead at the top of the table, with a much-needed bonus point helping their cause.

It didn't take the Reds long to open up the Yass defence, with winger Rob Sheekey making a successful return from injury to cross in the corner after a couple of minutes.

The Reds kept the pressure on with hooker Anthony Allport crossing under the sticks following some quick aggressive lead up play. Inside centre Mick Webber slotted the conversion from in front, and the Reds jumped out to a 12-0 lead.

Fullback Neil Gustafson also added his name to the scoresheet, but the Reds switched off for a 15 minute period before the break, allowing Yass to control the match.

Pearson was fuming at halftime, and urged his players to be more aggressive. The rev up worked, with Sheekey claiming his second try minutes into the second stanza. Charlie Brewer was also involved in plenty in his return from a virus, and was pinged for a dangerous tackle, earning him a yellow card and a quick breather.

Webber added his name to the try scorers' column when he crossed to seal the win. The Bryant's Pies players' player again went to Webber.

Goulburn 31 (Sheekey 2, Webber, Gustafson, Allport tries, Webber 3 con) **bt Yass 7.** *Best & fairest points:* 3 Anthony Allport, 2 Matt Klem and 1 Neil Gustafson.

SECOND GRADE

The Reds second grade side went down 5-0 in a tight but dour affair against the

Yass Hoggets.

The Reds had plenty of chances to cross the line, but some poor choices and stout defence by Yass prevented the Reds from troubling the scorers.

Loose forward Ben Green again was again in the middle of everything - big hits, penetrating runs, and even a brief rest in the sin bin after the ref saw a dangerous tackle.

Jason Kremer made an immediate impact off the bench, dominating Yass defence and punching some large holes in their line.

The season is far from over for reserve grade, sitting a couple of points outside the top four. If they can string a couple of wins together, they should figure in the finals calculations. Green added another Bryant's Pies players' player award to his collection for another strong game.

Yass 5 bt Goulburn 0. *Best and fairest points:* 3 Joel McPherson, 2 Jason Kremer, 1 Dylan Mackie.

ROUND 10 - Preview

Aim for full 80

By PETER OLIVER

The Dirty Reds will be looking for an improved effort in tomorrow's match against the Tuggeranong Vikings after their at-times sluggish win over the Yass Rams last week.

The Reds came out all guns blazing against last year's premiers, but fell asleep 15 minutes in and didn't awake from their slumber until a halftime spray from coach Ben Pearson fired them up.

"I'm very disappointed that we fell asleep for 25 minutes in that match," Pearson said. "We had to pick it up and turn it around otherwise we would have been in trouble. Our lineout was ordinary, and we lost a lot of possession because of that. We'll be looking to fix a few things before the weekend."

Although the Reds sit six points clear of second placed Harden, the Red Devils still have a game in hand to make up against RMC, which places Goulburn only one or two points in front. Pearson said he wanted to consolidate his side's position in front, with Harden hot on their tail.

"Really, we're only a point in front, and we certainly don't want that gap to get any smaller," he said.

Pearson wasn't sure of the makeup of Tuggeranong's side, saying their team was dependent on who was called up to the higher grades. But he was unconcerned with what the Vikings would throw at his charges, preferring to focus on the Reds' game plan.

"I'd rather we concentrated on our own game, because that's the only thing we can control," he said.

"We'll worry about our own thing, and what we do during the game."

Pearson, who has been out injured

with a hamstring strain, will be hoping to make his comeback in the second grade match up against Royals before taking to the bench for first grade.

Regular first grade flanker Scott Kremer will also make his return to the paddock tomorrow from an ankle injury. Pearson ruled out making wholesale changes to his starting squad this weekend.

"We want to try and consolidate our squad and get some combinations working," he said. "I don't want to make any changes unless our hand is forced. We've got some good combinations going at the moment."

The Reds second grade will be looking for revenge against Royals when they kick off at 1.30pm. In their last encounter, the Reds were thumped by the much older and experienced heads of the Royals 38-0. First grade will follow at 3pm at Poidevin Oval.

ROUND 10 - Report

Reds belt life out of hapless Vikings

BY PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

The Goulburn Dirty Reds have well and truly stamped their authority on the ACT Division One competition with a thumping 85-14 win over the Tuggeranong Vikings on Saturday at Poidevin Oval. The Reds ran in 13 tries, with flying winger Rob Sheekey leading the way with four and centre Mick Webber notching up a personal tally of 30 points, which included two tries and 10 conversions.

It didn't take the Reds long to post first points, with winger Jay Butler crossing out wide for his first of two tries before leaving the field with a suspected dislocated thumb midway through the first half.

Sheekey scored his first when he was put over in the corner shortly after, and from there it was a steady procession of tries, with Browne scoring after a fantastic solo effort. Butler and Sheekey each added their names to the scoresheet again, with Webber slotting conversions from the sidelines. Webber put himself in the try-scorers' column after diving on a sly kick through from scrum-half Jeff Caldwell just before the halftime break.

Coach Ben Pearson urged his troops to keep going in the second half, and they didn't disappoint, continuing to score at better than a point a minute against a hapless Vikings outfit. Prop Dave Anable pulled off the biggest hit of the season defending on his own line, knocking the Vikings' attacker clean off his feet and drawing a chorus of 'ooohs' from the crowd. Flanker Scott Kremer was the sole forward

to cross the line after a darting run, but although the back-line dominated the scoring, the effort put in by the Reds' forward pack was reflected in the points awarded. Fullback Neil Gustafson earned the Bryant's Pies Players' Player award.

Goulburn 85 (Sheekey 4, Webber 2, Butler 2, S. Kremer, Gustafson, Caldwell, Klem, Browne tries, Webber 10 cons) *bt Tuggeranong Vikings 14. Best & fairest: 3 Charlie Brewer, 2 Anthony Allport, 1 Chris Kilby.*

SECOND GRADE

The Reds seconds put on a brave show against the competition front runners Royals, going down 33-12.

Put on the back foot early on through a flukish Royals try from the kickoff, the Reds were further hampered by the loss of outstanding loose-forward Ben Green with a broken arm.

Fullback Cameron Neville was the stand-out player for the Reds, scoring two tries and earning himself the Bryant's Pies Players' Player award. His first try was an inspired piece of quick thinking from a penalty tap, putting a chip kick through for himself and scoring in the corner.

The Reds put in a much bigger effort in the second half, restricting Royals in attack and showing much more aggression at the break-down, with the

Royals 33 bt Goulburn 10 (Cameron Neville 2 tries). *Best & fairest: 3 Cameron Neville, 2 Lindsay Garnock, 1 Dillon Mackie.*

The Reds have this weekend off with the bye, and will take advantage of the break with the annual Rugby Ball. Tickets are still available, so if you are interested get in touch with Matthew Klem or the Goulburn Soldiers Club.

ROUND 12 - Preview

Reds reset focus after bye

By PETER OLIVER

THE Goulburn Dirty Reds will look to keep their eight match winning streak going with another bonus point win tomorrow against the Cadets from RMC.

The Reds had the bye last week, celebrating the thus-far successful season with the annual Rugby Ball. But this weekend will see the focus firmly back on the paddock, with first grade looking to continue the good form they showed in their last start flogging of the Tuggeranong Vikings.

