

# MOSMAN JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# COMMITTEE 2020

PRESIDENT	Luke Hartman
SECRETARY	Andrew Brown
TREASURER	Henry Bateman
SPONSORS & GIRLS COORDINATOR	Nathan Davis
REGISTRARS	Erika Von Arnim
	Mark Whittingham
GEAR STEWARD	Nik Ruparel
COACHING COORDINATOR	Paul Bellantonio
REPS COORDINATOR	Dave Scammell
GROUNDS COORDINATOR	Belinda Sharp
REFEREES COORDINATOR	Rob McKay
EVENTS & FACILITIES COORDINATOR	Emily Raper
WEBSITE & COMMS	Emily Raper
MINIS COORDINATOR	Drew Stores
U6s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Lucy Bowman
U7s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Mark Owens
U8s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Lauren Jones
U9s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Connor Farrell
U10s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Alex Chadban
U11s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Ed Abbott
U12s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Adam Beverley-Smith
U13s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Peter Folkes
U14s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Ron Hodge
U15s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Grant Whatley
U16s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR	Rob McKay
DIRECTOR OF COACHING	Nick Bousie
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER	Steve Smith

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# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020**

2020 has certainly been a year to remember for MJRC.

Navigating through the uncertainty of COVID-19, adapting to social distancing rules, and adjusting to the 'new normal' that we all find ourselves in. It has been challenging, however, Mosman Junior Rugby club was able to adapt and rise to these challenges and have a very successful 2020.

A great deal of hard work and planning went into this year's season, and without the efforts of our Committee, and all of our volunteer coaches and AGCs, we would have been unable to get our kids back on the field to play for Mosman Junior Rugby Club this season once Government rules allowed.

I would like to thank Club Secretary Andrew Brown for being our nominated COVID officer to deal with this ever changing COVID environment and for advising our Committee on how to comply with COVID rules and regulations. I would also like to thank our parent group and supporters for following these rules and regulations and the support of the Committee and myself for pushing ahead with rugby trainings and then getting back to the regular season. A massive positive out of this year has been that we have started "live streaming" all Junior games at Rawson Oval on Friday Nights and Sunday mornings. A big thanks to Mark Evans for organising this for MJRC and for his amusing and exciting commentary. We had viewers from as far away as Dubai, London, Memphis, LA and country Qld and Vic.

Despite the challenges of the season it has been one of the most successful to date for the club. Below are some highlights.

- 1. Registrations numbers have grown 10% from 2019 year on year. We are now one of the largest Minis and Junior Rugby Clubs in Australia. Erika Von Arnim does an amazing job working with all age groups to ensure our registrations and compliance with SJRU rules.
- 2. MJRC girls tackle sevens program is up and running with teams in u 12/14/16. This is so pleasing to see our Girls program developing so quickly and a major opportunity for growth in registration numbers.
- 3. MJRC is providing fantastic coaches for our club via our "coach the coaches sessions" and provision of external coaches in the older age groups u 13+
- 4. MJRC has created a volunteer culture with more and more parents involved in all areas of the club in 2020. Especially our BBQ and Canteen volunteers led by Emily Raper.
- 5. Skill development of our players from Mini thru to Juniors is continuing to improve
- 6. Strong Mini player numbers. Minis are the future of MJRC and a big focus of the 2020 committee to get the experience right for players and parent group
- 7. Retention of players in our u 13/14/15 age groups by offering coaching structures which grow the skills of our players.
- 8. Our Referee Program led by Rob McKay is unique to Mosman and provides a pathway for young refs to get involved in the game. MJRC had its first female ref with Charlotte Sparkes this year.

MJRC is one of the largest rugby clubs in Australia with 45 teams playing in 2020. We have been fortunate to have Nick Bousie as our Director of Coaching in 2020. Nick has been instrumental in improving the clubs coaching structures and has done a fantastic job in providing programs and mentoring to our volunteers and paid coaches across all age groups. Big thank you to Nick for a job well done over the past year.

I would also like to thank Nathan Davis who Managed the Girls Rugby program. The "Tiger Sharks" skills and playing numbers continue to go from strength to strength. Our girls are performing very well in all age groups u 12/14/16. We also have an extremely dedicated coaching group in our girls program. Nick Higgins was awarded Girls coach of the year in 2020. Girls Rugby is a major opportunity to grow playing numbers at Mosman and continue to be a big focus of the club.

Our Minis benefited greatly from the committees focus on coaching and skill development. I would like to thank Mini Co-ordinator Drew Stores for his hard work in co-ordinating the Minis program. Playing numbers were the largest they have been for some time. We have a wonderful group of u 6/7 age groups who are developing a love of rugby. There

were no Gala days for our u 8/9 this year due to COVID, however both these age groups are very strong and will provide a great cohort of players coming into the Junior program in coming years. This will enable Mosman to continue to be one of the few clubs to field 3 teams in the u 10/11 age groups. Henry Bateman (Club Treasurer) was also Coach of the Year for our Minis in 2020. Its passionate and commitment to his u 9 team was apparent for all to see.

Due to COVID there were no Finals for our junior teams this year. Mosman played however in the 10A/11A/12A SJRU competition. We also field 3 teams in our u 10 and u 11 age groups. Two teams in u 12 and one team in U13/14/15 age groups. Our U16 players were part of a Vikings JV. Mosman Junior Rugby continues to attract and retain significant numbers of players across all age groups.

I am very proud of the way that MJRC junior teams found a way to train during the COVID lock down and continue fitness and skill developments. It is also fantastic to see the retention of players into our older age groups. Our Juniors are fortunate to be led by a fantastic group of talented coaches.

The Juniors coach of the year was the u 12 Whales Coach and NSJRU president and MJRC committee member – Dave Scammell. Dave is a passionate and driven coach. He loves a scrum machine and hard work. Over the years Dave has been heavily involved in coaching multiple age groups and we thank him for all his dedication to MJRC.

The Club coach of the year was the u 13 Whales Assistant Coach – Paul Dearlove. Paul has coached this team for the past few season and done a wonderful job developing these players. He has a considered approach to coaching and drives for excellence. He has passed on his years of experience as a player to these boys. We are very fortunate to have him as a coach at MJRC.

I would like to also congratulate the Clubman of the Year for 2020 – Nathan Davis.

Nathan Davis is not only a member of the MJRC Committee, Nathan is our Girls Rugby Co-ordinator and Sponsorship Manager. Nathan energy is unbelievable and infectious. You can see him bouncing around on training nights and on the side lines with a big smile and plenty of enthusiasm. He has helped drive the Girls Rugby 7's for the past two years. In his role as Sponsorship Manager, Nathan is relentless in managing these relationships and ensuring that our club remains financially strong.

I would also like to mention some long serving retiring committee members who have provided so much support to MJRC over the years.

- Sarah Allsopp
- Adam Beverley Smith AGC U12.
- Mark Whittingham Minis Registrations

MJRC is so fortunate to also have such generous sponsors (please refer to the Sponsorship report). To all our Sponsors, I would like to say a big thank you for your support of MJRC. Without your sponsorship our players would not have the high quality of coaches and facilities that we do at Mosman. A special mention to our Jersey Sponsors – Raywhite, InvestSmart, Richard Crookes Construction, Harris Farm and Sydney Slice.

This is my final report as President of MJRC. A club I proudly played with as a minis player in the 1980's. I have found that being a part of MJRC committee has been especially rewarding this year. Thank you to everyone for their dedication, effort and support of this club. It is such a wonderful community and I am so proud to be involved. I wish the new committee in 2021 the best of luck and I can't wait to see what MJRC can achieve in the year ahead.

Go the whales and see you on the sidelines in 2021.

Luke Hartman PRESIDENT 2020

# **REGISTRAR'S REPORT 2020**

As expected, the 2020 winter season was greatly impacted by COVID-19. Despite the issues and the shortened season, the players, parents and club all still managed to have an incredible time once it got underway again, resulting in a successful season overall.

The 4<sup>th</sup> MJRC Try Rugby Day, scheduled to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020, was rained out, and due to COVID restrictions thereafter was unable to be rescheduled. This greatly impacted the uptake of our registrations, especially for the 'new' families who like to come and see what MJRC is about before signing up. Overall registration in our younger age groups (U6 particularly) was very slow to begin with, but ended in a similar ball park to previous years.

Rugby Xplorer was again utilised as the registration system and game management system for the Juniors XVs competition throughout the year. A smoother registration process being the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of use.

The season was officially due to commence on the weekend of 27/28/29th March 2020 but this was pushed back until COVID restrictions allowed contact sport again on weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Training was a staged return resuming for fitness and no-contact training in early June returning to full training in July when the competition resumed.

Initially due to COVID we had a lag in registration numbers, but after school sport and other activities were heavily affected by restrictions, we saw a pick up in numbers. Parents advised they wanted their kids to get game time and they no longer had the clash with school sport. This was particularly evident in the U12 to U15 age groups who are normally affected by school sport on a larger scale.

The final numbers of registrations for 2020 are shown in Table 1 below.

