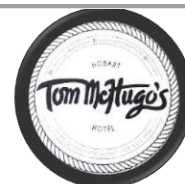




SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 3 2023

Welcome to the 3rd **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2023. Featured in this edition is a tribute to the late Reg Nash and the well attended March SOAKS drinks is captured in photos. In **‘From the SOAKS Vault’**, there is a reflection on the origins of SOAKS and the Club’s formative first steps. Finally, the Newsletter catches up with Herbie to see where on the Mainland he was recently to visit with another SOAKS Old Boy.

I hope that you enjoy all the news, humour and nostalgia.



SOAKS Old Boys Calendar of upcoming Events

Friday 7 April 2023

(SOAKS monthly drinks from 5 pm @ Tom McHugo’s)

Friday 5 May 2023

(SOAKS monthly drinks from 5 pm @ Tom McHugo’s)

SOAKS March Drinks



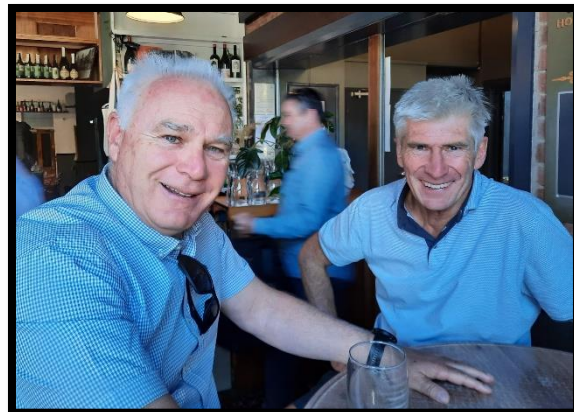
March 2023

A ‘fantastic five’ SOAKS model the Club’s ‘drinking shirts’ including: Harry Cox, Dave Morris, Andrew Herbert, Greg O’Keefe and Lynton Foster (above).



March 2023

Meanwhile SOAKS John Gillon, Barry Hamilton, Tim Oxley, Dave Kilpatrick and Richard Boulton thought it was mufti Friday, appearing as incognito as they can (above).



Nigel Shepherd (above) looks a little concerned that Herbie's not drinking!

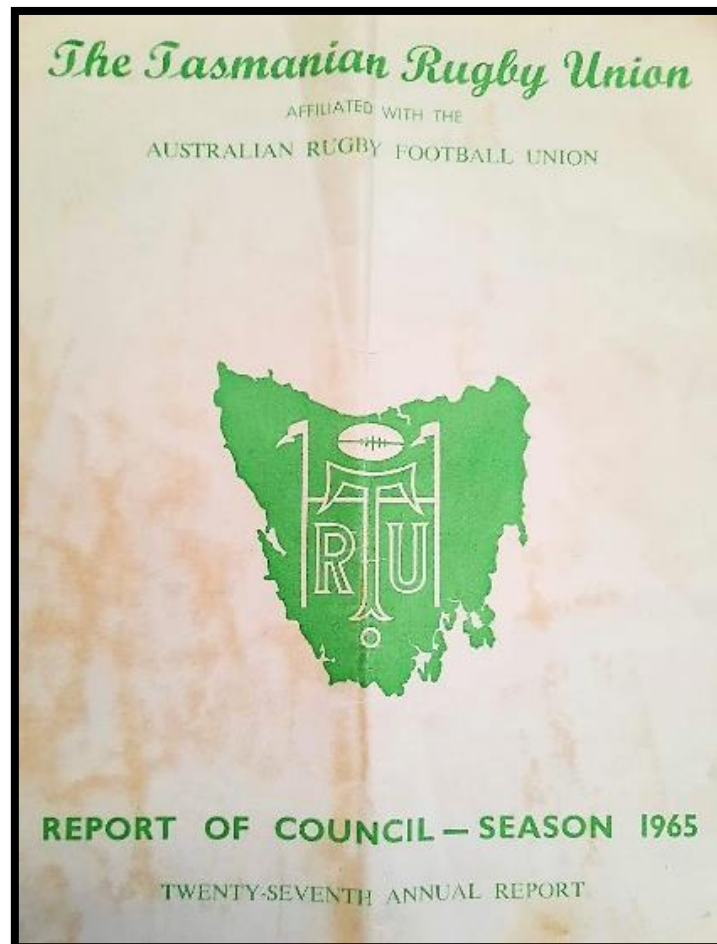


Mal Riley and Richard Boulton (above) are all set and ready for the next round (of drinks)! Complete with a refreshed glass, Nigel (left) looks well satisfied with proceedings.