Coach Ben Pearson said he was happy with the pressure the Reds put on the Vikings for the full 80 minutes, running in 13 tries in front of a jubilant home crowd.

"I was very pleased with that effort. Any team of our calibre could have easily won by 50 or 60 points, but we stuck to the game plan, we weren't tempted to try and score off the first ruck," he said. "We developed that pressure into points, and I think that's why we put on that extra 20 points against them."

Pearson was expecting a full-strength first grade side to take on the Cadets, with Jay Butler overcoming the dislocated thumb he sustained against the Vikings.

Pearson was disappointed with the attendance at Tuesday's training, saying a number of first grade players were missing. However

he plans the Tuesday training sessions to step up in intensity as the Reds approach the finals, with Harden hot on their heels.

Despite a gap between the Reds and Harden being six points, that gap is expected to close to one point when the Red Devils play a catch-up game against RMC on July 29. Anything less than bonus point wins against RMC and Hall could see the Reds bumped from the top spot.

Traditionally RMC are a very fit side, with Pearson saying he would be looking for his charges to control the play against the Cadets, and play the game to their speed.

First grade kick off at 3pm at Duntroon, with second grade to play at 1.30pm.

Second grade's chances of sneaking into the top four have slimmed substantially, needing to win their remaining three matches to have any chance of a finals berth.

Last time the Reds played RMC, the seconds snuck home with a gritty three-point victory. Playing away could be a different proposition, with the Reds' destiny now out of their own hands, and minus their standout forward Ben Green, whose season ended with a broken arm against Royals.

"It'll take other teams to lose for seconds to get into the finals," Pearson said. "But anything can happen."

The Reds, who have the bye next weekend, will have a training session on Sunday July 30, starting at 2pm. Pearson said the session would go for about two hours, and everyone is expected to turn up.

ROUND 12 - Report

Reds throw away

advantage

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

The Goulburn Dirty Reds chances of claiming the minor premiership in the ACT Division One competition suffered a major blow on Saturday when they went down to **RMC 31-24**.

It was just the Reds second loss of the season, with the first coming in the opening match against Cooma. The RMC Cadets claimed revenge for their previous loss to Goulburn, running in five tries to two in an even and tense match.

The Reds put in a flat performance, and it was obvious the bye the week before had done them no favours, with them seeming very rusty from the outset.

RMC were the first to score midway through the first half, when the Reds' defence finally cracked outside after some relentless pressure by the Cadets. The Reds hit straight back after the restart, when flying winger Rob Sheekey danced around several defenders to cross. Mick Webber booted the Reds in front, kicking several penalties to give the Reds a comfortable gap. Crucially, he also pushed a couple wide.

On a day when not much seemed to go the Reds' way, matters were made worse when

they lost Sheekey and Martin Browne in the first half through injury, forcing a backline reshuffle.

First grade coach Ben Pearson and Pat Little came off the bench with Anthony Allport going from hooker to the centres.

With the game well and truly in the balance Reds' captain Jeff Caldwell laid down the law at the half-time break, urging his troops to lift their performance.

The second half would be a test of character for the Reds players, with a win vital to maintaining the top spot on the ladder.

The Reds got the boost they needed when Webber barrelled his way over for a try after a solid scrum from his forwards, giving the Reds a slim lead.

The final 10 minutes of the match were tense, with RMC scoring a try to level the scores at 24-all. The match seemed set for a draw, before one of the Cadets crossed out wide to snap the Reds' eight-match winning streak.

The conversion was successful, and the final whistle was blown. While the Reds missed the victory they grabbed the crucial bonus point. In a stand out performance, number 8 Anthony Yeo was awarded the Bryant's Pies Player's Player.

RMC 31 bt Goulburn 24 (Webber, Sheekey tries, Webber 1 con, 4 pen). Best & fairest: 3 Jeff Caldwell, 2 Anthony Allport and 1 Anthony Yeo.

SECOND GRADE

Second grade also went down in a tight tussle 20-10 to a fit and fast RMC outfit. Former Goulburn player Scott Izod turned up for a quick cameo appearance after the seconds were short on players, and he celebrated his return with two-tries either side of the half.

Winger Pat Little played his finest game of the season, showing plenty of energy and zest around the paddock. Fellow winger Daniel Fry also played well, pulling off some solid hits in defence.

The Reds tried to match RMC in pace outside, and showed some promising glimpses, putting the ball through the hands and mixing it up with some wrap around plays.

Nathan Hewett had a solid first up effort at fly-half, and did no damage to his chances of a further run at pivot.

Playing in the centres, Pearson pulled off a massive hit in the second half, picking up one of the Cadets and slamming him into the deck.

When the pack got a bit of a roll on late in the first half, they were nearly unstoppable, but unfortunately they couldn't sustain this pressure. Lyttle earned the Player's Player honours.

RMC 20 bt Goulburn 10 (Scott Izod 2 tries). Best & fairest: 3 Pat Lyttle, 2 Dougie Webster, 1 Scott Izod.

ROUND 13 - Preview

Aggression must lift: Pearson

By PETER OLIVER

An aggressive Goulburn Dirty Reds side will be looking to put their last start loss behind them when they take on Hall tomorrow. Goulburn have been the pacesetters so far this season, but the loss to RMC, just the Reds' second loss this season, has hurt them on the table.

Harden has bumped the Reds from the top spot on for-and-against and had a chance to pull away from Goulburn when they played a catch-up match against RMC. However the Cadets had other ideas, pulling off a close win against the Red Devils in the match played last weekend during the competition bye. Harden however managed to scrape the two bonus points from the match, which saw them reappear on the top of the Division One competition.

"Obviously we were disappointed with the loss (against RMC). It was our chance to win and get a couple of points clear on top," Reds' coach Ben Pearson said. "The loss

highlighted some areas of that we need to work on. Sometimes it's harder to highlight what needs working on when you're winning game after game."

The Reds have been focusing on fitness towards the end of the season, with former player Matt O'Rourke giving the players a tough workout last Sunday afternoon.

"I'm very happy with the response of the players after the loss, especially with the turn up at the Sunday training session. We may have another Sunday training if we get a week off in the finals, it depends on what happens, but at the moment I want to concentrate on one week at a time," he said.

When the Reds last met Hall, the Reds dished out a monstrous flogging to the Bushrangers, winning 51-6 in a lopsided match. This time around, Pearson has been looking to expand the Reds' attacking options, with some punchier short play expected from the Reds big men. Pearson will also call on his pack to show more aggression at the breakdown and provide some cleaner, quicker ball to his backline.

"I think we can be more aggressive at the breakdown. We've been focusing on our fitness coming to the rear end of the season, and when the time comes we'll be needing

it to secure the ball," Pearson said. "It's good to follow the ball around the park, but you need to be aggressive when you get there. It doesn't matter if we're attacking or defending. I know that most of the blokes have the ability to be aggressive, but it's a mindset they've got to be in. They have to be mentally prepared to get stuck in."

The Reds have been gifted with their final two matches at home, and Pearson hopes his troops will take advantage home ground advantage.

