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Rugby NEWS

PREMIER GRAND FINAL
Saturday 22nd September 2012



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Cover Picture -

*Merewether Carlton's Gareth Ernst shows off his Anderson
Medal, awarded at the Union's Presentation Night last Monday.
Ernst polled 25 points, seven ahead of his nearest rival, Southern
Beaches captain, Bledwyn Gant to win the coveted award.*

Pic by Carl Diespecker - Newcastle Rugby Photos

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for making season 2012
such a great season success

"Wannabe a Wallaby... rather be a Roo"

President Message

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Newcastle and the Hunter's Home of Rugby for the Premier Grand Finals today.

2012 has been an outstanding season for the Union and I take this opportunity to highlight to you some of the successes we've enjoyed during the year.

Our continued success in the Country Championship is the highlight of our season, to record a fifth straight Caldwell Cup is unprecedented and to add to that record is high on the Union's agenda for 2013.

To the players and the Representative Coaching and Management team at both Senior and Colts levels goes our heartfelt thanks for an outstanding effort, you've set the bar high and as a Board, we'll do our utmost to keep it there.

After much lobbying by the Union, the Australian Rugby Union brought a Test match to Newcastle and while conditions on the night weren't the best, the turnout was enough to show officialdom that a repeat would be a worthy exercise.

The announcement of a British & Irish Lions match at Hunter Stadium in 2013 confirms that.

The much anticipated opening of the new facility at No.2 Sportsground, presenting the local rugby community with a home to call their own is an outstanding achievement. There may have been a hiccup with its availability for matches but with that overcome we are well positioned now with an outstanding state of the art facility that will serve the rugby community well into the future.

The foresight and determination of everyone involved in the concept and involvement which commenced many, many years ago is to be congratulated.

The local competition has been an outstanding success during 2012 and while some clubs have continued their dominance, it is pleasing to acknowledge the efforts of others in improving their lot.

Lake Macquarie has been the standout with a rags to riches performance. Wooden spooners in 2011 to fall one game short of the Grand Final is the sort of performance that comes with intense effort and the club is to be congratulated.

The performance of the 'Roos offers insight to other clubs into what is achievable.

To the Minor Premiers in all Grades I offer my congratulations and to those clubs who have already held Major Premiership trophies aloft I congratulate also.

To the trophy winners from Monday night, especially Anderson Medal winner Gareth Ernst who epitomizes what enthusiasm and determination for our

great game can do go the accolades of the whole Newcastle & Hunter rugby community.

To the Union's administrators, Fenton Coull and his team my thanks for your professional effort, at times under duress.

The match officials contribution is deserving of credit also, their continued quest to improve their standard and build their numbers as the sport grows is commendable.

In closing, to the teams on show today, play the game within the Laws, play it hard and enjoy the occasion together with all the rewards our great game can bring.

Phil PAYNE - President

Match Day Program

9.00am Gates open

10.00am Bars and food outlets open

10.15am Premier 3 kick off – Maitland vs Hamilton

11.25am Premier 3 Presentation

11.45am Premier Colts kick off – Merewether Carlton vs Hamilton

1.05pm Premier Colts Presentation

1.15pm Premier 2 kick off – Maitland vs Merewether Carlton

2.35pm Premier 2 Presentation

2.40pm Hunter School of Performing Arts band

2.55pm Hamilton and Merewether Carlton teams announced onto ground

2.57pm National Anthem performed by Hunter School of Performing Arts band

3.00pm Premier 1 kick off – Hamilton vs Merewether Carlton

4.45pm Premier 1 Presentation

General Manager's Message

Welcome to the 2012 Greater Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union Premier Grand Finals.

Firstly, congratulations to the Major Premiers from last Sunday in their Grand Final wins at Passmore Oval, Southern Lakes in both First Division A and B Grades and East Maitland in C Grade.

It's that time of year to extend thanks to many people and organisations who contribute to the success of the Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union season. These include, our very supportive sponsors, major sponsor The Greater, NIB, Maxwell Recruitment, Viatek, Newcastle Panthers and Business Communications and to long time supporters Tooheys, James Estate Wines, NBN Television, Newcastle Herald, Radio 2HD and the Hawthorne Club, many thanks.

To all the clubs within the Union, a big thank you, specifically, to those people who put in countless hours to ensure the successful running of their clubs, Saturdays just wouldn't happen without you.

Finally, my thanks to the other people who contribute so much to the rugby season, Newcastle Rugby Union Referees Association, referees, referee coaches, video operators 'Dinger' and Trevor, official photographer Carl Diespecker, Phil Payne and the Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union board, the representative Coaching staff, program coordinator and printer Darby Munro and his staff, Kym and Jan in the office, Gareth Wasik for his media work, Mark Davison and Judiciary members, Greg Wilson as Citing Commissioner, Brian Rudder and the Appeals Tribunal members and media contributors.

The list is endless, if I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies.

To the teams going around today, congratulations and on behalf of Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union, enjoy the day.

Fenton COULL - General Manager



Rugby Round Up

A reward he didn't expect

Gareth Ernst's decision to leave Singleton for The Greens paid a dividend he didn't expect at Monday night's Presentation Dinner when he received the Anderson medal as the Union's Best & Fairest for 2012.

Ernst made the move from his Junior club Singleton at the commencement of this season in quest of a crack at Finals football, his performance behind the dominant Merewether Carlton pack seeing him feature in the referees points toward the prestige medallion all season long.

