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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

BY GUY PEARSON



BISHOPS RUGBY 2017

'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 wigging 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 big and the small, 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 that, if played properly, develops a multitude of skills.

At Bishops, our philosophy is that rugby is part of the education process and a game in which many life lessons can be learnt. It is important that results are kept in perspective and that our boys are humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

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 that allow us to offer top-level coaching and conditioning of our teams.



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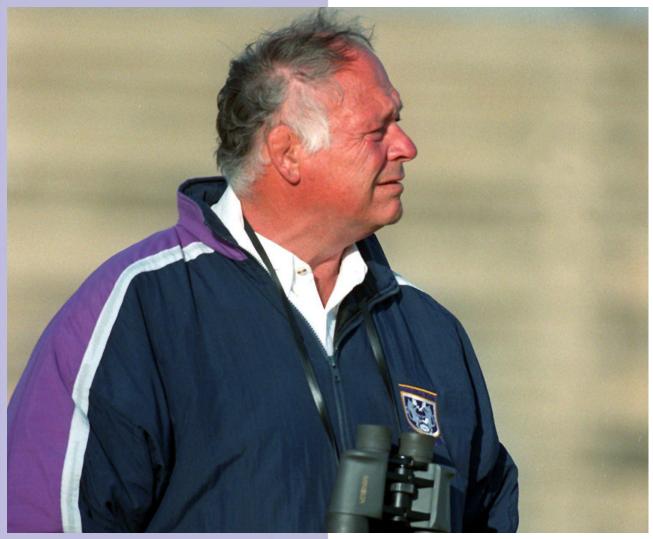


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THE LEGEND BASIL BEY

BY PAUL DOBSON



They were colleagues but also the best of friends. Paul Dobson and Basil Bey shared many adventures over the years during their time at Bishops. Nobody but Paul could pay tribute to Basil – the great schoolboy rugby coach, philosopher, lover of poetry and, most of all, a great man.

He was just Basil. Like Morné, Naas and Joost, Basil Bey did not need a surname. He was, in his time, very much one of a kind; one of the great characters in Western Province rugby and for everybody who met him far beyond the boundaries of the Western Cape. In fact, he was a man of great character and personality without ever trying to be one. He was just Basil.

For everybody who met him and got a chance to know him, even slightly, Basil was a special man, an unforgettable man, a man with charisma. And anybody who labelled him as just a rugby man did not know him and certainly had him wrong. He was a rugby man and much, much more.

The ancient Greeks would have looked on him as an ideal – a man of thought and a man of action. Greek influence was not far from him.

His father, Nicholas Bey, was a Greek from Athens, a man who found English difficult. His mother, Sophie, was an Afrikaner from Hammanskraal, who, Basil believed, went north to escape having to care for her 10 younger brothers and sisters. She, too, found English difficult, but their middle son, Basil, loved every aspect of English, which he spoke and taught with great love and respect.

It was above all poetry that he loved, and that became a part of his being. It even flowed over into his rugby philosophy, whether it was from Shakespeare or the Bible. One of the poems that he quoted often was



MADE, MATURED AND BOTTLED BY BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF FRANSCHHOEK SOUTH AFRICA



by EE Cummings, an Englishman who discarded punctuation, a poem titled 'Since feeling is first': Since feeling is first who pays any attention to the syntax of things will never wholly kiss you

That, for Basil, applied to life – and rugby. There was much more to rugby than game plans and structures and one-pass phases!

Basil Bey was born on 6 April 1936 in a city then called Salisbury, in a country then called Southern Rhodesia, now a city called Harare in a country called Zimbabwe. (The name changes went South Zambezia, then Rhodesia, then Southern Rhodesia, briefly Zimbabwe Rhodesia, then, in 1980, Zimbabwe. Salisbury was renamed Harare in 1982, a Shona name for the big township in the city, named after a Shona chief in the area.)

The family owned a big property on the outskirts of Salisbury. It included a tennis court where Adrian

Bey learnt to play as a little boy. He went on to play in the Davis Cup, reach the Last 16 at Wimbledon and become a famous tennis coach in Texas, where he is enshrined in the Tennis Hall of Fame. Adrian was two years younger than Basil and their older brother, Nick, became an international fisherman.

Basil went off to Prince Edward School, the second oldest boys' school in Zimbabwe (St George's is the oldest) and the biggest. Basil was a boarder and even then a rugby fanatic. He captained the 1st XV for three years in succession (a record), participated in all the school's other sports as well, was the Company Commander of the Cadet Force as 2nd Lt Basil Bey and the head prefect in 1955, his last year at the school.

In 1955 the popular British & Irish Lions toured Southern Africa and played twice against Rhodesia, winning 27-14 and 16-12. They were the team that had the biggest influence on Basil's rugby beliefs and ideals.

Basil's father died when he was 16, leaving each of his sons a generous sum of money. That meant that when Basil went down to the University of Cape Town he was wealthier than many other students. In his first year he read engineering but that lasted for only a short while, leaving Basil to spend much time in the bioscope, as the cinema was called

then. But at that time he made a statement that is still remembered by those who were there.

Basil was a man of very few words, but when he spoke it often provoked action or reaction. Schoolmate, classmate and teammate Paul Falkenberg said: 'Basil was a rugby fanatic.' When Basil got to university, a new man, he went to the rugby club's AGM, stood up and said: 'My name is Basil Bey. I'm a rugby fanatic.' And sat down.

Louis Babrow, the former Springbok centre, an ardent UCT man and the coach of the 1st XV, asked Alan Douglas, the club's secretary: 'Who's that?'

Douglas said: 'A new man – Basil Bey. And he is a rugby fanatic.'

Babrow said: 'Good. We need chaps like this.'

Basil was on his way to becoming a UCT legend.



At the 1956 Intervarsity, Basil was a lock in the 4th XV but in the last three matches of the season he was a lock in the 1st XV. The next year he changed to loosehead prop and dropped down to the 4th XV again, working his way up to the 1st XV, where he stayed for the rest of his university career. By 1959 Basil captained the 1st XV in his fourth year at university. His last year as captain was 1962.

Those were days when matric and the ability to pay got you to university, where you stayed as long as you wanted to and could keep paying. They were a long way away from the competitive university environment of today.

Alan Douglas tells a story of a psychology lecturer who held seminars in the afternoons which Basil was expected to attend. She warned him that she would not be able to give him a DP (Duly Performed) certificate if he did not. He explained that he could not attend as he had rugby practice in the afternoons. He got his DP. Things were different then.

Basil's rugby career at UCT had many highlights. Louis Babrow said that Basil's efforts were 'the most telling ones in restoring Varsity to another period of prosperity'. In this period of prosperity they won the Grand Challenge twice, when winning the Grand Challenge was a club's finest achievement, won Intervarsity in 1959 and at Coetzenburg in 1961, played for Combined Universities against the All Blacks in 1960, and Basil captained a combined UCT and Stellenbosch team to the Rhodesias.

A quiet man, he led Varsity with occasional outbursts that echoed around the grounds. 'I know it's hot as hell, Varsity, but I want you to PLAY!' From time to time a voice would ring out from a spectator: 'Talk to the boys, Basil.'

When Basil left UCT, he left the rugby club as well and joined False Bay, as did several other Varsity notables such as Louis de Waal, John le Roux, Jumbo Anderson, Gus Enderstein, Mike Gillies and John Benn. He captained False Bay, retiring from playing in 1970 when he was 34.

Basil's switch from engineering to teaching was to be a great benefit to many. Shona helped him to graduate as a Bachelor of Arts and then he obtained a secondary teacher's diploma. In due course, he looked for a job. The first school he applied to was Rondebosch Boys' High. His application was rejected, which Rondebosch might have later regretted. He said it was rejected because he had ended his letter of application with 'Yours sincerely', instead of 'Yours faithfully'. But he got a job at Simon's Town School, where he got them playing rugby, starting at Under-12 and adding upward extensions to the soccer goals to develop rugby's glorious H. Then he went to Plumstead High School, where he helped to build the fields and developed excellent rugby and cricket sides, on occasion too good for Bishops, as

when they beat Bishops in 1968. Then in 1971 he joined the staff at Bishops.

I taught at Bishops for 29 years. My greatest contribution to the great school may just have been persuading Basil to come to Bishops, a process that required many earnest meetings at Forries and the Vineyard.

Basil's contribution to Bishops was huge, and not just on the rugby field. People liked him. He was clearly just himself, with principles for what he did but tolerance of other people and their views – provided that they were not wrong. There was nothing showy about him, no dependence on external props. His clothes were mostly shabby and yet he could turn out smartly in blazer and tie or suit or dinner suit when the occasion demanded it. He did not need flashy cars. Indeed, his cars were legendary for their shabbiness – his old Vauxhall... the Kombi with a floor so rusted through that you could see the tarmac running beneath it as you drove along.

There was a generosity about Basil that seemed to have no bounds – a generosity with time and effort and a generosity that took no care of material goods. He would prefer to spend on others than buy a pair of shoes for himself.

In fact, he did not seem concerned about his own needs. He never, never, never complained. He seemed not to notice the baking heat of the cricket field or the icy rain of a rugby field. The only time he seemed to be on the verge of being impatient was when he felt that restrictions were unfair.

Basil was a gentleman. He fits all of the criteria of a gentleman contained in John Henry Cardinal Newman's famous definition. This is just a short excerpt from the definition: 'The true gentleman in like manner carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast; all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; his great concern being to make everyone at their ease and at home.'

Basil did not like fuss and he did not like softness. They were maxims of his – 'Don't fuss', 'Don't be soft.' He was not a softie. When the College Council turned down his suggestion of a pavilion on the Piley Rees Field, he dug in his heels and started raising funds and getting help till the Heatlie Pavilion was built – a fine building, much used.

Basil may have had epicurean tendencies when it came to Hansa Pilsner but really he was a stoic. He never showed signs of discomfort. In fact he seldom showed emotion – joy, disappointment, pleasure, anger, affection. He was a well-controlled, private man.

On one occasion when Basil and Tim Hamilton-Smith were the False Bay props, and the scrum collapsed,

Basil's hip was dislocated. Tim banged it back into place and Basil played uncomplainingly on.

Basil came to Bishops in 1971 when Alan Douglas was 1st XV coach, a prestigious position at Bishops. But in 1972, of his own accord, he went to Anthony Mallett and resigned as 1st XV coach so that Basil could take over, a noble act indeed. In resigning, Alan had three requests of Basil – that he give him the Under-14 teams so that he could get the passing right, that he protect rugby and that he take him on the next Bishops tour to Rhodesia, which happened in 1972.

In 1976 Bishops went on their sixth tour of Southern Rhodesia. They travelled by train, as Basil had done in his university days, not that he showed signs of excited nostalgia.

Tim went with Basil. They beat Falcon and Milton and then went on to Peterhouse at Marandellas near Salisbury. Peterhouse got stuck in and won 11-10, much to the delight of the Peterhouse staff.

This led to a large and happy gathering in the Peterhouse common room where Basil said to Tim: 'We've got to take this as men.' The celebration went on till fairly late, when there was a suggestion of going down to a pub in Marandellas, the Three Monkeys Inn, some 10km down the road from Peterhouse. Some two hours later, near midnight, they emerged, got into housemaster Joe Porter's Peugeot and charged along the road back to Peterhouse, where they had a horrid accident as they smashed into an oil tanker parked on the side of the road next to another oil tanker.

Joe Porter was killed. Basil was in the passenger seat. He had on his lap a hard briefcase of tour information and boys' money. The rigid briefcase might well have saved his life, but he destroyed his hip and spent six weeks in the Alexander Fleming Hospital in Salisbury.

After he came back from that ordeal he walked with increasing difficulty as his hip gave way. That did not stop him from walking without any complaint or embarrassment, when people stared at him and imitated him on a tour to the Far East, when walking all over Paris on the way to London and in his teaching and coaching. Years later, a hip replacement eased his movement.

Basil enjoyed touring. In his time as coach of the 1st XV, Bishops went to Rhodesia four times, to the Eastern Cape every second year, to Natal three times and made trips to Johannesburg and Kimberley for festivals and overseas trips to England, Scotland, Ireland, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Italy and Australia.

It would be difficult to find a better coach of schoolboy rugby than Basil. For one thing, he had such honest ideals about the game that went far beyond the score. Basil put a great deal of thought into rugby. Winning was good but the way you played was better. He loved rugby as a brave and skillful game, creative and adventurous. His game was not a happy-go-lucky affair, for it had a hard base. His teams scrummed and tackled better than most and they had no fear, not even of losing. Bishops rugby became a brand. And remember his slogans? 'All kicks are bad kicks.' 'Pass before contact.' It is no wonder that he detested today's game, which was not the Basil way, not the Bishops way.

Basil had wider interests – photography, printing, music and his stars, by which he claimed to be able to tell people a great deal about themselves. He loved gadgets and quirky medicines, at one stage eating sand to avoid some ailment or other.