"It's always a bonus to be playing at home, I think in our case it'll be beneficial and the players will respond well," he said. The first grade side had yet to be finalised at time of publication, but Pearson did hint at some changes to the backline.

Second grade will be looking for their third win of the season when they play for pride in front of what's hoped is a large crowd as part of the Reds' ladies day.

The Reds reggies dished out a hiding to Hall last time around, and will be looking to impress the ladies with a display of solid rugby. First grade kicks off at 3pm, following the second grade curtain raiser at 1.30pm.

ROUND 13 - Report

Massive win sets up thriller

By PETER OLIVER

FIRST GRADE

A massive win against the hapless Hall Bushrangers, built on the back of a superb kicking game by Matt Klem, has the Goulburn Dirty Reds' sights set firmly on a titanic showdown this weekend.

The Reds ran in 13 tries in a rampant effort, with veteran fly-half Klem having one of his best matches this season, bagging himself a hat-trick along the way.

Armed with a retouched game plan and a renewed focus, the Reds completely dominated the match, and had gone at better than a point a minute by the time the oranges were cut up and dished out.

Klem opened up the scoring with a delightful chip and regather close the Hall line, and crossed near the sticks untouched.

The flood gates opened up after that, and hooker Anthony Allport showed his versatility when he caught a cross-kick from Klem on the wing and scampered over.

Flying winger Rob Sheekey managed to grab himself five tries for the match, often leaving many Bushranger defenders in his wake once he got himself in to a bit of space. Bustling prop Aaron Wild burrowed his way over from close to the line and Mick Webber also danced over for a try.

Allport had a brief spell on the sideline for a dangerous tackle, despite his protestations that he wasn't tall enough to get the tackled man past the horizontal.

The second half saw the Reds playing with a bit more flair, putting in some little chip kicks and trying their hand at a few more

Although the backs dominated the scoring, the real platform for the win was laid by the forwards. The Reds' loose forward combi-

nation were sensational, with flankers Anthony Yeo and Chris Kilby dominating the breakdown and providing the backs with quick, clean ball.

This was reflected when the Hall officials nominated their 3-2-1. Yeo, the human workhorse, earned the three points, with Kilby awarded the two.

Front rowers Allport and Dave Anable shared the one point, with Klem the deserved winner of the Bryant's Pies player's player.

The 85-point win had the Reds ecstatic with the victory, as they needed a big win to skip ahead of Harden on for and against. This was somewhat muted when they learned that Harden had given Yass a deadset toweling, winning 95-5.

Goulburn 85 (Sheekey 5, Klem 3, Webber, Gustafson, Allport, Wild, Kilby tries, Webber 10 cons) **bt Hall 0.** Best & fairest: 3 Anthony Yeo, 2 Chris Kilby, 1 Dave Anable, 1 Anthony Allport.

SECOND GRADE

Second grade sadly couldn't repeat their last effort against Hall, when they notched up 50 points, going **down 19-0**. The Reds were kept on the backfoot for most of the first half, but it was some determined defence from both sides that kept the score low.

One of Hall's monster-truck props carried several Reds defenders over the line in one memorable try to extend Hall's lead just before the break.

Fullback Cameron Neville was the most threatening player for the Reds, making numerous line breaks and often finding himself in open space.

Captain Lindsay Garnock was again the standout player for the Reds, as he has been for most of this season with Neville set to chow down on some pies from Bryant's in the near future.

Hall 19 bt Goulburn 0. Best & fairest: 3 Lindsay Garnock, 2 Cameron Neville, 1 Reilly Martin.

ROUND 14 - Preview

Pearson and his troops aim for top

By PETER OLIVER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds and Harden have been neck and neck all season, but tomorrow's blockbuster at Poidevin Oval will finally split the two power houses.

Harden currently hold the top spot by percentages, but the Reds can grab the minor premiership and a home semi-final with a victory tomorrow.

After the Goulburn Stockmen's capitulation last weekend, which saw them bow out of minor premier contention, the Reds are the only Goulburn side left that can finish at the top of its competition.

The Reds will go into the match with the psychological advantage after defeating Harden 23-18. Confidence will be high for the Reds after they dished out an awful

hammering to the Hall Bushrangers last week, but will find themselves up against a much tougher proposition this weekend.

Like the Reds, Harden have only been defeated twice this season, and the winner tomorrow will grab a home semi-final. RMC have emerged as the dark horse of the competition with victories against the Reds and Harden over the last month, but their charge towards the top was hampered when they were docked five points for breaching competition rules.

This is good news for the Reds, as it means the lowest they can finish is second, but Reds coach Ben Pearson is determined to get a home semi-final, which will also be against Harden. Pearson said he was impressed with the commanding win last week, but would be looking for his side to tighten up their play, particularly at the set piece.

"I'm very happy with our win. We stuck to the game plan for the full 80 minutes," Pearson said. "But Harden have an extremely good forward pack. They're a big team and they're solid at the scrum and have a good lineout. We really need to put their set piece under pressure, because we didn't do that

last week. The only ball of theirs we took was when they stuffed up."

Pearson also praised the good form of long-serving fly-half Matt Klem, who scored himself a hat-trick of tries and set up a couple more last week.

"Klemmy's a very good player, he's a very experienced five-eighth. He knows when to kick, when to run, take his chances or settle the play down," Pearson said. "He's always been a very good footballer, and although we try to stick with a game plan, he knows when to go against it if the opportunity's there."

Try-scoring machine Rob Sheekey is out this weekend due to work commitments, and experienced back Martin Browne will replace him on the wing. Hooker Anthony Allport will shift to the backs, and Pearson will replace him in the front row.

Massive loose forward Charlie Brewer will come back into the side after missing last week due to injury, and he'll be looking have an imposing presence at the breakdown and set piece.

ROUND 14 - Report

Reds let off the hook

By RICKY TOZER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds withstood a late barrage from Harden to clinch a thrilling 27-24 victory and the minor premiership at Poidevin Oval on Saturday. The Reds and Harden were only separated by percentages heading into the final game of the regular season, with the visitors only needing a draw to claim the minor premiership.

A draw looked on the cards when Harden were awarded a penalty in front of the sticks one minute from fulltime when they were trailing by three points. However, Harden decided to take the quick tap and despite getting over the line the Reds' last ditch defence held them up and the fulltime whistle was blown to end a thrilling match of running rugby.

The Reds began the match with plenty of enthusiasm and passion and Harden on the back foot early on. The early pressure paid dividends when fullback Neil Gustafson barged his way over for the opening try of the match, which was converted by Mikael Webber for a 7-0 lead.

The Reds were dominating the match in all facets, but it was a Harden error that led to their second try. A kick down field was spilt by a Harden player and gathered up by Webber, who evaded a number of players before offloading to Boyd Newby.

Newby got within 10 metres of the line before handing the ball to Chris Kilby, who promoted it to Charlie Brewer who chased over for a fantastic try. Webber kicked the conversion to give the locals a handy 14-point lead.

The Reds seemed to shut down a few cylinders after scoring their second try and that was just what Harden was after. The visitors began dominating field position and looked dangerous on several occasions. The pressure finally paid off for Harden when they chased over to reduce the margin to seven points.

After leaking the try the Reds muscled up in defence with some big hits being dished out by the forward, in particular Dave Anable.

