



**PALMYRA RUGBY
UNION CLUB**

**ANNUAL AWARDS
PRESENTATION EVENING**

**FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2011
TOMPKINS PARK ALFRED COVE WA**

Welcome

Welcome from Palmyra Rugby Union Club President Mr Kim Short

Club Patron

Cr Russell Aubrey, His Worship,
The Mayor of the City of Melville

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And, Welcome to your Committee, Teams, Family and Friends of Palmyra Rugby Union Club.

Award Program

Awards Presented:

- Life Member Awards
- President's Awards
- Club Person on the Year
- Club Player of the Year
- Supporter of the Year
- Integrity Award

President's Report: Kim Short

As another rugby season draws to a close, it is time to reflect on our club's performance both on and off the field. In "short", it's been a great year.

Palmyra has more players than ever before with approximately 260 senior and 350 junior registered players, translating into 7 senior teams (Under 18 to Premier Grade) and 22 junior teams (Under 6 to 16). This player depth is a vital ingredient in building a successful rugby club.

Some highlights:

Reserve Grade Premiership – A great season capped off with a 30-24 point Grand Final win over Nedlands. Coach Dave Ball, Manager Steve Moran and the players made us all proud.

Champion Club Award for 2011 – presented by Rugby WA for the best overall club performance (combined junior and senior teams), the first time Palmyra has won this significant trophy.

PG Hampshire Award – Anare Koliavu – presented by Rugby WA for the Best and Fairest Player in the Premier Grade Competition for 2011.

Referee Hospitality Award – presented by the WA Referees' Association for the most hospitable club in 2011. Well done to Trevor Freckleton for keeping the referee's room stocked with refreshments and to our supporters for being supportive of the match officials who do a vital and sometimes thankless job. Remember, No Ref, No Game.

Palmyra will also be leading contender for the Champion Junior Club Award which will be awarded in a fortnight's time. The performances of our teams have improved markedly across the grades this season on the competition table which is another measure of a healthy club. Under 11, 12, 14 and 15 teams finished second in their respective age groups with the Under 13's (minor premiers), 14's and 15's competing in the finals at the time of writing this report. Third Grade made the finals and finished third on the ladder and our Reserve Grade team won the Premiership.

For the first time a high proportion of our Under 20's squad had opportunities to play up the Grades including Premier Grade. This augers well for next season and underlines one of our main objectives of "growing our own senior players".

Under 16 player's Nicholas Ward, Jonny Van Der Wielen, Luke Connolly and Mitchell Short have been selected in the WA Under 16 squad to participate in the Australian Championships in Sydney in late September. Nicholas, Luke and Jonny are also members of the Rugby WA Junior Academy. Good luck boys in this prestigious tournament.

President's Report: Kim Short

Congratulations to Palmyra Premier Grade players Joe Savage, Anare Koliavu, Jake Ball and Conor Higgins have been selected in the 2012 Perth Gold squad.

In June of this year Fraser Smith played his 100th first grade game for the Club. Congratulations Fraser on this significant milestone. We hope your recent marriage to Kelly won't restrict your future rugby activities too much!

Our Club is blessed with many dozens of volunteers from team coaches and managers, committee members, fund-raisers, social organisers, canteen workers, parents of junior players, Life Members, physiotherapists / trainers, and grounds and maintenance personnel. Thank you to you all, your contributions are invaluable. Thank you also to Dr Peter Bradley, our Club Doctor whose services were used on more than one occasion this season.

It is important that I identify the "super volunteers", without whom our Club could not have functioned this year. Lesley Wiles, Chris and Anne Ward, Mat "Squirrel" Bailey, Steve "Smash" Moran, Colin Green, Alister "Allstar" McMillan, Don Galbraith, Jay Gillett, Mal Siddons, Fulvio "Frank" Sammut, Dave Ball, Peter "Oz" McCormack, Keith Robertson, Jason and Samantha Cullen and George Sutherland. You are all very special people.

Two of our club stalwarts, Don Galbraith and Jay Gillett have been awarded Life Membership this year as recognition of many years of loyal service to the Palmyra Rugby Union Club. Congratulations Don and Jay on achieving this well deserved milestone.

