

## Match report archive – 2008

### 4th grade Grand Final

I woke up about 6 o'clock and looked out the window only to see one of the most dismal mornings of the year. What a way to ruin a grand final. By 6:30 my phone was ringing off the hook with people wondering if it was still on. We got ready as if we were playing anyway. About 7:30 I got the call off our president AJ to tell us it was full steam ahead. I got to the clubhouse and even though the weather was uptight, we weren't. There was that really good relaxed feeling with everyone, that we really seem to thrive on and play well with. As we approached the ground the nerves started to kick in. I was really keen to see what condition the ground was in and fortunately it had held up beautifully. There were no water puddles or mud patches at all. Our preparation was really good. Bobby was already set up and had his rolls of tape loaded and ready to go. It was good that we were all strapped early and had plenty of time to warm up, although it was hard to get warm in the blizzard that was the day. There was a great confidence in us without being cocky. Personally, being in the sheds with the boys in our last 5 minutes together was a moment I will remember for a long time to come. You could just feel absolute unity and willingness for each other. My body was tingling and the hairs were standing on the back of my neck the whole time, with Griffio speaking some inspiring words of experience. The boys left the shed pumped and it was unreal to see our supporters standing in the pouring rain to form a tunnel. Champion effort. They kicked off and we were on our way. The ball was slippery and they decided to play it down our end. An early mistake or two by us and they had a scrum on our line. After a fumble by their half, Hilly scooped an a loose ball and it was cleared downfield. Unfortunately it didn't go out, and one thing we talked about before the game was their kick great return and it was sent straight back to us. A sneaky sideline run by Claude saw us recoup all those lost yards again, unfortunately not long after it was turned over again. Some solid front on defence by Toddy soon put the pressure back on them, they kicked out on the full, and we were back inside their half. We won the line out and started moving forward, but an infringement by them gave us a penalty 35 out and 10 in. Captain Jack opted to try for the points and in better conditions Leifo would have landed it no problems. It full short and they found the line with the clearance. We lost the line out which was the story of the day for us as we only won one more all half. I thought that would be one of our strengths as we started with our star thrower, Gab. The ball went back and forward after this and they started peppering Lukes wing and he did not put a foot wrong, taking it and returning it perfectly. He hit some great form in the last few weeks. Half way through the first stanza, Toddy hit a great hole and I thought we were in. With the defence closing in, he offloaded to Prido and the ball went to ground in the tough conditions. Not long after Prido came up with an awesome diving tackle, which saw the judges hold up 9.5's all round, to shut down an attacking raid with a big overlap. The game was very even through the middle of the half with Fergo cleaning up some loose ball and stealing helpful yards and Patty coming up with a bone rattling tackle on their centre. Stu also had some top defence on the day. With 10 to go they scored an 85m try against what seemed to be against the run of play. A sideline conversion put them up 7-0. This try gave them confidence and the tempo lifted, for the anyway. Our laziness gave them a shot at goal as we kicked out and did not chase through and they took a quick lineout. This made us scramble and give away a penalty. They fell short and Hill cleared, but again we didn't find touch and they sent it back, with only a soaring 60 roost back down town by Starks letting us breathe easy again. We gave away a few more silly penalties and it didn't take them long to be back within kicking range, this time they converted to make it 10-0 with 2 to go. In the last play of the half, Leifo kicked over from a scrum win and Toddy chased and came within inches of scoring. A first half stand out was Nicko who was everywhere. The half time break was really positive with everyone believing we were still well in with a chance. We made a couple of changes at the half, putting some more matured players on. The fresh legs and more experienced heads seemed to work and we started to get our pick and drive working the best it had all year. We had definately trained it enough. We also put Claude into half and Hilly back at fullback which proved to be a master stroke. With Claudes comfortable knowledge of our structure and Hillys experience it was full steam ahead. Robbo, Hughey, Wesser and Chasto were just unstoppable with Kevin huge in defence and attack as he had been all game. Our dominant pack finally wore them down and Leifo ambled over the stripe to score under the sticks, and icing the cake. It was now 10-7 and we were back. Unfortunately about this time, Hugh came off with a

jaw injury which ended up being dislocated. He sure is a tough old dog. This was when we put Seano on who was chomping at the bit to rip and tear, which is exactly what he did. As usual against these guys it soon became an arm wrestle again, but I still felt like we had the upper hand. A couple of minutes before the whistle we were again hammering their line but a loose ball gave them possession and a freak kick saw us 15m out from our own line. Unfortunately, they kept us down there until the final whistle. A special mention to Jack who played and led the team with honour. One point was shared between Hilly and Prido who both put in the best performances iv'e seen them play. Two points went to Toddy with another A class performance. The three points went to Leif and Chasto who were outstanding all game. Congratulations and unlucky boys. You deserved a win for all your efforts. Thanks to everyone who helped us all year off the field and especially the help I got in the finals. Finally boys, a big thanks from me for a season of excitement, great days and nights and new mates. FANTASTIC..... Coach Smyth signing off till next year. Patty - The enforcer. Works at ANL through day but is a night club bouncer and lead rapper in 'Snoop Patty and the Terrey Hills homie'. Gab - Glad he lost the head band. Chasto - Man mountain. Should be a bonds underwear model. Jack - One half of the vitamin c brothers. A handy acquisition to any headland. Nicko - Has a savage case of 'acute Lionel Ritchie' syndrome. Stu - Will one day open for the Aussies in a one dayer. Batting well above his average. Kevin - Go Kevin 07, and 5 and 3. Selfish and hogs all the moves. Fergus - Life long ambition to be the energiser bunny. Get off the Red Bulls. Hill - Thanks to Charlie for giving him Saturday off, now get back to making chocolate. Lethal - The older vitamin c brother. Lives on a staple diet of Melbourne bitter and White steaks. An absolute athlete. Toddy - I nearly caught him smile once. Prido - Played the grandy with a hernier, or was it the 'mother nut' trying to evolve. Starks - And we thought the camera only added 10 pounds, what about looking bald. Luke - Keeps a secret diary of love letters he's written to Perry. Claude - Don't leave me alone in a dark room with him. Grrrrrrrrrr. Hughey - Check your license pops. Robbo - Import. Originally came over cause the dole paid more here. Rhys - Touches himself a lot. Perry - Would make a motza in the Cross. Will play in any position. Seano - Male model from Moree. Just don't ask him to do any push ups. Cappy - Made 4th grade the best looking team. Sterling - Who names their kid Sterling. Fards - Mad man on the feild. Maybe be suited to the Army. Smythy - Masculine, caring, eloquent, athletic, good at just about everything. The ladies love him.....