	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	Girls*	Boys Spring 7s	Total
2020	31	42	48	48	47	43	50	28	30	29	4	91	70	561
2019	40	36	46	45	41	49	39	37	31	15	0	35	12	426
2018	28	43	51	47	53	42	39	32	28	29	2	41		435
2017	36	44	48	68	52	53	46	45	29	16	0	69		506
2016	44	44	78	65	66	51	58	40	25	29	5	96		601

#### Table 1 – Total Registration numbers for 2020 and previous years' comparison

In total there were 561 registered players in 2020. This was split by:

- 169 players Minis (U6 to U9)
- 213 players Juniors (U10 to U15)
- 91 players Tackle 7s girls (within the Sizzling, Frosty & Spring 7s comps)
- 70 players Tackle 7s boys (for the Spring 7s comp as @30/10/20)

Unlike previous years, a formal girls winter touch competition was not run this year.

The Minis fielded 16 teams and the Junior boys had 11 teams in the XVs Competition in 2020. Our U16 Boys joined a JV with Forest as we had 4 interested players and the grandfathered Shoreman team did not go ahead.

The Girls 7s fielded a total of 8 MJRC teams in 3 different 7s competitions:

3 teams in the Sizzling 7s competition (U12, U14 &  $\underline{16}$ )

3 teams in the Frosty 7s competition (2x U12 and 1x U14)

2 teams in the Spring 7s competition (1x U12 and 1x 14)

The U16s played in a JV for Frosty and Spring 7s with Forest. So there were no Mosman teams for this age group in these comps, but there were players.

#### MINIS

In the Minis this year, U/6 had a total of 31 players broken into 3 teams. This was only 4 players down from the previous year, and tremendous result given the COVID environment the club was up against. Under 7 had a total of 42 players broken into 4 teams, again only 3 players down from the previous year. Under 8 had a total of 48 players broken into 5 teams, the same figure as the previous year, and Under 9, 48 players broken into 4 teams, again the same number as the previous year. Taking into account these figures, MJRC once again was able to put forward the largest Mini's Sydney based club.

The SJRU rule for U7s player wishing to play up in U8s, by completing a mandatory dispensation form, was implemented and followed well this year. Having the AGC support and understanding assisted greatly. 12 players selected to play 'up'. All parents completed the necessary forms. However, this is a large contingent to consider moving forward especially as they approach U10 and U11s, with the introduction of representative development squads.

#### JUNIORS – XVs Competition

In the Juniors, there were 231 registrations for the winter XVs competition. An overall increase of 1 player from 2019. This was seen across all age groups, however it was mainly felt in our U15s (having to form a JV in order to field a team) and the lack of any U16s team.

Despite COVID-related issues with the season, SJRU mandated further Rugby Xplorer processes be followed for the Juniors XVs winter competition, making a significant increase in Xplorer Admin required as it is a manual process to select all teams, and to check Managers, ARs and Ground Marshalls accreditations and to add them individually to correct teams.

Early on in the year, capping some Junior squad numbers became an issue, and this continued for some age groups (namely U12 and above) as they struggle with too many players for 1 (or 2 teams) but not enough for a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> team. This was also compounded by increase in interest and numbers in these age groups due to lack of school sport and less school clashes/less injuries during COVID restrictions. Would recommend setting Club guidelines for this for future years for consistency and transparency.

MJRC continues to have a good working relationship with SJRU, with constant open dialogue with the SJRU Competition Managers (John Glen and Andrew Hutton). Over all SJRU did a great job running the competition, making all necessary grade/draw/zone changes multiple times in accordance with the ever-changing Government regulations, and maintaining game standards, considering the affect COVID-19 had on the resources at NSW Rugby.

#### Grading:

Initial grading was requested as per Table 2 below, however due to COVID-19, all community sport was moved to a 'zoned' competition and changed several times to comply with government regulations.

SJRU advised initially that they will continue to grade A and B grade comps, and be allocating the remaining teams into regionally based competitions. But with changing Government regulations, most 'grades' and competitions were again changed to zones, with the exception of our U10 A grade team, who remained largely in their original draw.

The final 'zoned' competitions meant that some of our teams who have traditionally been graded highly, were in a more competitive competition and in turn, increased the enthusiasm and enjoyment experienced by players, coaches and parents. This coupled with the decreased distanced travelled was very well received by all.

There were some 'three-way' games scheduled for our U11 Sharks (Orange Zone) to accommodate an uneven ladder, and was created to ensure no team had a bye and missed out playing for even one weekend. Some parents provided

feedback to say this was not their preferred way forward should the need for it again occur, as the team who needed to play 2 games back to back, were often far too exhausted by the time the second (fresh) team begin playing and they ended the day being beaten by much larger margains and did nothing for team morale, despite possibly winning the first game.

Note: Suggest requesting no higher than B grade for any of our Whales teams, with the exception possibly of this year's U10s. Individual conversations with each AGC need to be held prior to submitting requested grades with SJRU. This was not done well prior to submission this year. SJRU also gave submissions precedence over performance (for example; when Seaforth U11B won their comp in 2019, were given B grade again after they requested that grade, despite the wider understanding they would immediately be taken up a grade after winning that competition the previous year).

Team	Requested Grade (Based on 2019 performance)	Initial Grade allocated by SJRU	Re-zoned by SJRU for COVID regulations	Ladder placing*
U10 Whales	А	A	Red Zone	2/8
U10 Dolphins	E	Green	Green Zone	3/15
U10 Sharks	Lowest	Orange	Orange Zone	4/15
U11 Whales	А	A	A/B	3/11
U11 Dolphins	E	Green	Green Zone	2/14
U11 Sharks	Lowest	Orange	Orange Zone	1/14
U12 Whales	А	А	A/B	4/10
U12 Dolphins	G/H	Green	Green Zone	3/10
U13 Whales	C/D	Blue	Aqua Zone	3/6
U14 Whales	С	Blue	Green Zone	3/16
U15 Whales	D	Red	Green Zone	3/8

#### Table 2 – Junior Grades per age group:

\*Ladder placing is not accurate due to the number of draw and grade changes. Rugby Xplorer still shows teams in the multiple grades played and none of the ladders have been accurately updated by SJRU to reflect all changes made.

# SJRU Size for Age:

SJRU mandated that all Junior player's height and weight needed to be verified by the President or Registrar for each club, after it was noted that some clubs last season had not input the correct data, which affected the Size for Age process and meant some players were not flagged for assessment as they should have been.

After the purchase of a height machine, all player's data was taken at their respective training sessions in the 2 weeks leading up to the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. With the help of some parent volunteers each evening, I was able to have the players come in one at a time to take their data. The Girls 7s were also measured, with girls coming one at a time, to respect the fact they may not want their details shared out loud. It should be noted that some of the boys were also sensitive to this process. I would suggest that measurements be taken in an area where players can enter one at a time, or data is not called out in front of all the team.

MJRC had no players who were above the height and weight parameters, but did have 3 players who were below the height and weight parameters. Given the changed season due to COVID, no mandatory assessments were undertaken to my knowledge.

#### Juniors Incidents and Injury report:

MJRC had 2 yellow cards and 0 red cards logged against players throughout this season. Yellow cards were in 1x U12 and 1x U14 Boys.

No serious injuries reported in Xplorer. This continues to be a major concern with the Xplorer registration system as all suspected concussions that did occur during the season were not properly reported, nor was a serious injury that occurred in the U15s on Sunday 30 August, resulting in major knee surgery. There was also one documented case of a concussion and all appropriate return-to-play processes were followed with a successful return to rugby for the player in the U13s.

This is an aspect that the Club needs to keep in mind moving forward. Suggest the Club keep an injury register to monitor concussions and return to play protocols, in accordance with our home-ground First Aid reports to capture both home and away issues.

No players were required to appear before the SJRU Judiciary this season. The U10s had an altercation brought before the Judiciary, due to parent and official behaviour at a match against the U10 Blacktown team, at their home ground. At the time of this report, the incident (whilst initially addressed by SJRU) has not been before the Judiciary and has not received a final outcome. One MJRC U10 parent is awaiting final ruling on his part in this altercation.

#### Finals:

No Finals rounds were held this year, due to the shortened COVID affected season. SJRU's policy was to get as many games and as much game time for all players as possible. This meant that having any Finals rounds, whereby teams are eliminated and cannot play, was not included.

#### PRESENTATION DAY:

Again, due to COVID restrictions an official presentation day was not held.

The committee had decided to continue with Awards and Team Photos this season, as it was decided that these mementos are important for the kids, some of whom had missed out on so much this year already. Team photos were booked for the last main home-game day in the season for both the minis and the Juniors.

Andrew Brown, Club Secretary, negotiated a new digital-only package with the current photographer, Advanced Image, reducing the club cost significantly. In keeping with COVID restrictions, team photos were split into two separate days:

• Minis Photo Day at Balmoral on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

This enabled the flow of people for social distancing, and was met with a pleased parent body, many saying this new format worked well, especially on a day were most teams had a home game at Balmoral. Photographs were taken outside, and the flow of teams in and out worked well. Mini team managers were given their team trophies and all held their own small team presentation at a time suitable to each team.

• Juniors & Girls Photo Day at Rawson on Sunday 20th September

Team photos were taken in the Rawson clubhouse. Scheduling was a bit tricky given 4 teams had a home games at Rawson that day, and 5 teams had to juggle away games with photos at Rawson (an additional 4 teams had no game on Sunday as they had played on Friday night or Saturday). The Boys U14s & Boys U16 JV players chose not to have an official team photo. The referees were also unable to have a photo on this day due to their officiating schedule on the day.