Sponsorship is crucial to our survival and day to day operations and we thank our sponsors for their very generous support. **Project Directors Australia, Taylor Woodings Chartered Accountants, Air Direct Fujitsu, Solahart, Divex, Integrity Staffing and Golden Eggs** have been our major sponsors in 2011. Please support our sponsors businesses where you can.

We have a close relationship with the Tompkins Park Sporting Association through our clubrooms. Natasha Rogers, Centre Manager and her husband Steve have been great supporters and greatly assisted the smooth operation of our Club. Thank also you to our Tompkins Park Board Members Jay Gillett, Don Galbraith, John Smirk and Michael Mullins for their sterling work representing the Club.

President's Report: Kim Short

Going forward, the club will be continuing to place a high emphasis on increasing numbers of volunteers, development of coaching resources, ensuring integrity of our systems, increasing sponsorship support, financial sustainability and the ongoing development of our fantastic junior base. A good club culture is essential in delivering on these objectives with traditional rugby values to be reinforced in our club community going forward.

Go Pally in 2012!

Kim Short
President

Trophy Winners 2011

1st Grade	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Anare Koliavu Joe Savage
2nd Grade	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Keegan Dassler Ross Borthwick
3rd Grade	Best & Fairest Runners Up	Ian Sammons Guillaume Blake / Taiarahia Marr / Stuart Dyer
4th Grade Black	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Don Rose Thomas Sutherland
4th Grade Blue	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Shane Holsten Elliot Stevenson
U20	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Dylan Cunningham Eddie Dempster
U18	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Sam Cabrera Shane Pieteron

Eligible colt playing most senior games		Ganan Karena
First player to 100 points (Ton Up Trophy)		Jesse McGuire
Most Improved Player		Hayden Croghan
Most Votes over two or more grades		Stuart Dyer
Team Player of the Year		Michael Marshall
President's Awards	Joe Savage Chris Ward Hamiiora Tioke	John "JT" Taylor Jason Cullen Dave Ball
Team Person of the Year		Gillian Campbell
Supporter of the Year		Lesley Wiles
Club Person of the Year		Alister McMillan

Premier Grade Report

'Wouldn't that be Grand'

Preseason looked very promising, numbers wise and by the time round one came along it was more 'who wasn't going to play 1st grade,' rather than who was.

A couple of unplanned losses, including the night the lights went out at Pally, when we played Wests started just like a roller coaster 'straight down'. Game three saw our first win of two in a row and on the ascent, but the roller coaster ride continued, win two, lose two, the boys couldn't quite keep the momentum up.

With new recruits still arriving the turn over and shuffling of players was growing.

By round nine we'd been through eight locks, the back row combination change five times, and by round five, only two of the starting seven backs hadn't changed. In total we went through 20 run on (not off the bench)backs, 9 back rowers and 9 locks during the season.

This year seemed to be full of distractions, guys arriving late in the season, leaving early and I don't mean from training, although there was a fair bit of that.

We had a total of 17 players arrive late in the season and depart early and this doesn't include your normal rotation



within, 1st and 2nd grade or injury.

The second half of the season saw a more settled player group, but just a couple too many narrow losses took the wind out of everyone's sails. Especially a 35m drop goal from Uni in the eightieth minute to win 19-17. But one could say we shouldn't have been in that situation.

I suppose in a 'perfect world' a 25 man squad would turn up mid January, head off on a team building weekend, come back all best of mates, win every game without an injury and win a premiership.:

Wouldn't that be Grand.

Matt Bailey –Team Manager

Reserve Grade Report

Reserve grade this season was an exciting prospect from a coaching and managing point of view; we had strong numbers at pre-season training and were confident that we would have a reasonably good squad. The season kicked off well with a hard earned win against Soaks, this pretty much mapped out the way we were going to approach the coming challenges, with brute force and determination.

The team went on to win 14 of our 18 regular season games and lost only four being two against Cottesloe and two against Nedlands. Our points for were 599 and against were 288 which showed that we had a reasonable attacking platform but perhaps needed some work on defense. This group of guys will go on to play better rugby and I am happy to say that they have shown great commitment to each other as a team and to the club as supporters of the first grade finals campaign. Thanks go out to Dave Ball for coaching these guys and teaching them a few things about the way to think and drive yourself to have the desire to set and achieve your goals. Second grade best and fairest goes to a young guy who was new to the club this year and was a tireless tackler he is a quiet achiever. Despite being "missing in action" on a number of occasions this season, Reserve Grade Best & Fairest goes to Keegan "I need a butt plug" Dassler. Not only does he receive the prestigious Best & Fairest award but also a year's supply of toilet paper!