Basil was also an intensely private man. That may sound odd as he was a most active member of the Olympic Sports Club down at Rondebosch station, a cheerful meeting place for men. Basil became chairman of the club, then its president and also a life member. A number of people came to the club just because Basil was there. Not that he was talkative or boisterous. People just liked to be in his company and in this unthreatening environment he could be private.

After his wife Zeta died so suddenly, Basil withdrew more and more into an almost hermit existence. His dog, Charlie, was closest to him but Charlie was growing old and a bit frail. He was a Border Collie, Basil's favourite breed. Basil had not wanted him because he found the death of his dogs traumatic. But he was given Charlie and again the bond was tight, as Basil understood dogs far better than most people do. When Charlie's back legs became too weak for him to jump up into the Landrover, Basil bought an ancient Volkswagen Beetle. He would then park next to the kerb and Charlie would step into the car. Men buy cars for wives and children but this must be a first – buying a car for the dog. Charlie did not live long after Basil died.

And Basil was the head of a family – wife Zeta, who had played hockey for Rhodesia, daughter Michelle and son Martin. All three loved, admired and supported Basil, who was never given to public displays of affection. To his family, as to many others, Basil was a hero.

Basil died on 10 November 2016. He was a man who seldom went to funerals but for him, the Memorial Chapel was filled to overflowing.

His life was gentle; and the elements So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up And say to all the world, THIS WAS A MAN! – Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

There is something so special in being able to say: 'Basil was my friend.'



TRIBUTES TO BASIL BEY

NICK KOSTER

(OD & former Stormers loose forward)

Basil Bey was different. He focused less on winning and more on developing. He allowed players to express themselves and to make mistakes because he recognised that there is no better way to learn and discover the limits of your talent. He inspired us to pursue a style of play that was poetic.

It takes a person of great courage to go against the trend. Society values winning above all else, but Basil stuck to his philosophy and never bought into winning at all costs. Winning soothes our ego, but he was willing to lose in pursuit of playing the game the way he believed was right. He saw rugby as an opportunity for expression.

And for these reasons Basil Bey would probably never have been a successful professional coach, at least not if you measure success by win/loss ratio. But perhaps sometimes what you gain in influence you lose in win percentage. And if success were measured by influence, Basil Bey is undoubtedly among the greatest there has been.

I believe that we were true to the Basil Bey style of play during my school years. And who knows – it might have won us games we should have lost and lost us games we could have won. But it gave us an identity. I still speak with friends from Paul Roos and Paarl Boys about the days they played against Bishops, and often they talk of these days as some of the toughest they've had to endure because of the expansive rugby we played.



JACOUES HANEKOM

(Former Paul Roos 1st XV coach)

I will remember Basil as the ultimate 'romantic' coach. He could coach the game, but also encouraged a freedom that gave players the confidence to express themselves. He knew the game and was a brilliant coach, but he also understood the values that the game could teach younger players.

We were coaching in times when the game was not as structured and professionally analysed and dissected. More attention was given to individual skills, decision-making and broken play. That was Basil's speciality, and where he thrived.

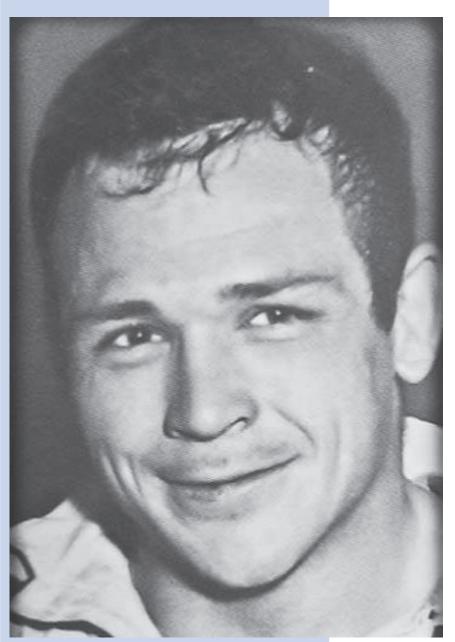
To this day I remember Basil, with a beer in his hand, sitting me down and making me read Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poem 'Constantly Risking Absurdity'. His departing words: 'You will never know whether you are a true genius until you constantly risk absurdity!' From that day on, that has always been part of my philosophy when working with young people.



BEY FAMILY THANK YOU

Martin Bey and family – July 2017

Doubtless, Basil would have wondered what all the fuss was about. He would have muttered to himself but, ultimately, he would have quietly loved it. Bless you all, for your involvement and enthusiasm for these tributes. It really is quite touching.



Quintessentially, Basil was a rugby man. He taught all of us to pass before contact, to search for space, to play the same way twice and to stay on one's feet. Above all, every kick is a bad kick.

But there was more to him than that. He had a love for poetry, teaching and astrology. He disliked Virgos – (Paul Dobson is, of course, a Virgo!). He was a romantic in the way he believed that rugby ought to have been played. He implored one to seduce the game of rugby, rather than to abuse it. Rugby was likened to poetry – his two great loves. It was important to learn to wholly kiss by not following the proper syntax of things and to constantly risk absurdity.

He loved the mates he played rugby with and against; he loved those he coached and he had a special affinity for his captains. While he was our father, he was public domain. Whether at his beloved Ollies or beside the Piley Rees field, he was always engaged in conversation. He would have it no other way and, truth be told, neither would we.

He was revered and respected by all. He is still missed by all. Bless you for this and everything.

PLAYING BISHOPS

BY DAVE MALLETT

After a sabbatical of four years, it's great to be involved with Bishops rugby again.

When I looked back at the last article I wrote for Platinum Blue in 2012 ('Bishops Rugby: Quo Vadis?'), I was interested to note that very little has changed

in terms of the key issues I identified then as being critical to the sustainability of the sport at our school.

The challenges we face trying to keep up with the 'Joneses' (Rondebosch Boys' High, SACS and Wynberg Boys' High), not to mention the 'Van der Merwes' (Paarl Boys' High, Paarl Gimnasium and Paul Roos), remain undiminished in the highly competitive and combative arena Western Province Schools' Rugby (once famously described by my brother, Nick, as the most gruelling schoolboy competition in the world).

In a nutshell, I stressed the following: how important is rugby at Bishops?

The Bishops website states the following: 'While the school offers pupils a variety of sporting choices – they can do everything from golf to judo – rugby is truly at the heart of the school.'

What does this really mean in practical terms? In my conversation with the principal, Guy Pearson, when discussing my reappointment as TiC, he indicated that he'd like our teams to be 'competitive', in general, and for the 1st XV, specifically, to be

aiming to win '60%' of its games. Guy's words were certainly music to my ears – but, of course, the realisation of these goals isn't simply up to us as coaches. Factors such as budgets, bursaries, Grade 8 intake and staff appointments are very much part of the equation.



If these are adequately addressed, then there is absolutely no reason why Bishops rugby shouldn't flourish – there is passion aplenty among players and coaches alike!

In my view, at the very heart of this passion is the notion of playing 'Bishops rugby'. This is a much bandied-about, but little-understood, phrase. Most of us have a sense of what we mean when we describe the style of rugby that Bishops traditionally plays – but how is it achieved and how does it remain relevant as the game evolves and systems of defence become tighter and tighter? Some time ago, I discussed this with Mike Bayly and asked him





to create a blueprint in order to facilitate continuity in our coaching approach, so that players can develop to their full potential. In essence, we are striving to establish a sound skills set in an effort to play an exciting brand of rugby that is unique to Bishops. To achieve this goal, an unselfish approach on the part of all our coaches to work together is required. This is encapsulated by the Bishops rugby vision, which is as follows: 'To inspire and unify Bishops through continually striving to improve, and challenge rugby with innovation, but firmly holding onto our heritage of playing a fast-paced, highly skilled, support-based attacking game while being unbending in our defence.'

Our vision is supported by our core values and certain basic principles.

Core values

- Love for the game through enjoyment and responsible involvement.
- Sportsmanship with integrity, self-discipline, respect for opponents and officials.
- Excellence we will always strive to be our best.
- Selflessness putting the team before ourselves.
- Fearlessness, no matter who the opposition.
- Respect for our rugby heritage.

To fulfil our vision, we as coaches have the

responsibility to develop our lads into highly skilled players, who can think for themselves and can make good, instinctive decisions. We need to coach players to see space, get the ball into that space and break down defences. There should be a common understanding among the players in our teams – a resolution to play a fast-paced, highly skilled, support-based and attacking game. At the same time, our own defence should be uncompromising. We must encourage our core values at all times. This is Bishops rugby.

Basic principles

To play this type of game, we have to be clear in our minds as to how to reach our objective. The following principles underpin the style of rugby we are trying to play and should be reinforced at every practice:

• Move quickly to get into a good position (attack and defence).

- Identify space/weakness.
- If the pass is on, then pass! Offer support behind the ball carrier.
- Run into the space.
- During contact, always stay on your feet, leg-drive and look to offload.
- The breakdown is a lottery it should be viewed as a necessary evil. If you go to ground, look to pop-pass. But the ruck will happen and, let's be absolutely clear, to play Bishops rugby the breakdown must be efficient. Opponents will always look to slow down our game!
- A good game is a quick game!

I'm excited about being a part of the legacy that is Bishops rugby and look forward to 'tackling' the challenges that lie ahead.





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N NUWE RUGBY FEES!

BY DEAN SUDDING

Bishops' A-teams undertook a short trip to Porterville on 26 and 27 March. This was part of the annual 'Bees Fees' where biltong, braais, koeksisters, pannekoek and boertroos are the order of the day!

It was a cultural experience for the boys (Under-14, Under-15, Under-16 and Under-19) to play in typical platteland conditions, where the friendly townsfolk flock to the grounds in order to enjoy the entertainment of their teams and to show the folks from the city their great hospitality.

The Under-14As played their fixture on the Friday and ran out convincing winners. The Under-15A and Under-16A sides won their games quite easily on Saturday morning, while the 1st XV had the pleasure of playing the last fixture of the 'Bees Fees' at 19h30 on the Saturday night.

The whole town and surrounds were there to support their 'manne' in the main game of the weekend.

Bishops struggled to find rhythm in the first half, and to cap it all lost their captain Rob MacDonald, the most experienced player on the field, to an injury that subsequently kept him sidelined for some time. Things were not looking good until Bishops took control of the game and clinched a comfortable victory in the end.

At the end of the day, it was an enjoyable outing at the beginning of the season, that enabled the coaches to fine-tune their selections and take their preparations up a notch for the arduous season ahead.





Legal Support Worker. Aerospace Engineer. Author. Dental Hygienist. Biological Scientist. Surveying Technician. Law Clerk. Geographer. Office Clerk. Designer. Decorator. Punching Machine Setter. Dentist. Design Draughtsman. Auditor. Financial Analyst. Waste Treatment Plant Operator. Fire Inspector. Epidemiologist. Transportation Worker. Urban Planner. Boiler Operator. Biologist. Weapons Specialist. Film Laboratory Technician.

Brazer, Manager of Air Crew, Boat Builder and Shipwright, Hand Trimmer, Crew Captain, Motorboat Mechanic, Landscaper, Heating Equipment



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WHEN LIKE-MINDED TEAMS MEET IN THE EASTERN CAPE

BY DEAN SUDDING

A memorable tour of the Eastern Cape in April officially kicked off the 2017 rugby season for Bishops, after the memorable 'Bees Fees' in Porterville in late March.

Five Bishops touring teams – the Under-14As, Under-15As, Under-16As, 1st XV and the 2nd XV – left Cape Town on Friday 31 March and the entire touring party was accommodated at the Fish River Sun, an ideal venue for fostering pre-season team spirit and bonding.

Fixtures against St Andrew's on Saturday 1 April and Kingswood on Monday 3 April tested all five Bishops teams to the limit. The main factor is that these institutions are virtually all boarding schools, which means that they are permanently 'on tour'. They eat, sleep and do everything together, which helps with bonding and team spirit, and any free moment is exploited with games of touch and the like.

The sleepy hollow of Grahamstown was entertained by typical Bishops running rugby in early April, while the home sides provided equal entertainment. This is how all rugby should be played! Bishops' junior sides had it easy, with two runaway victories over Kingswood and St Andrew's. The Under-16As managed one win, while the 2nd XV drew with St Andrew's and lost to Kingswood. Both 2nd XV games went down to the wire, with last-minute kicks determining the results.

The 1st XV, after losing their captain Rob MacDonald in Porterville the week before, faced two extremely motivated and very skilled sides in front of fanatical Eastern Cape home crowds.

The win over St Andrew's was nerve-wracking as a ding-dong battle ensued, with Bishops winning narrowly over a very powerful home side. Bishops' 1st XV then faced up to Kingswood under lights, and once again the motivated home team put extreme pressure on the tourists before Bishops ran out winners in a closely fought battle.

