

## ON THE COVER

- 04** A YEAR IN REVIEW  
BY ANGUS FIRTH
- 14** Q&A WITH ANDRÉ JACOBS  
ASKED BY GEOFF KIESWETTER
- 30** FIRST TEAM SPECIALS
- 74** STANDING TOGETHER FOR SEB  
BY SEB MATHESON



## FEATURES

- 10** A DREAM COME TRUE  
BY HOWARD KAHN
- 19** BISHOPS VS PAUL ROOS  
BY PAUL DOBSON
- 23** Q&A WITH KEENAN JACOBS  
THE 50-CAP MAN  
ASKED BY TOM VAN AS
- 26** THE JOY OF BISHOPS RUGBY  
BY BASIL BEY
- 33** MY PERSPECTIVE  
BY MICHAEL BECKURTS
- 38** SPORTSMANSHIP: A LOST ART?  
BY PAUL DOBSON
- 42** WILD BOYS: WHERE IT ALL BEGAN  
BY PETER WESTWOOD
- 54** BISHOPS RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB  
BY ANDREW CAMPBELL
- 64** LIFE BEYOND BISHOPS RUGBY  
BY ANTON TAYLOR
- 68** JUST A THOUGHT  
BY TOM DAWSON-SQUIBB
- 70** STEPPING OUT OF HIS COMFORT ZONE  
BY HOWARD KAHN



## REGULARS

- 02** PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE  
BY GUY PEARSON
- 36** SECOND & THIRD TEAMS
- 44** WILD BOYS
- 46** FIFTH & SIXTH TEAMS
- 50** UNDER-16 TEAMS
- 52** UNDER-15 TEAMS
- 56** UNDER-14 TEAMS
- 58** PREP RUGBY TEAM REVIEW
- 78** THE LAST WORD  
BY JOHN DOBSON

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# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## BISHOPS RUGBY 2014



*'Well there I was with the line in front of me, and I thought to myself how daft to risk dribbling the ball with the foot, so I simply picked up the thing and ran over the line and touched down. I didn't half get a wiggling from our skipper, I can tell you, and as for the Head, he was furious'-William Webb Ellis, traditionally the originator of modern rugby, 1823 (dub.).*

Bishops has always played the 'running game', indeed, the Bishops brand of rugby is admired and respected throughout the country. Our emphasis has always been on the team and not the individual; hence our tradition of not wearing numbers on our jerseys. This sends a strong message that it

is the team and not the individual that scores the try.

Rugby is a very special game, it is one of the few sports that caters for all boys, whatever their shape or size, skill or speed. There is a place for the 'fatty and the thinny, the tall and the short, the fast and the slow'. In addition it fosters and engenders a wonderful sense of camaraderie and spirit. It is a multifaceted game which, if played properly, develops all the skills.

It is also true that in the Western Cape schoolboy rugby is extremely strong and our boys are often "up against it" because of the sheer strength and size of our opposition. We are concerned that many schools seem to

have 'lost the plot' in their endeavours to compete with the top rugby schools in the country.

There are serious safety and educational concerns with the number of mismatches which occur, especially at a junior level. It is important that we keep rugby in perspective and understand that it is just one part of the extensive overall experience we offer our boys at Bishops.

I thank all of you for your wonderful support for the Bishops Rugby Brand. We are particularly indebted to the efforts of our

parents and supporters who provide the finances which allow us to offer top level coaching and conditioning of our teams.

Yours sincerely  
Guy Pearson  
Principal







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# A YEAR IN REVIEW:

## BISHOPS RUGBY 2014

BY ANGUS FIRTH



“Under-14A victory against the top-ranked Boland Landbou at the start of the season, and the First XV’s victory over the same side after being well down for most of the game.”

*Angus Firth looks back at a busy 2014 season, both on and off the field, for Bishops rugby.*

‘Performing entrechats and sleight-of-foot tricks and other high theatrics and all without mistaking any thing for what it may not be’ from Lawrence Ferlinghetti’s poem ‘Constantly Risking Absurdity’.

Bishops rugby is all about inspiring our players to embrace the beauty and truth of the game without looking totally crazy and out of touch to the rest of

the rugby world. In order to do that a player must be an acrobat of sorts, swinging wildly to and fro, entertaining and enjoying himself above all in the face of the truth. Truth? In this modern world of professionalism that has pervaded schools rugby in South Africa, we at Bishops have endeavoured to entertain while performing high risk ‘sleight-of-foot’ and other ‘high theatrics’.

As a consequence, we have lost games we should have won and won games we should have lost, such as the Under-14A victory against

the top-ranked Boland Landbou at the start of the season, and the First XV’s victory over the same side after being well down for most of the game.

Those who have followed the First XV will also agree they could have won a few more as well if they had blasted and blundered their way to a percentage victory. Watching their theatrics against SACS and Rondebosch in the early fixtures was exhilarating and far more memorable than if they had simply eked out the win, risking nothing. Dare I suggest that if the First XV had lost, as they did to Wynberg, it

would not have mattered at all? That is just farcical.

What have we done to face the truth? Well, we have a professional coaching staff led by Mike Bayly, aided and abetted by Wes Chetty, who travel to all sides offering expert guidance and implementation of structures, and coaching individual skills and team skills throughout. Each team has a teacher in charge accompanied by at least one employed coach. They are a wholly dedicated and passionate bunch who also bleed! Our top teams have had the indulgence of expert





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conditioning programmes set up and delivered by Steve McIntyre. A squad of 50 players from Under-16 right up until Under-18 embarked on their conditioning programme at the start of October 2013 and we are looking to extend this into the squads at Under-14 and Under-15 levels ahead of next year. Our junior players can improve their physical conditioning, especially when compared

programme have certainly shown huge benefit. Have a look at the Under-16s some time. We have taken on a rugby performance coach. Rugby performance coaching can best be described as a series of guided conversations and interactions that enable players to discover and implement personal solutions to challenging situations, conditions or areas of performance on

extensively with the First XV squad in this area and he has also consulted and worked with all of our coaches. The added benefit of performance coaching is that valuable life skills are learned by the players for the future. We will look to extend his influence in 2015. We have held coaching clinics and workshops aplenty, and invited the experts of the likes of Braam van Straaten (kicking coach)

The new Bishops Rugby Supporters' Club (BRSC), with its major focus on coaching development and support (categorically not player procurement), also provides a social base for Bishops supporters. During the 2014 Super Rugby tournament we hosted talks and discussions with Mark Hammett (Hurricanes), and Kevin Foote and David Wessels (Western Force) for supporters,



with our neighbours in the Paarl and Stellenbosch areas. Unfortunately we cannot do much about the size differential but we can be stronger and fitter, which, if we are to play our brand, is essential. The squads who have embarked on the

the field. These solutions, because they are intrinsic to the player, are more likely to succeed and endure than solutions imposed externally in the traditional way. Tom Dawson-Squibb, of Head Start Sports, has worked

and Omar Mouneimne (breakdown/defensive specialist) to work with the coaches and players. We have also sent coaches and players to the Investec Coaching Academy in January. We hope to send more coaches to attend the course in 2015.

while our coaches were also invited to attend and discuss coaching trends and developments in world rugby with our expert guests. We contributed no less than nine Western Province Youth Rugby representatives this year.





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Lubelo Scott (Western Province Under-16 Grant Khomo); Sam Mitchell and Andre Manual (Western Province Under-18 Academy); Jean-Pierre Smith, Mervano da Silva, Saud Abrahams (invited to SA Schools Trials), Jez MacIntyre, Justin Heunis and our captain Gerard Pieterse (Western Province Under-18 Craven Week) all earned call-ups. We

congratulate those players and the coaches on this proud and outstanding achievement.

**'And all without mistaking, anything, for what it may not be.'**

We are miles behind our Afrikaans 'powerhouse' neighbours. Against Paarl Boys' High we scored all of 18 points on the day, losing every game!

It was not much better against Paul Roos and Gim. We are not alone. Our southern neighbours are fighting the same battle. To illustrate, against Paul Roos the southern suburbs boys' schools won two matches, drew one and lost 69, while scoring 301 points to Paul Roos' 3 232 points! The common belief is that we have not moved backwards

but rather our northern neighbours are moving into a 'Super League' of their own.

One of the above-mentioned schools fielded no less than 24 previously Under-13A provincial players in their Under-14 sides – told to me by one of their fathers at the match – all in preparation for their 150th anniversary celebrations. True or not, their Under-14 age group scored 789 points to Rondebosch, Wynberg and Bishops' combined score of eight. I am certainly looking forward to celebrating Paarl Boys' 150th with them in 2018! Whatever the deductions and ensuing discussions – rest assured we are strategising with the hope that rationality will be restored.





# A DREAM COME TRUE FOR BAYLY

BY HOWARD KAHN



*Having been schooled at Bishops and having also taught at the school, Mike Bayly's return to Bishops is the culmination of a long journey that always seemed destined to end up on the Piley Rees.*

For those interested in titles, Mike Bayly is the professional rugby coach at Bishops Rugby. For those who are wondering just what

this fancy title entails, it's simple: Bayly is involved with Bishops rugby at every level possible, from the Under-9s playing tag rugby at the Prep School, right up to the College's First XV. It's a role tailor-made for someone of Bayly's coaching experience, but it's also a role that could not have suited the individual any better. 'When I left university in

the early '90s I came back to teach at Bishops,' he explains.

'I had a brief taste, back then, of coaching the Under-16s but of course I was very fortunate to follow the path I did, initially as a professional rugby player and then as a professional coach.'

Bayly represented Western Province on 31 occasions between 1989 and 1992, before going on to become Boland's first-ever captain in the professional era, which saw the team play outstanding rugby under the coaching of Nick Mallett, before he took on the job as Springbok coach.

It was Mallett, in fact, who soon roped Bayly in as a coach, which saw him cut his teeth initially at Boland in 1998 and 1999, before he took his rugby expertise to Rovigo (in Italy) between 1999 and 2001.

Mike returned to South Africa in 2001 and took up the role of assistant coach with the Blue Bulls, at Vodacom Cup, Currie Cup and Super Rugby level – an era in which the Bulls won trophies at every level.

'I often wonder how different things might have turned out, had I stayed at Bishops as a

teacher in the '90s,' he says.

'To be honest, I always had this dream of coming back to Bishops and being involved with the school in some capacity. I'm just lucky that I was able to play and coach professionally, which allowed me to pick up so much experience during this journey... experience that I can now pour straight back into Bishops rugby – at every level.'

Of course, Bayly was also very lucky that his initial playing and coaching education came at the hands of Basil Bey, Alan Douglas and Paul

"Bayly represented Western Province on 31 occasions between 1989 and 1992, before going on to become Boland's first-ever captain in the professional era."

Dobson, who guided him throughout his rugby career at College.

'Because of that, I think I have a better understanding than most about the "Bishops Way",' he admits. 'I grew up playing that style of rugby and I'm forever grateful that I was



coached by those great schoolmasters, who also taught me plenty off the field.'

While Bayly's role at Bishops is an all-encompassing one, he also assists André Jacobs with the preparation of the First XV.

quite hands-on, so I get that weekly "thrill" of being involved with the First XV, which itself is hugely satisfying.' The big focus at Bishops in 2014 has been the school's style of play and the spirit of the game – both on and off the field. Bayly reveals:

afterwards, they were all happy, saying what a great game of rugby it was. That's pleasing for us as coaches, and it shows that we're heading in the right direction.' At school – and, ostensibly, in the classrooms – pupils are

is important in that regard.

'If you want to judge or rate us, I was really amazed at our provincial selections. To have six players in the Under-18 Craven Week team, two in the Academy team and one in the Grant Khomo



He explains: 'My main aim, across the board, is to get all the coaches to understand the Bishops brand of rugby. Piecing the whole puzzle of Bishops rugby together – that's what gives me the most satisfaction. 'Of course, as a coach you still want to be involved

'A big thing for me is our style of play. Let's take our return match against SACS: I thought we played well in patches, but we made some individual errors. That's not a bad thing, however – it means the chaps played. 'When I spoke to some parents and ODs

graded according to their results. Sport is difficult to grade (rugby especially so) but when pressed to give the First XV a rating in 2014, Bayly says: 'I think we're a work in progress. 'As I said, my main focus as professional rugby coach is to look at rugby across the board, and continuity

(Under-16) side... In any year, no matter your results, that's a fantastic achievement and it shows we're doing something right. 'If I were to be honest, however, I was a bit disappointed that we didn't "knock off" one of the Paarl/Stellenbosch



## MIKE BAYLY - HIS ROLE AT BISHOPS

schools this year. We managed to beat Paarl Boys at the annual WP Rugby Schools Day at Newlands, but we didn't do it in an official league match. I think we had the firepower this year to beat one of those schools, but it wasn't to be in 2014. That said, I still think it's been a successful year. Of course, Rome was not built in a day, and even though there have been some good results for Bishops in 2014, the challenge is to build on this season's achievements and to take things up a notch in 2015 and beyond. 'I think we've got a good crop of players coming through,' says Bayly.

