

## "OLD COLLEGIANS RUGBY NEWS"

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### APOLOGY

I guess I should reserve a space for a weekly apology column. This time  
it was the address of Hartley Brimlow. It should be Highland Ave.

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### PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Please note that the few remaining tickets are now in the hands of Jill  
Forbes at 94.1844. Make up your mind to go now and ring Jill.

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### DRAMA

A meeting at the home of Vern and Ronnie Goodwin last Thursday showed  
the way clear for a possible production of an excellent three act play.  
Provided that several problems can be solved within the coming weeks,  
the play will be presented most probably in August this year. More later.

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### WHY WHYALLA ?

A lonely figure supporting a light pole outside the Feathers just before  
opening time last Saturday morning was beginning to wonder whether he had  
got his information right - whether the Whyalla trip was in fact this  
weekend - whether everyone was in fact meeting at that spot at 10 am.

'Butch' Wright's fears were forgotten when he was joined a few minutes  
later by Dave Wilson who had managed to score about 4 hours sleep from  
the previous night. One by one they gradually appeared in a similar  
condition: Nick Smith, Toby McCarthy, Tony Maxwell and.....? At least  
ten had promised to come yet at 11.30 there was five. Waiting in the  
Dickens Bar. A vote was held - whether to remain within the precincts  
of the Dickens Bar for the whole Saturday or whether to travel 500 miles  
for a game of Rugby. As no-one had been to Whyalla and as one or two  
had never been further north than Copps Cross, two Minis full of fearless  
footballers headed north.

There are an incredible number of pubs between Adelaide and Whyalla, and  
it was difficult to maintain the delicate balance between quenching one's  
thirst, arriving on time (or not arriving at all) and ensuring adequate  
funds for the remainder of the trip. In fact, when the Wilsonmobile  
arrived in Whyalla the authorities were to be informed that the balance  
of the Old Collegians Rugby Football Club's Touring Team could be rec-  
ognised by being in a Smithmobile which would enter the township most  
probable backwards. This was not to happen for Toby and Nick had arrived  
ten minutes earlier and were looking for Couzens the Chemist (our contact).

Eventually received at the Whyalla Hotel by Eddie Best, introduced to his  
charming wife and three daughters and son, dinner thrust into our short-  
lived protesting hands, clothes changed, off to the Whyalla Working Mans  
Club. Some of us envisaged a small tin shed with a couple of kegs and a  
lot of workmen. However, the Club turned out to be of such high quality  
that it would be the envy of any N.S.W. minor League Club. Actually, the  
whole evening was a form of sabotage, as we met very few Whyalla Rugby  
Players there that night. Fattening the lambs, so to speak.

Whyalla Working Mans Club is no place to be for a staunch Liberal  
supporter especially on the eve of an election. As one Welsh working man  
forcefully put it: "Yev gottah vote Leyburn. Moa farther did and his  
beforh. They protect the wurkers, ye know." It was just as well that  
Tony and Dave didn't start a barney that night, for these politically  
inspiring Whyallians turned out to play for our side the next day.

WHY WHYALLA ? (cont.)

Beer, snooker, darts, good band, a lot of people and an enjoyable night.

After inspecting the Whyalla steelworks (or trying to, but the security guard wouldn't let us through) and with two members missing (believed to have been heading in the direction of the German Club when last seen), three retired in Eddie's living room on a couch designed for one and a half. Nick was eventually banished to the floor. Butch and Toby were discovered the next morning in the two fetid-smelling Minis. No-one knows how they found the place, least of all them. A sorrowful sight, alright.

What? Oh! The match! We lost on forfeit, of course. We had a social game instead. Whyalla fielded fifteen and lent us eight to make thirteen. The ground had been watered for the previous three days to remove a bit of the hardness. A beautiful sunny winter day. Smith at half and Maxwell at five-eighth proved a suitable combination for the circumstances, Wright was trying to prove that he was extra-ordinarily fit and McCarthy and Wilson were seen on occasions. Whyalla had some excellent individual players but were unable to play as a team (anyway, we had the best Whyalla players in our team) and we defeated them 30 - 14. Maxwell 3 tries, Wright 1, and Toby only missed about three kicks (selectors please note).

It was getting horribly hot out there and we were suffering from the previous days -er - journey. It was getting to the stage that when Smith would kick a long up-and-under, all the forwards would curse him, stand their ground and tell him to go and get it. And he had to. Maxwell scored one try by jogging about 30 yards with a bit of a breather in between and carefully side-stepping tackles on the way. The opposition didn't know what bumped into 'em. Wright and Wilson applauded from their own 25 yard line.