## 4th grade Preliminary Final

WE ARE IN THE GRAND FINAL. What a bloody cracker. One of the best and most entertaining games of the season. It was a lot better build up and the extra help before the game was a super bonus in keeping us relaxed and focussed. Both teams started well but they snuck in a try early to slightly put us on the back foot, with Cappy accidentally nearly sending the guys head over the fence as he dived for the corner to score. Not long after Leif kicked for touch and didn't find it. He then made the next 3 tackles in a row and absolutely smashed all 3 guys which was a huge lift to the team. Again we fought hard against a huge pack and kept repelling their raids. The good things was that every time we went to the backs we made yards plus. Their backs would not even run at ours and it shows how good the form and toughness of our backline is. Coming in to half time you could start to feel we were clawing our way back on top with the other team starting to niggle each other. We always knew if we stuck it out in a physical first half we would wear them down. A penalty goal by Leif took us to the break 5-3 and with plenty of confidence. Talking at half time we could hear Hornsby screaming and arguing, it was at this point we knew we had the match won. We started the second half brilliantly, with the highlight of the opening exchanges being big Patty Soars getting drilled by their bulbous front rower, then wrestling him on the ground in a head lock yelling "is that all you've got". Our backline was sparkling in a performance that would have had any first grade side in a spin. Toddy was hitting holes better than Ron Jeremy and Leif traded his usual tinge of vitamin C for the green of the hulk. They were supreme. Not to leave out Claude and Cappy in a display that normally would have earned them man of the match honours. Top effort to our flanks as well. Tries to Cappy, Leif and Robbo put the game beyond them with Leif tapping one over from the side line and letting the heckling crowd know who won that battle. The final score being 23-5. Robbo also gave us huge go forward and seems to really be enjoying his footy. A big mention and thanks to Hugh Wood who is tougher than a Mt Isa miner. A great game even after being knocked out cold. Without his help we would not have even been able to take the field. I would also like to congratulate captain Jack, who

trully led the team around by example. His positive talk and leadership were first class and I have no doubt he would one day be a great 1st grade captain. Also a big thanks to Patty's folks who supplied the bus for us to keep us all together for the game. It was good to see Pat sr on the bus and also on the end of a beer bong. The old fella put it down like a seasoned campaigner. On a sour note, our electric fullback and myself copping season ending injuries. Cappy breaking his arm and my shoulder dislocating and it looks like a second reconstruction on the cards. WHO CARES, WE ARE IN THE GRAND FINAL. Thanks again for everybodys help and support on the day. Plenty of water and rest.....

## 4th grade Semi-Final

Well boys, i'm glad we got that one out of the way. After a pretty tense week and a very tense build up, we seemed to explode, but unfortunately at each other. I am happy to take the blame for this build up as I thought it might get us firing, but it was defanately the wrong approach. It may have also been a case of us all trying too hard. Well, it would have been easier doing backstroke in wet concrete than run into that first half wind. Our structure and training went out the window against a team that was determined to not let us play our normal game. Full credit to our forwards who worked that hard they would have fetched top dollar back in the old slave trade. Going into half time 10-3 down, the game was in reach, but for the first time this year we niggled, which is a sure sign we were up against it. The second half we regrouped and things started going our way, with Robbo making a good impact off the bench. Not long after we scored one of the tries of the year as it was a perfect replica of our training drills- all those cold nights did pay off. Unfortunately they scored a great long range try which ultimately sealed our fate. I'm sure we'll be back bigger and better next week. They have beaten us 18-10, 17-10, and now 15-10 so we are getting closer. Some bad news, it looks as though we may have lost Sean for the rest of the year with some neck damage which will surely leave us with a big hole to fill. 1 point went to Leif who again was very solid. 2 points went to Rhys with some trademark strong runs and the 3 points went to big Chaso who was just a class above. Thanks to all those who helped out again. A quick hello to Mr And Mrs Makin. It was nice to meet you guys and it's also great to know someone actually reads these match reports. I might have to start these reports with Dear Doug if my reading audience doesn't pick up soon. See you all next week. Plenty of water and rest.....

## Round 18 versus Oatley

4th Grade: Newport19 (Smythy try; Leifo 4pen, 1g) bt Oatley 12. Points Michael Chaston 3, Rhys Blackburn 2, Leif Eriksson, Todd Richardson 1

4th Grade Report: Awesome boys. We set ourselves a challenge of winning 3 games in a row a few weeks ago, and Saturday was number 2. One more and we are in a Grand Final. We are becoming the masters of tough gritty footy. Its at the back end of games that we are winning due to our fitness and commitment. We started on the back foot against a much bigger pack, but within 10 minutes we had turned that around and were dominating them. Leif's radar boot had us in front at the break 9-5, but they hit back in the second to make it 12-9. Not long after Leif was bending it like Beckham again and it was 12 a piece. It was a tough half although I was very confident we would pull through due to our recent grit. A stellar chip over the top by Claude sealing the win against a team that was desperate and deflated as it marked the end of their season. The points went one to Leif and Todd who are looking like the best centre pairing in the comp and must have other teams very nervous. Two went to the bullocking and very handsome Rhys Wesser and the 3 points went to our big man Chasto. It took their whole team and the water runner to pull him down every time he touched the ball. Congratulations everyone an a marvellous effort all year. Lets lift and do it for each other in these last few weeks. Again, thanks to everyone that helped on the weekend and a massive thanks to all those who helped out on and off the field all year. You are as much a part of this team as the players on the field. Plenty of water and look after those little niggles this week. If you can, find something you take inspiration from- maybe a movie, a song or book, a person or the olympics- and watch, read or listen to it and get the blood racing for this weekend. I am supremely confident in every player in our team and honestly believe we can win. GOOD LUCK

BOYS.....

Smythy (4th Grade "Super"Coach)

3rd Grade: Newport 0 def by Oatley 12

2nd Grade: Newport 26 (Will Hiller 2, Griffio, Al Tuckett tries; Sam Bradnock 3g) bt Oatley 7

1st Grade: Newport 14 (Fletch, Gaz tries; Preso 2g) bt Oatley 12. Points: Gaz 3, Jack Hodges 2, Rhys Blackburn 1. Refs Points: Dunsey 2, Gaz 1.

