

SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

It was pleasing to see so many players and supporters turn up for Presentation Night. After the recent renovations, the clubhouse looked great and thanks must go to **Babbsy, Fiona, Lyn, Shane, Julie** and **Shrek** who set up the venue and organized the food and drinks on the night.

Senior coach, **Lee Verrall**, was unable to attend due to work commitments, but sent the following report on the season:

First of all, I would like to start by thanking those who have supported me in my first coaching position, and with the transition from player to coach. Thanks also to the people, both players and supporters, who turned up week in-week out for the support of Palmerston Rugby Union Club, and to those who regularly backed up and played almost three hours of rugby every weekend just so Palmy could field a side.

Looking back on the season has been another eye-opening experience. Starting with the Hottest 7's, I didn't want to put too much pressure on winning, but after two poor performances in the pool stage on the Saturday, we managed to get it together on the field and have a win in the Barra competition with the starring roles going to **Jared Deo** and **Matt Connop**, both still at school.

Now, being new to a coaching role, and needing to incorporate players of differing ability may have made it difficult or boring or monotonous or repetitive, but rugby is!

The year started well with two wins from the first four games, a nail-biter and a dubious refereeing decision costing us a first-up draw against Dragons, then two strong wins over University and Souths.

Then came Casuarina, who coming off an undefeated last season, would be our benchmark. Despite a heavy loss we showed we were willing to match it with the Cougars. All in all, not a bad start considering the numbers to training weren't allowing us to field one side, let alone two!

As the year went on, it was good to see people like **Franga, Squirter, George, Ian, Tommy, Smithy** and **Brad Hunt** take on senior positions, helping me through the fledgling part of my coaching role. We saw some positive skill development in all groups, especially our younger and new players (**Alex, Colin, Timmy** and **Isaako**).

I will now apologize for my actions in the Round 3 game against Casuarina. I am not proud of what I did. As a player, I played within the laws and spirit of the game, and as a coach all I ask for is a fair go and consistency on the field. I don't think that was given and I said something about it. It was not the best way to go about it, but the reaction was not called for either.

In the final round of the competition, we had a very close game with Casuarina. Despite not looking as crisp and complete as possible, it was a full strength Casuarina side with Mosquitoes on the bench. The guys pushed well and fought for everything which I feel the Palmy spirit showed the most – the Heart that carried us through.

In a final note, I would like to thank everyone again for the opportunity to coach at Palmerston. Hopefully, we can work out a few things prior to next season. We need to look after the seniors so that the juniors have a place they want to play and players they can look up to.

Thank you.

Lee Verrall

Awards for the season :

A GRADE AWARDS

Coach's Award
Paul Williams
Most Improved
Tamoto "Timmy" Tamoto
Best Back
Tommy Hurse
Best Forward
George Hatzismalis
Players' Player
Robbie Armand
Best & Fairest
George Hatzismalis
Top Try Scorers
Damien Smith
Anthony Smith
Golden Boot Leading Points

Ian Verrall
Captain's Award
Francis "Franga" Hayes

B GRADE AWARDS

Most Improved
Alexander Cornell-Hewlett
Best Forward
Alex Sumpton
Best Back
Stan Huen
Players' Player
Lachlan Wade
Best & Fairest
Lachlan Wade
Coach's Award
(For playing 2 games in A & B grades each weekend for most of the season)
Craig "Squirter" Leach
Brock Evans
Justin Walker

Special mention also to **Charlie Chambers & Timmy Tomato** for their efforts in A & B Grade.



The Most Promising Players Award – (sponsored by Mal & Wendy Leach)

Bradley Hogan
Lachlan Wade

Club Persons of the Year

Robbie Taylor
Rebecca Gardiner

The Rusty Needle Award

Michael Nicholas (with 8 stitches – in his first game for the Club – well done!!)

Runner Up

Alex Sumpton (with 4 stitches)
Honorable Mention

Gareth “Shrek” Felton (glue only from 6 head-butts in the one game)

The Osteoporosis Award

Tommy Hurse (broken foot)

The Grumpy Barman’s Award

Tommy Hurse (his throw-up bucket after sculling a shot on Miss Palmy Night!).

Craig “Squirter” Leach received a plaque in recognition of his **350th** A Grade game for the Club.

Congratulations to all of the winners – well done!

Special mention should go to:

A Grade Coach	Lee Verrall
A Grade Manager	Fiona Austine
Physio	Cat Waite
Water Runner	Phil Verrall
B Grade Coach	Alan Babbs
B Grade Manager	Cecily Boulton

And to **Rob Sloan**, who kept the A and B team books all season – great job, Rob!

Thanks also to **Ned Kelly** for his assistance all season- and not forgetting **Dennis Grant** (the Grumpy Barman) for his hard work.

Last of all, to **“The Armchair Critic”** for his comments on the B Grade games. Hope he’s back next year!

Life Membership

Life Membership was awarded to **Mal and Wendy Leach**. This was a big surprise, but certainly one that is much appreciated by Mal and Wendy who regard it as a very special honour from the Club they have supported for so many years.

Message from the Grumpy “old” Barman

Now that we have the big screen at the Club, why not come down for the **NRL Grand Final – Sunday, 2nd October, at 4.00 pm to after the game.**

Bar will be open, steak and sausage sandwiches will be on sale.

Give me a call if interested so I can arrange catering.

Mobile: 0437 912 140.

Other events coming up .

THE WAY AHEAD

A meeting to discuss these points plus any others that members wish to raise will be held in the clubhouse on **Sunday, 25th September 2011 at 2.00 pm.**

Put your thinking caps on and let’s have a good attendance of members and supporters interested in the future development of **PALMERSTON RUGBY UNION CLUB.**

SNIPPETS

Farewell to **Peter Richardson** who has been transferred to Kapooka – the Club will miss him next season.

Congratulations to **Byron and Mary Bushell** on the recent arrival of their new baby.



The Rusty Needle Award
(Alex Sumpton/Michael Nicholas)



Most Promising Players
(Lachlan Wade/Brad Hogan)



Top Try Scorers
(Anthony Smith & Damien Smith)



Osteoporosis Award
(Tommy Hurse)



Life Members
(Mal, Craig & Wendy Leach)



The Clubhouse



Ned Kelly & Shrek



Brock Evans & Shrek



Life Members of the Club

Corporate Seven's

Fiona Austine is managing the Marsh Sevens team again this year.

Twelve players are needed.

If you are interested and want to play, please contact Fiona by the 30th September. Games commence in October.

Mobile 0466 155 401