He finished the season with a flourish, two three pointers from the last two rounds to leave the other leading contender, Southern Beaches Bleddyn Gant languishing on 18 points in second place.

The nuggetty half back finished the season on 25 points to take the award, the first halfback to win the Anderson Medal since Steve Merrick claimed his fourth medal in 2000. ▲

Rabbs puts the polish on

NBN's sports commentator Mike Rabbitt put the polish on Monday night's Anderson Medal presentation with his usual aplomb, bringing a professionalism to the event befitting the importance of the occasion to the local rugby community.

His contribution to the night, his personal contribution as well as that of his employer, NBN Television to rugby in Newcastle and the Valley are vital in the promotion of the game at the local level, Union President Phil Payne commented after Monday night's event.

'Our growth would be stifled if not for people like Mike Rabbitt going the extra mile,' he said.

Mike has a love of sport, which given his role with NBN Television is apt, he has been Sports Editor since not long after his arrival in Newcastle

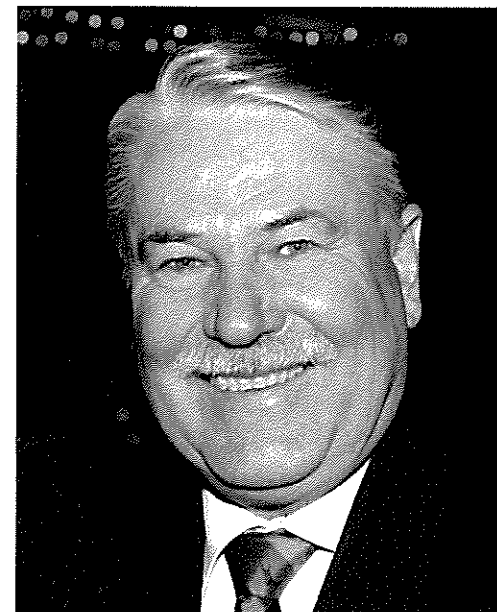
in the middle 80's, he serves as a Board Member of the Central Coast Academy of Sport and had a hand in organization of the Sydney Olympics as a Committee Member on the Central Coast and in Newcastle and more recently helped to market the 8th Australian Masters Games.

'He's got every Aussie males dream job,' Phil Payne laughingly said.

'His whole life revolves around sport.'

'We look forward to a continuing relationship between NBN Television, Mike Rabbitt and the Union, the support they offer means rugby is in the face of the community which will ensure our continued growth,' Phil told Rugby News.

As part of their continuing support for local rugby NBN Television will stream the Premier 1 Grand Final live on its website, offering rugby tragics unable to get to the match the opportunity to be part of the game wherever they are in the world. ▲



It's not often that you see the sport loving Mike Rabbitt with an expression other than the one above on his face!

Kekovich top shelf

Sam Kekovich was outstanding as the after dinner speaker at the Anderson Medal Dinner according to reports, and well worth the money the Union paid for him to attend.

His ability to slip in and out of character, his good natured banter and the likeness of wit and stories from his chosen sport of AFL and rugby meant he fitted the night like a hand in a glove.

Kekovich was a noted AFL player, racking up 150 top grade games for his club, Collingwood and was known for his outspoken and controversial manner.

None of that was evident as he entertained the 200 plus who attended Monday night's function, the larger than life character leaving Newcastle next day with a much enhanced reputation as an entertainer. ▲

Eadsie back for No.11

Referee Mark Eades is in the driving seat for the Premier 1 Grand Final, the acclaimed referee set to control his eleventh top grade Newcastle & Hunter Rugby decider.

In the wings for the last couple of years and content to referee lower grades, Eades made a comeback this season at an age when many match officials are thinking about retirement and wasted no time in regaining the No.1 ranking.

Stories filtering through to Rugby News about his performance in last Saturday's Final were all complimentary and if this Saturday he is able to emulate that then the crowd should leave No.2 happy.

Like all rugby games however, there'll be one coach who may not be. ▲

Irony in the result

Medowie Under 11's drew with Wanderers 14 all in the first Junior Grand Final contested by the club in its on again off again involvement in the sport at Junior level..

An irony, Medowie's Seniors first Grand Final also resulted in a draw, the 1981 decider against

Cessnock when the two sides headed for the sheds at 6 all following the seventy minute contest.

Referee on the day was none other than Peter 'Tank' Saunders who had the unenviable task of keeping peace between two very restless teams who had turned their previous encounters that year into veritable battles.

Medowie's side in that year contained a major contingent from the nearby RAAF base, a situation club officials would welcome with open arms for next season.

Last Saturday, Elijah Hunter crossed twice for the Junior Marauders with Bryn Murray adding the extras while for the Two Blues, Charlie Bennett scored twice, both of which Drew Sellers converted.

Hunter's second try and subsequent conversion got The Marauders out of jail and locked up the scores for them to share the premiership with the Two Blues.

Other results from last Saturday's Hunter Junior season deciders included the inaugural Under 10 Premiership to Wanderers, Maitland winning Under 12's, Merewether's two sides sharing the honours in Under 13's, Wanderers successful in Under 14's and Under 15's, The Waratahs continuing their domination of Under 16's and the Under 18 title making the trip up the Valley to Singleton.

Special mention needs to be made of Easts who though unsuccessful in Under 15's came so very close in their first year.

Last Saturday completed Hunter Junior's 2012 season, with emphasis now on the 2013 representative season, details available soon. ▲

Tilse contrasts

While Cooks Hill's Gareth Tilse was battling it out at Marcellin in the First Division A Grade Grand Final last weekend, big brother Jeremy was doing likewise for Sydney University in the Shute Shield Grand Final at Concord Oval in Sydney.