1st Grade Report:

The final game for the year against the 5<sup>th</sup> placed Oatley was yet another must win for the Breakers to ensure Div 2 Club Championship survival for the club. As with most weeks this year there were some late changes and injury concerns to the line up which resulted in another disjointed preparation. Despite this and the early injuries to veteran hooker Wayne Rides and form breakaway Gareth "monkey nuts" Birch the Breakers defence was resolute. For the first 20mins Oatley with the assistance of a very vocal home crowd threw everything they had at the Breakers who repelled raid after raid particularly with some outstanding last ditch defence from the midfield and winger Moape Ravuvu. Our makeshift scrum was getting dominated but the injection of replacement hooker Reece "Wesser" Blackburn after he played minutes in 4ths, 3rds and 2nds steadied the ship and a great 60m individual chip and chase effort try from fullback Fletcher Kidd duly converted by No. 10 Preston Cruickshank saw the Breakers leading 7-0 at ht. With the decent breeze now at the Breakers backs the plan was to kick long and early for field position but this did not eventuate with 2 early penalty goals to Oatley getting them back in the match at 8-6. Just when it looked like Oatley were gaining the ascendancy outstanding scrum half Gareth Davies scooted 10metres down the sideline to score untouched after an excellent rolling maul from the forwards. Preston converted from a wide angle to make the score 14-6 with 20mins to play. Almost immediately Oatley kicked another 2 penalty goals to make the score 14-12 and ensure the final 15mins to be a nerve racking one for the co-coaching team of Nettleton and Hill. Oatley again attacked the Breakers line and looked certain to gain the lead when born again winger Ravuvu fielded a missed penalty shot from Oatley on the defensive tryline, stepped 3 Oatley players then punted the ball 50metres down field to get out of the danger zone. What made this more special was it was in the face of a group of Oatley "old boys" who had been disgracefully and quite personally abusing Ravuvu throughout the game. Moape and the faithful Newport supporters certainly had the last laugh as the field position enabled the Breakers to hold on for the remaining 5mins and secure the outstanding and gutsy win for the Breakers 14-12. Scrumhalf Gareth Davies was again simply outstanding for the Breakers in attack and defence and was clearly man of the match. Lock Jack Hodges was powerful in tight against a much larger Oatley pack whilst replacement hooker Reece Blackburn showed great energy and commitment to earn the 1 point. Moape Ravuvu was again a great contributor in the backs and finished the season in style. The win ensured Div 2 survival for the Breakers and first grades late season resurgence where we won 7 from 11 games after dropping our first 7 games meant we finished 6<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup> grade table. Obviously disappointing overall after 2007's success but a good comeback to the year after a shaky start. A big thanks to all the boys who played 1's this year, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Manager Greg, Strapper Bob, AJ, Hando and the Committee and our fans for all your support and patience throughout the year. Also a big thanks to my Co-Coach Chugga's who is an absolute champion – I've enjoyed working, fighting, arguing, disagreeing and crying alongside you this year mate..... **Finally the 1<sup>st</sup> grade side would like to wish 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades the best of luck in their respective semi final campaigns this weekend. Go the mighty Breakers – we'll all be there supporting you throughout.**

Signing off for 2008.....Simon "Obvious Coach of the Year candidate" Hill

**Round 17 versus Hornsby**

4th Grade: Newport 24 (Jack Birtwhistle, Angus Ferguson, Luke Tansey, Adrian Capp tries; Leif Erikson 2g) bt Hornsby 0. Points: Angus Ferguson 3, Jack Birtwhistle 2, Evan Ramali, Claude Denis, Smythy 1

4th Grade Match Report: Absolutely brilliant. I haven't seen anyone one dominated like that since my last trip to Madam Lashes' house. I can't praise you all enough for how you played on the weekend. Tough, intense and smart are just a few words to describe your effort. A great hit out so close to semis and against the second placed team. Realistically it was set up last week against Lindfield, which was also a fantastic game by everyone. Although we probably can't miss out on the finals now, this week will be extremely tough as Oatley need to win to get there, so no relaxing just yet. One point this week went to Luke on the wing who had a scorching first half with some touches of class and one also went to Claude Van Dam who played 10 times above his weight and gave our outside backs plenty of space. Two points went to captain Jack who also scored a top shelf try and the three points went to Fergus Angusson who was born with way too much energy. Super effort mate. That is the fourth time we have kept a team to zero this year. 24-0. Our line defence at the end showed our passion highlighted by big Chasos demolishing hit on their tall second rower- bags not being him. On a low note, Perry broke his thumb in the game and we have lost him for the rest of the season. You will be missed champ. Thanks to all who helped out, it is very much appreciated. My 200th game and one I am proud to remember for a long time to come. Thanks boys....

Smythy

3rd Grade: Newport 17 (Hugh Wood, Rhys Blackburn, Michael Buck tries; Ricky Turner 1g) def by Hornsby 23

2nd Grade: Newport 33 (Griffo 2, Glass, Alex Tuckett, James Meggisson tries; Sam Bradnock 4g) bt Hornsby 0

1st Grade: Newport 19 (Dunnsy, Gaz, Val tries; Preso 2g) bt Hornsby 10. Points: Mo 3, Dunnsy 2, Gaz 1, Refs Points: Mo 3.

1st Grade Report:

The last home game of the year gave 1st Grade the opportunity to finish an extremely poor home record this year on a positive note against the bottom of the table Hornsby as well as secure vital club championship points. However the big crowd (made up of plenty of vocal and end of season drinking Avalon Bulldogs) was let down when the Breakers started poorly consistently giving away penalties and coughing up possession thus allowing Hornsby to dominate the early proceedings. The Breakers were lucky to be only down 3-0 after this early onslaught. The Breakers finally settled when inspirational skipper and lock Neil Dunns regathered a towering restart, brushed past 3 defenders, sprinted (or glided like a loping Impala) 30metres then using his octopus like arms to get the ball over his head and the try line with 3 defenders hanging on. The rest of the half was a real arm wrestle until wrecking ball shaped winger and Breaker legend Moape Ravuvu turned back the clock and scooted 50 metres down the touchline to link with another Breaker veteran and No.13 Grant Vallack to score under the posts and finish the 70metre movement right on the stroke of HT. Fullback Preston Cruickshank converted for a 12-3 lead at oranges.

The second half didn't really reach any great heights. Scrumhalf Gareth Davies continued his outstanding form this season to cross mid way through the second half after some great lead up work again from Ravuvu and the forwards which Preston converted to make the score 19-3 with 20mins to go. The final 1/4 of the game unfortunately continued the trend of the disappointing year with the Breakers giving away plenty of penalties and repeatedly turning over possession. Hornsby did score late when their classy No.13 and Tongan international crossed right before fulltime running through a very tired midfield defence. 19-10 was the final result and secured the much needed club championship points thus helping to lift the Breakers to 7th on the table. Best player was Moape Ravuvu who relived his glory days (when 50kgs lighter) entertaining big crowds at Porters and was damaging every time he touched the ball. Skipper Dunns and scrumhalf Gaz again led

from the front and despite both only playing part seasons will be challenging for the 1st grade best and fairest this year. We travel away to Oatley this weekend only 18 points from last in the club championship and in a battle with 3 other clubs including Oatley to avoid relegation to the dreaded division 3 in 2009. Another must win in all grades for the tight rope walking Breakers.