The atmosphere was electric for all the matches and the many lessons learnt – both on and off the field – no doubt will stay with these young men for many a year to come.





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BROTHERS IN ARMS

BY HOWARD KAHN

The All Blacks have the Savea and the Barrett brothers and Australia had the Fainga'a twins, but Western Province rugby, the Stormers and Bishops have the Leyds brothers. Dillyn and Tristan spent an afternoon with Howard Kahn and photographer Mike Maytham at the Piley Rees and we found out first-hand just how tight their bond is.

To be fair, you need just two minutes with the Leyds brothers to work out that there is a unique bond between Dillyn (24) and Tristan (20) – the talking is non-stop (mainly from Tristan), but the love and care between both is evident.

Dillyn, however, is quick to put his little brother in his place.

'Look,' smiles the older brother, 'this guy... you give him the pinky and he takes your whole hand.

'He's been training with us at the Stormers of late and already the guys are saying that he's coming for my place in the team!'

Tristan just laughs at the thought.

'Playing with Dillyn one day... phew... now that would be a dream come true. But, look, I'm still so new to the scene here – I just want to train hard and play some rugby.'

This article was commissioned well before June. It was held back, however, as talk grew louder that Dillyn could become a Springbok against the French in a must-win Test series for the men in green and gold. We wanted to hear the full story in that case, and what a story it has turned out to be for Bishops' most recent rugby international!

Every player in this beautiful country of ours dreams of donning that green jersey at some point, but as talk turns to Dillyn and his Springbok call-up you cannot keep the brothers quiet.

'I was the first to congratulate him,' says a visibly pleased Tristan, who lives with his older brother in an apartment near the Newlands Rugby Stadium. 'A couple of guys were at our flat watching the announcement and then Dillyn showed up a bit later and I was able to say "well done!" in person.'

Dillyn remembers: 'You know, I had no idea at all that



spoken to my dad in the morning, and he asked me if I had heard anything from the coaches or selectors and I hadn't – it was so special finding out the way I did.

'The Stormers guys were all at the airport on our way back to Cape Town from a Springbok camp and we were about to board... the boarding was a bit delayed and we managed to get in front of a TV but there was no volume, so we had to lip-read and watch the screen for the names to come up. When my name



came up... I can't actually put into words how I felt. 'Then when I got back to Strand much later to my parents, and to see all the cars outside the house and all the people there to congratulate me – that's when it really hit me!'

So how did it feel, then, when he actually took to the field against France in Pretoria on 10 June and became Springbok number 885 in the process? 'From making the initial squad, to the 23 and then making it onto the field – it just kept getting bigger for me!

'When Allister named me in the matchday squad, in a team meeting before the first Test, I just went quiet and couldn't really remember anything else that he said in the meeting... I think I missed a few important announcements after that.

'Then, on the matchday, when I ran onto the field I don't think I've ever seen Eben Etzebeth and Siya Kolisi so happy! Eben just came up to me and gave me a huge hug. Siya said he wanted to but he was too tired to come all the way, so he just signalled in my direction.

'My first touch came at the bottom of the ruck and it was over in a flash, but playing in a winning series for South Africa was so, so special and I just hope I can get a few more opportunities in the not-too-distant future '



Based on the form he's shown for the Stormers this year, whether it has been at fullback or on the wing, there is no doubt Dillyn will get to add to his tally of Test caps over the next few months.

Tristan chips in: 'Just seeing how Dillyn coped with his big knee injury last year was a lesson in itself. [Dillyn suffered a massive ACL injury early in 2016.] There were times when he was sad, and right in the beginning I remember seeing him struggle to accept it, but the way he took it in his stride... I don't think I would have been able to cope with such a serious injury as well as Dillyn did.'

The younger brother, however, always has time for a chirp, adding with a cheeky grin: 'The only big worry for me from the injury was the hairstyle that came with it... that's where the [long] hair started. I guess when he looks in the mirror now, it's a reminder of those dark times he came through.'

Dillyn shoots a sideways glance at his brother. They both start laughing immediately, and it sums up their relationship in a heartbeat.

'Sometimes I just sit back and watch Tristan entertain the whole family,' says Dillyn. 'He takes on my dad... he just chirps everyone.

'You know, our dad was a lock in his playing days, so he is quick to try and keep us in check... we come and visit and he's waiting with a joking shoulder charge or body check and Tristan tries to take him on and gives it back.'

The age gap between Dillyn and Tristan is just more than four years, but there's a five-year school age gap, which means the two were never at Bishops at the same time. You would think it spared a few teachers some additional grey hairs, not having the two of them on the premises at the same time, but Dillyn says that his brother would have been the one in trouble had they been at school during the same era.

'Luckily for Tristan I finished Matric in 2010 and he got here in 2011 – I would've loved to have had him as my Grade 8... he would've cleaned my boots and done all my errands!'

Despite not being at school together, older brother Dillyn was always a source of support and motivation for Tristan, but he did miss out on his younger sibling's Grade-10 year. 'Dillyn was at the Force for that one year and I missed him,' says Tristan. 'In Grade 8 and 9 he was always there supporting me... then suddenly in Grade 10 he wasn't there. It was weird.'

Leyds (the elder) was back in South Africa by the end of 2014 and he was able to see his little brother carve out his own reputation as a deadly attacking back for the Bishops 1st XV in the latter stages of his high school career.

'Both Tristan and I consider ourselves really fortunate to have attended Bishops,' says Dillyn. 'We got told from the start of our time at Bishops to play for the enjoyment and I think that has stayed with both of us – even till today.



'We're not quite the biggest guys around, so the style of rugby here suited us... another thing we certainly learnt was to run fast... away from the Afrikaans guys!'

As close as the brothers are, and as much as they take after one another, the obvious downside is the comparisons between the two, and the expectations that go with it for young Tristan.

And he admits: 'He's my older brother; I respect him a lot and can only look up to him and hope to emulate his achievements one day. It's natural that people will compare me to Dillyn, but it's also tough as I have not achieved anything yet. That said, it also inspires me to work harder and carve out a name for myself and step out of Dil's shadow.

'Dillyn's nickname is Leggit and guys at Western Province either call me "Leggit Junior" or "Baby Leggit"... No, I need to get rid of that Leggit nickname and earn my own!'

Dillyn rolls his eyes... 'Stealing my nickname, stealing my friends... it's nothing new to me,' he says with a hearty chuckle.

'When I was in Australia [OD] Nathan Nel used to pick Tristan up and they would chill together. Now, the other day I heard that during a Stormers game, he and Kurt Coleman were video chatting during the match and talking about my performance. I didn't even realise that Tristan and Kurt were mates!

'Seriously though, I'm helluva proud of how Tristan has stepped up during training with the Stormers.

He is not scared to take on the big-name players. He takes on board what the coaches and senior guys are teaching him and, like I said, he backs himself, which is a huge attribute to have in this game – especially at his age.

'He's had some opportunities as a 19/20-year-old that I never had and that puts him in a good position. He stood out for the Western Province Under-19s last year, despite being part of a very talented group of players, and I'm really excited to see how he goes for the Under-21s this year.'









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THE COMING TOGETHER OF A COMMUNITY



An individual's true character is often revealed during times of adversity. However, this year, Bishops' 1st XV coach Richard Smith, his family and the entire Bishops rugby community had more than just their characters tested after an incredibly traumatic ordeal for Richard's family.

Smith, who took over as the 1st XV coach this year, was badly injured during an attack in his home in June, which left him fighting for his life in the run-up to the home game between Bishops and Rondebosch on 24 June.

While Bishops suffered an emotional defeat that day, the love and respect displayed between both schools in the build-up to the match – not to mention the outpouring of love from the Cape Town community as the whole – was a huge positive during what was a very tough ordeal for Richard, his wife Nina and their young children, as well as the extended Smith and Maurer families.

At the time of writing, Richard was showing a huge improvement and making a strong recovery. 'The support has been incredible... Actually, it's been so overwhelming for us,' he told Platinum Blue.

'From (my fellow) 'Bosch boys to the Bishops rugby fraternity – it's been amazing. I'm also very proud of my coaching team, including the medical staff. We are a close group and I'm proud of how hard everyone has worked for the best of the team and to help each other out.'

Richard matriculated in 1997 from Rondebosch Boys' High School, where he played centre for their outstanding 1st XV that year. He also played at first-team-cricket level alongside the likes of future internationals Jonathan Trott and Andrew Puttick.

After school he enrolled at Stellenbosch University, where he studied biokinetics and high-performance training, and played three years of Maties rugby, before joining Van der Stel Rugby Club, but a catastrophic knee injury in 2002 put a halt to a promising career.

A future in education beckoned and after three years of teaching overseas, he joined Bishops in 2007 in the Life Orientation Department as an intern. He made a significant impact on the game of cricket at the school as assistant coach to Grant Norton in the 1st XI, while also coaching many successful Bishops rugby teams in the winter. These included the second and third teams, the Under-17As, the Heatlie sides, the Under-15As, as well as many Sevens teams during the past 10 years.

'I just love the game (of rugby) and everything it teaches,' says Richard, who is also involved in the school's conditioning department. 'Whether you're winning or losing, humility is extremely important in sport. You need to be thankful for the opportunities you get to play and represent the individuals in your team, but you also need to value the overall importance of the team (versus the individual), which should always come first.'

Richard, who has also coached at club level for Villager and False Bay rugby clubs, points to Grant Norton, Dave Mallett and Dean Sudding as having had a big influence on him during his time at Bishops and he is very excited to be working with 'Mr Mallett' once again.

'I had so much fun with Dave when we coached together at Villager (at Under-20 level),' says Richard. 'I like to think that Dave and I are cut from a similar cloth – both of us are extremely passionate about the game and we're both very competitive.

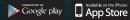
'Dave is one of the best motivators that I have come across in the game. He is also such a role model to the younger coaches – his mentorship, along with his vast coaching experience, will be of huge value to all the coaches and I am personally so glad to have him back again.'



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2017 BISHOPS

IST XV





A. CASTLE HOOKER



A. FISHER PROP



A. LABUSCHAGNE



B. NEL PROP



26

B. IVANISEVIC UTILITY BACK



C. DOYLE



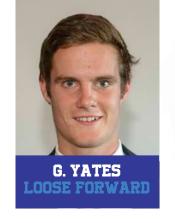
D. COURIE PROP



F. BURT EIGHTH MAN









2017 BISHOPS IST XV

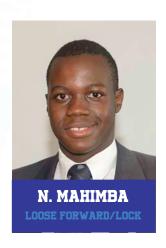






M. NORTON FLANK















T. PETTERSSON PROP



T. SHARPLES
LOCK/LOOSE FORWARD



W. ROSE SCRUMHALF



27

CAPPING CEREMONY





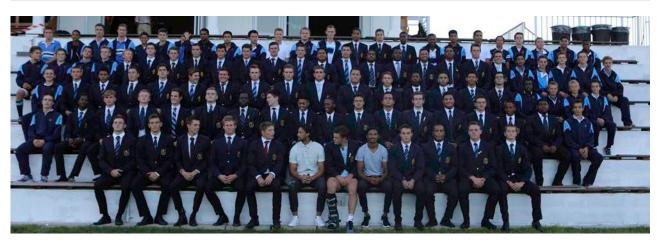






2017 IST XV RESULTS

TIME/DATE	VENUE	OPPONENT	RESULTS	MATCH TYPE
Sat 25 Mar	Away	Porterville High School	won 42-10	Pre-Season
Sat 01 Apr 17	Away	St Andrew's College	won 29-21	On Tour
Mon 03 Apr	Away	Kingswood College	won 16-13	On Tour
Sat 22 Apr	Home	Stellenberg High School	won 29-28	School League
Sat 29 Apr	Neutral	Kes at Wynberg Festival	lost 14-35	Friendly
Sat 06 May 17	Home	SACS	drew 22-22	School League
Sat 13 May	Away	HTS Drostdy	lost 26-32	Pre-Season
Sat 20 May	Away	Durbanville High School	won 75-14	School League
Sat 27 May	Away	Wynberg Boys' High School	won 24-20	School League
Sat 03 Jun 17	Home	Paarl Gimnasium	lost 24-44	School League
Sat 10 Jun	Home	Paarl Boys' High School	lost 0-27	School League
Sat I 24 Jun	Home	Rondebosch Boys' High	lost 19-32	Classic Clash
Sat 29 Jul	Away	Paul Roos Gymnasium	lost 30-32	School League
Sat 05 Aug	Away	Boland Landbou Agriculture	lost 14-48	School League
Sat 12 Aug	Away	SACS	won 15-12	School League
Sat 19 Aug	Home	Wynberg Boys' High School	won 31-18	School League
Sat 26 Aug	Away	Rondebosch Boys' High School	lost 7-64	School League



BISHOPS THE KINGS OF VILLAGERS



A fired-up Bishops Sevens team ensured that the 2017 rugby season would end on a high for the school as they claimed an unprecedented 21st Villager Seven-a-Side Cup title on Friday 1 September.

