



Marmalade and Jam

December 18, 2009

ASSOCIATES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Allen Park, Odern Crescent, Swanbourne. WA 6010 Tel: 0410 415 831

VALE ERIC HALL



ERIC HALL

This week we mourn the passing of our life member and secretary of some 30 years Eric P Hall. Eric passed away after a brief illness but as many will know he had not been well for a number of years. The wellbeing of Associates was of great importance to Eric until the last. The club owes him an immense amount of gratitude for all the years he put into its advancement. Eric was for many years the club's delegate to the WARU which obliged him to attend hundreds of dry council meetings as the club's advocate. His zeal as the secretary was legendary and most things were prosecuted with dispatch although his paperwork was sometimes found wanting. His pursuit of recalcitrant feepayers was famous and players returning to the club after a long absence would be hounded for outstanding subs. He made the treasurers and registrars jobs easy.

Eric's various residences were for many years the centre of the club's activities - the ranch house in Hackett Drive Crawley, the lizard's lager lodge in View Street Peppermint Grove and his flat in Broadway were always the venues for the Soak's legendary parties, the place where new players could get a temporary bed and the repository of all the club's bric-a-brac and players' jumpers. He organised and ran most of the club's legendary functions at these venues, arranging the marquees, gaming tables and kegs (half of which he helped to drain). The cleaning up details he organised the following day always resulted in another party. Eric's devotion to rugby resulted in him being awarded life membership of the WARU and one of his proudest moments was in receiving the City of Nedlands Civic Award in 2001.

Eric was no fair-weather friend and presided over some of the glory years of the late 50s and 60s as well as the lean years of the 70s and 80s. The club's return to premiership status in the recent past can be attributed to the foundations laid by him. Eric played a large part as a member of the clubhouse committee which resulted in our building today at Allen Park.

Although his contribution to the club was primarily as an administrator he was also a reasonable player and in the late 50s he was selected as second row for the WA state side. Eric's passing represents the end of an era and the pressures and alternative pursuits of modern life make it unlikely that we shall see his like again. We can but hope. Eric has seen fit to bequeath to the club an extremely large bequest which the club will be grateful for years to come. The Club extends its condolences to his twin brother John, his niece Sharon, his nephews Patrick and John jnr, and his longtime companion Hazel Hill with whom he shared some memorable travels in his later years.

Vale a good and faithful friend.
Denny Bennett

**Funeral: Karrakatta Cemetery, 15.30
Monday 21 December.**

Presidential Message

This edition of the M&J carries the very sad message of the death on Tuesday morning of one of Soak's most valued and respected members. Overleaf Denny has well described the man, who for many years, was a cornerstone of our club. While sadness is the immediate emotion, we should also celebrate the happiness and mirth that Eric brought to many.

Mike Flick, now of Tulsa, Oklahoma USA remembers:

Eric P. Hall was a "stalwart". Soaks was his only real life..when I played for the Club. He had a twin brother who was a resident of New Guinea at that time. Wonder if Eric outlived his twin ? I am glad I knew Eric...we had a ton of fun with him and by him. I have the "record" of having "revived" him as an active player, pulled from the "Retired Reserve" ranks to "rescue" a Soaks "B" Grade win...all via my Sunday Times rugby column as "**The Wasp**". 'Ol Eric' really gave me hell for that...but secretly, I knew he was revelling in the publicity. If he made it to Heaven..which he should have...I'll see him in the back bar of the Celestial Neddy's Park with a pair of pots "up". I hope he finally outgrew his nail biting contortionist act...but, IF I make it to Heaven...I'll KNOW it's him when he does his "over the head" nail bite trick Mike Flick -Soaks alumnus 71 thru partial 75 (Priors: Perth RUFC and Nedlands SAS as a RUFC)

While we remember Eric, I know he would want to see the business of rugby continue so:



ALUMNI

The passing of Eric Hall has highlighted the need for the club to re connect with its ex players and supporters. The aim in developing the Associates Alumni is for the club to re establish contact with all those who contributed to the establishment enhancement and further development of the rich history and traditions of our club.

I am endeavouring to build on Glenda Martinick's tremendous work in the writing of our club history and I need the help of all current and past members.

If you know of any non current members of Soaks ask them, coerce them, bribe them or otherwise get them to contact me with their name and details. My best contacts are glenough1@bigpond.com or 9524 2460. I will then include them on the Alumni list and contact will be re established.

Some recent additions to the list have been Craig Prosser, a fullback, centre, winger, one time Wine Bar owner who played in the seventies, he is alive and well in Darwin; and Julian Goddard a Colts front row forward of the late sixties who is now a lecturer in Fine Arts at Curtin University. Both of whom have expressed their delight in being reconnected with the club.

I am currently looking for current addresses, email or postal contact of John Cashmore, Peter Morgan, Tony Nixon and Will Nixon. Look forward to your support.
Tim O'Keeffe

Message from the Senior Coaches

The 2010 season looks set to be an exciting year down at the club with the majority of players returning for another successful season. The foundation of the player group comprises many dedicated and committed individuals with a relatively high skill base, the goal is to convert these solid foundations to the ultimate outcome – playing premier-ship rugby. We are furthering the culture and work ethic of the players, and with the right mindset, there is a group who can achieve great things in the season ahead.

This year sees a number of personnel changes at the club which not only includes the appointment of 1st Grade coaches but also the introduction of a coaching co-ordinator, Des Thornton. As a Level 3 Accredited Coach, Des has coached the Perth Gold (WA's state team in what used to be the Australian Rugby Shield national competition) side to numerous finals campaigns and 3 titles. We are very privileged to have the services of Des and welcome him to the club. Many at the club will know or know of Des through his representative successes and for those who are yet to meet him, please feel free to introduce yourself and make Des a part of the Soak's family.

As most of you will be aware the Pre-Pre-Season started on Tuesday 1st December and is being ably run by the club's very own fitness and conditioning coach Trotty (Steve Trott). The "Pre" Pre Season is designed to be short and sharp with training going for 1 hour, essentially giving players some base fitness to the Christmas break and to ready themselves for what will be yet another gut-wrenching pre-season commencing on Tuesday 5th January 2010. Get down and get into it, drag your mates along and we'll see you down there on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6.15pm sharp.

The focus for us this year will be to develop a culture down at the club where players are striving to be the best they can be fitness and skills wise whilst also providing positive encouragement and competition amongst their team mates. We want to be the best, part of that will require sacrifice on behalf of the players to perhaps do things over and beyond normal expectations, ensuring we have that competitive edge and point of difference. We've personally never known any team that has just been given a premiership, but what we do know is that teams that have won have had to work hard all year round to achieve their ultimate success. It's a great feeling to celebrate success in a team environment and share the outcomes of the hard work done by all.

We look forward to seeing you down at training and giving it a crack!

Cheers

Bear & Razza