'We have a Heatlie side that plays here, made up of Grade 11s and Under-16s – none of whom are regular first-teamers – and they play about two or three games a year. 'In early August, we played against a similar [young] team from Kingswood. We won 73-5, playing some great rugby. That's pleasing – it augurs well and we will continue to work hard in order to ensure that Bishops rugby keeps improving at every level.'

"...the challenge is to build on this season's achievements and to take things up a notch in 2015 and beyond. 'I think we've got a good crop of players coming through."



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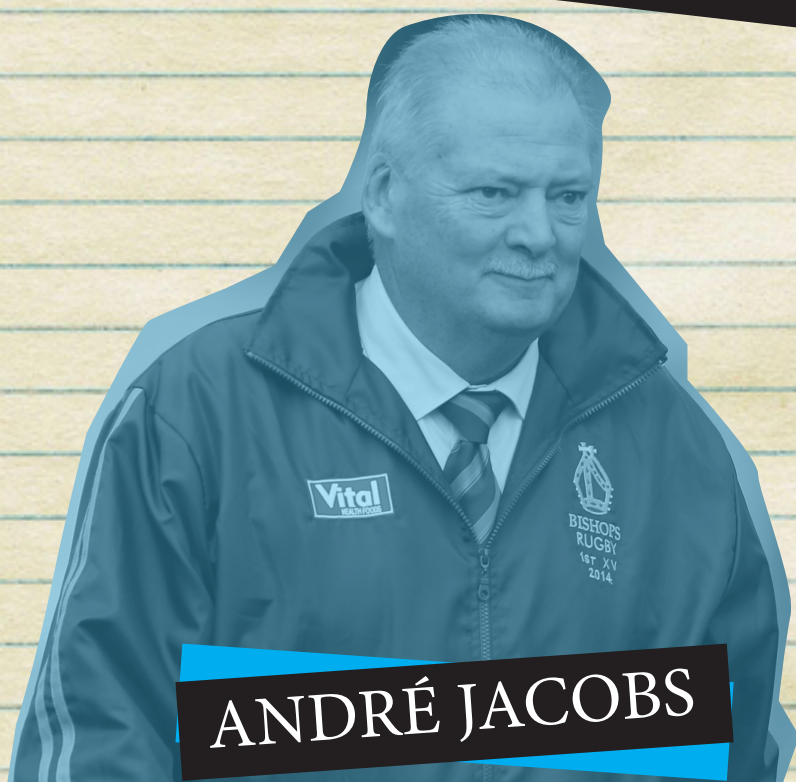
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# Q & A WITH ANDRÉ JACOBS

## ASKED BY GEOFF KIESWETTER



ANDRÉ JACOBS



GEOFF KIESWETTER

First XV manager **Geoff Kieswetter** turned the table on Bishops First XV coach **André Jacobs**, putting some big questions to the man who has a rather simple approach – respect your opponents, whether you're winning or losing.

**Q:** André, it is no secret that there is a refreshing spirit amongst rugby players who aspire to play for the First XV, and amongst Bishops rugby supporters, and that much of this can be attributed to the brand of rugby that you embrace as a rugby coach. Please run some of this by me!

**A:** I appreciate the confidence placed in me by those who hold this view, but let me state from the outset: this is due largely to the way that the boys and the management team across the board have embraced my philosophy of playing a high-tempo game that is centred on getting the ball to speedy outside backs speedily! Simple... and they have been excellent in this regard.







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**Q:** Yes, but what are the core values that you as a coach espouse? It can't be that simple!

**A:** Well, I am unbending when it comes to respecting all opponents, whether we win or lose; whether we win or lose by big margins. I expect my players to be respectful at all times, to be an example to the rest of the school, so that we can improve both the good spirit and the image of the school at large. There has been very pleasing buy-in across the board and this needs to be nurtured.



**Q:** It has been commented upon that the school has been 'requested' not to encroach upon the field to do the war-cry at the end of a victorious game. What is your view on this?

**A:** This ties in with my views on the need for us all to show respect towards all of our opponents. When you have been beaten, the last thing you want is to have it shoved in your face (especially on your home ground) by witnessing hordes of exuberant boys from the victorious school rushing onto the field at the end of victorious games to surround the First XV players and perform the war-cry, which also interferes with the gentlemanly after-match shaking of hands with our opponents and thanking them for the game. For me, this is not negotiable... and the players themselves want to thank their opponents and the officials – they feel that it is the 'done' thing.

**BISHOPS FIRST TEAM  
ON PAGE 30**

**Q:** An increasing trend is for the supporters of winning teams to have the players posing in front of the scoreboard for photographs. I haven't seen any of our First XV doing this so far this season, despite some quite memorable victories.

**A:** Correct! And there won't be... not if I can help it! I told the boys this in an early meeting. I think that it is disrespectful and arrogant – I do not promote the rubbing of opponents' noses into the ground, either during or after games! I've never seen a losing side posing in front of a scoreboard.

**Q:** The cheerleaders play an important role in the generating of school spirit. What are your expectations of them?

**A:** Yes, they have a key role to play, and I have been very clear in my instructions to them: 'Behave with decorum – you are the face of the school. The players need you to support them; not to "diss" opponents!' By and large, they have been excellent this year, from the very first game under lights at Newlands back in March when we beat Paarl Boys 10-0 – despite being on holiday already, the cheerleaders and the school turned up in their hundreds, in Number 1s, and gave a superb account of themselves. Who can forget the First XV lined up in front of our section of the stand and joining them in a wonderful rendering of 'Another Country'!?



## Q & A WITH ANDRÉ JACOBS

**Q:** Yes, I also experienced that and was most impressed with the whole school that night. I have also heard that you had a chat to the cheerleaders before the Mazinter Cup waterpolo game, which may have had an impact on the terrific spirit shown by the school at the final. What did you say to them?

**A:** That was so long ago – how on earth must I remember?! (Laughter.) But it was probably along the lines of making lots of sensible noise, encouraging our teams while having fun, but never losing sight of the need to show respect for our opponents.

**Q:** Whatever it was, it worked wonders! Now, the ‘million-dollar question’, tell me about your return to coaching after your brief five-year spell in ‘retirement’.

**A:** What can I say? It was decided that the time was right for a change and after much soul-searching I agreed that perhaps I still had a meaningful coaching role to play. But I made sure that I was able to surround myself with a super team of assistants: Steve McIntyre as conditioning coach; Mike Bayly and Wesley Chetty as my assistant coaches (and they do a helluva lot of the good work!); Tom Dawson-Squibb as our performance coach (aka kopdokter); the three magical medics – Doc Huber, Gerald Muller and Megan Petrie (thank goodness we have Megan to brighten up this lot!); Brendon Earp-Jones to record it all (when not changing nappies and doing those other daddy things...) and, of course, you as my skivvy... sorry, secretary... sorry, manager! (Wry smile...) As mentioned earlier, my philosophy is simple: play at a high tempo in all facets of the game – quick to the breakdown; quick to clear out opponents; quick ball to the outside backs... and no theatrical diving over the tryline. It has been a wonderful experience seeing the boys playing with pride and flair and determination, and being hard on themselves when they have messed up. As I say before every game: ‘You have got 70 minutes to express yourself to the best of your ability – go out there and do so!’... and at half-time I end off by saying: ‘You have got just 35 minutes to redeem yourselves...’ or ‘You have got just 35 minutes to enjoy yourselves by continuing to express yourselves so well.’ It’s all about playing in the fast lane!

**Q:** Wow, for a man of few words you certainly gave us much to think about with that one! Now, in conclusion, what does the future hold for you?

**A:** Hopefully to be re-employed as First XV coach next year, my final year as a teacher!



Q & A With  
Keenan Jacobs Page 23





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# BISHOPS VS PAUL ROOS:

## A HEALTHY RESPECT

BY PAUL DOBSON



*It's a rivalry based on respect, spanning more than 100 clashes. The ties that bind Bishops and Paul Roos Gimnasium can be traced as far back as the 1800s. Paul Dobson investigates.*

After SACS, Paul Roos can be considered the oldest rugby contact Bishops has – not that it was always Paul Roos, and not that Bishops was always in its present form. There is a story that a young man called Vos,

who was at the South African College (SACS nowadays), went across the Cape Flats to Stellenbosch with a ball tucked under his arm and got the local young men to play on the Braak. It was a revelation to them – this was what they really wanted to do and what they have been doing with undiminished

zest ever since.

Stellenbosch meant several things – town, school and university – and combinations of all three played against Bishops. The school started in 1866, 17 years after Bishops, and had different names over time: initially it was known as Stellenbosch Gymnasium, in 1899 it was renamed Stellenbosch Boys' High, and then in 1946, Paul Roos Gimnasium. As a university, it included Victoria College, which started as Stellenbosch College in 1874 and changed its name in 1887. This mixture lasted until 1911, when Bishops gave

up being a university/club and became a school. From then Bishops played rugby as a school, often against clubs and against

*“Today SACS and Bishops still play in the same jerseys, and Paul Roos still look as though they are Maties.”*

Stellenbosch Boys' High/Paul Roos. So the three great schools of the time – Bishops, SACS and Stellenbosch – had university classes. At Bishops this changed at the end of 1910, when the

university classes went to the South African College.

In 1918 the proper universities were formed: the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University.

Stellenbosch takes 1880 as its founding date based on the oldest photo in their possession but there is a record of a match between Bishops and Stellenbosch in 1878, 136 years ago. Today SACS and Bishops still play in the same jerseys, and Paul Roos still look as though they are Maties.

When Bishops and Paul Roos meet now, we leap into a comfortable, air-conditioned vehicle and purr across the Cape Flats for just on half an hour.

But in 1878 it was the railways that made it far easier than travelling by cart or wagon. Bishops won that first match in 1878 by a huge score: 15 goals to nil. That was before the days of scoring, but a goal is now worth seven points. The oldest record we have of a Stellenbosch victory was in 1893, when they beat Bishops in a Grand Challenge match by two goals to nil.

Up until 1910 Bishops and Stellenbosch played in the Grand Challenge, the top competition in the



## BISHOPS VS PAUL ROOS: A HEALTHY RESPECT



*"Up until 1910 Bishops and Stellenbosch played in the Grand Challenge, the top competition in the Western Province, and, joint with SACS, in three competitions – the two Anderson Cups and the Harris Cup."*

Western Province, and, joint with SACS, in three competitions – the two Anderson Cups and the Harris Cup. This changed in 1911, although Bishops still played a Stellenbosch side, like Elsenburg Under-19, as well as club age-group sides, until 1920. Then there were Shield competitions, which ran until 1931. After that the Schools Days lasted until 1950. In 1911, Bishops and Stellenbosch Boys' High drew 3-3. (By this time there were points for

matches.) In 1912, Stellenbosch Boys' High won 4-3, and in 1913, Bishops won 18-6... and so the history between the two schools rumbles on to the present day.

If you add it all up, things are pretty equal. Bishops may just be minutely ahead – of course, it is the First XV match that really counts. In 1893 Bishops played the Victoria College for

the Anderson Cup for the first time. They played on Die Vlakte, Johnny Brooke scored two tries and Bishops won 6-5. Barry Heatlie was the captain. The two schools took turns hosting games. In





## BISHOPS VS PAUL ROOS: A HEALTHY RESPECT

those days schools often played at Newlands, especially during World War II, when playing numbers in the Western Province were down and there was a breakaway union called Weskaapland. Just before World War II, in 1938, Bishops played Stellenbosch Boys' High at Newlands after the Stellenbosch side had beaten Bishops 9-5. Fly half Dougie Ovenstone, later a Springbok cricketer, was masterful and Bishops won 26-3. (Five members of that Bishops team were killed in action not long afterwards: Peter Versfeld, Patrick Moore, Richard West, John Guest and Andrew Duncan.)

In 1982, on the first team field, which came to be named the Piley Rees, Bishops scored two tries to none and lost 9-8. (Tries were worth four points then.) Paul Roos won on penalties, with each of Ernie Coetzee's kicks hitting the posts before going over.

In 2006 Paul Roos was the top school in South Africa and whacked Affies, then ranked second, by 25-7. They played 19 matches and lost only one: 18-16 to Bishops.

A summary of results from 1910 to 2014 show what a close call it is: Matches played: 104; Bishops won 52; Paul Roos won 49; drawn: 3

These two schools have fun when they meet. There are always nerves beforehand and brave effort during the game, but no one can remember any bad blood between such ardent rivals.

