



SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 5 2022

Welcome to the 5th **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2022. In this edition, 'From the Vault' reflects on SOAKS Club Captains through the years and the refereeing talent of a SOAKS Old Boy is highlighted. There are also more new **SOAKS Bloke Profiles** to enjoy. With the new Rugby season well under way, the Convicts Golden Oldies first hit out for the year is captured in images. I hope that you enjoy all the news, humour and nostalgia.



SOAKS Old Boys Calendar of upcoming Events

Friday 3 June

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

Saturday 18 June

Proposed Convicts vs Taroona Golden Oldies match @ Rugby Park as one of the curtain raisers to the Greg Sawyer Cup match Uni vs Taroona

Friday 1 July

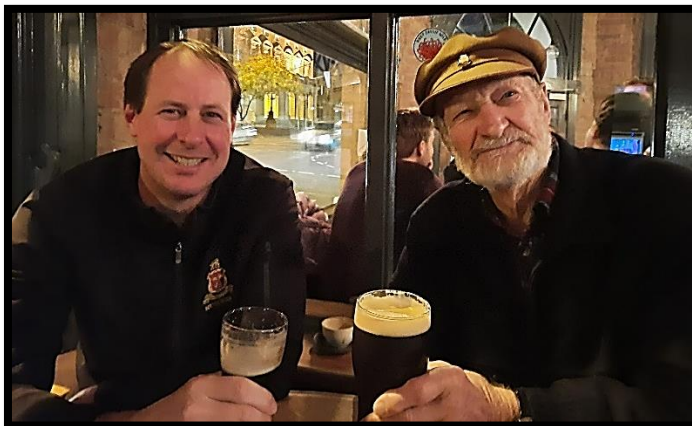
(SOAKS monthly drinks from 5 pm @ Tom McHugo's)

SOAKS April Drinks



May 2022

'SOAKS Corner' in Tom McHugo's Hotel was well populated with happy drinkers. Among them were: Blair Jepson, Nigel Shepherd, Dean Eddington, Mal Riley, Peter Doe, Mark Dwyer and Simon Himson.



Others at May drinks were: John Gillon catching up with Simon Himson, Geoff Eddington and son Dean enjoying a father and son Guinness; Dave Kilpatrick and Peter Doe; Ray Davis and Stephen King



Meanwhile, Leigh Sealy and Ray Davis enjoyed a yarn or two as they reminisced about SOAKS and Ray's past adventures as a TRU referee. To illustrate Ray's memory, a 1980 match report highlights Ray's 'astute display of refereeing' in a Glenorchy vs Quins clash from that year.



Krugby

Glenorchy

GOOD weather, the return of four players and an astute demonstration of refereeing by Ray Davis combined to bring out the best in the Glenorchy first grade team last Saturday against Quins.

A try by Gordon Campbell and a try and conversion by Darryl Terry gave Glenorchy a 10-0 lead at half time.

Both teams missed out on potential tries during this stanza as they were unable to finish off moves.

The second half started well with Glenorchy establishing a pattern of pressure and backing up.

Quins looked dangerous at times and were led well by Marty Hart, but Glenorchy was able to protect its tryline against being crossed.

Ron Winzenberg made his presence felt by servicing his backline with good ball, by making breaks and inspiring his team mates.


The return of David Dransfield from retirement, Graeme Wright from suspension and Paul Soldatenko from injury really lifted Glenorchy.

The Blacks were much quicker to the loose ball and tackled much more effectively than they have been recently.

Glenorchy gradually ran Quins off their feet and finished off strongly. Campbell, Wade Ford and David Dransfield scored tries in the last twenty minutes and Terry kicked his second conversion.

Every Glenorchy player played well and contributed to the 24-0 win.

However R. Winzenberg, S. Williams and R. Berry lifted themselves when the team needed a special effort.





Saturday 21 May saw the kick off to the Convicts Golden Oldies season for 2022. It was great weather and as always it was wonderful to see the SOAKS 'tricolour' jersey take to the field once again.

