



MANLY BROTHERS JUNIOR RUGBY
FOOTBALL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT **2023**

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LIFE MEMBERS - Once a Manly Brother always a Manly Brother

2022 - Greg Keogh

2022 - Trent McCann

2022 - Mark West

2016 - Karen Gagen

2016 - Jacky McCauley

2008 - Chris Meates

2008 - Paul Wilson *

2004 - Vince O'Brien

2004 - John Fox 'Foxy'

2001 - Gary Malcolm

1997 - John Fuller 'Dudley'

1995 - Pam Hill

1994 - Alf Cornthwaite

1992 - Neil Bertoli *

Arthur Fairall

1990 - Michael Simmons

1989 - Cliff Curnl

1985 - Allan Hill 'Bluey'

1982 - Gary Collis

1980 - Brian O'Donnell

1980 - Kevin Day *

1979 - Arthur McCarroll

1976 - William Crowley *

1959 - Ernest Rowley *

1950 - John Shaw *

N. McNally *

Monsignor John McDonald *

*denotes deceased life member

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

G Keogh

GROUNDS

J Fox

VICE PRESIDENT

G Malcolm

DELEGATE TO MWJRL

J Fox & G Keogh

SECRETARY

S Cho | J McCauley

SPONSORSHIP

M West

TREASURER

J Fox

WEBSITE | SOCIAL MEDIA

R Simpson

COACHING COORDINATOR

A Collella

PERPETUAL AWARDS

Ernie Rowley Trophy for Best Club Person

Paddy Hearn

Tom Meates Mateship Award

Augie Elderkin

Christopher Purcell Memorial Trophy – Best Defensive Player Saturday Comp

Archie Lyne

Col Mills Trophy – Most Outstanding Coach

Peter Kee

Stephen Hoy Memorial Trophy – Most Exciting Prospect 14 year & Under 21

Brock Richmond

Pittwater Prestige Trophy – Most Exciting Prospect 14 year & Under

Ellie Fairall

Paul Wilson Trophy – Most Outstanding Manager

Rebecca Simpson

Hill Family Award – Club Family Award

Morris Family

Best Junior Club Person

Cory Morris

Fisden Trophy – Most Improved Team

Under 17's

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2023 season at Manly Brothers had a real sense of energy and promise. A brand-new playing strip with lots of new sponsors made sure the teams took to the field looking magnificent. We had a lot of new faces on the Committee and fresh energy showed. Thanks especially to Mark West who took on the role of Sponsorship Coordinator with much gusto.

As a result, we have a new Club Sponsorship in Halcon Dreams (pure new wool bedding products), as well as Coast to Coast Piling, Cogent Constructions and Raine Horne Dee Why Collaroy as Gold level sponsors, along with Bulldog Gym and South Steyne Medical Centre as Silver level sponsors. Thanks to these companies for their contributions together with numerous other bronze sponsors.

The teams looked the part and certainly played the part when the footy got underway.

Unfortunately, we could not raise the numbers again for an U6 team. This is a problem game wide and hopefully the introduction of tag footy from 2024 will help.

Three Under 7 players who were new to the game joined our Under 8 squad and had a great year learning the game. Their coach (Luke) had to go overseas for work but our Under 17's captain, Paddy Hearn, stepped into the breach and took over. The kids had lots of fun playing and training while their skill levels improved throughout the season. Thanks to all the parents who helped and Bec for managing this team as well as the Under 9s.

Our Under 9 team are a well drilled machine and can certainly be proud of the ways they played. Their defense improved throughout the year and the boys were unlucky not to make the Grand Final. A few new players joined this year and made a real impact. Thanks to Dan, Al and Anthony for your time and efforts with the boys.

The Under 10's played in the 1st Division this year and the jump-up was challenging. To their credit they chose to stay in the higher division and really improved as the season wore on. Peter and his assistant did a great job keeping the boys up and they were a happy bunch all year. Thanks to Lucy for managing.

The Under 12 team were very well coached by Breandan and Mark and enjoyed several great wins. Their goal line defense was a highlight for me – getting them home in some tight matches. They went all the way to the grand final and were unlucky not to get the bounce of the ball on the day.