Frans van Niekerk, deputy rector of Paul Roos, is intimately involved with the school's rugby over the 26 years he has been on the staff. He has also served on the Western Province Schools Executive.

'If I had to sum up our attitude to Bishops rugby, I would do so in one word – respect,' he says. 'Our record proves that no match on the Piley Rees is easy. Their forward

play is always surprisingly good and so is their play on the ground, and then somehow they manage to give their backs a five-man overlap. I've no idea how they do it. Bishops test you everywhere on the field. If you beat them, you've achieved a lot.

'It's the way they play that makes Bishops rugby exciting and is part of Basil Bey's philosophy.

'I believe that respect is important and if you have staff that respect the game and those involved in the game, you create an atmosphere that can bring out the best in rugby. We always enjoy our matches with them.'

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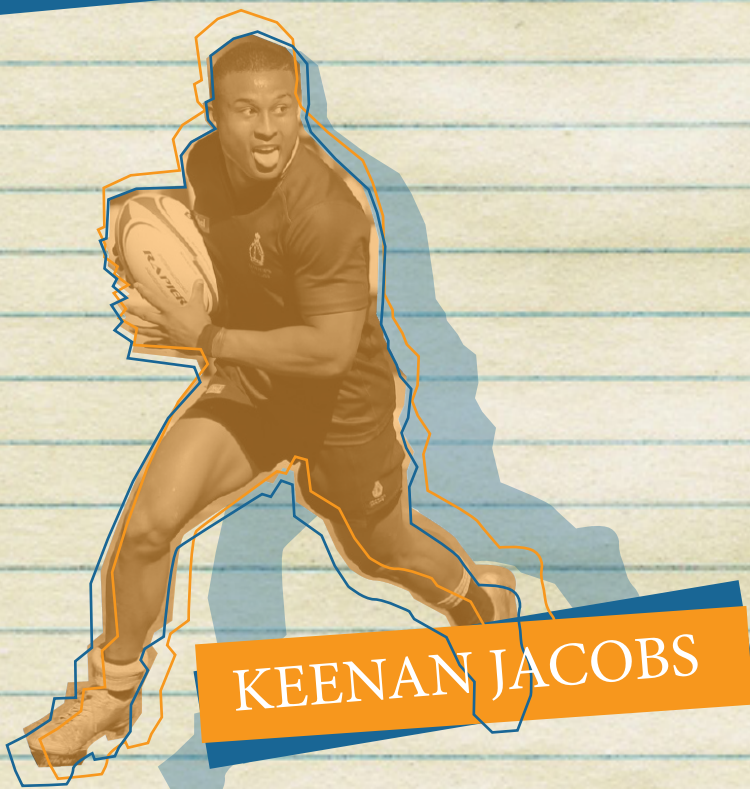
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# Q & A WITH 50-CAP MAN KEENAN JACOBS

ASKED BY TOM VAN AS



KEENAN JACOBS



TOM VAN AS

*Bishops cheerleader Tom van As sat down with 50-cap man and ace try-scorer Keenan Jacobs, asking him the big questions after his stellar 2014 season.*

**Q:** Keenan, what was your most memorable game of 2014?

**A:** Boland Landbou was probably the most memorable for me, because it was our first game on the Piley for 2014 and there was the expectation to win after beating Paarl Boys at Newlands. We were down by 20 points at half-time, but came back - and there was a sense of renewal after we got one back. I scored, what I believe was the best try I have ever scored, to take the lead. We won by three points and the 'Baliki' was unbelievable.

**Q:** And your least memorable match?

**A:** There was a huge build-up leading up to the Wynberg game (at home), as two of the strongest Southern Suburb teams in a long time took on one another. There was much chat off the field, which was unnecessary I guess - but it made the boys want to win more. Unfortunately, we did not turn up in the first half, playing against hurricane-like winds. We were down 20-0 at half-time. We reduced the deficit to 20-19, unfortunately losing by one point.



## Q & A WITH 50-CAP MAN KEENAN JACOBS

**Q:** As a cheerleader I could be accused of a bit of bias here, but the support you guys get from your school... Talk us through that.

**A:** Everyone in the team feels a responsibility when putting on the beloved Blue jersey. When the school sings 'jump and jive' as we take on the field - it's amazing and it boosts us incredibly.



**Q:** Have you ever cried after a match?

**A:** Yes, after losing to Paarl Gim. It was a goal for a long time to beat Paarl Gim. We camped in their half for almost the whole game, but could not break their line of defence after waves of attack. We didn't take points when it was on, which was to our detriment - but we played the running brand of Bishops rugby.

**Q:** Who do you joke around with most at practice?

**A:** Justin Heunis.

**Q:** What is your big highlight from 2014?

**A:** Winning at Newlands against Paarl Boys' High.

**Q:** What's your favourite school cheer?

**A:** 'Are we not the greatest school, are we not the best - YES!'

**Q:** What are your future rugby ambitions?

**A:** To play for the Western Province Under-19 team and to represent the Springbok Sevens team.

## SHORT Q & A's

**Q:** Would you ever consider playing abroad?

**A:** Definitely, English club Leicester Tigers is top of my list!

**Q:** Who is your favourite rugby player?

**A:** The Chiefs' Tim Nanai-Williams.

**Q:** What is your favourite dinner-time meal the night before a game?

**A:** It may sound strange, but Weet-bix and sugar.

**Q:** What's your favourite thing about the 2014 First XV?

**A:** We are not just a team, we are a brotherhood. Every one of us will bleed for one another on the field.

**Q:** Who motivates the Bishops First XV the most?

**A:** Justin Carey.

**Q:** What is your maximum bench press?

**A:** 140 kilograms.

**Q:** What are your favourite movies?

**A:** Dear John and The Vow.

**Q:** Your pre-night 'snack' aside, what is your favourite meal/food in general?

**A:** Samoosas and fish.

**Q:** What does your typical day's diet include?

**A:** Eggs, tuna, bananas and chocolate.

**Q:** Who is your inspiration?

**A:** My brother, Terry Jacobs.

**Q:** What is your favourite quote?

**A:** 'I want to inspire people, I want someone to look at me and say because of you I didn't give up.'  
-Arnold Schwarzenegger.







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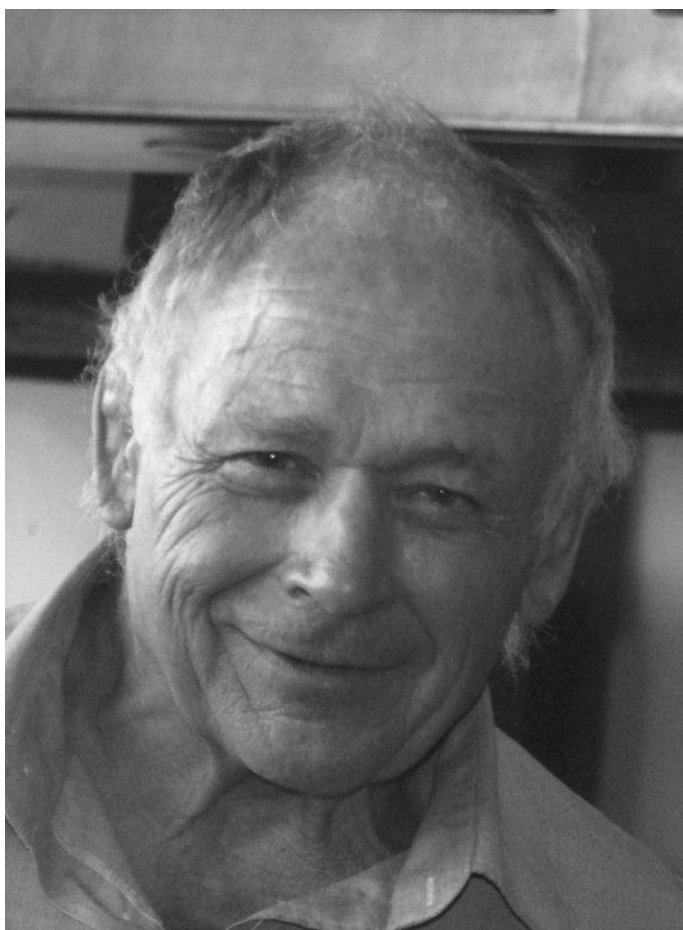
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# THE JOY OF BISHOPS RUGBY

BY BASIL BEY



*What is it about Bishops rugby? And how can the performances of 15 schoolboys affect the overall morale of a great school like this? Basil Bey should know best, which is why he investigates this phenomenon of the 'Bishops Way'.*

I first had the pleasure of watching Bishops lads play rugby in Salisbury, Rhodesia, in 1948. They played against my future school, Prince Edward, who were considered

to be no slouches at the game. I was twelve, still at prep school, and I had not seen a game of rugby before this – in Rhodesia all the junior schools played soccer in those days, a game which I detested. Bishops played superb rugby that day, scoring 55 points largely through their clever backs, who ran straight, using their feet brilliantly to dance around tackles. The double scissors was their favourite backline play and that bewildered the

Prince Edward backs (and me), who dived at nothing in desperate effort to halt the tsunami.

Had any of you watched that match, you would understand just why, for Bishops' lads, rugby in those days played – and still plays – such a special role (as did cricket!). When I eventually left Prince Edward and pretended to study at UCT, I used to wander down to Rondebosch on Saturday mornings to watch Bishops play – nothing much had changed. Bishops rugby was thrilling to watch – win or lose.

Until quite recently it was compulsory for all boys to play cricket and rugby; you had to have medical reasons not to do so and only then you were permitted to play other sports in their stead. Our numbers have now grown and so we can still provide twenty teams to play each Saturday although there is no commandment that all shall play rugby!

As at most good schools, the cultural and the academic are pretty much side by side but Anthony Mallett insisted that sport was equally important.

His years at Bishops were glorious years, perhaps much like Canon Ogilvie's. Mallett averred that what took place in a school outside the classrooms was every bit as important as what took place inside them. Sport is part of education. Indeed, do you not learn many very important lessons through sport? Does it not shape one?

'Gog' (George) Ogilvie, became Principal of Bishops in 1861. One of the first things he did was introduce a form of rugby football to Bishops, and thus to South Africa. Rugby in South Africa began here, at our College. Is that not something to be proud of? Is it, therefore, not important that it remain part of the soul of Bishops? We love our rugby not because we beat everyone, we don't always, but we do play a type of game that says something about us. It is a clever, adventurous, exciting and courageous game – a delight to watch and even better to play. Throughout the rugby world (and this is no exaggeration) Bishops is recognised for its brand of rugby. Don't sneer: we, as a school rugby team, have



toured all over the world – with great success on and off the field.

Sportsmanship is one of the major qualities we try to encourage through rugby. I am always reminded, when I watch Bishops play, of the Baa-Baa's motto: 'Rugby Football is a game for gentlemen of all classes but for no bad sportsman in any class.'

I have watched with great pleasure this year's Fifth team and, through the years, the Fourth XV – the Baa-Baa's motto could well apply to both these teams. They play Bishops rugby as does the First XV. I mention other teams than the first to suggest that this motto does not ride on the backs of the First XV players only.

It is not only physical courage that fills us with pride when we watch our lads play, it is also the courage which will see them take chances, run from anywhere in the field if the ball they have is reckoned to be full of potential; we are not ordinary in our rugby, we are free thinkers (most of our sides ignore shouted instructions from the sideline!).

Nauseated we are by such modern clichés as: 'You have to earn the right to play wide'; 'Never pass a 'fifty-fifty' ball'; and, my least favourite 'Slow the game down'. As a coach I

was guilty of attempting to brainwash teams by asserting that 'all kicks are bad kicks' – it's not true, of course, as some kicks are quite superb (but only some!).

The performance of the First XV does create spirit in the school. That spirit is not necessarily signified by cheering, yelling, jumping

in ecstasy (or jeering the opponents' blunders – that's cheap). When you score a try, do you do it quietly or do you leap to your feet, throw the ball into the crowd, hug your mates and shout Yes! Is

that spirit?

The First XV sets the tone for the rest of the school and not only for the rugby players. Look at the way they come on to the field – quietly, without fuss, they believe in themselves, you see. Even if they lose they do so with pride because they did not lie down, they fought with all they had and are respected by their opponents. Our rugby pride has no swagger to it – it has a dignity. Long may it remain so. We ancient has-beens used to say, 'Give me ten minutes with a chap on the rugby field, and I'll tell you what sort of a person he is.' Remember that. It's true that rugby is a great character revealer. We are lucky at Bishops, we have traditions –

*"Rugby in South Africa began here, at our College. Is that not something to be proud of?"*





## THE JOY OF BISHOPS RUGBY

correct attitudes being one of them. Great teams, great schools know their worth but are modest in wearing the mantle. There is much joy gained from doing things well,

but real joy is that only if accompanied by deep satisfaction, modesty and a quiet, unassuming dignity. This is what Bishops rugby can and does give you.