The runner-up spot goes to probably the fittest player in the club.....Scotland's

answer to the Energiser Bunny, Ross Borthwick.

Not only does the red-faced renegade receive the runner-up award but also a year's supply of zinc oxide.

We have had some 60+ guys filter through this grade this year and have battled guys leaving at crucial times and injuries, but managed to keep a squad of quality and determined players. As I write this we are planning an assault on the grand final having dispatched Nedlands 31-17 in the major semi. The Reserve Grade Quote of the Season goes to Eds "boiz if youz wanna win in da 2nd grade, just gimme da ball !".

Unfortunately this award was retracted by the Committee when they ascertained that Eds was being serious.

We will be playing Nedlands in the grand final, by the time you read this the result will be in the annals of history. Kia kaha.

Steve Moran Second Grade Manager.



Third Grade Report

The season got off to a great start with fantastic numbers turning up to training. In the early weeks it wasn't unusual to have 40 or so guys down at training. This enables a different approach to be adopted to past years, with the 3rd and 4th grade teams training as a single squad. This strength and depth at training translated into a strong start to the season for both teams.

The enforcement of selection protocols across the club's senior teams certainly paid off. The third grade was occasionally bolstered as players from higher grades worked their way back to form and/or fitness. This is where the combined squad came in to its own as

Unfortunately, the almost traditional, fall off in numbers in mid season had an impact on the 4th grade results. However the 4th grade still remained in contention for a finals place until well past the season midpoint.

The 3rd grade were definite contenders for a finals berth. Due in no small part to the commitment of the whole combined (3rd&4th) squad. The increased numbers at training (even in the depth of winter) meant that there was always pressure for places - over 100 players pulled on a jersey for the 3rd and 4th grades this season - and the ability to run full training drills and work on patterns of play.

Normally these end of season, team reports highlight a few individuals who made key contributions to the success of the season. No doubt there are some stand out performances that have already been acknowledged and more that will be identified in the awards tonight.

However, the success of the 3rd grade in finishing 3rd in the league and winning the minor semi-final to progress to the preliminary final is not only due to the 15 that were on the park at any particular time, nor the 22 or 26 in game day squad for any given weekend; but to every member of the combined training squad (playing and non-playing).

Notable moments of the season:

The 4th grade win against Nedland on their home turf !!!!

3rd Turning around to beat Grade Southern Lions and Cottesloe in the 2nd half of the season. The try fest against Perth Bayswater.

Well done and thank you !!!!

Kevin Cox – Cox



Fourth Grade Black Report

Palmyra's 4th grade this season started on very shaky ground with no official coach appointed for the first few games, with players, injured and fit taking the reins. I joined the group in Round 6 due to consistent injury, where I found myself in unfamiliar territory, as only coached at a junior level at Palmyra before.

With a limited core number of players of around eight we managed to bandage a team together each week.

Although at the social end of the rugby spectrum I was pleasantly surprised at the array of talent in our club with many 4th black players playing up the grades.

A very simple game plan and open structure was implemented from the off due to the lack of consistency within the team from week to week. The fluent free flowing style adopted seemed to keep the boys enthused and engaged throughout the year. My coaching and organizing task was greatly assisted each week by Will Watson whom which I would not have coped otherwise.

Six wins and three draws took us to seventh in the overall standings although most opponents commented on how hard

we were to defeat and our close result reflect that, with a memorable victory over

2nd place Nedlands the only Palmyra side to defeat a Nedlands team in the domestic season.

Special mention must go to the stalwarts of the squad in Timmy, Tommy, Sammy, Marty, Nicky, Rodney, Willy and Dom.

Best and Fairest went to: Don Rose and Runner Up / Most Improved was: Thomas Sutherland.