Uni stalwart Don Snodgrass was deservedly named best on the paddock and was loud in his thanks for the opportunity to have a run once again.

There was a super roll up of SOAKS Old Boys there for the day. One notable inclusion to take the field was halfback extraordinaire Simon Himson.

The next Convicts match is a proposed clash with Taroona on 18 June. Hope to see you there!

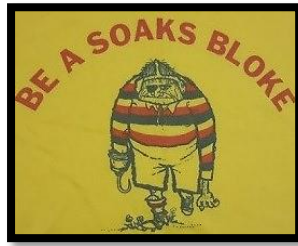




SOAKS Old Boys were out in force to support the Convicts Golden Oldies opening day. Special guest Queensland tourist Scott 'Albie' Albertson dropped in for a very welcome surprise visit along with Barry Hamilton, John Gillon, Lynton Foster, Mal Riley, Simon Himson, Clyde Eastaugh, John Donaldson (with son-in-law Craig Stephens), Nigel Shepherd, Steve Harris, Paddy Dorney, Blair Jepson and Geoff Eddington. Fred Morey was there also and keeping in with the Golden Oldies spirit, he was decked out in his 1987 Old Tassie Devils jersey and wearing his cap with badges obtained from various Golden Oldie clubs.



A SOAKS Bloke Profile



Name and Nick name (if any)? Ian Scutt, Nickname: Scutty

When did you play for SOAKS?

1991-93

Why did you decide to play for SOAKS?

Having just relocated to Tasmania from Queensland, I was playing hockey for University and Sean Martyn (aka Otis) convinced me that rugby was a far better option. And it was.

Did you play rugby with other clubs? (Name of Club/s and Year/s)

No

What position/s did you play?

Full back and Flyhalf

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

There were many, but the ones that stand out were:

*Beating Glenorchy at Rugby Park (I think in 1992). We had a move called 'its on' and upon receipt of an 'Oysters' pass I would caress a kick across field to Phil Williams on the right wing, who (in this instance) picked up the ball and scored in the corner. It only ever worked once! But this was the one occasion when it did much to the disgust of the Stag players. The

inebriated and perhaps not so well-educated Glenorchy supporters kindly gave me a mouthful whilst I proceeded to convert the kick from the sideline. There were some heavy hitters in the Glenorchy team including the Onn boys. Who could forget 'Misty' who enjoyed 'running through' the opposition? We were never really sure whether we would make it off the field without a fight of some description but that day we did - just.

*The aftergame celebrations or commiseration sessions at the Telegraph on a Saturday night. Learning how to skull upside down on a bar table. Even my now wife inherited this fine skill.

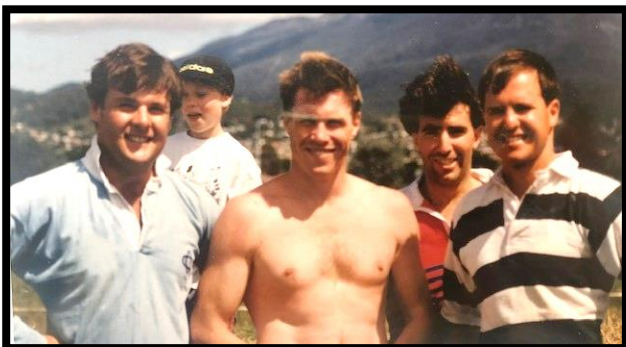
*The road trips were also memorable including those to the West Coast - particularly on the way back knowing that you survived the running wrath of Bill Mahina and the locals who were often 'a little out of control on the piss' you could say. Garth Barnbaum also liked a sing along - 'bestiality is great mate' and so on...never to be repeated in civilised company.

*Kicking a 50 metre or half way line penalty against Devonport in Devonport to win the game. Did that a few times but often missed the easy ones!

