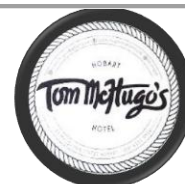




SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 6 2022

Welcome to the 6th **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2022. In this edition, **'From the Vault'** reflects on the special Rugby bonds that existed between SOAKS and St Virgils College. More new **SOAKS Bloke Profiles** are there to enjoy. The Convicts Golden Oldies were in action once again in June. Three **SOAKS** legends (**Brian Fitzpatrick, Sean 'Otis' Martyn and Konrad Plachta**) will join us for **two** 'must attend' drinks occasions in July, so please note well the calendar below to ensure that you don't miss the chance to catch up with them. I hope that you enjoy all the news, humour and nostalgia.



SOAKS Old Boys Calendar of upcoming Events

Friday 1 July

(SOAKS monthly drinks with **special guest Brian Fitzpatrick** from 5 pm @ Tom McHugo's)

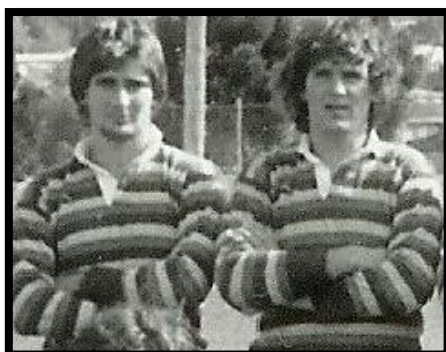
Friday 8 July

(Special SOAKS drinks with **special guests Sean Martyn and Konrad Plachta** from 5 pm @ Tom McHugo's)

SOAKS June Drinks

June 2022

'SOAKS Corner' at Tom McHugo's Hotel was suitably populated with a strong St Virgils College/SOAKS Old Boys flavour. Great times experienced during SVC school days and later with SOAKS are fondly recalled by Rugby mates John Lewinski, John Gillon, Paul Cook, Mark Kadziolka and Tim Nash. As they appeared in their late 1970's SOAKS playing days (below).





Others enjoying June drinks were: Garth Barnbaum, Andrew Herbert, Greg O'Keefe, Lynton Foster, Damian Kerin, Nigel Shepherd and Ben Cox.

From the Vault



SVC Rugby 1976 (Can you spot the strong SOAKS connection here?)

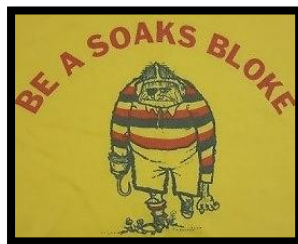
Back row L-R: Peter Wiltshire, Simon Salter, Tim Nash, David Healy, David Ayres, John Lewinski, Paul Bryant, Chris Gillian, Mark Kadziolka, Michael Ryan, Ian Fox, Martin Nally, Stephen Sheehan, Garth Norman
Front row L-R: Philip Homes, Carlo Di Falco, Tim Clarke, Paul Cook, John Barnett, Nick Foulston



Saturday 18 June saw the Convicts take on Taroona Old Boys in a heavyweight Golden Oldies encounter to help mark the 75th anniversary of the Taroona Rugby Club. Given the lop-sided scores in the seniors and reserves matches the Golden Oldies match up was a much more evenly contested affair and clearly the match of the day! Interestingly, there was a substantial number of Taroona Old Boys on the sideline showing a very keen interest in the match.



A SOAKS Bloke Profile



Name and Nick name?

Sean Martyn = Otis (my man) from Otis Day and the knights, *Blues Brothers* movie, I have a propensity to try and sing on stage at concerts.

When did you play for SOAKS? 1988-1995

Why did you decide to play for SOAKS?

The Goldilocks principle = Glenorchy seemed like a bunch of pussies, Uni were too toff, Taroona and Easts too Bogan, so SOAKS seemed to be *just right*

Did you play rugby with other clubs?

New England RU 1983-87 – United RUFC – the dirty ducks

What position/s did you play?

Fly half (lol)

What are your 3 fondest memories of your time with SOAKS?

1. The warm welcome
2. The house parties at Battery Point
3. Beating Glenorchy at Eadie Street and winning the brawl



Who was your most respected local rival?

The all-black trialist we were rumoured to be playing against every season opener.

In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why?

Greg Schmidt – the ultimate clubman and stalwart, available every week to fill a spot anywhere on the paddock.

What other non-playing role/s did you take on with SOAKS?

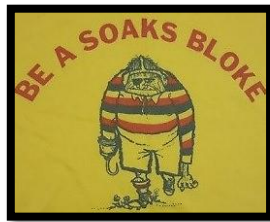
Fitness coach, strength and conditioning advisor

What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS? Toga nights at the Telegraph Hotel

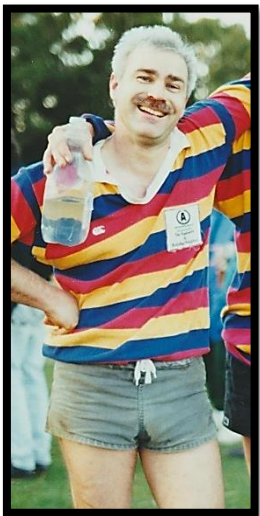
Any other comments?