Well done boys see you all again next season

Go Pally

George Sutherland - Coach

Fourth Grade Blue Report

We had a very good start to the season and a big numbers of players in Fourth grade, so the Club ended up with two sides . It was good to see new and old faces return to the club for season 2011 . We started off the season with two wins against Soaks and Wests, in fourth grade blue we looked like a force to be reckoned with.



The guys combined well, each player bringing different abilities and skills to each game. We had a few new players that were unfamiliar to the game, but they brought courage & commitment onto the field and as part of the team.

By the end of the first half of the season, we were placed equal 1st with Curtin on the ladder board, this was short lived, as we had players missing due to work commitments & injuries. The team lost momentum, and with the loss of several key players the team adjusted well but could not turn it around on the score board. The quality of referees was short coming, as we had a lot of inconsistency and poor judgement calls against the team and suffered a loss in a vital game that had exploded into controversy and disciplinary action.

The team struggled to come back with the same force as they started with, but made every effort to compete well against all teams no matter where they stood on the ladder board. Our team finished 5th

and supported each other through the season.

At this time I would like to Thank the support of Colin Green our Team Manager, Sarah our Team Physio & strapper and our team captain Ben Cullen for providing a solid foundation, providing the necessary encouragement & assistance to keep a team well organised and functioning successfully each week.

I need to also send Thanks to Joe Tepania & Colin Green who recruited our team sponsor the "Leopold Hotel" . They provided new Playing jerseys and a great "recovery" place to wind down after a match.

It would be great to see everyone return next season in 2012. Special thanks to the committee for their support through this season and congratulations to Elliot & Sarah who will be welcoming a new baby into their lives next year.

Well done guys!!

TEAM.....Together Everyone Achieves

Under 20's Report

A fifth place finish in the 2011 season was disappointing for a number of reasons, the team management and playing group had undertaken considerable preparation for the season through the Clubs offseason strength and conditioning program, pre-season training and the Team Building Day which was designed to provide the team with clarity on the key performance indicators for the season and accountabilities through team and individual actions.

Without doubt the U20 squad as a Team and the players as individuals have developed since last season, with considerable talent right through the squad. In the wash up however our unexpected poor start to the season ultimately cost us a Finals spot. After the first 6 games we had only managed to register one win and a bye win, which in part was due to a number of players being selected for First Grade and some injuries, but more holistically to a general lack of commitment in some key areas such as training and preparation.

It is a credit to the resolve of team that from Round 7 onwards we only recorded two further losses for the season which put us right back in contention for a Finals spot. We had some real momentum going into the back end of the season and in the end we only narrowly missed fourth spot and thus a finals position after being in a battle with Associates right up till the last round.

One of the many highlights from the season was a run of victories over Perth Bayswater, Nedlands, Associates and Wanneroo and a draw against UWA which demonstrates the progress the team has made. For many of the players a victory over some of these teams was the first after many years of trying. It is also significant to note that during the second round of the competition we played the eventual 4 finalists and came away with 2 wins, a draw and a loss. Additionally we recorded victories over

Associates and Wanneroo who will contest this years Grand Final.

I would like to acknowledge Mark Fisher (Assistant/Fwd Coach), Alister McMillan (Team Manager), Gideon Van Zyl Snr (Fwd Coach) and Josh Murray (Water boy) who all contributed to the development of the team in so many ways, not least through their dedication, hard work, commitment and the sharing of their experience and knowledge.

I would also like to acknowledge Michael McMillan who captained the team for most of the season. It was no surprise that when he returned from First Grade, this coincided with the team's resurgence. Michaels on field Captaincy and commitment to leading by example helped the team enormously. He has developed into a potential long term first grade player and Leader within the Club.

The playing group was made up consistently of at least 25 players of various levels of talent and experience. This number of players from a Club perspective is especially pleasing, as Rugby battles the influence of other sporting codes in this city. The Palmyra Rugby Club is committed to growing the game by having an U20s team, whilst other high profile clubs are not and struggled for numbers with some unable to field a team in 2011 which was disappointing.

It was with great satisfaction that this years U20 team supported both First and Second Grade on many occasions throughout the year and all players acquitted themselves well. The following players were selected or involved with the First Grade squad at various times during the season; Michael McMillan, Hayden Croghan, Gideon Van Zyl, Nick Short, Nathan Oakley, Gannon Karena and TK Fotu.

