

# Goulburn Rugby Union Football Club

## Yearbook & Annual Report 2009



# THE THREE-PEAT



## 2009: The Year in Review

Welcome to our year in review and thanks for being a part of Goulburn Rugby in 2009.

This season marks the third season in a row that we have finished the season as reigning premiers. That has only happened once before in this club—in the 70s in the Southern Tablelands competition.

Each year it gets harder to maintain the standards and rise to the challenge of clubs that now target us and know more about us, but coach Matt O'Rourke has now earned a spot as the club's most successful coach after this historic Three-Peat.

Both Chook and club president Matt Klem have supplied us with reports for the season and both of those appear in this Yearbook. Sadly, Chook has packed away the clipboard and will be taking a break from coaching—and a very well-earned one at that for a bloke who made his debut with the club in 1986. His shoes will be hard to fill but the legacy he leaves behind is that of a disciplined club that knows a bit more about winning. Thanks Chook.

Thanks to all of the players who contributed to the year and to the other members of the coaching staff—reserve grade coach Dave Ellison, manager and assistant manager Dave Stephens and Geoffro Shepherd, and strapper Anthony White. The club has been blessed with such a group who volunteer their services freely and with a smile.

Off the field, the Fizzys and Tablelands Reds continue to grow and the old brigade of the Fermented Reds is poised for a resurgence with the Golden Oldies World Cup in Sydney taking place in 2010.

As with every year, this book relies heavily on the efforts of two men - Gary Stephens and Peter Oliver. On top of the heavy duties attached to him as manager on match day, Stepho also maintains accurate playing records which he has done since 1998 and it's thanks to him the statistics and records have been saved. And Pete, through his insightful match reports and the kind permission of the Goulburn Post, has supplied us with match reports for each match. .

But there is no rugby club without the followers who stick by us when other options often call on their time. The supporters and sponsors, friends and family of the Reds keep the place alive and we hope you enjoyed another great year with the club.

**Chris Gordon**

## **GRU Life Members**

John Bell  
Bruce Bailey (dec)  
Gordon Cabot  
Nick Els  
Bert Geissler (dec)  
Win Healey (dec)  
Greg Hussey  
Kevin Kara  
David Klem  
Matthew Klem



Brian "Rocky" Lulham  
Dr Doug McCulloch  
Brian "Snow" Maloney  
John Osmond  
Ken Player (dec)  
John Shiel  
Gary Stephens  
Terry Tilden  
Sam White

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Liz McLoughlin

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Sam White

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Peter Oliver/Col Groves

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Paul O'Rourke

### **Publicity Officer**

Peter Oliver/Chris Gordon

### **Public Officer**

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Benny Moore  
Dave Ellison  
Gordon Cabot  
Kev Kara  
Ben "Yogi" Pearson  
John Tilley

### **Registrar**

Liz McLoughlin

### **Fizzy Reds Co-ordinator**

Liz McLoughlin

### **Tablelands Reds Co-ordinator**

Peter Greaves

### **Fermented Reds Co-ordinator**

David Neal

### **Coach (1st Grade)**

Matt O'Rourke

### **Coach (2nd Grade)**

Dave Ellison

### **Managers**

Gary Stephens

### **Assistant Manager**

Geoff Shepherd

### **Strapper**

Anthony White

### **Grounds Marshall**

Bob Whittaker

### **Website & Stuff**

Chris Gordon

# President's Report

The following is the speech given by Club President Matt Klem at the 2009 Presentation Night dinner

Good evening and welcome to the 2009 Dirty Reds Presentation Night. A special welcome to our life members, committee, sponsors and players of the 2009 Premiership side. A special welcome to Andrew and Kate Longhurst, Andrew will be presenting the Mark Longhurst trophy later in the night.

Thanks to all the sponsors, our major sponsor Clarity home Loans, and other who are present tonight;

- John Thomas from Blue Hills Corner Store, who did a great job catering last Saturday night
- Sam White
- Boyce Accountants
- Pearson Engineering
- Boyd Newby Constructions

Without the support of our sponsors, clubs such as ours would not operate to the level the Reds have done. Along with all the other sponsors who are listed on the program, thank you for your kind support, it is much appreciated.

2009 saw the Fizzy Reds commence in May with an increase in numbers. This year saw Braidwood and Crookwell join the ranks, and they look to increase in numbers for next season. Thanks to Liz and her helpers in successfully organising the Friday night competition.

2009 was the fourth year for the Tablelands Reds, fielding an under 15's side for the first time, all levels competed at a higher division this year, in which they held their own. Thanks to all the coaches and managers of these teams, and we look forward to seeing you back next year.

The Dirty Reds – First grade premiers for the third year running. Congratulations to the Club on a great effort. Thanks to Chook for again coaching the first grade, and achieving three from three is a great achievement, will we see you for a forth premiership title.

Dave "Kiwi" Ellison was the new kid on the block, Dave brought new ideas to the pre season, and has slotted into the club like he has been here for years. This was a relief for Chookie in the coaching ranks. Thanks Dave hop to retain you for next year.

Whitey - we are fortunate to have you in the Club. To donate your time and expertise week in week out is appreciated. I think it is his 10 year anniversary this year. Thanks mate.

Stevo – the facts and figures man, part of the brains trust that has guided us to premiership victory. Thanks for all your hard work throughout the season.

Geoffro – everybodies mate and the Dirty Reds number on man. Best waterboy by a country mile. Thanks for your dedicated work within the club.

Congratulations to Newby, Webby and Joely who were selected in the Monaro rep team, and won country weekend. A special mention to Webby for being named player of the tournament, well done mate.

Thank you to all the players and supporters for the support you have shown throughout the 2009 season. It was tough times during the season with players having back up on some occasions. Seconds had an up and down season making the semi only to be knocked out by Hall who played in the grandfinal. To all involved, to play with 14 men in the semi due to lack of numbers is a credit to you all.

1<sup>st</sup> grade finished second then won the major semi away to advance to a home grandfinal. What a game, the Dirty Reds prevailed after 80 minutes of breathtaking footy to claim their third straight title. A great club effort once again.

Thanks to all the helper on the day, without your help this would not have ran so smoothly. It was great to finally utilise the near completed clubhouse and soak up the winning atmosphere that most of us here tonight experienced.

To Sam and Squawker, these two deserve a special mention. Sam and Squawk for improvements of Poidevin Oval and the tonnes of sausages you cooked and the time donated at Gala Day was appreciated.

The Rugby Ball, numbers were down though it was a night that was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all for their donations of auction items. To the MC and auctioneers another great job.

To the committee, thanks again for another outstanding year in Goulburn Rugby, a thankless job that you guys excel in, once again thanks for all of your support throughout the 2009 season.

Last but not least, thanks to my family for allowing so much time to give to the Rugby family, the Dirty Reds.



# Coach's Report

The following is the speech given by First Grade coach Matt O'Rourke at the 2009 Presentation Night dinner

The 2009 rugby season highlighted the importance of contributions from all within the club to achieve the success of last weekend in taking out three successive first grade premierships. Coaching personnel, club committee, players and supporters should all be justifiably proud in achieving the on field highs.

**This year the Reds were again well served by the sideline trio of Geoffrey Sheppard, Gary Stephens & Anthony White.**

- o Geoffrey's familiar shuffle to the centre of the field with the water bottles is a strong identifier for the club as his general enthusiasm and appetite for McDonald's burgers or sausage sandwiches.

- o Stevo's reliability in getting the jumpers & Geoffrey to the game each week plus his thorough approach in compiling team sheets is a vital part of game day

- o Whitey earned his lucrative salary again this year, he was instrumental in preparing players for the game, getting the long list of injured players back on the field, and running messages to various players

**Coaching was well supported by Dave Ellison and Kev Kara.**

- o Dave had a difficult introduction to coaching in taking the reigns of second grade. His stuck with it throughout and even took the field on occasion rather than having first grade players double up. I hope he uses the experience of this year in seasons to come.

- o Kev is always available to help out in any way he can, his assistance at training with warm ups and the backs was invaluable plus he was already willing to give an opinion on what was working or not working throughout the season.

**On field the team was well led by senior players Boyd Newby and Mick Webber.**

- o Boyd led the team very well this year, his dedication and passion to the team was without peer. His personal game improved significantly, evidenced by his big performances during the final games of the year.

- o Mick Webber had an outstanding season, his game matured to the point where he had the largest individual influence on the outcome of the game. His man-of-the match effort in the GF was symbolic his season, fittingly he has been selected in a NSW Country President's XV game, an opportunity to showcase his talents in higher company.

**The club committee is well served by many people doing an array of jobs which also help to get the teams on the field each week.**

- o Matt Klem as President continues to build the profile of the club in the community,

- o Chris Gordon in recording the game and preparing the weekly write-ups,

- o Bob Whitaker in setting up and packing up the ground in a most reliable way,

- o Liz McLaughlin in driving the social events including the Ball,

- o Robbie Cosgrove for his work in the canteen and cleaning up after the home games plus a multitude of others who all go about the work in the background helping the teams get on the field each week, thanks for your contribution in realising the success of last weekend.



To use a cliché, the team itself was a wonderful mix of youth and experience.

A total of 32 players took the field for first grade at some point this season. Each at different stages of their playing careers, the age spectrum was wide with a number of players over 40 as well as a number of players under 20.

The average age was 28 (average age for ADFA was 20). What this team has achieved is remarkable, having only lost 4 games over three seasons with three premierships is a rare feat and one all involved should be justifiably proud of.

The GF was a fitting climax to the season where the team had to work harder than in any other season to achieve their goals. Throughout the last three years we have set the pace with the opposition trying to follow.

This year ADFA raised the standard of the competition, Cooma and Hall were also closer. The GF really showed the character of the team, persistence and belief were crucial ingredients to get their nose in front when it mattered. Congratulations to all involved, a most memorable occasion.

The last person I want to thank is Helen. Helen looked after our beautiful daughter while I was off at training or at the game, a big ask for any of the wives or partners who took on a similar role. Vivid memories of the season would be Cate running on the sideline with some of the other kids who would also come to the game, highlighting the importance of family support for all players, particularly those with children.