Having suffered a heavy defeat in their final schools league match of the season just six days before at the hands of near-neighbours Rondebosch, an inspired Bishops 'A' side romped to victory over defending champions Paarl Gim in a pulsating final, in the 49th edition of the Villager School Sevens.

Making the win even more special was the presence of 1st XV coach Richard Smith, who, despite still being wheelchair-bound after his horrific attack in June, was there to will his charges on from the sidelines. Smith was assisted by the likes of fellow regular 1st XV coach Wes Chetty, who took the warm-ups on the night, and the creative Gareth Hayden, as well as regular team manager Dean Sudding, whilst head of rugby Dave Mallett also returned to his old stomping ground at Villager to witness the boys' fine triumph.

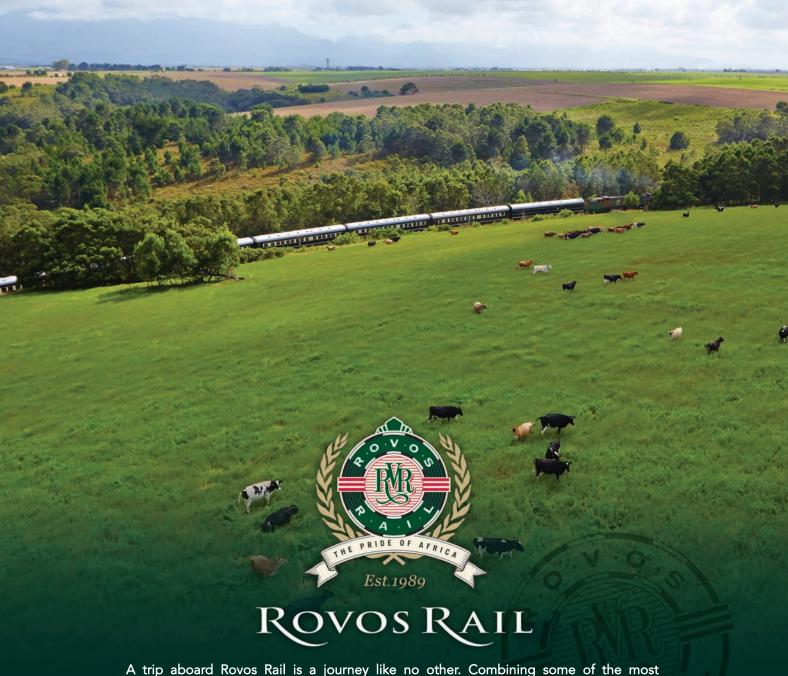
Four Grade 11 players were chosen in Bishops' 2017 Villager Sevens squad, along with regular third team fullback Siya Sonja, but some clever thinking from Gareth Hayden – who was back on the coaching staff – saw the school enlist the help of former England

Sevens star and OD Mat Turner, who, whilst on holiday in Cape Town, helped out with a few training sessions in the lead-up to the event.

Sevens has always been part of Bishops' rugby DNA. The boys seem to thrive in the additional space and the skill, stepping and passing in the abbreviated format, suits them. However, up until this year Bishops had not tasted success in this tournament since 2009... whilst a Southern Suburbs team had not triumphed at Brookside since 2011, with Tygerberg and Paarl Gim dominating this event since 2012.

But Bishops completed pool wins over Milnerton 'A' and SACS 'B' to kick off their 2017 campaign, before seeing off the Georgian Sevens team in the quarterfinals to put themselves in with a winning chance. A 24-14 semi-final win over SACS 'A' then set up a dream final against the defending champions from Paarl, who, amongst others, boasted SA Schools speedster Muller du Plessis in their ranks.

Bishops ran into an early lead, courtesy of some brilliantly taken tries, but Du Plessis threatened to take the game away from Bishops – only for a trysaving tackle from Siya Sonja, who flung himself into the air to reel in Du Plessis, to keep his team ahead in the contest at a crucial stage.



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The winning try in the final came from none other than regular 1st XV captain Rob Macdonald, as Bishops scored a dramatic 35-31 victory over their more fancied Paarl Gim rivals, with elated coach Wes Chetty saying afterwards: 'Rob's (winning) try will never be forgotten!

'It was awesome to see how a bunch of players who had been beaten quite badly the week before turned it around so quickly. Siya's tackle on Muller du Plessis was another key moment in the final – it just summed up the commitment and enthusiasm of the players on the night.

'The entire management team was proud of all the boys... it was a great way to end the season, made all the more special by having Richard Smith there calling the shots on the night, with Gareth Hayden, of course, having a huge influence on proceedings too.'

The likes of Macdonald, Ross Goodwin, Matt du Plessis and William Rose were the standout players for Bishops. More telling, however, was the fact that every single player in the Bishops squad scored a try on the day – showing just how well the 2017 Bishops Villager School Sevens squad operated as a unit.

Previous Villager Sevens Cup winners:

1969: Wynberg

1970: Rondebosch

1971: Plumstead

1972: Rondebosch

1973: SACS

1974: Wynberg

1975: Rondebosch

1976: Bishops

1977: Rondebosch

1978: Bishops

1979: Bishops

1980: Plumstead

1981: Bishops

1982: Bishops 'B'

1984: Rondebosch

1985: Bishops

1986: Bishops

1987: Bishops

1707. DISTIOPS

1988: Bishops

1989: Bishops

1990: Wynberg

1991: Rondebosch

1992: Bishops

1993: Bishops

1994: Wynberg

1995: Kings College (New Zealand)

1996: Bishops

1997: Northerns

1998: SACS

1999: Bishops

2000: Rondebosch

2001: Rondebosch

2002: Bishops

2003: Bishops

2004: Tygerberg RFC

2005: Bishops

2006: Bishops

2007: SACS

2008: Wynberg

2009: Bishops 'A'

2010: Tygerberg Hoërskool

2011: Wynberg

2012: Tygerberg Hoërskool

2013: Tygerberg Hoërskool

2014: Tygerberg Hoërskool

2015: Paarl Gim

2016: Paarl Gim

2017: Bishops 'A'





IST XV REVIEW

BY RP JACOBS

This season has not been for the faint-hearted – while the team played fantastic rugby, many games went right down to the wire. The loss of captain Rob MacDonald for a good portion of the season, and Ben Nel and William Rose for the latter part due to injury was keenly felt.

The 2017 season opener against Porterville saw the 1st XV being exposed to real platteland pride, but despite a stop-start first half, they won handsomely. Then the team travelled to Grahamstown for what turned out to be two nail-biting but victorious matches – the first against a very powerful St Andrew's team (always a keenly contested clash) and the second against Kingswood who were not far behind, ability-wise. Both matches played to full houses and provided a great deal of entertainment.

The Cape Town games kicked off with the boys facing a very powerful Stellenberg XV. With the team down by 20 points at half-time on a blisteringly hot day, all seemed lost. A truly magnificent second half saw Bishops clinch the match by one point after George Spencer crashed down under the posts in the dying seconds of the game.

The first home game against Rondebosch on 24 June will always be etched in our minds, with the tragedy of coach Richard Smith being attacked in his home in the lead-up to the game. The result was not ideal, but the emotional loss said it all. Richard has survived against all odds and our thoughts remain with him, his wife Nina, and their children Lara and Seb, as well as the rest of the Smith family who have been so brave this year. It put our results into perspective in a big way in 2017. All players and coaches should be commended for their efforts during this time.

The big results from the third term saw the 1st XV pick up good wins over Wynberg and SACS, having kicked off the new term with a narrow away loss to Paul Roos, but the season ended on a tough note when the boys suffered a big defeat to Rondebosch in their season finale (away from home).

The annual Villager Sevens at Brookside proved to be a huge highlight, however, as the boys brought the title back to the Southern Suburbs with a heart-stopping 35-31 win over defending champions, Paarl Gim, in the final.

The never-say-die Bishops Seven-a-side team scored some scintillating long-range tries, much to the delight of coach Richard Smith who was on the sidelines to spur his team on to victory.





TEAM BY TEAM REPORTS











35

THE 2017 BISHOPS 1ST XV SOUAD

- 1. Ben Nel
- 2. Ghaalieb Kenny
- 3. David Courie
- 4. Tim Sharples
- 5. Ross Doyle
- 6. Matt Norton
- 7. Justin Muller
- 8. Felix Burt (vice-captain)
- 9. Ross Goodwin
- 10. Aydan Labuschagne
- 11. Murray Bruce
- 12. George Spencer
- 13. Robert Macdonald (captain)
- 14. Matt du Plessis
- 15. James Ipser
- 16. William Rose
- 17. Aidan Neill
- 18. Reece Meyer
- 19. Terrence Pettersson
- 20. Victor Allen
- 21. David Nivison
- 22. Alex Castle
- 23. Oliver MacRobert
- 24. Lukhanyo Mntonintshi
- 25. François van der Merwe
- 26. Bingo Ivanisevic
- 27. Nathan Maimba

1st XV coaches: Richard Smith and Wes Chetty

Manager: Dean Sudding

Medical team: Dr Geoff Huber and Megan Petrie-Chetty







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SECOND TEAM REVIEW

BY RP JACOBS

The season began with great enthusiasm and an air of expectancy for the second team, not least because of the hard work and dedication that went into the pre-season preparations by players, conditioning coaches and the Bishops rugby administrators.

Even so, the 'All White' found the going tough in the league this year and it was a definite wake-up call for many players who had moved into the senior division for the first time. A number of factors contributed to the indifferent start. A growing injury list and the form of the players led to the team not gelling and not playing to its full potential.

Forty-five players were initially involved in pre-season preparations, but many other youngsters (outside of the initial 45) were given playing opportunities in the 2nd XV in 2017, which augurs well for 2018.

Captain Nathan Maimba missed the first half of the season due to injury, but credit must go to standin skipper Lukhanyo Mntonintshi and to the players who made their mark on the 'All Whites' in 2017, with the following worthy of a special mention: Matt van Westenbrugge, David Nivison, Jordan Meyer and Victor Allen, as well as youngsters Harry Newman, Bingo Ivanisevic and Alex Jankovich-Besan.

Players: Oliver MacRobert, Paolo Bersella, Arthur Fisher, Rayleigh Le Fleur, Oliver White, Francois Van der Merwe, Glenn Yates, James Morritt-Smith, Lukhanyo Mntonintshi, Jordan Meyer, Harry Newman, Victor Allen, Bingo Ivanisevic, Michael Roche, Alex Jankovich-Besan, David Nivison, Matt van Westenbrugge











THIRD TEAM REVIEW

The 3rd XV began the first half of the 2017 season with relative success, despite the injuries that played havoc with team selections.

They managed to keep a core group of players together, buying into an ethos of hard work, while still having fun and playing for each other. Their 67-3 home win over Rondebosch was a big highlight.

The team competed at the Wynberg Rugby Festival,

where they beat the 1st XV teams of both Parklands College and Reddam House.

Players: William McKenna, Jeff Malherbe, Sisa Liwani, Finn Geldenhuys, Dylan Evans, Matthew Klingenberg, Liam Pargiter, Theodore Psillos, Luca Guerrini, Tom Burton, Lindani Ngcokoto, Stephen Fourie, Siyamthanda Sonja, Richard Wellington, Finley Knight, Ronald Walters, Almandro Jansen







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WILD BOYS REVIEW

BY RUAN ELLIS

The Wild Boys of 2017 made a strong start to the year. They suffered only three close losses in the second semester, and beating SACS 56-5 will remain a highlight. Call-ups to other teams made the remainder of the season tough, but there was plenty of pride among the collective playing group and coaches when a few of our players moved up to the 2nd XV, with some even winning caps for the 1st XV! The big game in the third semester came in mid-August when the Wild Boys hosted Wynberg Boys'

High in their final game for 2017 at The Avenue Field, bringing to a close yet another enjoyable season for Bishops' most fun-loving team.

Players: Dimitri Kapoutsis, Duma Gcabashe, Michael Steytler, Anton Van Wyngaarden, Sanele Mayosi, Azariah Alexander, Stuart Boynton, Samuel Kuhn, Cole Kruger, Richard Baikoff, Tio Bakre, Gregory Bolus, Robbie Moubray, David Wesson, David Kinnear















FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH TEAMS REVIEW

BY DAVID LEDWIDGE

FIFTH TEAM

The fifth team (affectionately referred to as the AWB – Almost Wild Boys) played a fast and exciting brand of rugby epitomised by some beautifully worked tries through accurate passing and offloading in the tackle. Thanks must go to Jordan Flax for all the time and effort he put into coaching the side. The loss against SACS was a dampener on a pretty solid term, but the boys bounced back with good wins against Drostdy, Wynberg and Rondebosch, as well as a valiant effort against Paarl Gim. Our return game against SACS in the third term was always going to be the big one for us in 2017!