Simon "self anointed contender for 1st grade co-coach of the year" Hill

## **Round 16 versus Lindfield**

4th grade: Newport 10 (Dan Prideaux, Leif Erickson tries) def by Lindfield 17 Points: M Chaston 3, N Pearson 2, T Richardson 1, P Soars 1

3rd grade: Newport 10 def by Lindfield 17

2nd grade: Newport 15 (Adam Griffith, Alex Tuckett tries; Sam Bradnock 1g 1pen) dre with Lindfield 15 Points: Adam Griffiths 3, Jame Lowe 2, Dan Evans 1, Marc Steinegger 1

1st grade: Newport 44 (Chris Williams 2, Fletcher Kidd 2, Neil Duns, Trent Barnabas, Gareth Birch tries; Preston Cruickshank 3g 1 pen) def Lindfield 35 Points: L Comans 3, Neil Duns 2, Chris Williams 1; Ref Points: Neil Duns 3, Chris Williams 1

1st grade report:

In a must win game for 1<sup>st</sup> grade in relation to the clubs precarious club championship position the boys were pumped for a big performance against Lindfield. Despite the average age of the team being closer to 35 than 25 and the late call up of club legend Ridesy into the front row Newport again started the game exceptionally well dominating Lindfield in all aspects of the game....except as per usual in discipline which was the only reason Lindfield were in the contest. Fullback Fletcher Kidd ran a great line onto Fly half Willo's pass and scored the only try for the Breakers in the first half. 7-7 at halftime. The second half was basically a glorified game of touch footy with defence not really a priority for either side. Newport were always in control however and got out to a comfortable 20 point lead at one stage only for Lindfield to score 2 late tries after flanker Barney was sinbinned with 10mins to go which made the final scoreline a little more respectable for the hosts. The 7 tries to 5 win was our first bonus point win of the year. Final score was 44-35 and secured 30 much need club champion points. Fletch and Willo both scored doubles whilst forwards Barney, Gareth "monkey nuts" Birchy and skipper Dunnsy all crossed. No.12 Preston kicked 2 goals as did replacement fullback Tucks. Best player was No.8 Lincoln Comans ably supported by the skipper and lock Neil Dunns. Whilst No.10 Willo and scrum half Gaz Davies were strong in the backs. In short 1<sup>st</sup> grade have to keep winning or its off to 3<sup>rd</sup> division for the first time in 30 years for NRC.Hilly (Senior Backline Consultant)

## **Round 15 versus Kings Old Boys**

## **Round 14 versus Barker Old Boys**

4th grade: Newport 12 (Tries: Adrian Capp 1, Luke Tansey 1 Goals: Claude Dennis 1g) bt Barker 10 Points: T Richardson 3, J Birtwhistle 2, P Swauley, C Dennis, L Erickson 1)

3rd grade: Newport 7 (Tries: Rob Evans 1 Goals: Nick Takamore 1g) bt Barker 0

2nd grade: Newport 17 (Tries: Anthony Landahl, Mat Lloyd, Paul Ryan 1 Goals: M Lloyd 1g) bt Barker 15 Points: N Glassie 3, L Comans 2, J Lowe 1

1st grade: Newport 12 (Tries: Dan Evans, Will Hiller 1 Goals: A Tuckett 1g) def by Barker 36 Points: G Birch 3, T Barnabas 2, D Evans 1 Ref's points: T Barnabas 1

1st Grade Report:

Yet another poor preparation with a few "no shows" of selected players combined with an already horrific injury toll and Flanker Billy Evans injuring his hamstring playing 3rd grade earlier in the day. Despite this the boys continued their trend of excellent starts throughout the year and actually had the premiership pacesetters Barker a little shell-shocked after Lock Dan Evans crashed over after some sustained pressure which No.13 Tucks converted for 7-0 lead after 5mins. The Breakers looked sharp and were unlucky not to score again soon after, however Barker steadied and after some elementary mistakes from the Breakers gifted Barker field position. Barker soon scored a very very soft try through some flimsy fringe breakdown defence which saw their confidence and application lift noticeably. Newport who were now on their heels started letting Barker have there own way and were lucky to only be down 22-7 at HT.

A raft of injuries in the second half saw a number of 2nd and 3rd grade players taking the field (a big thanks from Chugga's and myself to all those players who stood by, I think we used 7 reserves in total). Despite being grossly outmatched the undersized Breakers had a real dig in the 2nd half and often had Barker back peddling with some direct and purposeful running only to be let down late in the movement. Fullback Will did score a good team try midway through the half however the final score of 36-12 was a fair indication of the skill level gap between the two sides.

Ageless prop Geoff Pryor with a chronic injury to his ribs got off his sick bed to play the whole game and was solid throughout. A head bandaged no.8 Jack Hodges continues to impress this year whilst flanker Birchy and no.10 Trent Barnabas had their usual consistent games. A big thanks also to Fijian winger Maurice Vitiaki who had come to the game with the intention to "down" a case of beer and watch but ended up playing a half game in 3's and the entire game in 1's to cover for the "no shows" and injury issues we suffered.

## Round 13 versus St Ives

4th Grade: Newport 27 (Tries: Adrian Capp 4, Bryce Hay 1, Goals: Claude Dennis 1g) bt St Ives 3 Points A Capp 3, E Rammali 2, P Swauvly 1

3rd Grade: Newport 29 (Tries: Adam Pere, Jack Avery, Brendan O'Neil, Rob Evans, Nick Takamore 1 Goals: Takamore 2g) bt St Ives 7 Points: A Pere 3, B O'Neil 2, N Takamore 1

2nd Grade: Newport 20 (Tries: Neil Glassie, Will Hiller, Nick De Klerk 1 try Goals: Sam Bradnock 1g 1pen) bt St Ives 14

1st Grade: Newport 20 (Tries: Dallas Tewake, Jack Hodges, Fletcher Kidd 1 Goals: Alex Tuckett 1g 1pen) bt St Ives 5 Points: G Davies 3, T Barnabas 2, G Birch 1 Ref's Points: T Barnabas 3, A Griffith 1

1st grade report:

Following the great wins by all the Breaker lower grades 1st grade were primed for a big performance against arch rivals St Ives. The second half was totally dominated by Newport. St Ives never really looked like scoring and if not for some loose handling by Newport the score could have been anything in the early part of the half - Newport did kick a penalty goal for a 15-5 lead after 15mins following strong urges to do so by the nervous coaching team that had seen the 1st grade boys squander leads in the second half throughout the year. The somewhat rotund coaching teams concerns soon turned to joy midway thru the second half when robust winger Dallas Tewake (sporting the rather unattractive facial strapping for a suspected broken nose) crashed over after some excellent lead up work from No. 10 Barney and ageless prop Geoff Prior, Breakers led 20-5 with 15mins to go. Again Newport couldn't capitalise on field position and a glut of possession in the final 15mins and this remained the final score. A great win against the team coming second and crucial to the club championship results. team started on fire in the early stages with some high intensity play in attack and defence which saw them hammering the St Ives line in the early exchanges. Outstanding no.8 Jack "large human" Hodges was duly rewarded when he crashed over with 3 defenders hanging on, the

Breakers were leading 5-0 after 5mins. Moments later No.13 Fletcher Kidd continued his consistent try scoring feats of late when toeing thru a loose pass from the St Ives midfield on the halfway before regathering to score - the Breakers were flying at 12-0 after 10mins. For the next 10mins the Breakers were attacking the St Ives line but were unable to break thru despite some excellent play from reformed flanker Trent Barnabas at no.10. From here the high intensity dropped until right on h/t with both sides being guilty of dropped balls and missing some 1 on 1 tackles. Finally on the stoke of h/t St Ives crossed out wide for a 12-5 h/t score.