# Season Draw 2009

## 2009 FIRST DIVISION

24th Mar

			<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2</u>	<u>Round 3</u>
				6-Jun Comp Bye	
			2-May	13-Jun	25-Jul
Goulburn	v	Yass/Wests	Goulburn	Yass	Goulburn
Tugg/Royals	v	Hall	Royals	Hall	Tugg or Roy
Cooma		ADFA	ADFA	ADFA	Cooma
			9-May	20-Jun	1-Aug
Hall	v	Goulburn	Hall	Goulburn	Hall
Cooma	v	Yass/Wests	Cooma	Aranda	Cooma
Tugg/Royals		ADFA	Tuggeranong	ADFA	Tuggeranong
				27-Jun Comp Bye	
			16-May	4-Jul	8-Aug
Goulburn	v	Tugg/Royals	Goulburn	Royals	Goulburn
Cooma	v	Hall	Hall	Hall	Cooma
Yass/Wests		ADFA	ADFA	Yass	Aranda
			23-May	11-Jul	15-Aug
Tugg/Royals	v	Yass/Wests	Royals	Yass/Aran	Yass/Aran
Goulburn	v	Cooma	Goulburn	Cooma	Goulburn
Hall		ADFA	Hall	ADFA	Hall
			30-May	18-Jul	22-Aug
Tugg/Royals	v	Cooma	Cooma	Tuggeranong	Cooma
Yass/Wests	v	Hall	Yass	Hall	Yass
Goulburn		ADFA	ADFA	ADFA	Goulburn

*Finals Series Dates: 29th August, 5th & 12th September*

### KEY

Home Matches	Yass/Wests	6/4	KO @1030
	Goulburn	8	20th May
	Cooma	7	KO @1830
	Hall	8	25th June
	Tug/Roy	7	KO @1830
	ADFA	7	27th June
			KO @1400

# Season Match Results 2009

## FIRST GRADE

Round 1	2/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	31	def	Yass	5
Round 2	9/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	20	def	Hall	7
Round 3	16/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	24	def	Tuggeranong	0
Round 4	23/05/2009	Home	Goulburn	29	def	Cooma	17
Round 5	30/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	24	lost to	ADFA	40
Round 6	13/06/2009	Home	Goulburn	45	def	Yass	3
Round 7	20/06/2009	Home	Goulburn	36	def	Hall	21
Round 10	27/06/2009	Away	Goulburn	38	def	ADFA	20
Round 8	4/07/2009	Home	Goulburn	31	def	Tuggeranong	15
Round 9	11/07/2009	Away	Goulburn	22	def	Cooma	14
Round 11	25/07/2009	Home	Goulburn	53	def	Yass	14
Round 12	1/08/2009	Away	Goulburn	20	lost to	Hall	46
Round 13	8/08/2009	Home	Goulburn	36	def	Tuggeranong	7
Round 14	15/08/2009	Home	Goulburn	20	def	Cooma	13
Round 15	22/08/2009	Home	Goulburn	18	lost to	ADFA	29
Maj Semi Final	29/08/2009	Away	Goulburn	41	def	ADFA	36
Grand Final	12/09/2009	Home	Goulburn	21	def	ADFA	20
				FOR	509	AGAINST	307

## SECOND GRADE

Round 1	2/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	37	def	Wests	24
Round 2	9/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	33	lost to	Hall	41
Round 3	16/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	3	lost to	Royals	45
Round 4	23/05/2009	Home	Goulburn	10	def	Cooma	3
Round 5	30/05/2009	Away	Goulburn	3	lost to	ADFA	10
Round 6	13/06/2009	Home	Goulburn	74	def	Wests	7
Round 7	20/06/2009	Home	Goulburn	17	def	Hall	10
Round 10	27/06/2009	Away	Goulburn	0	lost to	ADFA	26
Round 8	4/07/2009	Home	Goulburn	17	lost to	Royals	48
Round 9	11/07/2009	Away	Goulburn	5	lost to	Cooma	36
Round 11	25/07/2009	Home	Goulburn	20	def	Wests	0
Round 12	1/08/2009	Away	Goulburn	17	lost to	Hall	39
Round 13	8/08/2009	Home	Goulburn	0	lost to	Tuggeranong	26
Round 14	15/08/2009	Home	Goulburn	28	def	Cooma	12
Round 15	22/08/2009	Home	Goulburn	24	def	ADFA	19
Min Semi Final	29/08/2009	Away	Goulburn	19	lost to	ADFA	36
				FOR	307	AGAINST	382



Round 1  
Saturday, May 2, 2009

## Reds open with dual wins

By PETE OLIVER

THE Goulburn Dirty Reds have continued their winning run from last season, with a 31-5 win over the Yass Rams in the opening round of the 2009 Monaro Competition.

It was a new look Reds First XV who took the field, boasting only three forwards from last year's Premiership winning starting side.

Fly-half Mick Webber put in a man of the match performance, scoring a try, landing all his kicks and pulling off some crunching tackles in the midfield.

The Reds were forced to defend stoically in their own 22 for the opening exchanges, with solid defence forcing Yass to make errors and turn the ball over.

Despite being camped on their own line it was the Reds who scored first with a penalty for a high tackle.

The Reds looked promising when

they played expansively in the backline, with their first try coming when they shifted the ball through the hands for Rob Sheekey to cross and make it 10-0 to the visitors.

The second try came shortly after, with the Reds pack applying pressure at the line out and forcing the Yass half to ground the ball in his in-goal. From the scrum Webber took the pill and jinked his way through some ordinary defence to score under the posts to blow the score out to 17-0.

Andrew Tivey got his name on the scorer's sheet just before the break when he regathered a lucky bounce from a chip through and streaked 20m up the sideline to score, even taking on the Yass defence in the in-goal to improve his position.

The second half was a stagnant affair, with both sides still a bit rusty from the off season.

The Reds scored just the one try through Sheekey to push the score to 31-0 and earn a vital bonus point. Sheekey later complimented his ten points with ten minutes in the bin for a high tackle late in the match.

The Yass fly-half earned a yellow card for one too many indiscretions,

but the Reds failed to capitalise on the one man overlap. Shortly after coming back on the pivot scored the Rams' only points of the day with a consolation try to make it 31-5.

The only injury concern for the Reds was an ankle injury to Michael Coggan in the first half.

The Dirty Twos also got off to a winning start, downing Wests 37-24. Nathan Hewett bagged a double in the win, which at times produced some exciting rugby. The Dirty Twos showed plenty of hustle at the break down and around the paddock, and could well be a force again this season.

The Reds will travel to Hall next week to take on the Bushrangers.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 31** (Sheekey 2, Webber, Tivey tries, Webber 4 con, 1 pen) def Yass Rams 5.

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In Reserve Grade, Goulburn started the day with a 37 - 24 win over Wests.

**Goulburn Dirty Twos 37** (Hewitt 2, Benn, Greaves, Moore, Butler, Tilley tries; Moore conv) def Wests 24.



Andrew Tivey sets off up the right flank against the Rams



*Ben Greene models  
what's new in the  
Estee Lauder catalog*



Round 2  
Saturday, May 9 2009

## **Firsts win and Twos show promise** By PETE OLIVER

The Goulburn Dirty Reds have overcome a sluggish first half to grind out a 20-7 win against the Hall Bushrangers.

The Reds looked very flat in the first half, scoring only a penalty through the boot of Mikael Webber, while Hall managed to cross the line first and take a 7-3 lead.

The scrum was a great contest, with both sides spinning the other's pack around and forcing turnovers, however the Reds front row of Dave Anable, Ben Pearson and Adam Tucker seemed to have the upper hand for most of the match.

One period of play in the dying stages of the first half summed up Goulburn's day. The Reds had a dozen phases on Hall's line, mixing up pick and drives with some backline moves, but couldn't crack the Bushranger's defence.

The Reds regrouped at the break, calling on each other for a lift in intensity

and effort. And it worked, with the Reds coming out with a new attitude in the second stanza.

They hammered the Hall line, twice crossing the stripe only to be held up by some desperate defence. They weren't to be denied a third time; from the scrum the ball went through the hands out to Joel McPherson on the wing, who crossed in the corner untouched to steal back the lead. Webber's kick was pushed across the face of goal, but the Reds now had an 8-7 lead.

The momentum was starting to swing slightly in the Reds' favour, and they kicked ahead after a break from wily half-back Jeff Caldwell, who snuck through a gap and took off. He managed to off-load to McPherson, who turned it on the inside for a rampaging Pearson score under the posts to take an 15-7 lead.

The Reds pulled off some big hits in the midfield, and not just on the Hall players. The equally hard running Ben Green and Justin Benn were both left dazed after a rather brutal head clash left both men down.

The head knock didn't affect stop them from motoring on, and Green even managed to affect a charge down on a Hall kick close to their line, allowing

speedy winger Andrew Tivey to pounce on the ball and score in the corner. The try put the result beyond doubt for a 20-7 final score.

The Reds will take heart from the improved effort in the second half, showing they can lift and win, despite a very ordinary first half.

***Goulburn Dirty Reds 20 (McPherson, Pearson, Tivey tries, Webber pen, con) defeated Hall Bushrangers 7.***


\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

In second grade the Dirty Twos went down 41-33 in a very exciting match to the Hall Bushrangers.

It was an exceptional effort from Goulburn, who were playing against a Hall team filled with former first grade players and who had knocked off last year's premiers Royals the week before.

The Reds weren't intimidated and fought back bravely after Hall put on three tries in the second half.

Young fullback Luke Price scored on two tries and Cameron Neville was a super-sub off the bench, wreaking havoc with the Hall defence all over the field.



*Benny Moore  
reaches across  
for a try at  
Tuggeranong.*

Some quick thinking from hooker Ben Pearson, combined with some good support play, resulted in the next try. Pearson took a quick tap after yet another Vikings infringement and took off, offloading to Andrew Tivey, who made yards before getting the ball away to young Austin McLennan, sucking in the defence and passing back for Tivey to cross the line untouched. Webber chipped the ball over for a 12-0 lead into the half time break.

The referee figured greatly in the second half, awarding free kick after free kick for infringements at the breakdown and robbing both teams of any momentum.

Webber crossed in the second half after again beating the defence, but was ruled to have knocked on while grounding the ball. The mistake wouldn't haunt the Reds for long, after Rob Sheekey made amends with a big break and running away to score under the sticks.

Moore hammered the final nail in Tuggeranong's coffin after a powerful effort to score, shrugging off the attentions of two defenders.

It was a far from polished effort from the Reds, who left a lot of points on the field through sloppy handling, no doubt something coach Matt O'Rourke will focus on this week.

## Round 3

**Saturday, 16 May 2008**

### **Reds Vikings Raid** **By PETE OLIVER**

The Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds have secured their position at the top of the Division One table following their 24-0 victory over the Tuggeranong Vikings on Saturday.

The score didn't reflect the intensity of the match, with Goulburn made to work hard for all their points.

It was an ordinary start for the Reds, with their kick off failing to go 10 metres and giving the Vikings first crack of the match. But the Reds' defence was more than up to the challenge, holding out the Vikings with some strong tackling and aggression at the breakdown.

There were times when the Reds looked awesome with ball in hand, changing the angle of attack and scything through the Vikings defence, but here Goulburn were their own worst enemies, unable to complete sweeping backline moves and often dropping the pill cold at the defensive line.

However the Reds' expansive play was rewarded when fly-half Mikael Webber made a break down the right hand side and streaked away, grounding the ball just inside the corner-post before the cover defence came across for a 5-0 lead.

Once again the Reds scrum was a rock, constantly turning the Vikings scrum or shoving it backwards. The forwards worked well across the field, with trademark hard running in the midfield from Justin Benn, Ben Moore and Boyd Newby constantly bending the Vikings' defensive line backwards.

***Goulburn Dirty Reds 24 (Webber, Tivey, Sheekey, Moore tries, Webber 2 con) defeated Tuggeranong Vikings 0 at Viking Park.***

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In Second Grade, the Dirty Reds took on defending premiers Royals.

The Reds dominated the forward battle in open play, and looked exceptionally good when they played the ball in tight and rumbled on at will. But the experience of the Royals players came through, and they piled on the points in the second half to take the game away from Goulburn 45-3.

The Reds will play their first home game this Saturday at a rejuvenated Poidevin Oval, when they take on the Cooma Red Devils in a rematch of last year's Grand Final.



Round 4  
Saturday, 23 May 2008

## Fortress Poidevin still impregnable

By PETE OLIVER

Goulburn Rugby has celebrated a successful return to Poidevin Oval, with both grades of the Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds earning tough wins over the Cooma Red Devils.

First grade had an at times exciting 29-17 win over their close rivals, while second grade ground out a tough 10-3 victory.

It was the Reds' first home game at Poidevin Oval since last year's Grand Final against Cooma, and the Goulburn side were keen to maintain their formidable home record.