Players: Dylan Wingfield, Jonathan Pletts, Junho Ko, Liam Agnew, Oliver Innes, Hector Orrell, Hugo Janssens, Connor Price, Joseph Hudson, Ryan Labberte, Nikhil Reddy, Ryan Good, Nqoyi Mputa, Matthew Hanssen, Luke Wessels, Michael Mondry

SIXTH AND SEVENTH TEAMS

The sixth and seventh teams have been together as a squad since the beginning of the 2017 season and it's been very enjoyable thus far. Thanks must go to Anele for his tireless efforts, as he coached under very difficult circumstances. Unfortunately at this level it is difficult to find fixtures in the Southern Suburbs, and because the Paarl schools are very strong, they beat us quite convincingly. We did, however, compete well against Wynberg, SACS and Rondebosch. In order to keep things going we managed to organise the odd fixture against Claremont High School for the 7th XV and these games proved to be very competitive.

Sixth team players: Ryan Wonfor, Linda Farr Jack Paine, Cameron Braun, Aedan Foulkes, Matteo Lupini, Andrew McAdam, Dylan Osborne, Sihle Kahla, Liam Gordon-Turner, Ciaran Manca, John Grieve, James Young, Stuart Cottrell, Dean Jacobs, Tristan Sides

Seventh team players: Liam Jameson, Angus Kennedy-Smith, Gilad Barkai, Andrew van Voore, Marcus Craig, David Court, Jason Pittaway, Ryan Solomons, Ryan Lawson, Ibrahim Kerbelker, Shakir Dollie, Tivon Loubser, Nicholas Tyndall, Robert Lennett, Andile Themba, Julian Steyn, Bathi Mbityi, Patrick Bowman, Robert van Biljon, Ivan Stassen











UNDER SIXTEEN TEAMS' REVIEW

UNDER-16A

By Jean Nolte

The Under-16A team has been heavily disrupted by injuries this season, but they must be complimented on their tenacity and the positive attitude they have displayed.

At full strength they have the potential to cause an upset, as they proved when they left the field as proud and deserved victors against KES. They almost did the same against a strong Wynberg team, but the bounce of the ball did not favour them. They must be commended for their willingness to be adventurous on the attack and, as a result, they are showing progress with regards to decision-making and skill. This is the ultimate aim – to develop players to feed the Under-19 division and the 1st XV. Most pleasing for me was how the boys enjoyed their rugby and that all replacements, when called up again, gave their best at training and during games.

Players: Dallas Wichmann, Aaron Woodman, Kyle Beley, Jordan Velosa, Jack Hampshire, Charlie Yates, Isaiah Wharton, Inno Macha, Michael van der Merwe, Ryan Sneddon, Max Martin, Michael Wesson, Mbongeni Mavuso, Aadam Abrahams Weltin, James Koster, Raafiq Adams, Jono Bird, Ubaid Francis, Luca Liebenberg, Tom Liefeldt, Matthew Smith, Caide Spriestersbach, Brett Tucker, Ross Tudhope, Jack Clayton, David Trembath, Adam Fernandes

UNDER-16B

By Barry Emms

If one had to look at the 2017 results for the Under-16B rugby team thus far, one would be forgiven for thinking it's been a very unsuccessful year. The team won only one match in the first half of the season. But, much fun was had, excitement and commitment shown, and the growth of the team is evident. The emphasis has been on keeping the ball alive, staying on our feet and playing at a high tempo, and the number of tries we scored is testament to the skill and attacking edge of the team.

Unfortunately, lapses in defence and intensity cost us victory in close games against Stellenberg and SACS (in the first half of the season). We've worked hard on developing a more abrasive and disciplined defensive culture and a difference could be seen in our later performances.

Coaches: Barry Emms and Cameron Doyle Players: Luke Flint, Slade Marquis, Cameron Good, Dallas Wichmann, Ben Cragg, Jordan Velosa, Thomas Slaven, Jack Clayton, Inno Macha, Mbongeni Mavuso, Ryan Sneddon, Aiden Murphy, Aadam Abrahams-Weltin, Max Martin, Tom Byron, Drew Burton, Adam Fernandes, Julian Dower, Nick Cattell, Max Stewart, Sam Elliot, James Koster, Ubaid Francis, Michael Wesson, Matthew Shaw

UNDER-16C

Starting the season with a bang, this team showed real class from the get-go. They came out of the blocks at full steam with a number of performances that were simply from the top drawer. The boys played open, running rugby and seemed to be able to score beautiful tries against any opposition almost at will. Defence was solid and our possession never looked threatened. I was left wondering what on earth I was going to be working on for the rest of the season as they were doing everything so well. The boys were chuffed to be the first recipients of the 'Team of the Week' award following their 55-7 win over Drostdy. However, as injuries began to take their toll on the age group as a whole, we began to lose players, after which life on the pitch became more difficult. Our lowest point was the huge loss against Paarl Gim. However, the boys are now learning to dig deep and show courage in the face of tough times. The D-team lads who joined us impressed with their work ethic and guts and this bodes well for Bishops!

Players: Jamie Naude, Max Tedder, Berkley Hollingum, Simon Craig, Julian Dower, Shaun O'Brien, Nic Gleeson, James Raatgever, Kyle Elliott, Sean Murphy, Julian Simpson, Max Stewart, Jack Brasher, Matt Marr, Michael Coles

UNDER-16D

By Rodney Warwick

Our Under-16D side unfortunately missed several potential fixtures in the first half of the season due to opponents not being able to assemble an opposition D team; or in the case of the (home) Rondebosch fixture, our squad was depleted due to numerous injuries and illnesses in the higher teams.

Nevertheless, our team saw some action with four matches that brought mixed results, the first being

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a hard-fought encounter against SACS that we lost 5-12. In contrast, our second match, an arranged friendly with Wynberg on their own ground, was a morale-boosting 48-19 success (although the Bishops intensity faded during the second half).

Coaches Ruan de Wet and Sam Msani worked hard with the Under-16Ds, a team that deserved fewer injuries and more fixtures this past season!



















UNDER FIFTEEN TEAMS' REVIEW

UNDER-15A

By Gerry Noel

We do not normally subscribe to the idea of a head coach moving up with a team for more than one year for a number of very good reasons, but due to my long leave in the first term, which is an important one for establishing and organising the Under-14s, we had to make an exception.

The difficulty for us was not to fall into the trap of complacency and comfort due to the familiarity of coaching styles, players and team culture.

Business as usual in the Under-14 age group was not necessarily going to work with the Under-15s, so we had to be open to continued growth and development.

We set ourselves new team objectives for the first half of the season, which included the following:

- Being good people on and off the field.
- Playing a brand of rugby that is exciting to watch and participate in.
- Enjoying rugby this season, no matter what situation we find ourselves in.
- Playing as a team that stands together as 'Brothers in Arms'.
- Always staying humble.

Players: James Bolton, Nicholas Christodoulou, Keegan Van Wyk, Samuel Rudston, Harry Gilson, Connor Evans, Samuel Marthinussen, Keagan Blanckenberg, Dan Kirsten, Mustapha Cassiem, Michael Ford, Oliver Jones, Masood Meyer, Dylan Plaatjies, Joe Kirsten, Seb Allison, Euan Groenewald, Cameron May, Niall Maloney, Cameron Parker-Forsyth, Undi Ngxangane, Aya Ngcwangu, Sacha Mngomezulu

UNDER-15B

By Angus Firth

One may be tempted to regard the Under-15Bs as a really poor rugby side when judging on results alone. But surely at Under-15 and B level, winning is not the only goal? One has merely to look at the desire to improve, at skills development and the side's growth in confidence to realise that this is a team that is only now finding its groove. The standout performers for us were Dylan Plaatjies (a super-quick wing), Cameron May (incredibly tenacious openside flank),

Euan Groenewald (hugely improving centre), Ethan Keiffer (a No 9 who was always pushing hard for an A-team spot), while our captain has steered the ship admirably while playing some inspiring rugby. In summary, they have been an ideal bunch of lads to coach as they have a super team culture and spirit.

Players: Undi Ngxangane, Zimvo Mahlati, Luke Grindley-Ferris, Seb Allison, Ian Sherwood, Cameron May, Niall Maloney, Aya Ngcwangu, Ethan Kieffer, Mitch Fussell, Cameron Parker-Forsyth, Euan Groenewald, Josh Levy, Matt Dinan, Mitch Labberte, Tristan Barow, Zak Ahmed

UNDER-15C AND D

The Under-15C season thus far has been an arduous journey filled with blood, sweat and tears for the most part, but it has not all been in vain.

Our boys gathered together at the start of the season with just enough skill to tie their boots. However, there was plenty of enthusiasm, matched only by our top-tiered sides. It was this passion that drove our boys – and continues to drive them – to greater heights. Slowly but surely with each practice came new strength, and by the end of May we started to see a promising rugby side. Our boys were learning how to pass effectively and how to support each other in play the way a Bishops side is meant to. The results may not always have reflected the boys' increased ability, but it is undeniable that they have developed into a much more specialised, coordinated unit.

The players continued to work hard, and thanks must go to the coaches and parents for their support.



TEAM BY TEAM REPORTS



UNDER FOURTEEN TEAMS' REVIEW

UNDER-14A

By James Swift

The year started with a large number of boys all coming out for pre-season, and as a group they continued in this vein – keen and hardworking.

The A-side that resulted from this process did nicely and this bodes well for the future of Bishops rugby. The season has not been without its ups and downs, but good lessons have been learned and the side has made very good progress in improving areas of weakness.

Defence, for example, was very poor against a fast Durbanville side, but the team worked smartly, and since then our defence has been a real strength. The line-outs were also a bit fragile at the beginning of the season, but all the boys worked hard and now the line-outs are a quality source of possession. The standard of the opposition has also been an area where the boys have had to adapt – there are no more 'easy' games. They have learned the hard way that you can't underestimate anyone.

The side possesses quality forwards who are capable of mixing it with the best the other schools have to offer; there are creative and skilled halfbacks and strike-runners who are real game-breakers, and as they grow in confidence with our school's pattern, they will be very hard to beat.

Players: Joseph Ruiz von Walter, Aidan Burns, Christopher Pittaway, Joshua Michau, Alastair Bruce, Luke Parker, Benji Voogt, Nassar De Kock, Imad Khan, Jonathan Roche, Ilyaaz Arnold, Bruce Campbell, Suleiman Hartzenberg, Samuel Aitken, Alex Myeki

UNDER-14B

By Nic Bester

The 2017 Under-14 age group is extremely talented, so there is strong competition between the boys for places. Those in the B-team are always pushing one another to improve so that they can challenge for a spot in the A-side. Those in the C-team have been putting pressure on the B-team boys and a few have taken their chances with great passion. This has resulted in a motivated group and a strong emphasis on having fun and working hard when required.

The side started off with a bang in the form of a resounding 53-5 victory over Stellenberg. However,

the boys were unlucky to lose out due to a last-minute penalty against SACS and we went down 20-17 in the next game.

As the season progressed, the boys had some close encounters that, as luck would have it, just didn't go their way, and they suffered an unfortunate string of losses.

Players: Torben Bergh, Benjamin Jack, Gray Fogarty, Liam Harrison, Axel Ivanisevic, Chad Louw, William Ross, Marc Nelson, Jack Pace, Thomas Bester, Ben Forsyth, Luke Solomons, John Fisher, Schyler van der Westhuizen, Jake Greenberg, Luca Nicholson, Josh Carnell, Oliver Nicklin, Justin Reid, Dylan Wood

UNDER-14C

By Phil Court

There was both strength and depth in the Under-14 age group this year and many talented rugby players represented Bishops at Under-14C level in 2017. As many as 31 boys played for the C-team (in eight games) in the first half of the season, which did not make life too easy for the coaches or players.

However, the boys participated in many exciting games, showing great skill and a fighting spirit throughout. Thanks to coaches Darryl and Rob for their commitment to the team and the individual players, and for the organised and enjoyable practices they ran for the boys.

Coaches: Darryl Ndjadila and Rob Lee

Players: Ben Reid, Zain Dawood, JP Freddy, Dylan Redding, Daniel Nelson, Keenan Mills, Liam Harrison, Philip Smith, Berkeley Graaff, Peter Myburgh, Adam Clarke, Matthew Byron, Slade Tait, Josh Lander, Coen Potgieter, Gabriel Dyssell-Hofinge, Chris Scheepers, Luke Bruchhausen, Mangaliso Nogantshi, Sipho Ndlovu, Oliver Nicklin, Matt Lowe, Rowan Howard, Callum Musslewhite, Nicholas Claassen, Gregor John, Aidan Brand, Solomzi Tshiki, Josh Brummer, Luke Solomons, Dylan Wood.

UNDER-14D AND E

By Kevin Kruger

Besides the fact that the Under-14s were able to field five teams, the talent that was evident in this age group in 2017 was especially encouraging. The players showed good ball skills, abundant self-belief and an understanding of the game throughout the season. At the same time, the players' enjoyment was obvious throughout, which ensured entertaining rugby in 2017. Not surprisingly, both teams enjoyed a good success rate and, in addition, each won the 'Team of the Week' Award during this year.