Under 20's Report

A downside of having a large playing group is that not all players were able to get as much game time as they would have liked through out the year. However all players contributed in some way, whether it was being in the U20 game day squad, playing in other grades or committing to various other activities required around the club.



Unfortunately we had a number of significant injuries to key players that kept them out for long periods of the season. This certainly didn't help our cause, but to the credit of these players they continued to turn up to training and support the team throughout the year.

Lastly, whilst we didn't achieve one of our Team targets for 2011 in making the finals, this group solid foundation for Palmyra U20 teams in the future. There is now a winning mentality which I which I believe will permeate through to next year and beyond.

Justin Petersen

Under 18's Report

The 2011 season was the old classic "game of two halves" with the boys eventually narrowly missing out on a division two final. The season started in late March with a couple of trial matches and the competitive season began on the first Saturday in April. The first round of fixtures proved particularly tough with Palmyra suffering some heavy defeats. At this stage it would have been easy for the boys to drift away and fling in the towel but everyone to a man stayed committed and focussed on the task ahead. Indeed after a 107 point defeat to UWA the Tuesday after this witnessing one of the highest training attendances of the season.

The second half of the season was a different story with the combination of the harnessing of raw ability; hard work from the team and exceptional coaching resulting in some memorable moments and exceptional performances. Highlights included being 20 points down against Arks with 20 minutes to go and then tenaciously fighting back for a draw. A further highlight was against UWA Green, after being beaten by them the previous week by 14 points Palmyra then reversed this beating them by 29 points.

By the end of the season although not being able to compete in the division two grand final the Pally 18s had developed into a formidable playing group that was seen as a highly competitive squad, every opposition that encountered them realized that they were in for a tough contest.

Indeed if it had not been for injury to a couple of key players and the loss of our inspirational coach Mark "Froudy" Froud I truly believe we would have finished the season with silverware.

In summary, there is some exceptional talent in this years under 18 squad, some of which will provide the nucleus of next year's team whilst others will be valued addition to the other Pally Senior squads. With the right coaching I believe there will be players from this team turning out for first grade in the not too distant future.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the exceptional coaches who moulded the boys into a formidably cohesive team with undoubted skill and ability. Mark Froud and Franz Degenkolbe, installed discipline, an exceptional work ethic and a strong team ethos which will not only benefit these boys in their future rugby career but will equip them to be better more successful men in life. I hope to see both Mark and Franz coaching at the club in some capacity in the future as I believe they have a lot to offer both the players and the club.

I would also like to mention our team captain here Sam Cabrera. He is an exceptional talent and typified the attributes the coaches tried to install in the team. He is an undoubted star of the future at Palmyra and was an absolute joy to work with.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to be involved as the Palmyra 18s Manager 2011 and I look forward to the 2012 season and the challenges it will present. This is my first full season with Palmyra and I worked with some truly inspirational individuals and made some excellent friendships which will last for life.

Yours in Rugby
Keith Robertson



Point Scorers

Leading Point Scorers

Premier Grade		Reserve Grade		3 rd Grade	
J Alston	58	E Haimona	67	S Dyer	101
R Hutton	50	R Jones	55	C Davidson	42
W Cameron-Dow	42	J McDonald	30	B Fatai	40
K Leary	35			T Marr	40

4 th Grade Black		4 th Grade Blue		Under 20's Grade	
D Rose	40	J Appleyard	48	G Karena	35
G Blake	30	E Stephenson	19	D Cunningham	25
R Mills	20	A Bodycoat	15	M Tangaroa	16
D Maraki	17	P Henwood	15		

Ton-Up Winner

Jesse McGuire

RESERVE GRADE PREMIERSHIP

This momentous occasion has been a long time coming. Congratulations to all involved. The last Reserve Grade Premiership was in 1963 when we were Minor Premiers and also Club Champions: we played University in the Grand Final. The scores were locked at full time and after two periods of extra time the scores were still tied. It was decided that the title would be shared with Pally holding the Cup for the first six months and Uni holding it for the other six months. It stayed with us at the Leopold for 12 months. Since then we have appeared in many final rounds including Runners-Up in 1976, 1993 & 1997.

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