It was the forwards who got the Reds back on the front foot and Aaron Wild pushed his way over for a typical props try to once again see the Reds lead by 14 points. With halftime just around the corner Harden went for one last journey into the Reds half and they came up trumps with a pushover try awarded. The conversion was successful and the halftime score was 21-14.

Harden were the more superior team in the opening exchanges of the second half and they reduced the margin to two points within the first 10 minutes. After receiving a penalty near half way Harden shocked the Reds by taking the quick tap and the play ran 45m virtually untouched to score just wide of the posts. The conversion would have tied the game up, however the kick was badly struck and the Reds held a 21-19 lead.

The tension was building in the match and when Webber lined up a penalty from 40m out a hush went over the large crowd. Webber didn't make any mistake and guided the penalty through the sticks the give the Reds a five-point lead. Harden wiped that deficit out minutes after and had the chance to take the lead for the first time in the match when they crossed wide, however the important conversion was wide and the score was tied at 24-all with 15 minutes remaining.

The Reds lead was reinstated soon after when Webber again plotted a penalty, but with the clock ticking down all of the momentum was with Harden. Inside the last five minutes they were camped deep inside the Reds half and seemed destined to cross, but some solid defence and a bit of luck kept them in the lead.

Harden received a penalty 10m out and right in front with less than a minute to go. A straight kick would have tied the game up and given them the minor premiership, but they wanted the win and went for the try. Harden pushed their way over the line, but couldn't get the ball down and the ref ruled them held up. Before they could begin play fulltime was blown. The Reds and Harden will again meet next weekend at Poidevin Oval for a titanic battle.

1st grade: Goulburn 27 (Aaron Wild, Charlie Brewer, Neil Gustafson tries; Webber 3 conv, 2 pen goals) bt Harden 24. Best and fairest: 3 Mick Webber, 2 Ben Pearson, 1 Dave Anable.

2nd grade: Harden 39 bt Goulburn 5 (Pat Little). Best & fairest: 3 Lindsay Garnock, 2 Pat Little, 1 Reilly Martin.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL - Preview

Reds and Harden raise the stakes

By RICKY TOZER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds can secure a home grand final if they defeat the Harden Red Devils for the second week in a row tomorrow at Poidevin Oval.

The Reds and Harden played out an epic final round match last weekend, with Goulburn hanging on for a thrilling three-point victory, giving them the minor premiership.

The stakes are raised for tomorrow's clash at Poidevin Oval as the winning team will not only win a spot in the grand final, but will receive the home ground advantage as well. Reds coach Ben Pearson and his troops know they were lucky to take the victory last weekend and will be primed for another tough battle tomorrow.

"Getting the home ground advantage for the semifinal was very important, but there are still plenty of areas we need to improve on," Pearson said. "Our defence was great in the last five minutes last weekend, but I am still perplexed about Harden's decision not to take the penalty right in front, which would have given them the home semi-final. They are a team that does get a bit rattled at the end of a game if things aren't going their way, but I didn't expect that to happen. I told the guys before last weekend's game that

every week the matches are just going to get bigger and bigger."

The lineout of both the Reds and Harden will be key areas in tomorrow's match and Pearson is looking to exploit what he called a 'one dimensional' lineout.

"We are going to need to improve our scrummaging and defensive lineouts for Saturday's match," he said. "Harden seem to be one dimensional with their line outs so hopefully we can put a bit of pressure on them and exploit their lineouts and grab some ball. They roll along well from their lineouts and even though they are hard to stop we can do it. But if we can keep the pill away from them it will make it hard. We have been practicing the same stuff at training this week so hopefully it will pay off."

There is a strong possibility that the Reds and Harden could again meet two weeks down the track and Pearson isn't sure whether it will be an advantage or a disadvantage.

"In some competitions, like this one, towards the business end of the season there is the possibility of playing the same team three times in a row," he said. "They are the form team of the comp and if we can't beat them this weekend we don't deserve to be in the grand final."

Pearson said the same starting team will take the field on Saturday, with major injuries suffered last weekend. The Reds and Harden will clash at Poidevin Oval at 3pm tomorrow.

MAJOR SEMI - Report

Harden outplay, outmuscle Reds

By PETER OLIVER

A lack of aggression at the breakdown and set piece has cost the Goulburn Dirty Reds a chance to host a home grand final. The Reds were comprehensively outplayed on many fronts by the Harden Red Devils, who now have a week off to prepare for their home final against the winner of the Reds and RMC.

Despite the Reds beating Harden in their two regular season clashes, the Goulburn lads were blown off the paddock by a Red Devils unit that turned up ready for some serious rugby at Poidevin Oval on Saturday and came away with a 36-22 victory.

The mind games by Harden began before a ball was kicked in anger, when they opted out of the traditional handshake with the Reds before the match, instead choosing to run on and prepare for the kickoff straight away.

This typified the attitude Harden had to the match, and from the opening

kick the Reds were on the backfoot. The Reds struggled to muscle up against the rampant Harden pack, constantly being blown back off the ball at the breakdown and nullifying any mid-field attack the Reds threw at them.

The breakdown battle was very one-sided, and Harden used their big men to scavenge any loose ball with great effect. Scrum-half Jeff Caldwell was constantly on the hop, often looking up at the breakdown and seeing several Harden defenders storming through the gate at him.

While the Reds' scrum gained strength as the match went on, the lineouts were constantly in disarray in both attack and defence. Harden on more than one occasion won their lineout and mauled the ball upfield, with the Reds seemingly hapless to stop them.

The problems weren't restricted to the forwards, with the backline given little room to move as the Harden outside backs rushed up. Wingers Jay Butler and Martin Browne did what they could in the limited amount of space they had, but were often swamped by defenders.

Flanker Anthony Yeo bagged himself two well-earned tries, including a des-

perate charge down close to Harden's line. The crowd waited anxiously to see which way the ball would bounce, but it eventually fell Yeo's way.

The normally reliable Mikael Webber missed the seemingly easy conversion from just wide of the sticks just before halftime, but by then the game was all but out of the Reds' reach.

Harden had two players binned for dangerous tackles, and the Reds took advantage of the two-man overlap, with Yeo notching up his second try when the Reds applied pressure through the forwards and scored in the corner.

Fly-half Matthew Klem also grabbed himself a try with a dancing little solo run through some sloppy defence, despite being flattened early on in the match by his own second rower in a moment of confusion at the breakdown.

It's not all over for the Reds, with this weekend's now vital match against RMC a chance for redemption and revenge, along with a grand final showdown, against Harden.

Harden 36 def. Goulburn 22 (Anthony Yeo 2, Matt Klem tries, Webber 2 conv., 1 pen goal).

FINAL - Preview

Reds' forwards the key

By RICKY TOZER

After being completely dominated last weekend the Goulburn Dirty Reds' forward pack must stand up against the in-form RMC outfit tomorrow at Poidevin Oval.

If they don't stand up and dominate as they did earlier in the season, the Reds season will be over.

The Reds' performance against Harden in last Saturday's major semi-final was described as very disappointing by coach Ben Pearson, but with some changes in the forwards he is expecting a different result tomorrow.