The D teams were coached by Harry Making and Michael Peter, while Thomas Rudston and William Rose assisted with the E team, which, unfortunately, battled to get regular fixtures during 2017.

Players: Justin Reid, Matthew Lowe, Mpofana Skwatsha, Max De Romijn, Slade Tait, Dylan Wood, Irshad Abrahams, Josh Brummer, Gabriel Dyssell-Hofinger, Mangaliso Nogantshi, Joseph Henderson, James Mason, Scott Nixon, Luke Bruchhausen, Rowan Howard, Nicholas Claassen



















MATT PEARCE OEA



SuperSport commentator Matt Pearce is one of those people who always has a smile on his face. He has a loving family and gets to travel the world commentating on the great game of rugby. We caught up with this proud OD to find out what makes him tick and what advice he would give to any aspiring commentators out there.

PLATINUM BLUE Matt, thanks a lot for taking time out of your busy schedule to take part in this Q&A. Do you think it is important to give back to a school that helped cultivate your love of the game?

PEARCE Absolutely I do, and at the moment I'm 'giving back' in the form of paying my son's Grade 11 fees! Seriously, though, I do believe in supporting and giving back to the school via time and skills, as it had such a profound effect on my life in many ways. Yes, rugby was a big thing – although I was not medically permitted to play it for the last four years of my time at Bishops – but so too were the performing arts and cultivating confidence in public speaking, which have been an important part of my career development.

PLATINUM BLUE Do you often have to pinch yourself that your number-one connection to your alma mater is now as a parent?

PEARCE Not really. I think among most parents there is a desire to give your children the same or as close to the same opportunities you had as a kid, and I was always going to try to give our sons that opportunity if I could. But not just for that reason. The school and its breadth of offering was a major factor in choosing it. Our oldest might not have my love of sport, but he has found a niche in the school which not many others could offer, and it is recognised and nurtured there.

PLATINUM BLUE On the sad passing of Basil Bey – what effect did he have on you during your time at Bishops?

PEARCE Quite an important one, in that he was my English teacher from Grade 8 to matric, and in his own special way inspired us to explore and experiment with the language through, for example, writing poetry and live readings of plays. That, and the fact that double English on a Monday was generally spent by our set watching the 1st XV video from the previous Saturday! Put those elements together, and you have the makings of a potential English rugby commentator.



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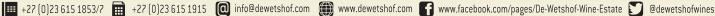














PLATINUM BLUE Wasn't it great, seeing all those old faces back at Bishops, as everyone came to pay their respects to Basil and his family?

PEARCE It certainly was, and a reminder of just how much he meant to the game and the way it was played by the school during his coaching tenure. There was a great deal of reminiscing and I, for one, could not help feeling that Basil may have been disappointed by the element of professionalism creeping into schoolboy rugby and how serious it has all become.

PLATINUM BLUE Take us through a week in the life of Matt Pearce... outside of what we see or hear on a Saturday during rugby. How do you balance your work and family life with your commentating?

PEARCE: Never a dull moment, really. My broadcasting life – notwithstanding the fact that it is busy – is approximately half of what I do in my career. Monday to Friday when in Cape Town I am at the offices of Skybound Capital, where I have worked since 2010. We are a private wealth advisory and fund management business with offices in London, Hong Kong and Mauritius, so I travel a fair amount for the business, particularly to London. I am especially passionate about the advisory work we do with professional sportspeople and the management of their wealth. Home life is busy as well; my wife Pippa and I have a son in Grade 11, a daughter in Grade 7 and a 'laat lammetjie' in Grade R!

PLATINUM BLUE How do you prepare for your commentary gigs each week?

PEARCE I go by the mantra 'fail to prepare and prepare to fail'. One of the great things about my broadcasting job is that watching rugby is considered work. Familiarity is probably the most important component of a relaxed broadcast. Player identification is important, and the only way of enhancing that familiarity is watching as much as possible. PVR is a massive help in that regard. I make meticulous notes for every game and will generally use less than 30% of them, but it is important to have the info on hand if I need it.

PLATINUM BLUE Of late, you seem to be tackling a few so-called 'critics' on social media... how do you cope with the smart alecs out there who feel it's their right to tell commentators how to do their jobs?

PEARCE I really tend not to engage the trolls. The only time I will respond is if someone has 'had a go' which is factually untrue. And if I go back with facts, it is seldom that anyone comes back with anything of substance. I also take solace in the fact that people simply do not understand how difficult a job it can be. You also cannot expect to please all the people, all the time – it's impossible!

PLATINUM BLUE What is an obvious commentary 'don't'?

PEARCE Foul language! Is that obvious enough?

PLATINUM BLUE Do you have any embarrassing on-air moments you care – or don't care! – to share with us?

PEARCE: Not really – I tend to play it pretty safe and try not to put myself in situations that elevate to 'embarrassing'! There was one funny moment, when I was anchoring a match build-up live at Newlands with Toks van der Linde, and he got his tongue twisted around a couple of words and ended up saying about a particular player: '...for WP to be successful today, he is going to have to be sh*t-hot'. His eyes then went as wide as saucers as he realised what he had just said and we all almost got a fit of the giggles. But that is the beauty of live TV – once it's out there, it's out there. No turning back!

PLATINUM BLUE What is the best game you have called, and why?

PEARCE There are a few that stick out, and it's very difficult to choose just one, but if you will allow me four, one would be 2008, two in 2009 and one in 2013. At the end of 2008, the Boks had won 20-15 in Cardiff against Wales and then squeaked home unconvincingly against Scotland at Murrayfield. But then came Twickenham – a famous Springbok win over England by 42-6 and the heaviest defeat ever inflicted on England at HQ. Ruan Pienaar played flyhalf that day and everything just clicked magnificent! In 2009, the second Test between the Springboks and the British Lions at Loftus Versfeld had so much. Schalk Burger's 50th Test match, his early yellow card, the Lions thinking they had levelled the series until that extraordinary finish in the corner by Jaque Fourie and the conversion that followed and then the drama of O'Gara's kick and chase with the scores level, taking out Fourie du Preez in the air and Morné Steyn's penalty from halfway to win the series! Later that year, the third consecutive win against the All Blacks in Hamilton – having beaten them in Bloemfontein and Durban - to win the Tri-Nations was just incredible. Because of everything it meant, that would probably be THE one if I had to choose. Then that epic Test at Ellis Park in 2013 against the All Blacks, with the Rugby Championship riding on it; Boks first to a four-try bonus point and then having the wind taken out of their sails by Beauden Barrett... A phenomenal match, described by Nigel Owens as the best he has ever seen. But to be honest, I regard every single Test match as special and a privilege.

PLATINUM BLUE You must have met some amazing people on your rugby travels. Sporting stars and personalities, fellow commentators... which meeting or encounter stands out the most for you, and why?

PEARCE Wow, that really is an unfair question to ask! But I suppose one of the best encounters was at Twickenham in 2012, when we arrived at the Captain's Run on the Friday and there was Ernie Els, with the claret jug that he had won at the Open Championship at Royal Lytham in July. After training, he posed with players (and commentators) with the trophy and it was just so special to see the connection between top South African sportsmen and what their achievements mean to each other. There are so many encounters with so many people across the rugby world, however, that I will always treasure.

PLATINUM BLUE Would you enjoy doing a commentary exchange programme – you doing some Heineken Cup and sending, say, a Stuart Barnes over here to do some Super Rugby for a week?

PEARCE I would love that. I have been very fortunate to commentate in most of the best stadia in world rugby at Test-match level, but to be part of broadcasting a different competition in a different region would be great... have you got Stuart's number?

PLATINUM BLUE The British & Irish Lions tour of New Zealand ended with a thrilling finale. How much do tours like this excite you?

PEARCE Tours excite me hugely, and the Lions concept shows, every four years, how much the viewing public enjoy them as well. I would far prefer to see three-Test tours of countries with midweek games than one-off Test matches. A touring squad also helps cultivate player depth at international level, in my opinion.

PLATINUM BLUE Lastly, what would your advice be for an aspiring Matt Pearce who is reading this Q&A now?

PEARCE Firstly, that this job is not all that it would seem from the outside. Yes, it is a massive honour and privilege to travel as often as I do with the Springboks, and to have the best seat in the house at Test matches, but everyone who works in live sports television - not just the commentators but directors, cameramen, audio technicians, everyone - makes huge sacrifices in terms of time away from home and family at weekends. Next would be to never stop working at your craft, and to constantly try to learn from those who have played at the highest level, including referees, etc. Listen back to your work and be self-critical. And always be prepared, better than even you think you might need to be! Oh, and love what you do as much as I do, and you'll never feel you're working that hard... even when you are.





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BISHOPS RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB

The Bishops Rugby Supporters' Club (BRSC) is a club for every parent, grandparent, sibling, family member, friend or coach who stands on the touchlines on a Saturday morning, cheering and supporting their son, grandson, brother, mate or team as they do battle in Bishops colours. Whether supporting the 1st XV or the Under-9E team at college, prep or pre-prep levels, this is BRSC and the community we represent.

As a supporters' club, our aim is to, firstly, provide an environment where members can get together for functions and social events, secondly, to support all aspects of Bishops rugby, the players, coaches and staff who make it all possible and, finally, to act as a conduit in supporting social-development opportunities organised by the school.

Through our functions, we have been able to offer a range of opportunities for members across grades to socialise through our Heatlie Evenings, Big Screen Event, Match Day Gazebo and the first-ever Bishops-Rondebosch joint supporters' evening. Our Heatlie Evenings, where we invite guest coaches and pundits to share their rugby insights and experience, have proved to be a great success. Guests in the last year included DHL Stormers skills coach Paul Feeney, Craig Marais (OD) and South African Rugby Union representatives Mervin Green and Hans Scriba for a discussion on transformation in South African Rugby, as well as commentators Matthew Pearce (OD) and Michael Corcoran (Ireland, RTE commentator) in the lead-up to the Ireland Tour. Our Match Day Gazebos remain a popular meeting point where members can sit and enjoy an unobstructed view of the 1st XV games on Piley Rees, with snacks and drinks provided.

A highlight event had to be the first-ever joint Bishops-Rondebosch Supporters' Club evening, hosted at Heatlie in the week running up to the third-term Bishops-Rondebosch derby weekend. It was a fantastic evening that allowed supporters from both schools to socialise and listen to their headmasters, coaches, ex-players and cheerleaders share what the rivalry has meant to them. We look forward to this being a regular third-term event.

Our support for all aspects of Bishops rugby on and off the field has continued, with the funds donated enabling BRSC to provide additional rugby equipment and coaching, and to assist in fitting out Heatlie's medical room, thereby ensuring the best possible care, as well as medical staff, for players during home matches.

Bishops' development programme Vusa continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of Brendan Fogarty, and it's a programme we are very proud to support. Initiated in 2002 and run by Bishops, Vusa seeks to uplift underprivileged children in the Langa community by offering rugby coaching and extra English and Mathematics tuition. Vusa teams this year played in the Skeeles 7s and, through the Busy Bee RFC, hosted both Bishops and Rondebosch.

It's been an exciting season and we thank all our members for their continued support of BRSC and Bishops rugby as we continue to grow our community. We would also like to thank Guy Pearson, the rugby coaches and the school for their continued support of our endeavours and events. prep sides for Saturday morning matches.



Under-12 Bishops vs Vusa/Bus Bees with Bishops coach and Vusa programme coordinator Brendan Fogarty







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MAGICAL MEDICALS AND BISHOPS RUGBY

BY DR GEOFF HUBER



Doctor Geoff Huber has been an integral part of the Bishops rugby family for 10 years. 'Doc' takes us behind the scenes, highlighting the highs and lows that come with having the best seat in the house at all Bishops 1st XV matches.

My Bishops journey began while watching the 2007 Rugby World Cup, when Gareth Hayden (2000), a good friend of my son Alex (who also finished up here in 2000), asked me to join him as team doc for the 1st XV the following year.

'I am not quite sure what to do, but it will be fun, so I am in,' I replied. But little did I know what lay in store for me!

With Dave Mallett in charge, assisted by Kevin Foote and Gaz, I met Gerald Muller who is undoubtedly the best physiotherapist I have worked with. G-unit or Majoli, as we call Gerald, had been at the helm for a long period already and we soon were on the same page when it came to caring for our beloved Bishops rugby boys.

Initially we acted as the 'good cops', treating the boys' bumps, bruises, cuts and broken egos after a heavy

training session. We never undermined our coaches, but tried to treat the boys holistically. At times, the boys needed TLC or cajoling after being (correctly) roasted on the field. A reassuring pat on the shoulder and a few kind words whispered in a battered boy's ears often worked wonders for the 'healing process'.