Seriously though, a good game, an excellent training run for both sides, and it's a pity that we didn't front with a full team. In fact, it's a disgrace. Whyalla gained two points in the Country/ Adelaide competition. Best players: (not necessarily in order): Maxwell, Wright, Smith, McCarthy, and Wilson.

A shower, an 18 gallon keg, a barbeque, a sing-along, a small thank you gift and home by 8, having had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

P.S. When Whyalla comes to play in Adelaide again (very soon) we'll supply billets, won't we? We'd flippin' well better! So much for the largest Rugby Club in South Australia!

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SECOND DIVISION

Womma Park, Elizabeth. Old Collegians II 9: Elizabeth II 12.

Well, this was as bad as last week was good. Most of the players were flat-footed throughout the game and looked as if Friday night had been too much for them.

If the place-kicking was as worse as last week, it was no better. Recently a player coming off the field told me that the side did not lack place - kickers but place - kickers lack practicing facilities. Another player has since said the same thing in so many words. I don't know the right or wrong of this so I refer it to those who do. Sufficient to say that once again we scored three tries to two and lost. We should have scored more and we most certainly should have won.

There were, of course, good moments for several players but only Franks, Wilby, Davidson, Geno and Moulinie kept up the necessary pace. The positioning of the three-quarter line was puzzling; the only time I can remember seeing them in a deep line across the field was on their own 25! At all other times the line was flat so that each player took his pass standing still. Only by standing deep can a three-quarter line player take his pass at the speed which is essential if penetration and straightening of the attack are to be achieved. On Saturday few passing movements gained much ground.

The game does not merit much detailed description. Our try scores were Gibson, Schuster and Wilby. In a pack having a rather poor day, I liked Franks, Wilby and Jack, while outside Moulinie put in some good straight running and tackled well. Geno was, as usual, very elusive but too often "died" with the ball.

SECONDS (Cont.)

The experiment of introducing Andrew Davidson at half-back was interesting. Clearly he is a player of much promise, quick off the mark and intelligent. With many years of good Rugby ahead of him it is hoped that he will develop a physique capable of standing up to the rough-and-tumble of senior rugby while he will certainly learn to send out the longer and stronger pass which is vital if the five-eighth is to be protected from a good pair of breakaways.

Finally there is a tendency in this side to kick deep into enemy territory with little regard for length or direction. Unless the kick is short enough to be an "up-and-under" or placed well enough both to extend the defence and to feed another player, it achieves nothing except transfer of the initiative. The players concerned seem already to have forgotten what the Burnside full-back did to them only a few weeks ago.

V.G.

FIGHTING FOURTHS FIND FORM AGAIN  
AND BEAT GAWLER 19 - 9

A great game by the Fourths worthy of a much higher grade. Gawler, a new club formed by a nucleus of ex - Old Collegians had won all five of their matches until Saturday. Every member of our team pulled his weight and for the first time this year the forwards played as a pack - a real roaming relentless pack. The opposition scored only one try and that was the result of a bad error on our part.

Your scribe is sorry about not making a note of scorers but Greg Coulsen had his best kicking boot on. Most of our tries were the result of good work by the forwards and that is not meant to imply that the backs weren't doing their bit. After the match it was a "back-handed" compliment to hear several Gawler supporters inferring that we had "loaded" the team with players from other teams. This, of course, was not the case.

Personally, I feel that we may have scored more points if Farrah and Munday had been moved to in-centre and out-centre respectively, giving them more room to move, particularly in view of the fact that Gawler's main weakness was the poor tackling by their inexperienced three-quarter line.

A very good game indeed and difficult for me to name best players. However, Burke, Shephard, Suttell and Coulsen were my selections.

B.H.