The 13's began the season on fire and were undefeated through the first half of the season. Ryan had the boys really humming along, unfortunately injury and unavailability of players struck hard, and the team could barely get enough players to take the field through the latter stages of the season. The boys went down in a hard-fought semi. Congratulations to Ryan, Tim, Paula, and Gary.

Our girls team continued to impress in the Under 14's Tag competition. They played solidly all year and were well coached again this year by Luke. The girls play with a smile on their face but with grit in their eyes. A large part of this team will still be eligible for U14's in season 2024.

Our Under 16 team was based mostly on the U14 premiership winning team from 2022. This meant a number of the boys were playing up a year. Some early issues with availability meant a slow start to the season. The boys were unlucky to lose their semifinal and will certainly make an impact next year. Seven of the team have been included in the Manly U16 Development training squad and 2 or 3 have been picked up by Balmain Tigers. Well done, Peter, Wayne and Anthony and all involved.

The U17's was the most senior team in the club this season and they certainly did us proud. The amazing number of players is testament to Anthony Colella and his coaching style. These boys play because they love the game. Many of this team have been with the club for several years and went through entire seasons struggling for a win but they keep coming back and playing for their mates and their club. They are a credit to their coach, Anthony, manager Evie and

their families. Whenever a call went out for volunteers for a clean up or for Saturday home games, the U17's were there. They embody the real spirit of the Manly Brothers Club, and it was great to see them have some success and make the grand final. Unfortunately, they were a little underdone after a grueling golden point win over Narrabeen in the final and couldn't quite get up again in the big match at Leichardt oval. I believe any disappointment was quickly forgotten amid appropriate post-match celebrations.

A successful year for the club despite not winning a comp due to the increased involvement of lots of new faces, the spirit our footy was played in and the multiple demonstrations of club spirit.

Thanks to everyone involved throughout the year, especially those that helped in the canteen, BBQ, field set up, field take down – your efforts are very important and appreciated.

Obviously special thanks to John Fox (grounds, clubhouse, and everything), Jac McCauley (Canteen manager & registrar), Mark West (Sponsorship and Ground Manager), Gary Malcolm, (Vice President and everything), Anthony Colella (Coaching Co-ordinator), Bec Simpson (Communications, Website and Social Media Coordinator and Manager of multiple teams), Brendon Glass (Field set up and equipment).

Greg Keogh
President
Manly Brothers.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I am delighted to present this report as the Secretary of the Manly Brothers Club, reflecting on what has undeniably been a brilliant and successful 2023 season.

As we gather to celebrate the achievements of the past year, it is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt compliments to each and every member of our club. The dedication, passion, and hard work exhibited by players, coaches, support staff, and volunteers have truly made this season remarkable.

Our players have displayed exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship on the field. The commitment to training, the unity within the team, and the relentless pursuit of excellence have not only brought victories but have also embodied the true spirit of our club and game. Each match has been a testament to the discipline and teamwork instilled in our players, reflecting positively on the club's values.

A special commendation goes out to our coaching staff for their tireless efforts in nurturing talent and fostering team cohesion. Their expertise, guidance, and unwavering support have played a pivotal role in the achievements of our teams throughout the season.

Behind the scenes, our volunteers have worked diligently to ensure the smooth functioning of the club. From organising events to managing logistics, their dedication has been crucial in creating a positive and welcoming environment for everyone associated with Manly Brothers.

The support of our sponsors and the enthusiasm of our supporters have been invaluable throughout the season. Your contributions, whether financial or through cheers from the sidelines, have played a vital role in the success of the club, and we are immensely grateful for your continued support.

In conclusion, the 2023 season has been a testament to the collective effort and passion of each member of the Manly Brothers Club. As we reflect on our accomplishments, let's build on this success in the seasons to come.

Thank you all for a truly outstanding season.

Jac McCauley

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the Manly Brothers Club, covering the financial activities and performance for the 2023 season.

The report is available as an attachment.

John Fox
Treasurer
Manly Brothers

Under 8

2023 was a year of introduction and learning for the U8's. We had a number of first-time players (7 of the 12 in the squad), and a blended mix of U7's playing up. With the permanent coach having to head overseas for an extended period with work, several parents tipped their hat into the ring to facilitate ongoing support to the boys through training and game day to make the team tick.

Paddy was the constant throughout the year and the boys would always have plenty of laughs and lots of fun. The boys continued to work hard on the fundamentals throughout the year and it was great to see their knowledge of the game blossom over the season.