From the SOAKS Vault

With season 2023 almost upon us, it is appropriate to acknowledge the 90th anniversary of the Tasmanian University Rugby Union Football Club (TURUFC) and congratulate the Club on such a monumental accomplishment indeed.

As the origins of our Club SOAKS are intimately connected with the story of the University Rugby Club, it is only fitting and timely to reflect on the birth of the University Associates Rugby Club (aka SOAKS). The following items taken from the 1965 TRU Report of Council and a Gordon Burnett article from the Mercury in 1967 detail the origins of SOAKS and the phenomenal early success of the Club.



NEW CLUBS

No doubt many people had mixed thoughts when it was proposed to form a virtual Graduates Club from former University Club members at the start of the season. Any doubts that anyone could have had about their standards of play, however, must have been instantly dispelled when the new Club, Associates, commenced roster matches. Successfully fielding teams in both Senior and Reserve Grades they provided strong competition for all Clubs and capped their first year of formation with grand final wins in both Grades. A “five” in Senior

UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICIALS

President: P. Doe, Esq.
Hon. Secretary: D. Gee, Esq.
Hon. Treasurer: J. Alker-Jones, Esq.
Coach: Dr. W. Thompson
Delegates to Council: D. Gee and B. Baumer
Club Captain: H. Cox

The suggestion that a new club be formed came from a meeting of the University Rugby Club at a meeting in mid-1964. Much discussion took place concerning the need to limit the University Club membership to students as at that time, the senior University team comprised largely of players who, although having played for Uni. since the victorious 1959 and '60 seasons, were not students. This meant that it was difficult for students to play senior grade football as well as precluding them from qualifying for blues. The outcome of the discussion was that, for future seasons, only bona-fide students would be admitted to the University Club. Accordingly many of the then University senior grade team decided to form a new club.

The Club got away to a flying start socially. Within six weeks of its inception a most successful barbecue was held at Peter Rizzolo's despite the weather, and a barbecue which was to be held at Eddie Young's at Wayatinah finished up at Wilf Crane's at New Norfolk—also despite the weather.

By 20th February we had started training with about 25 names on the membership list and a reserve grade team became a possibility. With the start of the 1965 season the Club was affiliated with the Tasmanian Rugby Union with teams in the Senior and Reserve grade competition.

Everyone in the Club appreciates the work, expense and inconvenience of the organisers of the various parties and other social activities and from the Club we extend thanks to everybody who helped make this as successful a season off the field as on.

It is doubtful whether any club in its first season had as enviable a record on the field as Associates. The senior grade played 12 roster games, winning nine and losing three. Points for totalled 252, points against 80. We went on to win the Minor-Premiership by defeating Harlequins 13-8, the Southern Premiership by defeating Quins 14-0, and the State Premiership by defeating Glen Dhu, the Northern Premiers 27-3. The reserve grade played 15 roster games of which 10 were won, 4 lost and one drawn. Points for totalled 195, points against 61 (10 games only). We finished second behind Harlequins in the roster competition after defeating University 21-8 in a play off. We subsequently defeated Harlequins 25-0 and

Army 6-3 in the grand final to take out the Premiership in the reserve grade.

Much of our success on the field is due to the efforts of our coach Dr. Bill Thompson. Attendance of players at training could have been better but improved as the season progressed. It should be obvious to every player that for a team to possess that combination of fitness and skill which wins games, regular attendance at training is essential. To Bill goes the gratitude of the Club and the satisfaction of seeing us take out the double.

On the financial side, we have had a lot of help. Mrs. Cox with assistance from wives and girlfriends of players manned the stall at Clare Street. Bill Hodgetts gave a generous cash donation. Horrie Cox acted as "orange boy" during the season and sold more than his share of sports cards. Roger Boss-Walker organised a successful sportscard drive. Harry Cox obtained all our jumpers, socks and trophies at reduced prices and Dick Ho supplied us with soft drinks.

Everything considered, it would be difficult to conceive of a better start to a Rugby Club than Associates first season. Let us hope that we can continue in the same fashion.

