



1982 President's & Coach's reports

LR Tony Garrick, Ian Blanch (courtesy Brian Mitchell) more names required

We have come to the end of the 21st Season of PIRATES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB. This season was possibly the most successful on record, i.e. forming of the Pirates Junior Rugby Club, and the purchase of our own ground in King George Avenue.

My thanks go to all those who helped to make this a reality. Namely:

John and Leslie Gibson for their tremendous support and patronage throughout the Season.

T. C. McMahon without who's help the purchase of the ground would not have been possible.

Leslie and the Social Committee for making the year a financially successful one.

The Management Committee for their help throughout the year.

The Grounds Committee for achieving their aim.

The Coaches, Daryl Bath, Garry Proctor and "Charlie" Auld for their efforts during the Season. .

A special mention to all those people who worked hard to form and run the Pirates Junior Rugby Club, particularly Judy Gore and Charlie Auld - "well done!"

Thanks to our donors during the year and especially for the trophies made available for the Presentation Night.

Finally, sincere thanks to everyone: players, supporters, committees, and we are looking forward to and hoping for your support next year.

STUART JAY

1st Grade Coach's Report

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the position of Coach with the Pirates Rugby Club for 1982, since I had been absent from any relationship with the game for a few years previous, and this extended to me a chance to return to the inner sanctum.

Never having participated in the game in a serious coaching position, I had great ideals of what was going to be achieved by Pirates in 1982, however, what I did not allow for in these utopian calculations were the die-hard traditions of the Club, the human attitude towards whipping the body into some sort of physical fitness, and the drinking ability of everyone in general. Little did I realize at the beginning that the rest of the Season was fraught with a mixture of excitement, disappointment, headaches, ulcers, grey hair, elation and hangovers. If some of the players concentrated on training and playing the game of Rugby as much as they concentrated on their next schooner, then they would be a threat to any side in this Zone. This Club has traditionally been known as one which really enjoys carousing and this is still the case. There is nothing wrong with that, however, if some of the players showed more enthusiasm and dedication towards the game of Rugby then the Club would also become known as winners.

In conclusion, I must say that overall I have enjoyed the past Season, its wins and its losses, but above all, my wife and I have enjoyed the opportunity which the members of the Pirates Rugby Club have given us, to meet so many people unknown to us before, and to make and appreciate new friendships with members and other people associated with the Club.

Daryl Bath

1982 - 21st Birthday



The familiar logo that appeared with each Saturday 'Breakaway' article for many years

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PIRATE'S BIRTHDAY

It's Pirates' 21st birthday. Celebrations this week, so without apologies to the other clubs in the zone this column shall reminisce on Pirates.

Pirates occupy a unique place in the zone in that they tend to cater for rugby players who pass through the major urban centre in the zone, Tamworth, in the course of their employment. This is not to say that they don't have a band of loyal, permanent, long serving members, but it does mean that they do have a new team more often than some of the rural-based sides which have a familiar look about them each year. My contact with Pirates dates back to 1966, and at the risk of starting an argument, these would be my best Pirates, and the years mentioned approximately fit the peak years of the players named,

Fullback: Glen Dietrich - (1980); wings; Tony Moroney (1969); Hugh McKid (1979); Centres, Les Baker (1967), Pip McCann (1971), Five-eighth Ken; Leslight (1969), half-back Tony Doherty (1969); lock, Kevin Farrell (1973), Breakaways, Ken McLean (1968), Peter Schmidt (1970); Second-row John Hawthorne (1968), Stu Henry (1971) props Rindy Ryan (1967), Peter Wakeford (68) Hooker, Ned Donnelly (1980)- Coach: Steve Murtagh (1967), A number of good players have been left out. Pirates have been blessed with very good loose forwards, and names like Dave Zinga, Charlie Auld, John Matherson, Don McKenzie and George Petherbridge are not far behind those chosen.

Likewise, Steve -Murtagh, Pirate's most successful coach, could easily be replaced by Warwick Ford, who did the most with the players -available at the time. And who was the best Pirate of them all? If you asked the long serving players of the other clubs in the zone, I'm sure they would all give the same answer - Pip McCann - a centre who had a greater talent for beating the man in front of him than any other player in a zone that has had many good midfield backs.

The stories of fullbacks left standing by McCann -are legend, and only his -visual problems kept him from the highest representative honours in rugby.

OTHER SIDE

That represents the glamorous side of Pirates, but there is another side to this -remarkable rugby Club. What other club could recruit a couple of props into playing their first games of rugby somewhere near their 30th birthday, and still have them playing seven or eight years later?

John Bolden and Ken McPherson are typical examples of Pirates' capacity to introduce players to the game, and then turn them into top club members.

Pirates have had their battles. Because their members are so transfer prone in their employment, the club can go from rags to riches' and back again in a single season, but they have never lost their pride and on many occasions players have doubled up to play two games rather than not honour their commitment to their opponents. .

Rugby is a fun game, with a strong social side to it. Pirates have traditionally been one of the most active 'social' clubs in the zone but it might be safer if this column keeps off some of their more famous social events! Pirates do bring back other memories- Who can recall the 'Pom', the most notorious spectator in the zone, Yorkie, the master wit on the field with his constant gentle advice to 'referees,. Fred Illife, whose idea of a really low tackle was one below the adam's apple, Doc Doherty, who would run 50 yards from fullback to get into a blue with the opposing forwards or their perennial points-scoring machine, Laurie James? No Pirates' story can be complete without mention of their most loyal supporter, Marie Dietrich, who has stuck with them through thick and thin, and who has organised these young men to raise many hundreds of dollars for the scouts at a time when other sporting clubs are flat out raising money for themselves.

Truly a beautiful rugby club - happy birthday Pirates.

By Breakaway