Recent matches against the team from the Snowy Mountains have always been tough, physical encounters and this one was no different. The grand final rematch brought out the best in the Reds, who produced their best half of football this season in the opening 40 minutes

against their most testing opponents. Both sides showed their hands early on, ignoring the slick Poidevin surface and throwing the ball out wide. The Reds looked dangerous with the pill in hand, and the back three of Joel McPherson, Rob Sheekey and Andrew Tivey combined to expose a crack in the Cooma defences out wide.

The Reds were far more clinical in the first half than they had been in previous matches, cleaning out hard at the breakdown and providing plenty of support for the ball carrier.

Goulburn took the early lead through a penalty from Mikael Webber, and extended this to 10-0 shortly after when a poor clearing kick from Cooma led to the first try of the match. Halfback Jeff Caldwell caught the ball and found himself in open space, taking off for the corner, cutting across field and drawing in the last defence before getting the ball away to fullback Rob Sheekey to cross the line.

Cooma got on the board with a penalty, but the Reds' lead skipped out to 17-3 before the break when Webber scored his first try of the game.

Cooma had a defensive scrum in their half, but their fly half was too slow to move the ball along. The Reds backline swooped and turned the ball over, moving the ball across the paddock with some tight play before Webber stepped through some lax defence to score.

The Reds had to contend with a fired up Cooma outfit in the second half, weathering the Red Devils attack until the visitors strolled through some very poor defence to close the gap to 17-10.

However Goulburn hit back shortly after with some trademark expansive play, again from a poor Cooma kick.

Sheekey fielded the ball and ran, cutting through some defence and getting the pill away to Tivey, who straightened down the wing but was bought down a metre short of the line. Tivey managed to pop the ball up for Dave Anable, who was trailing in support, for the easiest try the big prop will ever score.

Webber scored the Reds' final try, putting the game beyond doubt at 29-10 and earning the home side another crucial bonus point.

Cooma hit back with a try right on the buzzer, but the Reds had secured yet another victory at home and extended their lead at the top of the table.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 27 (Webber 2, Anable, Sheekey tries Webber 3 con, pen) def Cooma Red Devils 17.**

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In second grade the Goulburn Dirty Reds got their season back on track with a 10-3 win over Cooma.

Toby White and Aidan Greaves scored for the Reds, with White's try coming after concerted pressure from the Reds, who were held up three times over the line in the space of four minutes. Second grade looked quite promising at stages, throwing the ball around and again dominating in the forwards during a game that got spiteful at times.

Both Goulburn sides will travel to ADFA this Saturday before the June long weekend bye next week.



Jeff "Sherm" Caldwell  
slips away a short  
pass against Cooma



Round 5  
Saturday, 30 May 2009

## **Reds Steamrolled**

**By ROB SHEEKEY**

The Goulburn Dirty Reds suffered their first defeat of the season on Saturday, with an away loss to ADFA 40-24. ADFA played from the front all day after a well organised and executed back line manoeuvre. It wouldn't be long though until the Reds would hit back.

The forward pack started to gain the ascendancy and a quick spread of the ball found inside centre Rob Sheekey who ran the 20 metres to get the Reds back into the game 7 – 5.

The rest of the first half was a nightmare for the Reds as they continued to turn the ball over and ADFA were able to spread the ball and found the Reds defence wanting. The forwards were unable to hold consistent possession and from the constant turn over's ADFA were able to run riot. At the break Goulburn were well behind in the encounter trailing ADFA 28 – 5.

The start of the second half was a continuation with ADFA dominating all aspects of the match. Goulburn conceded another 2 soft tries, and ADFA's lead extended to 40-5. The Dirty Reds on the brink of humiliation fought hard and were able to play the type of rugby that they are capable of playing.

After being awarded several penalties Goulburn were able to win a line out on the ADFA 5m line. A big drive from the forwards which saw hooker Ben Pearson dive over and narrow the gap to 40-10. From this point on the match was all Goulburn's. Mikael Webber was able to drift across field and attract several ADFA defenders, before slipping a nice ball to Sheekey who claimed his second try for the afternoon.

With time running out the only thing left for the Reds to play for was a bonus point which Webber delivered with a cheeky effort from the back of a maul, which saw him dive between several want-a-be defenders and gain a bonus point for Goulburn.

The Reds were soon put out their misery by the referee who blew the fulltime whistle and the Reds had been soundly defeated 40-24. The best players for Goulburn were Justin

Benn and young Aiden Greaves, who was making run on debut for the first grade outfit.

Second Grade capped off a miserable day for the club going down to ADFA 10-3. The second grade boys battled hard and were unlucky not to get away with the points. The highlight of the match was a triumphant return to the fold for Doug Webster who was everywhere for the second grade lads. He was well assisted by his fellow book end Ben 'Yogi' Pearson who was damaging with ball in hand.

The club would like to urge all players to turn up to away games. Lack of player numbers cost the club dearly on the day with four first graders having to play two full games and several others having to play parts of the match. It was an expensive day with Ben Moore doing a hamstring in second grade and being unable to play first grade.

The Reds will have a much needed week off before taking on Yass at Simon Poidevan Oval on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. The Goulburn Dirty Reds would like to thank their mass of supporters who travelled up to cheer them on along with the Goulburn Soldiers Club for their on-going and loyal support.



*Rob Sheekey extends his go-go-gadget arms to the ADFA defence.*



*Robbie Cosgrove on his way to one of his three tries for the Dirty Twos against Wests in their 74-7 win.*



Round 6  
Saturday, 13 May 2009

### **Reds rebound against Rams** By PETE OLIVER

THINGS haven't been going the way of the Goulburn Dirty Reds lately.

A poor showing against a rampant ADFA side two weeks ago, culminating in their first loss of the season. A bye week and a plethora of injuries thinning the playing ranks hadn't helped their cause. It was time for the Goulburn side to bounce back. And they did, thumping a hapless Yass Rams 45-3 at Poidevin Oval, sending out a reminder to the rest of the competition that they were still a force to be reckoned with.

The loss continued the Rams' miserable season, who are yet to notch up a victory in the competition.

Fly-half Mikael Webber showed why he was named Player of the Tournament at last weekend's Brumbies Provincial representative competition, bagging a 35-point haul, which included four tries.

The injuries gave some of Goulburn's young players a chance to impress, with the back row of Austin McLellen, Toby White and Rob McCarthy all young on years, but big on enthusiasm.

Yass hit the scoreboard first through a penalty kick early on, and in patches they looked like a very good side.

Webber was the first to score, burrowing over next to the sticks, and was followed up by McCarthy's solo effort shortly after. McCarthy made a break, and backed himself to beat the fullback. He did just that, steamrolling the number 15 and leaving him in a heap as he smashed over to push the Reds' lead out to 14-3.

While the Reds were sitting pretty on the scoreboard, they were making hard work of it. They often lacked aggression at the breakdown, putting pressure on young halfback Aidan Greaves with slow ball to the back of the ruck.

The Reds were lucky not to concede any points in the second half, with Yass being piggybacked down the field after some poor discipline from the home side.

But they showed how dangerous they are anywhere on the field, with their next try starting from nearly 50 metres out. Webber cut through the defence and took off down the left touch line, drawing the defence and putting fullback Jeff Caldwell into space. Caldwell advanced the ball before giving it back to Webber, who fell over the line to score his second.

Winger Joel Macpherson also crossed for a five pointer, and after Webber had scored two more, the Reds were left with a convincing victory.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 45** (Webber 4, Macpherson, McCarthy tries, Webber 6 con, pen) defeated Yass Rams 3.

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In second grade the Dirty Twos got their season back on track with a rollicking 74-7 thumping of an undermanned Wests. Captain Robbie Cosgrove bagged a hat-trick of tries, with big prop Ben 'Yogi' Pearson and young winger Luke Shaw earning a brace each. Eli Bailey, Michael Coggan, Richard Heitel, Luke Price and Trent Clouston also scored a try each.

Round 7

Saturday, 20 June 2009

## Gritty win keeps Goulburn on top

By PETE OLIVER

IT wasn't pretty, but a win's a win. The Goulburn Dirty Reds earned a tough victory on Saturday against the dangerous Hall Bushrangers, pulling back a half-time deficit to run out 36-21 victors at Poidevin Oval.

The Reds made hard work of it for most of the match, with some basic errors and lack of concentration keeping the Bushrangers in the match.

The game was a real arm wrestle early on, with some staunch defence from both sides.

Flanker Rob McCarthy brought some starch to the Goulburn defence, pulling off several bell-ringing tackles and pestering Hall at the breakdown.

But the Reds didn't have it all their own way. Goulburn absorbed wave after wave of Hall's attack, and finally cracked after relentless pressure.

The Reds scrum, so often one of their most potent weapons this season, was hot and cold.

Hall won a tighthead feed on the Reds' line, throwing the ball out to their fly half who darted through a gap to open the scoring and take a 7-0 lead.

The home side pegged back the lead with a penalty, but it was the Bushrangers who took the first half honours.

When the Reds tightened up the play around the ruck and kept the ball in the forwards, they were very threatening. Straight after the break Goulburn hit back.

The Reds controlled the phase play, pick and driving their way to the line before throwing the ball out wide to winger Andrew Tivey to score.

But Hall hit back straight away from the restart, regaining the lead and making a real match of it.

Mikael Webber scored a superb solo try with a run, kick, regather and score to bring Goulburn back into the game. Coach Matt O'Rourke rang in the changes, injecting Ben Pearson,



*Big Jack winds up for a run against Hall*

Michael Coggan and Justin Benn into the match.

Pearson was the supersub, scoring two tries with some great forward play.

The Reds again kept it in tight, pick and driving with Pearson burrowing over the line. The hot and cold Reds scrum redeemed itself with a pushover try shortly after, with Pearson again coming up with the ball.

Hall weren't done yet, scoring a very soft try from a penalty tap, but the result was beyond doubt when Jeff Caldwell crossed to seal the win.

The Dirty Twos had a confidence boosting 17-10 win in second grade, holding off a fast finishing Bushrangers side.

The boot of captain Robbie Cosgrove proved the difference, slotting two conversions and a penalty in an often fiery game.

Justin Benn capped a superb return from injury, scoring a try and making hard yards all day, while Jason Kremer was in everything, scoring a try and even managing to fit in a fight in an action packed game.

Josh Hogan also had a strong match, providing plenty of solid defence in the midfield. It was a good character building win for second grade, showing plenty of composure to hold out Hall at the finish.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 36** (Pearson 2, Caldwell, Tivey, Webber tries, Webber 4 con, pen) defeated Hall Bushrangers 21.

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Following on from their sensational 74-7 win against Wests, the Dirty Twos backed up for a win against the Hall Bushrangers, taking their tally to four wins from seven starts so far this year.

Wins against Hall's seconds have been hard to come by, but the Twos looked in good form, with Justin Benn and Jason Kremer both scoring tries.

Captain Robbie Cosgrove, who grabbed a hat-trick last week, contributed with the boot this week, nailing two conversions and a penalty goal.

**Goulburn Dirty Twos 17** (J Benn, J Kremer tries; R Cosgrove 2 conv, 1 pen goal) defeated Hall 10.



## Round 10

**Saturday, 27 June 2009**

No match reports or photos were recorded for this match that was played at ADFA Oval. The following are the results

### FIRST GRADE

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 38** (M Webber 2, B Pearson 2, B Green, D Anable tries; M Webber 4 conv) defeated ADFA 20.