No. 9 Gareth "Please call me Davo" Davies was inspirational. His defence on the bigger St Ives forwards was nothing short of outstanding and slick service to the new backline combination was 1st class. New No. 10 Trent "Mr Fix It" Barnabas showed his versatility as a footballer going from one of our best forwards last week to one of our best backs this week - what a player. 1 point went to Jack for yet another strong performance and 19 year old flanker Gareth "monkey nuts" Birch who was again everywhere in attack and defence. In fact the shot he put on the charging and much larger St Ives no. 8 will be a strong contender for hit of the year.

## **Round 12 versus Briars**

### **1<sup>st</sup> grade report**

Poor player numbers for an away game again led to four 1st graders needing to take the field in the lower grades. Despite this distraction and instructions from coaches Clive "I was in the Manly Daily twice 2 weeks ago" Nettleton and former Newport backline great Hilly to release the shackles the team started very smartly with new no.13 Fletcher Kidd running into a huge hole off a great flat pass from No. 10 Willo to score under the posts after 2 mins. Newport employed a high energy running game and bustling defence against the 3rd placed Briars in the first 20mins which led to the skipper Rabbits latching onto a loose pass from the Briars midfield and sprinting 50m to score try number two, Breakers 12-0. Briars then came to life and scored a long range try and then scored another soon after some undisciplined play from the Breakers resulted in a string of penalties and field position for the home side, 12-10 to the Breakers at oranges.

The second half started poorly for the Breakers with Briars scoring their 3rd try quickly and taking a 17-12 advantage. But the Newport backline again sprung into action when Fletch made another bust that started deep inside our territory down the sideline and after linking with speedy winger Whippet received a neat inside return pass from the pint sized winger to score his second try which fullback Tucks converted. The Breakers appeared to be sailing at 19-17 with about 25mins to play. This is the point where the wheels fell off. The high energy game and pressure defence the Breakers had employed for 60mins began to meltdown like a block of ice in the Sahara and combined with a number of dropped balls when in possession and string of penalties to Briars the Newport defence began resembling swiss cheese with Briars running in 28 unanswered points for the final 45-19 result effectively ending our 2008 semi final aspirations with 6 games to go.

19 year old flanker Gareth "monkey nuts" Birch again shone for the Breakers and was a runaway winner for the 3 points. Birchy never stopped trying and no doubt the score against us would have been higher if not for his effort in cover defence and last ditch tackles. Lock Adam Griffiths continued his consistent form this season with his often lone hand in the lineouts while no.10 Willo controlled things well and let the backline loose to score some of the best tries we have scored this year before the final 20mins when we couldn't catch a cold. An away game to arch rivals St Ives next weekend gives us some ammunition to lift from this disappointing result.

## **Round 11 versus Epping**

### **1<sup>st</sup> grade report**

It was crunch time for the 1st grade side with the potential to jump from 9th on the ladder to 5th with a win over Epping. However the start of the game was decidedly flat for the

team with the usual venom in defence, aggression at the break down and kick chase virtually non-existent. The team appeared to be going through the motions at stages however in reality it was probably due to the 14-2 penalty count against us in the opening 40mins halting any momentum we were trying to build. The referee's confusing and ever-changing interpretations at the breakdown certainly led to extreme frustration for the players, coaches and fans alike. As a result Epping were camped inside our half of the field but were only able to land 2 penalties to take a 6-0 lead at oranges.

The second half was better with the Breakers lifting their intensity running home to the large Breaker crowd but were unable to convert pressure into points. The Newport scrum was now crushing theirs but at times we were unable to win our own lineout ball in attacking situations. Time after time Epping were able to repel the Newport attack again with the help of the officials who denied outstanding no.8 Jack Hodges a try after 10 or so phases mid way through the second half. The officiating was laughable at best when the referee said the ball was held up (despite a large thumping noise of a ball being slammed onto turf reverberating around the ground) and the sideline official claiming Jack had dropped the ball over the line much to the extreme disappointment of the crowd (and coaching team) who were 100% convinced it was a fair try. In any case the Breakers had enough ball in Epping's 22m zone to win 2 games in the second stanza but were unable to deliver with the final pass often going to ground or wrong option taken. With Epping not even looking like scoring 6-0 was the extremely disappointing final result.

Jack Hodges continues his strong form in 2008 and had a barnstorming game leading the forwards with some bone crunching hits and much needed physicality. Winger Dallas Tewake returning from injury had his best game in 1st grade whilst ultra consistent breakaway Trent Barnabas was his usual solid inspirational self in attack and defence - Moape Ravuvu also filled in well at no.9 with some crisp passing for his ball runners. At 3-8 were going to need to win all of our remaining 2nd round games with bonus points and pray for other results to go our way if we are going to be in finals contention in 08.

## Round 10 versus Waverley

### 1<sup>st</sup> grade report

It was about 1 degree Celsius when the Waverley skipper won the toss and elected to run with the strong wind at their backs in the first half. The Breaker forwards worked hard early into the stiff breeze but were not supported by the backs who made a number of errors which led to Newport being pinned down in their own 20m zone for long periods resulting in 2 penalty goals to Waverley. When Newport finally got into an attacking situation Val threw a good long ball to rotund winger Moape Ravuvu who crossed in the corner - score 6-5 after 25mins. More Newport backline errors led to a Waverley try after picking up a loose ball but some enterprising play between the forwards and backs right on halftime (despite scrumhalf Gaz being sin binned) led to a good team try to the skipper Rabbits after some sustained attack, score 11-10 to Waverley at oranges.

With the strong breeze now at the Breakers backs Newport tried to take control of the match getting valuable field position despite giving away a multitude of penalties which saw No.10 Willo also sin binned (about 30 seconds after Gaz came back on) for pushing (some say limp wristedly). Despite this Newport played it down Waverley's end of the field but with continual poor handling and a whistle happy ref were unable to maintain any pressure. Finally Griffio scored the 3rd try after a great scoot down the sideline and final pass from Moe which led to the 15-11 score line. Newport had plenty of ball in the final 10mins with the passes finally starting to stick but were unable to get the valuable 4th try and bonus point. Chugga's almost had a heart attack when against the odds Waverley were attacking the Newport line after the final bell and scored what appeared to be the match winner after a charge down only to be called back for an earlier knock on.