The brothers, both Maitland Juniors recorded vastly differing results for their afternoon's effort, Gareth and his mates on the end of a drubbing

from Southern Lakes and Jeremy home by a whisker as University scraped home over Southern Districts by a point.

The boys are sons of Brett Tilse, Newcastle & Hunter representative, Country representative and The Waratahs and University front rower from the 1980's. ▲

Kevill snuffed

Merwether Carlton's Dan Kevill is MIA today, courtesy of his third yellow card in last Saturday's Final against Lake Macquarie.

Three yellow cards in a season results in automatic one match ban under Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union Rules and By-Laws which unfortunately rules the star forward out of his sides Grand Final clash with Hamilton.

The By Law provision has been the subject of much conjecture during the week with coaches and media commentators alike weighing in, many of the arguments offering enough substance to warrant change, unfortunately not in time to aid Kevill who will watch the match from the stands. ▲



Merewether Carlton's Dan Kevill played an outstanding game for his side in last Saturday's Premier 1 Final against Lake Macquarie.

2012 in its death throes, 2013 planning well underway

While today's Grand Finals mark the end of competition for 2012, planning is well underway at some clubs for 2013.

Top of the list is the appointment of coaches with a number of Premier clubs making announcements and the rumour mill working overtime on a couple of others.

2012 Blacks mentor Geoff Gollidge, who has stepped down anointed Mat Thomas as his successor in a recent media interview and Ken Cooper and Mick Maher have retained their positions at The Gropers.

The Waratahs Hayden Pederson has been handed the reins at Waratah Oval while his predecessor has been linked to the reformed Eastern Districts who are yet to be included in next years Premier competition.

Lake Macquarie would be blessed to retain Danny Maiava who has lifted the 'Roos from the bottom of the table in 2011 to be beaten just one game off the Grand Final this year while Tim Chidgey has done enough in his tenure at Southern Beaches to ensure he is at the helm for 2013.

Singleton are shopping, given their fortunes of the last couple of seasons The Bulls need to be looking outside the club in the hope that whoever they appoint will attract a player or two. While it would be no surprise to see both Scott Coleman and Stacey Sykes go around again in 2013, the big surprise would be the appearance of Sydney University's Shute Shield winning coach Todd Loudon in some role at University next season, a story doing the rounds this week.

Loudon is known to have stepped down following last Saturday's Sydney Grand Final and would be a welcome addition to any Newcastle & Hunter rugby club given that he lives locally.

At rugby headquarters, Wanderers are known to be disappointed with their performances under coach Ellis Meachern and are in the process of advertising for 2013. ▲

Bubble burst for 'Roos

Lake Macquarie had a courageous end to their season last Saturday going down in a lop sided Premier Final to Merewether Carlton.

Competitive for the first fifteen minutes, the 'Roos looked to have run out of puff, ideas and skills for the remainder of the game as The Greens took them to the cleaners in a 46 points to 8 result.

The result ended a totally out of left field performance by the Union's battlers whose previous defeat was five weeks ago, also at the hands of Carlton.

They'd played sudden death football in the weeks since, their surprise defeat of Maitland in the Elimination Semi Final putting all sides above them on notice that they were no easy beats.

The Greens exploited the lake sides major weakness, a lack of pace in posting five of their seven tries through their speed men leaving Lake Macquarie trying to play catch up for all but the first quarter of the game.

For the beaten side, Mark Burman's class stood out, together with his leadership in attempting to get his side on the front foot while for Merewether Carlton there were none better than No.8 Dan Kevill. ▲

Double whammy for Southern Lakes flyer

Southern Lakes secretary David Wood's insistence on son David playing rugby on his return to the family home has paid dividends with the slippery outside centre crossing for three tries in last Saturday's First Division A Grade Grand Final.

David the younger was keen on continuing a rugby league career on his return home from university studies but the elder David put his foot down insisting that rugby was the only game to be considered while ever the youngster lived under his roof.

It was a double whammy for the almost mungo player as besides a Premiership, he picked up the



David Woods Junior receives his trophy as the First Division A Grade Grand Final's Most Valuable Player from Union President Phil Payne.

trophy for Most Valuable Player in his sides 47 points to 3 Major Premiership win over Cooks Hill. ▲

Mullard hands on the baton

After six years at the helm, University President Barry Mullard is standing down at the club's Annual General Meeting, and will concentrate on other activities during 2013, still revolving around rugby.

Mullard will concentrate on building the Friends of University Rugby organization and will conduct a membership drive for University Old Boys. ▲

Test for No.2

The Premier Grand Final will present a test for the new No.2 facility with a crowd in excess of 5000 expected for the games.

To minimize any out of left field situations that may arise, additional toilets have been arranged and there will be more than the main gate in operation to handle the expected crowd, General Manager Fenton Coull told Rugby News.

'We've got all contingencies covered,' he said, 'The day should go off like clockwork.'

Saturday's event will be the first major event at the ground redeveloped over the last two years to the tune of \$7 million dollars. ▲

Parking at your own peril

Patrons are reminded that parking in the vicinity of No.2 Sportsground is Council controlled and there may be a cost depending on where you choose to leave your car.

Odds on that Council rangers will be on the prowl and it would be disappointing to return to your vehicle to find a bluey under the windscreen wiper.

