



Noice Cup – 2007

After the usual fun at the Bondi Tens and a few trials matches getting sunburnt, the competition opened with 8 teams competing for the Noice Cup. A first up win is always a good thing and we did it at home and in style, winning 74-0.

Champagne (well a few VBs at the Club House) and all would be ok for our season ... apparently.

Well, a couple of loses quickly brought us back to reality. In one of these early loses two props and a number 10 succumbed to serious injuries and were out for a number of weeks. Despite these setbacks and with some good training sessions, we got back into a winning way. The forwards in particular started to perform really well with our Captain, Charlie Winn, leading from the front. Angus Donald was finding some good focus and form as was Greg Holmes. Our game strategy was settling well and a couple of wins on the trot and we were established in the top half of the ladder.

At the half way stage of the season we were getting used to the seemingly endless trips to play at Rouse Hill, Oak Hill and Norwest, all located about 1.5 hours to the north west of the CBD (and we thought it was a suburban competition ... such is life in Division 5)! Anyway, to break that routine the heavens opened up. Weeks of no games due to the heavy rain and scheduled byes gave us plenty of scope to focus on the social aspects of a suburban rugby club.

Back into rugby and we could see the path to the finals. A couple of solid wins on the up side and a few too many narrow loses on the down side (we lost 25 % of our games by 3 points or less). With the last game of the scheduled competition it was a do or die situation to make the finals. Again, it was a narrow loss to a drop goal which lead on to the social aspects of the season.

While not making the finals (5th), it was a solid performance winning 9 out of 18 games and drawing 1. We provided good competition throughout the season and pushed the eventual winners of the competition right to the wire in the home game.

There were many outstanding performances with new players to the side, in particular, making a mark. The likes of Charles Gregory "I played Aussie Rules you know" and Kevin Perry "Oh Canada" spring to mind. As expected, the established players provided the necessary skill for us to perform at the level the competition required. While established doesn't necessarily mean old (yeah, right), Andrew 'Fuzz' Purchas put in some notable performances during the season – he scored two tries in the corner (not bad for a second rower)!

Many thanks to all our supporters and volunteers - running the water bottles (Steve Evans and Ed in particular), the physio (Sabrina Cascio from Darlinghurst Physio) and doing the paper work (Team Manager Ewan Samway but also a few others who assisted) – everything that is involved in running a team. Very big thanks to Rich McGrath and David Meredith for their unstinting support throughout the season.

Last but not least a big thank you to Dave Jordan the coach, who put in many hours above and beyond what is required. Dave has decided that work commitments mean he can not join us next year – all the best Dave with your new role.