



President's Report 2010

President:	Mark Stanton
Vice President:	Ross McLennan
Secretary:	Justin Sharp
Treasurer:	Russell Cole (Resigned 10/3/10)
Immediate Past President:	David Hine
Committee:	Alan McLoughlin, Annie Keech, Brett Richter, Steve Ferrier, Danny O'Reilly, Tony Barrett, Michael Barlow, Andrew Clough, Mark Harris, Michael Harte

Introduction:

Well, what a year. I'm sure you'll forgive me for saying that "it doesn't get much better than this" – record player registrations, record profit and of course, the biggest accolade of them all – formal recognition in the form of 2010 **Club of the Year!**

Of course, I'm not saying for a moment that there isn't room for more improvement, there always is, but I think we all deserve to reflect on what has been heralded as the Club's most successful year ever.

Highlights for the Year:

- 48 Teams, 773 players (up 11%);
- For the seventh consecutive year we have achieved growth in player numbers;
- 55 Representative players;
- 6 Premierships including two Div 1 Premierships
- Achievement of our major goal being our kids' enjoyment of their rugby and the continued development of their skills and self esteem;
- We have seen a significant improvement in profitability up from \$18k to \$65k (before writing off capital expenditure totaling \$16k netting a very healthy \$49k bottom line profit);
- This profit has helped us amass a \$138k cash reserve which will serve the club well as we consider our future venue options having stretched the limits of Crosby Park over the last couple of years;
- Great morale around the club culminating in 350 members attending our annual fund raising event 'Casino Royale'. This extravaganza is fast becoming the unmissable event of the year for the local community. The night generated a healthy profit but, more importantly, was a wonderful club event which I believe made everyone who attended really feel part of our wonderful club;
- Per my undertaking at last year's AGM, we spent the off-season developing a groundbreaking new website which has been very warmly received. The launch of the website in March was the culmination of many hundreds of hours of work, especially by VP, Ross McLennan and our IT consultant, Peter Simpson of PS Pro. It is no exaggeration to

say that our website is the envy of other clubs who regularly make comment at Presidents' meetings. The new site has seen a complete transformation in our communications with players and members now able to access relevant, up to date information at their leisure rather than waiting for unreliable email trees to arrive and has made securing 2011 sponsorships much easier now that our sponsors can see such tangible benefits flowing from their involvement with the club.

- Other Clubhouse improvements included a new security system (which has already paid for itself with the recovery of recently burgled stock) as well a new computer, printer and storage devices etc. All of these capital items have been expensed in the Financial Accounts which you will appreciate is a very conservative approach to our accounting responsibilities;
- The behavior of our players throughout the season was excellent with just two red cards from 800 games and the boys involved responding extremely well to our counselling sessions and showing sincere remorse.

Lowlights for the Year:

- Of far greater concern this year was some disgraceful behavior from supporters – both Brothers and opposition supporters. This has become a very worrying trend and we were forced during the season to support BJRU initiatives including “zero-tolerance” to negative comments and abuse. This culminated in our club banning one of our coaches from any further involvement with the club for the remainder of the season. Next season we will be looking for new ways of convincing parents that our kids need to be set a good example and abuse of referees, opposition officials and sometimes even players is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated by this Club. As a Committee we spend many hours on this club in a season – by far the hardest of those hours are the ones spent counseling grown men and women about their behavior at junior sport. I can not believe we need to waste our time on this and will be very disappointed if this trend is not reversed next year.
- Once again we had no success in attracting government and other grants during the year, a source of income which should be the simplest for a club of our size to procure. It is imperative that we become more professional and co-ordinated with the Senior club in this area in 2011.

Congratulations To:

- Club Person of the Year: Steve Ferrier
- President's Award : Ross McLennan
- Team of the Year: U.15 White - Div 1 Premiers & U.12 Red - Div 1 Premiers
- New Life Members: David Hine & Jim Stewart

Thanks To:

- Our committee who have worked diligently and most importantly continue to “walk the talk” and achieve all the goals we set ourselves at the beginning of the year. Their combined efforts can only be described as exceptional;
- In particular, VP Ross McLennan, who is a complete perfectionist by nature, has been incredibly generous with his time in ensuring our whims get completed thoroughly and effectively. Ross can take much of the credit for this year's successes;

- Also, Club Secretary Justin Sharp, who is stepping down from this role at today's meeting. Justin may not be the perfectionist that Ross is but he has always steered us back on course and has made an invaluable contribution at Management Committee level and in our negotiations with the Seniors;
- Karen Nichols, our Administration Assistant, has been a godsend and I have no doubt Karen's diligence played a major role in bringing us into Club of the Year contention;
- I would also like to specifically acknowledge the long term contributions of Immediate Past President and Life Member, David Hine, former Vice President, Tony Barrett, former Club Secretary, Danny O'Reilly, former Registrar and now Life Member, Jim Stewart and Committee stalwarts Alan McLoughlin and Annie Keech for many years of tireless commitment to the Club and the wonderful legacy they have left us;
- I would like to thank our Major Sponsors Next Byte and Fone Zone, our Gold Sponsor, Hyundai and all other valued sponsors who continue to support the Club, not just financially, but in a myriad of ways. We could not operate without their enthusiastic and generous support;
- Our Coaches, Managers, Referees and parents for their enthusiastic efforts and consistent participation in all Club activities;
- Finally, our players, for the sportsmanship and enthusiasm they display each weekend and, most of all, for the joy they bring us when watching them play this wonderful game in the true spirit in which it should be played.

What Lies Ahead for Our Club:

- To continue to work closely with our Senior Club to ensure a clear rugby career path to our senior and elite levels is further enhanced and improved;
- Continue to up-skill our volunteer referees and encourage and support more participation in this important role, particularly from our teenage players;
- Continue to up-skill our volunteer coaches with the support of our Coaching Development Coordinators and externally sourced expertise;
- Continual improvement in communications and information dissemination via our new website;
- Continue to deliver a Junior Rugby Club environment that our members, players and families value and are proud to call theirs.

Thank you for your support, it has been an honour to serve you.

Mark Stanton
President
10th December 2010