You can't say you weren't warned! ▲

Waratah Oval the place to be last Saturday

The atmosphere and crowd at Waratah Oval last Saturday was beyond expectation, the major draw card Lake Macquarie contesting their first Finals Series since their reintroduction to Premier rugby.

'Top marks to The Waratahs officials also,' the Union's Fenton Coull told Rugby News.

'The ground was extremely well presented, catering was excellent and the day went off without a hitch.'

'Clubs value the opportunity to host these games and they make outstanding efforts which is pleasing and it certainly takes a lot of responsibility off the shoulders of the Board,' he said.

The Waratahs effort was the latest in the Finals Series to highlight the input of clubs with Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Griffins, Merewether Carlton and Maitland going all out to ensure the success of their hosting rights over recent weeks. ▲

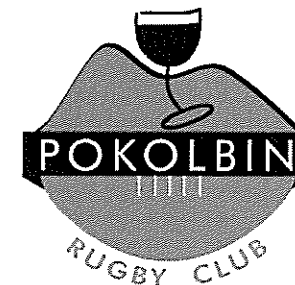
Raffle for Representative program

Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union is conducting a raffle at the Premier Grand Final the proceeds of which will be applied to the 2013 Representative program.

'We aim to successfully defend our fifth Country Championship which was won in 2012, but to do that is an expensive exercise,' General Manager Fenton Coull said.

'The proceeds of today's raffle will help to offset the cost and give us the best possible chance of a sixth title,' he told Rugby News

Tickets in the raffle are \$5 each, 3 for \$10 or



2013 Rugby Position

Applications are invited from qualified coaches for the Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Competition for second division and Junior teams.

Applications close 12th October 2012.

Applications are also called for a Qualified Medical Coordinator, Team Managers, Trainers/Strappers, Runners and Support Staff for all grades including juniors.

Remuneration available for head coach.

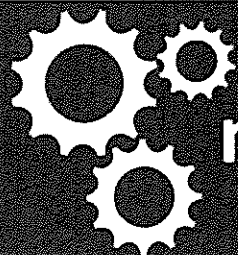
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NHRU Rugby Round Up

7 for \$20 with the major prize a framed 2012 Waratahs jersey.

A combo of James Estate Wines is the second prize, three bottles of red and three of white to the lucky ticket holder. ▲

Greens fragile but still the goods

Merewether Carlton go into the Premier 1 decider without a couple of aces and with a cloud over another but still have the cattle to make the season decider a contest.

Carlton have lost ball running No.8 Dan Kevill to suspension and were resolved to centre Sean Rudder being unavailable due to a broken bone in his hand.

Hard running lock, Mark Wade left Waratah Oval last Saturday icing a shoulder but is a confirmed starter. ▲

All Sports Radio on the air

Remember, if you have a friend who can't make the games today, suggest to them that they hook up to www.allsportsradio.com.au and listen to all

the action from across the games streamed live through their computer, iphone or ipad. ▲

East Maitland top of the tree

East Maitland Eagles topped off their Second Division Minor Premiership with the major title last Saturday, defeating Merewether Carlton 17 points to 10 in a tight game to claim the title.

The win continued East Maitland's dominance of the Union's third tier with the Major Premiership title going their way for the third consecutive season.

Given their success and the drawing area the club enjoys and which offers the only rugby experience between the city and Marcellin, it might be time for the Eagles to stretch their wings and consider the step up to First Division. That move would be good for the club, good for rugby and certainly good for the First Division competition which languished in 2012. ▲

Giving up on glory opportunity

Most rugby players would give their eye teeth for the chance to play in a Grand Final but Merewether Carlton's Sam Gilmour has given up that opportunity to stand alongside good mate and cousin Nathan as his best man today.

Newcastle Rugby Union Referees' Association wish to thank their sponsors for 2012



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Premier 1 Grand Final

No 2 SPORTSGROUND - Saturday 22nd September 3pm - 40 minutes each way + injury time

Hamilton

Colours: Blue & Gold



COACH:
Scott COLEMAN

1. Peter BAKARICH
2. Steve LAMONT ©
3. Mark DONALD
4. Aiden KWAST
5. Nick PALMER
6. Steve SIONE
7. Chris STRATTON
8. Joe AKKERSDYK
9. Ivan WALKLING
10. Paul DAN
11. Sireli BAINIVALU
12. Paddy KILMURRAY
13. Lewi CATT
14. Scott QUINN
15. Ben HARRISS

Vs

Merewether Carlton

Colours: Bottle Green & White



COACH:
Stacey SYKES

- Mick BURKE 1.
- Bill DUNN 2.
- Eric FABIEN 3.
- Mitchell FROST 4.
- Ed MACDONALD 5.
- Mick GILL © 6.
- Adam NOLAN 7.
- Mark WADE 8.
- Gareth ERNST 9.
- Sam BRIGHT 10.
- Lewis DUNN 11.
- Darby O'LEARY 12.
- Aiden KELSO 13.
- Bill COFFEY 14.
- Sam CLIFTON 15.