Best 10 years of my life- Married my wife, started my business, had 2 kids and had some fun playing amateur
Rah Rah

A SOAKS Bloke Profile



Name and Nick name Malcolm (Mal) Riley. Other people probably called me something else but erased from my memory.



When did you play for SOAKS? 1990-1995

Why did you decide to play for SOAKS?

When I moved from Launmy to Hobart I went through the clubs Easts (Nooo, had no criminal record), Glenorchy (No, I did not want to change my name to Sheedy which I think at the time was compulsory), Taroona (Why would you?), Uni (in those days it was mostly students). So, it was between Harlequins and SOAKS. Harlequins in those days trained at Wentworth Park and living in Blackmans Bay it was too far to drive – so SOAKS got my valued services.

Did you play rugby with other clubs?

Combined Services~ 1980 (Darwin)

Shoalhaven (NSW) ~1981

Bayside (Darwin) 1982

Palmerston (Darwin) 1983-1985

Harlequins (Melb) 1986

Palmyra (Perth) 1987-1989

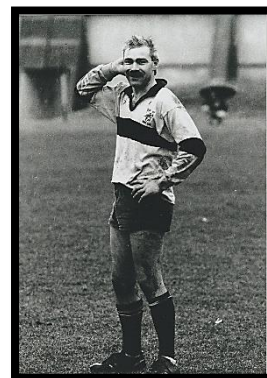
Glen Dhu 1989-1990

SOAKS 1990-1995

Harlequins (Hobart) last few years of playing career

What position/s did you play?

Wing, Centre, Breakaway. Playing mostly in the reserves, I played at some time in every position except front row. I did prop once with uncontested scrums against Glenorchy with a whole front row of Sheedys. It was hilarious as they spent the remainder of the match chucking hissy fits at the Ref as they couldn't steamroll us as they were doing before my going into the front row. I remember one game where I had 5 positions before even taking the field.



What are your 3 fondest memories of your time with SOAKS?

Before joining SOAKS and playing for Glen Dhu against SOAKS at Royal Park.

SOAKS had a forward called Bill Mahina. He must have done a good run because every time from then on the crowd on both sides, would yell out "Give it to Bill" every time SOAKS were in possession – If the ball got to Bill cheers went up from the crowd - very funny.



Played a match somewhere (cannot remember where or against whom). I was one side of the scrum and Steve Openshaw was the other. During the match I would break and bring down one of the opposing players and everyone would pile in on top of me and by the time I extracted myself from under the mass of bodies Steve was scoring a try. This happened several times, I think. Most unfair I thought.

Daryl (mentioned below) when playing would get angry he would do a Maori death stare to the opposition and it seemed his eyes actually stuck out from his head. Not sure if the opposition was ever intimidated but gave us all a good laugh.

Who was your most respected local rival?

I always like playing against Uni... Why? Their ground always seemed to be softer! The mob I thought were the 'dirtiest' in Tas were (in my experience) Easts. One match at Warrane they had a rather large character who played with them. Trapped under bodies (again) he rolls over and elbows me twice – once in each eye giving me two black eyes to go to work with. Later in the match he took objection to one of our smaller backs chasing him off the field around the clubhouse until the canny back ran into the sheds where our first grade was getting ready. Even he could see going in there may not end well. Funny thing was the Ref wouldn't let him back on the field and he spent the rest of the match walking backwards and forward along the sideline saying to himself "*I dun wrong*". I did hear later that said Jumbo had been banned from playing Union, League and Aussie Rules – for life.



In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why?

Not sure if I can pick anyone who "influenced me" as I was too long in the tooth and too set in my ways by the time I joined. I did admire (Can't remember his last name) Daryl (Maori guy) who I think was on the board and was really good at organising things and he arranged some epic party nights.



What other non-playing role/s did you take on with SOAKS?

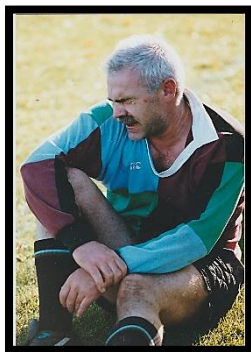
On the Committee for several years – and when SOAKS folded – not my fault though!

What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS?

There was a certain SOAKS player that tended to flake about ¾ of the way through any night. Once he did people seemed to produce shavers or permanent markers or other such paraphernalia and said player would

wake up without eyebrows or with noughts and crosses or other “graffiti” on his face. Sometimes the graffiti was not kind.

Any other comments?



I moved around a lot in my younger days and it was always great going to a new club. Many players do fit stereotypes of their position. I turned up at a new club, the names and looks of the people may change but you felt as though you already knew them.