At the end of a season the First XV usually gathers, with parents, to break the bonds, as it were. These fellows have been through hell and heaven together on the rugby field and

have learned huge respect for one another (and earned the regard of the school). They will never play together as a team again – and that's sad. On one of these occasions at which, as coach, I was present, as we all finally shook hands at the end of the evening and made our final farewells, as it were, one of the lads dissolved in tears. Perhaps that gives the best idea of what rugby can mean to boys at Bishops.

That end to the season is certainly something that lives with me – I can't forget it!



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# FIRST XV PLAYERS

.....  
WE PROFILE THE 2014  
BISHOPS FIRST XV  
.....



**COACH**

André Jacobs



**01**

William Day  
AKA 'Daisy'  
Loosehead Prop



**02**

Justin Carey  
AKA 'Neef'  
Hooker



**03**

Jean-Pierre Smith  
AKA 'Tameifuna'  
Tighthead Prop



**04**

Sam Mitchell  
AKA 'Mooseknuckle'  
Lock



**05**

Max Linley  
AKA 'Maximus'  
Lock





**06** | Nic Bester  
AKA 'Bezzoez'  
Openside Flanker



**07** | Mervano da Silva  
AKA 'Da Silva Surfer'  
Blindside Flanker



**08** | Saud Abrahams  
AKA 'Savea'  
Eighthman



**09** | Justin Rowe-Roberts  
AKA 'Rowe-Rowe'  
Scrumhalf



**10** | Jez MacIntyre  
AKA 'Tarzan'  
Flyhalf



**11** | Andre Manuel  
AKA 'Addie'  
Wing



**11** | Jesse Wilensky  
AKA 'Wilensky'  
Wing



**12** | Cornel Smit  
AKA 'Corny Boy'  
Inside Centre



**13** | Justin Heunis  
'Squeezie'  
Outside Centre





**14** | Keenan Jacobs  
AKA 'Keenie'  
Wing



**15** | Gerard Pieterse  
AKA 'G'  
Fullback

*Who better to review the season than the players themselves? We look back at the 2014 season, with the help of all the Bishops captains.*

#### FIRST XV CAPTAIN Gerard Pieterse

The Blues of 2014 quickly established themselves as a close-knit unit following a tough pre-season under the relentless, yet extremely effective, Steve Mac and Ross Beckett. Fighting through sessions in the summer heat made us realise that we are stronger together than as individuals. This led to the development of the team ethos, always to be a 'good oke' and to go the extra mile for success. While certain values were always present within the side right from the start, Tom Dawson-Squibb was instrumental in helping the team enter the right mental space to conquer a very tough season. This, together with superior conditioning levels and the freedom from the coaches (Mr André Jacobs, Mr Bayly, and Wesley Chetty) to play an exciting brand of rugby, has meant that we were able to go out on a Saturday and not only perform our best but also enjoy playing together as a side.

We can confidently say that the vibe

in the team has been unchanged since the first game at Newlands, and the side remained motivated throughout the year, if we're not more motivated now than we were at the start. Our positive attitude on game days and at training in 2014 can largely be put down to the unparalleled support and backing we feel we received from the rest of the school this year.

On-field performances aside, the longest-standing memory we will have in years to come is that of the camaraderie and brotherhood the team developed over the course of the season amongst a great group of guys and coaching staff. We hope that we can inspire the other teams in the College to enjoy the game as much as we do.



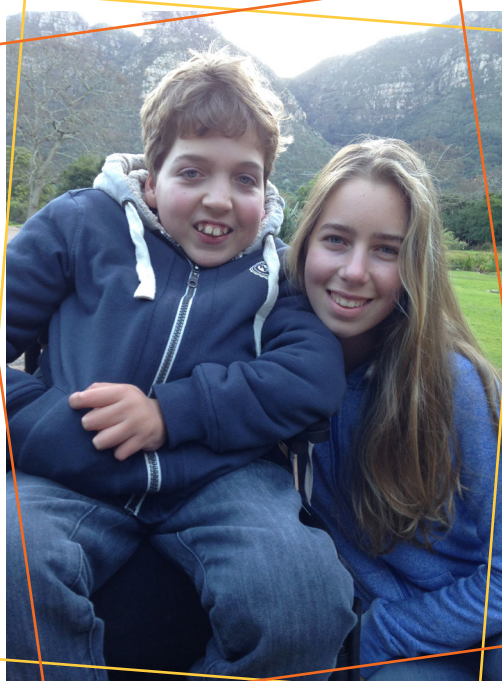
### COACH'S SUMMARY

There is such optimism around the First XV. Many of the Seconds represented the First XV this season, and the squad for the Independent Schools Rugby Festival at Michaelhouse contained just four First XV forwards and one back – the rest were either in the WP set-up, injured or Under-19 (an Under-18 festival).

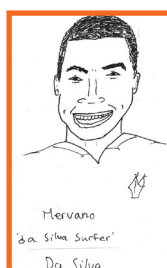


# MICHAEL BECKURTS

Michael is a Grade 8 learner at Bishops. He enjoys sketching, painting and cartooning. Much of his artwork displays his joyful spirit and humour. Michael is a very keen rugby supporter.



## MY PERSPECTIVE





## FIRST XV RUGBY





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# 2ND & 3RD TEAM PLAYERS

## THE CAPTAINS' REPORT BACK ON THE SECOND AND THIRD TEAMS



### SECOND TEAM CAPTAIN Graham Turnbull

Our 'All Whites' side has, since our first days together, never been the most quiet bunch of blokes. We pride ourselves on our creativity, flair and pace, and are not afraid to take risks.

This was my second full year in the side and the privilege of captaining the side has been one of my most enjoyable experiences of rugby so far.

Our team was steered by head coach Mr Ronald 'Ronnie' Jacobs and Mr Xabiso Bika. We aimed to play an expansive game of rugby, putting in the hard yards upfront before letting our backline run circles around the opposition. Our side contained a healthy blend of players who made their debuts this year for the All Whites, as well as many who featured last year. I don't have the space to give every player the credit he deserves because each was a vital link in our chain, but two players, in particular, kept up the morale when our heads

were down in 2014. Tristan 'Benji' Leyds, our full back, is a remarkable player to watch. By no means the biggest player physically and very much the joker of our side, he dug us out of many close encounters with his fancy footwork and quick thinking. The second player I want to mention may not have the same qualities as Tristan, but when you are the biggest player in the side and built like a fridge you don't need to have them! Timothy Kuhn was arguably as effective as two players. When we are out of options and have a penalty situation, we call 'Kuhn Ball', an unofficial signal to our scrumhalf Mike 'Skippy' Inskip to give him the ball and let him bulldoze the way for the rest of the team. (He holds the unofficial record at the Rondebosch 10s Festival for the fastest try ever scored and was a key component in our side.) As a team we were very close in 2014, with many 'insider' jokes as a result of the dynamic created during our tenacious 'touchies' sessions. Enjoying our rugby was key for us and that made us a team to look out for in 2014.

### THIRD TEAM CAPTAIN Joshua Jameson

This year the Third XV was coached by Mr Don Murray and the Loizides brothers, Nico and Dino. Our leaders in the group as vice-captains are Matt Kerswill and Tom van As. With this leadership and coaching set-up we obviously have a great

vibe in the team – the boys like having a laugh, although we always turn up to get the job done and can be serious when duty calls.

We started off the season with a tough trial match against a touring Australian team and suffered a heavy loss, but this match allowed us to evaluate the talent that we had at our disposal and I think that was a big contributor to our success this season to date. We emerged from that defeat with a great starting 15. Although we may not have the biggest pack, our forwards are all very skilful and have proved themselves to be a strong, well-drilled and effective group.

Our immensely talented backline – although they hardly ever took part in practising, apart from playing 'touchies'! – proved themselves nicely. The best performance of 2014 would have to have been our 51-0 victory over Wynberg, when both forwards and backs combined and played some amazing Bishops rugby.

On the whole, I think the season has been a great one and every man who has had the opportunity to be a part of the 2014 Third XV should feel privileged.

## COACH'S SUMMARY

The Second XV (the All Whites) performed extremely well this year, playing with confidence, displaying stunning skills and showing a healthy appreciation for the running game. They also exhibited patience when it mattered and were always prepared to grind it out if required. There is some very exciting talent coming through!

## COACH'S SUMMARY

From the outset, the Third XV stressed that our kind of rugby is about 15 dedicated players with a burning desire to win and a fierce sense of pride in themselves and their team, and demanded discipline, dedication and caring for one another. Whether winning with style and grace or suffering the pangs of defeat, this team wholly met the challenge!



2ND & 3RD TEAM PLAYERS





# SPORTSMANSHIP: A LOST ART?

BY PAUL DOBSON



*Better placed than most to write about the art of sportsmanship, legendary schoolmaster Paul Dobson wonders whether it is a lost art these days.*

The Barbarians, that most idealistic of rugby groups and the best loved, has no ground nor building but it has a motto – a famous motto given to it by one of its founding fathers, Walter Carey, an international player who toured South Africa in 1896 and later became

the Anglican Bishop of Bloemfontein. The motto, which is in English, mercifully, for those who know no Latin, reads: 'Rugby football is a game for gentlemen in all classes, but for no bad sportsman in any class.' Gentlemen and bad sportsmen are seen as opposites. For us males, sportsmanship is being a gentleman, an honest

man with respect for others.

The foreword to the Laws of the Game fleshes this out: 'The object of the Game is that two teams of 15 or seven players each, observing fair play according to the Laws and sporting spirit, should by carrying, passing, kicking and grounding the ball, score as many points as possible, the team scoring the greater number of points being the winner of the match.'

Observing fair play... and sporting spirit – that is what a gentleman does. That is what a cheat does not do.

*“Observing fair play... and sporting spirit – that is what a gentleman does.”*

Being a gentleman, according to Carey, is not a class thing but a way of behaving – sportsmanship. He is a man who respects other people and the game he is playing. The laws of rugby football are the most complex in

the world of sport, and sadly that is because it has not always been played by gentlemen. In the beginning there were rudimentary laws and no referees. Now there are many and complex laws, and six officials directly concerned with the refereeing of one Test match. The reason for this change – it's hard to call it evolution – is that not all players are gentlemen. There are cheats and each law gets made to try to counter cheating. That is sad but true. Sportsmanship starts with one's attitude to the game, to one's teammates and to one's opponents. Danie Craven, the great man of rugby who valued the game above all other treasures in life, said often: 'In our game we could kill a man if we wanted to. But we don't because we are not playing against enemies but against opponents, and opponents have the same rights that we have – to the protection of the laws of the game, to enjoy the game and even to win the game.' There is so much wisdom in that. Attitude makes the gentleman. He is honourable and considerate, and,





being honourable and considerate, he respects others, and that starts well before the first whistle of the match.

The gentleman gets to practice and does so punctually and properly dressed. He is not a moaner and backbiter in the team but joins in team activities, even attending meetings.

In the changing room, the gentleman respects others' space and demeanour. If he throws himself, his voice or his possessions around, disregarding his teammates, he is no gentleman.

On the field he plays to the laws, does not sneak an advantage by breaking laws, and, of course, he certainly

does not do deliberate harm to opponents. The gentleman will play to the best of his ability, hard

and full of zest. He will tackle as hard as he can – but not high, late or dangerously. He will ruck

hard but not drive in with shoulder or knee to hurt.

He will not use insult to belittle an opponent, but he will pick him up when he is on the ground and may even congratulate him when he does well. There is a story of Paul Roos, Springbok captain in 1906, when he was punched in the face on the tour to the UK and

Ireland. He turned his face aside and invited his belligerent opponent to strike him on the other cheek. That may well have been far more effective than the kindergarten-like pushing and shoving of modern rugby.

When Mark Burton-Moore was not long out of Bishops, he was chosen to play scrumhalf for Western Province. His first match was against Transvaal, whose scrumhalf was John Robbie, who had played for Ireland and the British & Irish Lions.

As Burton-Moore went to put the ball into his first scrum, Robbie tapped him on the back and said, 'Have a good game.' Burton-Moore has good memories of that and his love for the game grew. At his second match, he went to put the ball in and his immediate opponent punched him behind

*"On the field he plays to the laws, does not sneak an advantage by breaking laws, and, of course, he certainly does not do deliberate harm to opponents."*





## SPORTSMANSHIP: A LOST ART?

the ear – a ghastly reality check. Burton-Moore's memory of the second scrumhalf is not a warm one.