Referee: Mark EADES

Asst. Referee's: Alexander KENNEDY, Corey BELL

No. 4: Ken LYNCH



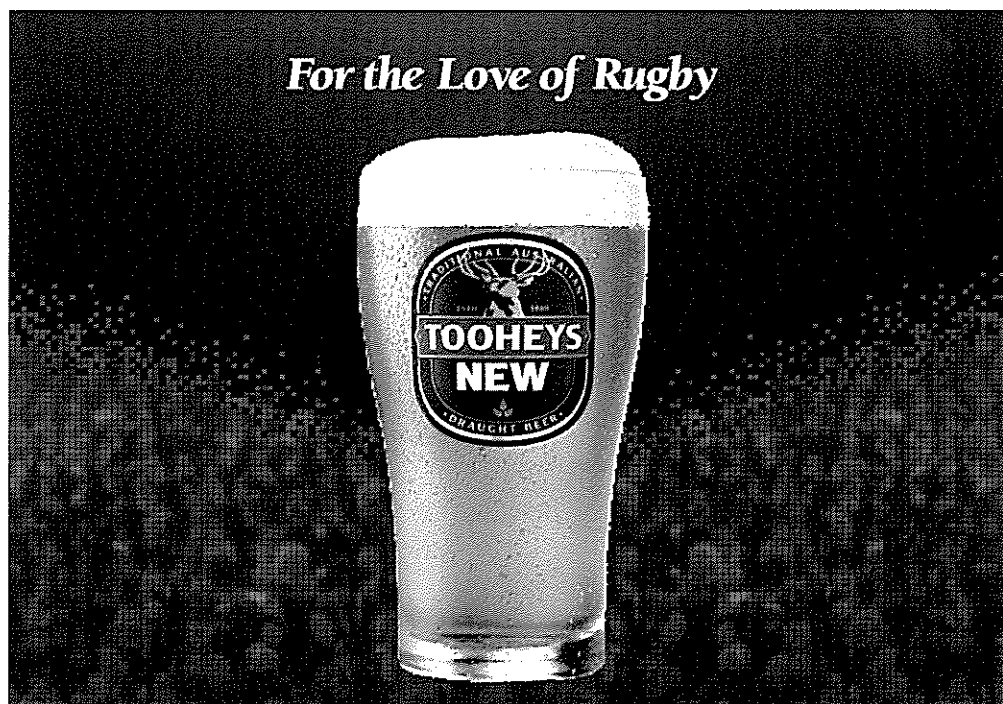
Southern Lakes

Rugby Union Club



Southern Lakes Rugby Union are the defending Minor & Major Premiers in the Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union First Division A Grade competition as well as the Minor & Major Premiers and Club Champions in both First Division A & B Grades for season 2012. We are currently considering applications for the position of Club Coach, Trainers and Managers for the 2013 season. On appointment, it is our goal to bring successful applicants to a minimum Level 2 accreditation by the end of the 2013 season. To discuss these opportunities, please call:

Secretary David Wood on: 0414 687 074 or email your rugby resume to: slru.hammerheads@gmail.com



For the Love of Rugby

Premier 2 Grand Final

No 2 SPORTSGROUND - Saturday 22nd September 1 15pm - 35 minutes each way + injury time

Maitland

Colours: Black

COACH:
Rob TYNAN



1. Kurt COURTNEY
2. Rhys WATSON
3. Glenn TYNAN
4. Jack BORG
5. Rhys LLOYD
6. Nick DAVIDSON
7. John BIRRELL
8. Jono WOTTON
9. Luke CUNNINGHAM
10. Joseph LAVIS ©
11. Chris LOGAN
12. Zade GOODENOUGH
13. Isaac UPTON
14. Michael FARRELL
15. Liam KEARNEY

Vs

Merewether Carlton

Colours: Bottle Green & White



COACH:
Jode ROACH

- Jarrad BUTLER 1.
- Chris JONES 2.
- Trent CONSIDINE 3.
- Reece NOLAN 4.
- Ben FINNIE 5.
- Kent HATCHWELL 6.
- Tom HOSEGOOD 7.
- Danny CURTIS © 8.
- Chris WILLIAMS 9.
- Michael BURGESS 10.
- Damien KELSO 11.
- Travis BOLAND 12.
- Nick BAKARICH 13.
- Eddie CLIFTON 14.
- Evan RENFREW 15.

Referee: Jarryd LOGAN

Asst. Referee's: Simon ASHWORTH, Ian BRYSON

No. 4: Wayne LANGFORD



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Premier Colts Grand Final

No 2 SPORTSGROUND - Saturday 22nd September 11 45pm - 35 minutes each way + injury time

Merewether Carlton Vs

Hamilton

Colours: Bottle Green & White

Colours: Blue & Gold

COACH:

Steve ROBINSON



COACH:

Willie WILSON

1. Scott GOULD
2. Riley De MESTRE
3. Eddie SEUPULE
4. Shaun RICH
17. Joel COBURN
6. Mitchell DREW
7. Matt IRELAND
8. Pat IRELAND
9. Hugh CARTWRIGHT
10. David CAESAR ©
11. Kieran DANOVARO
12. Connor O'LEARY
13. Edward BACIGALUPO
14. Luke TOOVEY
15. Pratik AHUJA

- Elliot WHITE 23.
- James DYSON © 2.
- Matt FAIRBAIRN 3.
- Ben TACON 4.
- Jayden DALEY 5.
- Jak HOSCHER 6.
- Tiueti ASI 7.
- Chris NAGY 8.
- Nick BOYD 9.
- Jason KEELAN 10.
- Lewis NELSON 11.
- Hayden FULMER 12.
- Daniel NIUMATA 13.
- Sam EMMERTON 14.
- Mark DRURY 15.