"Last weekend was very disappointing, but we are now focused on this weekend's game," Pearson said. "We worked hard on the lineout at training on Tuesday night and on Thursday (yesterday) we will work on scrummaging and our lineout in particular. The forwards were the major issue in last weekend's loss. They just didn't gain ascendancy to allow the backs some space."

RMC are the form team of the competition, having beaten both the Reds and Harden in the weeks leading up to the finals and despite them having to travel to Goulburn, Pearson is expecting a tough battle. RMC won through to the preliminary

final with a crushing 54-29 victory over Cooma.

"RMC have been playing some good rugby and will be very tough again," he said. "But we have the advantage of the home ground again this weekend."

Pearson will inject a bit of tall timber into the lineout this weekend with regular winger Rob Sheekey slotting into the second row. Sheekey came off the bench last weekend and was one of the few Reds' players who made inroads into the Harden defence.

"The lineout and the scrum are the key areas this weekend. If we can't get possession from our own lineout it is going to make things hard," Pearson said. "Rob Sheekey will come into the second row, which will hopefully help out with the lineouts with some added height."

While Pearson knows a complete team performance is needed tomorrow, he has singled out the forwards as the main battle of the match.

"RMC hold possession really well and they took a lot of ball from us last time we played them. This weekend we are going to have to get the ball and look to go forward," he said. "The team has to play well all across the park, but the forward battle is shaping up as the key."

The Reds and RMC's sudden death preliminary final kicks off tomorrow at 3pm at Poidevin Oval.

FINAL - Report

Reds tackle way into final

By RICKY TOZER

They may have taken the longer, harder road, but the Goulburn Dirty Reds are through to the 2006 grand final after a gutsy **17-12 victory** over RMC on Saturday at Poidevin Oval.

A massive defensive effort by the whole Reds outfit paved the way for their success, which wasn't guaranteed until the final whistle was blown. The Reds will now go on to tackle Harden in next weekend's decider and it will be the third time in four weeks the top two sides have clashed, with the ledger currently squared at one win a piece.

Things didn't look too healthy for the Reds early on as RMC took complete control of the match from the outset. The cadets spent the first 15 minutes off the match buried deep inside the Reds' 22, but through some quality defence and sloppy ball control the Reds were able to repel their charges.

But, just when the Reds looked to be getting back on even terms the game swung around. Martin Browne attempted a grubber 40m out from his line, however the kick rebounded from an RMC player and into a team mates arm, who ran 40m

to score and give the visitors a 7-0 lead.

The Reds hit back soon after through some great running rugby. A fine cut-out pass from Mikael Webber caught Jay Butler on the chest and he offloaded to Neil Gustafson to cross out wide. Webber missed the conversion and the score was 7-5.

The Reds' lineout, which coach Ben Pearson was eager to improve, was dominant during the match with Robbie Sheekey claiming almost all of the Reds throws, while nabbing a few of RMC's.

The score didn't change before the break and the Reds trailed 7-5 with 40 minutes remaining.

Early into the second half the Reds took the lead for the first time in the match when Dave Anable shrugged off some weak defence to barge over next to the posts. Webber converted for a 12-7 scoreline.

The Reds almost made it back to back tries when Sheekey made a 60m bust from the kick off, however he ran out of support players and was pushed into touch.

RMC looked to close the gap soon after when they received a penalty almost in front of the sticks, however the kick somehow missed and proved very costly in the end result.

With the clock ticking down and the

large crowd getting nervous Webber missed a field goal from 20m out. Despite the miss Webber was there to hand Gustafson his second try five minutes later, which all but sealed the match for the Reds.

Webber uncharacteristically missed the conversion, but the Reds held a commanding 17-7 lead with 10 to go. With the game and RMC's season almost over the visitors launched one more raid on the Reds line and came up trumps when they crossed under the posts for an encouraging try.

The conversion would have seen the margin reduced to three points, however the RMC kicker rushed the kick and skewed it wide from in front, and all but ended his sides hopes of a grand final berth.

The Reds held on for the victory, with RMC throwing away a late chance to cross the line.

The standout for the Reds was forward Dave Anable, winger Browne, whose defence was outstanding throughout the match and Chris Kilby, who pulled off a miraculous try saving tackle in the last 15 minutes.

Goulburn 17 (Neil Gustafson 2, Dave Anable tries; Webber 1 conv.) def. RMC 12.

Grand Final Player Profiles

Dave Anable - loosehead

The Reds' massive front rower is a strong scrummager and a devastating defender around the ruck, who relishes ball runners heading his way. Will wreak havoc amongst the Harden defenders if he can find himself a bit of space.

Ben Pearson (c) - hooker

The captain/coach of the side who can fill a variety of positions and loves to lead by example. Aggressive in every facet of the game and brings a bucket-load of experience into the side.

Aaron Wild - tighthead

A bustling ball-runner who loves to smash the ball up into opposition defenders from the ruck or pick and drive. Has worked hard on his scrummaging, and can usually be seen in amongst the thick of the action.

Robbie Cosgrove - lock

A young veteran of the club, Cosgrove is an old head on young shoulders. Very reliable in the set piece, will provide good service all around the paddock.

Rob Sheekey - lock

Without a doubt the fastest second-rower in the competition, Sheekey's move in off the wing and into the pack gives the Reds a plethora of options at the lineout and gives the side quick service to the breakdown.

Chris Kilby - flanker

Makes up one third of the Reds' hard working back three. A tremendous tackler in close to the ruck, and gives the Reds plenty of attacking options at both the set piece and in open play.

Scott Kremer - flanker

Built low to the ground, Kremer is often found in the middle of a ruck pinching opposition ball. Adds plenty of mongrel to the back, wouldn't know how to take a backward step.

Anthony Yeo - Number 8

A hard tackling and even harder running eight-man. Loves to get in there and spoil opposition ball at the breakdown. Will be looking to continue his marvellous season-long form into tomorrow's match.

Jeff Caldwell - scrum half

Mercurial scrum-half, and part of one of the competition's most experienced scrum-base pairs. Is often heard getting his defence organised, and delivers quality ball to his outside backs or fly-half

Matthew Klem - fly half

The Reds' most experienced player and the rock they build their attack on. Reads the game well and knows how and when to change the pace of the game to suit his side. Also a hard hitting defender in midfield.

Martin Browne - winger

Put the big guns on display last week with some teeth-rattling, try-saving tackles out wide. Relishes big matches and is another experienced player who has been running himself into form as the big decider approaches.

Anthony Allport - inside centre

Probably the Reds' most versatile player, Allport can cover most positions in the back line, as well as hooker. Possesses a devastating step and is hard to get to the deck.

Mick Webber - outside centre

A smooth player who takes pressure of Klem with his excellent kicking game. Also the side's goal kicker, Webber is dangerous in attack and solid in defence.

Jay Butler - winger

A fine finisher with plenty of pace to burn. Has shown previously unknown defensive skills out wide recently. If the backs get some ball this weekend, Butler could find himself over in the corner.

Neil Gustafson - fullback

A wily and elusive custodian with an unusual gazelle-like step. Like the rest of the Reds backline, is dangerous in open field and provides plenty of attacking options.