*In early 1992 **Nick Farr-Jones** was in Hobart for Caltex-The Mercury Sports Star of the Year Awards and a SOAKS pre-season inter-club match featured an on-field appearance of the Wallaby World Cup winning

Captain. It was one of my most memorable rugby moments to be on the receiving end of his passes as flyhalf, but this privilege was short-lived. It soon became apparent that Nick realised he didn't need a 5/8 and passed through me to Blair Jepson at inside centre. After a few 'drops', it was clear that I was standing too close to him. No surprises there; however, I put that down to the night before. Nick was gracious with his time and we all had a great day.

[Photo left: Walter Thompson, Nick Farr-Jones, James Henderson and Ian Scutt]



Who was your most respected local rival? (Name and club)

Glenorchy was always respected in the sense that they were always a hard and physical team, similarly Taroona at the time.

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

Probably the big unit – Sean Martyn (Otis). He introduced me to the club and many great people. He also convinced me to take on the coaching role to take an U18 Tasmanian development team to Fiji in 1993 to participate in the Pacific Rim Tournament.

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

Ted Dunn. He had us in stitches most of the time.

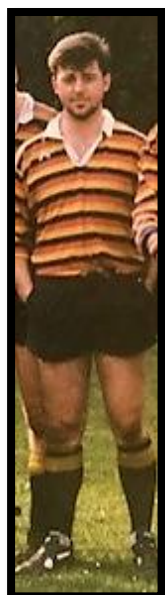
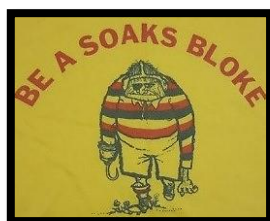
Any other comments?

As outlined above, I had the opportunity to take an U18 Tasmanian Development team to participate in the Pacific Rim Tournament in 1993. Along with Mark Lawler we raised funds at a memorable event at the Grand Chancellor to assist in supporting our team adventure. The Springboks were playing in Australia at the time and we were fortunate to get **Kobus Wiese** down to participate in the evening. A coup at the time....

The trip was an incredible experience for the young (and mostly inexperienced players) who were fortunate to play against Tonga, Fiji, Western Samoa and a Qld side. It was our first sighting too of the great All Blacks player Jonah Lomu who was playing as a no 8 as a schoolboy. We also had the privilege of meeting the then prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka.



A SOAKS Bloke Profile



Name and Nick name (if any)? Ben Cox. I don't remember having a nickname at SOAKS, maybe "Coxy"?

When did you play for SOAKS? I was only at SOAKS for three or four years from 1988 till 1990 or '91 due to a work-related transfer to the east coast in 1991.

Why did you decide to play for SOAKS? Bit of a story – I had moved down from Sydney and did my last 3 years of school at The Friends' School. In 1986 Trevor Maning and a couple of other guys at Friends' School decided to get the Friends' rugby team going again, so naturally, as a New South Welshman who had actually played rugby, I managed to get a run. I think there may have been one other player in that team who had played rugby before. We won the grand final against Hutchins in our second (and final) year in '87. A sweet victory, to be sure. Anyway, during that final season, a couple of the guys from SOAKS came along to our training at Rugby Park one night and told us a bit about the club (I suspect they may have left a few things out), basically saying that Friends' wasn't affiliated with any senior clubs, and SOAKS didn't have any junior teams, so if any of us were thinking about kicking on into senior rugby the following season, they would love to have some new players. I asked Bob

Fraser-Easton (who was our schoolboys coach) what he thought, and his advice was, “Coxy, always go where the good coaches are.” Well Herbie was playing coach of SOAKS in 1988, but I decided I would go there anyway. In fact, a few of us Friends’ boys made the move to SOAKS, and it was the best move we made. I really could not have imagined playing for any other club.

Did you play rugby with other clubs? I only ever played one other season, which was with Uni once I transferred back to Hobart as SOAKS had sadly folded by then. I should probably have folded too as I was a bit older (and just a little heavier), but we did have a successful year. I’m pretty sure that was 1997. The culture at the Uni club was remarkably similar to SOAKS, although sadly they didn’t have the coveted Man-of-the-Match Paisley Belt.