Juniors team Mangers were all given their medals and trophies at the time of team photos, with many teams then holding their own small presentation at the end of their game (as this was the final round in their season).

A special mention and thank you must be made to Sydney Awards and Trophies, who were able to turn around the majority of the work ordered in 2 weeks (normally a 6 week lead time is required). They continue to be very supportive of the club and were willing to add medals/trophies last minute as required.

The 2020 award recipients are shown in Table 3 below:

#### Table 3

Team	Most Valuable Player	Most Improved Player	Other Awards **
U8 Dolphins	Evie Brown	Henry Whelan	
U8 Marlins	Conrad Barbour	Jude Denny	
U8 Sharks	Felix Yamamoto	Archie Montgomery	
U8 Stingrays	Tom Gale	Alfred Yu	
U8 Whales	Will Dixon	Will Broomhead	
U9 Dolphins	Tom Bentley	James Lewis-Enwright	
U9 Sharks	Fred Tyson	James Winter	
U9 Stingrays	Thomas Paki	Oliver Farrell	
U9 Whales	Alexander O'Brien	Charlie Wilkins	
U10 Whales	Will Hadfield	Monty Douglass	Hugo Higgins (Spirit of Rugby) Saxon Smith (Coaches & Players Player)
U10 Dolphins	Monty Hartman	Toby Foote	Oscar Buckley (Players Player)
U10 Sharks	William Chee	Henry Keen	Scotch O'Connor (Players Player
U11 Whales	Austin Durrant	Oliver Mott & Micholas Rosser	Finn Hannon (Players Player)
U11 Dolphins	Baxter Richie	Aidan Kurtis	none awarded
U11 Sharks	William Heiler	Thomas Seve	Valentine Aubin (Players Player)
U12 Whales	Alexander Kerr	Lachlan Longes	none awarded
U12 Dolphins	Tobias Pearce	Lachland McRae	Charlie North (Players Player)
U13 Whales	Oliver Hekking (Forwards) Oliver Edwards (Backs)	Samuel Wiles	none awarded
U14 Whales	Alexander Smith	Sebastian Zukerman	Tom Hartman (Best & Fairest)
U15 Whales	Hamish Long	Fraser Wait	none awarded
U12 Tiger Sharks	Charlotte Sparks	Chloe Webb & Pippa Harrison	Olianna Tighe (Players Player)
U14 Tiger Sharks	Mabel Oxenham	Scarlett Martyr	Chloe Allsopp (Players Player)
U16 JV	Claudia Bowen (also received Players Player)	Dominique Doust	Stefani Stewart (Spirit of Rugby)

NB: The Boys U16 JV team did not award any special awards this year due to the JV nature of the Squad.

\*\*Some teams requested to provide additional awards, a 'Coaches' award or 'Spirit of Rugby' allowing individual coaches to have the ability to recognise a few more players, if the circumstances required. We feel this is a great motivational tool, and hope it will encourage players, particularly in the grades that are less competitive to return to the game in the following season.

A special presentation was made by coaches/managers to players who had played 100 Games with the Club (shown in Table 4) as at the end of the 2020 season. 25 boys in total were presented with this plaque in 2020.

#### Table 4 - 100 Games Awards

100 Games									
U15	U14 U13 U12		U11						
Fraser Wait	Alex Segaert	Byron Bottomley	Aidan Soutter	George Scammell	Austin Durrant				
Hamish			Alexander						
Lawson	Adam Tubbs	Alex Ramsay	Kerr	Jack Clarke					
Hamish Long		Max Garner	Austin Short	Jack Short					
Will Fox-Smith			Charlie North	Jack Whittingham					
			Daniel Hunt	Lachlan Longes					
			Daniel Tubbs	Oliver Allsopp					
			Finn Bailey	Sebastian O'Brien					

A big thank you to the many AGCs, Team Managers, and countless volunteers for their time and efforts in learning the Xplorer system, gaining their accreditations for volunteer roles and for assisting in all aspects of MJRC throughout the season. We couldn't run this competition without their assistance.

A huge thank you also to Mark Whittingham for all his assistance with the Mini's Registrar role and the efforts he has put in to recruit players in the younger age groups each year. Mark has officially resigned from the committee moving forward.

We hope that the 2021 season ahead will be a more complete season for all players.

Mark Whittingham MJRC MINIS REGISTRAR 2020

Erika von Arnim MJRC JUNIORS & GIRLS REGISTRAR 2020

# **TREASURER'S REPORT 2020**

The 2020 financial year resulted in a net deficit of (\$28,686) (unaudited) to the club (deficit FY2019 \$50,994). As at 30 September 2020 the club is in a strong financial position thanks to our players and valued sponsors – Ray White Mosman, InvestSMART, Richard Cooke Constructions, Design & Construct, Harris Farm, Olympus Sports, The Buena, Charcoal Charlies Mosman, SydneySlice and Vision Fitness Mosman.

Due to focussed efforts by the committee, registration numbers were strong with a registration revenue of FY2020 \$232,90 (unaudited) vs FY2019 \$215,391. This lift in revenue was a result of an increase in the registration fees and also a stabilisation of the registration numbers.

Total Rugby revenue has decreased by FY2020 \$238,565(unaudited) vs FY2019 of \$245,181 due to a combination of reasons including the usual annual events such as cocktail parties and other fund raising activities not being undertaken due to COVID 19 restrictions.

We continued to have a full season cost of a Director of Rugby and increased costs of running the summer Touch competition. Better efforts were made to manage our player kit costs with the club no longer providing a jersey each year for kids U10 upwards which resulted in a savings.

As at 30 September 2020 the club had cash at hand available of \$422,790 which includes BT Investment Fund and primary bank accounts within CBA. The increase in cash balances was mostly attributable to an increase in current assets. A note is that Other Asset Category has reduced from \$77,274 to \$4,448. This is due to the recognition of prepayments towards playing kit. In September 2019 there were prepayments made towards the 2020 kit which were then expensed in the 2020 accounts which also explains the increased Kit Apparel expense line. As noted above better efforts are being made towards our Kit management and no such prepayments have been recorded in 2020. For the 2020/2021 year the club is expecting a further deficit as a result of the continuous strategic efforts to develop and improve the coaching of our players and to promote rugby in our club and the community. The forecast deficit is expected to have a minor impact on the financial strength of the club as the club has accumulated surpluses mostly held in bank accounts.

The club has completed the transfer of accounts to Xero accounting system and has appointed a bookkeeper on a part time basis to ensure that we give greater visibility and understanding of the cash inflows and outflows.

The draft audited financial report will be presented at the club's Annual General Meeting and will be lodged with the Department of Fair Trading. The financial report is available to members upon request to the club's secretary.

Henry Bateman TREASURER 2020

# **REFEREES REPORT 2020**

2020 started well for our referee cohort. Our senior members were on the field early in various roles for Super Rugby, SuperW and at the Kiama 7s.

At which point everything stopped. Our traditional season starter, the introductory course, Refereeing Kids Rugby, was the first education session cancelled due to COVID, in mid-March. It wasn't until early August that we could host this event at The Whalehouse. Fortunately, we had good numbers turn out to hear from Shute Shield referee Richard Manchee as he enlightened our referee rookies in the fine art of match officiating.

From this cohort, seven referees debuted this season, close to a record, and in the circumstances, an outstanding effort. A big welcome to:

- Alastair Brown
- Brody Folkes
- Will Fox-Smith
- Mabel Oxenham
- Jack Riding
- Sarah Smith
- Charlotte Sparks

A special mention to Charlotte, Mabel and Sarah, who, after many years of effort by the club, are MJRC's first female referees in living memory. Congratulations girls - your leadership will light the path for more to follow.

The shortened season, the abolition of finals and the cancellation of various tournaments and the representative calendar not only impacted the players, but also our referee cohort. Such matches are huge development opportunities for referees too, so our group focused on doing their best at local competition level, with an eye on 2021.

One of our club's goals is to be a desirable location for match officials - the MOST desirable location! We want people to want to referee for us because we provide a positive, supportive and respectful environment. This year saw a definite improvement, and it's a goal we must continue to advocate, in both words and actions.

Finally, to our Referee of the Year.

With referees debuting every season, it means we have a strong cohort of referees at various stages of development, which makes choosing our Referee of the Year challenging. In particular, our Year 10 cohort is exceptionally strong, and our award winner this year comes from this group. A former player at the club, he works hard on and off the field, referees as often as possible on both Saturday and Sunday and is developing into a mature match official with a calm, quiet manner that commands respect on the field. We have an increasing number of families with multiple referees, and he comes from one such family. The 2020 Mosman Junior Rugby Club Referee of the Year is Charles Mulcahy. Congratulations Charles.

From the best seat in the house - whistle well!