G and I enjoyed touring, and we got well acquainted with our players by spending hours relating tales and listening to their stories while G was treating on the plinth. More recently, Megan Petrie-Chetty has taken over as physio. She quickly gained confidence, including participating in motivational team-talks – usually after an opposition score with colourful language, but that is understood by our rugby boys!

Rugby and medicine are evolving with emphasis on pre-season conditioning, gym, training, nutrition, etc. The supplement issue continues. I am old-school and tell the boys there is no substitute for hard work and good nutrition. Our only concern is for the players' wellbeing and safety. We demand honesty about how they are feeling and the nature of injuries. We also want our best players on the field, but only provided said players are physically fit and healthy.



We also realise the importance of mental strength and try to help where we can.

Being field-side during matches, we have the advantage of witnessing an injury occurring. We can assess and assist the injured player immediately. This is especially important in concussion incidents. This is a controversial and often ill-understood and mismanaged injury. Our approach follows Boksmart protocol and all our coaches are Boksmart qualified.

Over the years we have had interesting times, stitching boys on the field, behind the posts, in changing rooms, in car parks; applying loads of strapping and Vaseline; plugging bleeding noses; reducing dislocations; giving 'magic green pain pills'; the odd 'jab' for the brave; telling a few white lies... but above all, we have had fun.

Now in my 10th season, each year I get introduced to

a fresh group of players. I enjoy getting to know each player and learning how to motivate the individuals in their own ways.

Istill feel the thrill when we win and the disappointment and pain when we lose. I try to lift them when they are down and keep them humble when they need to be. I will always back our boys. I enjoy watching them mature and following their progress after school, and love being part of the Bishops rugby family. I often get asked what I say to the players, especially the place kickers, on the field... sadly, this is confidential (but often outrageous!).

The horrific injury to our coach, Richard Smith, had a dampening effect on the boys. They realised, the hard way, how life can change in the blink of an eye. They trained hard throughout, however, as they aimed to finish the season on a high in honour of 'Sir'.



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH DON MURRAY



A few years ago, Donovan Murray returned home from a two-year stint abroad, a little unsure of what the future had in store for him. However, a chance meeting with Dave Mallett – at Forries of all places! – gave him a small opportunity and he has not looked back since.

Now Bishops' Estates and Functions Manager, Murray had played some rugby under Dave Mallett at Villager FC and it was that familiarity that saw him land a job under Mallett at Western Province Prep.

'I went straight home – to Forries! – on landing back in Cape Town after two years away, and I bumped into Dave Mallett, who promptly offered me a coaching job at Wet Pups,' says Murray, who, among other duties, tends to all the fields at Bishops – from Lutgensvale to the Piley Rees – and has done a sterling job, despite the tough weather conditions and all the 'traffic' on the fields during the year.

'Dave nudged me to study sport, and he got me into a pilot course at Sports Science, which was later to become ETA. At the same time during my time at Wet Pups, the WPPS grounds started to suffer a bit and between (Deputy Head) Gary Skeeles and (Headmaster) Michael Hosty they pushed me towards

studying horticulture at CPUT. I got stuck in, raised the bar and then Bishops came calling... it was an opportunity I could not turn down.

'I am very grateful for my time at WPPS – I found my passion there in education. I managed to work my way up there, to management level, and although I found myself wearing many hats, I was better off for those experiences.'

Seeing all the time and effort that the Bishops pupils put into their sport brings back nothing but good memories for Murray. He was a very good rugby player himself – at school (at Wynberg Boys' High School) and during his club career at Villager – and he sees the same pride on offer at schoolboy level in 2017, more than 20 years since his schooldays.

'I think we were conditioned and [as] skilled back then and we certainly played with the same pride as now,' enthuses Murray. 'All that has changed now is the introduction of gym, playing to a pattern, having things like BokSmart, coding (analysis), specialist coaches and being able to rely on top-notch medical staff (physio, doctor, dietician)... oh, and don't forget WhatsApp groups,' he adds with a typical chuckle.





















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SKEELES SEVENS







VUSA RUGBY GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



Brendan Fogarty reports back on yet another successful year for the VUSA Rugby Academy, which continues to make its mark and make a difference in the community.

The big news 'off the field' has seen the VUSA Rugby Academy 'twinning' with Busy Bee RFC in Langa and, in the process, we were able to increase the number of teams and we are now able to field two teams in each age group (from Under-9 up to Under-13) in the programme.

Our boys are coached and offered academics by the VUSA coaches and play their games on a Saturday for Busy Bee in the WP Primary Schools League. This has worked brilliantly, with fixtures being played against Bishops Prep, Rondebosch Prep and other club sides and, as a result of this exposure, the standard of rugby has improved tremendously.

Bishops Prep played their fixture at the Langa Stadium and it was a wonderful morning with many of the Bishops community experiencing Langa for the first time. This also gave our sponsors great exposure. We have subsequently partnered with Shoprite-Checkers who have become our official food suppliers!

We were most fortunate to have three of our VUSA students receive scholarships to SACS, one scholar joining in 2017 and two others due to enter Grade Eight in 2018. These three boys are good players

(two have represented WP at the Craven Week) and VUSA has ensured that they have been given private academic tuition to ensure that there is an easier transition between schools. We look forward to their progress and wish them well in their new environment!

VUSA played in the annual Skeeles 7s and proved to be crowd favourites, playing brilliant rugby, while our crèche and physical education programmes offered participants much-needed physical release during the long academic day, and continue to grow. During these sessions, our VUSA coaches were able to identify talent, while also ensuring that the boys remained encouraged to join the rugby programme.

Some wonderful events have taken place this year – all of which have helped put the VUSA Rugby Academy on the map. A visit by Oakham College (UK), the Shoprite boerewors championship, a coaching session with Cambridge University and our annual VUSA Rugby Day – all of these events offered the players wonderful opportunities to experience more than just rugby.

Moving forward, we have a number of new ventures planned as we look to increase our level of involvement in the community. Our senior Busy Bee rugby teams are on the verge of gaining promotion to the Super League B Division in WP's Club Rugby League. The senior team's recent success has resulted from hard



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For more information about Vusa Academy, visit vusarugbyacademy.com



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Out of the Ordinary



work and highlights the talent that resides in the Langa community. They have inspired the youth ranks and we look forward to their continued success!

In 2018, the Bishops College, under the leadership of Angus Firth (OD), will be joining the programme and ensuring a seamless move from our junior ranks (Under-13) to the Under-14 and higher age groups. We are looking forward to Busy Bee RFC – in collaboration with VUSA – becoming a powerhouse of Western Province rugby and leading the way for similar ventures across South Africa.

We have been most fortunate to have Oliver Steynor (OD and ex-WPPS teacher, UCT and False Bay Under-20 coach) join us as part of our VUSA team. His expertise and passion will add massively to the product we offer the boys. Nick Koster (OD, former Stormers star and current Cambridge University student) has become the VUSA ambassador and has been hard at work raising an awareness of the programme.

We are also working on some other exciting ventures. Shortly, 50 kitbags of rugby kit will be landing in Cape Town to be distributed among the senior rugby



sides in Langa. Through the Cambridge network, we are exploring the possibility of creating a mobile computer centre that will operate in the Langa community. This is a very exciting venture, as it will allow our boys to have access to the internet and a number of educational WordPress sites.

Anton Taylor (OD) did a VUSA drive on social media, which raised awareness for VUSA and raised a considerable amount of money in the process. Geoff Brownell (OD) continues to be a wonderful mentor and inspirational figure, offering advice and ensuring that the programme is run on sound business principles.

We would like to encourage people to visit our website, www.vusarugbyacademy.com, for further information and and to find out how to get involved.

Of course, our generous sponsors play a key role in allowing us to implement all of the above, and without them none of this would be possible. Thank you, thank you... thank you!









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BISHOPS PREP SCHOOL RUGBY



Brendan Fogarty, the Master in Charge of rugby at Bishops Prep, looks back at yet another busy rugby season for the next generation of College players.

The annual Skeeles 7s was again this year a resounding success. In fact we now play the Skeeles 7s format across all age groups on the Saturday after the Under-13 7s competition. Different age groups play at our neighbouring schools, SACS, WBJS, RBPS and WPPS. It has proved to be a very popular way of starting the rugby season.

We continue to field close to 55 boys per age group. This allows us to field three full sides with a full bench in the C teams. Our Saturday morning fixtures have been tough, with our boys having to step up and match the bigger schools. At times they have come unstuck, but they have always given their best!

What is most encouraging is that they are back each week, willing to learn and go back into battle. One should never underestimate their resilience and love of this great game. Often only grumpy parents and coaches indicate the state of the scoreboard. After a cool drink and a bun our boys bound off to the next activity full of the joys of life and ready to tackle the next fun adventure, whether a surf at Muizenberg, a mountain-bike ride, a music lesson or even – shock, horror! – a Saturday afternoon detention!

Our rugby coaching continues to develop with Mike Bayly attending practices and sharing his expertise with players and coaches. We place major focus on skills, and boys are encouraged to seek space, pass before contact, offload and pop off the ground. (Rucking is seen as a last resort!) Yes, this style leads to mistakes, but when executed well leads to such joy and excitement, with the ball moving from end to end with deft touches, sleight of hand and clever running lines – the way rugby should be played!

We do need our boys to learn some resilience; they grow up in a sheltered environment with much of what we grew up doing being done for them (chores, walking to school, cycling to a mate's house, earning pocket money). Rugby has that ability to build a toughness, a resilience by harnessing the natural urge to rough and tumble. Our parents need to allow their children to experience disappointment, allow coaches to reprimand and allow the game to test them physically and emotionally.

The way rugby is coached at many schools has changed. Recent articles in newspapers and on social media attest to this. Junior pupils now play rugby in February in preparation for the season, pre-season tours and camps. One needs to ask who benefits from this – the players, the coaches' egos, the old boys or the schools' reputations?

A recent study has highlighted the sudden increase in specialisation at junior-school level, with players focusing on rugby only. This is totally against what the experts are saying in the world of Sports Science. They tell us that a multidisciplinary approach to sport

is of maximum benefit to our players.

We at Bishops believe in this model and our boys regularly take part in rugby, hockey and cross country and are involved culturally! Imagine your Under-13A prop singing in the choir and missing a rugby practice to be part of the Bishops Pops?

In my opinion, it is this very multifaceted approach to our boys' education that makes Bishops the excellent institution it is!

Long may our Prep boys love this great game, long may they learn valuable life lessons and, above all,

















A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROFESSIONAL

BY HOWARD KAHN



Top-level rugby players have to deal with life after rugby at some point. OD Martin Muller has shown how being proactive can put you in a strong position, even while still playing the game we love so much.

After an impressive first-class career in South Africa, which saw him play Super Rugby for the Stormers, the Cheetahs and the Lions, the powerful lock forward now finds himself based in Hong Kong.

Yes, he is playing rugby. But, more importantly, the 29-year-old has been handed a great employment opportunity which sees him balance life as a semi-professional rugby player for Valley RFC while working in the corporate world.

Speaking from his new home in Hong Kong, Muller, who matriculated from Bishops in 2006, explains: 'I've had a few injuries these past few years, which saw me miss about half my rugby over the past five seasons. There was always a time for me to look at

the transition – from rugby into a "real" life – and I thought Hong Kong would be the ideal place for me to do so.'

An extra attraction in choosing Hong Kong as his next 'stop' was the presence of a raft of former UCT teammates – some of whom have even represented their adopted country at international level.

'Guys like Matt Rosslee and Dylan Rogers are playing for Hong Kong and one or two more might join them in the mix very soon, but my plan wasn't to come here to play (full-time) professional rugby, so we will have to see about that.

'That said, I would qualify in two and a half years' time... so a lot could still happen before then.'

One thing is certain, however – Muller plans on enjoying himself in his new home. He says: 'The club I play at (Valley) is a rather eclectic bunch of guys and girls – guys I know from back home, some other guys

A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROFESSIONAL

from Johannesburg and Durban I'd not met before and even a few Irish lads who waltz around calling everyone "boet"!

'Aside from the rugby, there is always something going on here – a five-a-side tournament, a birthday junk... you name it. Apart from that, Hong Kong has a surprising range of outdoorsy stuff to do, so I go on the odd hike and spend the day at the beach quite often.'

You have to go back quite a few years to find out where it all began for Martin Muller – as you would for any OD who has played 'big' rugby since leaving school.

He looks back at his time on the Piley Rees with much fondness, saying: 'I remember sitting outside on the Ogilvie benches, discussing what happened over the past weekend and shouting at the cars going by... always a good laugh.

'The 2006 rugby side was something really special, not just as far as results went, but also the way we played together. We had a really close group of friends at school and we still keep in contact regularly. You will be lucky if 30 minutes goes by without someone posting something on our WhatsApp group!'

Muller's rugby travels, however, have taken him places since those heady days on the Piley Rees.