Best player on the park was no.8 Jack Hodges who had a barnstorming game. Flanker Lincoln Comans made the most of his 1st grade call up and was everywhere in attack and defence whilst "twin towers" Griffio and Dunnsy had their usual strong games in the second row owning the lineout. Special mention to Barney who got off his sick bed to play in the foul conditions. Barney even filled in at scrumhalf and centre to accommodate the 2 sin

binnings and received the ref's 3 points. Overall it was a pretty ordinary game in ordinary conditions but it means we have won 3 in a row and are now starting to get so momentum coming into the second round of the comp.

(Tries to Mo, Rabs, Griffio - cov/pen Tucks 0 from 1000)

## **Round 9 versus Oatley**

## **Round 8 versus Hornsby**

## **Round 7 versus Lindfield**

### **1<sup>st</sup> grade report**

The start of the game was almost a mirror image of last week with the Newport forwards starting the game strongly, dominating field position and possession only to see Lindfield scoop up a midfield mistake from the Newport backs and run 70m to score. Newport to their credit didn't panic with Preston at No. 10 calling the shots and kicking strategically combined with Griffio and Dunnsy totally dominating the Lindfield lineout. With excellent support from the rest of the forward pack Newport camped in the Lindfield half and earned to two rolling maul tries with Preston converting one to take a 12-5 lead at oranges.

Newport have an extremely poor 2nd half record this year but this time around it started brightly enough with the committed forwards totally outplaying their rivals and were rewarded with a 3rd try in the Breaker Hill corner to outstanding breakaway Birchie after a neat flick pass from scrumhalf Gaz "Davo" Davies. A penalty goal from Preston saw the Breakers totally dominating at 20-5. However despite plenty of quality possession the Newport backs were unable to mount any pressure with mistakes in attacking situations and when Lindfield were awarded a down field penalty following a late shot on their kicker with about 20mins to play the cracks started to appear. A mis-read from the Newport midfield led to a soft Lindfield try following a scrum then some poor defence after an ordinary defensive clearance kick and it was 20-19 in a flash. Dunnsy was sin binned with about 10 mins to go for a dubious high shot call from the referee but in reality the game was already thrown away and when Newport conceded another late penalty the final score was 25-20. An obviously very disappointing result.

19 year old breakaway Gareth "monkey nuts" Birch again led the way for Newport with an outstanding game in attack and defence. He never stopped trying and was involved in everything good the Breakers did. Griffio had his usual high level performance and dominated the lineouts whilst comeback no.10 Preston added some stability and composure with some excellent kicking and deft touches. The most concerning thing for the Newport coaching team is the alarming trend of almost capitulation in the back half of our games this year. We have scored 0 points and conceded plenty and given up 4 leads (2 double figure leads) heading into the business end of the match. At 0 from 7 if we don't fix this up now we will be gone from 2009 finals contention before we reach the 1/2 way point of the season - with the talent we think we have available this is not good enough.

## **Round 6 versus Kings Old Boys**

### **1<sup>st</sup> grade report**

The late pullout of gigantic prop Christian meant a re-shuffle of the forward pack with tough old-timer Villame coming into the side as his replacement. Despite this the teams warm up was 1st class and the boys were raring to go. Newport started like a house on fire dominating the large KOB pack in the early stages only to see them score a 70m try picking up a loose ball after a midfield mistake. The Breakers hit back strongly with a great try to No.13 Billy Evans where he shrugged off 3 defenders and ran 20m to score followed quickly by a try to Griffio where the forward took a rolling maul 15m to cross over the stripe. Another error led to KOB's second try when fullback Will copped a bad bounce and

was unable to retrieve a kick. Lloydly slotted a penalty right before halftime for a 15-13 scoreline to KOB at oranges.

The second half started much like the 1st with the Newport forwards dominating the set pieces. Another Lloydly penalty goal and the Breakers were up 16-15 with about 20mins to play. The boys then defending their line gamely for a 5min burst from KOB and repelled approx 30 attempts to barge over the line. The defence finally cracked due to exhaustion and KOB's scored and took a 22-16 lead. The Breakers had chances in the final 10mins but a tired attack couldn't crack the KOB defence or maintain valuable possession when it counted. A penalty goal by KOB right on fulltime sealed the 25-16 win for the undefeated KOB.

Griffo was simply outstanding, he scored a try, led the forwards from the front and his work in a depleted lineout was nothing short of inspirational. Barney continued his outstanding form at breakaway and never stopped giving 100% whilst winger Fletch and scrumhalf Gaz combined well down the shortside on 4-5 occasions to give the team much needed go-forward and field position. Jack Hodges also stood up to be counted and Vilame more then held his own in a forward dominated battle. Despite the huge effort and improved discipline (we only gave away 5 penalties, down 35 from last week) from everyone we are still 0 wins from 6 games which is around about the amount of loses we had last year to scrape into the semi's - this week and just about every week from here on in is must win.....simple as that.

Simon (unsuccessful head coach debut but still proud of the boys) Hill

## **Round 5 versus Barker Old Boys**

### **4th Grade report**

What a sight. 10-12 players on the bench for 4's. I haven't seen that for years. Well done to all who have come down and have bought mates as well. It was great to see. What wasn't so great to see was the sight of that ref we had. As if Captain Jack doesn't have enough to do on the field, without having to teach the ref the rules as we go. Well to the game. It definitely wasn't the best start to the game. We looked slow and half a step behind everything the other team did and probably deserved to be down 0-12 at the break. Half time was a blessing and we went out a different team. What was a dour first half turned into one of the most exciting matches I have seen in years. An awesome comeback, with the whole team sticking their hand up and having a go. The whole crowd was genuinely excited about that one as well. Points could have gone to the whole team, but the one point went to Captain Jack, Claude Van Dam an Leif, who was a huge factor in the teams turn around. 2 points went to Rhys Wesser, who was unstoppable with some bullocking runs. And the 3 points went to Fergo who was bloody everywhere. Top effort boys. Top of the table boys. Keep it up.

Thanks again to those guys who had half a game and those went and played 3's. Thanks also to those guys who are helping with water etc.....

Report courtesy of 'Supercoach' Adam Smyth

3rds - 13-5 loss...  
2nds - 5-0 loss...  
1sts - 12-0 loss...

## **Round 4 versus St Ives**

4ths - 17-all draw!  
3rds - 17-7 win!  
2nds - 19-12 win!  
1sts - 33-30 loss...