A season highlight was the two halftime games the boys played down at Four Pines. It was great to see the full team available and the massive smiles on their face as they ran out onto the field. These are some of the moments they will remember forever.

A number of promising performances at the back end of the draw saw an increased number of competitive games with some good defence and flair in attack troubling more experienced opposition. We hope to attract more players for the Under 8's and Under 9's next year and be able to field two squads in their respective age groups.

A special thanks to Pete Kee and Nathan Tauro who managed to juggle commitments and provide training and game day support to the team in the absence of a permanent coach. As well Greg, Foxy, and Jacky, the committee for their ongoing support throughout the season, as well as Mark West for kitting out the team in the comps best strip.

The boys are primed and ready for an improved 2024!



Under 9 – Division 1

Points for: 316; Points Against: 154; Differential: +161

Finalists & 2nd Regular Season

2023 was a much-anticipated season for the mighty Manly Brothers, vintage 2014, who had rolled off an amazing and undefeated season in 2022 and Runners Up at the 2022 Tommy Bishop Cup, the first Manly Warringah U8's team to do so – so we are told.

A clear target for other teams after previous successful seasons, the team headed into their first ever graded and competitive season and successfully qualified for 1st Division - the only team to do so with just the 1 team in their club for the age group, notwithstanding that over one third of the playing group were donning the cerise and blue jersey for the first time in their very first season of Rugby League!

It was great to see each player give their best and improve during the season. The team developed as a whole, particularly with the work they did in defence (under the watchful eye of Budda aka “Mr Tackle”). It was also awesome to see the many happy and memorable moments with friendships formed and deepened, the Brotherhood runs strong in this group!

When this team turn on the heat, which they often did, they were unstoppable. Clinical and incisive in attack with controlled aggression in defence. They scored some incredible team tries and dug in for each other in defence, once repelling 5 repeat sets of six on their line! Whilst some misfortune saw them not quite achieve their potential, falling oh so short of a Grand Final berth by the narrowest of margins, the lessons learned, the fun and enjoyment had, will only fuel the fire to go one better in 2024!

A big thank you to Rebecca Simpson, Budda Colella, and the club for all your assistance this season and well-done boys on a season to be proud of!

Leo Bishop – Leo had an outstanding first year of Rugby League. Having already developed a copy book tackle technique and with excellent foot work and speed, Leo is an elusive runner of the ball and turned many defence lines inside out. With some experience now under his belt, look out for a breakout season in 2024 for Leo on the large pitch!

Ray Bowes – Determined, hard running and tireless in effort, Ray brought great enthusiasm to the team as well as physicality in defence. His strong ball carrying made Ray hard to stop for any opponent and an attacking threat from anywhere on the park, running in some excellent tries, a great asset to our team. In 2024 Ray will roar (for sure) - Well done!

Max Egan – One of our key dummy halves, we often relied on Max to get us out of trouble and down the field out of our half, he also snagged numerous tries with his scoots close to the line. His defence helped lock up the middle of the field and he often led up the defensive line with great line speed to knock over much larger opposition. Showing his versatility, he also was a great attacking option for us out wide too. Well done Maxy!

Ed Gillett – Another big season from Ed, possessing the holy trinity of speed, size and skill, he gave his 100% in each moment and made a big difference in each game. This year in addition to leading the team around the park, setting up and scoring many tries, he fine-tuned his big hits, one of which sent his head gear flying off his head and about 10m downfield, striking fear into the hearts of the opposing team. Look out 2024! Great season Ed!

Sam King – Barnstorming is the word to describe seeing Sam come charging down the field with football in hand. In an excellent first season of Rugby League Sam was a sponge and by the end of the season one of our strike weapons. He worked hard on his defence which improved remarkably throughout the season. His positivity and words of encouragement to his fellow teammates make him a valuable member of this team. Looking forward to seeing him on the charge again next season – Well done Sammy!

Lachie Lloyd – A tackling machine, Lachie loves to dominate the ruck and loves it when things get tough. In fact the tougher it got, the wider Lachie's smile became. Coupled with his powerful run game and outstanding chat, it was great to have Lachie join and become a leader of the pack this season. A quintessential forward, he did an excellent job bringing all he had every minute he played – Great season Lach!