Peter Oliver - reserve

A big prop who has shown tremendous improvement in 2006 in what is only his third year with the club. Pete has worked very hard to improve his fitness this season and is reaping the rewards.

Doug Webster - reserve

Big Dougie is another young prop that is in his first season with the Reds. A hard runner of the football who has adjusted to the rugby lifestyle both on and off field very nicely.

Chris Griffin - reserve

Chris is a quality inside back with experience on his side. Has a leadership role with the team being dubbed "the captain of the bench".

Dillon Mackie - reserve

Big Spud is a second rower/back rower with good size and speed. Has played a fair bit of first grade this year and has become a cult figure with his mop like head of hair.

Nathan Stewart - reserve

Another first year Red that has great speed, footwork and skill. Likely to be a first choice replacement in the back line on the wing.

Joel McPherson - reserve

Little Joely is another player in his first season with the club. Has joined the club fresh out of school. Has started at both scrum half and on the wing this year in first grade.

Charlie Brewer - reserve

Brewer has played a majority of his football this year in first grade this season. An aggressive and very strong player who will come from the bench to give the Reds some real go forward and impact.

Boyd Newby

Boyd suffered a freak injury at the last training run before last week's game dislocating his knee and ending his season. A strong back rower with good speed that the Reds will truly miss this weekend.

Geoff Shepherd

Long serving water boy for the Reds. Has hardly missed a game for the team over the past few years. Geoff will need to be at the top of his game if the Reds are to bring home the bacon

***Footnote:** Current Reds players, Peter Oliver and Rob Sheekey ran the rule of their team mates to come up with these insightful and spot on player profiles ahead of tomorrow's grand final against Harden at Harden.*

GRAND FINAL - Preview

Time to break the drought

By RICKY TOZER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds haven't won a first grade premiership for 28 years and tomorrow they get their first chance this century to do so when they meet the Harden Red Devils at Harden.

The Reds last won a first grade premiership back in 1978 and haven't played in the grand final since 1991, but coach Ben Pearson is confident his troops can do the job in their 50th year since reforming after World War II.

"I think everyone is nervous, like most people are before

things like this," Pearson said. "But if you go into the match over confident it's not a good thing."

The Reds won through to the grand final with a thrilling 17-12 victory over RMC last weekend and Pearson knows there is more improvement left in the team.

"I didn't think we played all that well last weekend. We were lucky to get away with the game, but we will definitely take it," he said. "Our lineout was an extreme improvement on any time during the season and I am hoping that continues this weekend."

Harden's forward pack propelled them into the grand final when they ran over the top of the Reds in the major semi-final and Pearson knows they must be stopped for the Reds to have a chance.

GRAND FINAL - Comment

Fairytale in the making for Reds

By PETER OLIVER

They say there's no such thing as fairytale finishes in sport; that last gasp wins by underdogs are strictly the stuff of legend, reserved exclusively for Disney movies. In years past too many have sought their own fairytale win, only to stumble at the final hurdle.

But there is one side determined to make it happen.

The Goulburn Dirty Reds are seeking their own fairytale finish as the club, that so many have spilt blood, sweat and tears for, notches up its 50th year since reforming after World War II.

The road this season for the Reds squad has been relatively smooth, with the first grade side escaping any major injury concerns, apart from club captain Boyd Newby, who suffered a season ending knee injury last week.

Captain Ben Pearson took over four weeks into the season following the departure of coach Rod White for personal reasons.

The club didn't lose its focus, not dropping another game until meeting RMC in the third last round of the comp.

The Reds claimed regular season

victories against all teams in the competition - the only side to do so.

They beat the Harden Red Devils in an absolute thriller to claim the minor premiership at home, before being steamrolled by them in the major semi-final the following week.

Redemption came a week later when they out-muscled the Cadets from RMC, putting them into tomorrow's grand final.

Whether it's revenge and redemption for the semi-final loss, the Reds have plenty of motivation for tomorrow's match.

None of the current squad have won a first grade grand final with the Reds, and only a couple were actually alive when the Reds took out their last top grade premiership.

Although the Reds may not attract the same crowds or citywide adulation as their rugby league counterparts, they are one side Goulburn can be proud of.

For the past 50 years, the Reds have provided Goulburn with many rugby memories, with the most recent the third grade premiership in 1992.

Surely, it's once again the Reds' turn to taste success.

The Reds are one of those sides where everyone in town knows someone who played for the club at sometime or another.

Local rugby fanatic Terry Tilden played on the wing in that first game

50 years ago when Goulburn were known as the Waratahs.

You can bet that Tilden will be on the sideline tomorrow, anxiously casting an eye over the match, hoping to see another Reds premiership.

Tilden won't be the only one supporting the Reds tomorrow. Two busloads of fans are making the trip to Harden to show their support for the Dirty Reds, who go into tomorrow's match as underdogs.

And doesn't everyone love an underdog.

Along the way this season tackle bags have been crunched, scrum machines blown backwards and miles of strapping tape applied to keep sore joints moving.

The Reds have faced numerous character tests along the way, and despite dropping the odd match here and there, have done themselves proud each time.

Wouldn't a premiership be a sensational and fitting way to celebrate the Club's golden jubilee - for the 2006 squad to have their legacy etched proudly in the club's history, to be remembered in years to come as the side that broke a drought that has lasted nearly 30 years.

They say there's no such thing as fairytale finishes in sport. Hopefully, this year's Reds squad can prove this one old adage wrong.

GO THE REDS!



GRAND FINAL - Report

28-year title drought continues

By RICKY TOZER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds' 28-year premiership drought continues after they were outplayed by the Harden Red Devils in Saturday's grand final at Harden.

Harden's brute strength and speed out wide was too much for the Reds, who despite putting in a valiant effort couldn't match their opponents and went down 27-6.

Some simple errors, both in defence and attack came to haunt the Reds, however inaccurate kicking from Harden made the score a lot more pleasant for the Reds.

Harden began the match as red-hot favourites, however a hearty Goulburn crowd made the trip down the highway to cheer on the Reds and hope for the dream upset.

Harden had the first chance of the match when a raid down the right hand side resulted in a kick towards the posts. Harden won the race to the ball, but couldn't ground it.

The Reds received a relieving penalty shortly after, but in an attempt to get out of their own end they failed to find touch from the kick.

Harden threw the ball wide and created an over lap out wide and they crossed for the first try of the decider. The conversion was unsuccessful and they led 5-0.

The Reds worked deep into Harden's half on a number of occasions, but were struggling string together phases. Rarely did the Reds hold the ball for more than three or four phases before it was pinched by Harden or lost by the Reds.

Harden then exploited some open space down the right hand side, before spinning the ball to the left where they found some joy again. Reds' winger Jay Butler was left with two men to mark, and despite pushing them wide, he couldn't stop them from crossing and the home side led 10-0.

Five minutes later Harden drove the dagger deeper into the hearts of the Reds when another sweeping backline move paid dividends out wide. Again the conversion was wide and despite conceding three tries the Reds only trailed 15-0.

The Reds closed the gap to nine points just before halftime when outside centre Mikael Webber potted two penalty goals to make the score 15-6 at the break.

After the break the Reds came out fired up and put Harden under some pressure, with both sides battling for field position in a gripping duel.