## **Round 3 versus Briars - 19 April 2008**

Well, another great win by the mighty 4s who demolished Briars 28-12. Even after being down at half time 12-7, we never looked like losing. Briars scored a couple of soft tries against the run of play from missed tackles.

The second half was always going to be a bit easier with a 400 mile an hour tail wind. The only thing that could have stopped us winning were some ridiculous and puzzling calls by the ref, but I suppose that only added to the excitement. The most encouraging thing about the win was that not one player could be faulted. It was good to see the return of Chucky at hooker and he didn't let us down with his mandatory push and shove. Luckily the situation was defused by a rampaging Patty Soars - tackle hanging out and all.

Thanks again to Robbo and Toby for steadying the ship and thanks to all those guys who didn't get full games. Its a long season so hang in.

The points this week went to Dane who looks to have found his spot at outside centre and captain Jack with 1. The 2 went to Angus who was everywhere and the 3 points went to the absolute standout Claude. Keep it up boys. Well done....

Third grade got their season started with a fine 15-7 win over the previously undefeated Briars. Newport scored 3 tries to 1 and were unlucky not to score a fourth which would have secured the bonus point. The usual suspects all had great games for the Breakers who welcomed back the likes of Joey Keresi and Sherro and the backline looked slick with new recruits the Matairi brothers, Soloman and Shaun Wineti all performing well. Tries on the day went to Earl Moran, Kit Matairi and Shane Matairi.

In second grade the Breakers ground out an awesome 15-14 win over a strong Briars side. Although both sides scored 2 tries apiece, it was the Breakers defence which again did the job for them and sealed their second win from 3 starts.

Tries were scored by Paul Ryan and replacement Dan Evans (on for the K.O.'d Rob Evans) and Claude, backing up from 4ths knocked over a conversion and a penalty goal. Best and fairest points in this important win went to winger Marc Steinegger (1), centre Paul Ryan (2) and lock Anthony Landahl (3).

After 4ths, 3rds and 2nds ensured 3 wins from 3 matches, the Breakers First XV was keen to make a clean sweep of the day's proceedings against Briars. And running into a stiff easterly breeze in the first half the plan was to play controlled, simple rugby in the first half, to defend well and to come home with a wet sail in the second period in front of our faithful supporters and clubmates. There were periods in the first half when our pack dominated and we were able to put good phase play together, but invariably we lacked the killer touch and unfortunately our defence let us down when we allowed the Briars outside backs room to move. By scoring 22 points (through 3 tries, 2 conversions and a penalty) in the first stanza, Briars were in the box seat but there was still time and a good breeze on our side to turn things around.

In the second half though the Breakers long periods of possession and territory were undermined by further defensive lapses and a lack of intensity and urgency across the park. Briars scored a further 17 points in the second half as opposed to the lone try to half-back Matt Lloyd and secured a deserved 39-5 win. It was certainly a disappointing loss for the Breakers in front of their supporters but that first win is hopefully just a matter of days away.

## **Round 2 versus Epping - 12 April 2008**

What a tough day it was for Newport, as they travelled to Epping on a perfect day for rugby.

The Breakers were on the back foot from the outset with numerous absences and injuries disrupting the preparation of the 4th grade side who were so awesome in Round 1. The boys did the club proud as they battled a larger Epping outfit but eventually they succumbed 18 points to 7.

Jack Birtwhistle played a great game in the second row, scoring a try and picking up the 3 best and fairest (B&F) points in what was to be the first of 3 full games for the Breakers in 4ths, 3rds and 2nds.

Piggy returned to proceedings and played well in the front row picking up 2 points B&F, while Claude Dennis had another good game for 4ths in kicking a goal and receiving 1 point B&F.

The vast majority of the defeated 4th graders turned out again to play 3rd grade and fatigue was bound to play a part as they were beaten 38-0. Again, it was a very courageous performance in defeat by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who struggled to compete against a side which at least had the advantage of having fresh legs on the field.

In 2nds, the Breakers went down 16-7 in a contest which wasn't decided until the death. Leif Eriksson bagged a try and conversion for the Breakers but it was just not to be. Again, the vast majority of the boys who played for the 2nds on Saturday had played at least one game prior.

After being HEAVILY criticised from sections of the Newport Rugby Club coaching team after last week's match report this week's will be kept short which is more in line with the complainants mental capacities and reading abilities (FYI this took me 3mins in my lunch break to write in total).

We had a terrible preparation with 4 first graders playing 4th grade and 1-2 more playing 3's and 2's just to make up the numbers because of the piss poor turnout to Epping. Despite this we started well with prop Christian scoring after some good lead up work by both the forwards and backs after 10mins. This is where the joy ended with some defensive issues by the backs resulting in 2 long range tries to Epping. 14-7 at halftime.

Second half not much different with the forwards competing well and the new backs combination being disjointed. The ball wasn't quality but we didn't do well with what we had. A great try was scored by replacement prop Adam Pere where he barged through 4-5 Epping defenders but the final score of 21-12 was a fair indication of the play. Glassie, Birchie and Ads tried hard in the forwards with halfback Lloyd involved in most things positive for the backs. Overall an extremely disappointing performance but not surprising given the lead up events.

On the injury front its likely we will lose NSW representative back Sam Taukitoku for the season with a ruptured Achilles tendon and ageless prop Geoff Pryor for a while with rib cartilage damage.

## **Round 1 versus Waverley - 5 April 2008**

The competition kicked off in a huge way when newly promoted Waverley travelled up to Porters Reserve to play Division 2 heavyweights Newport.

The day started off in awesome fashion for the Breakers with the 4th Grade side victorious 24-0 in what was a great performance. Playing against players who are significantly bigger and older, the 4th Grade side pressured their opposition from the outset and played great attacking footy. The majority of the 4ths are Colts-aged players and have been dubbed the 'Breakers Babes' and they showed great enthusiasm, pace and fitness to score 4 tries to zip and collect the bonus point.

Tries on the day went to two 'Old Men' - Toby Walker and Richard Whittaker, half-back/fly-half Claude Dennis and a great 60 metre solo effort from full-back James Quirk. Claude also banged over 2 conversions in the 24-0 rout. Best on the park were Claude and Quirky who picked up 1 point B&F each, Walker with 2 points and Patty Soars (3 points) who had an immense game in the front row and whose tight play was flawless.

The 3rd grade side had a tougher day in the office when a fired up Waverley sought to gain a bit of respectability after being demolished in 4th grade. From the outset they looked to

intimidate the Breakers by running their large mid field players at our smaller but courageous boys and Waverley ended up scoring 5 converted tries in a 35-14 win.

But it was not all one-way traffic in 3rds with new players William Hall and John Probert both bagging tries and Claude Dennis backing up from 4th grade and slotting two conversions. Best and fairest points on the day went to Wayne Rides (1), William Hall (2) and Ricky Turner (3) who was awesome on the day.