GLENORCHY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICIALS

Patron: L. Arnold, Esq.
President: A. R. Gear, Esq.
Vice-Presidents: G. Hill, Esq. (Senior), R. Mitchell, Esq., E. Harrold, Esq.
Honorary Secretary: A. Adams, Esq. (R. C. Dobbie resigned during year).
Honorary Treasurer: B. Fitzgerald, Esq.
Honorary Auditor: L. Saunders, Esq.
Property Officer: R. Barrett, Esq.
Club Coach: E. Macdonald, Esq.
Club Captain: E. Macdonald, Esq.
Executive Committee: R. Barrett, G. Jacobs, M. Hopkins, R. Baldwin, V. Bannerman, E. Macdonald, R. Buckingham.
Delegate to T.R.U. Management Committee: A. R. Gear
Delegates to T.R.U. Council: V. Bannerman and R. Buckingham

For the Club, the past season has been one of change, which saw the voluntary change of name and location from Gordon Northern Suburbs to that of Glenorchy, and our expressed desire to be considered and operating as a District Rugby Club.

A further transition took place when we adopted Glenorchy district colours of Black and White, although we still retained our Club Stag-Head emblem.

In an interesting note and in another club development, 1965 saw Glenorchy drop the tartan jerseys of the former Gordon Club and adopt the now familiar black jersey of Glenorchy. However, in a nice touch the Stag's head emblem was retained, to maintain the link with the past.

The Premiership winning 1959 University Rugby Club (right) are seen in their former striped jerseys and below in the 1980s Uni playing against SOAKS in their now familiar red strip. SOAKS acquired the striped jerseys when the one club became two separate entities.



The 1965 Premiership winning SOAKS Senior team (below)



The 1965
State Final

STATE FINAL

Once again the State Final showed the difference in standard between Northern and Southern club rugby.

In this season's State Final in Hobart on September 18, new Southern club, Associates, overwhelmed Glen Dhu, 27-3, to score a well deserved State Premiership win in its first season. Congratulation "Soaks."

The 1965 Premiership winning SOAKS Reserve Grade team (below)



The 1965 University Rugby Club report highlights the new-look student only teams representing the Club. With the establishment of SOAKS, UTAS graduates and other older former Uni players from 1965 onwards predominantly played their rugby with Associates. So, in essence one club became two for the next 31 years.

President: T. Doe, Esq.
Club Captain: B. Powell, Esq.
Honorary Treasurer: D. Collis, Esq.
Honorary Secretary: D. Raward, Esq.
T.R.U. Council Delegates: J. Cooper, Esq. and G. Botwright, Esq.
T.R.U. Management Committee: J. Moore, Esq. succeeded by D. Raward, Esq.

Assistant Secretary: T. Kennedy, Esq.

Gear Steward: T. Kennedy, Esq.

Publicity Officer: G. Botwright, Esq.

Senior Coach: G. T. Wilson, Esq.

1965 was the first year that the T.U.R.U.F.C. has consisted solely of undergraduates and with this in mind the performances of our Club in competition matches was quite commendable.

The Club suffered badly from injuries right from the beginning of the year and it was very seldom that the same team played in successive matches.

However, in 1966 we expect to be a much bigger threat to other Clubs and we should have little difficulty in taking out one trophy, especially in the Senior Reserve competition.

The Club would like to express its appreciation of the services of the Coach Mr. G. T. Wilson, and also of the efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary.

A full Blue in Rugby, was awarded to G Botwright, whilst V. Younger and J. Emms were awarded a half Blue.

GORDON BURNETT'S *SPORT ROUNDUP*

Seniors have to look to their laurels

ASSOCIATES, who are doing so well in Southern Tasmanian Rugby — they are heading the first and reserve grades — were formed in 1964 to take over graduates and lecturers and a few “outsiders,” who were keeping student talent out of the University XV.

The result has been most satisfying, as University players now have a much better chance of qualifying for Blues, thus increasing the popularity of the game, and the Tasmanian side for the inter-varsity carnival has been strengthened by being able to play together.

Associates scooped the pool at their first attempt, winning the senior and reserve grade premierships,

and were runners-up in both last year.

And they have struck form again this year with an influx of new blood from last year's Matriculation College because of the efforts of one of their stalwarts, Dick Buttfield, who coached them last season.

This is making some of the name players in first grade look to their laurels, and the exhibition of inspired Rugby turned on by the reserves in their opening game would have done credit to any senior side.

Often rehearsed but seldom achieved, the ball flowed along the back line to provide that open style of play so attractive to watch.

This year's senior team

has a Welsh coach (Gwynn Williams), a couple of Davis, Peter Riley and Jack Bryant, both of whom played for the State last year, and Scot John Donaldson, who was Southern Tasmanian captain-coach last year and has served for a year as chairman of the management committee of the U.R.A.

Not a small contributing

factor in this 40 playing member club's success has been its social activities, with barbecues, dinners, after-game parties, fishing and skiing trips a regular feature on a calendar which helps to develop the team spirit that leads to club tradition.