Archer Lyne – As tough as nails with silky skills, Archer had another great season this year. With an innate desire to tackle anything that moves and one to never take a backward step, it was often Archer who would top our tackle count, leading from the front. A big contributor to our spine with a big heart, when Archer was firing, we were unstoppable. Well done, Charcha!

Alex Malouf – One of our most experienced campaigners now, Alex would take the hard carries and make us valuable meters up the middle of the park to get us good field position. His powerful run game went from strength to strength this season and he always gave 100% effort. He was able to help us control the ruck area, set a strong foundation from which we were able to strike. Great work Alex!

Hudson McGregor – it was great to see our Ferrari set the fields on the Northern Beaches alight this year! With his speed and skill, Hudson was more than a handful for any team and in almost all games bagged a handful of tries. He showed his full repertoire of capability by playing several positions and adjusting with ease to each. On the larger field next year, he will be scintillating to watch! Another great season Huddy!

Brock Simpson – if there was an award for courage it would be handed out to Brock. Hard running and relentless when running the ball and impactful in defence. Brock locked up the left edge in defence for us and it was watertight. His exceptional support play allowed Brock to score several outstanding tries and his ball playing is something that continued to surprise - Excellent season Brock!

Jackson Woo – In his first year of Rugby League, Jackson did an incredible job translating what he learned at training on to the field come game day. Strong in build, when running hard with the ball, he was damaging and difficult for any opponent to stop and his defence certainly has starch! The extra work put in during the season was reflected in constant improvements made in each game he played – it was also great to see Jackson make an entirely new team of mates this season – Great work and well-done Jacko!



Under 10 – Division 1

U10s – 2023 a development year

2023 was a real challenge our under 10s team. Coming off the back of the 2022 premiership in division 2, we were promoted to division 1 and came up against some really tough competition winning only one game for the season.

Coached by Pete Kee, with support from trainer Rod Anderson, the boys learned to play for the love of the game this year.

We had the option to drop back to division 2 but looking at the teams we'd be playing Coach Pete decided (with full support of the boys and their families) to stay in div 1 and really stretch ourselves. And what an improvement all the boys showed throughout the year!! Highlights included our win against Cromer and scoring 2 tries against reigning div 1 premiers Mona Vale, despite playing one man down.

Coach Pete was awarded Manly Brothers Coach of the Year for 2023, showing it's not always the scoreboard that's most important. Pete's calm and quiet strength really got the best out of our boys.

The grit and resilience shown by all the players throughout this tough season was nothing short of inspirational. Coach Pete and all the parents are very proud of our boys.

U10s would also like to thank all the parents who chipped in and helped at training and on games days throughout the season. Also, a huge thank you for the U9s boys who showed up and played for us on more than one occasion.



Under 12

With the pesky La Lina hanging around into a third year and Nolan's resembling a duck sanctuary, the pre-season started at Freshy beach for the first month with some high impact fitness and skill drills before nightfall.

Having fielded a team in gold and bronze division the previous season, we assembled a squad of 22 courtesy of a few new players to the club in Jack, Harrison, Alex and Gabe and Paddy the return of a couple of legends in Lachie and Josh.

We started the season in bronze and after an undefeated start in the first five rounds we were rewarded with promotion to silver. Mark and I were excited by the commitment and maturity shown at training and the composure shown with clutch plays and resilient defense when the games were on the line.

The momentum from the impressive start to the season, built further in the first round of the silver season. Having competed with bravado in gold in the prior two seasons, Mark and I really enjoyed seeing the boys thrive and grow in confidence in an evenly matched grade. The boys kept going from strength to strength and remained undefeated after 10 games.

No longer under the radar, we travelled to the wild west of Berowra for the second round of the silver division. Mark and I commended the boys on the amazing run to date and challenged them to aim higher and remain undefeated. Sometimes things are best left unsaid, and we fell short losing by a try for our first loss of the season. The last four weeks of the season proper were filled with exciting close tussles as our opponents improved and took the game to us. With Berowra dropping a couple of games we finished as minor premiers.

Due to COVID a number of our players had not experienced the thrill of finals footy so after a well earnt week off, we were rewarded with a home Grand Final qualifier. Spurred on by a boisterous home crowd the boys shut down Cromer for a comprehensive 22 to 8 victory.