Bishops played SACS at rainy Newlands as a curtain-raiser to the match between Western Province and the All Blacks. It was a close game, and the

SACS fly half dropped at goal from a long way out. The referee, Professor Tinkie Heyns, was not sure whether it was over, but there under the bar was Geoff Griffiths, the Bishops fullback, with his hand raised to show that it was over. I cannot remember the score or who scored,

but I remember and can clearly see Griffiths, in the rain with his hand raised at the posts on the north side of Newlands. What about the celebrations after scoring? It used to be that if your team scored, the players turned and went back to the halfway line, content

in the knowledge that it is a team game and the team had combined to achieve the glory of the game – a try. Things are different now. There is the celebration – the hugging, the rousing of the crowd and even special dance steps. And it does not stop there.





## SPORTSMANSHIP: A LOST ART?

Look at what happens sometimes at the final whistle. The victors do war whoops and hug. Their men on the side run onto the field to join in the jumping and hugging, while the beaten team slump to the ground and then stand around in embarrassment. The winners sometimes form a circle and kneel in prayer. The beaten team never does that, presumably because God takes sides and, like Nelson Mandela in 1995, sits on the stand on high wearing a Springbok jersey. Our grandfathers gave us wonderful advice: 'Win as though you've lost and

lose as though you've won.' That is what a gentleman does. Instead of hugging and praying, he will turn to an opponent and thank him for the game, knowing that without the opponent none of the enjoyment and not even the victory would have been possible. Somewhere in all of this is sportsmanship, which is what honourable men practise with respect for the game and its laws/ rules – respect for one's team and its larger entity of school or club, and respect for opponents, who also have feelings.

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# WILD BOYS

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

By Peter Westwood



“The music did add an element of fun to it – although on occasions it has been a bit over-the-top.”

*Wild Boys never lose it... Wild Boys never chose this way... Wild Boys never close your eyes... Wild Boys always shine... But Wild Boys also play rugby at Bishops... **Peter Westwood** gives us the low-down on the Fourth XV, a team with a difference.*

I do not remember which was the first-ever Fourth XV team to call itself ‘the Wild Boys’, but it happened around 1995. We certainly had some rather wild teams around

that time. I clearly remember a side that had Justin Roll on one flank and Max Daniel on the other, telling me at half-time – 0-22 down to Paul Roos – that they were sorry about their performance so far. They had all had a rough night

but would now win. I was sceptical but they went on to deny Roos another point and win by one! The name Wild Boys began before it was linked to the Duran Duran song. The music did add an element of fun to it all, though – although on

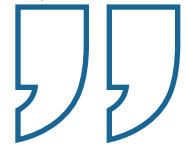


occasions it has been a bit over-the-top. One year, one of the boys from AV put every speaker the school had on the back of his pick-up and blew us all away! The boys enjoyed running out of School House driven by the sound of 'The Wild Boys are calling!' However, I am not convinced it necessarily always helps them, as it sometimes takes them a few minutes to focus on the rugby and sometimes they find themselves a try down rather quickly... The side is just the fourth team, though, and so Grade 11 and 12 players move up and down through it as injuries occur. At the time of writing, some 28 players had already started for the team. It is not a Matric side, as some folk believe, and is certainly not a closed side or a particularly unique one. We try to play 'Bishops rugby' but, as all coaches know, good running sides are usually those where the forwards are going forward – and the Wild

Boys are no different! Over the last decade or so, we have had some excellent OD coaches. Those who did more than one season include Damion Stander, Warren Butler and Nick Lassen. Some sides have been a little less wild than others, but all have enjoyed playing at a level that's almost always provided exciting games against local and Afrikaans sides. We have not been unbeaten in any season in the past 20 years, but in 2011 we lost the first game to Paarl Gim and

then won the rest. The team mentioned in the opening paragraph would have been unbeaten, but they decided to fight Paarl Boys instead of playing rugby in the second-last game of the season. I think they thought it was important to keep their coach humble! It has been fun coaching/managing the Wild Boys for some 20 years now. Senior coaches reap all the benefits from the hard work done by other coaches along the way. We are almost always competitive with all

schools by the time our boys reach this level, and the players have a great deal of fun as a result. 'They tried to break us. Looks like they'll try again, Wild Boys always shine!' (Well, almost always...)



'They tried to break us. Looks like they'll try again, Wild Boys always shine!' (Well, almost always...)





# WILD BOYS PLAYERS

## THE OFFICIAL 2014 WILD BOYS REVIEW

### COACH'S SUMMARY

A very well-balanced team got off to a great start with two pleasing wins against Boland and SACS. Since then, though, the team has been terribly disrupted and for one match had only five of the original group. However, what is consistent is the boys' enjoyment and the general vibe of playing at this level.



### WILD BOYS CAPTAIN Richard Freund

The Wild Boys of 2014 got off to a flying start, beating Boland Landbou at home, which helped us establish a good vibe in the team. While there were frequent changes, partnerships have been built, and we quickly realised that we were stronger as a team than as individuals.

Crucially, the positive vibe in the team remained unchanged, with

constant banter between the boys on a weekly basis. We produced some good performances in the first half of the season and at the time of writing our aim was to continue that in the second half – thanks to our coaching staff. Our aim has always been to maintain the high standards of the Wild Boys and to keep up the reputation of the best teams in the school.









# 5TH & 6TH TEAM PLAYERS

## THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE 2014 FIFTH AND SIXTH TEAMS AT BISHOPS



### FIFTH TEAM CAPTAIN Makumba Chiti

The Fifth XV enjoyed another successful season in true Bishops rugby spirit! The team's ethos was to give the ball as much air as possible and spread it wide to an enterprising backline, with a solid platform being provided by a very mobile and skilled pack of forwards. At the time of writing, the only losses have been to Paarl Gim by a mere two points and right at the beginning of the season against Boland Landbou – both those defeats coming before combinations were finalised and the team had a chance to settle. The fact that changes due to injuries

are very often disruptive to the momentum did not deter us from always dishing up much entertainment with tries in abundance, and many of our five-pointers initiated from all parts of the field. Our motto was to *jo!* in the true Bishops rugby fashion.

### SIXTH TEAM CAPTAIN Matthew Boynton

The Sixth team had a very good first half of the season. Considering the number of lads that pass through the team on their way up to higher honours, we have maintained a really good spirit within the team. Good wins against Rondebosch, SACS and Wynberg always make for a good half-season and, our aim was to do the same during the remainder of the season. Some of our outstanding performers have been Dylan Maxwell, Christian Cotchobos, Jeremy Gebers, Seb Chisin, Phiwe Mayosi and Xander Gowar, as well as our captain, Matthew Boynton, most of whom have had a game or two in higher teams.

## COACHES' SUMMARY

**Fifth:**  
The Fifth XV enjoyed success, with attractive and enjoyable rugby being the foundation. A very solid pack has provided a decent backline with good possession, and the end result has been free-flowing rugby of a high standard. A fine, humble group of young men!

**Sixth:**  
The guys had a mixed season. Our first half of the season would be a success based on our showing against the southern suburbs schools and against Boland Landbou. Our toughest tests have been against Paarl Boys and Paul Roos and we were beaten by bigger, stronger and faster opposition.

**Seventh:**  
Sadly, the Seventh XV hardly managed to play against regular opposition because of injuries above and N1 fever, so has largely been absorbed into the sixth team.





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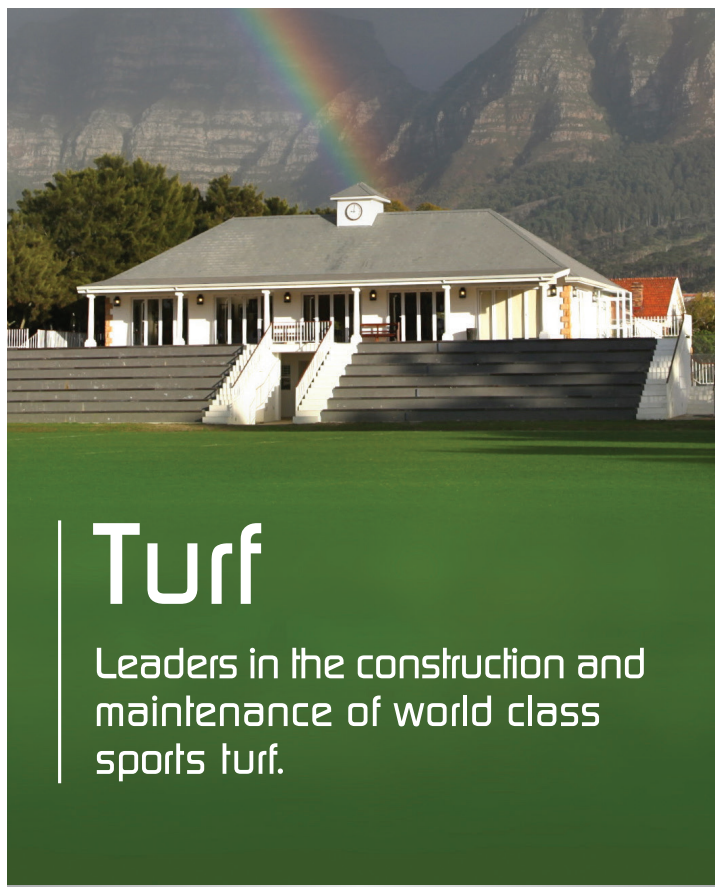
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## 5TH & 6TH TEAM PLAYERS









# U16 TEAM PLAYERS

## THE CAPTAINS' REPORT BACK ON THE UNDER-16 AGE-GROUP AT BISHOPS



### UNDER-16A CAPTAIN

#### Francois Stassen

Our team started off 2014 with a rebellious reputation and our pre-season tournament in Hermanus did not bode well for the rest of the season.

We were down to 12 players for part of the first half. We had to pull together as a team and after some stern words at half-time, we refocused and started producing the rugby we are capable of. Tempers calmed and the match ended in the spirit one would hope for.

We all depended on each other, which quickly brought the team together – and those were the last yellow cards of the season. We have had great times together on and off the field, and we will miss these moments going into open rugby next year.

### UNDER-16B CAPTAIN

#### Jason Hofmeyr

The Under-16B side had a great year. Weekly injuries in the A-team forced a number of positional changes as well as the inclusion of new players. These new players all stepped up and performed to the best of their ability, playing a big role in our team's success.

We were not able to field the same starting XV for more than one game, showing just how much the team members were willing to play for each other. As a side we grew a lot closer as the year progressed, and combinations started to form in certain areas. Our expansive game of running rugby was costly at times, but when it worked we were a tough team to beat. As a side we are looking forward to playing open rugby in the future.

### UNDER-16C CAPTAIN

#### Calvin Wilson

The year started off with a 17-10 win against Boland Landbou. We played the 'Bishops Way' and it won us the game. We ran the ball from our own tryline – 90 metres out – to score one of our tries!

We lost a tight game against SACS and suffered heavy defeats against Paarl Gim and Wynberg but, crucially, we never gave up – testament to the great spirit in this team – and everyone contributed well.

Our game against Bellville was also a tight affair: we lost 14-17. We played their B-team and, having trailed 17-0 in the first half, we showed great determination coming back and were very close to

winning at the end. We were happy with our result even though we lost.

### UNDER-16D CAPTAIN

#### James Cottrell

At the start of the season we nearly had an Under-16D team! Unfortunately, injuries and illness depleted the Under-16 age group this year and by halfway through the term most of the players were called up to play for the C-team. In each of the five D-team games that were played this term (against Wynberg, SACS, Boland Landbou, Paarl Gim and De Kuilen), we had C-team, Seventh XV and hockey players in our midst to make up the numbers – the SACS game was only a nine-a-side game!

Thanks to OD Nick Boswell for coaching the team – every boy has progressed as a player, perhaps none more so than Colin Liscord, our exchange student wing who plays American football!





# COACHES' SUMMARY

**Under-16A:**  
These talented and gutsy players are developing well as a team. They showed courage in adversity and plenty of resilience in the way they bounced back after previous disappointments. The side embraced the Bishops brand and as a result they seemed to enjoy every minute of being out there.

**Under-16B:**  
A very pleasing season: skilful loose forwards, enterprising backs, exceptional line-out work and robust defence enabled us to beat the Farmers (Landbou), draw with Paul Roos and generally give a true account of ourselves.

**Under-16C:**  
After a few rather disappointing performances, the boys finally put it all together against Paul Roos in one of just two wins against Paul Roos amongst all the southern suburbs schools. This team certainly can play!