Referee: Paul RYAN

Asst. Referee's: Robert D'ELBOUX, Nick CHARTERS

No. 4: Lauren KELLY



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Premier 3 Grand Final

No 2 SPORTSGROUND - Saturday 22nd September 10:15am - 30 minutes each way + injury time

Maitland

Colours: Black

Vs

Hamilton

Colours: Blue & Gold



COACH:
Mick HICKLING



COACH:
Richard DUNNICLIFF

1. Ben EMMETT
2. Dom PUNCH
3. Danny LEWER
4. Guy REED
5. Peter HODGSON
6. Mick HICKLING ©
7. Kris DOYLE
8. Sean O'CONNER
9. Chris JOHNS
10. Nathan WALLACE
11. Ashley KAVANAGH
12. Jakob O'BRIEN
13. Tim GENTLE
14. Christopher FLANNERY
15. Jack HOWARD

1. Jacob BLEKINSOP
2. Glen ERNST
3. Troy KEMPNIH
4. Tala FILIPO
5. Chris ELLIOT
6. Arona TUUGA
7. Cameron BOYD
8. Dan PALMER ©
9. Shannon MAVIN
10. Luke BRIGGS
11. John DOYLE
12. Ricky MAVIN
13. Kit BRANCH
14. Richard DUNNICLIFF
15. Andy KILGOUR

Referee: Alexander KENNEDY

Asst. Referee's: David GUNNING, Ian GOOLD

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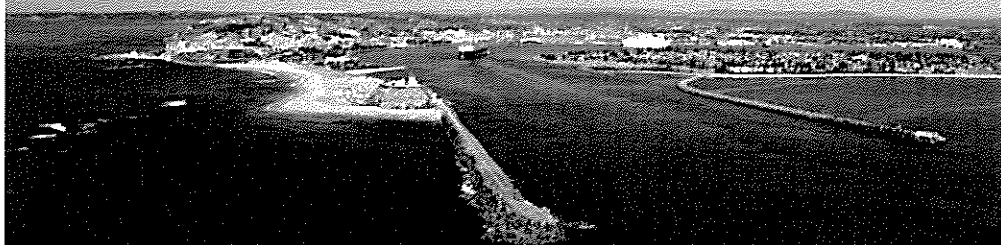
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NHRU Rugby Round Up

Nathan Gilmour will be married at 1.30pm, just about the time Sam would have been running out onto No.2 to take on Maitland in the Premier 2 decider.

The nuptials time does leave a window of opportunity for Gilmour to take in some of the action, The Greens involved in the top two Grand Finals. ▲

Griffins set the scene

Griffins Mad Monday became Mad Saturday with the First Division club celebrating their end of season at Waratah Oval last Saturday with a dress up party that brought tears of mirth to all but the most sombre of spectators at the Premier Final.

Every cartoon character ever drawn was in attendance as well as the obligatory drag queens and cross dressers.

Rugby News hears that the 'boys' enjoyed their girly dress up so much that the costumes they were meant to return on Monday were still out and about on Thursday! ▲

Fire and brimstone at Marcellin liven Blacks

Maitland Premier 2's had an easy week between the Semi Final and the Final and were set for a solid work out last Tuesday before Mother Nature

put her two bobs worth in.

Fifteen minutes into The Blacks warm up all hell broke loose with an electrical storm showering the ground with thunder and lightening and wind from Hades sending the team scurrying for the sheds.

'Looked like it was coming from down Merewether way,' one player quipped.

'If that's the best they've got, they're kidding,' another added light heartedly as the team, coach and all huddled in the change rooms out of harms way. ▲

Minor Premiers make the grade

All games today will feature the Minor Premiers from that Grade, two of them opposed to the runners up and the other two squaring off against the fourth placed side.

While the contest between the top two is expected, spare a thought for the fourth placed combatants who have made the trip to No.2 the hard way.

None the less, they deserve their opportunity and if the Minor Premiers are to prevail, they'll certainly earn their win. ▲

Just three clubs represented

Three clubs are represented in today's four Premier Grand Finals, coincidentally the three clubs that topped the Club Championship.

Hamilton, Maitland and Merewether Carlton

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NHRU Rugby Round Up

finished one, two three on the Club Championship ladder, considered by many to be the measure of success for the season. ▲

Hawks luxury

Hamilton go into today's Premier 1 decider with the luxury of a wealth of players from their Premier 2 side boasting top grade experience available off the bench.

A quick run through highlights seven or eight with extensive experience at the higher level, a blessing for Coach Scott Coleman.

The availability came as a result of Hamilton's unexpected defeat at the hands of Merewether Carlton in last Saturday's Premier 2 Final, many close watchers of rugby beyond the top grade having penciled The Hawks in as Maitland's opponents in the earlier game today. ▲

Hawks Colts set for redemption

Hamilton Colts have a chance to redeem themselves after their Major Semi Final flop when

NHRU Rugby Round Up

they take on Merewether Carlton in the season decider this afternoon.

Touched up by The Greens to the tune of 34 points to 5, Hawks coaching staff have worked hard over the last two weeks in the hope of reversing that performance..

The Hawks were Minor Premiers by a narrow two point margin, both they and The Greens winning 14 of the eighteen games they contested throughout the year, Hamilton's winning margin courtesy of bonus points. ▲

Southern Lakes dominant in First Division

The Southern Lakes Hammerheads continued their domination of First Division rugby last weekend with wins in both Grades at the Marcellin hosted Grand Finals in both First and Second Divisions.

A Grade was almost a whitewash with The Hammerheads almost punishing Cooks Hill for turning up with a 47 points to 3 drubbing.

In B Grade, Southern Lakes also finished the game as victors, sending Muswellbrook packing 22 points to 5. ▲



'Get out of my road,' Hawks big bopper Tiueti Asi says as he despatches a Carlton defender in the Colts Major Semi Final. Big things are needed from the Hawks flanker if his side is to prevail today.