The season had turned full circle with the boys playing in the big dance on a barren Lionel Watts against the Ferrets. With a few of the boys playing their Rugby team mates or rivals, we had built a solid respectful rivalry with a win a piece. The boys followed the game plan well in the first half with plenty of quality ball movement and shutting down their key strike player. We went to the sheds up 12 to 6 courtesy of a typical surging solo try from Callan and a cross field kick from Ned for our try scoring machine Darius.

Whilst a deep squad provides great depth it also presents challenges, with 9 substitutions at half time. With the words 20 minutes from glory ringing in their ears the boys charged back out there for the second half. After a second try conceded from a clever down kick, the boys swung the momentum back with another try to Callan. Our three top goal kickers Ned, Lachie and Jack had ice in their veins and bore the fruits of all their practice by nailing the conversions. Ten minutes from glory.

This GF was a really exciting attacking spectacle with desperate defense and lots of momentum shifts. Ferrets just would not go away and levelled the scores with the first and only line break we conceded the whole game, with a clever stepping solo try with 7 minutes remaining. The brothers came right back at them from the kickoff and were mounting a strong attack. With the ball knocked to the ground from our attacking chip kick most of the players other than the wily Ferret stopped for the whistle, only for the ref to rule play on and Brothers to concede a heart-breaking runaway. Our young fearless Brothers continued to play expansive footy in those last few minutes but to their credit, Ferrets would not surrender. The boys were in it to the last whistle and the crowd were up from their seats as Harrison raced around for the equalizer under the posts, as the hooter sounded, only for it to be called back for a knock on from the cross-field kick. Full credit to Ferrets for being too good on the day and we look forward to resuming our rivalry next season.

Whilst the boys were deflated and empty with the loss, Mark and I were super proud of the quality of attacking footy, the team comradery and the dignity in defeat. The boys showed great maturity and really came of age this season with their application at training and eagerness to learn and improve.

A special thanks to our manager Mark West for all his organizational work and communication to the parent group and working so well with me in coaching the team. Thanks, Chris, for your scoring and referee coaching tips for the boys and to Damo, our ultra enthusiastic Chief Social Officer. Damo was always ensuring the boys were well fed at training and on game day, with cold refreshments on hand for willing parents. The boy built a cult following as the season progressed and it was tremendous to see so many grandparents lending their support as the season reached a crescendo.

To the committee, Greg, I tipped my hat to you for the leadership and commitment during a most challenging year for you personally. Jac you a rock for us keeping us up to date, illuminated at training and well fed on game days. Gaz and Foxy, we will get the game day set up sorted to your standards at some stage and Budha thanks v much for the coaching oversights. A special thanks also to Timmy Stuart and the Narrabeen Sharks for another friendly to prepare us for the season and for your insights on how we can improve as a team. It was there on show for on Grand Final day. Congrats to your team on an epic gold division Grand Final win.

Congratulations to Callan, voted by his peers as the best player and Darius as most improved.

Boys, it has been an absolute thrill and pleasure to coach you all in what has been our most successful season. Be proud of your performance and your spirit and see you bigger and better in 2024.

Go the mighty Brothers.

Brendon Glass.



Under 13

What a great year we had in the Under 13's!

This season we welcomed 4 new players that strengthened positions right across the field. They joined our returning 12 players giving us only a total of 16 boys. We lost one early on & clashes with school rugby & overseas trips meant we played short most weeks which proved to be our undoing this season.

We started the season in the bronze division & went on undefeated for these rounds with excellent defensive effort. We quickly worked out their best positions within the team & started to execute several different sets of plays & a style of football that suited our team. We then got promoted to the silver division & faced some challenges with availability.

Players were asked to play out of position, some played full games without rest and making lots of tackles, while our opposing teams turned up full strength. We tried our best and some days we won and some we lost but we stuck together as a team. In many games we got ahead on the scoreboard early, but it proved hard to keep up when the opposition had unlimited reserves & we had none.

The best game & highlight of the season was the do or die last round game vs Mona Vale which we needed to win to proceed to semi-finals. Every single boy put their body on the line to huge physical opposition and the boys were fearless in tackling much bigger players running at them. Our defensive effort & never give up attitude won us the game 6-4 and I've never been prouder. We unfortunately just lost the semi-final a week later to a very skillful & full-strength North Sydney Brothers.