### SECOND GRADE

**ADFA 26 defeated Goulburn Dirty Twos 0.**

## Round 8

**Saturday, 27 June 2009**

### **Reds outlast Vikings** **By PETE OLIVER**

The Goulburn Dirty Reds have overcome a determined Tuggeranong Vikings side to notch another win, after a 31-15 victory at Poidevin Oval.

Last week's win against ADFA was the Goulburn side's best of the season, clawing their way back into the game after giving the Cadets a big head start, and the Reds would be looking to reproduce this grit.

The Reds have had a habit this season of switching off at the critical moments, and Saturday was no different. Twice after scoring, the Reds let Tuggeranong back into the match

with return tries.

Sporting a new look side, the Reds were missing Ben Green, Andrew Tivey, Club Captain Ben Moore and Jay Butler, forcing coach Matt O'Rourke into a number of changes for the match.

The Reds came out firing, showing plenty of aggression at the breakdown and smashing into the rucks.

Their loose forwards of Austin McLennan, Toby White and Ben Pearson provided great hustle around the paddock early on, with scrum half Aidan Greaves pestering and pressuring his opposite number at the set piece.

Pearson had a sublime game for the Reds, constantly disrupting the Viking ball and putting pressure on the visitors at the ruck. He also showed great vision from the scrumbase, making some very strong metres up the middle of the paddock. It was this vision which set up the Reds' first try.

McLennan stole a Vikings line ball, with an indiscretion earning the Reds a free kick.

Pearson tapped and took off 25 metres out, beating defenders and carrying the final Vikings defender over the line for a well-deserved try and a 7-0 lead.

The Vikings weren't to be denied, and after camping on the Reds' try line for phase after phase, they crossed to narrow the gap to 7-5.

Goulburn again looked very threatening when they spread the ball wide, but poor finishing or inaccurate passing meant the play often broke down.

The Reds' intensity also dropped off in the first half, but they still managed to extend their lead after fly half Mick Webber strolled through a massive gap and took off.

He drew in the Vikings fullback and got the ball away to Pearson, who was dragged down just short of the whitewash. Some quick recycling from the Reds saw Webber come up with the ball and he crossed to score under the sticks.

Webber would score two more tries in the second stanza, completing his hat trick after again teaming up with Pearson to open up the Vikings' defensive line. White was the other scorer for the Reds, powering over for the side's third try.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 31** (M Webber 3, T White, B Pearson tries; M Webber 3 con) def Tuggeranong Vikings 15

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In second grade the Reds were never in the hunt against defending premiers Royals, going down 48-17.

Goulburn conceded too many points in the first half, but came out in the second half with a much improved effort. Super sub Doug Webster had possibly his best ever match for the Reds, coming off the bench and scoring two tries.

The pressure will be on Webster to repeat this performance in future appearances for the Reds. Big prop Damyn Atiga also crossed for a try in his run on debut for the Reds.

Flanker Jason Kremer again was one of the best on field for Reds, along with Ben 'Yogi' Pearson, Wayne Donaldson and captain Robbie Cosgrove, who finished the match with a healthy black eye and cut across his nose.

A minute's silence was held before both games following the death of one of the Tablelands Reds players, Chad Selby, on Friday night.

The Goulburn Rugby Union extends its sympathy and condolences to Chad's family and friends during this difficult time.

The Reds will travel to the snow next week to take on the Cooma Red Devils, before a bye week for the Rugby Ball on July 18.

Royals 48 defeated **Goulburn Dirty Twos 17** (Doug Webster 2, Damyn Atiga tries; Luke Shaw conv.)



Round 9  
Saturday, 11 July 2009

## **Mountain Mission successful By KEVIN KARA**

The Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds first grade side returned from its trip to the mountains on Saturday with a solid 22-14 win against a young and enthusiastic Cooma Red Devils side thanks to a powerhouse game from the Goulburn forwards.

From the kick off, the Reds were put under pressure by Cooma's continued attack. The Devils went close on a couple of occasions only to be forced back by the quality and committed defence of Michael Coggan, Ben Pearson, Boyd Newby, Justin Benn, Joshua Clarke, and Dave "Jack" Anable.

The tide turned following a line-out win to Goulburn inside their twenty two. Goulburn's Ben Green broke through Cooma's defence to take play down into the opposition's quarter. From here the Reds applied pressure to Cooma's set pieces before stringing together a couple of excellent short passes that ended up in Justin Benn's hand for a great try. Mikael Webber's conversion was successful and Goulburn held a seven point lead.

From the re-commencement of play the Reds again went right back on the attack. Ben Pearson's commitment to the ball and the pick and drive of all the forwards forced the opposition back into their half. This good work was undone however with the turnover of possession at the breakdown from which the opposition broke through frail defence to score under the post for what became a converted try and a score leveller.

For the next ten minutes the Reds put pressure on their opposition through their dominance in the scrums and excellent field position. A scrum was put down five metres out from their try line, and from here the forward pack prove their strength up front with a great push-over try to Ben Pearson, which when converted by Mikael Webber took the lead to 14-7.

For the remainder of the half, Goulburn consolidated their position. A Cooma onslaught was held at bay with strong aggressive tackles by the loose forwards and clearing kicks from the old war horse Jeffrey "Shermo" Caldwell,

keeping the score unchanged at half time.

The second half began poorly for Goulburn with Cooma swooping on a loose ball and going over for an easy try which when converted saw the scores again level.

The Reds upped the ante and sustained pressure got them within inches of the try line with only desperate defence by Cooma keeping them out.

The Reds maintained this pressure with their pick and drive around the rucks and their ball security at the breakdown caught Cooma offside, giving the referee no option but to award a penalty. Webber's kick pushed Goulburn ahead on the score board again but Cooma rallied in attack.

The next ten minutes saw the mountain men piling pressure on the Red's line only to be denied any chance of scoring by some solid defence by the inside backs Mikael Webber, Josh Hogan, Aidan Greaves and Dean Thompson. Having absorbed Cooma's attack, Goulburn replied with some short passes and straight running and were soon back into Cooma's half and in a good attacking position.

A line-out win deep in the opposition quarter saw Goulburn apply extra pressure down the blind side and a penalty was awarded close to the opposition line. The Reds made a positive attacking decision to knock back the kick at goal and take a scrum and this was rewarded with another pushover try to the aging Ben Pearson taking the score to 22-14 which remained the result at full time.

Best and fairest points went to: (3) Ben "Pearso" Pearson, (2) Mick Coggan, (1) Austin Mc Lennan and Joshua Clarke. The Player's Player award went to Mick "the Hitman" Coggan.

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## **Gallant effort by Dirty Twos**

Goulburn's day started disappointingly with the battle weary Dirty Twos succumbing to Cooma by 36-5.

The Reds made a slow start with many players carrying injuries and with no reserves on the bench. Even so, they were able to hold Cooma out for the opening 15 minutes thanks to sterling defensive work by former prop turned

fleet footed flanker Aaron "Tetley" Wild, big Ben "Yogi" Pearson, Adam "twinkle toes" Tucker, Damyn Atiga and Ben "Pup" Moore.

The game soon opened up when Cooma pounced on a loose ball and sending it along their backline to score in out wide to take them into the lead with an unconverted try of five points to nil. The Goulburn backline, which contained a number of old heads like Nathan "Potsy" Hewett at half, Jay "Butts" Butler at standoff, Jason Kramer at inside centre, Chris "Griffo" Griffin at outside centre and Richard Heitel on one wing did their best but were up against fresher legs.

From the next kick off the seconds were put back on their heels with some great line kicks from the Cooma fly half. This led to another break down in communication by the Reds and Cooma went in for their second try which, when converted, gave Cooma a twelve point lead. Within minutes of the kick off Cooma's number twelve intercepted the ball to draw Luke "the ranger" Price and in so doing set up his Captain and fullback for another try which was also converted. Again Goulburn scrambled in defence to hold out the young and enthusiastic Cooma side until the half time break.

The second half started off well for the Reds with Richard Heitel's chip and chase putting the ball into the opposition twenty two and eliciting a knock on by Cooma. In the next play the Red's number eight and skipper Robbie Cosgrove took the ball off the back and found support in the ever present "Tetley" Wild to go over for an unconverted try, giving the boys some hope of a come back, trailing 19-5.

From the next kick off, however, Cooma's number six nullified Goulburn's comeback attempt by charging down a clearing kick and diving onto the ball to score their fourth try which was unconverted. The Reds spent the next ten minutes in the opposition half but were not able to convert positional play into points. With a final chance the Reds needed to hold the ball at the back of the scrum to be able to get a push over try only to knock the ball on. Cooma went on to score two more tries as the reserve-less Goulburn side grew fatigued however the side defended bravely through to the final whistle.

The best and fairest points went to: (3) Damyn Atiga (who also picked up Player's Player) (2) Richard Heitel and

Round 11  
Saturday, 25 July 2009

## Reds fleece Rams in rusty win

By CHRIS GORDON

It was flat and uninspiring but it got the job done. The Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds managed a 53-15 win against the Yass Rams on the weekend without ever really getting out of second gear.

First grade coach Matt O'Rourke and captain Boyd Newby both warned their players of the twin dangers of complacency against bottom placed Yass, and lethargy after a weekend off, but awareness of those problems did little to stave them off.

The game wasn't without highlights and impressive performances, including the three try haul to Mick Webber and two tries each to first grade debutante Richie Heitel and veteran Dave Anable, but Goulburn failed to put Yass to the sword and seize absolute dominance.

The pairing of competition leaders Goulburn and last placed Yass seemed a mismatch on paper but perhaps the Rams don't read the Goulburn Post as they scored first after ten minutes of mutual aggravation. With Goulburn's **consent**, Yass were allowed to commence the game without contested scrums.

That may have favoured Yass a little as Goulburn fielded a front row capable of scrummaging while the Rams were able to field a more mobile pack, but it was plain and simple poor defence that paved the way for the Yass try which, when converted, gave them the opening seven to nil lead.

Goulburn bounced back but not quickly. Despite maintaining territorial advantage, and despite strong drives by Ben Greene, Boyd Newby, Ben Pearson and Jack Anable, poor ball security saw several promising efforts amount to nothing.

It took until the twenty minute mark before Goulburn troubled the scorers. Following an uncontested scrum awarded against Yass for hands in the ruck, Ben Pearson peeled away from the back of the scrum, advanced the ball and quick service from the following breakdown fed Dave Anable the ball for his first try, which was converted by Mick Webber to level the scores.

That try loosened the tap and the scoring started to flow a little more easily. After a period restricted to their own half, the Goulburn number eight who plays like a five eighth Ben Pearson broke through for a thirty metre run up the right flank before timing a perfect pass to Richie Heitel who stepped inside the defence to improve his position, scoring the try and giving Webber an easier conversion.

Goulburn immediately returned to the Yass quarter shortly afterwards Dave Anable scored his second try, which was unconverted. Five minutes before half-time, and once again camped in the Rams' quarter, Heitel received a nicely timed pass from Dean Thompson and crossed for his second try which was also unconverted. Goulburn had several other opportunities to score before the break but nonetheless closed out that section with a lead of 24-7.

