

East's Rugby Union – AGM – Presidents Report – 2020

Welcome all East's members to the 2020 AGM.

2020 was a year to remember for East's, yet for so many it was a year to forget.

When the pandemic hit in March and we were forced to close down all club activities, it looked like we may not have any rugby in 2020.

But thankfully after a couple of months of no actual rugby, we were back on deck mid year, and all Junior and Senior teams were able to start training and then playing.

And as was evidenced by our Treasurers Report, East's were able to weather the financial storm of 2020 and remain in a very strong position to commence 2021.

All rugby competitions were modified due to restrictions, but this did not dampen the pride or enthusiasm of all players across the club.

Our younger age groups had an internal competition which was well received with the inaugural Tiger Cup on offer. We were also able to hold some Junior Carnivals with GPS and Brothers at the end of season which proved very successful.

And our older junior teams played in smaller geographical clusters without traditional finals due to restrictions.

Whilst the junior season was truncated we did have a successful year particularly with our Girls programme with our U16 Girls winning the BJRU 7s premiership.

However the main measure of our success with Juniors in 2020 came in the form of our registered numbers and the support given by all junior members. Our registered numbers across all juniors age groups was 1000 which was an improvement on 2019. In fact, post pandemic our registered numbers increased. I can't thank our Junior community enough for the support given in 2020.

Our modified rugby programme was also held in 2020 again although shortened it was a very successful year in 2020. We are very proud of all of our MRP players, mentors and Families. We are looking forward to our 2021 MRP programme returning to a normal length season and hopefully growing numbers for this wonderful programme.

Our seniors stole the limelight in 2020 with our most successful year on record.

Firstly our registered senior/colt numbers were at circa 280 with East's fielding Premier Mens and Womens to 6th Grade. Colts 1 to Colts 4 (2 teams in Colts 4 competition).

And it was also a significant year in that we welcomed back Premier Womens rugby to East's. This is a wonderful milestone for East's and will now be a permanent part of the club into the future.

The season was shortened to a single round of games which meant to make finals, winning most games was the only option.

And win we did. With a couple of clean sweeps throughout the season, Easts seniors and colts were heading for a year to be remembered. This started with winning the Doughty Shield following stirring victories by our Prem Mens and Womens at Brothers.

We had 10 teams makes finals including Premier men, Premier Women, 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths and 6ths, Colts 2,3&4.

Unfortunately 4th Grade, 6th Grade and Colts 2 and 3 didn't make the GF this year.

We had 6 Senior teams in Grand Finals. And due to restrictions the Grand Finals were held from Thursday through to Sunday. This made no difference to our teams. Starting with a stirring Colts IV victory out at UQ and 5 more victories at Ballymore, Easts had made history. Winning 6 out of 6 GF's. No club in the history of the Hospital Cup has achieved this.

I would also like to make a special mention of our Old Boys team. This year our Old Boys team became an official club team. This was a significant move to ensure this important part of our club were bound into the Tiger for Life philosophy. I would like to thank Josh Stanbury for his efforts to organise and manage this team.

More details on all Rugby in 2020 will be provided in the respective Snr and Jnr reports later in the meeting.

I would like to thank all 2020 board members for the huge amount of time and effort that has been invested in our club including Dave Waldie (VP), Darren Crothers (Treasurer), Dom Murphy (Junior Director), Quentin Masson (Senior Rugby Director) Helen Clarke(Marketing Director) Luke Fraser (Facilities/Clubhouse Director). The support you have each provided me and the club is greatly appreciated.

Of the board of 2020 we have one outgoing member, Dom Murphy, Junior Ruyg Director. Dom has given an unbelievable amount of time and effort into this role. And has created a system and structure that will be his legacy for many hears to come. Thank you Dom. You are a true Tiger for Life.

Events 2020 ; We were unable to hold any of our major events in 2021 however our Home Games were very successful albeit with restrictions in place. Again, this showed the strong community spirit within our club.

We were able to run our Junior Raffle which was an amazing fundraising success. A big thank you to our Junior Community for getting behind this important activity.

Whilst our rugby year was somewhat shortened, we did rely heavily on volunteers to make things happen at Easts. A huge thank you to all volunteers across our club.

Our whole of community support in 2020 has been the highlight of a very tough year. This shows the importance of our club in the greater community. We are very very proud of this culture and look forward to growing this in 2021.

I would like to thank our 2020 major Sponsors including Cromwell Property Group, Mullins Lawyers and Green Beacon Brewing Company. The support provided in a very tough year for business will not be forgotten. This support has made sure we remain viable as a club.

I would also like to thank all of our sponsors including Jersey, Fence Signs, Field Maintenance and Training Shirt. The combined value of which is imperative to the club success.

I would like to thank John Mullins for his continued contribution as Honorary Solicitor in 2020. The assistance provided by John across a number of different issues has been invaluable to me and the club as a whole.

I would like to thank Cr Krista Adams for being Club Patron in 2020 and for her continued support of our club.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff. Our staff went over and above this year. Lead by Michael Lucas, the effort, dedication and commitment were unbelievable. The year started with the very sad passing of Julie Laws. Julie was such a large part of our club and had so much knowledge of all things Easts. But Michael bought the team together and worked so hard to make 2020 the year it was. I cant explain in words the effort and work that Michael Lucas put into Easts this year. Needless to say, Easts would not be in the string position we are across all club elements without Michaels hard work and effort.

Erin Toohey and Tyrell Barker also assisted Michael to make 2020 a success. Erin managed all admin, social medial, junior registrar, events and much more. Well done Erin. Tyrell assisted Michael with the Rugby programme while coaching Colts 1, Premier Women and also playing across 3 grades!! Im so proud of how our staff banded together to make so many things happen at short notice due to restrictions. The effort Michael, Erin and Tyrell have put in cannot be understated. Thank you also to Rachel Pietila our Book Keeper for her efforts in 2020.

In would also like to thank our casual staff lead by Kelly Stringer and her whole family. And of course Karl Stringer (a volunteer) who is here working with them for each and every event at the club.

2021 at Easts:

We are hopeful that 2021 will see a return to a relatively normal season. Some of our key items for 2021 are summarized below.

- Retention of our Premier Grade Coaching Team
- Retention of Major Sponsors
- We will also welcome a host of new jersey and training shirt sponsors in 2021.
- Introduction of a formal non playing membership programme
- Introduction of mentoring young people programme through Fair Go Australia
- Re-focus on our Strategic plan and Development Masterplan.
- Focus on some key projects around the club including;
- Creating greater volunteer involvement by opening up more roles within the club.
- Growth of our performance rugby programme
- Continued growth of our Womens Rugby and Girls 7s programme
- Focus on player education, safety and welfare particularly in core elements of rugby
- Focus on retention of registered players particularly in Junior players due to significant publicity around player welfare and injury.
- Continued focus on growth and attendance at Major fundraising events
- Continued growth and focus on off season revenue streams including Summer 7s programme