Rob McKay REFEREES COORDINATOR 2020

# 2020 Debut Referees

#### **Alastair Brown**



Jack Riding



Will Fox-Smith





Mabel Oxenham



# **Charlotte Sparkes**



Sarah Smith





# **Richard Manchee running RKR night**



# MJRC represent at Super W.

Hamish McKay (left), Richard Manchee (second from right, led our RKR session), Rob McKay (right)



# **DIRECTOR OF COACHING REPORT 2020**

The year 2020 has now drawn to a close. It has been like never before. It started like any other year with a great Preseason of Family Fitness and Coach-Education sessions throughout February. The introduction of the new Pathway Program designed explicitly for our U10. It was a very successful program and certainly achieved what we set out to do. We enjoyed two pre-season outings against Seaforth and Newport. We were all set for another External trial mid-March after several internal training sessions when our season came to a shuddering halt on March 18th.

This was when we had to think outside of the ordinary and come up with a unique way of keeping both kids and coaches engaged. Some great initiatives were implemented through the 8-10 weeks that we could not see any of the teams. The gladiator challenge was well-received across the teams, as was the "wrecktangle" and the Skills training that were online for all to practice. At-home training programs were written, and distribute to all ages, and a weekly message to players was sent to club members.

We were allowed back on the paddock in mid-May and could only do basic handling for around 4-6 weeks. Although challenging at the time I believe it gave all coaches an excellent opportunity to work on the basics of catch and pass. This was reflected later in the season with our skill execution of catch and pass improve like never before. When we were finally given the green light to train normally but in smaller groups around June it allowed all; coaches to start building teams in the anticipation that the season will start. This was a tricky period give all the differing views and restriction our coaches were asked to adhere to. To their credit they did a fantastic job. The teams trained through all through the holidays. We had a trial against Lindfield in the week leading up to Round 1.

On July 26th, we started the abbreviated season on nine rounds. The divisions and grades were slightly altered due to the restrictions.

The team of coaches enjoyed many successes both on and off the field in 2020. The introduction of the coach cards was rolled out, and although very simple to follow it was still problematic for all coaches to follow the plan. The overall results for the season were much improved from the previous years, a winning percentage increase from 22% in 2017 to 47% in 2018 and 66% in 2019 to a wonderful level of 76%.

I believe we have the best possible coaches of any club in Sydney. They have all done a fantastic job of developing our boys and girls. My approach to coaching some years ago cantered around the development of the basic skills. The coaches are delivering this to all teams, which is leading to a great style of rugby. I acknowledge all coaches for your efforts in helping drive my passion for rugby skill development and Fun.

#### Minis Coach of the Year:

#### Henry Bateman

Henry has worked very hard over the past two years coaching the U8 and the U9 Whales and Gala Day teams. He coaches with great passion and drive. The players have all responded to his style of coaching, and he has certainly prepared them well for that step into full-field and graded teams next year. Always

one of the first at training and the last to leave. We are very lucky to have him working with our mini teams.

#### Junior Coach of the Year:

#### Dave Scammell

Dave has been part of this project over the past four years. He was coaching the U9 when I first came on board, and I remember saying to him...this is the group that will drive the change in the way we approach rugby at the club. I was thankful he was on the same page, and we have taken this journey together. He is passionate about coaching and does a wonderful job. He does spend a little too long on scrummaging, but I am now coming around to his way of thinking. He is competitive and has done a terrific job along with the other coaches in this age group. Thanks, Dave, the boys are lucky to have had you as their coach over the past few years. Well Done.

#### Girls Coach of the Year:

#### **Nick Higgins**

Nick has been instrumental in the success of the girls' program for the last couple of years. He is patient, knowledgeable and caring and divides his expertise and attention as much to the newcomer girls as he does the more

experienced players. In this way his coaching is very adaptable to the needs of the youngest U12 age group, involving girls with varied experience and skill. The greatest testament to his coaching is that the u12 age group has grown exponentially to the point it comfortably supports 2 teams - the only club which does so at this level. Nick is a very deserved winner of the 2020 Girls' Coach of the Year.

#### **Club Coach of the Year:**

#### Paul Dearlove

Paul has been coaching at the club for many years now. He has done a terrific job with the U13's this year and indeed with this group in the previous years. He has developed, alongside other coaches over the years, the boy's understanding of the game. He is possibly the quietest coach I have had, but when he has something to say, the players listen. Thanks, Paul for all your hard work over the years.

#### Nick Bousie DIRECTOR OF COACHING 2020

# GIRLS 7s TACKLE RUGBY 2020

Sydney Junior Rugby Union's Girls' 7s Rugby program is a Sydney based program made up of three separate competitions run over the calendar year: Sizzling 7s from February to April; Frosty 7s from July to September and Spring 7s from October to November. Each competition is 6-8 weeks in duration and is played each Saturday afternoon in a gala day format with players from all over Sydney meeting at the one location to play teams from all over the city.

Building on our success from last year, 2020 was our second year involved in the program and we could not have been prouder of the efforts of our teams.

This year as a club we doubled our participation of girls playing 7s rugby with an incredible registration drive at the beginning of the season. This resulted in MJRC fielding an U12s, U14s and our first U16s team for Sizzling 7s.

While the Sizzling 7s competition was cut two games short due to the breakout of COVID-19, there is no doubt that those first 5 weeks of tackle got the girls excited because when the Frosty 7s competition kicked off in late July, MJRC was one of only three clubs to field 2 x U12 teams, plus we also had an expanded U14s team and formed a JV team with Forest for our U16 team – the Foreman.

With Spring 7s about to kick-off, the success of MJRC's girls' program is in full flight with Mosman entering an U12 and an U16 JV team into the competition for the first time.

#### <u>U12s</u>

After an incredibly successful Sizzling 7s where we managed to get through 90% of the competition before COVID shut down play, the girls hit the training paddock in late May in preparation for the upcoming Frosty 7s competition.

With enthusiasm at record levels after good Sizzling performances, we increased our numbers in the U12s and managed to field two teams in the U12s Frosty 7s competition. We had 18 girls representing MJRC in the U12s from year 5 through to year 7 from all different schools across the lower north shore.

The season saw us play from Whalan Reserve at Mount Druitt, to Keirle Park in Manly, up to Pittwater Rugby Fields at Warriewood. Despite the threat of disruption from COVID, the SJRU did a great job keeping the comp rolling by splitting us into North and West zones in the last few rounds which brought us closer to home for the last few weeks. Within the North Zone, Mosman was one of only two clubs fielding two team's week in, week out. This is a credit to our players and parents who made an effort to be available every Saturday afternoon to play for their teammates and represent their club.

Of the 26 games our girls played, we won 14 and drew 2. Each and every game the girls gave it their all and continued to improve week in, week out. Our experienced players encouraged our new-comers and it wasn't long before all our players were showing skills beyond their playing years. It is a credit to their enthusiasm, and just as importantly our coaches, how far our girls have come in two seasons (and only months, for some!). Our girls were incredibly nimble, fast and worked together beautifully. They tackled hard, worked well as a team and shared the tries amongst themselves as their love for "the game they play in heaven" grew each and every match.

A special mention must go to our award winners for Season 2020. While it was very difficult to single out individual players due to how far all our girls have come and how well they have all played during the year, our selected players were worthy winners:

#### MVP: Charlotte Sparks Players' Player: Olianna Tighe Most Improved Player: Pippa Harrison and Chloe Webb

A huge shout out to **Nick Higgins** and **Bill Segaert** for coaching the girls and teaching them lifelong rugby skills. Also, a very big thank you to **Julie Sparks** who was incredible in keeping the girls focussed off the field, counting the try-scorers on it, and making sure they turned up to training on time while also keeping their TikTok exploits to a minimum in between matches!

The U12s look forward to another season of 7s rugby in late October with the SJRU's Spring competition.



#### <u>U14s</u>

The U14s had a wonderful winter season with a bunch of girls who thoroughly enjoyed playing and developing their rugby skills together.

We had a tight knit bunch of girls from 5 different schools, who were assisted at varying stages throughout the season with some help from u12s. Even when the girls faced some challenges coming up against bigger opposition they never gave up and managed to keep matches competitive on the score board.

The highlight of the season was a hard-fought victory over our Battle of the Bridge nemesis, Seaforth, late in the season, after suffering a heavy defeat at our gala day. By the end of the season all the girls had a firm grip on all aspects of the game: from tackling; to work at the break down; to backing each other up; and scoring plenty of tries! All players had patches of brilliance and the awards were not easy to choose, however, the coaches settled on the following players:

#### MVP: Mabel Oxenham Players' Player: Chloe Allsop Most Improved Player: Scarlett Martyr

A massive thank you to the coaches **Pete Allsopp**, game day, and **Nick Taylor**, Monday nights, for their perseverance and passion for rugby which rubbed off on the team. And a big thank you to **Damian Martyr** for co-ordinating the team, on and off the field.

Watching the girls develop their skills and form friendships that will last a lifetime is what community sport is all about and we are confident, with this group of girls, that is exactly what we have achieved in season 2020.

We look forward to welcoming all the girls back to MJRC for the Sizzling 7s in 2021!



#### <u>U16s</u>

After a successful Sizzling 7s campaign, our U16s team was depleted with the start of winter school sport when the Frosty 7s competition came around. With other clubs in the same situation MJRC joined forces with Forest under the name "Foreman" – Forest and Mosman. The girls were fortunate to have the expertise of **Scott Bowen** (a former Wallaby and currently the high-performance manager of Rugby Australia's Women's and Men's 7s programs) to coach them through the season with great support from **Andrew O'Donnell**.