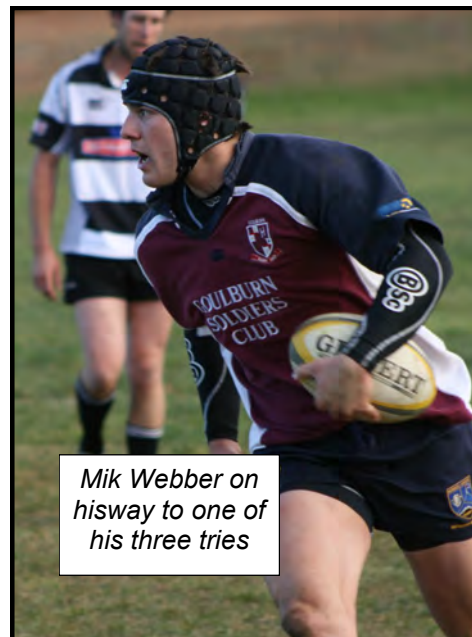
The Reds started the second half far better than the first and resumed their territorial advantage immediately. Running towards the new clubhouse, it took Webber just four minutes to score a try untouched, running off an Aiden Greaves pass from a ruck on the Yass line. But then the malaise returned.

Despite being outgunned and outmanned, the gutsy Yass side refused to give in and were able to keep the ball in Goulburn's half for a lengthy passage of play. The Rams worked well at the lineout and pilfered well at ruck and maul but were unable to convert their efforts to points. It was ten minutes before Goulburn pushed back upfield and a further ten after that before they scored again off a second unconverted Webber try, sliding to the left field from another well-timed Greaves pass from second phase play formed 20 metres out.

As defence on both sides began to fatigue, the scoring cranked up in the final ten minutes. Experienced prop Aaron Wild, one of the quickest men in the club over two metres, ran exactly that far from the base of a Goulburn ruck to score a try.

Shortly after Webber scored his third try after passing to Ben Pearson ten metres out and then receiving an inside pass back from Pearson. Webber's boot was back on target for the conversion and Goulburn were just short of the magic 50 – leading 48-14.

Yass then returned fire with their own try capitalising on a poorly executed chip from Goulburn inside their own



*Mick Webber on hisway to one of his three tries*

quarter but experienced campaigner Geoff Caldwell ensured Goulburn achieved the half ton, running thirty metres on seemingly youthful legs after receiving a short Opass from Boyd Newby.

Coach Matt O'Rourke described the performance as flat, but not without some positives.

"We've had a week off, and we played like it," he said.

"Concentrating on the positives, playing how we did will probably help us focus on the remaining few weeks ahead. I was happy with Richie Heitel's debut in first grade, and we were able to use a good amount of reserves and give them some match practice too. Now we need to turn our attention to playing Hall next weekend."

With a personal tally of 23 points, Mick Webber picked up three best and fairest points. Most of the forwards played strongly and two of them, Ben Greene and Boyd Newby, were awarded two and one point respectively.

Tablelands Reds graduate, Aiden Greaves, continues to impress with his maturity, swift service at scrum half and wise options and received the players player award.

Reserve grade did not play and were awarded a forfeit when their opponents, Wests, withdrew from the competition.

**Goulburn 53** (Mick Webber 3, Richard Heitel 2, Dave Anable 2, Aaron Wild and Geoff Caldwell tries, Mick Webber 4 conv) **bt Yass 14.**



Round 12  
Saturday, 1 August 2009

## **Dirty Reds bailed up by Bushrangers**

**By CHRIS GORDON**

The Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds first grade side paid no attention to the warning signs that were flashing after last week's lacklustre win against Yass and served up an absolute bucket of dross in their 46-20 submission to the Hall Bushrangers.

In their worst performance for some years, and the worst loss by a Goulburn first grade since a 30 point drubbing by Yass in 2005, Goulburn appeared disinterested compared to a committed Bushrangers team that cared little about potential minor premierships and very much about winning the game in front of them.

While no-one intends to play poorly, and no-one tries to play poorly, play poorly the Dirty Reds did. They were handed a lesson in enthusiasm and intensity by the Bushrangers who had previously lost to Goulburn in both other matches this season.

It was a litany of errors and poor judgement by Goulburn – woeful defence and shoulder grabbing attempts at tackles out wide, tactically misguided kicking and rucks and mauls that at times seemed uncontested.

When looking for positives... well Goulburn led by 3-0 from the 15<sup>th</sup> minute until the 17<sup>th</sup> thanks to a Mick Webber penalty goal, but that's about it.

The game was still in the balance midway through the first half when, trailing by 5-3, Dave Anable initiated a drive that took Goulburn well into the Bushranger's half. A Hall infringement then gave Goulburn a scrum five metres out and five metres to the left of the posts but the attempt at scoring was held up in goal and from that point on the match was Hall's.

Hall ran in three more tries in the first half, two of them converted, while Goulburn's only other scoring opportunity was another Webber penalty goal that left the Reds down by 24-6.

Coach Matt O'Rourke is a measured man who is not given to knee jerk or emotional half time talks but he nonetheless left the side in no doubt about what he thought of that first half of football.

While he could easily have made sweeping changes at the break, he made very few, allowing the side to clean up the mess they had made. They didn't.

After ten minutes of feeling their way in the second half, Hall scored three tries in four minutes to lead by 41-6. Four minutes later Dean Thompson crossed the line for Goulburn on the right flank and Webber's conversion gave Goulburn a mathematical chance of coming back with twenty minutes remaining.

But it was Hall that scored next, opening up a 33 point lead. Skipper Boyd Newby added a consolation try for Goulburn in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute which was converted again by Webber, but the 46-20 score-line if anything flattered Goulburn.

Rather than rant or rave at full-time, coach O'Rourke made several telling points after making the side listen to Hall's victory song.

"That performance was well, well short of where we should be at this time of year," he said.

"There are just too many missing pieces of the puzzle. We've beaten Hall twice this year but today they were keener and more enthusiastic than us by a long stretch and deserved to win."

As a team effort, the match was forgettable but there were some significant individual performances. Best and fairest points went to Ben Green (3), Ben Pearson (2), Aiden Greaves (1) and Boyd Newby while Pearson was also voted Player's Player.

The loss marks the second loss this season, first grade's worst record since 2006 with the 2007 side going undefeated and last year's team losing only once.

Tuesday night's training is expected to be... interesting... ahead of Goulburn match against Tuggeranong at Poidevin Oval next weekend.

## **Hall too good for Dirty Twos**

Thank God for reserve grade. They were outmanned, they were outmatched but they never gave up in their 39-17 loss to Hall.

The Bushrangers were fifteen minutes, three tries and 17 points into the match before Goulburn were able to stem the leakage, but for the next twenty minutes Goulburn were able to keep their bigger and stronger opponents scoreless.

Goulburn had few players ready on the bench but needed the ones they had, and even the coach was getting ready for his call to arms.

Hall's massive scrum advantage helped them push Goulburn off the mark for tight head wins until an injury to Adam Tucker forced the need for uncontested scrums.

This evened the playing field a little and Goulburn seemed to be ready to launch a second half raid.

The second half raid came, but unfortunately, refreshed from the break, Hall put on two more tries by the fifth minute to lead by 29-0. Still, the Dirty Twos remained committed.

One of Goulburn's best performers on the day, Ben "Yogi" Pearson scored Goulburn a try eight minutes in.

Seven minutes later, following great lead up work by Tablelands Red graduate Luke Shaw and support by Nathan Stewart, twinkle toes Rob Sheekey stepped through and around sturdy defence for a nicely positioned try which, when converted, reduced the gap to 29-12.

Sheekey scored again at the 25 minute mark but Hall closed out the match with two more tries, one to former Dirty Red Jason Byron who has clearly decided to use his Goulburn trained skills against us these days.

Best and fairest players were Jason Kremer (3), Toby White (2), Ben "Yogi" Pearson (1), Robbie Cosgrove (1) and Rob McCarthy.

Round 13  
Saturday, 8 August 2009

## Reds bounce back By CHRIS GORDON

After a shock loss to Hall last weekend, reigning Monaro first division premiers the Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds returned to the winner's circle with a positive display against Tuggeranong Vikings at Poidevin Oval on Saturday.

For the firsts, the 36-7 win continued the side's three year undefeated streak at Poidevin Oval and also marked a significant improvement in form in their march to the semi finals. The Dirty Reds showed particular improvement in a number of key areas, such as defence, lineout security and general support play and while there were still areas to work on, it was a strong, committed and enthusiastic effort by Goulburn.

Ten minutes into the match Goulburn's first points came through a five pointer to fullback Rob Sheekey when he figured on the end of quick hands in the backline after several phases in the Tuggeranong quarter. The try was converted by Webber who kicked a subsequent penalty goal to give Goulburn a 10 nil lead midway through the first half.

The Vikings have previously had little success against the Reds, but showed no signs of being overawed. They dug deep and fought back well, trapping Goulburn in their own half of the field for most of the next 15 minutes. The Reds were forced to defend on their own line against several strong Tuggeranong drives but Goulburn's defence was rock

solid and committed and denied them several good chances at scoring.

Strong breaks from Mick Webber and Ben Green were unlucky to fall apart as they sought to punch through to the Vikings end of the field but eventually Goulburn did return just before the break.

In the final minutes of the first half, young scrum half Aiden Greaves, who formed a great combination with fly half Jeff Caldwell throughout the match, was in the right place at the right time from a driving Goulburn scrum to dive over for a try. Webber again added the extras and Goulburn led by 17-0 at the break.

The second half flowed a lot better for the Reds, both in terms of controlling the match and scoring. Dean Thompson added a try four minutes in on the end of a good backline play and a nicely timed inside pass from Caldwell, and Mick Webber added another ten minutes after that which, when converted pushed the lead out to 29-0.

Shortly after, Greaves once again only needed a few yards to score a try and added his second for the day midway through the second half. Webber's conversion was successful but it was the last time Goulburn added to their tally. The Vikings crossed for their only try of the match with around 17 minutes left on the clock but the remainder of the match was spent back in their own half with Goulburn in control.

While the Reds failed to capitalise on a few opportunities, and were still a few notches short of their best, coach Matt O'Rourke believed there were significant improvements and promising signs in the teams efforts this week.

"Today was certainly a step forward," he said.

"Some aspects have definitely improved. The lineout was better for instance. We still have to work on our options and we're not making passes when we should be making passes. But yes, there were some good things in this game and now we have to lift another level for our matches against Cooma and ADFA."

Best and Fairest points went to Aiden Greaves (3), Boyd Newby (2), Jeff Caldwell (1) and Nathan Stewart (1) while Greaves was also a very popular choice for Player's Player.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 36** (Greaves 2, Sheekey, Thompson, Webber tries; Webber 4 conv, 1 PG) **def Tuggeranong Vikings 7.**

## Royals too good for Dirty Twos

In second grade, Royals managed a 26-0 win against a depleted Goulburn Dirty Twos side.

Using up all their reserves early, Goulburn had to finish the match with only fourteen players on the field for the last five minutes after a head clash required skipper and number eight Rob Cosgrove to leave the field to get treatment for a deep cut above the eye.

Goulburn struggled throughout the match but seemed within striking distance for most of the first half. Royals scored three tries in the first half without ever really dominating the game. They did seize the few opportunities that came their way though, which remained the difference between the two sides.

In the second half, Goulburn took to the task with renewed vigour. Austin McLennan and Toby White worked particularly well in the line-outs. Jason Kremer and Ben "Yogi" Pearson punched the ball up well, but again passes weren't getting to their intended targets out wide. It was a gutsy second half performance by the Dirty Twos though, keeping Royals scoreless until the 20<sup>th</sup> minute – the only points Royals scored in the second half – but in the end Royals had done more than enough to deserve the win.

Best and fairest points went to Nathan Hewett (3), Toby White (2), Jason Kremer (1) and Luke Price (1) with White also earning the Players Player award.





Round 14  
Saturday, 15 August 2009

## **Reds exorcise their Devils**

**By CHRIS GORDON**

The Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds continued their difficult march to the semi finals with a grafting 20-13 win against the Cooma Red Devils on Saturday.