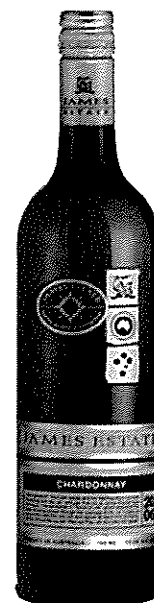
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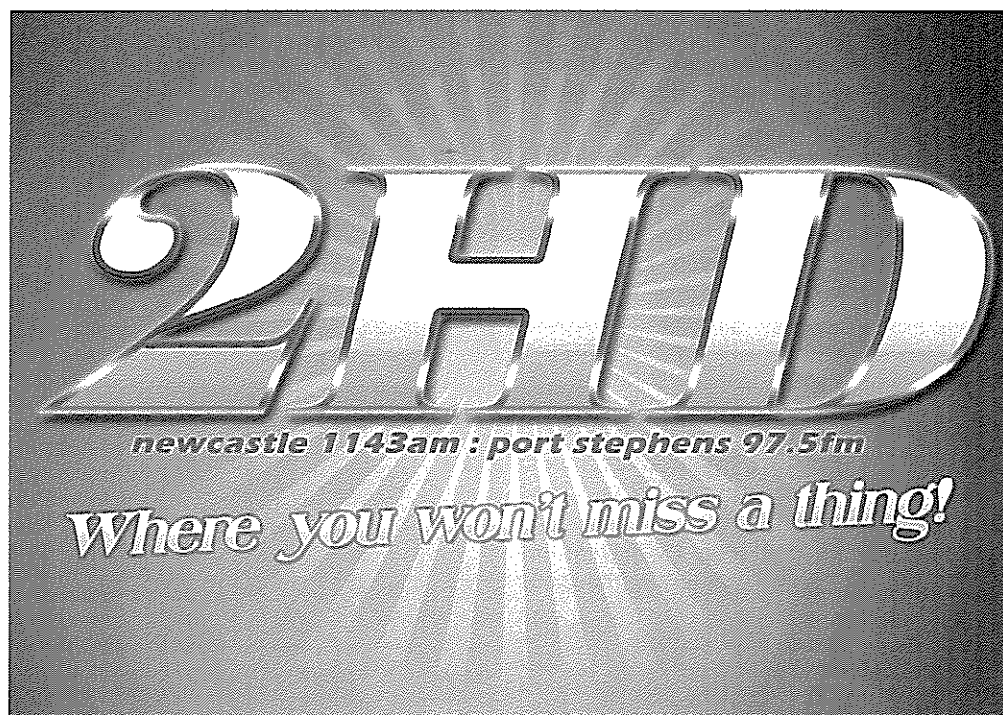
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Premier Club Championship 2012

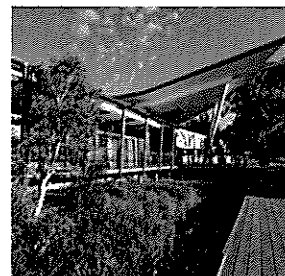
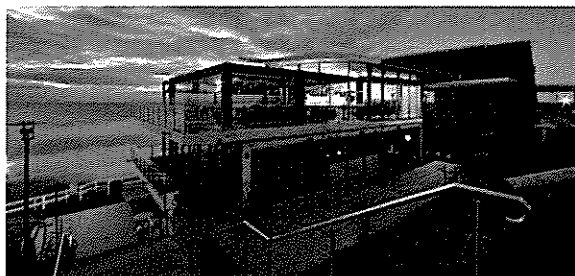
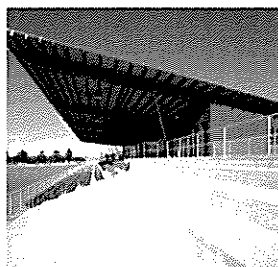
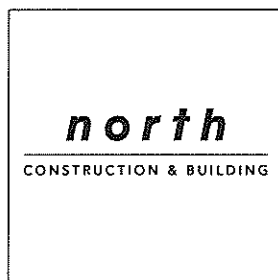


Club	P1	P2	PC	P3	Total
Hamilton	539	360	296	132	1327
Maitland	427	415	172	168	1182
M/Carlton	427	325	288	102	1142
Southern Beaches	511	275	260	62	1108
Wanderers	336	335	176	148	995
The Waratahs	231	255	100	38	624
Nelson Bay	231	95	192	10	528
University	154	95	140	134	523
Lake Macquarie	350	90	8	50	498
Singleton	28	55	184	38	305

First Division Club Championship 2012

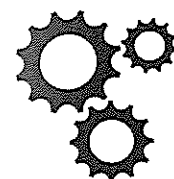


Club	A	B	Total
Southern Lakes	305	165	470
Cooks Hill	230	135	365
Muswellbrook	215	111	326
Griffins	175	66	241
Pokolbin	10	72	82



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Top Try Scorers & Top Point Scorers

Top Try Scorers

Name	Club	Total
Dillon Rowney	Maitland	20
Steven Sione	Hamilton	18
Sireli Bainivalu	Hamilton	17
Paul Mlotkowski	Wanderers	15
Tim Riley	Southern Beaches	13
Matthew Nixon	Southern Beaches	11
Dorian Simes	Wanderers	11