The Breakers 2nds had a great start to the season in disposing of Waverley 16-10 in a hard fought contest. Both sides scored one try but it was the Breakers defence in the second half which ensured the victory as Waverley tried hard to snatch a win. The sole try of the day went to Lincoln Comans, while Leif Erikson kicked a conversion and two penalties and John Probert kicked a decisive penalty goal. Points on the day went to half-back James Meggison (1), hooker Kyle Lyons (2) and new US recruit Rob Evans (3).

The beautiful Autumn's day and outstanding set up/standard of the Breakerdome augured well for a high quality afternoon of rugby to commence the 2008 campaign for last years beaten grand finalist 1st grade side. The preparation for 1st grade (as with the rest of the club) was disjointed to say the least with a few late changes being made to the line up due to players being away and sick. However a solid warm up in the fairly hot conditions had Chugga's and I confident of a good performance against last years Division 3, 1<sup>st</sup> grade premiers. Field position and positive communication were the key messages from the coaching team and skipper Griffio before kick off.

An offside call against us from the opening kick off had Chugga's reaching for the heart medication much earlier than usual. But in actuality the Breakers had a dominant first 30mins to the game with the forwards outmuscling the Waverley pack at the set pieces and along with the backs playing direct and over the advantage line meant most of the first half was spent deep in Waverley territory. Some excellent backline moves led to 2 tries to head geared winger Fletcher Kidd and a penalty goal from fly half Preston had us up 13-0 after 20mins and looking pretty comfortable against a side that was looking pretty weary after the long drive from the Eastern Suburbs. In fact given the forward domination from the likes of Birchie, Alex Tuckett and Jack Hodges we probably should have been up by more. The forwards had an excellent rolling maul going which we felt was being continually pulled down by Waverley but didn't get much luck from the otherwise whistle happy ref which stunted some of our attacking raids. Otherwise some lapses in concentration and a tired defence from Newport started to leak some holes in the last 10mins before halftime but some excellent cover defence late by winger Whippet meant we held the 13-0 advantage at oranges.

The need for discipline and field position was the talk at halftime and the feeling that if we could maintain the standards from the first 30mins and running towards our home supporters we could get away with the win. Unfortunately this didn't really ever eventuate. Waverley started the second half with a sweeping backline play and ended up going 70m to score only 3 mins after HT. This made it 13-5 and gave Waverly the sniff we did not want them to have. The Breakers were less dominate in possession and were beginning to give penalties to Waverley which started to swing momentum their way. The forwards were still marching forward with some excellent rolling mauls but with Waverley continually pulling it down and with the backs now unable to get over the advantage line against the Waverley defence as frequently we soon found the score 13-10 after another long range try cleverly constructed from their classy no. 10. Another Preston penalty made it 16-10 but when Waverley scored with about 10 mins to go after using the referee extremely well as an obstruction, the Breakers found themselves down 17-16. With time still on the clock the Breakers seemed to panic a little bit but did maintain sufficient decent field position in the final minutes. Unfortunately with a stack of missed opportunities to score points including a dubious held up call from Preston the final result was a heart breaking 1 point loss to the good guys. We will certainly learn from our mistakes in this game and hope this loss will not come back to bite us in the back half of the season.

The best player on the field by far was Birchie. He was everywhere in attack and defence and we can certainly expect a big year from him. Alex Tuckett and Jack Hodges also had strong games earning the 2 and 1 points respectively. In the backs Rabbit was his usual solid self, Billy filled in well and ran hard at no.13 and Will Hiller had some exciting touches

at fullback. There is certainly lots to work with but we'll need to learn some composure throughout the season to ensure we win these tight games for the remainder of the season.

## **Trials versus Briars and Seaforth - 29 March 2008**

Newport hosted teams from Briars and Seaforth in the club's final pre-season hit-out before the competition kicks off this weekend and again the standard of footy played by the Breakers will be pleasing the coaches who have already have September finals football on their minds!

The Breakers started the day with what was largely an Under 21 age team and the Baby Breakers played well to win their 'match' against Briars 1 try to nil. New recruit Jack played strongly in the second row and showed awesome athleticism around the park, while James White and Rhys had strong showings in their first hit-outs for the Breakers. Marc Steinegger continues to show fantastic pace and keenness in attack and the likes of Claude, Spud and James have all been week in, week out performers.

The game played against Seaforth was interesting with the Raiders certainly looking keen to run the ball from all over the park. The Breakers played admirably although they were probably too keen to match their opponents in chucking the footy around and as a result resorted to playing far too laterally.

The trials culminated in a final hit-out against Briars which was pretty evenly matched although our opponents may have just sneaked a win with a try scored on the bell despite a neat score earlier in proceedings to Val after good lead up play from Kiwi Sam and 'Tocker'.

Bring on Round 1 next week!

## **Trial versus Epping - 15 March 2008**

The weather seemed even hotter last Saturday than the previous week when the Breakers took to the field against Epping. A host of new faces turned out against our Division 2 rivals and this is certainly encouraging for the club's depth in numbers and talent just over a fortnight out from the season opener.

New recruits John and Marc (both eligible to play Colts), Dicko and Dane (just to mention a few) all put in good performances in their first hit-outs for the club. Christian also looked good in his first run since his twotry cameo in last year's GF and Glassy put in some bone-crunching hits in defence.

All in all it was another solid step towards what is really looking like being a successful season for the Breakers across all grades. The Breakers now have the week off over Easter before they fine tune their preparations in the final trial matches against Briars and Seaforth on 29 July.

## **Trials versus Gordon, Petersham and Hunters Hill - 8 March 2008**

It certainly seemed as though it was too early for the rugby season to be kicking off down at Porters Reserve, but the hang-overs and summer cobwebs were soon blown away in a great day of rugby down at Breaker Stadium.

Teams from Gordon, Petersham and Hunters Hill all converged on Newport to take on the Breakers and all games were keenly contested. Few people ever keep scores in club rugby trials but Newport certainly came out on top of all of their 'matches'.

On the day, the usual performers from the Breakers performed well but special mention must go to our new players - 'Kiwi Sam', Will Hiller, Birchy, Quirky, Lachlan Turney, Claude, James Carroll and Angus Ferguson.

Most of these boys will be eligible for Colts in 2008 and they certainly looked the goods against guys who were far older and heavier!

Let's get even more boys down to this weekend's trial against Epping!

## **2007 1st Grade Grand Final**

Beecroft 30 Newport Breakers 27

Newport worked well in both defence and attack in the game, Beecroft to their credit played well and took the points when they were presented to them.

Newport played well and the team right through the whole season has been one of great mates and friendship. This is what rugby's about being committed to the cause from day 1 right through to the bitter end. Well done Breakers you have made the area proud to say that Newport played hard and did fine on Grand Final Day.