SELECTIONS FOR SATURDAY 6th June 1970

<u>1STS XV</u>	<u>2NDS XV</u>	<u>3RDS XV</u>	<u>4THS XV</u>	<u>5THS XV</u>
Wright	Manson	Nicols (c)	Gill (vc)	A'Botomey
Burgess	McQueen	Ric. Dutton	P. Burke	Bennett
Guerin (c)	Wilson	Pearson	P. Young	Bavington
Allen	Franks	Backler	Press	Chatfield
Turner	Szuster	B. Smith	Shephard	Christae
Jack	Wilby	Loughie	O'Connor	Clarke
Farrow	Hancock	T. Dutton	Robinson	Cooper
Maxwell	Edwards (c)	Hume	B. Sweeting	Hurley
Bainbridge	A. Davidson	Goodwin (VC)	Suttell (c)	Kells
Stewart (vc)	Evans (vc)	Martin	Farrah	Langridge
Miller	Moulinie	Baillie	Munday	Messner
Harrison	Geno	Graham	Leslie	Mooney
Jackson	Gibson	N. Smith	J. Burke	Myers
C. Davidson	C. Sweeting	McCarthy	Simms	Quocking
RobDutton	Casper	R. Williams	Coulson	John R.

Any player not named above is requested to turn up at the fifths or fourths match where they will most probably get a game. Any player not available must contact Barry-Levy Morry Bell, 37-2860, 67-2231.

Rees, Ridgeway  
Shea, Tate,  
Tren Grove

FIXTURES FOR NEXT SATURDAY

1STS XV play North Adelaide at Kingswood Oval. Stripped by 2.30pm.  
2NDS XV play Onkaparinga at West Parklands Stripped by 2.30pm.  
3RDS XV play North Adelaide at Kingswood Oval. Stripped by 1 pm.  
4THS XV play University at Bailey Reserve III. Stripped by 1 pm.  
5THS XV play Port Adelaide at Bailey Res. II Stripped by 1 pm.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORTO FIRST AND RESERVED GRADES

Despite the fact that the reserve grade team lost the last two games against the competition leaders Pt. Adelaide and Elizabeth, the standard of our play indicates that we are capable of reaching the semi-finals and possibly winning the competition. The 1ST XV also shows the same sort of potential. Unfortunately, I doubt if this will in fact occur because we lack: (a) team spirit, (b) fitness, (c) combination, and (d) goal kickers.

These deficiencies can easily be rectified (who am I kidding?) by attendance at training. It is apparent that training twice per week is beyond the capabilities of all but a few enthusiastic regulars who are getting no recognition for their efforts. Therefore, get organised and select one evening per week when at least the 30 members (associate?) of the 1sts and the reserves will all make the effort to be present.

Whether we win games depends on whether YOU bother to organise yourself, and sacrifice your home comforts for a couple of hours to make training. As a member of a team, you are responsible to 14 other people who are dependent on you. Rugby is a team game. Training is the only way to develop combination and teamwork. Five minutes before the game is not the time to be arranging and explaining lineout calls because YOU did not bother to turn up for training.

The future of the Old Collegians depends on its ability to attract and hold new players in the club. The best clubs in any sport attract the best players and the only way to be the best club is to win games. Yet, over the last few years what sort of reputation has the Old Collegians built up? The answer is a big fat, NONE!

No-one wants to play for or support losing teams! Yet does Old Coll. offer much more in its 1st and reserve grades? At present on Saturdays we have 30 individual players and not two teams of 15. Rumour has it that if you don't train, you won't be selected. (I think this need only apply to the 1st and reserve grades as 3rds and 4th's results speak for themselves). But I believe that if Old Collegians is ever to make its presence felt as a club, then this rule must be ruthlessly applied.

A team of 15 fit, enthusiastic but average players will more often than not beat a team of 15, ex-stars, who lack fitness, interest, combination, and team spirit - all the result of not training as a team.

To make O.C. the best rugby and social club in Adelaide requires some guts from all concerned. Guts to select players on their attitude to the team, their attendance at training, and not solely on their past reputation. One wonders who runs "Old Collegians" - the S.A.R.U. or Old Collegians; when at the drop of a hat we name a fifth team to play on Saturday whilst every week we are desperately searching for names of players to fill our other four teams and hope to heaven that they turn up on Saturday. The 'shambles' Whyalla trip typifies this general approach. What sort of reputation have we got as a result of that fiasco?

This lackadaisical and irresponsible attitude by all concerned has got and will get the club nowhere. A wealth of young, enthusiastic and talented players are in the offering from schools each year, yet the Club shows very little interest. We offer them little incentive to continue to play for the club, even though they train, but are held in lower grades in preference to NON TRAINING SENIOR PLAYERS. Yes, senior.

Perhaps O.C. should give some thought to building for the future. My 2 years as a member of O.C. indicates that this club is not getting anywhere as a result of thinking no further than next Saturday's game.

OLD COLLEGIANS NEEDS YOU!

Ian Edwards, B. D. S., M. D. Sc., F. A. C. D. S.