



# The Eagle Times



[www.eaglesrugby.com.au](http://www.eaglesrugby.com.au)

2 July 2009

We are fast approaching the halfway mark of the Eagles' season with a very important clash this week against Tuggeranong in all grades at home. As mentioned, all grades need a much needed win to remain in the race for a semi-final berth so it would be great to see as many Red & Black supporters out at Nicholls as possible.

Another reminder is the Annual Red & Black Ball on 1st August to be held at the West Belconnen Leagues Club. It is the club's biggest fundraiser of the year and very important that we get a big crowd attending. If the last Red and Black Balls are anything to go by, it will be a great night! Please contact Cath Donnellan on 0439 362 589 or [content@eaglesrugby.com.au](mailto:content@eaglesrugby.com.au)

Just as fundraisers are important to keep our club alive, it is just as important to support our sponsors. The Eagles are very lucky to have such amazingly loyal sponsors, many of whom have been providing support for many years.

At the moment Club Lime has a special offer for Eagles' members. Please email me [lee@eaglesrugby.com.au](mailto:lee@eaglesrugby.com.au) for a signed referral form, to take advantage of this special offer. Each week there will be articles featuring up to date information regarding our sponsors.

<b>Club Lime Memberships - 12 Month Memberships</b>				
	Normal Price		Club Discount	
	Monthly DD	Paid in Full	Monthly DD	Paid in Full
Bronze	\$69	\$759	\$55	\$605
Gold	\$79	\$869	\$65	\$715
Platinum	\$90	\$990	\$75	\$825

## **1st GRADE – YTD**

1st Grade are currently placed 5th heading towards the half way point of the 2009 season. As expected this year's 1st Grade competition looks like being the tightest in history. Any of the teams, on their day, could be in contention. Even Easts who have had a slow start showed that they are on the improve. The strength of our forward pack has been the highlight of the season to date. The Eagles, statistically, boast the most efficient set piece in the competition, while at the same time, lead the competition in set piece turnovers from scrum, lineouts & kick-offs.

Injuries have not helped the Eagles cause so far with it being virtually impossible to pick the same team two weeks in a row. Injured players have included new signings - Aaron Thompson (back row) and Kurt Mulcahy (wing), as well as Jimmy Campbell (prop) and hard running centre Matt Hawke. The return this week of Matt Hawke from a broken jaw and Kurt Mulcahy from a groin strain, should help the Eagles retain the "Wacaba" Cup.

New players to the club Kurt Mulcahy, Dan Mannix, Sean Connochie, Xavier Duffy, Sam Needs and Michael & James Lovell have all now had exposure to and experienced 1st grade rugby in their first season of grade rugby. This very young Eagles' side has shown that if they can stick together, the future may see the return of the John I Dent Cup to Gungahlin.

## **2nd GRADE – YTD**

Our 2nd Grade team is currently 6th but still confident of competing come September time. Like most 2nd grade teams, it has been difficult to work on combinations with so many changes week in and week out. Last year's runners up defeated last year's premiers earlier this year, giving promise that that they can go one better this year.

The positive attitude which is resonating through the side, coupled with a much improved performance against the top of the table Wests' team at their last outing, results are bound to follow.

With players returning from injury into the top grade, performing well over the next few games is crucial to sides' ability to make the semi finals. If persistence and enthusiasm count for anything, a string of wins are soon to follow. Good Luck Boys.

## COLTS – YTD

We have been fortunate to secure an outstanding group of Colts players for the club this year, with the traditional feeder from Daramalan College being complemented by a bunch of impressive young men from St Joseph's College in Sydney. However, with 6 Colts-aged players playing up the grades for the majority of the first half of the season, the team has been hard pressed to turn their hard work and commitment into wins on the scoreboard.

In most of our matches so far, the Colts have struggled to get out of the blocks, and as a result have regularly found themselves staring down a hefty deficit at halftime. A testimony to the grit and determination of this group is that they have regularly held the opposition scoreless in the second half and been able to put some points on themselves.

The challenge for the rest of the season is to put two halves together under coach Radnedge, which should be aided by the return of some of our stars from up the grades. Make no mistake, we have the talent within this group to build an incredibly strong foundation for the years to come, and all within the club are working to make sure this group is challenged, developed and welcomed within the Gungahlin Eagles' community.

## 3rd GRADE - YTD

The Glenn Carey coached 3rd Grade team is currently sitting 5th in the competition. Despite a large turnover of players from last year's semi-final team, some good wins in the pre-season had T3 set for another good season. However, to date the team has struggled a bit. An influx of Brumbies contracted and academy players into the higher grades of some of our competitor clubs, has seen a strengthening of the 3rd Grade Competition.

A tough away win over Royals and a good home win over Easts have been the highlights of the season proper, while our last game thumping at the hands of Wests is one that needs to be quickly forgotten. The team is positioned just outside the top four and poised for a run at the finals in the second half of the season.

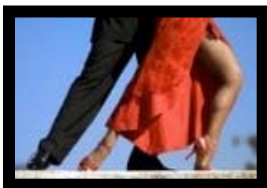
The T3 credentials will be tested over the next few rounds with games against top 4 contenders Tuggeranong, Uni & Qbn.

## 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE – YTD

The big improvers in 2009 have been 4th Grade who are in the top 4. After not experiencing the thrill of victory for two year's, fourth grade have already tasted victory twice this year. Constantly having a full team at training once a week will ensure that this tally of wins increase. 4th grade have had some narrow losses against the top teams in the first round and the plan for the second round is to continue our dominance over the lower placed teams and aim to pickoff one of the higher teams. This should see the mighty 4th grade catch finals fever for the first time in a long time.

## For your information

- Keep up to date with our **JUNIOR EAGLES**. The Juniors Newsletters are available on [www.Eaglesrugby.com.au](http://www.Eaglesrugby.com.au). Click on the **NEWSLETTERS** link
- If you have news or information on "Eagles/DARA Players - Where Are They Now?" please email Sharon at [content@eaglesrugby.com.au](mailto:content@eaglesrugby.com.au)



**RED AND BLACK BALL**  
**1 AUGUST 2009**  
West Belconnen Leagues Club  
\$100 per ticket  
Tables of 10



Payment can be made to  
Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Union Club  
BSB. - 112-908                      A/c No. - 455 221 088



Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Union Club Inc  
would like to thank our 2009 Sponsors



**Major Sponsors**



**Gold Sponsors**



**Black Sponsors**



**Red Sponsors**



**Supporter Sponsors**

ACTTAB	Phase4 Electrical
Bags to Go	Popes Electrical
Carpet One Supreme	Tooheys New
Chamberlains Law Firm	Victor Sports
Foxy's Landscapes	Watts Communications
Ziggys Fresh Fruit Market	

[www.eaglesrugby.com.au](http://www.eaglesrugby.com.au)