# U15 TEAM PLAYERS

## THE CAPTAINS' REPORT BACK ON THE UNDER-15 AGE-GROUP AT BISHOPS



### UNDER-15A CAPTAIN Robert MacDonald

As a team, we focused mainly on building fellowship, as we realised that we needed to play as a team and not as individuals to get the results we wanted. All the players took this upon themselves and knew they had to be responsible for their position in the team. We also learnt to confront our weaknesses and not to dwell on them but to rise to a challenge to become better players. In game situations, our focus was to improve our defence, to develop character and attitude in our players, and never to back down. Our coaches' aim was to make us rugby-aware so that we do not only know the skills but – depending on the situation in the game – we could also make the correct decision in an instant. We are all looking forward to our next few years playing rugby at Bishops and hopefully the rest of our Under-15 season can help us grow to the level we need to get to, to be a successful Bishops age group in years to come.

### UNDER-15B CAPTAIN Lukhanyo Mntonintshi

On behalf of the Under-15B side and as captain, I would agree that we did not have the best of seasons, as our results would show. But something we did show both at practice and during our early-morning matches, was the spirit and desire to play the type of running game that Bishops rugby requests from its players. We grew tremendously from the Under-14 age-group and we had the hunger and desire to claim more victories.

### UNDER-15C CAPTAIN Luca Guerrini

The mighty Under-15Cs! Our team had a smashing start with a win over Boland Landbou, which was the first league match of the season. We played a total six league games – winning three, losing two and drawing one. During the beginning of the season we were lucky enough to play against a touring team from Belgium, who gave us a bit of a thumping, but it

was a great experience. Our coaches did a great job throughout the year. When we started we were very rusty but we began to play as a team as the season went on. Practices were always fun and our coaches taught us something new at every session. Our lows of the season were when we drew with Wynberg, when we should have won, and when Paarl Gim beat us after scores were level at 0-0 at half-time.

### UNDER-15D CAPTAIN Gilad Barkai

The team had a good season. The practices gave a lot of structure to the game plan (especially in defence) and the spirit of the team was magnificent throughout 2014. The team had some big wins over Boland Agricultural and Rondebosch. It has also been good seeing some of the players work their way up to the C-team and staying there.





## COACHES' SUMMARY

### Under-15A:

After a very good pre-season, which included a win against Framesby in the Paarl Boys' High Under-15 Festival, the league started with a resounding win against Boland Landbou. A few injuries initially slowed momentum but the team improved throughout the term. In their match against Paul Roos, the Under-15As were extremely brave and showed tremendous spirit.

### Under-15B:

The Under-15Bs had a great start to the season with a close loss to Boland. After last year's mishap, this was a great victory in the broad sense of the word. The following weeks proved very tough, as they came up against very physical opponents. They defended extremely well and their attacking play came together nicely. This great team has potential to do even better in future.

### Under-15C:

The Under-15Cs had a very promising start to the season with wins over Boland, Stellenberg and De Kuilen. Despite a spate of injuries and illnesses, our team gave their all against Paarl Boys and Paul Roos, and scored the only try in their age group!

### Under-15D:

The team collected big wins over Boland Agricultural, Wynberg and Rondebosch, thanks to their structured defence and the boys' great skills at this level. Unfortunately, sickness and injuries in the Under-15 age group led to a number of cancellations, which proved hugely disappointing to these boys, who really love their rugby.





# BISHOPS RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR BISHOPS RUGBY

BY ANDREW CAMPBELL



### Harnessing the passion

Mention Bishops rugby, and you are sure to evoke a passionate, nostalgic or emotional response, regardless of affiliation to Bishops. Many talk fondly of the enjoyment it provided them as a former player or supporter. Some hanker for the good old days when they felt it was 'better', 'more competitive', 'exciting' etc. Some in and outside of the Bishops community identify aspects they disagree with. This passion is both a blessing and a curse, as it offers the school a rich source of support in managing the development of the game – yet it comes with a very broad range of opinion. The challenge: How best to harness all that

passion, opinion and ability to support and benefit current and future generations of Bishops rugby players? A solution: Establish a supporters club – to organise, mobilise, and entertain supporters of Bishops rugby, and provide emotional and tangible support at games and fundraising events.

### Our approach

Tasked with developing this concept, our emphasis is on coaching: with external experts sharing their insights, our own coaches engaging with them and our members, and ultimately, raising funds to introduce new people, technology and ideas into our institutional DNA.

We have taken the view that the only sustainable way to develop rugby and markers of a successful rugby programme (greater numbers playing, improved enjoyment and less injuries across all age groups and levels, higher win percentages across all teams, more competitive against the top schools, more successful First XV results, and so forth) is to develop the processes that introduce, communicate, and leverage expert coaching across all age groups. Yes, it would be nice to attract and nurture potential talent at a younger age, or benefit from the arrival of proven talent in their later years, but over time this can only be driven by parents and players

believing that the Bishops system will provide top class coaching. Start with a focus on coaching and the culture, and the players will come.

### Back to basics

A club exists to unite people with common interests and to add value over and above the cost of membership. We have therefore taken the following decisions and steps:

- *Established a constitution, held our first AGM and mandated a committee to organise various events and activities, with responsibilities assigned for finance, events, and administration.*
- *Determined that*



our goal is to encourage greater participation in activities that contribute to the long-term success of Bishops rugby

- Outlined our key deliverables as:
  - Organise great events
  - Generate member satisfaction
  - Materially increase membership
  - Raise funds for coaching development
  - Do our bit for rugby communication at Bishops

## Our report card

During 2014 we have been involved in the following events:

- An evening with Mark Hammett: Mark and his assistant coaches from the New Zealand Super15 franchise, Hurricanes, shared playing experiences and professional insights

- Bishops rugby information evening: We presented the club to 200 Prep and College parents while their boys were attending a dinner for all 500 rugby players
- An evening with Dave Wessels and Kevin Foote: Dave and Kevin (who are both South African), assistant coaches at the Australian Super15 franchise, shared their experiences coaching within a new environment
- Coaching clinic with Omar Mouneimne: We funded a specific defence and tackling coaching clinic at the school for Bishops coaches and utilising the First XV within exercises
- Match day gazebo: We have established a gazebo in the northern corner of the Piley Rees to provide a cordoned-off area for members to watch the First XV game and enjoy refreshments

## In addition

We have planned events that offer the following:

- Coaching clinic and evening with Braam van Straaten: We are funding a kicking coaching clinic for the boys and coaches, as well as an evening discussion with our members
- An evening with the Bishops First XV coaching staff: André and his team will talk to us about their approach, the season, coaching initiatives throughout the school, and other aspects of rugby at Bishops
- An evening with Ross Tucker: Ross will share his research and opinion on talent identification, development and related aspects that Bishops and parents can utilise
- Prep match day gazebo: We will establish the gazebo at Lutgensvale to show our support for Prep rugby

We currently have 60 members, and funds that we plan to deploy to attract more members. We are very reliant on individuals encouraging their friends to join, and for word of mouth to spread the message about our efforts. We need to attract five times the number of members before we can meaningfully support the funding of coaching development.

## Finally

Our strategy is to encourage greater participation of the many supporters of Bishops rugby at well-organised events that involve engagement of the Bishops coaches. We are attempting to introduce speakers with a different perspective, and we are offering members the opportunity to enjoy being part of a collective that wants to contribute to supporting Bishops rugby. From the entrance gates, down the Avenue to the Piley Rees and a little beyond, you will have gone the extra mile for Bishops rugby.





# U14 TEAM PLAYERS

## THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE UNDER-14 AGE-GROUP AT BISHOPS



### UNDER-14A CAPTAIN Victor Allen

Each year the Under-14 age group has its own new dynamic to find, as we sometimes team up with players against whom we previously competed!

This year the Under-14As managed to bond fairly quickly and successfully. Our College rugby started off well as we won our first six games, including two games at the initial Hermanus festival, a home game against a big Boland Landbou XV, a match against St Stithians (at the Wynberg festival), another home fixture against St Andrews and an encounter with a touring team from Dubai (the Dubai Hurricanes).

Our first southern suburbs encounter saw us play our archrivals SACS away; in a tough match we lost 5-18.

A great sight was our prop Dimitri Kapoutsis finding himself catching an up-and-under at full back! In the same match, our other strong prop Hector Orrell danced around the Bellville wing. These are great examples of why we do not wear numbers on our backs.

We have a growing team with a spirit I have not seen within other teams. We had not yet connected as a unit before the Bellville game, but since then our backs cut through

defences like a knife through butter, while our forwards have started to win some of the opposition's scrums and line-outs.

Our experienced coaches (Messrs Firth, Noel, Bradley and Richter) helped us greatly in 2014, guiding us with a firm hand in the right direction.

### UNDER-14B CAPTAIN Tom Burton

The Under-14B team is a gutsy side and we are confident individuals who play as a united team. There have been quite a few changes in our team, as some players performed well and were moved up to the A-team, but we still retain a lot of *gees*. However, we do still need to get to know each other a bit better!

There have been quite a few funny and memorable moments, but our team ethos stood out the most for us in 2014. Yes, we played to win, but that is not the only reason we run out on to the field... We played for each other and for the enjoyment of this beautiful game.

### UNDER-14C CAPTAIN Thomas Rudston

The Under-14Cs played attractive running rugby and mostly according to the game plan as strongly emphasised by coach

Michael Blanckenberg and the two Grade 10 student coaches, Richard Schwulst and Jordan Ross.

Practices were always fun, with the focus on individual and group skills and working on our game plan.

There were some tough encounters, such as the Paarl Gim match, and then there have also been the matches against our traditional opponents and well as a match against a Belgian side.

Thanks to all the parents for their support throughout the season.

### UNDER-14D CAPTAIN Yusuf Blake

The Under-14D team love their rugby and worked very hard to improve their skills and fitness this season.

The highlight was our match against Paarl Gim: as the underdogs, we played with huge courage. At the final whistle the score was 10-13 – a narrow defeat but a mental victory for us.

We enjoyed working with the senior boys who helped with our coaching, teaching us about Bishops rugby and pride. We played the 'Bishops Way', making as many passes as possible, and we were not scared to tackle either. We were proud to represent our school on the rugby field in 2014!





## COACHES' SUMMARY

### Under-14A:

After a decisive start with a victory over top-ranked Boland Agricultural, the Under-14As have found the going tough, especially against the massive, fast and skilful Paarl and Stellenbosch sides. However, they have been wholly devoted and resilient while showing huge improvement in their skills on both attack and defence.

### Under-14B:

The Under-14Bs have had some super wins as well as some horrible defeats, but only against bigger, faster and more skilful sides. Always keen to give their best, this wonderful bunch of spirited lads are dedicated to improving their skills.

## COACHES' SUMMARY

### Under-14C:

The Under-14Cs have faced quite a few tough encounters and got a few hammerings. But the spirit of the boys remained high throughout, and they're enjoying their practices and running onto the field trying their best. They have had some really attractive games such as the ones against SACS and the touring Belgian side.

### Under-14D/E:

The Under-14D/Es have played some plucky matches, losing to Reddam, Wynberg, Rondebosch and – by just a few points in an away game – against Paul Gim. A D-team victory against SACS was much relished. The boys are practising hard and enjoying the camaraderie, and are always determined to give their best.





# PREP SCHOOL RUGBY

BY BRENDAN FOGARTY

THE RUGBY YEAR THAT  
WAS AT BISHOPS PREP



*As head of rugby at Bishops Preparatory School, **Brendan Fogarty** probably has the best job - given how much joy his kids and their parents get from the wonderful world of rugby union. 'Fogs' looks at the state of the game at the Prep School.*

The excitement is infectious as the rugby season draws nearer! Our boys love this game: break time sees games of touch taking place, three or four games on at the same

time, mixed age groups and mixed abilities battling it out to set mates up for the deciding try. The bell signals the start of the academic day; time to regroup and plot new moves for the next break's game... Our Saturday mornings are eagerly awaited. Boys who battle to awaken during the week now bound out of bed well before sunrise, dressed and ready for the day's games. Parents look forward to seeing friends and joining in the banter that abounds

along the touch lines. There can be few better sights than boys actively engaged in a team sport, battling it out with like-minded opposition and being encouraged by supportive parents. Prep rugby is flourishing – long may this continue. I hope the pictorial collage that follows gives readers an indication of the value this great game offers our boys.





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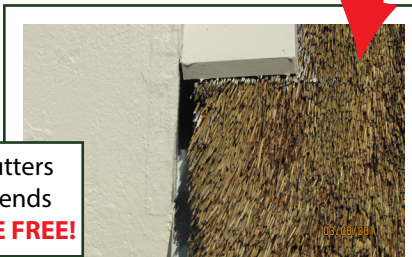
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## PREP SCHOOL RUGBY







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# LIFE BEYOND BISHOPS RUGBY

BY ANTON TAYLOR



*Anton Taylor might not have played a match for the Bishops First XV, but Bishops rugby will forever be close to his heart. He tells us why in his usual inimitable way.*

“When I think about the many reasons

I love Bishops rugby, I find myself increasingly coming to the decision that the best aspect of Bishops rugby, and what makes it so unique, is that there is an implicit, constant agreement that there is life outside of rugby.