What position/s did you play? I was five-eighth at Friends’, at SOAKS I played inside centre, and then at Uni I played outside centre. I see a pattern emerging – perhaps if I played another season I would have been on the wing. Or maybe not...

What are your 3 fondest memories of your time with SOAKS? What is foremost in my memory of my time at SOAKS is just how welcome we Friends’ boys were made to feel at the club. Just about everyone went out of their way to look after us. And that continued as new players came to the club over the years that I played there.

I also have very fond memories of bus trips to play up north and the north west coast – in particular the singing and Nigel Shepherd’s jokes. They (the jokes) were relentless, and I don’t ever remember hearing the same joke twice. And every single one of them was FUNNY! His delivery was actually very good, too. And Ivan the bus driver. He didn’t seem too keen on the nickname Demjanjuk that was given to him, for some reason, but he was happy to stop at every single pub on the way home, or if some of the roadside flora needed watering.

And thirdly, the flagon watches at Greens Hotel – firstly negotiating with the licensee over the purchase price, then timing how long it took us to drink the flagon. I’m pretty sure it was always a flagon of vodka, drunk with lemon squash. Funny, I’ve never seen that drink in any cocktail recipe book.



Who was your most respected local rival? It was always a challenge playing against Savali Lopa, he was a pretty gifted ball carrier and difficult to tackle. I was fortunate to play in the centres with him later at Uni and he made me look good. We are good friends to this day, which speaks volumes of what Rugby is about.

I also used to enjoy tackling Steve Maxwell from Glenorchy because he hated being tackled so much. He and I are not such good friends to this day.

In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why? It’s hard to single anyone out really. I always felt that Dave Standish at five-eighth and Dave Morris at outside centre kind of took me under their wing and looked after me. Greg Schmidt was perhaps the quintessential clubman – he left it all out on the paddock week in, week out. He just never stopped having a red-hot go, he had an amazing work rate around the rucks, and was a great example to the rest of us. Oh, and he didn’t mind a beer.

What other non-playing role/s did you take on with SOAKS (if any)? Sadly, my time at SOAKS ended before I was really in a position to take on any off-field roles.

What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS? I have a fairly vague memory of Tim Mitchell at Shenanigans night club in Burnie (well, that was my name for it. Was it Sirocco’s?) picking his nose and flicking boogers at the bouncers. And maybe Donda Ahipene (R.I.P.) fighting some man-mountain from the West Coast team in a match at Rugby Park. Once I stopped laughing, I sauntered over and gave the little fella a bit of a hand. Mind you, he wasn’t doing too badly on his own.

Any other comments?

It’s great to see the spirit of SOAKS living on with the monthly drinks and newsletters. I love reading the newsletters with some of the things that went on “back in the day”. And although I have only managed to get along to one of the drinks, again I was made to feel very welcome, and met some wonderful Old SOAKS too. My thanks to those who continue to keep this going.

SOAKS Club Captains

Below are some of SOAKS Club Captains down the years: Andrew Herbert (1987-88), Rob Luck (1978), Dave Kilpatrick (1991), Harry Cox (1965), Clyde Eastaugh (1969), Peter Doe (1968), Dave Standish (1986).



Others included:



Dick Buttfeld
(1966)



John Donaldson
(1967, '70, '72-'74)



John Pullen
(1971)



Peter Calvert
(1975)



Graham Fiddaman
(1976, 1979)



Greg Schmidt
(1977)



Simon Himson
(1980)



Steve Harris
(1981)



John Marron
(1983)



Tim Nash
(1984-5)



Geoff Galloway
(1989)



Peter Dynan
(1990)



Bill Mahina
(1995)

Photos unavailable
for:
B. Goldthorpe (1982)
B. Logue (1992)
M. McMahon (1993)
S. Parnham (1994)

Heard and Noted

When Stan Rugby host Nick McArdle visited Hobart recently, he took time out from filming and interviewing to chat with our own SOAKS legend Harry Cox along with Uni icon Merv Simmons in a break from the 'Convicts training session'. I don't exactly know what Nick is measuring (right), but it looks like Harry and Merv find it a little hard to believe!



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/>