Top Point Scorers

Name	Club	T	G	PG	FG	Total
Tim Riley	Stn Beaches	13	46	13	0	196
Ryan McCormack	Maitland	4	49	18	0	172
Sam Bright	Mere Carlton	4	53	6	1	147
Paul Mlotkowski	Wanderers	15	18	9	0	138
Paul Dan	Hamilton	7	46	3	0	136
Dillon Rowney	Maitland	20	0	0	0	100
Brendan Holliday	Lake Macq	3	23	12	0	97
Steven Sione	Hamilton	18	0	0	0	90
Sireli Bainivalu	Hamilton	17	0	0	0	85



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Last Week's Results

Premier Finals

Premier 1

Merewether Carlton 46 def Lake Macquarie 8

Premier 2

Merewether Carlton 25 def Hamilton 24

Premier Colts

Hamilton 20 def Southern Beaches 11

Premier 3

Hamilton 20 def University 11

First Division Grand Finals

A Grade

Southern Lakes 47 def Cooks Hill 3

B Grade

Southern Lakes 22 def Muswellbrook 5

Second Division Grand Final

East Maitland 17 def Merewether Carlton 10

Junior Grand Finals

Under 10

Wanderers 29 def Merewether Carlton 5

Under 11

Medowie drew 14 all with Wanderers

Under 12

Maitland 22 def Nelson Bay 14

Under 13

Merewether White 33 def Merewether Green 20

Under 14

Wanderers 31 def Merewether Green 5

Under 15

Wanderers 15 def Easts 12

Under 16

The Waratahs 19 def Nelson Bay 10

Under 18

Singleton 15 def Wanderers 6



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2011 Second Division C Grade Point Score

Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P	Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P
East Maitland	16	14	2	0	2	380	137	9	65	Maitland	16	8	8	0	2	285	295	9	41
M/Carlton	16	14	2	0	2	339	119	6	62	Hamilton	16	3	13	0	2	211	379	3	15
Wanderers	16	10	6	0	2	271	217	8	48	Strn Beaches	16	2	12	2	2	200	395	8	20
Army	16	9	5	2	2	298	219	6	46	Medowie	16	2	14	0	2	114	362	2	10
Cessnock	16	8	8	0	2	267	242	11	43										



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Competition Points Score

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Premier 1

Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P
Hamilton	18	15	2	1	0	798	259	15	77
Stn Beaches	18	15	3	0	0	561	283	13	73
M/Carlton	18	13	5	0	0	641	307	9	61
Maitland	18	11	6	1	0	601	329	15	61
Lake Macq	18	9	7	2	0	518	396	10	50
Wanderers	18	8	8	2	0	518	422	12	48
The Waratahs	18	6	11	1	0	419	573	7	33
Nelson Bay	18	5	12	1	0	316	533	11	33
University	18	3	14	1	0	346	802	8	22
Singleton	18	0	17	1	0	135	949	2	4

Premier Colts

Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P
Hamilton	18	14	4	0	0	734	259	18	74
M/Carlton	18	14	4	0	0	619	211	16	72
Stn Beaches *	18	14	3	1	0	572	220	11	65
Nelson Bay	18	9	7	2	0	411	376	8	48
Singleton	18	8	9	1	0	447	388	12	46
Wanderers	18	8	9	1	0	417	514	10	44
Maitland	18	9	9	0	0	373	377	7	43
University**	18	8	10	0	0	425	469	8	35
The Waratahs	18	3	14	1	0	326	597	11	25
Lake Macq	18	0	18	0	0	178	1091	2	2

* Lost 4 points for unqualified player

** Lost 5 points for unqualified player

Premier 2

Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P
Maitland	18	16	1	1	0	797	205	17	83
Hamilton	18	14	4	0	0	784	233	16	72
Wanderers	18	14	4	0	0	502	266	11	67
M/Carlton	18	13	5	0	0	617	249	13	65
Stn Beaches	18	10	8	0	0	555	322	15	55
The Waratahs	18	9	7	2	0	504	368	11	51
University	18	3	15	0	0	308	624	7	19
Nelson Bay	18	4	14	0	0	239	771	3	19
Lake Macq	18	3	14	1	0	242	752	4	18
Singleton	18	2	16	0	0	185	943	3	11

Premier 3

Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P
Maitland	18	17	1	0	0	833	93	16	84
Wanderers	18	16	2	0	0	675	161	10	74
University	18	14	4	0	0	448	222	11	67
Hamilton	18	13	5	0	0	613	183	14	66
M/Carlton	18	10	8	0	0	507	264	11	51
Stn Beaches	18	6	12	0	0	333	538	7	31
Lake Macq	18	5	13	0	0	241	591	5	25
The Waratahs	18	4	13	1	0	179	566	1	19
Singleton	18	3	14	1	0	153	527	5	19
Nelson Bay	18	1	17	0	0	81	918	1	5

First Division A Grade

Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P
Stn Lakes	15	13	2	0	3	373	154	9	61
Cooks Hill	15	10	5	0	4	309	260	6	46
Muswellbrook	15	8	7	0	4	443	195	11	43
Griffins	15	7	8	0	3	353	250	7	35
Pokolbin	14	0	14	0	4	53	632	2	2

First Division B Grade

Club	P	W	L	D	B	FOR	AG	BO	P
Stn Lakes	15	11	3	1	3	255	129	9	55
Cooks Hill	15	9	6	0	4	228	152	9	45
Muswellbrook	15	8	7	0	4	219	218	5	37
Pokolbin***	14	5	9	0	4	160	257	4	24
Griffins	15	4	10	1	3	184	250	4	22

*** Pokolbin have been withdrawn from B Grade

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