After 20 minutes Harden finally broke the tense stand off when they scored a brilliant try down the left wing. Harden made a break near halfway and after a few handy passes the ball was put to the boot.

Reds' inside centre Anthony Allport was the only Goulburn player within sight, but despite chasing till the death he couldn't stop Harden from scoring the try which all but sealed the match.

Harden scored a late push over try, however one of their players was taken away in the ambulance after suffering an injury in the movement.

The Reds were comprehensively defeated in the grand final, but lost no fans with their never say die attitude. Captain Ben Pearson was inspiration as always, while Allport ran with plenty of gusto made indents in Harden's solid defence.

Harden 27 def. Goulburn 6 (Mikael Webber 2 pen goals).

Monaro Rugby Tables

8/23/2006

2006 First, Second and Women's Division Competition Tables

1st Division - Round 14
2nd Division and Womens-
Regular Season Completed

First Division

1st Grade - Round 14

	P	W	L	D	Bye	B	F	A	Total	%
Goulburn	12	10	2	0	2	9	484	175	57	277 %
Harden	12	9	3	0	2	11	443	148	55	299 %
RMC *	12	8	4	0	2	10	339	230	50	147 %
Cooma	12	8	4	0	2	8	359	215	48	167 %
Yass	12	4	8	0	2	5	171	385	29	44 %
Tuggeranong	12	2	10	0	3	6	181	454	26	40 %
Hall	12	1	11	0	2	2	140	518	14	27 %

* Please Note - 5 Competition Points deducted for a breach of Competition Rules & Result Reversed

2nd Grade

	P	W	L	D	Bye	B	F	A	Total	%
Royals	12	11	1	0	2	9	376	69	61	545 %
Harden	12	10	2	0	2	7	356	113	55	315 %
Cooma	12	7	5	0	2	5	210	222	41	95 %
Hall	12	5	7	0	2	5	179	314	33	57 %
Yass	12	5	7	0	2	3	167	171	31	98 %
Goulburn	12	2	10	0	2	5	122	288	21	42 %
RMC	12	2	10	0	2	2	77	322	18	24 %

Second Division- Round 14

	P	W	L	NR	Bye	B	F	A	Total
Boorowa	14	12	2	0	0	13	409	138	61
Jindabyne	14	9	5	0	0	7	333	276	43
Bungendore	14	8	6	0	0	10	270	244	42
Taralga	14	8	6	0	0	5	246	192	37
Crookwell	14	7	7	0	0	9	351	287	37
Wests	14	6	8	0	0	4	175	265	28
Bombala	13	4	9	1	0	5	226	329	23
Uni-Norths	13	1	12	1	0	3	115	390	9

Women's Division- Round 9

	P	W	L	D	Bye	B	F	A	Total
Royals	10	9	1	0	0	6	350	88	42
Uni- Norths	10	8	2	0	0	7	244	80	39
Easts	10	6	4	0	0	6	310	135	30
Queanbeyan	10	3	7	0	0	3	166	314	15
ADFA	10	2	8	0	0	7	131	267	15
Wests	10	2	8	0	0	2	91	408	10

P = Played, W = Won, L = Lost, D = Drawn, NR = No Result, B = Bonus Points, F = Points For, A = Points Against, Total = Comp Points % = this is Points For divided by Points Against and expressed as a percentage

Club Best & Fairest Points Tally

First Grade	29.4.06	6.5.06	13.5.06	27.5.06	3.6.06	17.6.06	24.6.06	1.7.06	8.7.06	22.7.06	5.8.06	12.8.06	
Opponent	Cooma	Yass	Tugg	RMC	Hall	Harden	Cooma	Yass	Tugg	RMC	Hall	Harden	
Result	19-22	37-0	31-8	40-15	51-6	23-18	25-18	31-7	85-14	24-29	85-0	27-24	
Round	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	TOT
Yeo, Anthony	3		1	3			3			1	3		14
Allport, Anthony				2			2	3	2	2	1		12
Caldwell, Jeff		2	2			1				3			8
Pearson, Ben		1			1	3						2	7
Klem, Matt		3					1	2					6
Webber, Mick			3									3	6
Anable, Dave					2						1	1	4
Brewer, Charlie									3				3
Kilby, Chris									1		2		3
Kremer, Scott						2	1						3
Wild, Aaron					3								3
Elford, Heath	2												2
Butler, Jay				1									1
Green, Ben	1												1
Gustafson, Neil								1					1

Second Grade	29.4.06	6.5.06	13.5.06	27.5.06	3.6.06	17.6.06	24.6.06	1.7.06	8.7.06	22.7.06	5.8.06	12.8.06	
Opponent	Cooma	Yass	Royals	RMC	Hall	Harden	Cooma	Yass	Royals	RMC	Hall	Harden	
Result	5-12	5-36	0-38	13-10	57-10	0-45	23-25	0-5	10-33	10-20	0-19	5-39	
Round	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	TOT
Green, Ben	2	2	2	3	2	1	3						15
Garnock, Lindsay						3			2		3	3	11
McPherson, Joel		3	3	2				3					11
Lyttle, Pat							2			3		2	7
Brewer, Charlie		1			3	2							6
Neville, Cameron					1				3		2		6
Fry, Daniel	3												3
Mackie, Dillon				1				1	1				3
Martin, Reilly										1	1	1	3
Webster, Doug							1			2			3
Kremer, Jason								2					2
Izod, Scott										1			1
Oliver, Peter	1												1
Tucker, Adam			1										1

Complete Player Summary

1st grade, Goulburn Rugby Union
29-Apr-2006 to 02-Sep-2006

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	PG	FG	Pts	Ave	B&F
1	A Allport	GRU	12	3	-	-	-	15	1.25	12
2	D Anable	GRU	15	1	-	-	-	5	0.33	4
3	C Brewer	GRU	9	1	-	-	-	5	0.55	3
4	M Browne	GRU	14	4	-	-	-	20	1.42	
5	J Butler	GRU	12	3	-	-	-	15	1.25	1
6	B Butler	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
7	J Caldwell	GRU	15	4	-	-	-	20	1.33	8
8	R Cosgrove	GRU	14	1	-	-	-	5	0.35	
9	E Dougall	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
10	H Elford	GRU	6	2	-	-	-	10	1.66	2
11	D Fry	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
12	B Green	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	1
13	C Griffin	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
14	N Gustafson	GRU	12	6	-	-	-	30	2.50	1
15	N Hewitt	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
16	C Kilby	GRU	13	1	-	-	-	5	0.38	3
17	M Klem	GRU	15	8	-	-	-	40	2.66	6
18	S Kremer	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45	3
19	P Lyttle	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
20	D Mackie	GRU	6	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
21	J McPherson	GRU	8	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
22	B Newby	GRU	13	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
23	P Oliver	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
24	B Pearson	GRU	12	2	-	-	-	10	0.83	7
25	R Sheekey	GRU	9	13	-	-	-	65	7.22	
26	B Smith	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
27	N Stewart	GRU	5	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
28	M Webber	GRU	15	13	51	22	-	233	15.53	6
29	D Webster	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
30	Matt White	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
31	A Wild	GRU	15	2	-	-	-	10	0.66	3
32	A Yeo	GRU	15	6	-	-	-	30	2.00	14