The Foreman comprised some experienced players with some girls who were new to rugby. Despite the mix of experience and ability, the team's enthusiasm and willingness to compete week in, week out, was infectious. And with speed to burn on the wings and some crafty play in the middle, as the season progressed the girls realised they could match it with some of the stronger sides.

The level of improvement across the team was great to see and a real credit to both the players and the coaches who committed to making Frosty 7s a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

Congratulations to **Claudia Bowen** who was voted Foreman MVP and **Dominique Doust** who was voted Most Improved Player.

Thank you to all the players and parents for giving up their Saturday nights, to **Mel O'Donnell**, who managed the U16s and was instrumental in pulling the JV with Forest together, and of course to Forest Rugby for accepting our proposal to join forces for the greater good of strengthening women's rugby in this age group. It was an incredible inaugural season for MJRC's U16 Tiger Sharks.



Adding to our success in MJRC's girls program this year, we had our first player in the U10s Sydney North Girls Rugby 7s competition – **Saskia Taylor**. Saskia joined up with some Narrabeen girls to form the Narrabeen Tigers Barbarians. The Barbarians clearly gelled as a team and had a blast playing 7s rugby against other girls-only teams from around the northern beaches as they won their Grand Final against Newport. Saskia was named Most Valuable Player for the Barbarians and is looking forward to more Mosman girls joining her to hopefully form a MJRC Tiger Sharks U10s team next year in the Sydney North Girls Rugby 7s competition. Well done Saskia Taylor!



It is an exciting time to be a part of MJRC's girls' rugby program as we continue to grow the number of players we have participating from competition to competition and watch their skills and enthusiasm for the game develop from game to game.

If your daughter is interested in being a part of the Tiger Sharks, please do not hesitate in getting in touch. Register her interest at <u>https://mosmanjrc.org.au/contact-us/</u>. We would love to have her, and her friends join us. MJRC hosts

U12s, U14s and U16s teams in the SJRU's Girls' 7s Rugby competitions and is eager to put its own U10s team together in the Sydney North Girls Rugby 7s competition next year.

Whether your daughter has been playing touch for a few years and is keen to try tackle or even if she has never picked up, passed or kicked a rugby ball, all players of all levels are welcome! MJRC is fortunate to have some of the best coaches in the competition that are passionate about rugby and committed to seeing all our girls improve, no matter their level of experience or ability.

Girls 7s Rugby: #thisisreal

Nathan Davis GIRLS COORDINATOR 2020

# MINIS (U6 to U9) 2020 REPORT SUMMARY

It was a hugely successful season for the mini's marked by many challenges and just about as many triumphs.

From an administrative perspective we were lucky enough to have two returning AGC's with Lauren and Connor handling u8's and u9's respectively and new AGCs Lucy Bowmen and Mark Owens taking on u6, and u7. Under their leadership, what could have been a very difficult season to organise given the covid situation was handled with precision. Parents knew where to be, kids knew what teams there were in and coaches knew what kids to coach. No mean feat when at one point this was changing with regularity. A huge thanks to Lucy, Mark, Lauren and Connor. The mini's season would not have run half as well without you.

On the field the standards were high. As a parent of an u7 and an u9 I experienced this first hand. In the u7's, a lot of the kids had a full season under their belt, knew what they were doing and were much less inclined to lie down and look at the clouds. I even saw a couple of passes in play! The u9's was a similar story. With a year of tackle already complete, we were starting to see some real rugby being played, especially in the second half of the season with the coaches off the pitch. The highlight was an impromptu "running" maul in the last game for the u9 whales for the year. Real rugby innovation from the next generation of Wallabies.

From an organisational and competition standpoint we had our challenges. We again had difficulties scheduling u9's to accommodate clashes with school sport. These were addressed for the most part by Connor directly negotiating with the other Gordon u9 AGCs however we will need to look for a more sustainable solution going forward.

A ban on large gatherings meant that Gala days and invitationals were cancelled however, we were able to organise an end of season exhibition against Norths for all age groups with the u9's selecting first and second teams and operating under a modified u10 rule set. This exhibition may be something we look to repeat in subsequent seasons.

All in all, a great season for mini's. Bring on 2021 and hopefully less interrupted season.

Drew Stores MINIS COORDINATOR 2020

# **U6s REPORT 2020**

The U6's season started in March with a mini try rugby kit collection evening and a group training session with Nick Bousie the following week at Rawson Oval. Unfortunately, Rugby was then postponed for several months due to COVID.

It was a challenging start for the U6's. A lot of the families were new to rugby, didn't know what to expect with the uncertainty of the Covid pause in training/games and no one knew if the season would go ahead. The parents were patient waiting for answers and a start date for returning to rugby. There were a couple of emails from parents asking about refunds IF the season didn't go ahead but after some reassurance, no one chose to withdraw.

We ended the season with 31 players, plus another who registered and paid but never turned up after the Covid break (with no explanation as to why). We had no withdrawals due to Covid and 3 late registrations in July.

We grouped the children together into 3 teams and then needed to recruit parent volunteers to coach on Thursdays instead of Nick due to a cap on group numbers. The Sharks and Dolphins had volunteers straight away but the Whales team struggled to find a coach until the parent of a late rego put his hand up. There were a number of factors for this. 3 of the Dads already coached older age group teams, several were completely new to rugby and the remainder had work commitments that did not allow them to get to Thursday training.

Nick ran two coaching education sessions for U6 & U7 parents at the end of July. We had a good turn out from the U6's and it really increased parent confidence and involvement. Especially for the Whales team who then ended up with three coaches.

The boys and girls had a short but enjoyable season. Attendance at training and games was very high. Nick provided the coaches a session plan for the first few weeks. Training was a mixture of drills and games to build a foundation of skills (passing/tipping/defending/offside). Despite how challenging it can be coaching U6's, the sessions all seemed well organised and great fun for the kids.

The feedback I got from the parents was that the U6's really enjoyed their introduction to rugby. 20 signed up for an extra couple of games at the end of the season against Norths, led by the Sharks coaches and the majority of players have signed up for summer touch, plus quite a few new children. I am hoping that we will be able to build on those numbers next season as they go into U7's.

Thank you so much to the coaches and managers who were nearly all new to their roles. It was a tricky season to start as a new club member and the time and effort they put into their teams really helped the season run successfully.

Whales – Alex Riding (coach), Tom Morrison (coach), Brad McKay (assistant coach), Alison Roberts (manager) Dolphins – Niall O'Riordan (coach), Peter Griffiths (assistant coach), Courtney Durham (manager) Sharks – Mike Horin (coach), Nigel Dent (coach), Jeremy Dixon (manager)

Next year I think it should be made clear at sign up that the club is centred around it's strong, supportive community, led by volunteers and that there is an expectation for everyone to play a part no matter how big or small. U6's should revert back to having coaches from the beginning with Nick on some sort of rota to support the U6 parents for the first few weeks of the season. I would really like Nick's coaching Ed sessions to continue for U6 and U7 parents next year.

Lucy Bowman U6s Age Group Coordinator 2020

# **U8s REPORT 2020**

The u8's had a large contingent bolstered by some younger kids who wanted to tackle. 5 teams were formed of roughly equal ability and were led by some great coaches who helped in the transition to tackle.

Going forwards we may need to address the number of young players staying in correct age groups before grading at under 10s

#### Lauren Jones

U8s Age Group Coordinator 2020

# **U9s REPORT 2020**

The U9s had a strong registration totalling 49 players, many of whom were returning players from 2019. It was pleasing to see new families join and assimilate so well into the club. Unfortunately, there were two withdrawals due to Covid-19.

A strategy for the players this year involved mixing the existing 2019 teams around to give them the opportunity to play alongside different players. These new team allocations were important as it gave players exposure to different skillsets and prepares them for grading that occurs in U10s as teams are selected based on player capabilities. Overall this was well received by the playing group and we saw improvements in individual players as a result.

After a prolonged break from Rugby and then a significantly shortened season, it was a credit to the players that they returned in the positive manner they did. Head of Coaching, Nick Bousie and Paul Bellantonio, did a terrific job in providing at home exercises for the players during the Govt enforced lockdown.

Building on the tackling that was introduced last year, positions – Forwards and Backs, was the key learning in 2020. Once the players knew their positions, Forward and Back 'Captains' were assigned enabling Coaches to be gradually removed from the field and provide direction from the sideline. This takes time to develop and while we would have benefited from a full season there was significant improvement in later Rounds. Importantly the foundations have been set for the players to take these skills into U10s.

Coaches observations indicated that it is tactically important to be able to quickly identify and adjust individual roles in order achieve positive game outcomes. Also, going through drills that allow players to respond to/avoid tactics employed by known opposition teams, e.g. 'the ball stripper' or 'the always offsider', etc have been helpful lessons throughout the season.

Quite separately, a very useful contribution to our Coaches this season was the filming of games by some very talented parents. Feedback from the Coaches found that having the ability to review plays post the game was very helpful. How times have changed!

Mid-season the players participated in a Gala day selection process involving a series of skills sessions and internal contested trials. The games were highly competitive as the boys played with grit and great spirit. It was disappointing for them that the Gala tournaments were eventually cancelled, however the club was able to organise two invitational games against North Pirates and Seaforth. Mosman lost one and won one amidst terrible weather conditions under lights at Rawson Oval. Mosman 'Blues' were the proud recipient of the inaugural 'The Shoreman Shield' Mosman vs North Pirates U9s comp.