Thank you to the boys who represented our club with pride, demonstrated sportsmanship, learnt with intent, and played with determination. I couldn't have been prouder of your growth on, but most importantly, off the field.

Many thanks to our trainers Gary & Tim for your continued desire to strive hard to improve and develop our players week in week out. Thanks to Paula, we'd be lost without you keeping us so organised as Manager.

I'd like to thank the parents for your trust and continued support through the season & for your help with extra duties, much appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the club, senior players, U12's that played for us, sponsors and the executive for their unwavering support and commitment to our team this season.

2023 was another year of growth & I look forward to building on this further in 2024!

Ryan (Megsy) Morris
Coach - U13 Manly Brothers



Under 14 – Blues Tag

This year, the girls were playing in an older age group, with some girls also playing up. The team had expanded since last year, with the addition of several new players to the sport.

After a rocky start, they soon found their rhythm and got to know the game, and each other better and hit on a regular winning streak.

They became a regular fixture in the 4th position on the ladder and were the first team to beat the Narrabeen Sharks 1s, whose only other loss came in the grand final.

The girls played a brilliant game in their elimination finals against Avalon Bulldogs but must have forgotten they needed to back it up to play again the next week as they had the worst game of the season in the semis - going down to the Cromer Kingfishers.

Standout player was Ellie Fairall, whose pace, kicking, and defensive skills were always on display.

The majority of the team will be back next season and will be one of the oldest and most experienced in the draw, so we're hoping for a successful season under Luke's guidance.



Under 16

Another great year from a talented bunch of footy players. The year promised great things after winning the premiership the season before.

A decision was made early on based on the quality of the local competition; the boys would play up an age in the Under 16 Central North Group of teams. That comp comprised of teams from the Balmain, Souths, Eastern Suburbs, North Sydney, and Manly junior rugby league clubs.

Based on the team moving up, we lost a couple of players, but we gained several new exemplary young men. Lukas, Cody, Brock, Josh, Harry, Taj, Blackie and Dylan.

Pre-season started in January and the boys who made up the core of the team were super fit and ready to go in round 1. We had trials against the Wentworth Magpies and Bondi United to gauge how competitive we could be, and the year ahead looked promising.

The season couldn't have started better. We played North Curl Curl in round 1 and beat them 48-6. They were last year's silver comp premiers in their age group, and we made them look 2nd rate. That probably sounds arrogant, but such is the talent within this group that when they were "on" they were a very formidable outfit.

Playing up an age meant that having a full bench was necessary if we were to keep winning in style. Unfortunately, the year was intermittently interrupted by school rugby and rep Rugby commitments that saw us play short on some occasions or with 1 or 2 reserves. In those games we did it tough. There was a physical and mental gap between our boys and the older age group. If we didn't maintain possession and complete our sets, it was hard coming out of yardage against bigger, stronger players.

We were narrowly beaten by Pennant Hills in the 2nd round with only 1 reserve. We bounced back in round 3 to beat Botany 42 – 0. That was one of the most pleasing aspects of this year, that we were able to hold our opponents to nil on 4 occasions. We built our game around defence, and it paved the way for a lot of our victories.

There were 2 other fixtures that we saw just how good this team could be. We played Concord Burwood in round 9. They were considerably bigger and looked imposing in their warmup. The end score line that day was 50-4. We utterly dominated them in attack with swift, crisp ball movement and dominating defence.

Then in the penultimate round, we played eventual grand finalists Berowra and demoralised them 40 nil. They tried to turn to grubby tactic to put us off our game but it just made things worse for them. Must give a special mention to Stan Clarke for that week. He took it upon himself to lift the team with his leadership and footy smarts. He set up many 4 pointers that day. A short ball to Ben Burge was a highlight who crashed over from 20 out. Henry Troy had a blinder.

We limped into the semis with a combination of injuries and sickness. We beat North Curl Curl 12-10 in the prelims, but unfortunately went down 16-14 to eventual premiers South Eastern Football Club.

We played on their home ground over in South Sydney. We were all over them like a cheap suit in the 1st half. We were winning the field position battle and 3 tries went begging with some last pass plays that usually stick.