Maintaining the unbeaten record they've enjoyed in first grade at Poidevin Oval for the last three years, the Reds also picked up a crucial win in reserve grade, complete with a bonus point, ensuring their hopes remain alive for a semi finals berth as well.

But it was in first grade that the Reds needed to punch out a statement of intent against Cooma, the team with the second best defensive record in the competition. Now in the final rounds of the competition, the match resembled the final rounds of a title fight. It was neither flashy nor pretty, with no tries scored in the first half by either side, but it showed great commitment and determination.

"That was a typical, hard Cooma game," said a satisfied first grade coach Matt O'Rourke after the match.

"They always make you play until the very end and you can never take your foot off because they'll come right back at you. It wasn't perfect but overall it was a good team effort."

From a spectator's point of view, the first half was one for the purists with the packs grinding away at each other. Territory was hard to come by and even when you gained it, each side defended doggedly the deeper they were pushed into their own half.

Goulburn had a fair share of scoring opportunities but backline raids were stymied by dedicated defence. Rucks and mauls were evenly contested as well and the only points on offer came from penalties surrendered by over vigorous defence. Mick Webber ensured Goulburn finished off the better in that department thanks to three penalty goals in the first half and a 9-6 lead at the break.

The intensity of commitment continued in the second stanza and the referee's yellow card came into play as a result. Benny Moore found himself with a ten

minute rest seven minutes into the second half after a strong shoulder charge and the subsequent tap gave Cooma the first try while Goulburn temporarily had 14 men on the field. Once converted, Cooma held a four point lead and another dour session of play followed.

The boots of Rob Sheekey, Mick Webber and Jeff Caldwell, which had kicked well throughout the match, continued to give Goulburn a good territorial platform but Cooma were determined to hang on to their lead. An hour into the game, breaks by Jeff Caldwell and Ben Pearson, and a final drive by captain Boyd Newby, took Goulburn to within metres of the Cooma line and while they were denied a try initially, quick hands through the backs saw Nathan Stewart score out wide.

The unconverted try gave Goulburn a slender one point lead but a penalty goal ten minutes later by Webber started to strengthen Goulburn's position. Camped on the Cooma line for much of the remainder of the match, Goulburn still found it hard to force their way through Cooma's near impenetrable defence.

Figuring that Goulburn was finding it hard to go through Cooma, or around them, Webber tried going over them when he chanced a field goal but the attempt rebounded into play off the upright. He was offered a subsequent penalty goal attempt however, which he snatched to push Goulburn's lead to seven points.

Within the final five minutes the referee was seeing yellow again, and Webber and a Cooma player were both offered early showers, and Goulburn defended their lead for the win.

Coach Matt O'Rourke will finally be allowing himself to think of next weekend's top of the table clash with ADFA, the result of which will determine the minor premiership.

"I think we still need to be a step or two better than we were today if we want to beat ADFA," he said.

"There were some good things about today's game but we will really need to dominate ADFA in the forwards and give them nothing."

While the side was without Ben Green and Jason Kremer, O'Rourke was particularly pleased with their replacements Tony White and Jason Kremer.

Best and Fairest points went to Mick Coggan (3), Nathan Stewart (2), Mick Webber (1) and Ben Pearson (1) while Toby White was named players player.

Goulburn 20 (Nathan Stewart try, Mick Webber 5 PG) def Cooma 14

## **Patchy Dirty Twos still in the hunt**

The Goulburn reserve grade "Dirty Twos" needed a win that included four tries on Saturday and they produced just that to stay alive in hunt for a spot in the semis.

In typically exasperating form, the appropriately named Twos showed their two personalities – at times entertaining the supporters with razzle dazzle rugby, and at times torturing them with mystifying decisions. But through it all it was a thoroughly committed performance by a side that, at their best, can match it with all of the sides in their grade.

One of the team's most consistent players, Ben "Yogi" Pearson scored Goulburn's first try fifteen minutes in with Luke Price adding the conversion. Shortly after, the side put on a piece of champagne rugby with Luke Price making an initial break before feeding the ball to Andrew Tivey. Tivey added a chip and chase that was collected by Austin McLennan who went in for a try that Price converted.

Cooma responded with their own try and Goulburn's half-time lead was 14-7 but the Twos had one of their personality changes during the break and started the second session with poor execution and unwise options. However one such error, a kick for touch that failed, was chased down by winger Richie Heitel or recovered the ball and ran through for a try that Price converted.

Goulburn still needed one more try for the bonus point and they got it after a 30 metre sprint by Josh Hogan. Hogan had support on both sides and after committing the defence passed inside to Austin McLennan for his second try which, when converted by Price put Goulburn in front by 28-7. Cooma added one more try to the total before the end of the match but the results was still good enough to keep the Twos' campaign on track.

Best and fairest points went to Luke Price (3), Austin McLennan (2), Robbie Cosgrove (1) and Luke Shaw (1). McLennan was voted Players Player.



Round 15  
Saturday, 22 September 2009

## Reds miss out on minor premiership

By CHRIS GORDON

Despite a brilliant game of rugby, the Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds have failed to secure the ACT first division rugby minor premiership for the first time in three years, following their 29-18 loss to ADFA.

It was a sensational match of great intensity that showcased two great sides and lived up to its top of the table billing, all of which is cold comfort for the Reds who led until the 70<sup>th</sup> minute of the match.

However, lapses in discipline and a mounting penalty count coupled with a super fit, well drilled opponent, cost the Goulburn first grade side its first loss at Poidevin Oval since 2006.

"That result came down to discipline," said the disappointed first grade captain Boyd Newby.

"When calls aren't going your way, that's when you really have to keep your discipline. You need to keep stepping up at the end of matches, not start to drop off. In that final section, we let ADFA play their game and we let go control of the match."

The match started perfectly for Goulburn with the Reds already leading seven to nil after just two minutes. ADFA had tried to run the ball out of their own quarter but Goulburn pilfered possession from the ruck.

From the following maul, fly half Jeff Caldwell called to switch the play and was fed the ball from scrum half Aiden Greaves before passing through the hands to Mick Webber and then Ben Pearson who'd been lurking out in the backs.

Webber's conversion gave Goulburn the early seven point lead but both sides tightened up their defence for the next twenty minutes. Each had chances to score but ADFA were the first to seize the opportunity with a forty metre run up the right wing for an unconverted try.

Goulburn responded well and set up shop in ADFA's quarter, stringing together some good attacking phases. One of these saw Dean Thompson

seem to cross for a try but it was disallowed when the referee puzzlingly deemed Goulburn had gained no advantage. Sustained pressure finally yielded fruit though when Nathan Stewart figured on the end of a backline play to score Goulburn's second try in the right hand corner.

Webber missed the conversion but added a penalty goal right on half time to close the section for Goulburn with a 15-5 lead.

While Goulburn had had the better of the second half, ADFA were far from finished for the day. You can't go through defence force training without having some fight in you and it took them just seven minutes to show that quality when they closed the gap to 15-12 with a converted try.

The following section of play was tough and keenly contested rugby which the referee enforced rigidly. Both sides were pulled up for ruck and maul infringements and marched for any backchat. From ADFA indiscretions, Webber added a penalty goal at the 17<sup>th</sup> minute and then missed another at the 22<sup>nd</sup> but five minutes later ADFA crossed for their third try to close the gap to just 18-17.

Goulburn's defence remained solid at the ruck and maul, but ADFA continued their game plan of minimising phase play and feeding the ball to their slick backline. This reaped dividends again when, nine minutes from full time, ADFA took the lead for the first time in the match with a converted try. Finishing stronger, and with superb fitness, ADFA added one final insult try two minutes before full time with yet another try to take the game and the minor premiership for 2009.

The disappointing loss was a strong and gutsy performance by Goulburn, but ADFA's was better. Goulburn has beaten ADFA already this year, and came within minutes of doing so again on Saturday, but they will need to bring their "A game" to beat them in the major semi final. Areas to focus on in training this week will no doubt include discipline at the breakdown, scrambling defence and concentration in the first and last ten minutes of the second half.

Dean Thompson had a sensational performance that saw him rewarded with three best and fairest points as well as the player's player award. Other best and fairest points went to young guns Tony White (2), Benny Moore (1) and Aiden Greaves (1).

## Dirty Twos into the semis

In a reverse of the first grade match, the Goulburn Dirty Twos have earned their way into the reserve grade minor semi final with an exciting and entertaining 24-19 result.

Only taking the lead in the final five minutes, the Twos also picked up a bonus point for their four-try win that went right down to the wire.

ADFA had already scored a converted try after only two minutes and the situation seemed dire at the twenty minute mark when ADFA led by 14-0.

But the Twos dusted themselves off and three minutes later, following a series of drives led by human battering ram Ben "Yogi" Pearson, George Martin scored Goulburn's first try. That brief ray of hope seemed almost extinguished five minutes later though when ADFA returned serve with a 50 metre run to score out wide again.

But the Twos lifted the tempo in the second half and kept ADFA scoreless for that section. Ten minutes in, Josh Hogan executed a great chip and chase and then regathered from an ADFA fumble for a Goulburn try that was converted by Luke Price.

Nine minutes after that it was Martin's turn to score his second try, again after early groundwork by Pearson, and with sixteen minutes remaining the scores were level.

ADFA also raised a notch at this point and began to live up to the title Defence Force. It seemed a miracle would be needed to pull off one of the side's best ever come-from-behind wins and that miracle arrived in the form of impact player Doug Webster.

After sustained pressure on the ADFA line, Doug the super sub crossed for the side's fourth try and the Twos were able to hold ADFA out for the remaining five minutes to secure a semi final berth.

George Martin contributed one of the best performances seen in the Dirty Twos all year and picked up the Players Player award along with three best and fairest points.

The remainder of the best and fairest points went to Josh Hogan (2), Ben Pearson (1), Luke Price (1) and Luke Shaw (1).



Minor Semi Final  
RESERVE GRADE  
Saturday, 29 August 2009

## Dirty Twos bow out gracefully

By CHRIS GORDON

The Goulburn reserve grade "Dirty Twos", playing with just 14 men and no reserves, put in their best against Hall this season, but it wasn't enough to beat the Bushrangers who won by 36-19.

The powerful Hall side has been dominant all year and was always going to be a difficult proposition to win against, but with the Bushrangers having a full quota of players and a bench full of reserves at their disposal, the already difficult task proved impossible.

Hall got off to an early lead but Goulburn had replied with a Doug Webster try and Luke Price conversion by the 20<sup>th</sup> minute to be trailing by just 10-7.

The Hall pack, led by former Dirty Red Jason Byron, continued to make yards at every ruck and maul against Goulburn although the Twos tried valiantly to compete with them at every breakdown.



Luke Price scored a try and kicked two conversions in the side's valiant loss.

Usually the side struggling to defend against a stronger team struggles to maintain its discipline but it was Hall that had greater problems in this area, having one player shown a red card ten minutes before half time, and two players shown yellow cards throughout the match.

While the send off reduced the game to a 14 man a side match, Hall were still the stronger in the first half and added two more tries to finish the section at 22-7.

Goulburn's half time talk by captain Robbie Cosgrove emphasised the importance of maintaining their discipline and not arguing with the

referee, and of nullifying Byron by tackling low and stopping his drives. But Hall returned to the paddock the fresher of the sides and added two more tries within the first five minutes.

Luke Price added a try, which he converted, and then in the finishing stages Jay Butler added another but even though the second half saw two tries scored by each side, Hall had done enough to secure a well-deserved win.