It all began in the blue and white hoops at Western Province, which saw him debut for the Stormers in 2009 – despite not having played in a Currie Cup match, before he packed his bags for Kimberley – where he played for Griquas, and then the Cheetahs in Super Rugby. A stint in Johannesburg followed, from 2014 until 2016, and an undoubted highlight was his selection for the legendary British Barbarians towards the end of his stint with the Lions.

'There were so many UCT boys at Griquas when I got there, it made it very easy to adjust,' recalls Muller, who moved to Kimberley at the end of the 2010 season. 'At the time I arrived, there was at least one guy from Bishops, Rondebosch, SACS and Wynberg respectively!

'I also really loved my time in Johannesburg, both rugby-wise and socially. The Lions really have an incredible vibe – probably the closest feeling I've had to when I played with all my mates in the 2006 Bishops side. Johan Ackermann has been the chief reason behind that. His ability to understand and get the best out of his players is what has led to the Lions' success of the last few years.

'Looking back at my time at Western Province, being a young guy in the team, I was probably not as assertive on the field as I should have been. Having said that, Province had an abundance of talent at lock at the time and leaving to experience different parts of the country was really enlightening and something I'm

happy to have done.'

Another source of happiness on the field for Muller was his involvement in UCT's inaugural Varsity Cup campaign in 2008, which helped catapult him into the Stormers set-up just a year later.

However, the Varsity Cup also allowed him to kick off his tertiary studies ('I started off doing a Business – Bishops – Science degree,' he jokes), before completing a BCom in business management through Unisa.

'My dad always encouraged me to get something behind my name,' he says, 'I'm glad I did, and it's now aided me in the next phase of my life as I start to make the transition from the rugby field to the real world.'

And this transition could see fewer trips back to the Mother City, although Muller does keep in touch with Bishops rugby via the internet.

'I particularly enjoyed the St Andrew's result this year, living with an Old Andrean (in Tiger Bax) at the moment,' he laughs.

'I was back in Cape Town in March for a friend's wedding (OD, Mike Pearce). But unfortunately, the trips will probably become a bit more sporadic, for the short-term at least.

'I can see myself being in Hong Kong for at least the next five years, getting a bit more work experience. After that, who knows? Ideally, I would want to end up back in Cape Town, but it's hard to say when that will happen.'



THE OD RUGBY CONNECTION

BY HOWARD KAHN



Wes Chetty and Graham Knoop finished their schooling at Bishops during the same era – blissfully unaware of one another at the time, and none the wiser that their paths would cross on the rugby field a few years later and for seasons to come.

While Chetty came to Bishops via Rondebosch Boys' High School and was a member of the all-conquering 2006 Bishops 1st XV, Knoop Jnr – the youngest of three brothers to attend Bishops – was something of a late bloomer on the rugby field.

They definitely did not know one another very well while at school. Their rugby paths eventually first crossed at UCT, especially at Varsity Cup level, but the past few seasons have seen the two of them play a lot more rugby together in the green, red and white of False Bay – the 2016 Super League A champions and Gold Cup runners-up – and a friendship has been built through many hours of blood, sweat and tears.

Chetty says: 'Graham always tells me that he spent most of his rugby days on the Avenue and the "Lut". I think he did most of his growing after school, whereas I was pretty much fully grown by Grade 11!'

Knoop cannot contain himself, adding with a wide grin: 'I can confidently say that there is no other player I've played more rugby with.'

A 'fully-grown' Wes Chetty was a committed UCT rugby man for the most part of his post-school rugby

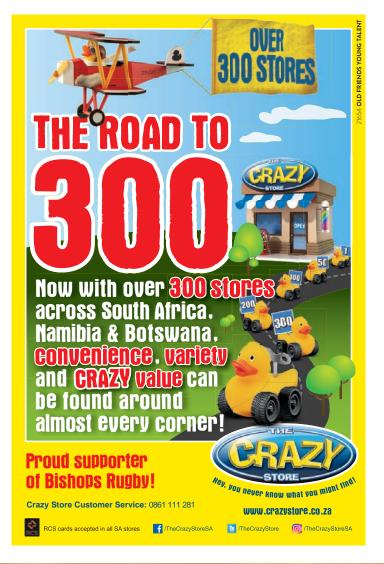
career, which saw him play for the Ikeys at Under-21 level before graduating to the senior ranks and Varsity Cup rugby under fellow OD John Dobson.

Chetty, part of the (first-ever) UCT Varsity Cup-winning team of 2011, chuckles: 'Heck, I loved the Varsity Cup, so much so that I played in five campaigns!

'The Varsity Cup allowed me to play with some of my best mates such as Nick Fenton-Wells, Greg Mallett and Graham (Snoops) – to name just a few of them. It's a great stepping stone from a rugby point of view, but it's also great because you are able to study towards that education you need for life after rugby.

'Travelling around the country every week and playing on TV... it was awesome for us young guys, and to have done so with your best mates made it even better. The tournament has definitely changed; I reckon it's a lot more professional in terms of how the teams prepare. However, with the new studying rules, I do think teams are not as strong as they were... but, having said that, it's definitely what the competition needs in order to make sure students are the main priority.'

Knoop also got his taste of Varsity Cup action – being part of three squads and featuring prominently in 2012 – and he also rates the experience as a memorable one. However, it was his experience of the SARU Gold Cup that he rates as the highlight of his rugby career.



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Says Knoop: 'After taking part in the Gold Cup, I have a simple message for any club rugby player: "You want to experience it (the Gold Cup)".

'Our team philosophy was to enjoy every experience and make the most of every opportunity. On and off the field we certainly did just that, creating lifelong memories and mates

'It's an old cliché, but I believe it's been False Bay's off-field success that has led to its success on it. Above everything else, the False Bay committee has created a sustainable product and environment, which is built on self-sacrificing workers, people who simply get jobs done.

'Beyond that, the club and its committee have an "all-teams' focus". It's short-sighted to think that a club's success hinges on its 1st XV. Any true club man will tell you it's your seconds, thirds, fourths, fifths and Under-20 teams that make up a club.'

Chetty turned 30 earlier this year and is currently working his way back to fitness after a shoulder operation. He has no plans to give up the game just

yet. Knoop, who turns 30 in September, is in no rush to hang up the boots either, saying: 'As long as I'm still enjoying it and the body stays intact, I will keep playing.'

Knoop adds: 'I've kept playing the game because I love it... that shouldn't stop – no matter what.'

Chetty agrees with his False Bay teammate when asked about the love of the game, but he admits that 'the body has started to creak a bit'.

As two proud ODs still playing and clearly still enjoying the game of rugby – and with both involved in coaching at schoolboy level – the obvious question has to be asked about where the game of schoolboy rugby is heading, and in particular where it leaves Bishops rugby.

Knoop didn't follow the 'normal' route of only playing A-team and 1st XV rugby during his schooldays but went on to play at senior level for Western Province, and he admits: 'It's great to see that Bishops continues to focus on producing Bishops matriculants who happen to play rugby, and not the other way round. One can clearly see the focus is on developing the boys and not just results. It should be like that.

'From a general schoolboy rugby perspective it's



refreshing to see the position Wynberg has taken by assigning a coach a four-year role with an Under-15A team. The coach works with the same team from Under-15 up until matric. Yes, it has its pros and cons, but in an era of rugby where school players are purchased by some schools (let's not beat around the bush), it's a great competitive structure that allows one to compete with today's schools' rugby budgets and recruitment programmes.'

Chetty adds his two cents' worth: 'I think Bishops rugby will always be Bishops rugby – a brand everybody wants to play and a brand that everybody wants to beat! Our philosophy will stay, I am sure with a couple of tweaks here and there to adapt to the modern game!

'Schoolboy rugby is getting more professional. I mean, some of these teams are playing 40-odd games a year and yes, to an extent we have to go that way as well, but it's very important that we keep our identity and never compromise on that. If we can do that, Bishops rugby will always be successful and continue to produce the players we do.'

And Chetty, as a committed and long-time member of the Bishops 1st XV coaching staff, knows he has a big role to play in the development of Bishops players – both on and off the field.



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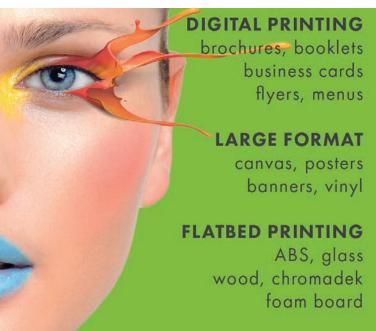
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THE LAST WORD

BY JOHN DOBSON



We won a final recently – and I say that as if it happens every day, which clearly it doesn't – in which we made 286 tackles. We also had less possession, kicked more, and gave away more penalties. Yet we won 28-19. By all accounts I should be thoroughly ashamed of myself.

A highly respected rugby journalist (for such a thing does exist, like the quaggas below Rhodes memorial), gave me some alarming statistics of the last three years of Super Rugby. In the really 'talkto' games, or the ones between the so-called 'big teams', ie excluding the likes of the Sunwolves, the Rabbles, the 'Force' and the Bulls, over 75% of the winning teams made more tackles, kicked more and had less possession, and gave away more penalties.

This is simply tragic and I can almost hear Basil Bey pushing his grave rotator button to get that started.

I know there are lies, damned lies and statistics. When I first heard that quote I thought they were talking about that wretched course they make you do at Varsity, which is one, much like a Hillbrow brothel, to be avoided at all costs. I also know that the statistics can be skewed, as circumstances change when one team is chasing a game, but if these stats were accurate we might as well give up now. Certainly at Bishops we can replace the hallowed Piley Rees with the Piley Rees Equestrian Centre, the Home of Bishops Show Jumping and Eventing, as there will be no place for rugby as we know it at the College.



The legendary Fairy Heatlie, the WG Grace of Bishops and probably South African rugby, donator of our national jersey and to my father's horror part-time fraudster, was not so nicknamed because of his predilection for The Amsterdam action bar or the steam parlours of Green Point, but because, despite being a massive forward (about 5 foot 10 and less than 100kg, which in those days rendered you a giant), he was so light of foot and in love with the running game for which we became revered.

The tradition of running at our school is one of the proudest in South African rugby. So engrained and so entrenched is it in the fabric of Bishops society – up there with the chapel bells (whose names I'll have to be reminded of) and the proud tradition of fetching your boy no more than three metres from his house – that the sport would be almost not worth playing were you forced to subscribe to the statistics I talk about above. Yet we have to win. One of the great tragedies of rugby – and I suspect lots of aspects of other sports and business – is that winning breeds joy, love, happiness and burgeoning kitties. But to win like this?

There is a reason for the likes of Fiji and Tonga (why can't we tour there; it must be very pleasant as a coach to do so, although probably less so as a player given the decapitation risks?) not dominating world rugby – despite having massive and highly skilled backs. I appreciate rugby's neocolonialism has seen them ravaged and pillaged and forced to play on the wing for things like Clermont, Worcester and France – as well as compulsory national service in every New Zealand team – but the reason they win sweet nothing is that they simply do not have the forward prowess.

Yet at the same time, were we to see winning as the sole object of school rugby, we would be committing rugby hara-kiri and condemning ourselves to mediocrity. And this is what the parents and old boys, who are so often guilty of chronic parental overreach, must realise.

I know that more than anything else you need to beat Wynberg, SACS, Paul Roos and Brackenfell, or whoever is the next devil incarnate, but if you demand of a coach that he do so at any expense you are, to a degree, depriving your son of a future and bread on his table. Because then the coach will not have the time nor the space to teach your son skill. He can only teach a pattern or a defence system to hold out the invading Tygerberg hordes. Should you go to watch a school game in New Zealand, the old boys or parents are not baying for Auckland Grammar's blood or heads on the stake. They want to see skillful, attractive rugby and I have no doubt that that is why the All Blacks are the finest rugby team since the thirsty Lions of 1974. If you have a prop like Oliver Kebble (OD), who can make a 30-yard pass to his right, then you add so much skill and width to an attack that it is very hard to defend. If all young Oliver

can do is tuck, like his father Guy (OD), then we are in trouble. The challenge to them is to upskill players and try to play rugby the way it should be played in heaven, not make 286 tackles and satisfy all the 'stakeholders'.

I'm sure when we were all growing up, playing rugby in the garden with our brothers and sisters and the newspaper delivery man, we didn't chuck them the ball so that we could defend for 12 phases. I think we felt happier with the ball in the hands, a smile on our face and a sister to run down upon? Of course, this is a tricky balancing act.

A former Springbok coach, who may or may not be related to the Master in Charge of rugby, told me the days of passing the ball up and down, and then doing a dummy switch to send a whole lot of Paarlites running into the stands, are long gone.

Sadly that is true, but we also have to stay true to our DNA and Basil Bey and the boys' long-term development, so I think we need to afford them some space which, like so much in rugby and life, is by far the most important thing.

OD John Dobson is, among other things, a published author. And a rugby coach.







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