A huge thank you must go to our dedicated Coaches and Team Managers for the time and energy they put into training and managing our players and everything else you did to make the season run so smoothly.

Dolphins – Tim Bentley, Lindi Seve Sharks – Alastair Miller, Hannah Griffiths Stingrays – Henry Bateman, Bardia Paki Whales – Sebastian Ugarte, Michael Bloomfield

Looking ahead to U10s, some of the significant challenges facing our players will be the competitiveness around gradings, larger team sizes (12-aside) and the fitness level that is required to run a full-size pitch.

2019 brought us some unexpected challenges but it did not dampen the player's enthusiasm. Overall we saw a season of competitive rugby, where the development in our players and the continued improvement in skills saw them deliver some commendable results. The amazing culture and atmosphere across our playing group, parents and volunteers is what all community sports should aspire to.

#### Connor Farrell U9s Age Group Coordinator 2020

#### **U6 Whales**



#### **U6 Dolphins**



#### U6 Sharks



#### **U7** Whales



# U7 Dolphins



# U7 Stingrays





#### U7 Sharks

#### **U8** Whales



#### **U8** Sharks



#### **U8 Marlins**



# **U8** Dolphins



#### **U8** Stingrays



#### **U9** Whales



# **U9** Dolphins



#### U9 Sharks



**U9 Stingrays** 



# **U10s REPORT 2020**

The 2020 Rugby season was a season like no other. We began the year well, with Nick Bousie's well experienced pregrading training schedule, to prepare the boys for the up and coming grading matches. And then COVID-19 threw a spanner in the works. All sport was shut down, and home training began.

Nick Bousie organised two set home training plans for the boys to participate in (1) Gladiator Challenge, whereby the boys and girls participated in core and strength exercises and (2) The Wrecktangle, which was fitness and speed training.

Our winter 2020 season was rebooted from the 15<sup>th</sup> May under strict COVID-19 protocols, and thus began a long awaited training session with no contact (no rucks, mauls, tackling or scrums), all sporting equipment to be pre/post washed, hand sanitisers used before and after training. But the boys were ecstatic to be back at training.

When finally the season began for a total of 9 rounds, the boys were geared up and ready.

The U10 Whales had a very enjoyable and rewarding season in 2020. Their aim this season was to play fast, running rugby and to improve on one facet of play each week. Steve Smith believed they achieved this goal and it certainly showed in their results. Suffering a first up loss to a very physical Blacktown Scorpions side 41-5, the boys regrouped, trained hard and started playing as a team, resulting in four big wins against Easts, Hills, Harbord and Newport. They were at a crossroads in round 6 as their next four games were against teams we believed we could beat, so we requested a rematch against Blacktown Scorpions. This was unheard of from a Mosman team but the boys were up for it and in a very tough physical sometimes brutal contest at Grantham Park we unfortunately were beaten 21-19. Nik Ruparel, Cameron Douglass and Steve Smith could not have been more proud of the effort and spirit in which the Whales played the game. The never say die attitude and belief the team had in themselves was amazing. Following the narrow loss to Blacktown the boys convincingly beat Wahroonga, Dural and Lindfield in their remaining three games. Their final match was a friendly against a fired up Clovelly Eagles side who they beat 48-0 under lights at Rawson. All up a great season for the Whales. The boys improved throughout the year as individuals and as a team. They play an entertaining brand of rugby which is a pleasure to watch. They scored 414 points and 111 against.

The Under 10 Dolphins had a fantastic season with the boys relishing the new challenge of playing "full field" and in positions for the first time. With the support of a great parent group, every boy contributed to the team's success and demonstrated great determination and sportsmanship in each game. The boys started with three wins and were moved up a division part way through the season. Despite the strong competition they handled the challenge well with an overall win/loss record of 5/4 something to be very proud of - with 2 of the losses decided by just one conversion. There are definitely some future stars in this Dolphins team so we look forward to seeing them rise through the ranks in the years ahead.

After a shaky start with 2 losses the Sharks regrouped to either win or tie in their next 5 games before falling to strong opposition in the final 2 games. The boys progress could be tracked in its 3 games vs St. Ives where they were soundly beaten in Round 2, tied in Round 4 & won in Round 6. We saw many boys flourish with newfound confidence as the season progressed and the boys supported each other well, never dropping their heads. Several games saw them make significant comebacks from slow starts which is a testament to their determination and character. Many of the boys will continue to challenge for spots in the Dolphins next year.

As a final round up of the season, due to the restrictions of COVID, the U10s this year had a boost in numbers to 47 playing boys up from last year's final numbers. We hope that 2021 will bring back all of the new players that we had this year.

Finally, many thanks to the contributors Nick Bousie, Steve Smith, Angus Buckley and Paul Ireland, notwithstanding the team managers: Rachel & Scott Hadfield, Grant Boorman and Alex Pope that made this restricted season so smooth and all of the parents who actively volunteered to help when required with the BBQ, Ground and COVID Marshalling.

All the Best for 2021

#### Alex Chadban U10s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR 2020

#### **U10** Whales



#### **U10 Dolphins**



# U10 Sharks



# U11s Report 2020

The 2020 Rugby season kicked off for the U11s with their second year of grading and adjusting to new rules and the format of the game. Our U11 Age group was well prepared for trials and the grading process having made sure that we slowly introduced our age group in U8 and U9 and U10 to an all participating selection process, where we selected 3 teams from all boys who wanted to participate. I would recommend this for earlier age groups as we found our players and most especially our parents were prepared and trusted the grading process as a club and as an age group had adopted

U11s saw many players and families return from the U10s, as well as some new families joining the MJRC community. We had 41 players at the start of the season, and finished with 41 players at the end of the season - a testament to the Club and the way in which rugby and mateship was fostered across the teams, which was shown more than ever this year as we stood together through a pandemic that ripped its way through our lives, our community and the world.

The majority of the boys have been with the club since U6's so they enjoy playing together and being a very tight knit Age Group, with parents and players all excited and enthused for the start of the season. The players participated in a formal grading process with the first trial session against Hills at Rawson Oval and then into the Battle of Bridge with Seaforth, however as we all know, it was at that weekend the world went into Shut down with COVID 19 and the trials and the start of the season was put on hold.

Even though we were not allowed to train together, our age group adopted a weekly online COVID Virtual training program that was adopted by the 11's with great energy and enthusiasm. It was at this stage when our Country and the world went into lockdown as COVID spread worldwide, we were forced to cancel our Brisbane Brothers Tour 2020. It was unfortunate as we had a touring party of 40 made up of 22 x U11 players and 18 parents.

Once again, a huge thank you to Nick Bousie, Director of Coaching, he managed our grading process and ensuring once again that an independent grading process was adopted. Nick is a value to our club and his weekly training programs we adopted paid dividends on the field. Nick was key in our virtual COVID training program, something no other clubs did. A huge thanks to Paul Bellantonio, Chris Polin, Nick Durant, and Matt Seve and all those that helped through this hybrid season we managed to complete.

The U11's, even though with COVID in our rugby lives through the season with competition points not counting to a trophy winner, our age group enjoyed a season of competitive rugby and mateship, where the development of the boys and step up in skills across the year saw them deliver some great results. Thanks to the commitment of the boys and parents and our coaches. In the early parts of the season, it was clear that the Under 11 Whales playing in the A division was going to be a strong squad and had the skills and talent. The Dolphins showed the same spirit, determination and talent and skills that was evident in a squad that has grown in confidence. With the Sharks starting well and housing some new talent and skills that had not played union before, this squad quickly started to shine as new union players developed their newfound talent and love for the game.

The U11 age group was set for a good year and the coaching staff was dedicated and committed to foster this success on and off the field across our 3 teams and age group. The development in the skills and teamwork of the players across the season was fantastic and this translated into great results even in a COVID year of a hybrid season.

The Whales performed well throughout the season in Division A. The team developed their skills further playing some high-level rugby and demonstrating that they can be a winning A Division team come U12's. The Whales had a standout win over the Western Raptors in what was a first for a Mosman Junior U11 team.

The Dolphins had an exceptional year both on and off the field, demonstrating a team that developed and grew from strength to strength each week, with confidence and this was shown on the field with the team dominating most teams each weekend. A team that no doubt can play up a grade next year and can make finals.

The Shark, had a new coach and thank you to Matt Seve who volunteered for the first time to coach and took the role on brilliantly, the Sharks played all year with spirit and a lot of commitment to each other as players. The sharks performed well throughout the season and notched up win after win in their division.

The strong relationship between our teams also meant that players played "up and down" to help each other out (often playing more than one game a weekend). We unfortunately had no Rep season this year to report on due to COVID

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our very committed coaches that assisted me this year, Chris Polin and Nick Durant (Whales), Paul Bellantonio (Dolphins) and Matt Seve and his assistant coaches of Rob Aubin and Ed Warburton and Sam Hart (Sharks). Thanks also to the U11 team managers James Stewart (Whales), and Rowena Harvey-Palmer who managed the Dolphins and Lindi Seve who managed the Sharks. Thanks coaches and managers for supporting the, boys and parents throughout this tough season.