The boys fought hard, but luck was not on our side with the opposition getting 2 lucky intercepts to put up an unattainable lead. The game went down to the final siren, but it just wasn't our day. South Eastern went on to play Berowra in the GF and they beat them well, 42-10.

Some people and players I would like to thank:

Budda for being my sounding board and co-coach/trainer. He goes over and above for the boys.

Wayne our manager for his cool head and great advice as well as being a trainer.

Brendan Johnson for stepping in and manning the game-day desk along with Kat Davies for the same as well as being unofficial team doctor.

Stuart Pickersgill who gave up his time to film all our games. It was great resource for us during the season.

Brock Richmond who received the clubs award for most exciting prospect

Taj Sakovits who received the best and fairest coaches award. Taj is the epitome of a rugby league player. Heart of a lion who never lets anyone down.

Our team captains, Sonny and Ben. Both led by example and set the benchmark in the effort areas.

Finally, a big thanks to the board. Foxy, Birdy, Greg and Jacky for running the club so successfully.

I am privileged to be a part of a great team and great rugby league club.

Cheers.

Peter Burge

Coach – Under 16's



Under 17

Under 17s is as you can imagine a tricky age group

Getting them out of bed is hard enough let alone getting them to training! Such an important age in a man's life and is essential to keep the boys together as long as we can.

I have said this before, this team is like a family. They are mates who not only play together but hang out together. We had our highs and lows on and off the field and like family do, we stuck together.

1.Sol Ryan

Natural talent could play reps in a few sports but chose to play with his mates.

2.JJ

Naturally strong and resilient, plays well above his weight.

3.pancake

First year of league and what a year, put him in Centres strong a bull. One of the reasons the team grew another leg this year.

4.Dan brown

Moved him to centres this year and changed the team dynamic, scored over 15 tries this year was phenomenal.

5.Oscar mac

Sound as solid as the commonwealth bank

6.Toby Mahew

Another kid should be playing reps but happy to be part of the brother's family.

7.oli Baum

Was one of the main reasons for the side's massive turnaround from bottom feeders to contenders. A naturally skilled athlete

8.jayden Maddison

Came back from 2 year on the sideline and chucked into the front row. Did an outstanding job.

9.Sam ridge

Always plays well above his weight tough competitor.

10.Lucas Malin

Strong kid a lot of potential, just not a fan of sweat

11.Corey stack

Best player all year, another pup should be playing reps. First time playing front row and led team every game.

12.Augie

Suffered a bad injury middle of the season but Augie is the heart and soul of brothers.

13.paddy hearn

What I can honestly don't need to say much he is glue in this team

14.boadie Hanson

Biggest heart in the side. Suffered a bad injury start of year so missed a lot of game time.

15.Oscar reich

First year playing league great character and got some skill few more year in the game will do him well.

16.jayden peak

Tough kid and always gives his best.

17.ewie Wallace

Few interruptions with injuries this year but came good end of year. A lot of skill and talent

18.mad max

Tough customer every year he keeps getting better.

19.George Haywood

Suffered a crippling injury but George is always solid on the field - Punches well above his weight.

20.Tj

Only 15 but so much potential for reps

21.Ellis

Tough competition only small but always gives everything a pleasure to coach.

22.Lochie

This kid is tough - One of the toughest kids I've coached never takes a backward step.

23.mats

Played up a year and plenty of skill and talent.

24.paddy bright

Played up a year and a tough kid with talent - just another kid not too keen sweating

25.Sol galante

This kid gets better every year - Had his best year this year keen and dedicated.

26.Ollie keys

Doesn't look like a footy player but this kid can play - Punches well above his weight and will never give in

27.big John

Played a few games love big Johnny he's the family award man.

Mossy manager

Great job helping out the team and boys - He's a great pup.

Evie - - Super manager and brains of the team

Without Evie, there would be no 17's – made sure all players (& coaches) were where they needed to be at the right time, wearing the right gear – incredibly patient and one of the most caring humans I know, did a great job supporting the boys this year.

Gaz – trainer & waterboy extraordinaire

What can we say about Gaz, strapped us up to get us on the field and kept us hydrated to keep us in the game – BEST ON FIELD. Added a new dynamic to the side and a contributing factor to the success of the team this year.

Looking forward to season 2024!

Budda

Coach – Manly Brothers U17