Gordon Burnett's 1967 article from the *Mercury* outlines a brief history of SOAKS formation.

The Premiership tally boards 1965-1995

Premierships won by Associates Rugby Club 1965-1995

Seniors

Total: 6

Years: 1965, 1967, 1970, 1971,
1972, 1984

Reserve Grade

Total: 3

Years: 1965, 1981, 1982

Over the period 1965-1995 as two separate clubs SOAKS and Uni enjoyed considerable success as can be seen from the tally boards presented here.

Premierships won by Tasmanian University Rugby Club 1965-1995

Seniors

Total: 3

Years: 1978, 1989, 1990

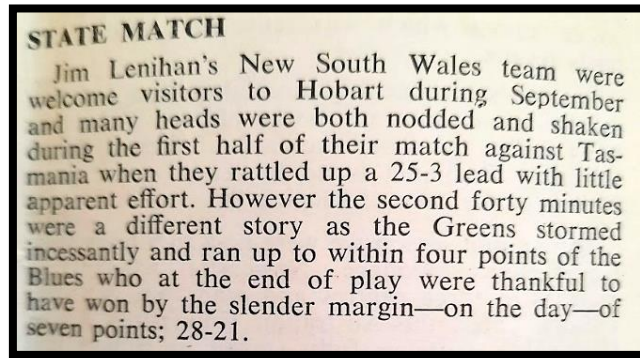
Reserve Grade

Total: 4

Years: 1968, 1970, 1971, 1974

Source: Tasmania 2000 Sporting Almanac

A very interesting item in the 1965 TRU Report is featured below and details an interstate clash between NSW and Tassie. On the surface of it, the result is quite extraordinary.



Heard and Noted

Vale Reg Nash by Damian Kerin

Reg Nash was the father of Tim Nash, SOAKS legend and Club Captain in 1984-85. When Tim rocked up to SOAKS to play Colts in the late 1970's with all his St Virgil's rugby and rowing mates, Associates was also gifted the boy's number one fan: his father, Reg Nash. Any friend of Tim's was a friend of Reg's.

Associates Rugby Club has certainly had some colourful characters as players and supporters.

The sign of a great supporter is that they are there through the thick and thin of the club's rich history and the journey of the players. In the late 1970s and early '80s, Reg Nash was certainly one of those guys.



A thorough gentleman he was, softly spoken and ever-so polite. But he would get excited as the SOAKS boys plied their trade with such skill and grace on the pitch.

An astute exponent of the game, Reg played the game in the town of Forbes in country NSW. A very handy rugby player and cricketer in his youth.

Reg could referee the game perfectly from the sidelines, but the match referee would tend to differ. Reg would arc up if the ref dared to penalize SOAKS, and even more so if a penalty went against Tim. So, I dare say he arced up regularly.

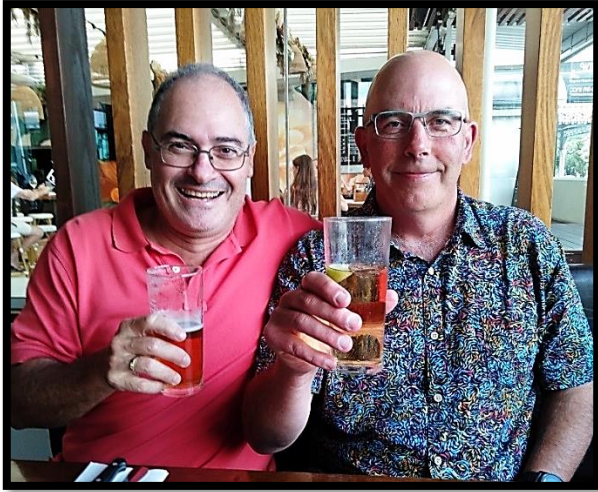
Ever encouraging at the beginning of a game, he'd be seen wishing all players in both Reserves and Seniors, a great game. At the end of the game Reg would pat everyone on the back and thank them for a great game. "Great game!" was always his call.

Associates' players always ran on to the pitch looking pristine in our laundered and repaired jerseys as a result of Reg's generous sponsorship from the 'Lost Sock Launderette' in Glenorchy, owned by Reg and Val Nash.

On a personal note, it was a privilege to be around the club during Reg Nash's time. His wisdom and his manner with the players have stayed with me for life.

On behalf of all SOAKS blokes, condolences are extended to Tim and all the Nash family.

Herbie, SOAKS everywhere man, was on the road once again, this time in Brisbane to catch up with SOAKS Old Boy George Melit at the Regatta Hotel no less!



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/>