Bishops is not a rugby institute. We happen to produce beautiful,

successful rugby – not because rugby is our only focus but rather because our rugby is a by-product of a greater ethos of hard work, confidence, pride and individuality.

Bishops is first and foremost a school where young men are brought up to be well-balanced humans with a wide set of skills and abilities. The aim of the institution is to create men who are physically, intellectually and emotionally equipped to succeed in life. This overarching understanding provides a sense of perspective that allows one to appreciate rugby – and ultimately life – at Bishops in the way it should be.

I love rugby. It has been one of the most enriching activities in which I have ever partaken. The number of friendships I have formed and the stories both on and off the field I've made could fill a novella. Perhaps one of the reasons I have enjoyed it so much is that, thanks to the way in which Bishops focuses on the bigger picture, I have never drawn much of my self-worth from which team I have played. This is probably quite a good thing, especially since I have the rather unusual honour of being the only Bishops second team captain of all time never to have played for the First XV. I'm certain that, if you stroll into the Bishops museum next year – when it will be presented to the world in the same beautiful building as the OD offices and hockey pavilion – and you read through one of the greatest existing repositories of Western Cape history, you will find that there has never been a Seconds' captain who hasn't played for the First XV, even if just for a few minutes towards the

end of the season after a couple of injuries.

A few years after school at a rugby function I worked up the gall to question Mr Jacobs' decision not to give me a run in the dying minutes of a game in which Bishops had an unassailable lead.

He looked at me for some moments and then responded: 'I was once watching your team practices, and my dog urinated on your tog bag. You were very mean and called him unkind things, and thereafter I decided that you wouldn't play for the First XV.'

I must at this point stress that I have never raised my voice to any animal – even messy old

“I was once watching your team practices, and my dog urinated on your tog bag. You were very mean and called him unkind things, and thereafter I decided that you wouldn't play for the First XV.”

mutts who have been poorly potty trained. And I'm





sure that there was some poor sod in 1901 who also captained the second team but didn't get his first cap. At that time there were sheep, goats and an assortment of livestock on our campus, so one can only imagine what horrors might have befallen his tog bag.

It's a funny story I like to regale friends with, because it suggests that I didn't play First XV because of circumstances beyond my control. The truth, of course, is that I didn't play First XV because the eighth man above me was the Firsts' captain, Justin Bijl – one of the finest schoolboy rugby players I have ever seen. Furthermore, my fellow Second XV loose forwards, and players in general, were of a far

higher calibre than I was. The 2006 First XV is often celebrated as one of the best Bishops teams in recent memory. A result of this is that in 2005 I had the luck of captaining a group of incredibly talented, largely Grade 11 players. Our lock, Martin Muller, currently plays for the Lions; our flank, Michael Morris, has represented Zimbabwe on an international platform; scrumhalf Stuart Commins has played professional rugby in the UK for many years (Northampton Saints and London Wasps); James Bailes would lead California to victory in the College Rugby national championships – in the process being named most valuable US player in 2011 and being selected for the All Americans – and Mathew Turner first

represented England Sevens in 2008 and was one of the game's most prolific try-scorers.

The other players in the team were also of the highest quality. What this all meant was that I was able to coast along with these rock stars, winning nearly every match we played, and then claiming that this was all in some way a result of my fine captaincy.

But although playing for a successful team was enjoyable and I derived much pride from being captain, the reasons I loved my time in the Seconds – and indeed every team I ever played for, from the first time I ran on the frost-covered Cemetery field for the Under-9D team – extended far beyond

points on boards, or teams played for or captained. I loved rugby because it gave me confidence, taught me passion, brought me closer to others and ultimately enriched me as a person.

But in the same way that rugby gave me confidence off the field, it would be my extramural activities that buoyed me as a rugby player. I suppose there might be a few fossils who still believe running into another man is in some way braver than any other endeavour, but I think most people would find tackling a 120kg beast far less terrifying than having to deliver a speech to an entire school, or singing in an a cappella group in a packed His People's Church.

In 2011 I played a role







in the school play, Biloxi Blues, which went on to be performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In our cast was Max Linley, who had a very successful year as the First XV lock. As a 15-year-old boy he stood in front of a full theatre with harsh literary critics in the audience (I can assure you that the Paarl Boys tight five are sweet blossoms in comparison), and was part of a professional-level production that drew praise from critics.

The truly scary things in life are feelings of embarrassment, loneliness and inadequacy. If a person can meet these fears head-on and conquer them – as Bishops in many cases allows us to – something as ineffectual as being at the bottom of a ruck or taking a heavy tackle brings about little, if any, genuine concern. Perhaps this is why, consistently, Bishops rugby players of all ages play with a tangible absence of fear. They are not afraid to tackle, nor are they afraid to throw a speculative

left-hand pass across the field. More than anything, they are not afraid to fail. And that is why people the world over use the term 'Bishops rugby' as an adjective rather than a noun.

The year 2005 was one of the most important years of my life. Off the field, Bishops nurtured my self-esteem and confidence, and on the field the belief that my coach, Dave Mallett, built in me allowed me to grow as a person in a manner that has benefited me for the rest of my life. Mr Mallett has great insight into the game, and I will forever remember his reasoning as to why he loved rugby. Unsurprisingly, it involves introspection. After a game of rugby, only the player knows whether he gave his all. Only he may look inside himself and know whether he did the best he could. One may, of course, do this after many events in one's life, but few offer the intense scope for self-examination that rugby does.

I have walked off a field

many times knowing that, despite praise I might have received, I didn't give my best. But there have been certain moments in my life – most of which occurred at Bishops – when I have ended a match knowing that I played to the utmost of my abilities, whatever they might have been. And I have cherished and held on to these memories throughout my life. They are precious, and part of who I am.

Every year I speak to the school on the eve of the Bosch Derby. (Having mentioned my penchant for claiming others' successes as my own, I must modestly add that the First XV has never lost after I have spoken to Bishops.) And as, each year I stand in front of the boys, I am overwhelmed by the love they have for their school. Forget scores or academics or eisteddfod results – the fact that Bishops can gift young men with the capacity to have a love so pure and so strong for their school – for anything – is nothing short of a wonderful miracle in

a world all too often full of resentment and disinterest. Because of Bishops rugby I can pass off both hands, and if I ever land a job as a security guard I'll be able to tackle shoplifters (placing them safely on their back, of course). But it has taught me far more valuable things. I have learnt to play without fear. I have known the glory of what it is to have given everything I could on the rugby field. I have experienced the unadulterated love of his school that a young man feels when he plays for Bishops. And I have gone on to strive to replicate these lessons in every other aspect of my life. When you consider all these things, wins and losses and teams played for play a rather inconsequential role in the greater scale of things.

For, ultimately, Bishops rugby doesn't make us better rugby players. It makes us better people.









# JUST A THOUGHT

BY TOM DAWSON-SQUIBB



**Tom Dawson-Squibb**  
*of Headstart Sport looks at the mental side of schoolboy rugby – how important is it to control your thoughts when playing a free-flowing style of play like Bishops does?*

Roughly 600 words go through the average person's mind per minute – those 600 words, your thoughts, are what determines your emotions. Your emotions then have an impact on how you act or perform. But what does this all mean? Well, it means that in order to perform at your peak in any field you have to be able to understand your thoughts and control them.

Bishops rugby took a step in 2013 to employ a sports psychologist to help them with their season, and this seemed to be well received by the boys. This season they decided to use me, through my company, Headstart Sport, in a performance coach role, working largely with the First XV but also in a role of advising coaches and younger teams. The idea – helping boys and coaches understand what those 600 words may be and then control them as best possible, so that they can perform to their potential on any given Saturday. The principle is that, if I know where the light switch is in a room,

turning it on or off is within my control, and hence, if I know what I am thinking and why I am thinking it, turning those thoughts on or off is also within my control. Awareness leads to control.

The beauty of sport at this level is that it is such a powerful learning tool for life. In addition to learning skills that can help the boys perform on a Saturday, they can also learn crucial life skills that will serve them in the future. Self-discipline, empathy, teamwork, self-motivation and resilience

are all crucial in living a meaningful and successful life, and rugby at Bishops is teaching them just that.

Without going into detail about every session or conversation that has been had, there has been a concerted effort from the First XV boys this year to 'bring Bishops rugby back'. This sense of a having a greater purpose around undertaking a task is such a valuable learning for the boys, and although not

every result or situation has gone their way, these boys have undoubtedly been true to the Bishops brand and impacted on the general enthusiasm that exists around Bishops. It is uplifting and fascinating to listen to the boys talk so passionately about their school, about each other and about the game of rugby, and this has without a doubt contributed to their enjoyment of their season. With this greater purpose, however, comes pressure, and this is one key task of any performance coach when working with teams

– particularly schoolboy teams. Now add the fact that Bishops chooses to play a free-flowing, instinct-based and positive

brand of rugby, which makes pressure and fear an even bigger problem. In order for players to allow their instinct to take over and for them to execute the skills they possess to the maximum, they need to be as free of conflict in their minds as possible. What causes conflict, you may be wondering?

"Bishops rugby took a step in 2013 to employ a sports psychologist to help them with their season, and this seemed to be well received by the boys."



Common causes consist of concerns about what coaches may think, what their teammates may think, what their parents may say, the fear of messing up in front of a crowd, or placing too much focus on the result and less on what you have to do to obtain the result. Helping boys deal with this conflict is of utmost importance. This is where the technical and the mental are integrated – without a clear mind,

*“It is uplifting and fascinating to listen to the boys talk so passionately about their school.”*

the skills that they learn and are encouraged to show will remain dormant. On a larger scale I believe that Bishops rugby plays a crucial role in the greater rugby landscape, not only for its history but for what it is currently encouraging. Freedom, fun, sportsmanship and innovation are not words that can be attributed to many teams around the world, and to have a school that actively works to promote these values is inspirational. This culture

is one we will all continue to work feverishly to uphold and strengthen. The truth is, though, in modern society winning matters, and it matters a lot. Thus it is crucial that Bishops continues to compete so that these values that the school holds so dear and this ‘way’ of doing things remain popular and attractive to the outside world. The example that Bishops sets will truly be followed by others when it is seen as an example that is worth following. With that in mind, we will continue to place the emphasis on getting boys to discuss their

team’s values, to control the environment within their team, to work exceptionally hard and to control their mindsets so that they can all perform at their peak potential. Schoolboy rugby memories will remain with pupils for years and years to come – I know enough ODs to know that this is the case at Bishops! So I encourage all parents, ODs, staff and pupils to help ensure that those 600 words are productive ones and that Bishops boys can play ‘unconflicted’ for years and years to come! Visit [www.headstartsport.co.za](http://www.headstartsport.co.za) to find out more about Headstart Sport.





# STEPPING OUT OF HIS COMFORT ZONE

BY HOWARD KAHN



*OD Dillyn Leyds is not very easy to shackle on the field of play. He is also quite a handful off the field... but for all the right reasons!*

**Howard Kahn** chatted to the man who is once again set to take Cape rugby by storm, only this time at senior level.

Anybody who has followed Bishops rugby over the past few years will not be surprised when one talks up the rugby-playing abilities of Dillyn Leyds. Be it with a No. 10 or No. 15 jersey on his back, the soon-to-be 22-year-old quite simply oozes footballing class. However, Leyds was very nearly lost to the Cape

for good after opting to join the Force in Australia at the end of last year – despite having just helped guide the Western Province Under-21 team to national glory in the 2013 Absa Provincial Under-21 competition. Leyds starred in the No. 15 shirt, adding attacking thrust from the last line of defence, with fellow OD Tim Swiel performing superbly in the fly half position and, of course, the duo being coached by none other than John Dobson.

‘I think I probably produced some of my best performances last year for the WP Under-21s,’ admits Leyds. ‘We

were allowed to play such attractive running rugby – I feel that’s when I’m at my best.

‘It was great to be part of the campaign,’ he adds. ‘Our coaches Dobbo, Dawie “Magic Man” Snyman and Labeeb Levy were quite simply superb – both on and off the field. They had so much confidence in us and you can see, by the number of guys who went on to play Super Rugby this year, the effect they had on us as individuals and as a team.’ So why leave Province then, especially after finishing the season so superbly in the Blue & White hoops? ‘It was an opportunity

that I just couldn’t refuse,’ Leyds explains his decision to swap the comforts of the Cape (and Western Province) for Perth (and the Western Force) at the end of last season. ‘[Former Bishops assistant coach] Kevin Foote has been a great mentor to me and when he asked me about joining the Force I couldn’t resist. ‘I think personally it was good for me to experience a different set-up and team environment. A lot of players get an opportunity like that and later on regret taking it... Some regret not taking it. I just felt at the time that it was the right decision for me.’