Despite a mixed year of sometimes patchy form, the side showed great commitment and unearthed a number of talented juniors, all of which bodes well for a better season next year.



Goulburn Rugby  
Second Grade  
2009

**Major Semi Final  
FIRST GRADE  
Saturday, 29 August 2009**

**Reds grand final  
bound  
By CHRIS GORDON**

The Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds will host the ACTRU first division grand final for the third successive year after outlasting and outplaying ADFA in a thrilling 41-36 win in the first grade major semi final on Saturday.

Described by fullback Rob Sheekey as the gutsiest match he'd been involved in during his decade with the club, the Reds were forced to dig deep to survive a second half onslaught by ADFA.

Combining the sometimes elusive elements of commitment and application, and for the most part demonstrating improved discipline, the Reds overturned Academy's win in the final round last weekend and in doing so balanced the ledger between the sides at two wins a piece this year.

Coach Matt O'Rourke was impressed by the effort and determination when he spoke to the players after the game, although still exasperated by the patches of indiscipline.

"That's our game", said O'Rourke.

"We just played our game against these guys, not their's, and we won. We believed in ourselves and hung in there. Our scrambling was excellent, our effort was much better. It was all about being smart, hard and relentless.

"But I can't express my disappointment in playing 20 minutes of that game with men in the sin bin.

"We played a man down all that time. That has to stop. But putting that to one side, we showed we know how to play them, and we know how to beat them."

The periods that O'Rourke spoke of involved two Goulburn players being shown yellow cards by the no-nonsense referee, and in that time four tries were scored against Goulburn.

Surprisingly however ADFA, who are normally the yardstick of disciplined rugby, were equally guilty earning the referees ire frequently throughout the match with two yellow cards of their own, and numerous warnings and marchings for backchat.

Goulburn began the match with the early lead thanks to a Mick Webber penalty goal but ADFA notched up the first try after a scrum win 30 metres out that finished with a subsequent backline movement and a converted try.

In a high intensity match, defence was at a premium early on and ADFA were making their best yardage through the prodigious right boot of their fullback. Goulburn's defence held intact though and denied ADFA any opportunities.

Midway through the first half, fly half Jeff Caldwell made a break into ADFA territory and chipped ahead into open space only to be held back without the ball.

Advantage was played though and from the ensuing play, captain Boyd Newby slipped a pass inside to inside centre Webber who gave himself an easy conversion attempt, giving Goulburn the 10-7 lead.

Sustained pressure rewarded Goulburn with the next try five minutes later after an initial drive by Dave Anable paved the way for flanker Mick Coggan to score out wide and the conversion plus a penalty goal five minutes later, both by Webber, put Goulburn in the driver's seat at 20-7.

Now on the back foot and struggling to put plays together, an ADFA player was shown the game's first yellow card as the side's discipline started to falter ten minutes short of the break.

Webber notched up another penalty goal shortly after but with five minutes remaining until half time, ADFA rallied back for a converted try that drew them back to 23-14.

In the dying stages of the half Dean Thompson was given a yellow card and while Goulburn went to the break with a nine point lead, it meant they would be a man down for most of the first ten minutes of the second half.

Coach O'Rourke made his disappointment clear at half time, reminding the players they had been guilty before of taking the foot off the accelerator when they had a handy lead and lost as a result.

He warned them not to get sucked into surrendering penalties, back-chatting the referee and letting ADFA back into the match but ADFA had ideas of their own.

Capitalising on Goulburn's reduction to 14 players, ADFA took less than a minute to score a try.

To make matters worse, one of Goulburn's best performers all year Ben Pearson was forced from the field with an injury five minutes later and then two minutes after that, ADFA scored their second second half try when they scooped up a poorly directed blind pass to run 70 metres before scoring.

ADFA now led for the first time in the match but Webber shortly balanced the equation with a penalty goal that levelled the score at 26-26.

The remainder of the match showed the sort of commitment and determination you'd expect from a grand final as both teams realised the match was there for the taking, or the losing.

Goulburn pushed back up field and after Anable, Ben Green and Justin Benn tried to punch through the ADFA line, a backline play put fullback Rob Sheekey across for a try.

Five minutes later Thompson crossed for a try and with Webber's conversion, Goulburn was now in front by 38-26.

This again seemed like a commanding score, but with 15 minutes left on the clock, Coggan was sin binned and Goulburn was again a man down against a resurgent ADFA.

Webber added one more penalty goal to Goulburn's tally, after an unsuccessful attempt at field goal, but then ADFA rallied for one last crack at the game.

Against a backdrop of FA18 Hornets and Seahawk helicopters circling the oval and with machine gun fire 100 metres away as part of the Academy's open day,

ADFA threw everything they had into a dramatic final ten minutes. Capitalising on Coggan's absence, they scored two tries in this period and dragged the score back to 41-36.

But as deep as ADFA dug, Goulburn found it had deeper reserves and with sensational scrambling defence and commitment held out ADFA for the win.

The match was a gusty, well-rounded team effort and gives the side two weeks to prepare for the home ground grand final.



Grand Final  
**FIRST GRADE**  
Saturday, 12 September 2009

## Three-peat Thriller

By CHRIS GORDON

The Goulburn Soldiers Club Dirty Reds saved their gutsiest and most tenacious performance of the season until the very end when they beat the Australian Defence Force Academy by 21-20 in a heart-stopping ACTRU first division grand final.

Achieving the “three-peat” of three premierships in a row, the Reds trailed on the scoreboard until the 77<sup>th</sup> minute and still had to survive a penalty goal attempt by ADFA to carve a notch for themselves in local rugby history.

Retiring first grade coach Matt O'Rourke, who can now lay claim to the most successful coaching record in Goulburn rugby history, coached the Reds to all three of the first grade premierships but described this win over the Geoff Stokes coached ADFA side as especially satisfying.

“That really was something. That was the toughest team we've faced in the all of the three premierships. For me the best part about that win was the side's belief in themselves and the effort they were prepared to put in,” he said.

“We didn't entirely play the game we set out to play but when we got into a tough spot we hung in there and fought back. And that's true of the entire season to an extent. We didn't always play good football, and this side may not have been as dominant as the 2007 side, but they had a lot of heart, they



*The Redettes*

backed each other up and grew in belief in themselves as the season progressed.”

While the match was far from a faultless display of rugby it DID contain everything you'd hope for in a grand final – a tight match, attacking opportunities from both sides, and a nervous finish.

Both sides were primed for their best defensive efforts and that was obvious on the scoreboard which wasn't needed until the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute. Goulburn had spent the opening five minutes in ADFA's territory but then spent the next 17 minutes withstanding an ADFA onslaught in Goulburn's half.

Goulburn's scrambling defence proved solid and the Reds had only just gained purchase over half way when a dropped ball from a Goulburn scrum win was recovered by ADFA.

ADFA then passed the ball to their left flank and in two phases covered the 50 metres to the try-line for an unconverted try and the opening 5-0 lead.

That lead was quickly reduced when Mick Webber slotted a penalty goal for Goulburn four minutes later but was soon reinstated when ADFA added a penalty goal of their own. ADFA continued to probe the left flank and made easy yards there again shortly after but scrambling defence soon plugged up that side of the paddock. ADFA was forced to swing the ball through their slick backline, finishing with their skipper and fullback and he scored their second try in the right corner with seven minutes remaining in the half.

ADFA were now in the ascendancy and Goulburn was forced to defend for much of the remainder of the half. It was left to the oldest legs in the team, attached to the oldest player, fly half Jeff Caldwell, to get the Reds out of trouble when he soccered ahead a loose ball and outran ADFA's backs to make 60 yards and set up play in ADFA's half.

From ensuing play, Webber was presented with a shot at goal but the attempt missed and while both sides had a few more opportunities in the half the score remained 13-3 at the break.

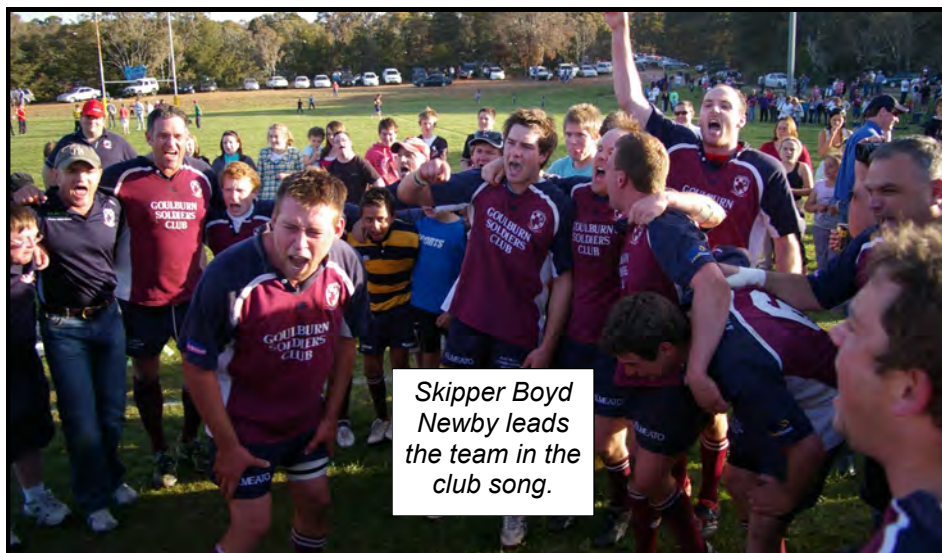
Coach O'Rourke urged the side to not drop off and that they were still well and truly in this match. The Reds responded and, while they had shown a weakness in the first and last ten minutes of the second half in many of their matches this year, the opposite was true in this game. After promising drives by the Reds, Goulburn's bustling forwards forced ADFA into infringing and just four minutes into the second half, Webber was presented with a penalty goal that narrowed the margin to 13-6

Goulburn's scrum proved stronger than their opponents all day and they were able to mark yards with every scrum feed, but ADFA's strong kicking game from the potent right boot of their



*Toby White  
soars above the  
ADFA forwards*





fullback kept buying them breathing space.

The Reds stuck to the task though and from a scrum on the ADFA 22 metre line, Webber was given the ball before offloading to Sheekey who made a damaging bust. From the next phase,

Ben Pearson followed this with another charge through the ADFA line and from the third phase Dave Anable added the final piece of the puzzle, busting through for the try. Webber's conversion was unsuccessful though and 13 minutes into the second half Goulburn trailed 13-11.

The minor premiers weren't ready to surrender, however. ADFA ignored Goulburn's resurgent form and bounced back midway through the second half.

Again, exploiting the left hand side of the field, ADFA was able to break through for a try and the conversion opened up their lead to 20-11.

The battle was now at its most intense. In the following five minutes, each side had opportunities in their opponent's half. Justin Benn produced a surprising amount of pace to charge 40 metres upfield at one stage to no avail and then ADFA stormed back and maintained pressure on Goulburn's line which held firm.

When Goulburn finally held possession again, a penalty opportunity was presented with ten minutes on the clock, Goulburn bravely chose to take a shot at penalty goal and that decision proved ultimately to be a game winner. Believing in themselves that they would

add a converted try to that score to gain the lead, they did exactly that.

Two attempts at tries were denied for being held up in goal but with three minutes remaining in the match, Ben Pearson took a quick tap from a penalty and sent the ball out wide to the waiting arms of Webber who crossed the line. The conversion attempt could not have been more tense with the entire season riding on it but Webber made good the kick and gave Goulburn the lead for the first time in that match.