2nd, Goulburn Rugby Union
29-Apr-2006 to 02-Sep-2006

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	PG	FG	Pts	Ave	B&F
1	J Baird	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
2	C Brewer	GRU	4	1	-	-	-	5	1.25	6
3	M Browne	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
4	J Butler	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
5	B Butler	GRU	6	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
6	J Caldwell	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
7	R Cosgrove	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	

2nd Grade, Goulburn Rugby Union (Cont)
29-Apr-2006 to 02-Sep-2006

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	PG	FG	Pts	Ave	B&F
8	E Dougall	GRU	4	1	-	-	-	5	1.25	
9	S Duitallis	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
10	H Elford	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
11	W Elford	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
12	C Field	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
13	D Fry	GRU	7	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	3
14	L Garnock	GRU	10	1	-	-	-	5	0.50	11
15	A Ginn	GRU	3	1	-	-	-	5	1.66	
16	A Grados	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
17	B Green	GRU	9	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	15
18	C Griffin	GRU	9	1	-	-	-	5	0.55	
19	N Harton	GRU	5	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
20	N Hewitt	GRU	10	2	-	-	-	10	1.00	
21	S Izod	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	1
22	C Kilby	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
23	S Kremer	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
24	J Kremer	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	2
25	W Lesberg	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
26	P Little	GRU	10	2	-	-	-	10	1.00	7
27	D Mackie	GRU	9	2	5	1	-	23	2.55	3
28	R Martin	GRU	10	2	-	-	-	10	1.00	3
29	D McCulloch	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
30	J McPherson	GRU	10	1	1	-	-	7	0.70	11
31	S Miller	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
32	B Moore	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
33	G Moroney	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
34	C Neville	GRU	7	2	-	-	-	10	1.42	6
35	B Newby	GRU	2	1	-	-	-	5	2.50	
36	P Oliver	GRU	12	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	1
37	B Pearson	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
38	M Peden	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
39	J Settree	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
40	R Sheekey	GRU	1	2	-	-	-	10	10.00	
41	J Smith	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45	
42	B Smith	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
43	C Stapleton	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
44	N Stewart	GRU	7	1	-	1	-	8	1.14	
45	O Taylor	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
46	D Tilley	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
47	A Tucker	GRU	12	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	1
48	M Webber	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
49	D Webster	GRU	9	1	-	-	-	5	0.55	3
50	Matt White	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
51	A Yeo	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	

**All Grades, Goulburn Rugby Union
29-Apr-2006 to 02-Sep-2006**

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	PG	FG	Pts	Ave
1	A Allport	GRU	12	3	-	-	-	15	1.25
2	D Anable	GRU	15	1	-	-	-	5	0.33
3	J Baird	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
4	C Brewer	GRU	13	2	-	-	-	10	0.76
5	M Browne	GRU	15	4	-	-	-	20	1.33
6	J Butler	GRU	13	3	-	-	-	15	1.15
7	B Butler	GRU	7	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
8	J Caldwell	GRU	17	4	-	-	-	20	1.17
9	R Cosgrove	GRU	15	1	-	-	-	5	0.33
10	E Dougall	GRU	5	1	-	-	-	5	1.00
11	S Duitallis	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
12	H Elford	GRU	9	2	-	-	-	10	1.11
13	W Elford	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
14	C Field	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
15	D Fry	GRU	10	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
16	L Garnock	GRU	10	1	-	-	-	5	0.50
17	A Ginn	GRU	3	1	-	-	-	5	1.66
18	A Grados	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
19	B Green	GRU	12	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
20	C Griffin	GRU	12	1	-	-	-	5	0.41
21	N Gustafson	GRU	12	6	-	-	-	30	2.50
22	N Harton	GRU	5	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
23	N Hewitt	GRU	13	2	-	-	-	10	0.76
24	S Izod	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
25	C Kilby	GRU	14	1	-	-	-	5	0.35
26	M Klem	GRU	15	8	-	-	-	40	2.66
27	S Kremer	GRU	15	1	-	-	-	5	0.33
28	J Kremer	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00

All Grades, Goulburn Rugby Union (Cont)
29-Apr-2006 to 02-Sep-2006

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	PG	FG	Pts	Ave
29	W Lesberg	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
30	P Lyttle	GRU	11	2	-	-	-	10	0.90
31	D Mackie	GRU	15	2	5	1	-	23	1.53
32	R Martin	GRU	10	2	-	-	-	10	1.00
33	D McCulloch	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
34	J McPherson	GRU	18	1	1	-	-	7	0.38
35	S Miller	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
36	B Moore	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
37	G Moroney	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
38	C Neville	GRU	7	2	-	-	-	10	1.42
39	B Newby	GRU	15	1	-	-	-	5	0.33
40	P Oliver	GRU	16	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
41	B Pearson	GRU	16	2	-	-	-	10	0.62
42	M Peden	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
43	J Settree	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
44	R Sheekey	GRU	10	15	-	-	-	75	7.50
45	J Smith	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
46	B Smith	GRU	5	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
47	C Stapleton	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
48	N Stewart	GRU	12	1	-	1	-	8	0.66
49	O Taylor	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
50	D Tilley	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
51	A Tucker	GRU	12	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
52	M Webber	GRU	16	13	51	22	-	233	14.56
53	D Webster	GRU	13	1	-	-	-	5	0.38
54	Matt White	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
55	A Wild	GRU	15	2	-	-	-	10	0.66
56	A Yeo	GRU	16	6	-	-	-	30	1.87

Season 2006 Club Awards

Best & Fairest Players

First Grade - Anthony Yeo
Second Grade - Ben Green

Most Improved Players

First Grade - Chris Kilby
Second Grade - Nathan Stewart

Players' Players

First grade - Mikael Webber
Second grade - Ben Green

Mark Longhurst Most Outstanding Prospect Award

Chris Kilby

Chris Brown Clubman of the Year Award

Matthew Klem

John Osmond Most Dedicated Player Award

Anthony Allport

Kevin "Bubby" Fitzsimmons Encouragement Award

Joel McPherson

Rick Buckley & Joe Fitzgibbon Outstanding Achievement Award

Boyd Newby

Simon Poidevin Breakaway of the Year Award

Anthony Yeo

Goal-scorers

First Grade - Mikael Webber (51 conv. + 22 PG = 168 points)

Second Grade - Dylan Mackie (5 conv. + 1 PG = 13 points)

Club - Mikael Webber (51 conv. + 22 PG = 168 points)

Try-scorers

First Grade - Mikael Webber, Rob Sheekey (13 tries each)

Second Grade - Nathan Hewitt, Cameron Neville, Pat Little, Reilly Martin,
Dylan Mackie, Rob Sheekey (2 tries each)

Club - Rob Sheekey (15 tries)

Pointscorers

First Grade - Mikael Webber (233 points)

Second Grade - Dylan Mackie (23 points)

Club - Mikael Webber (233 points)

Animal of the Year - Charlie Brewer

Village Idiot - Boyd Newby

El Meato (Butchered Try) Award - Boyd Newby

Dummy Spit of the Year - Jay Butler

Yabby Award - Reilly Martin