I know the boys are looking forward to their U12s season.

Thank you and I look forward to another successful year of Rugby in 2021 with our U12's and to our exciting CUDA Tour 2021

All the best

#### Ed Abbott U11s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR 2020

#### **U11 Whales**



# U11 Dolphins



# U11 Sharks



# **U12s REPORT 2020**

In 2020, the age group retained most of its 2019 players whilst adding about 12 new players, several were new to rugby. This was thanks to the hard work of some of the MJRC boys recruiting their mates at school!

We also had some younger players move back to their chronologically appropriate age group. Through pre-season there was the possibility of 3 teams, however, when the season finally kicked on, we didn't quite have 3, only enough for 2 big squads (49 players).

It was great to see the age group train as a whole wherever possible each week. Warm-ups, position-specific training and skills were taken as an age group each week to break down Whales/Dolphins positions where possible.

#### WHALES

The whales played in the A division once the season started. The A grade competition included very strong and welltrained teams from Blacktown and Western Raptors. However, once restrictions were placed on sports team travel, they ended up in a more A-C grade local group. Dave Scammell and his entourage of assistants (Nick Taylor, Marc von Arnim & others) with support from Nick Bousie did a fantastic job coaching the boys. They helped the team develop their skills, improve their game and enjoy their rugby. Simone Harrison once again generously Managed the team.

The Whales finished the 9-game season with 5 wins. A great result considering the tough competition they faced in A Grade.

#### DOLPHINS

Players in the Dolphins squad had the distinct privilege of being Coached by Damien Bailey in season 2020. Damien brough a wealth of knowledge and personal experience to the role and every week provided the whole team with fantastic feedback and motivation.

Damien drew on his network to have special guests attend training to provide some focused coaching input. Former players of significant skills and current younger players were seen to be imparting their knowledge, skill and experience to the boys at training.

Kate Zwegers and Emma Soutter shared the role of manager supporting each other to ensure comms and game-day responsibilities were covered. The Dolphins played in what became known as U12 Green, with SJRU soft-grading teams based on a combination of ability and geography to best comply with COVID-safe requirements. This saw the Dolphins play teams from Northern Sydney, the North Shore and Northern Beaches for most of the season.

The Dolphins finished the 2020 season in third place on the ladder with 6 wins from their 9 games. A great result for a large squad and a "new to junior rugby" coach.

Thanks again to Marc & Nick T & Nick B for their assistance to Damien & the Dolphins at training each week as well.

#### AGE GROUP ACTIVITIES

Usually, U12's is a jam-packed year for the boys, however, COVID unfortunately meant that was not going to happen.

The 2020 Cuda's tour was cancelled in late March as the International Borders were closing with no indications they could be open in time for a 4<sup>th</sup> July departure. This saw the supporting Cuda's lunch cancelled as well. The inbound Brother's Rugby U12 tour was also cancelled due to COVID.

Funds raised by the players through the Melbourne Cup Raffle (about \$19k) are being held in trust by the club to be used to support this age group when they can arrange a tour at some time in the future. Deposits paid by MJRC to venues and travel providers were rolled forward 100% with \$0 forfeited for cancellations. Thanks to these suppliers for their consideration.

#### Adam Beverley-Smith U12 AGE GROUP COORDINATOR 2020

#### **U12 Whales**



#### **U12 Dolphins**



# **U13s REPORT 2020**

Before I comment on our season, I think it is important to thank everyone from administrators to parents for their efforts in getting us to the point where we had some semblance of a season. Circumstances were certainly unpredictable and the boys are fortunate to have so many committed people behind the scenes making things happen.

The U13's this year fielded one team, drawing on a squad of 28 boys. This meant that we had to apply a rostering system, which while not ideal, still ensured that the boys had a similar amount of time on the field. It also gave the coaches options when players were injured or had other commitments.

The boys had two very committed coaches in Nick Brown and Paul Dearlove. As a volunteer coach, Paul Dearlove was acknowledged and rewarded for his efforts by receiving the Coach of the Year award. Along with Nick Brown, who proved to be an enthusiastic motivator and good communicator, they created an environment that fostered great teamwork and enjoyment of the game. This was evidenced by the number of rostered off boys who pitched up at the games to support their mates.

Good things ultimately come to those who wait and our waiting for the season certainly paid off. The boys kicked the season off with a gutsy win over Ryde in what was a rainy affair. The rest of the season characterised by some hard work in the engine home with the highlight being a 30m rolling maul, and our fleet footed backs danced their way up and down the field scoring some tries that would make any highlights package. What was incredibly rewarding to watch was the on-field support play and seeing boys step up and play at a standard the coaches knew they were capable of.

The support and commitment off the field was just as good with all the parents chipping and doing their bit, either as touchies, ground marshalls, covid officers as well as washing jerseys, helping out at the bbq and packing away when needed. We even had a resident photographer who kindly photographed every game. Great role modelling and a big thank you.

Congratulations to Alex Ramsay, Byron Bottomley and Max Garner who achieved the "100 games" milestone for the Club. We played Lindfield and Norths Pirates twice and Ryde, Sylvannia, Killara West Pymble, Easts and Lane Cove - winning 6 and losing 3. Our Most Improved Player was Sam Wiles, Most Valuable Forward was Oli Hekking and the Most Valuable Back was Oli Edwards.

Congratulations to this group of boys for playing their rugby with commitment, tenacity and good sportsmanship. We are looking forward to seeing the boys back for more rugby in 2021.

#### Peter Folkes U13s AGE GROUP COORDINATOR 2020





# **U14s REPORT 2020**

With a rather tumultuous start to the season and almost a ten-month break in between games it was great to be getting back into the swing of things in July 2020, resuming our midweek trainings and of course our Sunday morning games.

With such a large break in between games, we thought the boys would be somewhat rusty when it came to some of the basics of rugby. But, it seems they had been dreaming rugby and practising with their siblings in lockdown and the boys hit the ground running as soon as they were allowed back on the field. The season consisted of some comprehensive wins and only one loss against Norths due to a few injuries. It's a pity we didn't get to play these guys again later in the season as expected. As a squad the coaches noticed a drastic improvement in both game awareness and the abilities of the boys, proving it to be a very successful season.

One of the real difficulties this season with only one team and a squad of near 30 boys was player management ensuring the boys were getting maximum game time and also in their preferred position. For some of the boys it has given them the chance to play in different positions, ultimately making them both more versatile and valuable rugby players across the squad.

A big thankyou to Ed Fox and Ben Furby the coaches who worked tirelessly with the boys putting on extra training sessions to get them fit and ready to play so soon after lockdown. And once again thankyou to the parents for their ongoing support of rugby and the club, it never goes unnoticed.

Looking forward we are keen to get an U15 Regional NSW Rugby tour organised for beginning of 2021. Many of these boys have played their whole club rugby career so far at Mosman and we hope to see them all back next year.

#### Ron Hodge U14 AGE GROUP COORDINATOR 2020

#### **U14 Whales**



# **U15s REPORT 2020**

The year 2020 commenced in March with close to 30 boys eager and ready to play for the mighty U15 Mosman Whales. The squad is a broad mix of boys from the local area as well as boarders from one of the Sydney private schools. Some of the boys have been playing since 2010 at Mosman (as 4/5 year olds playing 2 years of U6s) so 2020 was going to be a big year.

With great anticipation the boys trained hard with Lawrance in March with a view to competing in some trial games in mid-late March 2020 and the competition proper starting in early April.....as we all know that never eventuated due to Coronavirus.

Despite many attempted and threatened starts and stops (including training), the boys eventually got onto the pitch in mid-July for a truncated 9 Round season. Thanks go to the club along with the SJRU for making this happen and in the end 9 Rounds was not bad considering a usual season is 14 rounds over a much longer time period.

It must be said that despite all the set-backs and having been involved with this age group since 2010, I have been very impressed with the maturity and cohesiveness that the boys have exhibited this year in difficult circumstances that in no doubt has contributed to the "team effort" that the boys have displayed on the field week in week out. It would have been easy for a group of 15 year old boys to lose interest in Rugby this year and be distracted by other areas of life, but they haven't, and in fact the events of this year have probably meant a lot of the boys have found more in their rugby than they have previously.

So what a year it was for the boys and by far their most competitive yet:

- the boys achieved 6 wins out of 9 (66% win rate);
- the boys scored 255 points and only conceded 132 points across the season. That is a positive differential of 123 points for the season along with an average of 28 points scored by the boys each game and an average of 14 points scored against the boys each game over the season. That is a first for the boys across each of those categories at Mosman;
- for 7 out of 9 games the opposition have scored 2 tries or less against the boys;
- the boys have been consistent with their Home and Away efforts 3/5 wins Away and 3/4 wins at Rawson; and
- finally, other than for 10 minutes in the 2nd half against Chatswood (where the boys were actually 19-17 up), the margin in defeat has only been between 5-12 points.

The Most Improved Player for the year was awarded to Fraser Wait. The Most Valuable Player was awarded to Hamish Long.

Finally, a big thank you to Lawrance Hunting for coaching the boys again this year. Building off the foundations he instilled into the boys in 2019, the boys took their rugby game to the next level in 2020. It is clear that the boys have managed to find out what it means to play for their team mates as well as to rally around each other when the chips are down. Lawrance has been the driving factor for this resilience which has been demonstrated by the positive results experienced by the boys in 2020.