It seemed as if the premiership was Goulburn's but there was still one more twist in the game. The resilient ADFA team charged straight back and from a lineout were awarded a penalty shot 30 metres out and ten metres to the left of the posts. Now with only seconds on the clock, the ADFA skipper took his shot at the premiership but failed, giving Goulburn the historic win.

Skipper Boyd Newby referred to the match as the most satisfying he'd ever played in. For seat-of-your-pants thriller value, it is possibly the best match ever seen on Poidevin Oval or at least equal with the 2007 reserve grade grand final over Royals.

Fittingly, the match featured a well rounded performance by the Reds with everyone contributing well for the win. Mick Webber, who scored 16 of Goulburn's 21 points, was named player of the grand final by ACTRU chairman Geoff Larkham.





# Best and Fairest Points 2009

First Grade	2/05/09	9/05/09	16/05/09	23.5.09	30/05/09	13/06/09	20/06/09	27/06/09	4/07/09	11/07/09	25/07/09	1/08/09	8/08/09	15/08/09	22/08/09	
Opponent	Yass	Hall	Tugers	Cooma	ADFA	Yass	Hall	ADFA	Tugers	Cooma	Yass	Hall	Tugers	Cooma	ADFA	
Result	24-5	20-7	24-0	29-17	24-40	45-3	36-21	38-20	31-15	22-14	53-14	20-46	36-7	20-14	18-29	
Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	TOTAL
PEARSON, Ben			3	2	2			3	2	3		2		1		18
WEBBER, Mikael	3	2	1	1		1	2	2	1		3			1		17
GREEN, Ben		3		3		3		1			2	3				15
NEWBY, Boyd									3		1	1	2			7
THOMPSON, Dean					3	1									3	7
COGGAN, Mick										2				3		5
GREAVES, Aiden												1	3		1	5
McCARTHY, Rob							3	1								4
WHITE, Toby						2									2	4
BENN, Justin			2		1											3
CALDWELL, Jeff					1		1						1			3
MOORE, Benny	2														1	3
STEWART, Nathan													1	2		3
TIVEY, Andrew	1	1		1												3
ANABLE, Dave							1									1
CLARKE, Josh										1						1
McLENNAN, Austin										1						1
McPHERSON, Joel				1												1

Second Grade	2/05/09	9/05/09	16/05/09	23/05/09	30/05/09	13/06/09	20/06/09	27/06/09	4/07/09	11/07/09	25/07/09	1/08/09	8/08/09	15/08/09	22/08/09	
Opponent	Wests	Hall	Royals	Cooma	ADFA	Wests	Hall	ADFA	Royals	Cooma	Wests	Hall	Royals	Cooma	ADFA	
Result	37-24	33-44	3-44	10-3	3-10	74-7	17-10	0-26	17-48	5-36	FORF	17-39	0-26	28-7	24-19	
Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	TOTAL
WHITE, Toby	1		2	3				3				2	2			13
KREMER, Jason			3				1	1	3			3	1			12
COSGROVE, Robbie	2	3			1		2		1			1		1		11
PEARSON, Ben "Yogi"	1		1		2	3			2			1			1	11
PRICE, Luke		2		2									1	3	1	9
GREAVES, Aiden	3	1		1	3											8
HOGAN, Josh				1			1								2	4
MURPHY, Gerard	1		2	1												4
ATIGA, Damyn										3						3
BAILEY, Eli						1		2								3
BENN, Justin							3									3
COGGAN, Mick						2		1								3
HEWETT, Nathan													3			3
MARTIN, George															3	3
SHAW, Luke						1								1	1	3
HEITEL, Richie										2						2
McLENNAN, Austin														2		2
DONALDSON, Wayne									1							1
McCARTHY, Rob												1				1
TUCKER, Adam										1						1
WILD, Aaron										1						1

## Goulburn Rugby Union - Season Stats by Grade (2009)

Player Name	Matches	Points	Average	Tries	Conv	Pen Goals	Drop Goals	B/F
<b>1st Grade</b>								
ANABLE, Dave	10	10	1.00	2	0	0	0	0
BAILEY, Elijah	4	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
BENN, Justin	7	15	2.14	3	0	0	0	1
BIRD, Matt	5	5	1.00	1	0	0	0	0
CALDWELL, Jeff	4	5	1.25	1	0	0	0	0
CHANDLER, Jordan	11	5	0.45	1	0	0	0	6
COCHRANE, Brenton	2	15	7.50	3	0	0	0	0
CORCORAN, Ashley	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
FLOOD, Curtis	9	10	1.11	2	0	0	0	3
GREAVES, Aiden	13	5	0.38	1	0	0	0	10
HIGGINS, Wes	4	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
HOGAN, Ben	11	20	1.82	4	0	0	0	0
HOGAN, Josh	12	5	0.42	1	0	0	0	6
HOGAN, Mitch	1	5	5.00	1	0	0	0	0
HOOK, David	11	15	1.36	3	0	0	0	7
KILBY, Chris	14	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	6
LACHLAN, Adam	13	35	2.69	7	0	0	0	1
LARKIN, Craig	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
McCARTHY, Rob	13	30	2.31	6	0	0	0	7
McLENNAN, Mark	1	5	5.00	1	0	0	0	0
MOORE, Benny	3	5	1.67	1	0	0	0	0
NEWBY, Boyd	13	5	0.38	1	0	0	0	4
PEARSON, Ben	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
PEARSON, Ben "Yogi"	6	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
SHAW, Luke	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
SHEPHERD, Chris	5	10	2.00	2	0	0	0	3
TIVEY, Andrew	13	15	1.15	3	0	0	0	0
TODKILL, Ben	8	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
TOWNS, Daniel	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
WEBBER, Mikael	13	147	11.31	12	33	7	0	7
WEIR, Zach	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
WHITE, Toby	12	10	0.83	2	0	0	0	18



## Goulburn Rugby Union - Season Stats by Grade (2009)

Player Name	Matches	Points	Average	Tries	Conv	Pen Goals	Drop Goals	B/F
<b>2nd Grade</b>								
ALAIA, Zeb	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
ATKINSON, Darryl	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
BAILEY, Elijah	9	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	1
BENN, Justin	8	5	0.63	1	0	0	0	0
BIRD, Matt	3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
CALDWELL, Jeff	9	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	3
CHANDLER, Jordan	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
CLARKE, Josh	8	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
COCHRANE, Brenton	3	20	6.67	4	0	0	0	4
CORCORAN, Ashley	6	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
COSGROVE, Robbie	11	5	0.45	1	0	0	0	4
COTTERILL, Jonathon	7	15	2.14	3	0	0	0	6
DONALDSON, Wayne	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
DOUGAL, Evan	4	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	2
DOUGAL, Murray	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
ELLISON, Dave	4	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
FLOOD, Curtis	6	10	1.67	2	0	0	0	3
GRADOS, Artie	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
GRIFFIN, Chris	4	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
HEITEL, Richie	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
HEWETT, Nathan	11	5	0.45	1	0	0	0	3
HIGGINS, Wes	12	5	0.42	1	0	0	0	4
HOGAN, Josh	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
HOGAN, Mitch	2	5	2.50	1	0	0	0	2
HOOK, David	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
KILBY, Chris	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
KILBY, Mark	6	14	2.33	1	3	1	0	6
KREMER, Jason	2	10	5.00	2	0	0	0	3
LARKIN, Craig	7	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
LAURIE, Michael	4	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	1
LEE, Tim	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
McCARTHY, Rob	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
McLENNAN, Mark	12	27	2.25	5	1	0	0	7
MOORE, Benny	3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	5
MURPHY, Gerrard	12	5	0.42	1	0	0	0	0
NICHOLS, John	3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
PEARSON, Ben	7	5	0.71	1	0	0	0	1
PEARSON, Ben "Yogi"	12	10	0.83	2	0	0	0	2
RUSSELL, Chris	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
SHAW, Luke	13	43	3.31	3	14	0	0	3
SHEPHERD, Chris	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0



## Goulburn Rugby Union - Season Stats by Grade (2009)

Player Name	Matches	Points	Average	Tries	Conv	Pen Goals	Drop Goals	B/F
TABNER, Sam	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
THOMPSON, Dean	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
TIVEY, Andrew	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
TODKILL, Ben	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
TOWNS, Daniel	6	25	4.17	5	0	0	0	4
TUCKER, Adam	7	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
WAIBEL, Dale	12	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
WAKEFIELD, Josh	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
WEBSTER, Doug	3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
WEIR, Zach	13	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	10
WILCOX, Jordan	5	5	1.00	1	0	0	0	4
WITHERS, Corey	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0





# Presentations and Awards 2009

## Tryscorers of the Year

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Luke Price (5 tries)

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Mikael Webber (21 tries)

Club: Mikael Webber ( 21 tries)

## Pointscorers of the Year

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Brad Gray (41 Points @ 3.73 per game)

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: (265 pts @ 15.59 per game)

Club: Mikael Webber (265 pts @ 15.59 per game)

## Most Improved Players

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Toby White

## Best & Fairest Player s

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Toby White

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Ben Pearson

## Players Players

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

## Kevin "Bubby" Fitzsimmons Encouragement Award

Josh Clarke

## Bruce Bailey Most Outstanding Achievement Award

Mikael Webber

## Mark Longhurst Most Outstanding Prospect Award

Aiden Greaves

## John Osmond Most Dedicated Player Award

Boyd Newby

## Matt Klem Club Person of the Year

Kev Kara

## Simon Poidevin Best Forwards Award

Boyd Newby

## Best Back Award

Mikael Webber

## Village Idiot

A

## Animal of the Year

M

## El Meato Butcher of the Year Award (Butchered try)

D

## Yabbie of the Year

D







## **MONARO FIRST DIVISION: 2009 1st Grade Premiers**

### **OUR VALUED SPONSORS**

#### **MAJOR SPONSOR - Goulburn Soldier's Club**

Allan Cardy  
Angeldyl Haircare  
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ARW Multigroup  
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BBQ Galore  
Blue Hills Corner Store  
Boyce  
Boyd Newby Carpentry  
Brewer Earthmoving  
Brumbies Rugby  
Carlton Draught  
Civic Video  
Clarity Homeloans  
Clark Tanks  
Coles Myer  
Connen Hill Lucerne  
Crookwell Rugby  
Divall's Bulk Haulage  
El Meato  
El Washo  
Fife's Stock Feeds

G & K Thorne Electrical  
Galland Elder Lulham  
Gary Dutaillis  
Glenn Swift Tiling  
Goulburn Diesel Service  
Goulburn Plumbing  
Goulburn Produce  
Goulburn Screenprinting  
Goulburn Soldiers Club  
Goulburn Trophies  
Goulburn Welding  
SuppliesGoulburn Workwear  
Greg Hucker Electrical  
Greigs Electronics  
Hopes Cordials  
Ian Cumming  
JC Walsh and Sons  
Jim Murphy  
Kate Morgan Weight Loss  
Kennards Hire  
Lamond Howard and Asc  
Landmark

Lockyersleigh  
McDonalds Family Restaurant  
Mick and Joes Tyres  
National Union of Workers  
Pearson Engineering  
Peter Brooks Contracting  
R J Sidney Craig  
Reece Plumbing  
Retravisation  
RJ Kell and Co. Surveyors  
RSM Bird Cameron  
Sam Tabner Landscaping  
Sam White Quality Constructions  
Southern Garages & Masonry  
Southern Meats  
Sportspower  
Tablelands Tiling  
The G Store  
Trappers Motor Inn  
Unlimited Fitness  
Walker Tiles  
Westpac Bank