Many funny things stick in my mind over the years of playing. Some of them include: Playing at Katherine NT: the ball would be kicked out and into the dense 5 ft tall spear grass. All the players would then traipse off the field and thump around in the grass trying to find the ball.

One post-game celebration at Nowra after heaps of booze going to someone’s house that had two red bellied black snakes in an old kitchen cabinet with sliding glass door. Owner, drunk as a monkey decided to bring them out for a play. People jumping on couches, standing on TVs but luckily, no Rugby players or snakes were harmed in this

episode.

Playing a Sunday comp in southern NSW: jogging to a break in play I overheard two players (different teams) and obviously farmers discussing the benefits of one sheep drench over another.

Play resumed, but at the next breakdown the conversation began again.

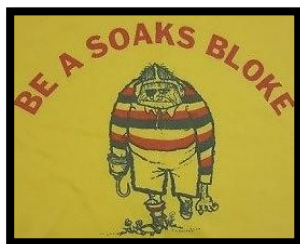
Loved the away trips, the bus, the booze, the brainlessness of drunken rugby players away from home. I was State Manager (Tas) briefly. On a trip to Geelong one evening at the motel I could hear a kerfuffle in the car park.

There was a second rower with his pants around his knees bending over. Other players were lined up. At their turn they sprinted up to the guy and whilst still running slapped him on the bare arse as hard as they could. The recipient would howl and jump about and the next guy would have a go. I just turned around and went back to my room, I never figured out the back story to that.

My rugby experience is not like many who get these newsletters. Many seem to be cradle to grave SOAKS members. Me, I have allegiances around the country and have enjoyed every minute of it.



A SOAKS Bloke Profile



Name and Nick name? Richard Boulton, sometimes Boulty

When did you play for SOAKS? Started halfway through 1992 season until the end of the 1994 season, so two and a half seasons.

Why did you decide to play for SOAKS? I worked with a guy who had moved down from Canberra and started playing with SOAKS at the start of the 1992 season. He kept nagging me about how they needed a second rower to make some hard yards down the middle of the paddock!

Did you play rugby with other clubs? Yep, pretty much every kid growing up in Sydney’s north in the 60’s and 70’s played rugby. So, I started playing for Lindfield Rugby club in 1969 (u7’s), then school rugby for Knox until grade 12. After finishing school, I played in what

was called the Metropolitan Sub District Rugby Union in Sydney. It was essentially social rugby. Saint Ignatius (Riverview) Old Boys in 1982 and Knox Old Boys 1986.

What position/s did you play? Second row, always. I think I played one game as a number 8 – for SOAKS reserve! It was the last game in the 1992 season, numbers were down, so a lot of us had to play two games. I think Nigel Shepherd and Dave Morris offered it to me as a sweetener! I missed a critical tackle, my departure from the scrum wasn't fast enough, old habits die hard.

What are your 3 fondest memories of your time with SOAKS? Bus trips, return leg particularly if we had won! Post-match drinks and associated banter. The third fondest memory was a dedicated rugby song practice evening that was pretty funny, particularly when the more senior guys started singing, and drinking!

Who was your most respected local rival? Kim Creek (Harlequins) and Robin Allardice (Hobart Lions).

In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why?

Dave Kilpatrick, took the club from cellar dwellers in 1992 to minor premiers for the senior team in 1993. It was a great season, winning both seniors and reserves against Glenorchy was a standout moment – I played reserve grade for this match and most of that season. I enjoyed backing up and supporting the senior team. The senior coach, Bruce Eaton was another big influence. I had never played rugby as an adult in a club with a proper coach! He would come on at half time with a clip board and a page full of notes! Rugby clubs are a magnet for great characters. There was a slightly older guy at the club who raced greyhounds and had an ultrasound that he used on his dogs and us after training on Thursday evenings! It was great, got rid of my niggling calf injury!! Johnny Millar was another great character; he would have been in his early 50's playing in the front row. He also held a world record for push ups at some stage! Always encouraged us and was a great rugby mentor – with a rugby league back ground!!

What other non-playing role/s did you take on with SOAKS? I remember cleaning the barbecue!

What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS? Mal Riley and Daryl Buckingham doing an ABBA song, *Waterloo*! Mal was blonde back then and Daryl had dark hair!

Any other comments? One of the better decisions of my life was to play Rugby for SOAKS, as I met my wife through a blind date set up by Reid Hooker in 1994!

Heard and Noted



Roving correspondent Andrew Herbert, whilst on assignment in Brisbane recently, managed to catch up for a jug or two with **SOAKS** legends George Melit and Steve Colles. All three figured very prominently in the 1986 **SOAKS** premiership tilt.

Watch out for the monthly drinks email reminders and the periodic **SOAKS Old Boys** email newsletters in future. You can also keep in touch by viewing or joining **Hobart Convicts Rugby and SOAKS** Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/68764449606/>