Perth is a popular destination for many South Africans and, of late, for its rugby players too; Dillyn was not alone as he embarked on one of the biggest challenges of his short career.

‘I lived in a house with Francois van Wyk and Dylan Sage – former UCT and WP Under-21 teammates of mine – but, most importantly, it meant that we had Boland Landbou, Wynberg and Bishops all under one roof. There was lots of chirping during the weeks when our schools came up against one another, but





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all in good fun, of course! 'All the SA guys in the team – there were quite a few of us – started our own tradition by having dinner together at least once a week. Of course, that dinner would "coincidentally" be the night before our weekly day off... just so that we could at least have a beer together as well! But I made some great new South African friends, some great Australian friends – it was just a great experience across the board.'

Home, however, is where the heart is and Dillyn re-signed for Western Province in March – a decision that perhaps cost him some game time this season, but one that did not prevent him from getting a taste of Super Rugby action for the Force.

'It was an awesome feeling and a moment that I will never forget,' he says with a smile about his debut against the Crusaders on 30 May. '[That] first cap came in Christchurch... I got on only for about 10 minutes but it felt like one [minute]! Everything happened so quickly, and before I knew it I was shaking hands with some of the world's greats – guys like Richie McCaw,

Israel Dagg. It was a special moment for me.' Now, of course, Dillyn has the opportunity to build more special moments at senior level, and an even more exciting thought is that he can build these new memories in his home town.

'I would obviously love to come back and be part of DHL Western Province's 2014 Currie Cup campaign,' the fly half-cum-fullback says ahead of his imminent return to the Cape.

'Long-term would definitely be to establish myself as a regular in Cape Town's two senior representative teams – WP and the Stormers. Also, I would dearly like to start studying again, as that had to be put on hold for various reasons.'

But talk of resuming his formal studies aside, there is no doubt that Dillyn learnt plenty during his term abroad. He reveals: 'I think the biggest thing I've realised is that Aussie sides are just a lot more technical in their approach than we are. 'They don't have the physical presence of most SA teams, so the breakdown, set-piece and, most importantly, defensive systems have to be spot on, technically. Some Aussie teams also

have a more attacking approach, but that comes down to the playing personnel [available to them].'

Speaking about learning, as an ex-Bishops pupil and a proud OD, the exciting runner looks back at his school days with nothing but the fondest memories, as a rugby player,

a scholar and a boarder.

'The values, tradition and just the general

history of the school is what

sets it apart from any other school around,' he enthuses.

'It's a school known for its sporting ability, more so its rugby than any other.

The season of 2010 was my most enjoyable season as a schoolboy rugby player. Those are the best rugby days, simply because you just can't wait to get out there and throw the ball around with your mates.

'I think the fact that I was a boarder taught me a lot of things as well. I had some great memories but also some tough moments during my time in the boarding house, and those situations have helped shape me into the person I am today.

You learn to cope with things independently

at an early age, and that's a very strong characteristic for anybody to have.'

While on the topic of education, Leyds will be the

first to admit that he still has a bit to learn in his fledgling rugby career, as he focusses on building his senior career after his impressive junior showings at national and age-group level.

But we're just happy that he will again be doing it in the Cape, as he looks to add to his winners' medals gained as part of the SA Under-20 (2012) and WP Under-21 (2013) sides.

"I was shaking hands with some of the world's greats – guys like Richie McCaw, Israel Dagg."







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# STANDING TOGETHER

# FOR SEB

BY SEB MATHESON



"I had never heard of this type of cancer before, as it is extremely rare. I was quickly surrounded by a team of medical professionals who set about establishing a treatment plan."

*Former First XV captain and hooker **Seb Matheson** has always been a fighter. But those fighting qualities were put to the test some three years after leaving school – although, as he recounts in this moving account of his ordeal, he could not have done it without the support of those around him, including the close-knit Bishops Family.*

My name is Sebastian Matheson. I matriculated from Bishops in 2010. I was fortunate enough to be appointed the First XV Rugby Captain as well as Head of Discipline in my Matric year. Life could not

have been better... By 2013, I was in my second year of study at UCT, having played Under-20 Varsity Cup rugby. It was during this time I began to experience recurring back-pain problems. The specialist who was treating me at the time was of the opinion that this was referred pain from a previous back injury I had suffered during my Matric year. After extensive rehabilitation programs and numerous back x-rays, the source of the pain to my back remained unresolved. I had travelled to Thailand for a month during the

June and July of 2013, but, again, could not understand why on some days, this pain would appear out of nowhere. By November 2013, the pain had become so severe, I was referred for a second opinion. Walking, sitting and my general well-being had deteriorated rapidly. I knew something was not right, but never in my wildest dreams did I ever anticipate the news that was coming my way. After all, I was a fit, strong and healthy young guy. On November 17, 2013 I was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer that

is generally prevalent in young people. The primary tumour was located in my pelvic area, and at the time of diagnosis, was around the size of a small rugby ball. Unfortunately it wasn't contained. There were deposits to other parts of my body including my lungs, my spine, and other bones around my body. How much worse could the news get? I had never heard of this type of cancer before, as it is extremely rare. I was quickly surrounded by a team of medical professionals who set about establishing a treatment plan. This was





"After spending 24 days in hospital, learning to walk again and adjusting to this operation, I was eventually sent home to recuperate."



to include high doses of chemotherapy, originally estimated to last 12 months, which would be followed by surgery to remove the primary tumour, thereafter a stem cell transplant, and, finally, a course of radiation treatment to the affected areas.

Initially, I did not know what to think. The shock of being told this type of news was devastating. A million questions ran through my mind. I was terrified. I was angry. I was determined. I was having to get mentally prepared for what lay ahead. It all appeared to be simply overwhelming. Word of my condition soon got out, and the enormous support I began receiving from my family, friends, extended friends, acquaintances and strangers became completely overwhelming. Everyone was clearly shocked at my

diagnosis – it was certainly not a good one!

As my hair began to fall out, so the support of so many began to show. A 'shaveathon' was organised. I was completely flabbergasted at the number of people who arrived at our home in support of this. Men and boys from all walks of life and of all ages, appeared to have their heads shaved – including men in business, teachers from Bishops, the Western Force in Australia, etc. I was filled with such gratitude on this occasion. I knew I had so many people rooting for me. And so, not only had my fight begun, I knew that so many people were going to war with me on this. I didn't feel alone... And so my gruelling chemo cycle began and continued for three and a half months. I was fortunate in that I knew my body was responding

to this treatment, and despite how harsh it was, it was something I had to embrace – it was going to save me. Between treatments, I was able to live a pretty normal life, doing just about everything a normal, active 21-year-old would be doing. Letters of comfort, emails from strangers who had heard my plight and OD's of Bishops, rallied around me continuously showing their support. It was simply amazing. And so, in early March, it was decided to re-scan me. How fortunate and grateful I was. The scans appeared to show no hotspots on my skeleton. This by all accounts was an absolute miracle. My medical team could hardly believe it. We knew that the primary tumour had taken a beating, but how big this was, was the question. The decision was taken to remove the

primary tumour from my pelvis. This procedure is invasive, extensive and complicated. I had complete faith in my surgeon's decision to proceed with this and in the specialist skills they had in doing this. My rehabilitation would take up to a year. I would lose up to 20% use of my leg. This was a small price to pay, if it were to give me life. A 'Celebration of Life' party was held at our home and the song played by the Rivertone band, 'Don't worry, about a thing, because every little thing, is going to be alright...', will forever bring back fond memories of this celebration. After spending 24 days in hospital, learning to walk again and adjusting to this operation, I was eventually sent home to recuperate. However, not for long. My haematologists were anxious to get started with my stem cell



## STANDING TOGETHER FOR SEB

collection, needed for the impending transplant. On April 11, I was admitted to the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Constantiaberg Hospital, introduced to the staff who were to look after me during this time in isolation, a place I would remain for 23 days. After finally seeing some regrowth to my hair, again I was about to lose it all with extremely high doses of chemotherapy that was needed to get my body into a neutrophenic

state. I was at high risk to any form of infection while my immune system was being reduced to zero. This process takes five days. The side effects are nothing other than barbaric and it was becoming clear that I was going to have to dig deep to get through this. The transplant was scheduled for April 17, my new Birthday. It was an emotional time for everyone, I needed my stem cells desperately to give me renewed life.

Friends and family came to my window on this day and it was incredible to see the support of everyone on the outside, holding and releasing balloons of hope, and wishing me well, as my cells were put back into my body. Another occasion, which will always remain with me, particularly in the days that followed. This was a dark time, one I wanted to get over quickly, in order to get back to some kind of normality. I had been living five months in an abnormal world and the realisation of the enormity and seriousness of what had been thrown at me was becoming clear. I had been given a second chance.

I was approached by Jordy Flax, the current Head Boy of Bishops to tell my story as part of the Bishops Cancer Awareness Day. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever anticipate that this could ever have been me, addressing the school via video presentation. The support shown, by the entire school shaving their heads in support of my plight, will always remain with me and it is my hope that my story will have

created better awareness amongst young people. As I write this, I am now at the end of my treatment plan, something that has been concluded in record time and now in a state of remission. I am returning to my studies at UCT for the remainder of this year and slowly getting back to normal living.

I have much to be grateful and thankful for. I have faced many challenges, met incredible people on this journey and certainly do see life through a different lens...



"Never in my wildest dreams did I ever anticipate that this could ever have been me, addressing the school via video presentation."





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# THE LAST WORD



BY JOHN DOBSON

You fire the coach. That, along with substitutions, tattoos and looser shorts, is one of the things we have imported from soccer. Never mind that your locks may be shorter than pork dumplings, your props may well be exactly that, and your fly half may just have one left foot and only that. If we lose to Excelsior or Tokai Agricultural College then the coach must go. It's a curious thing. I remember winning the 2012 Vodacom Cup in the 173rd minute of

injury time. After three knock-ons and a couple of forward passes, we somehow scored and won the game, allowing Nick Fenton-Wells (OD) to lift the trophy in something that Harry Houdini would have battled with. My genius was fêted by the suits and ties that so surround a victory. Later that year my hopelessly outgunned Under-21s scraped through a semifinal, thanks largely to a pass of genius from Tim Swiel (OD). They went on to face a far stronger Bulls

side in a final laced with a couple of Springboks and we held on for a four-point loss. It was a better achievement than the Vodacom Cup victory, yet you would have thought I had abducted some Belgian nuns and dissected them. I was no longer fit to coach a dog onto a couch. You don't become a bad coach in one week. Nor do you become a good one. I exaggerate a bit, but this culture of blaming the coach is so silly. I am not arguing this so

that I may coach for life no matter how abject I become or even if I drift into dementia and Olympics (in no particular order). Yes, I know Sir Alex Ferguson may have overseen 1 100 games for Manchester United and won more than 3 000 but we know he was one fax away from being fired in 1986. Basil Bey rates amongst the great Bishops coaches – rightfully, but don't tell him I said that, for his head swells like a German zeppelin – but









at one stage in the '70s we could not beat a team comprising of bell-ringers, the organist, Mr Badminton and a few packets of sultanas. I don't know what Bey's win/loss ratio was and I am absolutely sure he does not know – not because of the reasons listed above – but because he could not care less. It's about the environment you create and whether you are producing better players and people. I think the first coach that left under a cloud (and a tarpaulin in a rowing boat to a passing steamer) was our own legendary Fairy Heatlie, but that was more owing to a small

cash flow hiccup and a misunderstanding with a creditor or two than his results when he had a flowing beard, was in post-post-post-Matric and the Springbok captain. I suppose if one took a scan through those recent results against Paarl Boys' High on that muddy, bloody Saturday 'out there', quite a few coaches could have expected the school messenger (if we still have one) to drop DCMs in their pigeon holes. DCM, as you know, stands for Don't Come Monday. I got one, once, from an OD, but I think we are over that. We are, aren't we, Dugald?! It's about much more

than that. The fact that Paarl Boys have 'signed' 34 Craven Week players at Under-14 level means you are going to struggle for that win. Yes, we can have a fête, raffle off some of Firth's family and get in a few spotty youths – and we probably should. But it's not about the coaching. It's about the environment created. I remember imploring one of my UCT captains (Richard Neville – Matric sometime in the '90s) that, while we may not win the game against the marauders we were about to play, if nothing else, we play with some 'joie de vivre'. He looked at me like I was speaking

French, but he was from School House. To see that *joie de vivre* that we have seen this year at Bishops, albeit in defeat but with so much honour, means we are doing something right. Coaches must be judged downwards – by the players they coach and not by those above them – for they bare the true testimony. They're the ones on the training field, in the changing shed and in the one-on-ones. Now that really is coaching. Here ends the lesson.