Finally, MJRC hasn't had an U16 team in its own right for many years now. Hopefully based on the positive rugby experience in 2020 the boys will return to Rawson in 2021 to play for the mighty Mosman Whales. I wish all of those that cannot return in 2021 the very best for their future successes both on the rugby pitch as well as for their future endeavours. Hopefully some of the lessons learned and enjoyment experienced at MJRC carries through to later years. For those returning in 2021 - see you next year!

#### Grant Whatley U15 AGE GROUP COORDINATOR 2020



# **U16s REPORT 2020**

2020 was looking good.

The 2019 U15 Shoremen village clubs joint venture had, after some initial administrative snafus, been hugely successful. One team made the semi-finals, losing to the eventual Premiers in what was a repeat of the State Championships final. The other team missed out on finals by a whisker, and a suspect one at that. The Norths representative team had been runners-up in the State Championships, and the boys had won the Spring 7s competition. At the start of 2019 what looked like a number of teams without critical mass ended up being two teams who enjoyed playing their footy, and a number of boys being selected in Gen Blue, with three boys eventually playing in the NSW team that beat QLD in the final. As they say in Akron Ohio, that's a good year.

So 2020 arrived and with it, excited anticipation.

And all of a sudden, it was complicated. A global pandemic didn't help. But neither did the usual factors which compromise club rugby in this age group in our area. These factors were magnified by the paradox of the boys' success. The many Gen Blue boys were now on the development radar, as well as that of their schools. Opens and 16As rugby beckoned for most, as did schools banning club rugby. Suddenly, the core of our expected team couldn't, or wouldn't play. The knock-on effect of this was that others no longer wanted to play either, compounding the difficulties. COVID uncertainty then took it to another level, as both school and club competitions were postponed and lockdowns commenced.

When we emerged, school rugby had now taken on even more importance, with fewer games so each game took on added meaning.

All of which meant, we weren't going to have a team. So we needed somewhere for our remaining boys to play their club rugby. Fortunately, we found a solution, just across the bridge. The Spit bridge. Our annual rivals for The Battle of the (Spit) Bridge, ironically not contested in 2020, had room so our boys threw their lot in and we had a new joint venture with Vikings. A huge thanks to Gareth Rouse and Michael Clark at Seaforth for enabling this, and the rest of the Vikings fraternity including the boys, coaches and parents, for making our boys feel welcome. When we finally made it onto the pitch, the boys were smiling like Cheshire cats. Vikings had two teams, and the Gold team playing

some outstanding rugby at the top of the A competition. The Blue team were competitive throughout the B competition, improving with each match, and building new rugby friendships.

In the end, the season was good. It looked nothing like the good we had expected at the start of the year, but our boys thoroughly enjoyed their rugby, which is the reason behind everything we do - so our kids can participate and have fun.

It has been many years since we had players in U16s, so it was pleasing that we were able to renew Mosman's presence in the age group. However, for club rugby to blossom in the older age groups, structural reform needs to take place. The schools and clubs need to collaborate, rather than compete and cannibalise. Is it right for schools to forbid how their students spend their free time on a Sunday?

You be the judge

#### Rob McKay U16 AGE GROUP COORDINATOR 2020



RU16 Vikings JV v Penrith @ Rawson



# **EVENTS AND FACILITIES REPORT 2020**

#### **Events**

#### Try Rugby Day

2020 started with a wash out of the Try Rugby day which was meant to be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. We managed to move a much lower key version of it to coincide with kit collection night on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, which proved to be very successful.

#### **MJRC Welcome Drinks**

Before Covid shut us all down, we held out annual MJRC Welcome drinks at the Buena on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. As per previous years, we had a great turn out and everyone got to ring in the 2020 season with great enthusiasm!

Then that was it!

Unfortunately, our CUDAS lunch, Friday Festival of Footy/Brothers Tour, MJRC Cocktail Party, Volunteer Drinks and our Awards Day did not proceed due to Covid restrictions.

We hope that all of these will run again in 2021!

#### **Facilities**

#### Balmoral

This year was the 1<sup>st</sup> year that MJRC have run their own BBQ and canteen at Balmoral. We made the decision, that we would only run the BBQ on game days, and we had 4 home this season. Volunteers continue to be a challenge with both Balmoral and Rawson, but with some paid persons, we were able to provide both canteen and BBQ.

#### Rawson

We successfully worked closely with the seniors this year to provide canteen/bar and BBQ facilities every Sunday for the 2020 season.

More engagement from AGCs and Managers to encourage or roster volunteers would be encouraged in 2021, as all profit comes back into providing better facilities for all members.

Emily Raper EVENTS & FACILITIES COORDINATOR 2020

# **SPONSORS REPORT 2020**

In what has proven to be an incredibly different and difficult year for many, both on and off the field with COVID-19, the club has continued to be generously supported by our sponsors, both old and new.

In a true testament to the value MJRC puts on its sponsors and their incredible support, the club has been fortunate to continue its long term relationship with many of its partners through 2020 plus bring on a few new partners into the Mosman Junior Rugby family.

It is the continued commitment and support of these sponsors that has seen MJRC go from strength to strength in the last few years. From the support they provide by volunteering on game days, helping stock our canteen and bbq, donations in kind and vouchers, through to financial support that enables us to turn the clubhouse lights on, MJRC would simply not run without the generosity of our sponsors. We thank them for helping us provide our players with some of the best coaching and facilities available within the SJRU competition.

These businesses and organisations are such an important part of our community club, and we encourage all players, supporters, parents and coaches to support our sponsors and their wonderful, local businesses.

2020 marks **26** years that **Richard Harding**, **Geoff Smith** and their team at **Ray White Lower North Shore** have been sponsoring MJRC!

To put that into context, an incredible moment in Wallabies history courtesy of George Gregan, who performed a last minute try-saving tackle (simply known today as *"that* tackle") to deny New Zealand from winning the Bledisloe Cup match, occurred in the *same year* that Ray White Lower North Shore first signed on as sponsor - 1994!

It is an incredible privilege to have such a committed partner continue to want to be involved with MJRC. Thank you Ray White Lower North Shore for your loyalty and ongoing support.



From sales to investments, commercial to projects and developments, Ray White Lower North Shore's full service agency can service all of your real estate requirements.

Joining Ray White Lower North Shore as a Platinum Partner is Ron Hodge and his outstanding team from InvestSMART. InvestSMART continues to be a trusted and valued supporter of MJRC and we are grateful they have agreed to continue this relationship for another 2 years going forward.



InvestSMART Group Ltd (ASX: INV) provide leading investment research and wealth advice to over 700,000 Australians.

A huge thank you also to:

# RICHARD CROOKES



Jamie Crookes, and his team at **Richard Crookes Construction** for their continued passion for the club, and their ongoing support as a Gold Sponsor.

Did you enjoy a sausage sandwich or egg and bacon rol at an MJRC game this year? If so, you can thank Angus Harris and his team at **Harris Farm Markets** for the delicious produce donated throughout 2020.



**Sydney Slice** has come on board, again, in 2020 as a Gold Sponsor, and we thank Deborah West, Steve Smith and their team for their continued support and look forward to their involvement in 2021 and beyond.



It was exciting to welcome Cam Douglass and the team from **The Argyle Network** on board this season. Not only was The Argyle Network on board to sponsor the CUDAS Lunch, they have also taken on the naming rights for our Summer Touch competition for 2020.

# THE BUENA

Nick Wills, Lloyd and the team at **The Buena**, who hosted the MJRC Welcome Drinks and have generously supported MJRC at club events throughout the season.

Maon Sher, and his team at **Chargrill Charlies** once again supplied prizes for the Best and Fairest players after each game.





Jimil Desai and his team at **Taste of India** for providing onsite catering, discounts to club members and vouchers to players for the Best Defence Awards.



Cam Carswell and his team at **Orangetheory** who came on board this year. Orangetheory has helped keep the MJRC community motivated with their fitness through a crazy COVID-19 year and we are excited to be continuing this relationship in 2021.



Toby Cadwallader and Mick Cohen and their team from **Blue Powder Travel** were excited to be involved with MJRC for 2020. While the CUDAS Tour didn't eventuate this year, they are keen to extend their relationship into next season and look forward to being a part of MJRC and CUDAS in 2021.



# **VOLVO CARS MOSMAN**

This year MJRC was excited to welcome **Volvo Cars Mosman** as sponsors of MJRC and our CUDAS Tours. Look out for Mark Blundell and his team next season as they continue to support us on match days and for our CUDAS Tours to NZ.



After almost two decades with our senior Mosman Rugby Club it has been great to welcome Fergus Tilt and his team from **Fit As A Physio** to Mosman Junior's in 2020. Ferg and his team have been incredible in the support and wellbeing of our young player group and we look forward to continuing our partnership with him and his team for many years to come.

We would like to thank all of Mosman Junior Rugby Club's sponsors who tirelessly and generously give to support the club to develop the rugby skills and characters of our young players.

Thanks again to all our sponsors for their support in 2020. We look forward to partnering again in 2021 as we aim up for an even bigger and better season!

Nathan Davis SPONSORSHIPS 2020